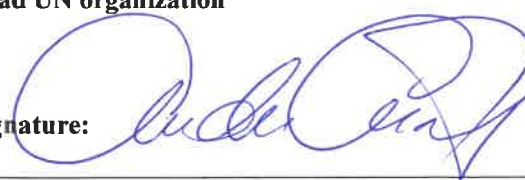



Full Programme Proposal Format

Date of submission	16/12/2022
Benefiting country and location(s)	Republic of Moldova
Title of the programme	Promotion of Human Security of Ukrainian refugees, third-country nationals (TCNs), and the host communities in Moldova through Socio-Economic Empowerment and Inclusion
Duration of programme	From 01/02/2023 to 31/01/2024 (12 months)
Lead UN organization Signature: 	United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Andrea Cuzyova, Resident Representative a.i., andrea.cuzyova@undp.org Valeria Ieseanu, Planning and Partnership Development Specialist, valeria.ieseanu@undp.org Elena Bernaz, Programme Finance Associate, elena.bernaz@undp.org
Implementing UN organization(s) Signature: 	International Organization for Migration (IOM) Lars Lonnback, Chief of Mission, llohnback@iom.int , Margo Baars, Emergency Coordinator, mbaars@iom.int Alisar Bey, Programme Support, balisar@iom.int
Non-UN implementing partners	N/A
Resident Coordinator(s) Resident Coordinator's Office (RCO) (For submissions from regional entities, offices of SRSGs or other similar entities, submissions can be from the highest ranking UN official)	Simon Springett, Resident Coordinator, simon.springett@un.org Veaceslav Palade, Development Coordination Officer, Partnerships & Development Finance veaceslav.palade@un.org
Total programme budget including indirect support costs in US\$ (UNTFHS and other sources of funding)	1,645,305 USD
Amount requested from the UNTFHS in US\$ (no more than \$2million for operational programmes and no more than \$300,000 for outreach/advocacy programmes)	1,645,305 USD
Amount to be sourced from other donors in US\$ (please list each donor and the amount to be contributed)	N/A
Target SDG(s):	SDGs 2, 7, 8, 10, 16

1. Executive summary

The primary objective of the proposed programme is to enhance the human security of Ukrainian refugees, Third Country Nationals (TCNs) fleeing the war in Ukraine, and their host communities in Moldova. The programme will do so through putting in place resources to address the increasing vulnerabilities and support the social and economic integration of conflict-affected populations (bearing in mind elements such as gender, age, disability, and other diversity characteristics of individuals), as

part of a transformative development process in Moldova.

Under this project, UNDP and IOM will collaborate to create synergized impacts to build resilience to the compounded crisis in Moldova, which has been exacerbated by the war in Ukraine, while securing gains from humanitarian assistance to the Ukrainian refugees, TCNs, and host communities. The proposed programme aims to achieve the following four outcomes to advance the human security of people in Moldova, who are facing high vulnerability due to the war in Ukraine.

- Outcome 1: Infrastructure and basic services are effectively and adequately provided to the refugees, TCNs and the host communities, demonstrating “build-forward-better” with green, energy-efficient and digital technologies.
- Outcome 2: Refugees, TCNs, returning migrants and host community members, particularly women, older persons, and persons with disabilities, have access to livelihoods and employment opportunities, including in agriculture and food supply chains, that help them build self-reliance and live with dignity.
- Outcome 3: Universal access to protection, including support to survivors of Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and trafficking in persons (TIP), is ensured for the refugees, TCNs, and Moldovan communities, with special attention to women, children, older persons, persons with disabilities, and other vulnerable groups.
- Outcome 4: Refugees, TCNs, returning Moldovan migrants, and host communities live in an inclusive, non-discriminatory, and peaceful environment where social cohesion, mutual trust and enhanced human security prevail.

These four outcomes are designed to correspond to the three principles of Human Security - freedom from fear (threats to the safety of people), freedom from want (threats to basic needs), and freedom to live in dignity (access to services and opportunities) - through integrated and multi-sectoral interventions to address the root causes of vulnerabilities and build resilience against the emerging risks and threats derived from the continuing conflict in Ukraine, as described in Section 6.

The primary beneficiaries of the proposed programme will be the refugees, TCNs and the vulnerable Moldovan host community members, with a focus on women and girls, youth and persons with disabilities. Both UNDP and IOM will make use of their cooperation platforms and will enhance their cooperation with the local public authorities, private sector, Government representatives, service providers and NGOs, including Japanese ones along with development partners in addressing the consequences of the refugees' crisis in Moldova.

2. Joint multidimensional human security analysis

Moldova is classified by the World Bank as one of the poorest countries in Europe, despite significant progress over the past two decades in addressing poverty and inequality.¹ Moldova's development trajectory is hugely affected by the multi-dimensional crises and risks, which have recently been aggravated by the conflict in Ukraine, particularly in relation to **the mass displacement of population**, as well as **food, energy security**, and the capacities of public services, such as **healthcare and education**. Moldova's economic growth is expected to decelerate to a negative 0.4 percent in 2022, reversing its previous forecast for 3.9 percent annual growth.² Moldova now faces the highest inflation

¹ <https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/moldova/overview>

² <https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/moldova/overview#3>

rate in Europe, having reached more than 34% in October 2022. According to UNDP's recent study "Moldova: Potential impacts of increased food and energy prices on poverty and vulnerability"³, the share of the population living in poverty could reach between 21% and 32%, depending on the level of inflation, surpassing the highest poverty levels recorded in 2020 at the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic (i.e., 14% of the population).

To address these imminent threats to human security of the Moldovan people and the displaced population in the country now hosts urgent interventions are required to meet the immediate needs of affected people, simultaneously targeting the root causes of vulnerabilities, limiting the impact of crises on development gains, preventing escalation, and promoting resilience and longer-term development solutions, working within the humanitarian-development-peace nexus (HDPN).

Since the Russian Federation launched a full-scale military offensive on Ukraine on 24 February 2022, over 700,000 people crossed the border into Moldova from Ukraine to date, and the number of displaced persons from Ukraine who are living in Moldova has been increasing since late June 2022, reaching over 98,000 people as of beginning of December⁴, with 40,000 more people expected during the winter⁵. This accounts for more than 4% of the total local population, the highest among the neighbouring countries. Women constitute more than 65% of the total number of persons displaced from Ukraine⁶. There is no immediate prospect of the conflict in Ukraine and **most of the refugees and a significant percentage of the TCNs who stay in Moldova are expected to remain there within the foreseeable future.**

Available assessments indicate multiple vulnerabilities experienced by people displaced from Ukraine in Moldova. According to the findings of the Multi-Sector Needs Assessment⁷, over 70% of Ukrainian refugee households heads are unemployed. More than 60% of families coming from Ukraine reported that they were depending on savings and humanitarian assistance as their main source of income in the 30 days prior to the assessment. For groups such as persons with disabilities and their families this dependency, along with barriers to accessing aid and basic services such as healthcare, transport, etc can be even higher due to a pre-existing difficult situation and can push them to pursue coping strategies that may expose them to increased risks of abuse and exploitation, GBV and trafficking in persons. Although the Moldovan Government and affected host communities shown exceptional generosity in welcoming the Ukrainian refugees and TCNs, their relatively high numbers and prolonged stay in the country are increasingly overstraining the local capacities and systems. The Moldovan government has reported spending EUR 0.9 million per day (roughly USD 1 million) to respond to the surge of arrivals of refugees at the beginning of the full-scale conflict in Ukraine, that cost that is most unaffordable to the country in the long run.

The risk of **food crisis** is imminent in Moldova. The war placed an immense pressure on the world food market with supplies dropping and food prices hiking. The price of food has already increased by 40% year-on-year in October 2022. It is also expected that reduced fertilizer supplies and higher oil prices will further increase the costs of food production, collection, shipment and processing. Over 90% of wheat imports to Moldova are sourced from Ukraine.⁸ The food price surge and supply disruptions will particularly affect Moldova because it used to rely on strong economic and logistical ties with Russia and

³<https://www.undp.org/moldova/publications/moldova-potential-impacts-increased-food-and-energy-prices-poverty-and-vulnerability>

⁴ <https://data.unhcr.org/en/country/mda>

⁵ Inter-Agency Winterization Plan, <https://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/96093>

⁶ Multi-Sector Needs Assessment in Moldova (23 June 2022) <https://data.unhcr.org/fr/documents/details/93848>

⁷ Multi-Sector Needs Assessment in Moldova (23 June 2022) <https://data.unhcr.org/fr/documents/details/93848>

⁸ BBC, 26 May 2022 <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-61583492>

Ukraine and there is a significant number of poor households whose food expenses account for a large share of their incomes. Moreover, provision of food for the Ukrainian refugees and TCNs puts further pressures on the host communities. According to UNDP's assessment, over 45% of the local public authorities (LPA) who responded to a recent survey indicated that they required additional support to maintain food catering services for the refugees and TCNs.

