

Chişinău, Moldova
26 May 2023



To Members of the European Political Community;

Moldova INGO Forum Letter Ahead of the Second European Political Community Summit

Europe's support in the face of the Ukraine war and widespread displacement has shown the value of solidarity. Moldova has welcomed refugees since the outbreak of war in Ukraine, hosting thousands, while experiencing a severe energy crisis. Inflation last year was four times higher than the previous year in a country widely understood as Europe's poorest economy. As we acknowledge the receptiveness and responsiveness of Moldovan society towards the Ukrainian refugee crisis, it is crucial to highlight the importance of supporting overstretched local capacity and ensuring support to Moldova reaches the most vulnerable people who are struggling to meet their needs.

The *Moldova INGO Forum* is a grouping of 37 organizations working to support the delivery of humanitarian and development programming in Moldova who see firsthand the toll of economic pressures and displacement on all community members in Moldova. The *Second European Political Community Summit* is a gathering of European solidarity, and it is a timely opportunity to consider how to strengthen Moldova. As the summit begins in Moldova, the *INGO Forum* and our civil society partners ask that European leaders consider these three priorities for improved support to all people in Moldova.

- **Expand Support to Host Communities in Crisis:** In a context where a fifth of the Moldovan population, more than half a million people, are forecasted to be living under the poverty line if economic decline continues, vulnerability must be the criteria for all humanitarian and development support. Mitigating the negative impact on scarce resources and weakened basic services in Moldova will support a long-term socially cohesive environment capable of protecting both refugees and vulnerable Moldovans. The support Europe invests in Moldova will be only as effective as it is sustainable, and this requires investments that reach all the vulnerabilities in the population and not only to refugees.
- **Aid Remain Needs-Based:** The humanitarian response in Moldova must continue to provide services to refugees and vulnerable populations based solely on needs. Vulnerability must be the only criteria, informed by intersectional analysis including gender and age. The mechanisms used to support refugees and the most vulnerable, such as cash-based assistance, shelter, and basic services, must remain widely accessible and not hindered by requirements such as residency.
- **Funding to Moldova is Allocated Effectively:** Funding decisions should be balanced to prioritize the organizations with the capacity and access to implement programming. The priority must be the civil society organizations throughout Moldova that have been at the forefront of the response for refugees and vulnerable Moldovans with the capacity to reach the most vulnerable.

Strengthened, inclusive, and effective support to all people in Moldova must be high on the agenda as the European Community gathers for this summit. We thank you for your attention and remain available for any questions.

Sincerely,
Members of the Moldova INGO Forum and partners



1. AFAD - Asociatia de formare si dezvoltare antreprenoriala NGO
2. Agudath Moldova
3. Asist NGO
4. Bibliothèques Sans Frontières / Libraries Without Borders
5. Caritas Moldova
6. CasMed NGO
7. Catholic Relief Services
8. Center for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities / AO Centrul pentru Drepturile Persoanelor cu Dizabilități
9. Centrul National al Romilor NGO
10. Danish Refugee Council
11. FCPS: Fiecare Contribuie pentru Schimbare NGO
12. HEKS/EPER
13. Helvetas Swiss Intercooperation
14. HIAS
15. Hope4
16. International Rescue Committee
17. Invento NGO
18. Jewish Community of Moldova NGO
19. Medical-social programs/ Некоммерческое партнерство» Медико-социальные программы
20. Médecins du Monde France
21. Mercy Corps
22. Norwegian Refugee Council
23. People in Need
24. Plan International
25. Programul Educational Pas cu Pas / Step by Step Moldova (SBSM)
26. Terre des Hommes Netherlands
27. World Vision International