

## INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE IN THE SUPPORT MEASURES FOR REFUGEE CHILDREN

Scientific Researcher, Ph.D. Student, Mihail CIOBANU

Section "Social research and the standard of living",  
National Institute of Economic Research of Republic of Moldova  
The State University of Republic of Moldova  
E-mail: ciobanu.mihail.s@gmail.com

**Abstract:** *One of the consequences of regional conflicts across the globe is the population refugee crisis, in which children are in the most vulnerable position, being in a higher need of social, economic or other type of support. In order to identify the refugee children's issues and solutions for them this paper has the following purposes: mapping population refugee crises, evolution of support measures for refugee children in historical aspect, analyzing current social, economic support measures for refugee children and proposing some ideas for further support in refugee crises. The paper will also cover the Ukrainian population refugee crisis, the focus being on refugee children from Ukraine.*

**Keywords:** *children, refugees, experience, socioeconomic support.*

**JEL Classification:** *F22, H5, H72, J13.*

### 1. Introduction

Refugee is a person that is persecuted, flees a territory and is in need of protection. Mankind has known waves of refugees since the beginning of its existence from prehistoric times due to intertribal warfare, natural disasters, famine or other factors. In essence in the later epochs these causes didn't change, but only the diversity of their sizes and forms. The word "refugee" itself comes from Latin "refugium" (hideaway). In Ancient Era, in Ancient Rome a part of the people coming through the barbarian invasions in its western part were refugees due to climate change and due to the war of the steppe tribes that determined other tribes to go in the western direction. Offering citizenship to refugees that lived at the frontier of Roman Empire gave them the right to be subjects to Roman legislation, while if the refugees grew up at the border obtaining Roman citizenship ensured refugees and their families to be free of being captured in slave trading or from suffering because of those that steal children. Three waves of citizenship offering to refugees in Ancient Rome were intertwined with war times of conquest and colonial expansion. Giving citizenship to refugees enhanced public trust in investment and fostered economic growth. Support for refugees was shown in Middle Ages, too. For example, during the Albigensian Crusade (1209–1229) that was a military campaign by Pope against Catharism in Languedoc, in southern France, bishop of Toulouse distributed food to Cathar beggar refugees. People also gave refugees, including orphans, food and temporary shelter in the woods (cabins or tents). French Revolution has determined a refugee movement from 1789 to 1815. The nobility, clergy, rich proprietaries were entitled to asylum and support in Great Britain, due to sympathies of British elites which influenced the British government to offer support. In Great Britain French refugees were also given financial support: men under 16 years and over 50 years, disabled male and soldiers received £1-11s-6d<sup>1</sup> per month plus some additional stipends; women and girls over 14 years would receive the same lump sum. Children under 14 years were given £1-2s-0d per month. This system permitted exceptional supplementary treatments for families, for ill people and older emigrants (Reboul, 2014). In Contemporary Era as in other periods have appeared many refugee crises as well.

---

<sup>1</sup> £1 – 1 pound = 20 shillings (s) = 240 pennies (d, from initial of Latin "denarius")

## **2. Contemporary refugee crises and socioeconomic measures for the support of refugee children**

According to the UNCHR data (UNICEF, 2021), in the world there were more than 33 million children forcibly displaced at the end of 2020, from them 11.8 million children are refugees. Between the 2005 and 2015 this number of refugees increased twice. Children represent the majority (circa half) of world's refugees, while representing less than 1/3 of global population. Syria, Afghanistan and South Sudan offer half of world refugee children, three fourths of all child refugees come from 8 countries (Syria, Afghanistan, South Sudan, Myanmar, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Somalia, Sudan, Central African Republic). 83% from all refugees find asylum in the neighborhood of their region, circa 90% of biggest receiving countries for refugees are in Asia and Africa, but Germany is the only exception. Turkey hosts the biggest number of refugees and also child refugees, in 2020, 1 in 6 from child refugees lived there. Lebanon has the biggest number of refugees compared to its population (128 at 1000 people), it is followed by Jordan (69 at 1000 people) and Turkey (43 at 1000 people). By income level (number of refugees per 1 USD of GNI per capita), Uganda, Sudan and Pakistan have the biggest concentration of refugees compared to their resources. The first 28 countries receiving the biggest number of refugees compared to their resources are all on African and Asian continents.

