



Program Update

Two Years Since the Invasion of Ukraine

Moldova Response & Program Overview

March 2022 - February 2024

CONTEXT



The Russian invasion of Ukraine and full-scale war has caused the world's largest displacement crisis in Europe since the Second World War,¹ with over 6 million Ukrainian refugees recorded globally.² The Republic of Moldova lies directly on Ukraine's western border. Between February 24, 2022 and February 29, 2024, a total of 1,027,460 Ukrainian refugees have crossed into Moldova, with around 100,000 finding ongoing refuge in the small Eastern European country of 2.5 million.³ Despite being one of the poorest nations in Europe and not being a member of the European Union, the people of Moldova have opened their arms and homes to welcome Ukrainian refugees. In fact, out of any of Ukraine's neighbors, Moldova has welcomed the highest number of Ukrainian refugees relative to population size; it has done so without the same level of resources and preparedness as European Union countries. Before the current conflict in Ukraine, Moldova had never dealt with a refugee crisis. The country has had to respond quickly to the influx of newcomers while struggling with a fragile economy and existing gaps in labor, education, health and social welfare systems.

Moldova has welcomed the highest number of Ukrainian refugees relative to population size

People who have fled to Moldova have had to face numerous challenges in rapidly establishing new lives for an unknown period of time. They have had to secure safe housing, sufficient food and nutrition, comprehensive healthcare, stable education and safe employment. Their efforts are made more complicated by labor, education and social assistance systems that are not equipped to support the most vulnerable Moldovans, much less an influx of people facing significant loss and displacement.

Of the one million Ukrainians who have sought refuge, over 80% are women and children.⁴ Women and children, primarily older persons, persons with disabilities, persons of Roma ethnicity and single

mothers with children, often face heightened protection risks and vulnerabilities that jeopardize safety and well-being. Disruptions in social networks and services and the inability to cover basic needs make women and children more susceptible to gender-based violence, trafficking and sexual exploitation and abuse. During the winter months, these issues are often exacerbated by poor mental health, social isolation and winterization costs.

CWS has been working in Moldova in partnership with local organizations for over 15 years

CWS has been working in Moldova in partnership with local organizations for over 15 years focusing on sustainable livelihoods, renewable energy and addressing rural poverty. The expanded programs built in the two years since the full-scale invasion of Ukraine have continued that approach by working alongside host communities and local organizations including Diaconia Social Mission, Ormax, Diamond Day Center, Memoria, Romni, Roma National Center, Healthy City, The Union for Equity and Health and Hope of the Earth. Together, these programs have provided food, hygiene, winter, and children's supplies; education, mental health and psychosocial (MHPSS), livelihoods, and medical support; and support to Roma refugees, including legal counsel. These programs have reached more than 32,000 unique refugees and host community members since March 2023, and more than 44,000 since the beginning of the response. From rapidly deploying assistance to those most in need in the first weeks of the crisis to investments in local infrastructure, CWS continues to prioritize supporting the most vulnerable and marginalized while investing in local partners' capacity and promoting social cohesion and integration.

1 [Ukraine situation | Global Focus \(unhcr.org\)](#)

2 [Situation Ukraine Refugee Situation \(unhcr.org\)](#)

3 [Country - Republic of Moldova \(unhcr.org\)](#)

4 [Republic of Moldova: Daily Population Trends](#)



CROSS CUTTING APPROACHES/PRIORITIES

CWS STAFF AND PARTNERS VISIT HEALTHY CITY AT THE MULTIFUNCTIONAL CENTER IN BALTI.