Moldova is on the brink of an **energy crisis**. Energy poverty is much more widespread in Moldova than in any other country in Europe. The country is highly dependent on external energy sources and greatly sensitive to fluctuations in energy markets.⁹ Moldovan households were spending 15% of their income on energy bills before the Russian invasion of Ukraine, and the current increase in gas tariffs and electricity prices have already deepened energy poverty among vulnerable populations.

More than 90% of Ukrainian refugees and TCNs live in host communities¹⁰ rather than collective centres, and some of the rayons (districts) have higher concentration of the refugees and TCNs than others. For example, displaced persons from Ukraine constitute 16.6 per cent in Cahul District, 8.7 per cent in the city of Chisinau, and 6.6 per cent in Stefan Voda District. Increased population numbers put a strain on LPA's capacity to provide basic services to refugees and TCNs, but also to local citizens thus calling for financial, infrastructure, and capacity-building supports to continue to host the refugees and TCNs.¹¹ In particular, **healthcare** is one of the most in-demand services for the refugees and TCNs. On average, only 14% of refugee families have access to healthcare, and 36% of the LPAs indicated a need to expand medical centres and hospitals to meet the increased demands.

Displacement removes people from the systems and institutions that are designed to protect them – such as legal aid, human rights institutions, and other avenues for justice. This pushes people, especially women and girls, into extreme vulnerability. National and local public authorities have quickly responded to the immediate needs of the displaced population, but their limited capacities are making it difficult to further address the steady inflow of refugees from Ukraine, including their protection, security and access legal remedies,¹² thus intensifying existing vulnerabilities, affecting the respect of human rights and putting at risk major aspects of human security. Being amplified by the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, energy crisis and increasing costs of living in Moldova, the refugee crisis is prone to increase tensions, dissatisfaction, and lack of trust among host communities. This is likely to create an increasingly insecure environment and diminishing protection space for displaced people. Therefore, the current situation requires urgent interventions to help national and local actors to prepare for, respond to, and implement durable solutions to sustain **community security and peaceful environments**, at the same time reducing vulnerabilities to various threats. The police services are on the frontline of the national response, being one of the first responders to various threats and needs in terms of community security. Daily law enforcement practice and various assessments indicate¹³ to an increasing number of incidents (like traffic violations, hooliganism, body injuries, illegal border crossing, etc.) involving Ukrainian citizens, but also to an increasing risk of cross border crime (like smuggling, illegal circulation of arms, trafficking in human beings, etc.). Thus, enhancing police's capabilities to react to various security-related calls and sustain peaceful coexistence between various community groups is of utmost importance

⁹ https://iea.blob.core.windows.net/assets/a6dd7ac3-8955-41f9-8971_d7c09ccff6d9/MoldovaEnergyProfile.pdf, p.5

¹⁰ Multi-Sector Needs Assessment in Moldova (23 June 2022)

¹¹ UNDP-CALM Assessment on Local Public Authorities (LPAs) conducted in June 2022

¹² Available data suggest that legal advice and access to information on legal status are among the most stringent needs of the refugee population. See UNHCR, *Moldova Protection Profiling and Monitoring Factsheet, August 2022*, <https://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/95146>

¹³ Police activity report for 9 months of 2022, https://politia.md/sites/default/files/raport_activitate_9_luni_2022.pdf

to ensure that human security is fulfilled.

The unprecedented humanitarian crisis is rolling out on the background of already fragile **social cohesion both the horizontally and vertically**. The population of the country is dominated by distrust in their peers whereas social distance between most of the population and the underrepresented groups remains considerable. According to a Study on the perceptions and attitudes of the population over equality, undertaken in 2021, the age group 18-40 has the lowest trust in other people - 87% of the respondents¹⁴. Considering the economic struggles that the majority of the population goes through as well as the low levels of mutual trust, the prospects of discrimination and exclusion are putting the economic security as well as the community and personal security of the refugees under considerable jeopardy.

The most discriminated against groups in the country remain to be LGBTQI people, persons who live with HIV and persons with psychosocial and intellectual disabilities respectively.¹⁵ The weak vertical social cohesion stems from the low quality of services, fragile rule of law and overall economic struggles and low quality of life. The same study cited above has brought to surface the main worry of the population in the Republic of Moldova – low pensions/salaries and increase in prices (61% and 51% respectively). Refugees and TCNs are more exposed to discrimination and are more likely to be subjects of hate speech, which undermines social cohesion and human security overall. The exposure of refugees to discrimination and hate speech was underscored by the second monitoring report on right of refugees from Ukraine released in august 2022 by the People Advocate Office.¹⁶

An important role, in providing remedies to the refugees in case of discrimination in access to services or in exercising any of their rights can be played by the Equality Council for the elimination of discrimination and ensuring equality. The Equality Council is a quasi-judicial body which has the mandate to combat and prevent discrimination. It issues decisions that are compulsory for the legal entities and individuals residing in Republic of Moldova. The Council has also the mandate to promote equality and non-discrimination through awareness raising and information campaigns. Therefore, strengthening the operational and human capacities of the Equality Council, means to strengthen equality and non-discrimination amongst refugee population as one of the most vulnerable and socio-economically excluded groups residing in the country.

3. Rationale for funding and programme details

The **overall objective** of the project is to enhance the economic, health personal and community security of Ukrainian refugees, third-country nationals (TCNs) and their host communities in Moldova by addressing their increasing and urgent vulnerabilities and socially and economically integrating them, accounting for inter alia gender, age, and disability. The objective will be achieved through four inter-related outcomes, outputs and activities, as follows:

Outcome 1: Infrastructure and basic services are effectively and adequately provided to the refugees, TCNS and the host communities, demonstrating “build-forward-better” with green, energy-efficient and digital technologies.

¹⁴ See the Study on the perceptions and attitudes over equality, 2021 at: <http://egalitate.md/publications-category/studii-sondaje/> p. 12

¹⁵ See the Study on the perceptions and attitudes over equality, 2021 at: <http://egalitate.md/publications-category/studii-sondaje/> p. 22

¹⁶ See the Report in Romanian at: <http://ombudsman.md/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/Raportul-NR-2-privind-monitorizarea-respectarii-dr.-pers.-refugiate-din-Ucraina.pdf>

Output 1.1. Critical infrastructure supporting the provision of basic services is upgraded

Activity 1.1.1 Upgrade local public services in key sectors by constructing/rehabilitating infrastructure and facilities, and providing necessary equipment, including through green technologies and digital solutions to ensure access to public services and enhanced social integration of refugees

A people-centered approach and design thinking will be applied for the respective projects, so as to ensure it meets the needs of the beneficiaries and ensures maximum accessibility of the infrastructure and facilities to be improved for various categories of people, including people with disabilities, the elderly, etc. The action will target *three categories of the most in-demand public services* most requested by the refugees and local communities that support their social inclusion, on the one hand, and that are most susceptible to be affected by the energy crisis shocks, on the other hand, such as:

- a) Communal services and infrastructure
- b) Social and health services providers
- c) Educational services, targeting pre-school/childcare facilities, primary, secondary and high-school level.

Up to five communities hosting significant numbers of refugees and local vulnerable people will be targeted through these specific interventions. More specifically, the project will target Cahul and Ungheni municipalities given the fact that they are among the municipalities to host the largest numbers of refugees, as per UNDP's 2022 assessment. At the same time, the fiscal and managerial capacity, as well as the presence and previous work of UNDP in the respective municipalities were also considered. At the same time, the project will target small rural communities within the same two regions, focusing primarily on those with significant numbers of refugees and in need of support to better integrate the refugee community.

