



# ONE YEAR SINCE THE INVASION OF UKRAINE

MOLDOVA RESPONSE &  
PROGRAM OVERVIEW

2022-2023





# CONTEXT

The Russian invasion of Ukraine has created a regional humanitarian crisis with over 8 million Ukrainian refugees recorded across Europe. The Republic of Moldova lies directly on Ukraine's western border. Between February 24, 2022, and February 12, 2023, a total of 770,354 Ukrainian refugees crossed into Moldova. Nearly 100,000 have found ongoing refuge in Moldova. 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 to welcome Ukrainian refugees. In fact, Moldova has welcomed the highest number of Ukrainian refugees of any of Ukraine's neighbors relative to population size, and it has done this without the same level of resources that European Union nations have had in welcoming Ukrainians.

People who have fled into Moldova have had to face numerous challenges in rapidly establishing new lives, for an unknown period. They must try to secure safe housing, sufficient nutrition, comprehensive healthcare, stable education, and employment. Women and children, who together make up over 80% of Ukrainian refugees, often face heightened protection risks and vulnerabilities that jeopardize safety and well-being. Disruptions in social networks, increasing tensions between host and refugee communities, 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, winterization costs, and an energy crisis.

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 that we have built in the year since the Russian invasion of Ukraine have continued that approach by working alongside host communities and local organizations such as Diaconia Social Mission, Ormax, Soarta Community Association, Roma National Center, Romni, and Zdorovii Gorod. Together, these programs have provided food, hygiene, winter, and school supplies; education, psychosocial, psychological, livelihoods, and medical support; and support to Roma refugees, including legal counsel. These programs have reached over 12,000 refugees and host community members so far and are still growing.<sup>1</sup> From rapidly deploying assistance to those most in need in the first weeks of the crisis, to investments in local infrastructure, including a forklift for a food bank, modular classrooms, and photo-voltaic solar installations on public buildings hosting refugees, CWS's focus continues to be on supporting the most vulnerable and marginalized. As needs stretch from short to medium-term, livelihoods, inclusion, and social cohesion are top priorities.

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1. This number does not include individuals benefiting from the purchase of the food bank forklift.

# SOCIAL COHESION





### Social cohesion: Supporting Ukrainian Refugees Alongside Moldovan Host Communities

We are responding to a massive displacement crisis triggered by war, against the backdrop of increasing financial and infrastructure challenges that are affecting both Moldovans and new arrivals from Ukraine. From the earliest days of our response, CWS has kept social cohesion at the forefront of our programs. Social cohesion is the bond that holds a society together and moving towards caring for the wellbeing of all. It includes fighting marginalization, creating a sense of belonging, and promoting trust and opportunity. As the conflict in Ukraine continues into a second year, the needs of both Ukrainian refugees and the Moldovan communities hosting them continue to be integrated into CWS's response to help promote this bond.

CWS has worked to integrate the needs and priorities of Moldovan communities—including families who have opened their homes to Ukrainians as days turned to weeks and months—into our programs for refugees from Ukraine. Many Moldovan families are feeling a strain on their finances as a result of welcoming Ukrainians. In the Soroca district, 90% of the Ukrainian refugees initially found shelter in host families. When CWS, in partnership with the Soarta Community Association, distributed cash assistance and vouchers, both Ukrainian refugees and their Moldovan host families were included. In addition, psychological services were offered to deal with any difficulties between the refugees and host families.

To respond to the influx of refugees in 2022, Moldovan authorities set up 133 Refugee Accommodation Centers across the country to house Ukrainian refugees, of which 67 remained in use at the end of 2022. The RACs are set up in spaces like summer camps or senior centers that will return to their original use once the refugees leave. CWS has intentionally invested in the infrastructure of several RACs to meet the immediate needs of Ukrainian refugees and to support the long-term use of the space by Moldovans. At a RAC in Soroca, for example, CWS provided funds for commercial kitchen equipment that made the space more livable for the Ukrainian refugees and improves the long-term use of the space when it returns to being a summer camp.

About 60% of Moldovans face energy poverty, which means that they struggle to afford fuel and electricity. 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.