Social Cohesion and Integration

Supporting Ukrainian Refugees Alongside Moldovan Host Communities

CWS is responding to a displacement crisis triggered by war against the backdrop of increasing financial and infrastructural challenges that are affecting both Moldovans and refugees from Ukraine. Since the earliest days of our response, CWS has kept social cohesion and integration at the forefront of our programs. Integration is the process of incorporating newcomers into the fabric of society legally, economically and socially. Social cohesion is the bond that holds a society together. Together these include fighting marginalization, creating a sense of belonging and promoting trust, opportunity and stability, all of which are only possible by assisting refugees with accessing legal status, protection and social assistance programs. These elements are reflected in the work that CWS has done with partners to bring Moldovans and Ukrainians together and to advocate for those who are vulnerable and marginalized. This includes projects which offer legal counseling to support refugees in registering for Temporary Protection (TP) or other legal status and accessing the benefits afforded by that status. It is reflected in the inclusion of Moldovans into psychosocial activities, such as men's and women's clubs, masterclasses and sports events, which foster open-mindedness, understanding and positive relationships. It also

involves normalizing the inclusion of Moldovan and Ukrainian Roma families into programming and services by Roma-led and non-Roma-led partners.

To alleviate tensions and promote cohesion, CWS has worked to integrate the needs and priorities of Moldovan communities into our programs for refugees from Ukraine. Many Moldovan families are feeling a strain on their finances as a result of welcoming Ukrainians at the household, community and national level. When organizing the distribution of vouchers, winter items, food and hygiene items with partners like Healthy City or Diaconia Social Mission, CWS has included vulnerable Moldovans.

About 60% of Moldovans face energy poverty, which means that they struggle to afford fuel and electricity.⁵ The war in Ukraine has increased the cost of fuel and electricity in Moldova, which is a burden for both Ukrainian refugees and Moldovan host communities. CWS is investing in renewable energy infrastructure to support the immediate needs of Ukrainian refugees and long-term energy independence in Moldova. Since the invasion, CWS has worked with our long-time local partner, Ormax, to install solar panels on three refugee accommodation centers in Soroca, Mihaileni,

5 [Solutions for energy poverty are being examined in Chişinău at the European level | United Nations Development Programme \(undp.org\)](#)

Drochia and Glodeni. In the humanitarian sector, programs like these are often considered “greening the response,” which refers to integrating long-term climate and environmental initiatives into immediate relief efforts. They also position the CWS response at the humanitarian-development nexus, in which emergency response blends with bolstering long-term resilience.

Partner Capacity Strengthening

Improving Local Organizations’ Long-Term Impact

Civil society organizations are the cornerstone of Moldova’s Ukraine response. They’ve opened their doors, adjusted their services and stretched their budgets to address the immediate and ongoing needs of refugees in addition to maintaining existing programs for Moldovans. For many organizations, particularly those who are small and have minimal experience working with INGOs, working in the humanitarian arena has involved a learning curve. CWS recognizes that local organizations are best positioned to identify needs and propose solutions and, with the right support, can do so with great effectiveness. While this support includes financial assistance through the allocation of grant funding, it also includes capacity strengthening.

From project ideation and proposal design to implementation and monitoring and evaluation, CWS prioritizes each partnership by providing customized technical assistance and training. Since February 2022, CWS staff have worked with partners to build their understanding and competency in humanitarian protection through conversations and trainings on gender-based violence (GBV), sexual exploitation and abuse,

feedback and complaint mechanisms and inclusion and equity. After a GBV training, a Healthy City staff member shared how they were able to successfully provide psychological first aid to a refugee who had disclosed GBV and use the official referral pathways to connect that person to services.

CWS has also supported partner organizations with database development and with understanding the importance of and process behind collecting and analyzing vulnerability, sex, age and disability disaggregated (SADDD) data. In July 2023, CWS staff organized interviews with nine partner organizations to learn what parts of the partnership were going well and where improvements could be made. Partners noted mutual respect, communication, access to learning and feedback as the highlights of their partnership with CWS and requested that CWS be even more involved in the life of the project by providing additional input and to continue developing opportunities for capacity strengthening trainings. This feedback reflects the depth, need and appreciation of CWS’ partnership and capacity strengthening approach.