In recent times as in other periods major refugee crises were caused mainly by political turmoil, war, famine - factors which are interconnected. The recent big refugee crises can be named the following (by the events that caused them) in chronological order of their appearance: Great Irish Famine (1845-1852); World War I (1914-1918); World War II (1939-1945); Indian Partition (1947-1948); Palestinian refugees' crisis (1947-present); Korean War (1950-1953); Algerian War (1954-1962); Bangladesh Liberation War (1971-1979); Indochina refugee crisis (1975-2000); Mozambican Civil War (1977-1992); Soviet-Afghan War (1978-1989); Yugoslav Wars (1991-2001); 1991 Iraqi uprisings (1991); Somali Civil War (1991-present); Great Lakes refugee crisis (1994-1996); Iraq War (2003-2012); Syrian refugee crisis (2011-present); South Sudanese Civil War (2011-2020); First Libyan Civil War (2011); Venezuelan refugee crisis (2014-present); Rohingya genocide (2016-present); Ukrainian refugee crisis (2022-present).

During the Great Irish Famine (1845-1852) circa 2 million refugees from Ireland fled the country to North America. This was caused by infection of potatoes with potato blight, laissez-faire economic policies, dependence on a single crop. At that period children amounted to 45% of the population in workhouses (institutions where the people who couldn't self-support financially were given a job and a shelter) - children with their families, orphans (that lost one parent), abandoned children, deserted children (with fathers leaving the country to work) and illegitimate children. The famine migration generated thousands of orphan children. A more exact number of such refugee orphan children can't be offered since the placement of many of them was informal and wasn't recorded. In this case orphans were not just children the parents of which died, but also those that didn't have someone to look for them. The orphans were supported by public institutions, private charitable organizations and religious communities through such measures as: overseeing by the government of the stations of quarantine and the hospitals where were sick migrants (due to the spread of infectious diseases during the famine crisis); nursing the sick, administering sacraments and founding homes for children; placement with relatives / Irish families for charitable reasons and also for pragmatic reasons (as extra hands for farming or help in the household), but also because of motivation by ethnic solidarity and by Christian charity. The majority of families favored older children for extra hands for the farm or household. As a result, younger orphan refugee children in most cases were institutionalized until the age when they can make a living and earn a place in a family.

Many of the costs for the orphans were supported by the churches raised on charity campaigns and Sunday collections, which were reimbursed in an exceptional and non-recurrent manner by the government, specifically for clothing, for shelter, travelling and for medical help. At the time of crisis, adoption had an informal character and wasn't binding, it was more akin to apprenticeship or foster care. So, in fact, there were no legal claims in the parent-child relationships. Circa 25% of orphans were placed 2 or 3 times, because of mismatches with adoptive parents (Bradburn, 2013). Over time took place the romanticization of orphan stories during famine with depiction of self-sacrificing adoptive parents. But even so, the majority of orphans had proper treatment from the host families, some afterwards inheriting family farms.

The World War I (1914-1918) generated according to some estimates between 7 and 15 million refugees. Support to refugee children was provided by charitable societies from the USA, France and, especially, UK. Help included the provision of social assistance, creating nutrition points, disinfection chambers, hospitals, shelters. A classification of the types of support refugee children received in the World War I time would look like the following: 1) Charity, upbringing and education of children: organization of shelters for permanent residence of children and shelters for the daily maintenance of children; 2) Financial assistance: money for food, clothes, shoes, rent, education, treatment, etc.; 3) Food assistance: canteens for children; dairy kitchens for issuing free food for infants (for young children that due to their helplessness, were not able to fight for their existence, and their weakened, hungry mothers that could not nurse their children, which feeling their impotence, wished for the speedy death of their children); 4) Medical assistance, which was especially needed by refugees, that were exhausted by long tedious journeys and turned into beggars who do not know their fate, with a weakened state or driven to the extreme limit of nutrition, living in unsanitary conditions and was organized through nursery receptions, quarantine houses for children, where children were kept for 18 days, and then sent either to shelters or to temporary small hospitals for various infections (measles, whooping cough, etc.), dispensaries, pharmacies, chemical and bacteriological laboratories; 5) Provision of dwellings: for refugee families with children at a cheap price or even for free; 6) The search for children that was carried out by a refugee registration office, through which refugees could sometimes find their relatives and friends, children were searched for in the forests, dugouts, abandoned huts and found children were evacuated; 7) Legal assistance that was provided so that the population could learn about their rights and benefits in connection with the war.