CWS has worked with our long-time local partner, Ormax, to install solar panels on two RACs. 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.





# PROGRAMS & ACTIVITIES





## Meeting Immediate Needs in the Response

CWS partnered with Diaconia Social Mission to meet the immediate needs of new arrivals from Ukraine in the early days of the war. This included access to food, hygiene items, housing, and school supplies.

### Forklift for Food Bank Logistic Center

CWS purchased a forklift that the Diaconia team used in their food bank, which had been rapidly repurposed as a food and supply distribution hub for organizations welcoming Ukrainians. The forklift was critical and is still used for the loading and unloading of humanitarian supplies (food, hygiene items, blankets, and winter clothing). Over 214 metric tons of supplies had been delivered by the end of 2022. Around 75% of recipients are Ukrainian and 25% are Moldovans, with an average of 3,500 people assisted per month since the beginning of the response.



Forklift for Food Bank Logistic Center

### School and Educational Supplies for Refugee Children

At the same time, refugee families were in immediate need of school supplies for children to do their homework. Between April and June 2022, CWS provided school supplies for 533 children. During the distribution of school supplies, volunteers with Diaconia organized games, songs and dances with the children to provide a positive environment for the children in contrast to the traumatic experiences they went through.

### Utility Bills for Temporary Refugee Center

Between March 1 and May 30, CWS covered the utility costs (heating, electricity and water) for 30 Ukrainian refugees (14 adult women and 16 children) living in a house that had been under development as a day care center but was temporarily repurposed for refugee accommodation. The families were offered free accommodation, food, medicine, hygiene products and psychological support.



Ukrainian child does schoolwork at Diaconia





## Resource Distribution Programs

### Balti Distribution Center: Supply and Information Hub

From May 24 – September 30, CWS partnered with Friends of Moldova/Zdorovii Gorod to support the Balti Distribution Center in providing essential food, hygiene and household supplies to Ukrainian refugees in Balti and the surrounding area. The distribution center used 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). Over 4,500 unique individuals were supported during this period.

At the Balti Distribution Center, refugees receive food and hygiene supplies alongside information on how to connect to other available services. Leading into the winter, warm clothes and blankets were added to the inventory so that the refugees can equip themselves as temperatures drop. All distributed supplies are purchased locally, supporting the local economy.

From October 2022 through June 2023, CWS is expanding services available to Ukrainian families in Balti with additional funding from UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief). Psychosocial, psychological, and medical services, in addition to food and hygiene supplies, are now available to support refugees' diverse needs. Romanian language courses to help refugees better integrate into Moldovan society, scholarships for vocational training to prepare refugees for jobs in Moldova, and childcare to allow parents time to learn and find work are also being provided. This increased scope of work includes two additional local partners: Speranta Terrei and Uniunea de Sanatate si Echitate. Between October 1, 2022, and January 31, 2023, over 6,800 Ukrainians have participated in this expanded program.



## Resource Distribution Programs

### Winterization

As winter is now underway, Ukrainian refugees and Moldovan families find themselves in a difficult financial situation due to high inflation and increasing heating and utility expenses. The winter season is exacerbating the financial hardships that Ukrainian refugees were facing before the winter, including covering the costs for accommodation, utility payments, food and clothes, health care and education. Moldovan host families have played a critical role in welcoming Ukrainian refugees and providing shelter and livelihood support; however, their resources have been depleting as well.

From January 1- March 31, 2023, in partnership with Diaconia, CWS is supporting 1,000 families—roughly 3,000 people—that includes new arrivals from Ukraine as well as Moldovans. These families are receiving winter clothing, blankets, and vouchers for hygiene and food items. The vouchers are meant to help ease the financial burden on families during a difficult winter with increased utility and heating costs.

So far 767 families (378 Refugee and 389 Moldovan underserved families) have received winter items (approximately 2,300 individuals) and 189 families (97 Refugee and 92 Moldovan underserved families) received food and hygiene vouchers (approximately 570 individuals).