PROGRAMS & ACTIVITIES

UKRAINIAN AND MOLDOVAN CHILDREN AND YOUTH PARTICIPATE IN A VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT TO PROMOTE SOCIAL COHESION

Basic Needs

Supporting Basic Needs through the Seasons: Diaconia Social Mission

CWS partnered with Diaconia Social Mission to meet the immediate needs of new arrivals from Ukraine in the early days of the war and has continued to support people's access to basic needs. This has included access to food, hygiene items, winterization supplies and vouchers to offset housing and utilities costs.

Most Ukrainian refugees have now spent one or two winters in Moldova and have, alongside Moldovan families, found themselves in a difficult financial situation due to high inflation and increasing heating and utility expenses. The winter season exacerbates the financial hardships that Ukrainian refugees already face outside the winter months, including covering the costs for accommodation, utilities, food, clothes, health care and education.

From November 1, 2023 to February 29, 2024, in partnership with Diaconia Social Mission, CWS supported 4,877 families (2,914 Ukrainian and 1,963 Moldovan), or 21,256 people, including Ukrainian refugees as well as Moldovans. Of this, 550 of these families totaling 2,207 people identified as ethnically Roma and 1,032 identified as persons with disabilities. These families received winter clothing, firewood, medication and vouchers for hygiene and food items. The vouchers help ease the financial burden on families by offsetting increased utility and heating costs.

In the first year of the response, during the first winter, 3,822 families were provided support under this project (1,858 Ukrainian families and 1,964 Moldovan families), about 15,000 people.

It is not possible to completely deduplicate numbers across the two years, but we estimate at least 7,200 families, or 29,000 people, were supported since March 2022 under this project.



A DIACONIA STAFF PERSON UNLOADS FIREWOOD THAT WILL SUPPORT FAMILIES WITH HEATING COSTS IN WINTER 2023-2024

Supporting Social Cohesion, the Humanitarian/Development Nexus and Housing for Refugees: Sustainable Infrastructure Upgrades to Refugee Accommodation Centers with Ormax

CWS has partnered with long time local partner Ormax to increase the environmental sustainability of response programs and make long-term investments in the local Moldovan community. With CWS funding, Ormax installed photovoltaic (PV) solar panel systems on two Refugee Accommodation Centers (RAC) in the first year after the conflict began. Since October 2023, there have been two additional PV solar installs on RACs housing Ukrainian refugees. These government facilities have the purpose of supporting housing and programming for Ukrainians and Moldovans and will provide emission free electricity and reduce energy costs for the local community for many years to come. This project was well received by the local Mayor's offices and the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection.



ORMAX TEAM MEMBERS INSTALL SOLAR PANELS ON A REFUGEE ACCOMMODATION CENTER IN DROCHIA

Responding to Multi-sectoral Needs

Multifunctional Center for Protection, Assistance, and Inclusion in Balti

Since October 2022, CWS has partnered with three organizations in a unique collaboration in the northern city of Balti, the second largest city in Moldova, to support refugees' access to comprehensive services: Healthy City, The Union for Equity and Health and Hope of the Earth. CWS first partnered with Healthy City to support the Balti Distribution Center where essential food, hygiene and household supplies are provided to Ukrainian refugees in Balti and the surrounding area. The distribution center uses a relationship-based approach to create a safe and welcoming environment where refugees from Ukraine can talk about their needs, receive information and choose the items they need, rather than receiving a pre-packaged set of supplies. While individuals located in Balti can physically visit the center, individuals residing in rural areas outside of the city where assistance and resources are sparse receive deliveries. Healthy City coordinates with local governmental social assistance agencies to identify and provide food and hygiene items to Ukrainians and vulnerable Moldovans in rural areas. All distributed supplies are purchased locally, supporting the local economy. Over 2,700 unique individuals were supported with deliveries in the last year.

At the Balti Distribution Center, refugees receive food and hygiene supplies alongside information on how to connect to other available services and programs. These include MHPSS, medical and livelihoods support, which seeks to restore wellbeing, stability and social connection.

