



Improving access to life-saving Health and Gender-based Violence (GBV)

response services for Ukrainian Refugees and vulnerable host communities

DURATION: January 1, 2023 – December 31, 2023

PARTICIPANTS: Refugees and host communities, including the most vulnerable and at-risk individuals

COVERAGE: Entire Territory of the Republic of Moldova



Co-funded by
European Union
Humanitarian Aid



Background and Executive Summary

Since February 2022, Moldova has seen an influx of over 780,896 refugees from Ukraine. As of February 26, approximately 109,348 remain in the country, with this number continually changing.

UNFPA is leading the gender-based violence and sexual and reproductive health response, coordinating efforts with UN agencies, international and local partners in Moldova, to ensure that groups at risk have access to lifesaving support to stay healthy and safe.

Funded by the European Union, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) will specifically focus on saving lives of mothers and newborns through equal access to quality emergency services, as well as strengthening the gender-based violence prevention and protection response.



I. Saving lives of mothers and newborns through equal access to quality emergency services

In Moldova, refugees are dispersed across communities throughout the country, seeking healthcare, social services, and GBV support at district, municipal, and national facilities.

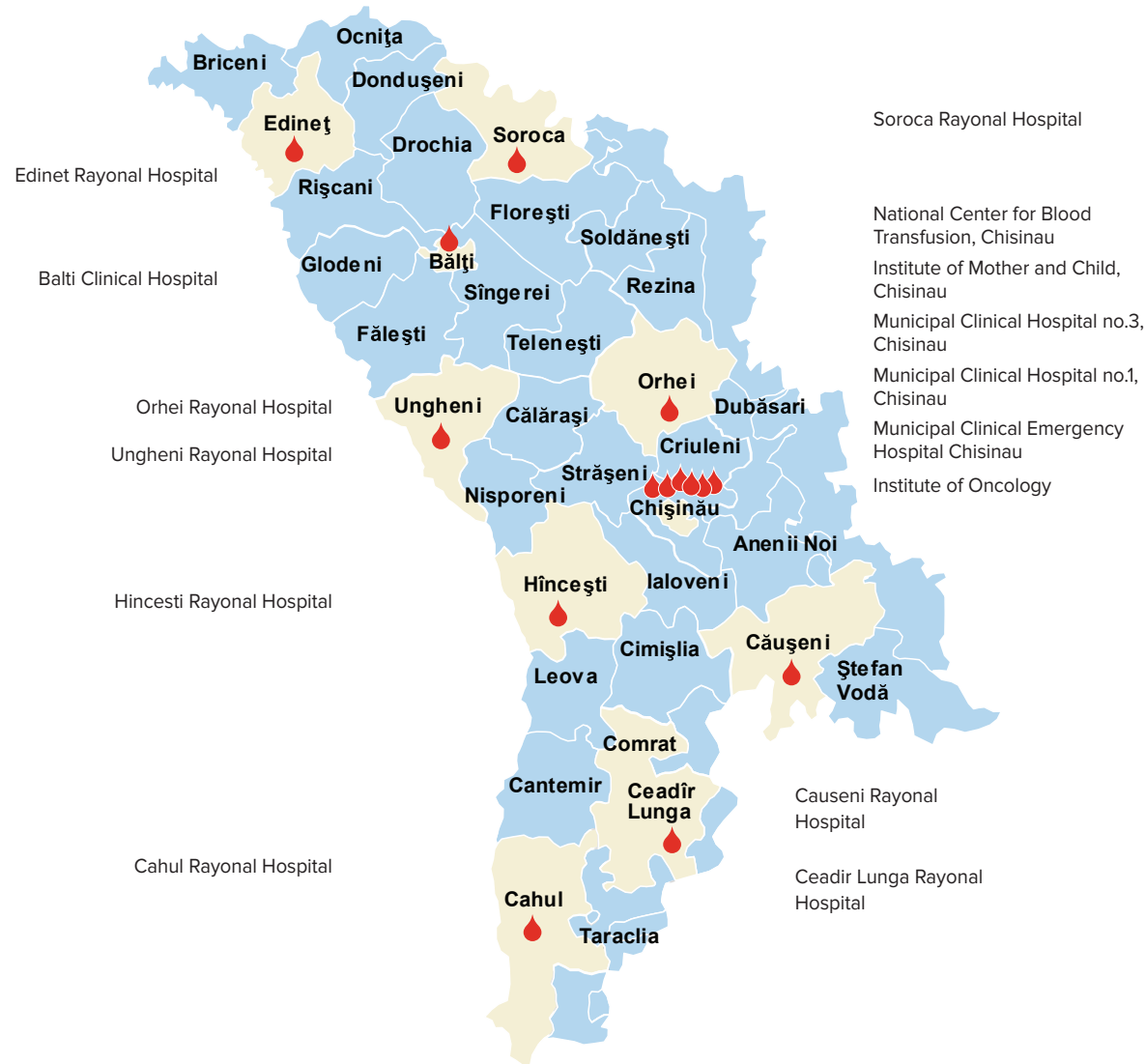
Many subnational maternal and reproductive health facilities are outdated. Given that a significant proportion of the refugees are women, it's estimated that out of the approximately 100,000 refugees, up to 2,000 women will require perinatal care, and many more will urgently need gynecological assistance, including immediate medical attention for sexual violence survivors.

Additionally, the limited availability of emergency equipment in the national emergency system leads to extended waiting times for emergency assistance. An influx of pregnant refugee women could further strain the local emergency system, exacerbating these challenges and potentially jeopardizing the well-being of pregnant women and their unborn children.



Within the framework of this project, UNFPA's health interventions are focused on enhancing the capacity of emergency stations by providing ambulances to perinatal centers in border rayons and increasing the capacity of blood banks to meet international standards at secondary and tertiary level perinatal hospitals.

Healthcare Facilities Equipped with Blood Bank Equipment



II. Prevention, Mitigation and Response to Gender-Based Violence

Around 60% are women and girls, while nearly 20% are older individuals who face a heightened risk of gender-based violence (GBV) and have greater social protection needs. Global research conducted by UNFPA reveals that girls and young women with disabilities experience up to 10 times more GBV compared to those without disabilities, with girls having intellectual disabilities being especially vulnerable to sexual violence.

Approximately 10% of the total Ukrainian refugee population in Moldova has a disability, exposing them to various forms of gender-based violence and social exclusion.



Within the framework of this project, UNFPA has structured the protection response around five interconnected components:



- Strengthening the capacities of GBV sub-working group partners on GBV standard operating procedures, referral pathways, case management, and psychosocial support (PSS), including conducting GBV safety audits and training non-GBV actors on GBV mainstreaming.
- Conducting a national mapping of GBV services.
- Scaling up community-based approaches through mobile safe spaces to reach refugees and host communities with PSS activities, information on available services, referrals, and the distribution of dignity kits.
- Outreach through women-led organizations and dissemination of information on available GBV services.
- Strengthening case management services, including cash assistance for survivors of GBV and at-risk groups

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- IP Asociația Obstească “Institutul de Instruire în Dezvoltare “MilleniuM”, Stefan cel mare și Sfint street, nr.196, Chișinău.
- Asociația Obstească “Gender Centru”, 60, A. Mateevici Street, Chișinău.
- Asociația Obstească “Homecare”, Gheorghe Casu Street, no. 4, Chișinău.
- Asociația Obstească “Institute for Family and Social Initiatives”, Vasile Alecsandri Street, 13, Chișinău.