Distribution center in Balti





## Resource Distribution Programs

### Support in Soroca District

CWS partnered with the Soarta Community Association to provide resources and supplies to Ukrainian refugees and Moldovan host families in the Soroca district between May 15 and June 30, 2022. This was a critical period when assistance programs at the national level were still being established. Project staff coordinated with local officials to map the needs amongst refugees and host families. Vouchers and cash assistance were found to be the most effective form of support for families to get what they needed most.

For Ukrainian refugees living with host families or in a state-run Refugee Accommodation Center, the assistance included cash and vouchers for food, medicine, hygiene products, clothes, and shoes. Cash assistance was also provided to host families, since over 90% of the refugees in the district were living with families in their homes.



Refugee Accommodation Center in Soroca



Distribution Center in Balti

In addition, psychological counseling services were provided to refugees and host families alike during home visits two or three times a week. This regular space for communication allowed for any issues with the host situation to be brought to the surface and dealt with.

In total, 344 Ukrainian refugees received cash assistance and 401 vouchers for medicine, food, clothing and/or hygiene products. In addition, 147 host families received cash assistance and/or vouchers for bed sheets and hygiene products.

## Anastasis Educational Center: Education Access and Psychosocial Support



Ukrainian children at educational center

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

Between May 16 and November 30, 214 children participated in school and activities at Anastasis. Most of the children using the Anastasis Educational Center are Ukrainian, and 24 of the children are Moldovan. The classrooms that CWS donated are a long-term investment that will serve the local community long after refugees leave.

In addition, 35 mothers who regularly bring their children to the activities have engaged in psychosocial activities or attended various activities at Anastasis, including courses on cultural integration and cooking masterclasses. One of the Ukrainian mothers, who studied psychology and pedagogy, is now part of the team working with the children in the Center.

Olena (second on the left) and Anastasis staff

**“ I would like our center, Anastasis, to be a shock absorber that will help them adapt to their new living conditions. ”**

Olena  
Ukrainian Pedagogue at Anastasis





## Refugee Accommodation Centers: Sustainable Infrastructure Upgrades

In March 2022, a children’s summer camp in Sorooca was turned into a Refugee Accommodation Center. Some parts of the center were not functional, including the kitchen, which made it hard for refugees to stay at the center. CWS provided funds to make significant upgrades that improved the immediate situation for the Ukrainian refugees and strengthened the long-term functioning of the space for the Moldovan community. CWS provided funds for commercial kitchen equipment that complies with official requirements for obtaining a use permit. CWS also provided a TV set and internet, which made the dining room a favorite place for gatherings to catch up on news, study, and relax.

In addition, CWS has partnered with long time local partner Ormax to increase the environmental sustainability of our response programs and invest in the local Moldovan community in the long term. With CWS funding, Ormax installed a 15 kWh photovoltaic solar panel system on the RAC to address the rising energy costs that Ukrainian refugees were facing. When this center returns to its original purpose of a summer camp, the solar panels will be there for decades to reduce the energy costs for the local community.

From November 2022 through January 2023, CWS again partnered with Ormax to install a 10 kWh photovoltaic solar panel system and 12 kW heat pump system on a Refugee Accommodation Center in Mihaileni that is hosting Ukrainians. This center normally functions as a senior center. The addition of solar panels and the heat pump system will help to reduce the energy costs for hosting the Ukrainian refugees and will reduce the energy costs for the local Moldovan community when the space returns to its original use. Even with the increased energy needs of the center with its refugee residents the new system is expected to provide about 65% of the total energy required. When the center reverts to its normal function as a senior center it is expected to cover 100% of its needs.

Kitchen equipment in a RAC



CWS staff and solar panels at RAC



## 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. Over 5,000 Roma refugees from Ukraine are believed to be seeking refuge in Moldova. On top of the myriad of challenges that all refugees from Ukraine face, Roma refugees must also contend with hostile, discriminatory attitudes from other Ukrainian refugees, Moldovan citizens, and government officials. This makes it even harder for them to access safe housing, humanitarian support, and services. CWS has been addressing these challenges with two local Roma led organizations.