Two additional local partners, The Union for Equity and Health and Hope of the Earth, employ a variety of medical and psychological specialists that can provide psychosocial activities, individual psychological sessions and medical consultations and referrals. Psychosocial



UKRAINIAN AND MOLDOVAN CHILDREN AND YOUTH COMPETE TOGETHER IN A VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT ORGANIZED BY HEALTHY CITY IN SUMMER 2023

activities span masterclasses, workshops and sports tournaments for youth, serving as an opportunity to build community and social cohesion between Ukrainians and Moldovans.

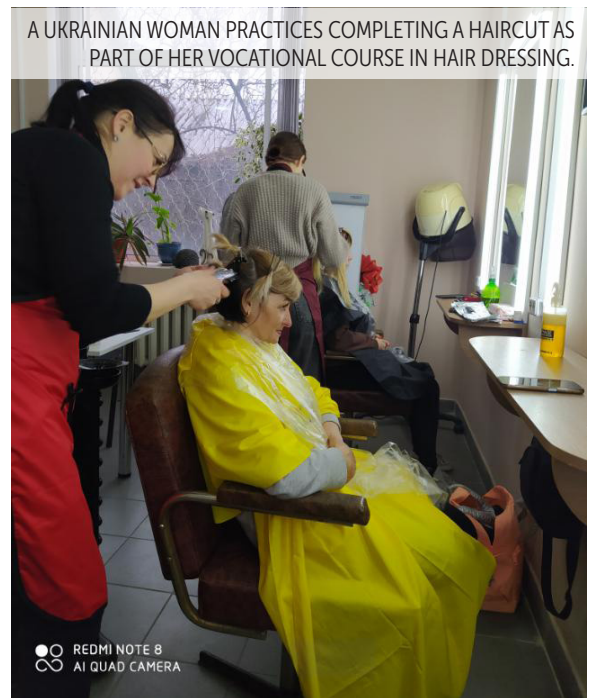
Medical support includes specialized treatments for tuberculosis and has expanded to include coverage for sexual and reproductive health. It also includes marginalized groups who experience discrimination in the Moldovan healthcare system, such as individuals with HIV and AIDS and Roma people. While each organization has its specialties, they work together to address needs and refer refugees to the appropriate service provided by the project's three partners or other service providers in Balti.

Livelihoods activities present another component of CWS and partners' comprehensive approach to addressing needs. Healthy City coordinates Romanian language courses that help refugees better integrate into Moldovan society and support language acquisition required for employment in Moldova. Refugees and vulnerable Moldovans also have access to scholarships for vocational training in beauty, clothing construction and tailoring and IT industries that prepare them for the job market.

Since February 2023, over 9,800 Ukrainians and Moldovans have received at least one service from the Multifunctional Center project in Balti with a total of at least 11,300 over the course of the two-year response. Of these, at least 11,000 received food and NFI, at least 450 received medical support, 350 received MHPSS support and at least 225 received livelihoods support.



SEVEN UKRAINIANS AND MOLDOVANS COMPLETE AN IT VOCATIONAL COURSE, ORGANIZED BY CWS PARTNER, HEALTH CITY, AND THE IT HUB, TEKWILL



A UKRAINIAN WOMAN PRACTICES COMPLETING A HAIRCUT AS PART OF HER VOCATIONAL COURSE IN HAIR DRESSING.