Due to the World War II (1939-1945) between 40 and 60 million of refugees left their home, but in order to evacuate children from Nazi Germany was organized Kindertransport or children's transport that was a rescue operation, which took place 9 months before the outbreak of World War II. Its purpose was the transportation and placement in the UK of children recognized as Jews on the basis of the Nuremberg racial laws from Nazi Germany, Austria, Czechoslovakia, Poland and the free city of Danzig. The UK has taken in almost 10000 young refugees. They were settled in foster families, hostels and country farms. Most of those children survived the war, but very few were reunited with their parents, as these children were often the only survivors of their Holocaust-destroyed families.

During the Indian Partition (1947-1948) British India was divided into Pakistan and current India. This event is associated with large-scale violence that displaced around 10-20 million refugees and has determined two resettlements: to India and to Pakistan. Food was distributed to children in refugee camps. Pakistan government searched for medical specialists for the hospitals on the field, while the Indian government, through the Indian Red Cross, appealed for medical supplies and other emergency items. Both Pakistan and

India sought help from the Red Cross for immediate supplies of blood, plasma and sulphur drugs to fight cholera and dysentery epidemics and also penicillin for septic conditions and vitamins for malnutrition. The British Red Cross divided the requested items equally between the two countries.

In the Palestinian refugees' crisis (1947-present) due to Israeli-Palestinian conflict has migrated between 0.7 and 5.6 million of people. The biggest issue that is faced by Palestinian refugees is the denial of return to their places of origin. Many Palestinian refugee children aren't given equal opportunities to an adequate living standard consistent with the Convention on the Rights of the Child. They have only reduced access to government services and depend on UNRWA (United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East) for basic education, health and relief and social services. As issues they face inadequate access to basic rights (education and health care); insufficient protection against abuse; accumulation of garbage; living conditions in humid, dark and small houses; lack of space to play as depriving factors of an adequate living standard. Specifically, for Palestinian refugee children as solutions to their issues can be the following: the provision with accurate information on their rights; ensuring of a focal point for children's needs through counseling programs; screening of children's health; repatriating children with school certificates or other acts of education obtained in the country of asylum and offering adequate education without discrimination; including in repatriation programs of social services that assess, monitor and assist returning refugee families in their reintegration and designing activities to counter the marginalization of vulnerable families. UNRWA offers health services (primary health care; nutrition and supplementary feeding; assistance with secondary health care; and environmental health in refugee camps), psychosocial support and education through making primary education free to all Palestinian refugee children through the operation of 644 schools in the five areas of UNRWA operations and through encouraging the development of different forms of secondary education, including general and vocational education, by running eight vocational and technical training centers with a capacity for 4884 trainees; and, in making educational and vocational information available to children through career guidance services and assistance in finding jobs locally or in other Arab countries.

During Korean War (1950-1953) between 1 and 5 million Koreans became refugees, majority being women and children. Many child refugees were war orphans. South Korea used international adoptions of war orphans in order to relieve financially its social welfare budget, while the North Korea had a more active economic interest in sending its orphans abroad. The orphan program was a unique opportunity for the government to grow its human capital stock by letting young people attend foreign schools and learn foreign languages. From 2000 to 2500 orphans were sent to Eastern Europe during the Korean war, circa 30000 orphans were sent to Mongolia, Soviet Union and China after the war. South Korean orphans found permanent homes in the West, but in the late 1950s, the North Korean government called home their war orphans.

Algerian War (1954-1962) generated circa 1 million refugees and as in other conflicts most of them were women and children, but also elderly people, too. At that period many African countries gained independence and had relatively new governments and couldn't offer adequate support to improve the poor living conditions of the population. UNCHR helped more than 200000 refugees with food, clothes, medical support and also helped to facilitate the refugee resettlement in their home land and by 1962 most refugees have been repatriated. The League of Red Cross Societies spearheaded an international relief program in the Algerian border areas to facilitate resettlement to which UNHCR offered moral and policy support.