Output 1.2. Capacities of central and local governments to support the inclusion of refugees are improved

Activity 1.2.1 Enhance crisis management capacity of target Local Public Authorities (LPAs) with the aim to enhance their current recovery capability and strengthen future crisis preparedness, particularly by applying and promoting the human security principles and approach in local governance

These capacity building interventions will be geared towards ensuring that the principles of human security will be mainstreamed into and guide LPAs throughout their decision-making processes, policy documents and actions at community level. Under this activity, the programme will also partner with relevant stakeholders – such as the Congress of Local Authorities, academic institutions, civil society and humanitarian actors to ensure adequate level of transfer and sharing of knowledge and experience, and capacity fortification in ensuring social cohesion and human security in conflict sensitive context. The programme will engage with the Congress of Local Public Authorities to ensure that the human security trainings are internalized, taken over and made available to other LPAs through the organization's learning center. These interventions will synchronize the interventions planned under Outcome 3 and 4 and will be coupled with guidance and mentorship to LPAs.

Outcome 2: Refugees, TCNs, returning Moldovan migrants, and host community members, particularly women, older persons, and persons with disabilities, have access to livelihoods and employment

opportunities, including in agriculture and food supply chains, that help them build self-reliance and live with dignity.

Output 2.1. Capacities of the national institutions and businesses to provide job-matching and employability services enhanced

Activity 2.1.1: Provide job-matching services and facilitate skills recognition for refugees and host community jobseekers by facilitating their access to professional development opportunities and/or skills recognition to match their career aspirations and professional background with the view to enhance their livelihoods opportunities

The programme will cooperate with the National Employment Agency, businesses and relevant stakeholders to ensure access to information, job-matching, and placement assistance for refugees from Ukraine in search of employment and income opportunities within Moldova. The interventions will be focused on enhancing access to information and visibility of available employment related services, using both online/digital and offline tools, such as online job fairs, online and offline information campaigns, etc. At the same time, the outreach capacity of national employment services providers will be enhanced by expanding the services of the existing territorial subdivisions of the national employment agency in urban/semi-urban areas and providing mobile/remote services in rural areas. The assistance will be coupled with job intermediation and career guidance assistance meant to facilitate skills-matching and facilitate employment in Moldova. To facilitate reach-out, the project will assist the National Employment Agency in improving capacity to identify and map the skills profile and professional aspirations of refugees and match them with available vacancies on the local labour market.

UNDP and IOM will disseminate information on available job opportunities through the production of leaflets, web-banners, special sub-pages of existing websites, as well as translating information to Ukrainian and Russian, and will target both employers as well potential employees, to support matching available skills of Ukrainian refugees and TCNs with the needs of Moldovan employers.

Activity 2.1.2: Provide small business grants to local SMEs and start-ups to scale-up their businesses to create more employment opportunities for refugees, TCNs, returning Moldovan migrants, and members of host communities in promising markets (digital/green solutions, catering, tourism, and agribusinesses)

The project will work to enhance the socio-economic capacities of local communities in Moldova and facilitate greater inclusion by supporting affected populations in starting-up and expanding their established businesses. This action will aim to help *16 small-to-medium enterprises*, to start small-to-medium enterprises or extend and create new job opportunities for Ukrainian refugees, TCNs, returning Moldovan migrants and members of host communities, in total 16 small-to-medium enterprises.

Activity 2.1.3: Provide vocational training (incl. TVET) and trainings for online professions for the refugees, TCNs, returning Moldovan migrants, and local jobseekers, with special attention to women's needs. Beneficiaries who will attend TVETs will be supported either with finding employment through linkage with private and public enterprises. Analysis will be done using a gender lens to ensure that the gender specific needs of these crisis-affected population are being properly addressed, as well as with an eye towards the range of vulnerabilities present in order to focus the response.

This action will target *35 individuals, including refugees, TCNs and host communities* with capacity development/training in skills acquisition and income generation to become self-reliant.

Activity 2.1.4: Provide entrepreneurship training to affected populations to help create self-employment projects, particularly financial literacy and digital and green-technology businesses, and market surveying

Supporting displaced persons from Ukraine and host communities in entrepreneurship activities is a key programming area that contributes to their socioeconomic integration. Engaging in entrepreneurship to generate income has become even more crucial during the pandemic and in the post-COVID-19 economic context. This action will target *35 individuals, including refugees, TCNs and host communities* with entrepreneurship training. Training modules may include basics of entrepreneurship, including budget development, marketing skills, how to develop business plans, etc.

Furthermore, the joint programme (JP team) in cooperation with National Employment Agency, will deliver community-based, business development (BD) trainings for refugees, TCNs and host community members, with a focus on the necessary soft and hard skills required for the set-up and management of small-scale businesses. Business trainings will be based on existing materials and will consist of modules that provide key guidance on how to start and manage a business, with a dedicated module for women entrepreneurs that will be based on surveys and consultations that will seek to understand the specific challenges that refugee women entrepreneurs face in Moldova. At least five communities hosting significant numbers of refugees and local vulnerable people will be targeted through these specific interventions. Under this action, the areas of intervention will focus on districts with high concentration of displaced persons from Ukraine. Ukrainian refugees are mainly concentrated in Chisinau municipality and the districts close to Chisinau, followed by Orhei and Ungheni.

Therefore, the main areas of intervention to be targeted under this action may include Chisinau Municipality, Orhei, Straseni, Ialoveni, Criuleni, Hincesti, and Ungheni Districts will be prioritised for livelihoods activities.

Outcome 3: Universal access to protection, including support to survivors of Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and trafficking in persons (TIP), is ensured for the refugees, TCNs, and Moldovan communities with special attention to women, children, older persons and persons with disabilities and other vulnerable groups.

Output 3.1. The Government and civil society have enhanced capacities to provide protection, security and access to legal remedies and measures

Activity 3.1.1 Enhance police response capacities to emerging community security threats

Police service is at the frontline of the community security response, being the first service called in a security-related emergency. The capacity of police service to react promptly to these calls is crucial for saving lives, preventing and responding to crime or re-establishing public order and security. Through this programme intervention, the police units from the targeted areas will be provided with four fit-for-purpose first-response police vehicles (retrofitted and equipped in line with the applicable national requirements) to support the increase of policing services coverage (including in remote areas) in response to refugees, TCNs and host community calls in crisis situations. Besides the standard police

equipment and features, the cars will be equipped with GPS trackers to allow for quick localization and deployment of the police response team through the 112 emergency dispatch service. The preliminary quantity of goods to be provided could be adjusted and/or extended in line with the available funds. Tentatively, the enhancing of police response capacities will target the same areas as under the service improvement project component, described under Outcome 1.

Furthermore, police staff from the targeted areas will be engaged in capacity building activities aiming at increasing the awareness and knowledge about the human security principles, the protection of rights of refugees and other displaced populations, including persons with disabilities, on unconscious biases and non-discrimination practices, etc. A rapid needs assessment will be conducted to determine the knowledge gaps and prepare a tailored training programme, encompassing the identified needs and topics of concern. A multidisciplinary approach will be employed to the extent possible to ensure a genuine exchange and collaboration between different groups of service providers at the local level.

Activity 3.1.2: Strengthen the informational access to justice of young men and women from regions with the focus on rights, responsibilities and protection mechanisms of displaced people and host communities

This intervention will aim at bringing together youth from host communities and young people who left Ukraine alongside with their families, through two regional summer schools focused on learning about the justice system of the Republic of Moldova, citizenry rights and obligations and protection mechanisms of displaced people. The summer schools will also allow the possibility to apply in practice the obtained knowledge through participation in a mock trial under the guidance of the experienced trainers and lawyers. The participants in summer school will also be guided to design a small-scale project for the region represented by the group so as to allow better bonding of youth around social/legal and or cultural issues of common concern.

Output 3.2. Protection measures and services benefiting refugees, TCNs, asylum seekers and host community members are established

Activity 3.2.1. Expand the 'safe space' model of GBV support, providing protection, specialized support services, and access to income opportunities to the refugees, TCNs and women in the host communities who are affected by GBV or psychosocial trauma

Since the beginning of the humanitarian crisis, the Safe Space (shelter), established with UNDP support in Chirsova, in the Autonomous Territorial Unit of Gagauzia, began to serve refugees from Ukraine, providing short and medium-term accommodation for women, women with newborns and toddlers, elderly, and GBV survivors. This experience has shown that in a force majeure situation, the versatility of the 'safe space' model allows for assistance to both stakeholder groups: survivors of GBV with their children from host communities and Ukrainian refugee women with children and elderly women. Although the causes of violence are different (domestic violence vs. war), the consequences and effects are common to both groups of survivors (panic, anxiety, trauma, depression) as are the psychological and physical needs (protection, safety).