Education

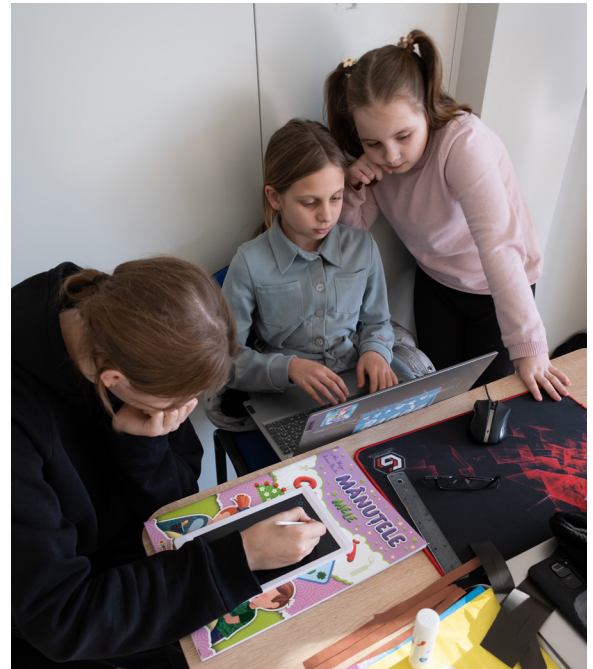
Diaconia's Anastasis Educational Center: Education Access and Psychosocial Support

Diaconia established the Anastasis Educational Center in Balti to help address the educational, psychosocial and psychological needs of Ukrainian refugees in the area. In 2022, CWS provided two modular classrooms to create space for the Center's activities. The new classrooms provide a friendly environment, equipped with laptops and internet, where children ages 7-16 attend online Ukrainian school. They are supervised by two Ukrainian teachers, who provide educational assistance. Anastasis also offers educational, recreational and psychosocial activities run by educators and a psychologist, including the two Ukrainian teachers. Breakfast, lunch and snacks are also provided given the full day schedule.

Since July 2023, 133 children, including 74 Ukrainian children and 59 Moldovan children, participated in the Anastasis Center's school and recreational activities. These activities include arts and crafts, movie discussions and volunteering and civic engagement, as well as personal development sessions focused on building children's self-confidence, emotional management and coping mechanisms. Activities are designed to encourage socializing and mutual understanding between Ukrainian and Moldovan participants, thereby contributing to social integration and cohesion. The classrooms that CWS provided are also a long-term investment that will serve the local community long after refugees leave.

The Anastasis Center also supports the psychosocial and psychological wellbeing of women in the community. It has brought together 41 Ukrainian and 16 Moldovan women, including mothers, grandmothers and women without children, to engage in psychosocial activities such as cultural integration courses and cooking masterclasses. Through these activities, the women are able to form relationships, learn from one another and access one-on-one psychological consultations and referrals.

In the first year of the response 232 children and 51 women participated in this project. Since the beginning of the response Diaconia's Anastasis Center has reached at least 350 people.



CHILDREN AT THE ANASTASIS CENTER GATHER TO WORK ON HOMEWORK FROM THEIR ONLINE COURSES IN UKRAINE. (PHOTO COURTESY OF SIMON CHAMBERS/ACT ALLIANCE)



AT THE ANASTASIS CENTER, UKRAINIAN AND MOLDOVAN CHILDREN PLAY IN THE COURTYARD. (PHOTO COURTESY OF SIMON CHAMBERS/ACT ALLIANCE)

After-School Support with the Diamond Day Center

Since April 2023, CWS has partnered with the organization Diamond Day Center to provide a child-safe space for children ages 6-17 in Telenesti, in central Moldova. These children benefit from age-specific homework assistance and recreational activities such as arts, crafts and games and receive meals provided by a team of attentive staff and volunteers. Activities are divided by age and include both daytime and after-school hours. The Center welcomes both vulnerable Moldovan children, who are referred by the local social assistance agency, and Ukrainian children. In June 2023, the Diamond Day Center organized a summer camp for Ukrainian and Moldovan children and involved Ukrainian mothers to assist with translating camp materials into the Ukrainian language and supporting activities. To date, 109 children have participated in activities at the Diamond Day Center, 16 of whom are Ukrainian.

While the Center has long established itself as a trusted space for vulnerable Moldovan children and their families, it has become a key support in Telenesti in fostering psychosocial wellbeing for Ukrainian families. On a bi-weekly basis, the Diamond Day Center facilitates an hour long gathering for Ukrainian men and women to decompress from the challenges they face and find support in one another. Those who attend can find solace over hot tea, warm conversation and a full food package to bring home to their families. Sixty individuals participated in these sessions, 50 of whom were Ukrainian. In total, 169 people have benefited from this project.