### Roma National Center

The Roma National Center identified a unique need among Roma refugees from Ukraine: they were not receiving the same accommodation opportunities as other Ukrainian refugees in the rental market, by host families, or in official Refugee Accommodation Centers. The RNC mapped the location and needs of the Roma refugees in the Testimiteanu Refugee Accommodation Center, the towns of Vadul lui Voda and Ghidighici, and the district of Ungheni, noting that they were living in poor conditions and had immediate needs around basic hygiene and food.

In some cases, Roma refugees from Ukraine had issues with their identification paperwork that made things even more challenging. To address this, in addition to the material support, the RNC provided legal aid to Roma refugees on their migration status and information on how to register with the state authorities to be able to receive cash assistance from other international organizations, including UNHCR. Sharing clear information with Roma refugees from Ukraine is critical for this group to not be invisible in the system and to other service providers.

In June, July and August, and with funding from CWS, approximately 218 Roma refugees accessed legal advice and supplies like food packages, clothing, shoes, household appliances, medical supplies, and medicine.

**“ We want to have advocates in place who can help Roma Ukrainian refugees access the same services as other Ukrainians. ”**

Andrew Blakely  
CWS Humanitarian Response Leader



## Inclusion of Roma Refugees from Ukraine

### 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 since September 2022 to develop a team of Roma mediators to support at least 2,000 Roma refugees within central and northern Moldova as well as in Transnistria. The six mediators assist Roma refugees in accessing services, including shelter, health care, education, food, clothing, and transportation.

This team of mediators collects information on the needs of the Roma refugees and refers them to local authorities, civil society organizations, and other service providers. They also support referrals by providing advocacy, transportation, and service fees, and they follow up with refugees to check that their needs have been adequately met. The team includes 3 men and 3 women, including one couple, to ensure that Romni can navigate traditional family dynamics and adequately respond to the needs of female refugees in a culturally appropriate way. Between November 2022 and January 2023, mediators have reached over 700 Roma women, men, and children.

*To support the Roma minority in Moldova by helping them to access needed services, campaigning and advocating for the protection of Roma rights, and fighting against anti-Roma discrimination.*

Romni Mission Statement

Frispa, a Roma Refugee Accommodation Center-Chisinau, Moldova







# LOOKING AHEAD





### Additional Commitments Feb/Mar 2023

**CWS has four new projects that are expected to begin in the next month totaling nearly \$400,000.**

To respond to the energy crisis and continue to increase the environmental sustainability of our support to Ukrainian refugees and the local Moldovan community, CWS is partnering with Ormax to install a 30 kWh photovoltaic solar panel system at the Refugee Accommodation Center in Drochia. There are currently 20 Ukrainian refugees living at this RAC. In line with the CWS commitment to social cohesion, the solar panel system will also provide electricity for the orphanage and kindergarten that serve Moldovan children located in a facility connected to the RAC.

CWS will partner with the Diamond Day Center in Telenesti to provide a safe and inviting space for Ukrainian refugee and Moldovan youth between 6 and 16 years old with age-specific homework assistance; psychosocial activities such as arts, crafts, and games; and meals provided by a team of attentive staff and volunteers. CWS will help the center improve the space by installing kitchen equipment and a dual air conditioner/heater and pay for additional staff to direct the children's activities, provide administrative support, and assist with meal preparation. In addition, to support Ukrainian refugee mothers, the Center will hold a biweekly support group where they can open up about the challenges that they face and receive a package of food.

CWS is partnering with the Roma National Center, in a second project, for the next six months to support Roma refugees from Ukraine, who continue to be one of the most vulnerable populations in Moldova. The RNC expects to reach 150 Roma refugees with food, hygiene supplies, home appliances, and medicine based on their needs. To improve access to services, the RNC will offer legal consultations to 500 Roma refugees to help them navigate the legal system. With a focus on supporting Roma refugees settle into new lives in Moldovan society, the RNC plans to hold a public Roma cultural celebration. Finally, the RNC will hold workshops and training sessions for Roma refugees who are interested in becoming resources within their communities.