Building on the previous positive experience, UNDP will strengthen the availability and utilization of multi-sectorial and survivor centered GBV response services for survivors by establishing a 'safe space' service in Ungheni covering several neighboring districts. Multidimensional support (institutional support and capacity building, training of staff and partners, space rehabilitation, equipment, furniture,

vehicle) will be provided to operationalize the service and ensure its outreach capacities. The center will have a mobile team, composed of various professionals to provide legal, psychological, and social services in remote localities as well as referral to available specialized services.

Furthermore, the capacities of the local public authorities in area of GBV will be strengthened to support the "localization" of the national policy in preventing and combating GBV, by continuing to expand the referral system, by developing the capacity of local partners to draw up and implement responsive local GBV action plans at the local level in the selected region. This entails strengthening participatory local policy and actions to address immediate needs of target population, prevent and respond to sexual and gender-based violence and empower survivors and refugees to claim their rights, demand and benefit from gender-sensitive and human rights-oriented public institutions.

Activity 3.2.2. Conduct capacity building activities of field workers, safe space staff in the area of mental health and countering and preventing trafficking in persons

The project will increase the number of professional counsellors at the national level, by training them based on an integrated treatment programme that effectively addresses multiple co-existing problems (depression, trauma, substance abuse, aggression) concurrently in families impacted by violence. 20 professional counsellors across the country will be trained using the Common Elements Treatment Approach (CETA) thus contributing to decrease of the gaps in the area of mental health services. The training process consists of an 8-day face to face training, followed by a 6-month subsequent weekly supervision by certified supervisors.

GBV and TIP are commonly treated as separate crimes, but there are strong interconnections between the two crimes and a lack of understanding of this nexus can lead to inadequate services for survivors. In this sense, it is important to provide frontliners of the safe spaces including social workers, psychologists, lawyers and shelter managers with capacities on how to detect indicators of human trafficking when providing support to GBV survivors and make the referral to relevant bodies. In addition, GBV is also considered a factor that makes a person vulnerable to trafficking. The physical and emotional trauma of GBV increases their vulnerabilities which traffickers can and will often exploit. In this sense, GBV frontliners, when trained, will not only serve in detecting presumed victims of trafficking but also preventing GBV survivors to become one. The JP team will facilitate trainings for their staff on counter-trafficking and facilitate linkages to national referral mechanisms for victims of crime. This action will target at least 30-40 frontline workers seconded to the safe space facility on detection and referral of presumed victims of trafficking in Persons.

Activity 3.2.3: Develop a Referral Directory with information and overview of referral pathways, the type of specialized protection services, and contact information of the service providers

The programme will develop a user-friendly and practical Referral Directory with flow charts, overview of standard operating procedures, services available (emergency and long-term support services), and relevant tools and guidelines to strengthen existing national referral mechanisms, including the National Referral Mechanism for Victims of Crime (NRMV). The Referral Directory will serve as a reference document for those who handle trafficking cases or identifies potential Victims of Trafficking (VoTs) in the GBV safe spaces. This action will aim to develop one referral directory flowchart to be rolled-out for frontline workers.

Outcome 4: Refugees, TCNs, return migrants, and host communities live in an inclusive, non-discriminatory, and peaceful environment where social cohesion, mutual-trust and enhanced human security prevail.

Output 4.1. Local community members, including refugees, TCNs have the needed capacities and tools to ensure a peaceful coexistence

Activity 4.1.1 Provide support to refugees, TCNs, return migrants and host communities to **co-design and co-implement community-based (social mixing) initiatives**, such as social, cultural, arts, and green events and community volunteer activities, to create social ties and mutual trust, ensuring that the elderly, persons with disabilities and other under-represented groups are actively involved.

Stemming from the specific local needs of each community, these local initiatives will aim at broadening local dialogue on priority needs, fortify social cohesion and promote peaceful co-existence. The programme will work together with the Alliance of Hometown Associations and its network of local associations, previously established with the support of UNDP, to facilitate local and refugees' community cooperation and leverage the support of the diaspora in that process in at least 10-15 communities, (including those where service improvement interventions will be supported under Outcome 1) while showing using the platform of the Alliance to share experience and support replication of similar initiatives across a larger number of communities.

Activity 4.1.2 Engage with young social media influencers, partnering with the Alliance of Hometown Associations, to mobilize particularly youth in local communities, on developing and promoting youth content to counteract divisive narratives and hate speeches as well as promote fact-based and positive narratives, both online and offline.

Following the same area and community-based approach, this activity will seek to promote non-discrimination against the refugees and TCN communities by zooming into human stories and shedding light on the joint community initiatives, and other Project initiatives.

Output 4.2. The right to not be subject to discrimination of the refugees and TCNs is promoted and remedies in cases of discrimination of refugees are brought before the relevant authorities

Activity 4.2.1. Develop an awareness raising and information campaign on the right not to be subject to discrimination of the refugees and TCNs

The programme will support the Equality Council in strengthening its response to the refugee crisis through the implementation of the three-folded range of activities. The Equality Council will be supported to develop and implement awareness raising campaigns on the right not to be discriminated against of the refugees and the TCNs. The awareness raising and information campaigns will target the host communities as well as refugee population and will be cover the whole country as well as specific communities. The campaigns will be developed based on the analysis of the perceptions of the population over discrimination so that it is tailored at the specificities of the social context and has more potential to bring behavior change.

Activity 4.2.2. Support the development of the Study on the perceptions and attitudes over equality to track the changes in the perceptions in the course of the crisis

The perception over discrimination study will track the evolutions in social distance across vulnerable groups as well as refugee population. The data from the perception study, that will show to what extent the general population is ready to accept vulnerable groups within communities will inform the decision-making process across all authorities in charge of developing policies for the socio-economic inclusion of the refugees and TCNs.

Activity 4.2.3. Strengthen the mandate and technical capacities of the Equality Council on monitoring, examining and reporting of cases of discrimination with the involvement of the refugees and TCNs

The programme will also strengthen the capacities of the Equality Council in monitoring the right to be discriminated against of the refugees and the TCNs, through capacity building on international humanitarian law, development of the monitoring tools as well as through operationalization of a monitoring cell that will ensure continuous monitoring of various forms of discrimination in relation to the refugees and TCNs.

These four outcomes are designed to respond to three principles of Human Security---freedom from fear (threats to the safety of people), freedom from want (threats to basic needs), and freedom to live in dignity (access to services and opportunities)-through integrated and multi-sector interventions to address the root causes of vulnerabilities and prevention against the emerging risks and threats derived and aggravated from the continuing conflict in Ukraine as described in Section 6.

3.1. Programme rationale

Since the beginning of the crisis, UN Agencies, international and local NGOs, have provided humanitarian assistance to support the immediate needs of refugees coming from Ukraine. This includes cash assistance, provision of basic needs and protection services (legal advice, mental health and psychosocial support, child protection), support with accommodation and transportation, including support for the winter period, addressing the needs of the most vulnerable populations. In line with the HDP nexus, the humanitarian assistance has been coupled with medium-term interventions aimed at inclusion of refugees in the national social protection systems, education, and the labour market. Interventions are coordinated under the Refugee Coordination Forum and its twelve working groups, sub-working groups and task forces chaired by international organizations and national partners, as well as the local coordination forums taking place in 6 localities in the country.

This programme is under the Regional Refugee Response Plan (RRP) for the Ukraine Situation launched in April 2022, addressing humanitarian needs in Ukraine and its neighbouring countries affected by the war in Ukraine, including Moldova. In 2023, the RRP for Moldova is based on a projected refugee population of 200,000 individuals and 180,000 assisted host community members. The total financial requirement of the RRP for Moldova in 2023 amounts to USD 380 million, out of which, approx. USD 62 million is for the Livelihoods and Inclusion Sector. The 2023 refugee response highlights the importance of strengthening national systems and efforts to promote the socio-economic inclusion of refugees, while expanding social cohesion interventions to prevent and address social tensions. It aims to promote predictable and equitable responsibility and burden-sharing to ease pressure on the Moldovan society and support it to address the needs of host and refugee communities in the country, in line with

the 'whole-of-society' approach led by the Government¹⁷. It is also in line with the newly-approved UN Sustainable Development Country Framework (2023-2027)¹⁸, which responds to the national priorities described in the [European Moldova 2030 National Development Strategy](#).