Protection

Memoria: Support for Survivors of Gender-Based and Other Forms of Violence

Between March 2023 and February 2024, CWS partnered with Memoria, a center for survivors of gender-based and state-sanctioned violence founded in 1999, to provide MHPSS, medical and basic needs support to Ukrainian refugees and Moldovans impacted by violence. Participants received survivor-centered and trauma-informed services, ranging from trauma assessments and psychological counseling to medical screenings, treatments and referrals. Roughly 60% of Memoria's program participants are women and girls with approximately 40% of all program participants identifying as survivors of gender-based violence.

Memoria's approach to improving programming and program participant wellbeing and social connection led Memoria to include their program participants in the organizing of psychosocial activities. This included bringing on former Ukrainian program participants as volunteers who encourage and recruit other Ukrainian program participants to attend. Through each of these services Memoria established rapport, giving people a safe space to disclose experiences of gender-based violence and be connected to support. One component of Memoria's comprehensive approach is the provision of emergency multi-purpose cash assistance for those who are vulnerable and have urgent needs. It supports access to food, hygiene and household items while maintaining choice and dignity of program participants. CWS' partnership with Memoria has supported 2,223 people (2,042 Ukrainians and 181 Moldovans).

Partnering with Roma-led Organizations to Promote Inclusion of Roma Refugees from Ukraine

The Roma people are an ethnic minority who have experienced severe discrimination in Europe for centuries. Roma families often live in a harsh cycle of poverty and discrimination fueled by highly negative misconceptions and stereotypes, mistreatment by governments and a widespread lack of identification documents. Around 1,500 Roma refugees from Ukraine are assessed to be seeking refuge in Moldova, although the actual number is hard to determine, and most likely higher, due to the mobility of Roma families⁶. On top of the myriad of challenges that all refugees from Ukraine face, Roma refugees must

6 [Document - Ukraine situation: Moldova: Roma Task Force - Roma Refugees Briefing Note \(ENG\) \(December 2023\) \(unhcr.org\)](#)

also contend with hostile, discriminatory attitudes from other Ukrainian refugees, Moldovan citizens and government officials. This makes accessing safe housing, humanitarian support and services even more difficult. CWS has been addressing these challenges through multiple projects with two local Roma-led organizations.

Roma National Center

In 2023, CWS continued its partnership with The Roma National Center (RNC). In the first year of the response, the project undertook a mapping and needs assessment of Ukrainian Roma and provided humanitarian assistance to 218 Roma. Based on the results of the previous project, RNC operated a mobile team which provided basic needs and legal, medical and psychological support to Roma families in six localities: Chisinau, Balti, Drochia, Glodeni, Ialoveni and Hincesti. Humanitarian aid for basic needs in the form of clothes, food and household items assisted large Roma families with settling into private accommodations. RNC's legal assistance guided Roma refugees in exercising their right to cash and other humanitarian assistance as well as registering for temporary protection or other legal status, particularly as the Republic of Moldova transitioned out of its state of emergency. The mobile team was also equipped with a psychologist who could assist families during visits. Between April and September 2023, RNC assisted 1,238 Roma people, of whom 1,129 were Ukrainian.

Romni

In response to the challenges that Roma refugees from Ukraine have faced in accessing services and the deep-rooted bias and discrimination they endure, CWS has partnered with Romni, a Roma woman-led organization, since September 2022 to develop a team of Roma mediators to support around 2,000 Roma refugees within central and northern Moldova as well as in the Transnistrian Region. They assisted Roma refugees in accessing services, including shelter, health care, education, food, clothing and transportation.