Bangladesh Liberation War (1971-1979) has caused approximately 10 million of people to become refugees. During the war UNICEF together with other UN agencies offered shelter, food, sanitation supplies, safe water and cooking utensils to the refugees and also supplementary food distribution for 650000 children in the refugee camps. George Harrison's Concert for Bangladesh in 1971 helped concentrate global attention to Bangladesh and raise awareness and funds for refugees. In 1972-1973 UNICEF funds of 30.2 million USD were directed towards distribution of vitamin-enriched, high-protein food supplements for children and for establishing safe water sources (UNICEF, 2018). In 1979 Bangladesh government together with UNICEF begins the national oral rehydration saline campaign (a mix of water, salt and glucose used to treat diarrhea), but initially in 1971 it was used to treat cholera. A program for immunization began in 1979 to vaccinate children against diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, tuberculosis, measles and poliomyelitis.

Another big refugee crisis is the Indochina refugee crisis (1975-2000) which began in 1975 after communist governments were established in Laos, Vietnam and Cambodia. According to estimates, circa 3 million people were refugees. Many Indochinese refugees were put in temporary camps in the western Pacific area, and afterwards they have flown to US reception centers set up in April and May of 1975. In US reception centers families with children were given by private organizations a series of social services like classes in child care, support in college placement, recreational programs. If refugees couldn't find employment after the resettlement, they could receive cash and medical support for an unspecified period as US citizens. State and local education agencies also were given allocations per capita to help defray the cost of educating refugee children. Children represented 43% of all refugees, but they comprised only 5% of the recipients of SSI (Supplemental Security Income – a federal income supplement program funded by general tax revenues designed to help the vulnerable ones that have insufficient income and provides cash to meet basic needs for food, clothing and shelter). From the 165 Indochina refugee children that were eligible in July 1978, 30% were aged 10-14 years old and 16% were under 5 years old.

Mozambican Civil War (1977-1992) fostered by local dynamics and accentuated by Cold war politics caused 1.7 million refugees, a great part of them being children. It should be mentioned that children as in other African conflicts were used as soldiers. More than 25000 children were separated from their families (ICRC, 2021). Because of the long war the return of refugees, including the refugee families with children, had to be done together with community reconstruction. To help, UNCHR (The UN Refugee Agency) has funded over 800 small-scale development projects for repairing roads, bridges and other infrastructure, improving basic community health and education needs. Returnees received sufficient food for 10 months and also basic supplies like plastic sheeting for temporary shelter. UNHCR also offered 190000 seed kits and over 900000 agricultural tools to help most returned refugees to get self-sufficient on their farms. The Agency offered emergency support, not long-term development and expended circa 1.2 billion USD in 2.5 years, the peak of number of repatriates was in 1994 and was circa 17000 refugees per week.

Soviet-Afghan War (1978-1989) has caused circa 6.2 million refugees, from which three fourths were women and children. To offer relief to refugees, including for families with children, Afghanaid, a British humanitarian and development organization implemented a series of projects. One of them – a tailor project – focused on employing disabled refugees to offer a source of income for their families and to provide refugee children with school uniforms and school bags, foam covers and waterproof canvas for transporting refrigeration boxes with vaccines that were used by the medical charities. At a later point the project became self-financed. The organization provided food, launching a cash-for-food program to convince refugees to stay in Afghanistan, also in poor regions

like Badakhshan distributed 25 tons of wheat from World Food Program, also seeds and fertilizers, when many Afghan families were forced to sell or kill their livestock. 3 from 4 of the wounded would die before they reached Pakistan border and was set up an ambulance service to speed up travel times and provide a lifeline to the injured. Afghanistan helped restore irrigation systems by cleaning and repairing irrigation canals, that brought water back to villages where supplies had been cut off by war damage. A major flood protection and irrigation program was implemented in Kunduz province, a flood protection wall was also built to prevent water seeping out due to the erosion of the river banks. More than 1200 families benefited from this project (Afghanaid, 2017).

Yugoslav Wars (1991-2001) have determined to flee their homes circa 2.4 million of people, making it one of the biggest refugee crises in Europe. In order to help displaced children, keeping into account the multiethnic background of refugees the support offered was based on the needs from neutral ground. Were implemented psycho-social projects (in Croatia, Serbia and Montenegro (before separation), Bosnia and Herzegovina) for refugees who did not know if they can ever return to their homes and had to rebuild their lives from the ground. They received group therapy workshops oriented towards psychological care and engaged in activities in community centers like knitting, sports, and painting. In Croatia was organized a children's theatre in 1994, where were held many performances at local refugee centers, NGO community centers, as well as the children's theatre itself, one of the most popular performances between the children being the parody version of "Little Red Riding Hood" that helped to offer a moment of forgetting their difficult life situations. Japan families themselves handed "dream bags" which were pouches made from handicraft work with toys and stationery to Yugoslavian children, with which sang, danced and played sports (JEN, 2016). Other help to refugee children came from mobile pharmacies in the reality of no public medical system due to political motives, from camps where they received sanitary goods, food. Refugee families from various ethnicities could benefit from programs oriented towards generating income like beekeeping, receiving livestock; from temporary housing; from possibility to access small scale loans without interest for carpentry, auto repairing, beekeeping, poultry farming, monumental masonry.