IOM and UNDP are core member of the UN Country Team (UNCT), and the Refugee Coordination Forum and its Sector Working Groups. IOM co-chairs the Counter-Trafficking Taskforce, alongside with the Government's Secretariat of the Committee on Combatting Trafficking and UNHCR; it also supports the secretariat of the Disability Taskforce under the Protection Working Group. IOM and UNDP co-chairs the Peace and Development Taskforce, under the UNCT. The UNCT is a strong supporter of enhancing protection and combating TiP. The mandate and roles of the different UN agencies differ from each other's, which makes coordination among them essential.

Within the Livelihoods and Inclusion sector, co-chaired by UNDP and the State Chancellery of Moldova, several activities have been implemented by UN Agencies (UN Women, UNDP, UNHCR, IOM), as well as international and local NGOs (e.g. Church World Service, National Congress of Ukrainian in Moldova, Moldova of Peace), with focus on provision of livelihoods opportunities and support access to employment. Despite these initial efforts, multiple barriers to employment and socio-economic inclusion in general remain. These, including lack of a stable and predictable legal status, lack of relevant language skills, limited employment opportunities particularly for qualified workers, issues related to recognition of diplomas, limited access to childcare services, as well as insufficient awareness among refugees regarding the available employment opportunities.

UNDP, together with its local and international partners, has strived to respond to the needs of the refugees through its ongoing projects and activities. This has ensured that the interventions do not undermine but support local capacities and increase national ownership. At the same, it can be noted that previously achieved results have contributed to a better response of the local communities to the refugee crisis. For instance: the Alliance of Hometown Associations and the network of Hometown Associations have been instrumental in channeling the financial and in-kind support to the refugees in need; the Centre for Rehabilitation of Victims of Domestic Violence, was open and able to accommodate refugees and provide them with all necessities, including psychological, health, and legal support and advice; the Dialogue Platforms for Access to Justice in Soroca, Criuleni, Cimişlia and Comrat, and their member NGOs were able to respond to refugees' needs and provide them with legal aid regarding the refugee status within Moldova; conditions for travel to other states; conditions for obtaining the status of temporary protection offered by these states; and the possibility of returning to the home country.

Also, with IOM support, NGOs will have an important role to reinforce coordination among central and local levels and to mobilize local resources, while at the same they are key for strengthening referral pathways. The partner NGOs and the local administration as part of the Rayon level Coordination Platforms are important stakeholders as beneficiaries of the project and will be key in providing information and protection services for refugees, TCNs and vulnerable Moldovan citizens.

¹⁷ The Regional Refugee Response Plan for 2023 is currently under development and will be launched in January 2023.

¹⁸ While recognizing the complexity of the national context of development, which faces challenges varying from economic crisis to energy insecurity, the system United Nations and Moldova's government defined four strategic priorities:
(1) Just institutions and equal opportunities for human development;
(2) Participatory governance and social cohesion;
(3) Enhancing the joint prosperity into a sustainable economy;
(4) Ecological development, sustainable communities and resilience to disasters and to climate changes.

3.2. Programme development

The proposed programme is based on the human security approach and emerged as a critical one to address the current refugees' crisis in Moldova due to the war in Ukraine. This is an integrated approach to address the multiple socio-economic, protection risks, and tensions that targeted populations face by working both on the protective factors and on the factors of empowerment of actors to sustainably reduce exposure to risks, improve the capacity of communities to cope with them, and create inclusive and participatory environments that can foster social cohesion in areas with high concentrations of displaced persons from Ukraine.

The proposed approach differs from previous approaches in that it built on the basis of an identification and capitalization of ongoing dynamics in the targeted communities, but also capitalizes on the complementarity between the programme proposals made to reduce exposure and improve the resilience of communities to identified risks, while supporting socio-economically vulnerable residents in targeted areas with the means to sustainably secure employment and generate income beyond the project lifecycle.

The main stakeholders of the joint programme are:

1. **The Government**, through the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection (MoLSP), the main counterpart of the programme. The MoLSP will be the main entity of coordination. This will involve, *inter alia*, the ministries responsible for protection and prevention of persons against trafficking and violence, women's empowerment, and local organizations supporting persons with specific needs and disabilities.
2. **The United Nations Country Team and Inter-Agency Working Groups**. Both UNDP and IOM will have a specific and complementary role in the programme's implementation according to comparative advantages with respect to the activities of the joint programmes.
3. **The communities benefiting from the programme**: These communities are made up of first-line responders, communal administrators and agents, and the populations in the targeted local municipalities. These various actors are both stakeholders and beneficiaries of the programme. Accordingly, they will benefit from capacity building at several levels and will also be actively involved in all stages of the implementation of the joint programme.

The two UN organizations – UNDP and IOM, have an extensive experience in working jointly on migration and development related issues and initiatives in Moldova, solidifying their partnership, joint planning and implementation capacity. IOM and UNDP are co-chairing the UN Migration Taskforce. Part of the SDC funded Migration and Local Development Project, the two agencies supported the Moldovan Government in upgrading the legal framework for labour migration, while part of the three-phased Migration for Sustainable Development Programme, the assistance of the two Agencies was instrumental in setting –up the national institutional framework for diaspora, migration and development in the country.

As the development arm of the United Nations, UNDP supports strategic capacity development initiatives to promote inclusive growth and sustainable human development working in Moldova for 30 years. At the core of its work on promotion inclusive socio-economic growth lies a comprehensive approach to preventing the depletion of human capital, bridging the skills gap, enhancing competitiveness and private sector engagement, support innovation and enhanced access to services, connected to the local communities' development dynamics. In close cooperation with civil society and community

members, the Congress of Local Public Authorities (CALM), UNDP helps improve the capacity of local public authorities to efficiently plan and implement local development priorities and improve local public services. It helps build local partnerships for joint decision-making and delivering services closer to citizens, for both women and men equally, including migrants, vulnerable and marginalized groups, such as the elderly and people with disabilities. UNDP Moldova's extensive experience at the local level (by covering more than 2/3 of the local communities with its interventions) and deep understanding of the local context will play a crucial role in adapting to current realities and implementing feasible and sustainable project initiatives aiming at enhancing local services/infrastructure and venues, with potential for refugee management and response at community levels.

IOM has been present in Moldova since 2001 with an operational capacity bolstered by strong field presence across the country. Since the onset of the full-scale invasion of the Russian Federation in Ukraine, IOM expanded its broad range of emergency and development staff, through the wealth of knowledge on the humanitarian peace nexus at the global level and on migration policy at the national level, to enhance IOM's multisectoral programming and help ensure strengthened programme accountability and monitoring. With expanded capacity and monitoring, IOM has been able to increase the frontline nature of its programming and is prepared to stay and deliver throughout any further escalation of the crisis.

In Chisinau, Moldova, IOM is leading frontline response activities here, bolstering preparedness capacity to respond to any further escalation of the crisis, and working directly with government entities and civil society bodies to support humanitarian relief efforts and aid. IOM has had longstanding partnerships with the Government of Moldova prior to the refugee crisis in areas such as migration governance, migration management, counter-trafficking, and healthcare support.

3.3. Implementing through the human security approach

Guided by UN General Assembly resolution 66/290 this project has identified a widespread and cross-cutting challenges to the survival, livelihood and dignity of the people in Moldova. As indicated above, the compound crises that the country is experiencing is affecting all dimension of the **human security framework** (political, community, personal, economic, food, health and environmental).

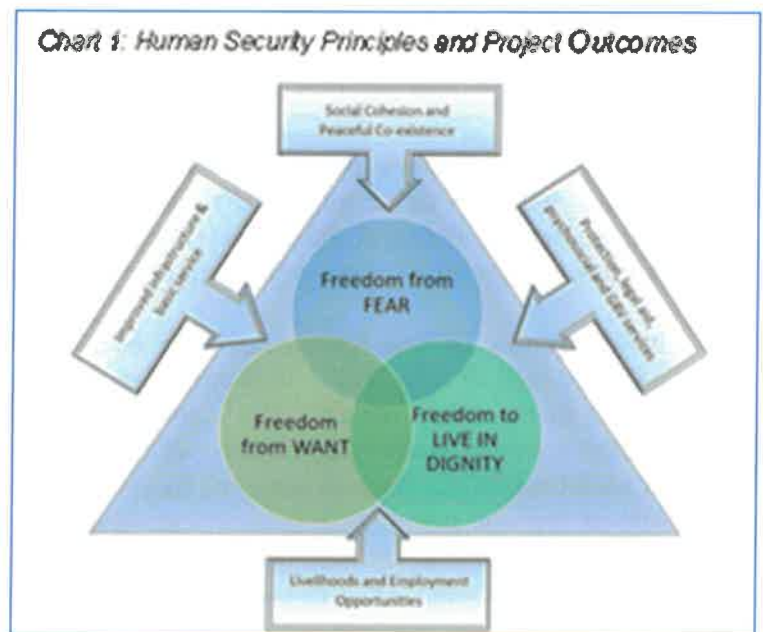
In this context, a few insecurities have been identified as most pervasive and interconnected. This initiative will directly tackle four core insecurities, which are **(1) economic security** (livelihood and access to economic opportunities - through outcome two); **(2) personal security** (Gender Based Violence, human trafficking, etc. through outcome three); **(3) community security** (tensions and erosion of social cohesion - through outcome four); as well as **(4) political Security**, particularly in relation to rule of law and governance through outcomes 1-3, which will also directly support all seven human security components through mainstreaming the human security approach with local public authorities and service providers (**health security, food security and environmental security**).