The war in Ukraine has led to a dramatic increase in the number of traumatized Ukrainians and those at risk of human trafficking and gender-based violence, especially women and children, many of them now living in Moldova. CWS will partner with Moldovan organization Memoria, a rehabilitation center for victims of torture, and gender-based violence, as they expand their scope of work to provide psychological and medical support, and rehabilitation services to Ukrainian refugees.

### 12-Month Planning

As we reach the one-year mark of the Russian invasion of Ukraine and our collective work in Moldova, much remains uncertain. Fighting is likely to intensify in the near term and continue for the medium term. Tens of thousands of refugees will remain in Moldova for the next year. While there is no consensus on how the war will unfold, there is the potential for additional large numbers of refugees seeking refuge in Moldova, especially if Odesa comes under sustained attack.

Moldova, one of the poorest countries in Europe, couldn't provide adequate social assistance to its population prior to the Ukraine invasion. 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. Assistance must be delivered mindful of increasing tensions between refugees and host communities. CWS will continue to design projects in a manner that increases social cohesion, including assistance to the most vulnerable Moldovan families.

In addition to the projects listed above CWS intends to continue its core programming and partnerships with Diaconia (Anastasis Educational Center, Winterization 2023/24), Ormax (Renewable Energy Infrastructure Support), Romni (Roma Inclusion), Balti Assistance Program (Zdorovii Gorod, Speranta Terrei and Uniunea de Sanatate si Echitate) when the current grant cycles end. This continued programming will require \$2.2 million through February 2024.





# STORIES & BLOGS



### A Friendly Space to Be a Kid

Moldova | May 31st, 2022

Our childhood years are a time for learning, growing, making friends and forming happy memories that will last us a lifetime. When war happens, however, all of this is disrupted. Children are forced to abandon their studies, their friends and the only life they have ever known. As their sense of normalcy and routine is pulled out from under them, children face new challenges and hardships that no child should have to experience. [Read more...](#)



### A Familiar Meal, a Sense of Home

Moldova | May 31st, 2022

During the darkest of times, a familiar meal can bring us back to a place of calm and happiness. For Julia, a familiar meal is just one of the many comforts she and her family were forced to leave behind in Ukraine. Like many other Ukrainian refugees, Julia had to abruptly drop everything and take her mother and two children to a nearby country for safety. [Read more...](#)



### A Safe Home and a Warm Hug

Moldova | October 6th, 2022

If you had just 20 minutes to pack a small bag and leave the rest behind, possibly for forever, what would you pack? For Natalia, who fled Ukraine earlier this year, the answer to this question was: documents, necessary items for her son, her son's favorite toy, books and some snacks. The limited belongings Ukrainians like Natalia have fled with reveal how sudden, shocking and frightening it is to be forced out of one's own country. [Read more...](#)

### "A Strong Remedy for Climate Change"

Moldova | October 25th, 2022

For many of us, when we feel a change in the weather, we can walk to our thermostat and adjust the temperature. If we'd like to take a hot bath all we need to do is turn a handle, wait a bit, and hot water will come rushing out. Unfortunately, these things that we often take for granted are a luxury for many of our neighbors. [Read more...](#)





**Language Lessons Open New Doors**

Moldova | December 22nd, 2022

Watching your child struggle in school can be heartbreaking and frustrating, especially if you don't know much about what they are learning. For parents who have had to leave their home country and don't speak the language of their new home, this challenge can feel impossible. [Read more...](#)



**Solidarity and Healing**

Moldova | February 3rd, 2023

In war-torn countries like Ukraine, the effects of war go beyond what is visible to the bare eye, and into the minds and hearts of children. While these wounds can be hard to heal, there is always hope. In Moldova we supported one of our partners, Diaconia Social Mission, to establish an educational center known as “Anastasis” where there is never a shortage of hope. [Read more...](#)



**Bringing Fun and Big Hugs**

Moldova | February 3rd, 2023

Just like many kids around the world anticipate the arrival of an ice cream truck, in Moldova, many children look forward to the arrival of the LudoBus! The LudoBus, which means “fun bus” or “play bus” in English, was created by our partner Diaconia to bring education and fun to Moldovan children in rural areas. When thousands of Ukrainians fled to neighboring Moldova at the start of the war, the program shifted to include refugee children living in local refugee accommodation centers. [Read more...](#)