This team of mediators collected information on the needs of the Roma refugees and referred them to local authorities, civil society organizations and other service providers for medical and legal assistance. They also provide advocacy in cases of discrimination, transportation and service fees, following up with refugees to check that their needs have been adequately met. The team included women and men to ensure that Romni can navigate traditional family dynamics and adequately respond to the needs of female refugees in a culturally appropriate way. In Spring 2023, CWS supported Romni in expanding the project to include basic needs assistance specifically for women with children, which included strollers, diapers and vouchers for food and hygiene items.

As the Republic of Moldova and interagency response shifted toward requiring Temporary Protection legal status, Romni responded with CWS' support by hiring an additional female mediator in the Transnistrian Region to support Roma refugees with registering for Temporary Protection. Roma refugees faced numerous challenges when registering for Temporary Protection, including lack of documentation, low or no literacy, not having a mobile device or the technological literacy needed to navigate the online registration process. From November 2022 to October 2023, Romni has supported at least 2,448 Roma refugees, of whom 2,063 were women and children.



ELENA SIRBU, DIRECTOR OF THE ROMA AND WOMEN-LED ORGANIZATION, ROMNI, PRESENTS THE ROMNI FLAG.



LOOKING AHEAD

HEALTHY CITY AT THE MULTICULTURAL CENTER IN BALTI SUPPORTS UKRAINIAN REFUGEES.

As we surpass the two-year mark of the full-scale Russian invasion of Ukraine and our collective work in Moldova, much remains uncertain. Fighting is likely to continue with intensity in the near term and likely for the coming months and tens of thousands of refugees will remain in Moldova for at least the next year. While there is no consensus of how the war unfolds, there is the potential for additional large numbers of refugees seeking refuge in Moldova, especially as attacks on Odessa have increased in the past half year.

Moldova will require significant assistance to address this continuing crisis in the coming year.

Moldova, one of the poorest countries in Europe, couldn't provide adequate social assistance to its population prior to the Russian invasion of Ukraine. In addition to hosting refugees comprising 2% to 4% of its population, it has experienced historic levels of inflation and unprecedented increases in energy and heating costs. Moldova will require significant assistance to address this continuing crisis in the coming year. Meanwhile, the number of INGOs who were providing services and funding for the Ukraine response in Moldova is decreasing. As their operations close, they leave behind an unresolved need for support for local organizations, host communities and refugees. Assistance must continue to be delivered in a manner that is sustainable and mindful of increasing tensions

between refugees and host communities. CWS will continue to design projects with partners which increase social cohesion and integration, include assistance to the most vulnerable Moldovan families and which strengthens the capacity and sustainability of local organizations supporting the response.

CWS is in the process of expanding assistance to include the Odesa Oblast (province) in Ukraine. In fall 2023, CWS visited the city of Odesa on two occasions to meet with UN representatives and civil society organizations to better understand needs and gaps and identify potential partners. Through these meetings, CWS assessed the need for more protection-based programming to address vulnerability and gender-based violence. CWS has identified three initial partners: Faith, Hope, Love; Culture of Democracy; and Positive Women. Each of these organizations has provided longstanding and reputable services to internally displaced persons in the city of Odesa and the surrounding rural villages. Projects with these organizations will span medical, psychosocial, psychological and basic needs support.

CWS assessed the need for more protection-based programming to address vulnerability and gender-based violence.

Details of CWS's March 2024 to February 2025 program plans can be found in the Year 3 Appeal.



STORIES FROM THE RESPONSE

OLGA, A PROGRAM PARTICIPANT WITH HEALTHY CITY, AND HER DAUGHTER, DASHA.