Furthermore, this project is guided by five fundamental principles:

- **People-centered:** the programme is considering the broad range of conditions that challenge people and their communities, particularly refugees, third-country nationals (TCNs) and host communities, which the project will continuously assess to ensure how different communities, groups and people are experiencing different type of threats and vulnerabilities.

- **Comprehensive:** the programme recognizes the complexity and interconnected nature of the challenges that confront people in Moldova and will directly or indirectly focus on all seven insecurities as described above, with a particular focus on entry points that have multipliers affects across all other dimensions (e.g., working with Local Public Authorities and its Association, engaging with the private sector as well).
- **Context-specific:** the programme recognizes that risks to the human condition vary considerably. It is guided by consultations with local communities and civil society and will continue to promote national ownership through the integration of the findings into the policies and intervention, particularly at the local level.
- **Prevention-oriented:** the programme is tackling solutions to help mitigate the impact of the ongoing compound crisis in Moldova. By strengthening the resilience of people, communities and institutions, it will also prevent, and better prepared, communities for future challenges. Outcome 4 has an additional and dedicated focus in strengthening vertical and horizontal cohesion to promote preventive approaches and a peaceful environment.
- **Protection and empowerment:** Each of the four inter-connected pillars of this project will combine top-down protection and bottom-up empowerment measures, which brings a wide range of stakeholders based on their comparative advantages in addressing the insecurities of the target population and leverage factors of resilience at all levels.

The advancement of human security in Moldova will give rise to more tangible and sustainable results that comprehensively address root causes behind current and emerging challenges, identify priorities based on the actual needs, vulnerabilities and capacities of the governments, institutions and the target group of people, and advance solutions that strengthen the protection and empowerment of all peoples and communities, including refugees, third country-nationals and host communities. The combination of these elements will help bolster actions taken by the UNDP and IOM, the Governments (at both national and local level) and other actors to build resilience, prevent crises and support people's aspirations to be **free from fear, want and indignity**.



Furthermore, through the human security approach, this programme will advance a whole-of-society approach that protects and empowers host and migrant communities. By combining institutional strategies with community-based actions, human security gives rise to conditions that encourage participation, expand opportunities, build capacities and promote mutual respect, resulting in greater social cohesion and improved prospects for the advancement of sustainable development.

To note, that capacity building activities to enhance the knowledge and application of human security principles are reflected across all Outcomes, and more prominently under Outcomes 1,3 and 4, thus ensuring the sustainability and scale-up of the initiative.

3.4. Beneficiaries

The primary beneficiaries of the proposed programme will be the refugees, TCNs and the vulnerable Moldovan host community members, with a focus on women and girls, persons with disabilities and youth. The programme will adopt an area-based programming approach, focusing on at least five communities with a high concentration of refugees and TCNs, and high level of vulnerability with imminent needs across multiple sectors at a large scale. Residents in these communities, are estimated to be approximately 1,200 refugees and TCNs and 40,000 host community people in total. Local Public Authorities leading the target communities will benefit from support in upgrading the local public services and enhanced crisis resilience. At the same time, National Employment Agency and its territorial offices will enhance their capacity to effectively support refugees in need of assistance on their job-seeking journey. Private sector representatives will benefit from both capacity building activities and grant/support schemes.

Although the actual number will be determined at the time of implementation, the expected numbers of beneficiaries are as follows:

Direct Beneficiaries:

- Refugees and TCNs: 800
- Moldovan host community members: 10,000

Including:

- 5-8 Local Public Authorities and their specialized services
- 50 private sector representatives

At least 60% of beneficiaries are to be women

Indirect Beneficiaries:

- Refugees and TCNs - additional 400. Total of direct and indirect beneficiaries: 1,200
- Moldovan host community members - additional 30,000. Total of direct and indirect beneficiaries: 40,000)
- At least 50% of indirect beneficiaries are to be women

	Direct Beneficiaries	Indirect Beneficiaries	Total number of Beneficiaries
Refugees and TCNs	800	400	1,200
Moldovan host community members	10,000	30,000	40,000
Minimum % of women beneficiaries	60%	50%	55%

4. Advancing the human security approach

4.1. Action plan for mainstreaming human security

The proposed programme is based on four mutually reinforcing outcomes. Each outcome combines mutually reinforcing protection and empowerment strategies to achieve the outcomes.

By the end of December 2023, through the adoption of an area-based approach, multifaceted challenges and interconnected root causes of vulnerabilities will be addressed through implementing a package of integrated solutions specifically designed for the target communities.

The actual interventions in each community will be determined based on a detailed community assessment and through participatory, accessible and inclusive dialogues, ensuring empowerment of the beneficiaries as per UNDP community mobilization and empowerment mechanisms and the Accountability to Affected Populations Framework IN/285 IOM AAP Framework to ensure strategic programming with people-oriented, comprehensive, prevention and context-specific focus. Each of the target communities will be supported by a set of interventions that are selected from the following four outcomes and tailored to the localized needs in each target community, and endorsed with the local advisory and coordination mechanism

Thus, the programme will promote mainstreaming of human security principles in local governance via its capacity support interventions for local public authorities. While the human security approach and tools will be used across all four programme outcomes, outcome 1 will have dedicated interventions to promote and mainstream the human security approach with local public authorities, including through the Congress of Local Public Authorities (activity 1.2). This will contribute to local and integrated planning across all human insecurities, as well as strengthen the empowerment & protection approach. UNDP and IOM will also monitor and report back on those specific activities to ensure.

Furthermore, the programme will work with the UN Human Security Unit to organize at least one dedicated (online) session on Human Security during a UN Country Team meeting, this to continue promoting the approach to the entire UN System and its partners. In addition, the programme will liaise with the UN Human Security Unit on the development of capacity-building modules as well as referral directory flow-charts and standard operating procedures to ensure appropriate integration and mainstreaming of human security approaches throughout the action.

4.2. Best practices and lessons learned

For the purposes of this intervention, IOM and UNDP propose quarterly updates on the programmatic achievements and progress of the activities committed. A technical/programmatic level Committee¹⁹ will be ensured between IOM and UNDP to meet bi-monthly as a soft-evaluation, which will examine the set of activities to attain specific sector assistance objectives as well as individual activities designed to achieve specific objectives within the given budget and period.

IOM and UNDP are active members of the Refugee Coordination Forum and its inter-agency sectoral working groups. Both organizations will use these coordination mechanisms for knowledge exchange throughout the implementation of the action. Programme findings, lessons learned, challenges, and best

¹⁹ See section 5 for details

practices will be shared with relevant technical working groups.

For each of the programme components, the implementation of activities will be documented and information on how they have affected the beneficiaries will be collected through interviews or through field monitoring and evaluation missions. Documentation will be shared with all the stakeholders through the dedicated IOM and UNDP communication channels, such as discussion sessions and through annual reviews of the cooperation programmes of the action's stakeholders.

IOM and UNDP give priority to “managing for results / results-based management” focusing on the **Accountability to Affected Populations Framework** and defining realistically expected results, monitoring progress towards their achievement, integrating lessons learnt into management decisions, and reporting on performance. The cornerstone of this strategy is a systematic and robust approach to monitoring and evaluation based on a review of a project's Intervention Logic and an establishment of robust evaluation questions and indicators.

5. Management structure and partnership strategy

5.1. Management structure

A solid management and coordination mechanism will be established for the proposed project with an area-based approach to ensure integrated and coherent programming to deliver synergized positive impacts on human security.