**A Young Man with A Plan**

Moldova | February 3rd, 2023

While war may seem to stop or slow down ordinary life, for children affected by it, it may do the opposite. Children affected by war are often forced to speed up their lives and become little adults. Young boys and girls may feel like they have to step up when a parent is deployed or their families experience a loss. When we met 13-year-old Mark, we recognized that he was one of these young adults. [Read more...](#)

**From Dance Teacher to Caregiver: Oleg's Journey to Help Ukrainian War Refugees**

North Carolina | February 8th, 2023

In December 2016, Oleg, a professional dancer, visited Greensboro, North Carolina, to teach dance at local schools. After five years of working in the U.S., Oleg built a new life here with kids and a wife. Then the devastating war broke out in Ukraine. Feeling the need to help his fellow citizens who were fleeing the conflict, Oleg left his teaching job. He joined Church World Service as a case manager in September 2022.

[Read more...](#)



**Faith with Action**

Moldova | February 22nd, 2023

One year ago when Russia invaded Ukraine Budolai didn't hesitate to take action. Budolai is a leader at CWS' local partner in Moldova, Healthy Cities, which was created several years ago to help the most vulnerable people in the city. Led by his faith, Budolai has spent many years with the organization to spread goodness and support those in need. [Read more...](#)



**"Dolce Yana"**

Moldova | February 22nd, 2023

After Russia invaded Ukraine a year ago, Yana and her family no longer felt safe in their home in Ukraine. She began the journey toward safety with her teenage son and two of his friends. They began by traveling to Chernobyl by train. Yana recalls that the train was so packed with people desperately fleeing Ukraine that they were forced to stand the whole time. They found rest at a local church and then traveled by bus for four days to Poland. Yana and the boys stayed in Poland for a month. While they were there, they received some great news. [Read more...](#)





### Welcoming Ukrainian Refugees Like Viktoriia in Moldova | April 5th, 2022

For years, the Moldovan organization called Diaconia has offered programs to support their neighbors. They have a bus called the LudoBus (in English, that roughly means “Play Bus”) that brings educational games to children across the country. In 2020, they started the nation’s first food bank. More recently, they have built a daycare center that was meant to open this month for babies and children. [Read more...](#)



### When war erupted in Ukraine, you stepped up. Here are 5 ways in which your support has made a difference | August 22nd, 2022

In late February of 2022, the world watched in shock as Russia launched an unwarranted invasion of Ukraine. The images and stories we have heard over the last six months—and continue to hear—are heartbreaking. Hospitals have been ruthlessly bombed, infrastructure has been destroyed, families have been torn apart and millions of Ukrainians have been forced to flee the only home they have ever known. [Read more...](#)



### A Cold, Brutal Winter Looms in Moldova | October 31st, 2022

Temperatures are dropping in the European nation of Moldova. Each night is a little longer than the one before it, and the first snowflakes of winter will be here soon. Sadly, most indicators show that it will likely be a long, hard winter in Moldova this year. [Read more...](#)

### Equal Opportunities for Roma Ukrainian Refugees | October 31st, 2022

At CWS, when we say “refugees welcome” and advocate for the right to seek a safe home, we are talking about all refugees. Throughout our programs, our focus has always been to ensure inclusivity and provide a helping hand to our most vulnerable neighbors. This holds true in our programs for Ukrainian refugees in Moldova, where communities have generously opened up their doors to Ukrainian refugees. [Read more...](#)



### The Invasion of Ukraine and Who You’ve Impacted | February 20th, 2023

One year ago, when Russia invaded Ukraine, the CWS community joined forces to do our part in supporting Ukrainians. In the last year, so many of you have stepped up to do one of the things that the CWS family does best: surround people who have lost their homes in a big hug of love and support (and supplies, resources, services and so much more). You have been a helping hand to so many of our Ukrainian neighbors in ways big and small. [Read more...](#)

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