



## STRENGTHEN, DEVELOP FEEDBACK AND MONITORING MECHANISMS

In partnership with UNHCR and with the financial support of the EU Humanitarian Aid, UNICEF has assisted authorities in Moldova by monitoring the current situation and needs of refugee families. This collaboration led to the development of the Multi-Sector Needs Assessment (MSNA). The findings from the MSNA were presented to the Inter-agency Refugee Coordination Forum, the Regional Refugee Response Plan's sector coordination working groups, and other relevant bodies.

Furthermore, measures regarding Child Safeguarding and Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) were integrated to guarantee the safety of interventions for children and women. UNICEF trained all its implementing partners on PSEA and formulated a PSEA Action Plan for the country office. Additionally, UNICEF fortified child-friendly feedback and complaint mechanisms, ensuring all women and children have secure and accessible channels to report incidents of sexual

exploitation and abuse. From May 2022 to August 2023, 29,892 children and women provided feedback, voiced concerns, and posed questions through the established feedback mechanism. More than 101,300 individuals now have access to secure and accessible channels to report sexual exploitation and abuse.

Safety audits, including focus group discussions with service providers, women, and girls, were also conducted to understand their needs and the potential risks they face when accessing assistance and services. 80% of the beneficiaries confirmed that humanitarian aid is dispensed in a safe, accessible, and accountable manner. Nonetheless, some women and girls have expressed concerns regarding risks at refugee accommodation centres (RACs). Service providers also highlighted issues related to sexual abuse and exploitation in private host accommodations and potential trafficking risks, especially concerning unaccompanied or separated children.



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### Advocacy

Between May 2022 and August 2023, the UNICEF team, with the support of the EU Humanitarian Aid, produced and disseminated 50 advocacy products, including radio spots on GBV/VAC prevention and awareness and anti-trafficking brochures. Moreover, a foster care programme promotion campaign was launched in Chisinau through radio and TV spots and communication materials, including on public transport.

### Coordination

With UNHCR, UNICEF co-chaired 22 Child Protection Working group meetings, gathering more than 20 CSOs, INGOs and other UN agencies as well as representatives of the ICRC, key donors and governmental authorities, including MLSP and Chisinau Municipality.

### About United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) promotes the rights and wellbeing of every child, in everything we do. Together with our partners, we work in 190 countries and territories to translate that commitment into practical action, focusing special effort on reaching the most vulnerable and excluded children, to the benefit of all children, everywhere.

For more information about UNICEF and its work for children, visit [www.unicef.org](http://www.unicef.org)

### About EU Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid

The European Union and its Member States are the world's leading donor of humanitarian aid. Relief assistance is an expression of European solidarity with people in need all around the world. It aims to save lives, prevent and alleviate human suffering, and safeguard the integrity and human dignity of populations affected by natural disasters and man-made crises.

Through its Civil Protection and Humanitarian aid Operations department (ECHO), the European Union helps millions of victims of conflict and disasters every year. With headquarters in Brussels and a global network of field offices, the EU provides assistance to the most vulnerable people on the basis of humanitarian needs.

For further information, please contact:

**Flore Rossi**  
Child Protection Specialist UNICEF Moldova  
Email: [frossi@unicef.org](mailto:frossi@unicef.org)

**Angela Munteanu**  
Communication Specialist UNICEF Moldova  
Email: [amunteanu@unicef.org](mailto:amunteanu@unicef.org)

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for every child



# PROTECTION FOR EVERY CHILD

1 MAY 2022 – 31 AUGUST 2023

Ukrainian  
Emergency  
Response

## BACKGROUND

Since the onset of the war in Ukraine, more than 923,000 Ukrainian people have fled to Moldova. To date, 116,000 refugees remain in the country, almost half of whom are children. One of the biggest challenges in the refugee crisis is to ensure access to quality protection services for children and their families affected by the war. Thanks to the support of the European Union Humanitarian Aid, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) has developed a wide range of partnerships with NGOs as well as with the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Chisinau Municipality to strengthen child-protection systems and refugee crisis management either develop new services or to improve existing ones. During this period, 142,245 Ukrainian and Moldovan children and their caregivers.

Thanks to EU Humanitarian Aid support, UNICEF and its partners ensured access to protection services for 142,245 Ukrainian and Moldovan children and their caregivers.

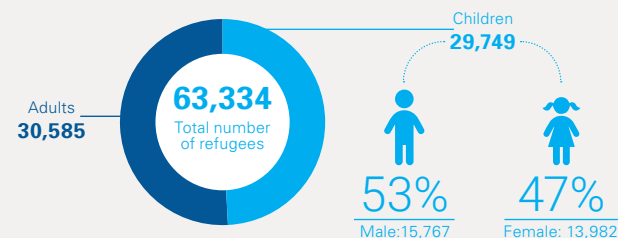




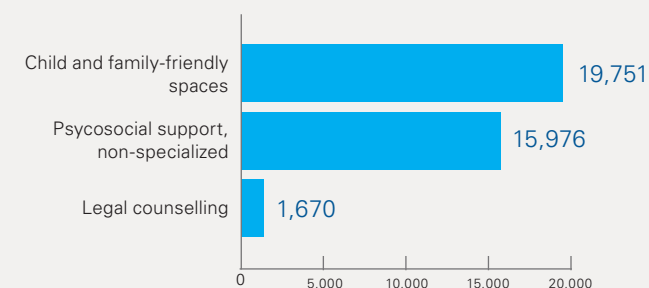
## BLUE DOTS - SAFE SPACE, PROTECTION AND SUPPORT HUBS