Nadezhda's Hope for Peace

May 16, 2023

Like many Ukrainians, the Russian invasion came as a shock to Nadezhda. What was even more surprising to her, however, was the immense empathy and solidarity the world showed to Ukrainians in their darkest moments. Prior to the war, Nadezhda and her family lived a quiet life in Odesa. She looked after her young nieces while her husband worked for a delivery company. Unfortunately, their peace was soon disrupted by sirens and bombs that quickly took control of their lives. [Read more...](#)



Refuge and Gratitude from Iceland

June 6th, 2023

CWS partners with the local Moldovan organization, Zdorovii Gorod (Healthy City), to support Ukrainian refugees by providing comprehensive services including food and non-food items, social inclusion and psychosocial support. Olga was both a program participant and a volunteer at the center. She recently moved to Iceland with her daughter, Dasha. Below is a thank you letter she wrote to Zdorovii Gorod Director, Budulai, and Program Manager, Bartosz. [Read more...](#)

Celebrating Sportsmanship and Unity in Moldova

August 3, 2023

Summer is in full swing in Moldova and amidst the warm breeze and bright sunshine, a fun and exciting event recently took place in the heart of the city. Through our local partner, Zdorovii Gorod (Healthy City), CWS supported a volleyball tournament for local Moldovans and Ukrainian refugee youth who have recently made Moldova their home. [Read more...](#)





Ekaterina Learns a New Skill

September 22, 2023

My name is Ekaterina, I am 46 years old. I have a degree in economic management in the industrial sector. I have a husband and a young son with a disability. I am from Odesa. I love Odesa with all the fibers of my soul and never wanted to move out of it. However, when the war began, we realized that our house, which is on a high floor, is very poorly located. There are many military and dual-use facilities around, and this increases the risks during shelling. [Read more...](#)

V Heals from the Trauma of War

September 29, 2023

Like many refugees, V, a young Ukrainian woman, has been heavily marked by the traumas of war. In Ukraine, she witnessed her world collapse when a bomb fell on her city, destroying homes and claiming the lives of many of her neighbors. She fled to a nearby city in Ukraine, where her living conditions were poor, making it impossible to heal from recent traumas.

[Read more...](#)



Michail Creates his Own Path

October 25, 2023

Like many Ukrainian children, 16-year-old Michail was forced to grow up too soon when Russia invaded his home in Kherson, Ukraine. Michail, his younger sister and his mom fled to the neighboring country of Moldova, but Michail's father was forced to remain in Russian-occupied Kherson.

[Read more...](#)

Rediscovering Peace

September 29, 2023

The life that Olga and her family had in Ukraine was the type of life that many dream of. She had a loving husband and two healthy and happy children. Her daughter, Carina, was a talented ballerina and on her way to becoming trilingual at just nine years old. Her three-year-old son, Gleb, loved his family and was especially close with his father. None of them could have foreseen what would come in the next months. [Read more...](#)



"I Miss My Home Very Much"

February 2, 2024

We knew that the hostilities would begin. We were warned about the danger, but no one believed it. At 5 a.m. on February 24, the bombing of Kulbakino airport began. We have a very big airport in Nikolaev, and it all started there. That day, ATMs ran out of money and gas stations ran out of gas. Traffic formed at the borders very quickly and it was impossible to break through to any borders. Most people drove through Palanca to Moldova. It was unbearable to stay in Ukraine where there were constant air raid alerts. [Read more...](#)

FUNDING THE WORK



Financial Summary: March 2022 - February 2024

Total Income

\$ 5,667,434

TO DATE

Total Sub-Grants/Expenses

\$ 4,857,284

TO DATE

Donor Acknowledgment

Significant support for the response has been provided by grants from UMCOR. This response is also supported by major contributions from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), Presbyterian Church (USA), Church of the Brethren, the United Church of Christ, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), ABC International Ministries, ACT Alliance, Wisconsin Conference United Church of Christ, Howard Gilman Foundation, The Primate's World Relief and Development Fund, Global Impact, the Trull Foundation and Kearsarge Community Presbyterian Church, in addition to gifts from our compassionate community of individual and congregational supporters.



BLANKETS, WINTER CLOTHING AND VOUCHERS FOR FOOD
AND HYGIENE ITEMS WERE DISTRIBUTED IN MOLDOVA
THROUGH PARTNER, DIACONIA

