

Republic of Moldova

February 2021

Asylum-seekers have **access** to the territory and the procedures. Moldova supports the **Global Compact on Refugees** and the Global Compact on Migration.

Moldova is party to all relevant asylum and statelessness instruments. Rights of refugees and stateless people are **on a par with citizens**, except for political and land property rights.

Moldova pledged at the **Global Refugee Forum** to ensure asylum seekers' basic needs as well as their access to health insurance and the extension of their IDs.

POPULATION OF CONCERN

Refugees	413
Asylum-seekers	77
Stateless people	1,904
Undetermined nationality	1,501

MAIN THREE COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN

Refugees		Asylum-seekers	
Syria	188	Turkey	23
Turkey	54	Armenia	7
Ukraine	34	Uzbekistan	7

Data source: UNHCR 2020 Year-End Statistical report and UNHCR [data finder platform](#)

COVID-19 PREVENTION AND RESPONSE

Advocacy: UNHCR advocates with the Government for the inclusion of people of concern in the roll-out of the national COVID-19 response.

Inclusion of persons of concern: All persons of concern are treated in a manner equal to Moldovan citizens regarding coronavirus prevention measures and health care. The National Vaccination Plan covers all people living in the country, including asylum-seekers, refugees, and stateless persons.

Communication with Communities: To improve two-way communication UNHCR and its partners established remote counselling sessions with asylum seekers, refugees, stateless people, and applicants for stateless status. Persons of concern to UNHCR were informed on COVID-19, and those who lost their income received cash assistance.

COVID-19 updated [public figures](#).

HIGHLIGHTS

86

new asylum applications registered in 2020

147

new applications for stateless status registered in 2020

216,166

individuals were prevented from becoming stateless since 2013 within its national campaign to address statelessness, one of the largest in Europe

292

vulnerable individuals received regular or one-off cash assistance in 2020. Many of them were identified following an [assessment of the impact of COVID-19 on refugees, asylum-seekers and stateless persons in Moldova](#) conducted by UNHCR.



Thanks to UNHCR-supported litigation, Maria Gandrabura, who came to Moldova in 1964, but found herself without a citizenship and adequate documents in 2014, won an important court case and her statelessness was successfully prevented.

Key Priorities

- **Access to territory:** To ensure that border management is protection-sensitive and respects fundamental rights, UNHCR builds the capacity of government officials, including border guards. UNHCR advocates for improved identification of vulnerable individuals and carries out regular visits to borders to monitor the protection situation of persons in need of international protection seeking access to the territory.
- **Asylum procedure:** To strengthen the asylum procedure in Moldova, UNHCR supports the authorities in developing their quality assurance mechanisms and internal standard operating procedures. UNHCR advocates for mechanisms which ensure that vulnerabilities and best interests of children are appropriately considered in the asylum process.
- **Integration:** Finding solutions, such as integration, that enable refugees to have a dignified life is a core part of UNHCR's work. This requires that all state support programmes include refugees. UNHCR helps asylum-seekers and refugees to find employment and livelihood opportunities, access to education institutions, register with family doctors and other health care providers, apply for social protection programmes, and learn the State language.
- **Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance:** Refugees' access to certain services may be hindered when neither the service providers nor the refugees themselves are aware of the applicable legal provisions and rights, and because refugees often do not feel empowered to claim them. UNHCR provides counselling on rights and obligations, on social issues, community services, and employment.
- **Cash based assistance:** UNHCR provides cash-based interventions to meet specific needs of vulnerable refugees and asylum-seekers.

Working with Partners

- UNHCR works with governmental partners, including the Bureau for Migration and Asylum and the General Inspectorate of Border Police, the National Legal Aid Council, the National Institute of Justice, and the Ombudsperson's Office.
- UNHCR Moldova is represented in the UN Country Team and takes part in the work of the following task force groups: Education, Migration, Gender, Social and Economic Impact of COVID-19.
- UNHCR has Project Partnership Agreements with two NGOs: the **Law Centre of Advocates** (legal assistance and representation, capacity building, border and detention monitoring) and the **Charity Centre for Refugees** (employment counselling, cash assistance, referral to education institutions and social assistance).

Statelessness

- Moldova is a party to both Statelessness Conventions since 2012 and has a statelessness determination procedure in place since 2011.
- In the last 5 years, the Moldovan authorities have considerably reduced statelessness by naturalizing over 150 stateless people per year.
- Until 2018, Moldovan Law granted citizenship automatically at birth to all children born on its territory, including those who would otherwise be stateless. UNHCR advocates with the Government to reinstate this safeguard and ensure that all children acquire citizenship regardless of the status of their parents.

UNHCR Presence in Moldova

Staff:

1 Liaison staff

Offices:

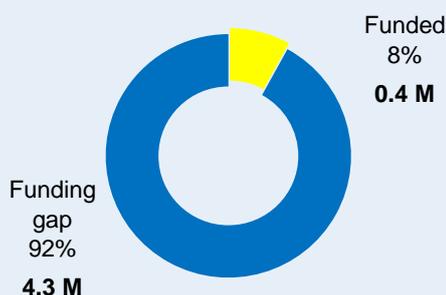
0 Offices

UNHCR operations in Moldova are managed by the UNHCR Representation for Central Europe based in Budapest, Hungary.

Financial information* 28 February 2021

* Information relates to the Representation for Central Europe, which covers the Czech Republic, Hungary, Moldova, Slovakia, Slovenia

Financial Requirements
USD 4.7 M



UNHCR is grateful to the major donors of unearmarked contributions* to the 2021 global programmes (USD, as of XX February):

Norway 80 M | Sweden 66.9 M | Netherlands 36.1 M | Denmark 34.6 M | Germany 22.1 M | Switzerland 16.4 M | Ireland 12.5 M | Belgium 11.9 M

*Unearmarked contributions allow UNHCR for critical flexibility in how best to reach populations of concern who are in the greatest need and at the greatest risk. Above are donors of USD 10 million or more.

UNHCR Moldova is also grateful for 2021 contributions from the following donors (as of 2 February):

European Union | Germany | Japan | France | Norway | Unilever (UK) | CERF | Slovenia | Private donors