The 1991 Iraqi uprisings (1991) that were ethnic and religious uprisings generated approximately 1.8 million of people to flee as refugees (Yip & Sharp, 1993). Infant mortality and child malnutrition were acute issues, they were related to diarrhea in infants and younger children of Kurdish refugees, despite the rapid relief efforts, which determined the need of early and comprehensive management of sanitation and sources of water and also diarrhea control programs that could increase the habitual orientation towards relief through food and medication in times of an emergency during a refugee crisis.

Because of Somali Civil War (1991-present) that was associated with political turmoil, floods and food shortages fled Somalia near 1 million refugees. Such a long period of war has determined displacement of generations of people, many children even being born in refugee camps to which a life free from exile was never experienced. Attendance of school and getting the possibility to go to the college, laws and agreements for integration in local communities have been the focus of many international organizations in order to better the Somali refugee children future.

Great Lakes refugee crisis (1994-1996) was caused by the Rwandan genocide against the Tutsi. Circa 2.1 million of Rwandans, including many children, went to neighbor countries of the Great Lakes region. Children suffered from increased mortality due to malnutrition and unsanitary conditions that helped the spread of infectious diseases (like cholera) and also due to insufficient access to basic health services or medication. A dilemma in this crisis with regard to the refugees was to offer assistance or to repatriate

them voluntarily, because they could become killers in the genocide and also because of the violence and exploitation in the camps. The Hutu leaders that were exiled had control over the distribution of food and supply in the camps that determined the support of their allies and punishment of their enemies. NGOs like Save the Children established long-term education support for children, including training of teachers, building schools, lobbying for the abolishment of national school fees.

The next big refugee crisis was caused by the Iraq War (2003-2012) which gave rise to a number of circa 2.2 million refugees, of which half were children. To help children displaced by the war international organizations like UNICEF offered access to clean water for drinking, cooking meals and kits for personal hygiene for circa 800000 people; assisted the rehabilitation of facilities for water, sanitation and hygiene (in short, WASH) in hundreds of schools and in primary health care centers, which helped tens thousands of children; has given to more than 300000 children studying supplies; has trained more than 9000 teachers and also trained hundreds of humanitarian workers in prevention of gender-based violence; has vaccinated more than a half a million children against poliomyelitis and has reached hundreds of thousands of children and caregivers with child protection services and support.

Caused by the Syrian civil war the Syrian refugee crisis (2011-present) has emerged which caused circa 6.8 million refugees, of which children are circa one half of them. Humanitarian organizations and governments in order to help the vulnerable Syrian children established, albeit partly implemented such measures as: keeping the borders open, so children can have access to protection; helping the neighbor countries in order to tackle the supporting hundreds of thousands of refugee children in the spirit of international solidarity, including by building overstrained school systems, expansion of health services, offering support for local communities for their reassurance; stopping the recruitment and exploitation of children; expansion of the resettlement and the humanitarian admissions programs for the most vulnerable, seriously wounded children, unaccompanied and separated children after a careful examination of their best interests; provision of alternative financial schemes targeting refugee families so the children do not need to work; prevention of statelessness by addressing issues with lacking of documents like a birth certificate or other associated acts so children avoid being used in trafficking and exploitation and also for returning home.