The Blue Dots are safe spaces established by UNICEF in partnership with UNHCR and other partners to provide various services for refugee children and their families, including recreational activities, psychological support, legal consultation services, food, hygiene essentials, and more. In Moldova, UNICEF, with the support of EU Humanitarian Aid, has supported the establishment and operation of 12 Blue Dots, including the Blue Dot mobile teams. Since the outbreak of the war, more than 63,334 refugees have benefited from the Blue Dot services, with more than 29,000 children. Blue Dots continue to play a key role in safeguarding refugee women and children and remain a critical entry point to identify and refer specific child protection and GBV cases. To better reach and support refugee families living in host communities, UNICEF works through Blue Dots mobile teams and, in close collaboration with UNHCR, integrates child protection services in community centres.

### Blue Dot beneficiaries



### Child protection services provided:

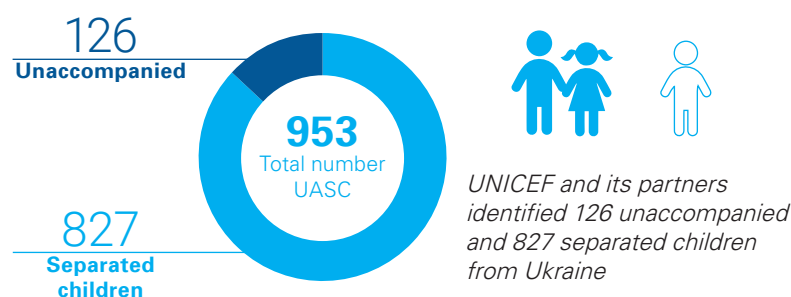


## IDENTIFY AND PROTECT CHILDREN AT RISK



With support from EU Humanitarian Aid, UNICEF and its partners have worked alongside the authorities to identify and ensure the protection of unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) and other children at risk. From May 2022 to August 2023, UNICEF and its partners identified 126 unaccompanied and 827 separated children from Ukraine. These children received protection, assistance, and referral services, including temporary accommodation, placement in foster families, and family tracing and reunification efforts.

Furthermore, UNICEF and its partners supported the documentation verification for all children evacuated from Ukraine who transited through Moldova to final destinations in other countries. UNICEF also supported the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection as well as the Chisinau Municipality in developing and strengthening foster care programmes and services. Consequently, six new foster families have been established and equipped with the necessary training to accommodate refugee children.



## STRENGTHEN THE CHILD PROTECTION SYSTEM AND THE CAPACITIES OF THE FRONTLINE WORKERS



751 frontline workers trained

UNICEF has strengthened national and local technical capacity to deliver quality child protection services. From May 2022 to August 2023, 751 frontline workers were trained. Of these, 78 social workers and child protection specialists from the territorial guardianship authorities received training in child protection case management in an emergency, including procedures for registering unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) for temporary protection. Furthermore, 159 social workers from the General Department for Child Rights Protection of Chisinau were equipped with a similar training package.

UNICEF also signed two partnership agreements with the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection (MLSP) and Chisinau Municipality. These collaborations aim to strengthen the national child protection system and manage the refugee crisis more effectively by creating and enhancing services for vulnerable children and their caregivers, including family support and personal assistance services, foster care and family-type homes, shelter services for women and children victims of domestic violence, day centres for children and families at risk and assisted social housing.



## GBV RESPONSE, PREVENTION AND RISK MITIGATION

UNICEF's commitment to GBV lies at the heart of the agency's mandate to ensure the safety, health, and well-being of children and women. UNICEF's approach to addressing GBV is to develop and implement a comprehensive strategy prioritizing access to services while cultivating a protective environment for women and children.

The refugee crisis in Ukraine has underscored the urgency to amplify GBV programming to prevent and address GBV cases. As a result, 90,521 women, girls, and boys were reached through interventions focused on GBV risk mitigation, prevention, and response; 348 of these girls and women accessed GBV response services.

In its GBV risk mitigation efforts, UNICEF provided training to 378 frontline workers, including law enforcement officials, border police, social workers, and volunteers from Blue Dots, Youth and Adolescent Spaces, Youth Centres, and personnel from Child Protection, WASH, and Health sectors. This training included GBV core concepts, safety referrals, and the GBV pocket guide.

Thanks to these programmatic efforts, 23,935 refugee women and girls received hygiene and dignity kits. In collaboration with UNFPA and UNHCR, UNICEF conducted a country wide GBV Safety Audit to understand the specific risks faced by women and girls and better address their needs. UNICEF is committed to expanding its GBV programming on prevention, response and risk mitigation. Furthermore, UNICEF will collaborate closely with UNFPA and UN Women to strengthen the GBV services through partnerships with women's associations and CSOs to improve the survivor-centred approach.