IOM and UNDP in Moldova will set up an in-country technical/programmatic level Committee to jointly plan and monitor the implementation of collaborative activities on a quarterly basis. The Committee will be responsible for:

- Collectively setting strategic directions of collaboration
- Jointly reviewing and mutually confirming the collaboration areas/activities
- Monitoring progress of the activities
- Collectively documenting success cases and lessons learnt
- Undertaking joint advocacy activities, with focus on human security principles
- Drawing on existing capacities and expertise within UNDP and IOM to form joint technical and/or implementation teams

Technical groups might be created around the major themes of the programme, such as service provision, livelihoods opportunities, prevention mechanisms and social cohesion, and peaceful coexistence. Detailed arrangements of joint implementation will be determined through day-to-day interactions between the programme focal points in UNDP and IOM. The Technical groups will also collect success stories and lessons learnt and report them to the platform in addition to the progress statuses of each collaborative activity.

A Programme Board (PB) will be the governing body of the programme and in charge of making decisions. The Board will play a critical role in programme monitoring and evaluations by assuring the quality of these processes and associated products, and by using evaluations for improving performance, accountability and learning. The PB will ensure that required resources are committed. PB meetings are to be organized at least twice per year or to be convened upon necessity. Specific responsibilities of the

PB should include:

- Provide overall guidance and direction to the project, ensuring it remains within any specified constraints
- Address project issues as raised by the PC
- Provide guidance on new project risks and agree on possible countermeasures and management actions to address specific risks
- Agree on PM's tolerances as required
- Review the project progress and provide direction and recommendations to ensure that the agreed deliverables are produced satisfactorily according to plans
- Review combined delivery reports prior to certification by the implementing partner
- Appraise the project's budget revisions, annual review report, make recommendations for the next annual work plan, and inform the outcome group about the results of the review
- Provide ad-hoc direction and advice for exception situations when PC's tolerances are exceeded
- Assess and decide to proceed on project changes through appropriate revisions.

PB decisions shall be made in accordance with international standards that shall ensure management for development results, best value for money, fairness, integrity, transparency, and effective international competition. Members of the PB will consist of key national government representatives as Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ministry of Social Protection and Labour, State Chancellery, UNDP and IOM senior officials, representative from Civil Society Organization (CSO), Resident Coordinator's Office, the donor – Government of Japan, the Human Security Unit, and other relevant stakeholders, if needed. UNDP and IOM, based on a mutual decision, might use the governance structures of the other initiatives financed by the Government of Japan in 2023.

Both UNDP and IOM will set up internal management structures for the programme. The programme aims to balance cost efficient implementation and best value for money with quality delivery and effectiveness of activities. The strategy of this programme is to deliver maximum results with the available resources through ensuring the design is based on good practices and lessons learned, that activities are specific and clearly linked to the expected outputs, and that there is a sound results management and monitoring framework in place.

For UNDP as the lead agency, there are specific measures for ensuring cost-efficient use of resources through using a portfolio management approach, by anchoring the initiative in the existing projects and co-financing some of the positions of the staff involved. The programme implementation team will include a Programme Coordinator, Thematic leads, a Procurement Associate, a Finance Associate and a Communication Specialist (potentially a UNV professional). The implementation team will benefit from wider support services of the Programme and Operations Team of UNDP Moldova, including Procurement, Human Resources, and other operational aspects. The quality assurance activities will be carried out by the Deputy Resident Representative and Planning and Partnership Development Specialist.

For IOM, a programme management team (led by IOM Chief of Mission) will be established and will design and develop a framework to monitor and evaluate the programme's progress and achievements, including the initial three-month period of set up, throughout the period of activity implementation, and the subsequent period thereafter for final programme evaluation. The programme implementation team will include, for IOM, International Emergency Coordinator, Programme Support Officer, three thematic specialists, and IOM's resource management teams. As per reporting requirements, IOM will coordinate

the development of quarterly narrative and financial reports based upon the joint contributions of programme partners, and as endorsed by respective organizational reviewers, including IOM's Regional Office.

5.2. Participation of beneficiaries and governments

Following the area-based approach, the interventions under this Action will be co-designed with the local beneficiaries and stem from the local needs to be assessed at the inception stage of interventions. A local advisory and coordination mechanism will be set-up (and/or used, if already existing) and run regularly/quarterly in each of the targeted areas throughout the programme duration to ensure proper coordination of interventions with local stakeholders and create synergies with other active organizations in the respective geographic and thematic areas. The respective local advisory and coordination will serve as the platform for co-design and feedback loop from local communities and beneficiaries on the assistance provided.

At the same time, the programme will monitor the progress achieved against the RRF targets and report them back to the Programme Steering Committee and the local advisory and coordination mechanism. The programme will use evaluation forms to regularly collect feedback from end beneficiaries on the assistance provided in all target areas that will feed into the overall monitoring and evaluation efforts of the project.

At the operational level, the coordination and monitoring of the Programme will be ensured by a National Joint Technical Committee. This Committee will be chaired by technical leads of both UNDP and IOM. This Technical Committee will be responsible for the operational monitoring of the programme. To this end, it will hold quarterly review sessions based on field visits and monitoring meetings approved through quarterly reports. This approach will ensure quality control of the achievements made by the various entities responsible for the execution of the programme. A programme monitoring and evaluation plan will be developed, which will allow to measure the impact of the activities on the achievement of the desired outcomes.

5.3. Partnership with other organizations

UNDP and IOM will closely coordinate with the members of the Refugee Coordination Forum, and particularly the relevant inter-agency working groups i.e. the Protection Working Group, and the GBV Sub-Working Group, and the Livelihoods and Inclusion Working Group, as well as within the local coordination fora, where relevant.

Both UNDP and IOM will partner with various NGOs to implement the activities described above, including Japanese NGOs. Japanese NGOs have already been implementing refugee responses in Moldova under the RRP coordination framework, and both UNDP and IOM will collaborate with them in the related areas. Both agencies will inform the Japanese Embassy when a Japanese company is selected as a vendor/service provider for project activities. Japanese staff will be potentially involved in the implementation of the project's activities within UNDP and IOM rules and regulations.

Under this proposed programme, UNDP and IOM will expand the existing partnership to co-create possible collaboration solutions with JICA to support the Ukrainian refugees, TCNs as well as the Moldovan Government and host communities to address current and future negative impacts of a

compounded crises due to the war in Ukraine and explore a possibility to establish a UNDP-IOM-JICA tripartite partnership for multi-sector resilience-building assistance beyond humanitarian assistance, utilizing JICA's vast expertise and jointly advocating for Human Security and the implementation of the Humanitarian-Development Nexus in Moldova.

IOM and UNDP will utilize coordination mechanisms through existing bilateral and multilateral partnerships already developed under their humanitarian and development programming outside of this action and will capitalize on these experiences and efforts to maximize the coherence between the interventions of these partners and those of the joint programme. Furthermore, with respect to the RRP, the implementation of the joint programme will be coordinated by UNDP and IOM in collaboration with sector leads and contributing agencies to enable the implementation of activities and provide technical assistance to the Government and its partners in a strengthened alignment with the objectives of the United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security. The agencies have expertise in their field that will be useful in building the capacities of the local municipalities, particularly in social protection and the promotion of basic social services in a humanitarian context. For the implementation of activities, synergies will be sought and created with other United Nations agencies through an approach of supporting investment and capacity building.

5.4. Due diligence on engaging with non-UN entities

UNDP and IOM will rely on their internal policies and procedures for ensuring the due diligence of partners to engage with. For instance, UNDP has a [New Due Diligence Policy to work with the Private Sector](#), which relies on such guiding principles as: Partner eligibility criteria and shared values; Mutual focus on delivering common development results; Impartiality and transparency; Non-exclusivity and no unfair advantage; Cost-effectiveness; Shared risk and benefits, and clearly defined roles and responsibilities. At the same time, strictly adhering to its internal rules and procedures, UNDP operates based on the highest standards integrity, [transparency](#)²⁰ and accountability principles and is among the frontrunners among UN agencies from this perspective.

IOM also adheres strictly to the IN/284, whereby all Implementing Partners working with IOM should be subject to reasonable due diligence assessment requirements corresponding to the operational context and risks of the IOM office, regardless of whether the engagement is a result of a selection process or a direct appointment. The following requirements are to be observed during the assessment of Implementing Partners. Where applicable, IOM offices shall perform a documented due diligence assessment exercise that confirms the Implementing Partner operational and financial suitability for the activities.

Implementing Partners appearing on the Consolidated United Nations Security Council Sanctions List or on the United Nations Global Marketplace vendor ineligibility list must not be engaged by IOM.

