



Protection of Family Links Programme, 11 August 2025.

REPUBLIC OF
MOLDOVA

OPERATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

JANUARY -
DECEMBER
2025

In 2025, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) Mission in Moldova, in consistent cooperation and coordination with the authorities across various levels, the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and the Moldova Red Cross Society (MRCS), continued its humanitarian activities after transitioning to a smaller mission structure.

The ICRC continued to promote International Humanitarian Law (IHL) and raise awareness of the Protection of Family Links (PFL) programme through information sessions and workshops at local, regional and international levels. These activities helped strengthen understanding of IHL and address the needs of people affected by the ongoing international armed conflict between the Russian Federation and Ukraine and its consequences.

These initiatives brought together national authorities, the Moldova National Army (MNA), universities and MRCS branches from both sides of the Dniester River. At the same time, the ICRC supported discussions under the Global IHL Initiative, which Moldova formally joined in December 2025, helping to promote dialogue, capacity-building and respect for IHL in line with the ICRC's humanitarian mandate.

ICRC Moldova

HIGHLIGHTS:

We have supported over 350 of the most vulnerable refugees from Ukraine residing on both banks of the Dniester River through our financial and medical assistance programmes

We have facilitated family reunification through the PFL programme by collecting tracing requests and supporting the Safe Cross-Border Passage programme

We have continued to strengthen awareness of IHL through pre-deployment training sessions and international courses for MNA peacekeepers and Carabinieri, in accordance with the MNA-ICRC 2025 Cooperation Plan

We have supported capacity-building on IHL through workshops and sessions held in Moldova and abroad for the National Commission on International Humanitarian Law (NCIHL), as well as for university professors and students

We have strengthened capacity of the MRCS in PFL and IHL through training and awareness sessions for staff and volunteers on both banks of the Dniester River, as part of broader cooperation and coordination with the MRCS, International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and partnering National Societies (pNS)



ICRC



The ICRC team accompanied by representatives of the Red Cross branch from Comrat, 13 May 2025.

FACILITATING FAMILY REUNIFICATION AND ADDRESSING URGENT NEEDS

Within the framework of the Safe Cross-Border Passage programme, over 200 third-country nationals received support in obtaining Emergency Travel Documents (ETD) and transportation assistance, enabling them to safely return home and reunite with their families.

The ICRC continued to collect and process tracing requests related to the international armed conflict between the Russian Federation and Ukraine, working with its Central Tracing Agency in Geneva to help families clarify the fate and whereabouts of their loved ones and restore contact with them.

The ICRC also facilitated the travel of two individuals from Gaza to Moldova by issuing ETD, allowing them to reunite with their family members after a prolonged separation.

In addition, one-off financial assistance was provided to 154 refugees from Ukraine residing on both banks of the Dniester River. This support helped the most vulnerable categories of refugees address urgent needs and stabilize their living conditions. A further 206 refugees, the majority of whom were children and elderly people, benefited from the medical programme, enabling medical consultations, diagnostic tests and laboratory services. The programme aimed to support refugees' access to essential healthcare.

SUPPORTING THE NCIHL

On 14 May, the ICRC and the Ministry of Justice co-organized a workshop for Moldova's NCIHL. Held at the Ministry of Justice, the event brought together 25 Commission members representing seven ministries who support the work of the NCIHL. Discussions focused on practical challenges, international experiences and opportunities to strengthen the understanding of IHL in Moldova.

Building on this workshop, the ICRC also facilitated the participation of two NCIHL representatives in the 2nd Regional Conference of European IHL Committees, held in Warsaw on 20–21 May. The conference continued discussions under the Global IHL Initiative, which seeks to place IHL high on the political agenda at national, regional and global levels.



NCIHL workshop on IHL, 14 May 2025.



Pre-deployment training course for the peacekeeping contingent of the Moldovan Armed Forces and Carabinieri, 23 October 2025.

ENHANCING COOPERATION WITH THE NATIONAL ARMY

On 4 February, the ICRC Mission in Moldova and the General Staff of the MNA signed the 2025 Cooperation Plan at the Ministry of Defense. The Plan aims to strengthen knowledge and integration of IHL within the MNA through ICRC's technical support and training, including preparation for international peacekeeping missions.

Under this plan, the ICRC organized pre-deployment and specialized IHL training for MNA peacekeepers and Carabinieri preparing for missions in Kosovo. The training covered core IHL principles, the ICRC's mandate, and the Fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement (the Movement), using case studies and practical exercises focused on the protection of civilians and the conduct of hostilities.

In addition, the ICRC facilitated the participation of four MNA representatives in international platforms: two MNA representatives attended the Senior Workshop on International Rules of Military Operations in Riyadh, and two participated in the Advanced Course on IHL in Sanremo, further strengthening the integration of IHL into operational planning, education, and training.

STRENGTHENING THE MRCS' OPERATIONAL AND RESPONSE CAPACITIES

The ICRC continued to support the MRCS' capacity-building efforts, as part of broader cooperation and coordination with the MRCS, IFRC and pNS.

Two rounds of training and awareness sessions were delivered for over 250 volunteers from eight MRCS branches on the Movement's history, Fundamental Principles, emblems, and the PFL.

The ICRC sustained its technical and financial support to the MRCS to enhance family tracing and reunification services. Besides, together with the MRCS' Bender, Grigoriopol and Ribnitsa branches, the ICRC continued assisting the most vulnerable cases among Ukrainian refugees to cover their essential and urgent needs.



Bender Red Cross branch session, 12 August 2025.



Members of the ICRC Mission in Moldova with the ICRC Regional Legal Adviser and the Director of the Diplomatic Institute of the Moldovan Ministry of Foreign Affairs., 13 May 2025.

PROMOTING IHL TO ACADEMIC AND DIPLOMATIC CIRCLES

Throughout 2025, the ICRC engaged with the Diplomatic Institute of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Moldova and the academic community to promote IHL.

The ICRC organized a workshop on contemporary armed conflicts for members of the Diplomatic Institute, supported two student teams from Moldova State University in participating in the 46th and 47th Jean-Pictet Competitions in Türkiye and Indonesia, and sponsored professors from Moldova State University and the Free International University of Moldova (ULIM) to participate in the Martens Readings Conference and advanced IHL seminar in Geneva. The ICRC also strengthened the promotion of IHL by conducting a session for 60 students at Taras Shevchenko University in Tiraspol.

The ICRC co-organized a roundtable with ULIM to explore how academia can further contribute to IHL research and teaching. The event brought together academics and members of the National Commission on IHL, presenting platforms such as the International Review of the Red Cross (IRRC) and the Humanitarian Law and Policy Blog. During this event, three students were awarded certificates for their participation in the IHL Essay Competition, which received 66 submissions on topics including new technologies of warfare, urban warfare, protection of civilians, and environmental protection.



MISSION

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is an impartial, neutral and independent organization whose exclusively humanitarian mission is to protect the lives and dignity of victims of armed conflict and other situations of violence and to provide them with assistance. The ICRC also endeavours to prevent suffering by promoting and strengthening humanitarian law and universal humanitarian principles. Established in 1863, the ICRC is at the origin of the Geneva Conventions and the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. It directs and coordinates the international activities conducted by the Movement in armed conflicts and other situations of violence.



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