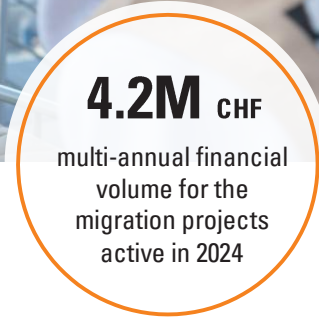
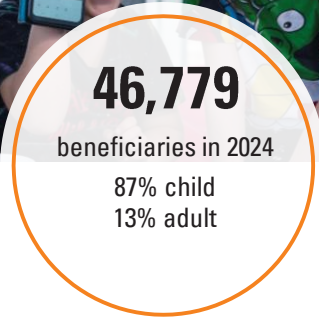




# Children and Youth on the Move in Moldova

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## In 2024...

- **120,947** refugees, **4,100** asylum seekers, and **3,267** stateless persons
- Including **28,047** Temporary protection status to Ukrainian nationals.
- **26%** of the Moldavian population live abroad
- **5,343** refugees and **6,410** asylum seekers abroad

## Context

### Country of emigration

In the Republic of Moldova, emigration flows account for more than 90% of the population decline, with circular labour and youth emigration being the principal types, prompted by political corruption, poor socio-economic conditions, and lack of employment and educational opportunities. Flows are facilitated by the visa-free regime to the EU but can end in irregular overstays of the visa and exploitative situations. There are thousands of Moldovan asylum-seeker applications to Western European countries, but Italy accepts the most, with other countries mainly rejecting applications from Moldova. Around 20% of children have one or both parents working abroad, raising the risk of these children engaging in unsafe migration themselves.

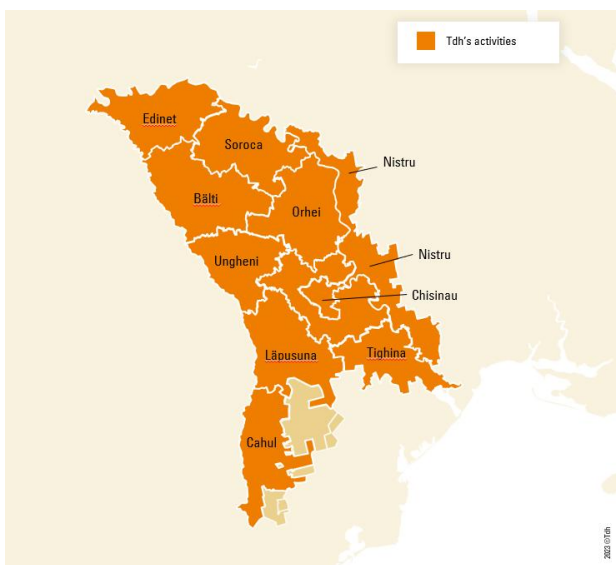
Men from pro-Russia parts of Moldova have emigrated to Russia to join the Russian army in the invasion of Ukraine.

### Country of transit and destination

Moldova has become a frontline actor in the reception of people fleeing Ukraine. As of 2023, little more than 100,000 Ukrainian refugees have decided to stay in the Republic of Moldova, out of which 46% under the age of 18 years old. Unlike other refugee hosting states in the region, Moldova is not part of the European Union and does not benefit from the same regional response and internal solidarity mechanisms as member states. For this reason, the sustained presence of development and humanitarian actors is still crucial. Refugees are in strong need of necessities, shelter, and of healthcare and education access. The situation also puts strain on host communities.

In 2023, Moldova adopted a law to allow foreign nationals to work for three months in the country for three months without a visa, raising concerns of human trafficking and labour exploitation. The biggest law enforcement operation in history resulted in the identification of 53 Bangladeshi and Indian young male victims of labour trafficking. There is a high human trafficking risk for Ukrainian refugees, mainly women and children, particularly for forced child labour and sex trafficking.

## Map of CYM intervention



2023/08/06

## Tdh CYM Projects in Moldova

In 2024, the **6 CYM projects** active in Moldova focused on:

- Covering **basic needs**, improving **resilience**, and enhancing **access to quality child protection services** for conflict-affected children, youth, and their families.
- **MHPSS** services and awareness-raising, including among non-professionals.
- **Adolescents and youth empowerment**: Strengthening national capacity and policy in youth and education sectors to empower adolescent girls and youth through life skills development and participatory civic engagement for advancing human rights, autonomy and gender equality.
- Improving Moldova's protection frameworks and knowledge of **transnational families** in relation to the impacts of labour migration in the EU.
- **Training of child protection professionals** to improve their response to the needs of refugee, host children and families, and children in conflict with the law, and building on existing safeguarding practices to pursue longer-term sustainable transformation.

### Local partners

P4EC, CCF Moldova, CNPAC, AVE Copiii, other NGOs

## Alignment with Theory of Change

**Target groups:** Focus on children and youth in pre-mobility, on the move, fixed in the migration process, and left behind

**Information (Pathway 1):** Learning and mainstreamed within and beyond the actors involved

**Protection (Pathway 2):** CYM are better protected and accompanied along migratory routes and in crisis contexts

**(Re)integration (Pathway 3):** CYM are better integrated in their society

**Advocacy (Pathway 4):** Multi-stakeholder coordination is established to strengthen community level safety nets and resilience.

**Differentiation approach:** Protective Accompaniment

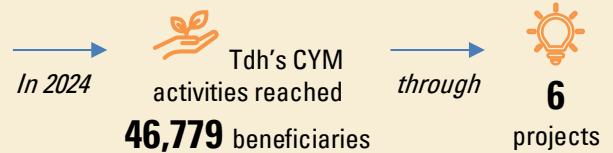
### Priority areas of intervention:

1. Supporting psychosocial wellbeing and building resilience of CYM
2. Strengthening systems and services

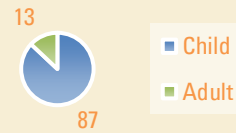
**Transversal expertise:** Child Protection

**Institutional priorities:** Gender and Diversity.

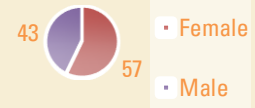
## CYM 2023 Key Data in Moldova



### Age (%)



### Gender (%)



**27,891** children benefited from MHPSS intervention, including Case Management

**11,437** children, youth, families, and communities' members affected by migration have benefited from training, counseling, or awareness-raising sessions

**1,879** families received non-food items or cash assistance



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### Contact

For more information, please contact:  
[nina.marx@tdh.org](mailto:nina.marx@tdh.org) – Acting Head CYM Programme  
[olsi.dudumi@tdh.org](mailto:olsi.dudumi@tdh.org) – CYM Programme Regional Coordinator

Sources: Tdh, IOM, UNHCR



Siège | Hauptsitz | Sede | Headquarters  
Rte des Plaines-du-Loup 55, CH-1018 Lausanne  
T +41 58 611 06 11, [info@tdh.org](mailto:info@tdh.org)  
[www.tdh.org](http://www.tdh.org), CH41 0900 0000 1001 1504 8

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