6. Risk management and sustainability

20

https://www.undp.org/accountability/transparency?utm_source=EN&utm_medium=GSR&utm_content=US_UNDP_PaidSearch_Brand_English&utm_campaign=CENTRAL&c_src=CENTRAL&c_src2=GSR&qclid=CjwKCAjw9-KTBhBcEiwAr19iqxu4fZmEIJKUTPE9r2FoilRmcwMmiCbKix3JNbNTymMGgoldk-HyaxoCes4QAvD_BwE

6.1. Risk management

Description of risks and negative externalities	Impact	Probability	Proposed mitigation measures	Responsible organization(s)
<p>Volatile political and high-risk security environment, subject to unforeseen and sudden changes, due to the war in Ukraine and deterioration of the political situation as well as changes in the governmental landscape and changes in the local public administration political representation after the local elections in 2023.</p>	High	Medium	<p>To mitigate the political and security risks, UNDP/IOM will assess the situation on a regular basis during the implementation of the programme and alternatives could be sought as appropriate. The programme will put in place a communication strategy and detailed work-plan considering the specific regional political context when planning and implementing activities, paying careful attention to timing, visibility and presentation.</p> <p>To mitigate potential security and safety threats, to all project stakeholders, UNDP/IOM will ensure frequent liaison and coordination with the UN Department for Safety and Security, as well as national security authorities in Moldova.</p>	UNDP/IOM
<p>Operational Risks - delays in programme implementation and/or procurement of equipment due to disruption in global and local market</p>	High	Medium	<p>Where applicable across the action, UNDP/IOM will ensure procurement processes are initiated on the onset of implementation. Furthermore, UNDP/IOM will engage the broad range of vendors in and outside of Moldova, and utilize its global procurement hubs, should the needs arise</p>	UNDP/IOM
<p>Socio-economic risks - the very high uncertainty and difficult socio-economic and market conditions in 2023.</p>	High	High	<p>The mitigation activity is to closely work with the communities and private sector and regularly update the</p>	UNDP/IOM

			list of specific needs so as to adjust the interventions in line with the expectations and requirements of the companies and end-users, in general.	
Outreach risks - the difficulty with which the engagement of the beneficiaries will take place because of the initially low interest and willingness to cooperate.	Low	Low	The Project will come-up with a solid communication and outreach strategy to engage with potential beneficiaries.	UNDP/IOM
Programmatic Risks - Politicization of activities underlying this output by local authorities	Medium	High	Conclusion of MOUs with local authorities emphasizing IOM's and UNDP's neutrality and impartiality in the delivery of assistance. Develop and deploy effective messaging as part of information campaign targeting TCNs and refugees in host communities	UNDP/IOM

Note: Impact and probability should be indicated as high, medium or low.

6.2. Scale-up, replication and sustainability

The programme's sustainability and exit strategy is built into its approaches and activities. However, before the end of the programme, UNDP and IOM will undertake a review of its overall strategy, with a view to developing a detailed plan for transition and exit. The exit strategy will also be informed by the findings of the final evaluation. The key elements of sustainability and exit strategy include the following:

1. The sustainability of the programme will be ensured through **engagement and collaboration** with the key actors in addressing human security issues from local public authorities, host community members and refugees, to private businesses and specialized service providers. They'd be engaged from idea design stage through whole implementation cycle (depending on the type of the activity), thus ensuring the ownership over the initiatives and their potential scale-up.
2. The programme invests in strengthening **institutional capacities** across the different components of the project that would take the areas of work forward. A special emphasis will be put on strengthening the capacities of mainstreaming the human security approach for the actors involved in the project implementation. For instance, the capacities of the local public authorities in area of GBV will be strengthened to the "localization" of the national policy in preventing and combating GBV, by continuing to expand the referral system, by developing the capacity of local partners to draw up and implement responsive local GBV action plans at the local level in the selected region.
3. **Flexibility to adapt to the current context and expanding the network of professionals with capacities to address GBV and human security issues** - the current situation shows that the Safe Space model is well adapted to the emergency reception of refugees fleeing armed conflict, especially

for accommodation and assistance of women with young children. Based on previous UNDP experience in training counsellors in the Common Elements Treatment Approach (CETA) and the effectiveness of the CETA approach in working with GBV survivors, refugee women and community members grappling with trauma, substance abuse or other potential drivers of violence, the project will increase the number of professional counsellors, which contributes to reduce the gaps in the area of mental health services.

4. For instance, the **capacity building coupled with provision of support schemes** for private companies, would help to develop the practical skills and knowledge of beneficiaries to enable them to develop and expand businesses, thus addressing the major barriers, such as quality standards, access to market, competitiveness, etc.

7. Dissemination, public information and communications

A communications officer (Japanese UNV, potentially) will be hired for the programme and together with the Communication officers from IOM and UNDP, will design an annual communications plan, which will be consulted with the Embassy of Japan to Moldova and HSU. The communications plan will contain main messages aligned to human security approach, target audiences, key events and knowledge products, means of communications employed to reach out to key audiences (face to face, social media, mass-media etc.).

UNDP/IOM will aim to contribute to a broader understanding (direct beneficiaries, government institutions, partners and the wider public) of the human security approach, of the joint efforts of UNDP/IOM and the Government of Japan in improving the human security of vulnerable displaced communities in Moldova. The Agencies will disseminate the conclusions and recommendations of programme's knowledge products, outreach & advocacy materials that shall advocate for a better understanding of the human security approach (i.e. study on the perceptions and attitudes over equality to track the changes in the perceptions in the course of the crisis etc.) and lessons learned in the programme by:

- Developing user-friendly graphic designs/easy-to-read versions to explain human security approach
- Conducting webinars, presentations, policy dialogues to discuss the human security approach, the conclusions and main recommendations of key knowledge products. Existing HSU materials may be used as reference
- Developing illustrations (based on triangle of three freedoms) and video explainers for social media in Romanian, Russian, Ukrainian and other relevant languages to decipher human security approach. Existing HSU videos may be adapted
- Conducting interviews in media with the authors of the knowledge products and to promote the human security approach
- Developing op-eds and blog posts to reflect on the lessons learned

In accordance with the guidelines of UN Trust Fund for Human Security, UNDP and IOM will make their utmost effort to publicize the partnership between Japan and UNDP/IOM for this project. UNDP/IOM will undertake comprehensive measures to ensure Japan's visibility, which include:

Publications/publicity materials

- Ensuring posting logos of Japan and UNTFHS on the reports, knowledge products, publications and other publicity materials, such as graphic designs, rollups, banners, signboards, stickers, promotional materials.
- Issuing press releases, articles, news pieces which highlight the Japanese contribution and produce public information materials on Japan's contribution.
- Producing and posting stories and blogs posts on UNDP/IOM web-page on the activities supported by Japan's contribution and the achieved results.
- Producing and posting photos essays and video stories on UNDP/IOM web-page to showcase impact of Japan's contribution to beneficiaries.
- Producing and obtaining photos or videos of the activities funded by Japan's contribution, showing Japan's and UNTFHS logo or signs.
- Conducting UNDP/IOM public campaigns on key advocacy issues tackled by the project (i.e. right not to be subject of discrimination of refugees and third-countries nationals), making sure that the campaign's products (video explainers etc.) bear Japan's and UNTFHS logo.
- Utilizing the social media: Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, LinkedIn of UNDP/IOM in Moldova, disseminating information on the activities supported by Japan. UNDP/IOM will ensure to mention that the activities are funded by Japan and tag relevant handles. #humansecurity hashtag will be used in social media posts and Japan and UNTFHS will be tagged.
- Offline visibility materials, including Japan branded equipment, signboards and banners and other branded information, education and communication (IEC) materials

Events

- Conducting public events with the Japanese Government, benchmarking the key accomplishment of activities, such as agreement signing ceremonies, launch/completion ceremonies of the activities, and major conferences related to the project activities, press tours, field visits, roundtables, job fairs, policy dialogues etc. UNDP/IOM will inform the Japanese Government of these occasions in advance and facilitate their participation in the event, so as interaction with media (local and national).
- Making sure to mention on Japan's contribution when UNDP/IOM is delivering speeches in the ceremonial/public events.
- Making arrangements to maximise media coverage on the events related to Japan's assistance and social media coverage.

UNDP/IOM will constantly monitor the media clippings and web and social media behaviour of posts related to this project.

8. Evaluation

Evaluation title	Type	Time	Budget in US\$
Final evaluation	External	11th month	25,000

9. Budget (attached)