Due to the violent South Sudanese Civil War (2011-2020) circa 4.3 million of refugees were displaced, of which circa 63% were children (UNCHR, 2020). Growing violence and deteriorating living conditions determined the situation to become a big emergency of humanitarian character. It can be considered the largest refugee crisis on the African continent. The refugees survived violent attacks, sexual assaults, also many of the children travel solely, have a weak constitution and suffer from malnourishment, during the rain seasons they suffer from floods, insufficient food and diseases. Circa 10% of children die before being 5 years old, a third of children are stunted because of malnourishment, two thirds of children are not frequenting school, 71% of girls of 15 years old and more are having issues with reading and writing. In addition to this, 5% of girls 15-19 years old are married and 1 in 16 gives birth. The majority of children live in camps and only 8% are accommodated in individual dwellings. In Kenyan camps children receive only primary education and in rainy seasons because of reduced road accessibility there are problems with sufficiency of supplies (fuel, cash money). In order to help these refugee children a few directions of support were established: focusing on offering the right to education, special training for teachers working with refugee children, boosting school attendance, protection of uprooted children, reunion of children with their families. In order to offer the right to education with the help of EU and UNICEF were built 69

classrooms, 15 latrine stances with running water for enhancement of hygiene and sanitation measures (like soap hand washing), with access to safe and clean water. Special training for teachers working with refugee children includes life skills for children for survival and thriving and for making informed decisions, teaching methodology, management of the school. Safety, sufficient water, good sanitation, trained teachers help to boost school attendance of refugee children. The protection of uprooted children is taking place through psychosocial support; age-appropriate support; construction of child-friendly spaces for playing, learning, making friends. With the help of UNICEF is taking place the reunion of children with their families or placement of refugee children in alternative family care.

The First Libyan Civil War (2011) has determined the displacement of circa 1 million of people. Children suffered from the unleashed chaos and violence, from being killed, maimed or recruited for fighting. Amidst war also was attacked the infrastructure on which children's wellbeing and survival depends, like nearly 30 health facilities damaged, 13 being forced to close, like schools which has put circa 200000 children out of the classroom. Under attacks were also the water systems determining the collapse of the waste management system augmenting the risk of waterborne diseases like cholera. Those children had reduced access to protection and essential services, but the conflict just augmented the risks they face. UNICEF and their partners have provided the vulnerable children and their families, including those that were held in detention centers, with support in accessing healthcare and nutrition, protection, education, water and sanitation, even though attacks against humanitarian and healthcare personnel undermined humanitarian efforts.

Venezuelan refugee crisis (2014-present) can be considered as the biggest refugee crises in American continent, the outcome of which are circa 6 million of refugees. As causes of this crisis can be considered the hyperinflation, violence, shortages of food and medicines due to political turmoil. According to UNICEF data, over 1.1 million of children fled Venezuela. Refugee children are having issues to regularize the status of their immigration that can increase their access to social protection and child protection, healthcare, development in early childhood, education, livelihood sustainability. Insufficient comprehensive public policies in host countries put children to increased risk of discrimination, violence, exploitation family separation. In order to support these children were created child-friendly spaces for play and rest, were distributed water filters, mosquito nets and hygiene kits for families, were created temporary learning centers in informal settlements and schools, have been done learning activities with mobile character, were trained teachers to offer emotional support, was offered clinical and mental health support, was provided cash transfers for families in need.

Rohingya genocide (2016-present) is the ongoing military persecution of Rohingya Muslims by the Myanmar military and police in Rakhine State, the northwestern region of the country, as a result of which circa 1.3 million refugees left their homes, half of them being children. According to the non-governmental organization Save the Children circa 75% of the babies are born in the unsafe and unsanitary bamboo shelters, near a third of children under 5 have had their growth stunted by lack of food, just 13% of boys and 2% of girls aged 15-18 are in school and also 40% of children are scared of dying or losing a family member to COVID-19. Thus, the NGO actively supports the refugee children through: offering staple food as rice, lentils and cooking oil regularly, creation of learning spaces for children, building safe spaces for learning and playing, integrating health and hygiene activities into education and training teachers in order to support mental health and psychological well-being of children. UNICEF offers to such children access to health care and sufficient quantity of safe water, mental health and psychosocial support, individual



learning materials and educational services, treatment for severe acute malnutrition, vaccination against measles.

Ukrainian refugee crisis (2022-present) due to the Russia's invasion of Ukraine has generated circa 5 million refugees (on April 2022), according to UNCHR data (UNCHR, 2022), of which circa 36.7% are children. Save the Children organization distributed food, water and hygiene kits to children refugees which arrived at the Romania-Ukraine border and also in reception centers. In Poland and Romania services included targeted assistance for unaccompanied and separated children, psychosocial support, and also access to legal services. In Poland which received more than 2.8 million people refugees gave to refugees cash assistance (165 USD per month for minimum 3 months plus additional circa 144 USD for each household member up to a maximum of 605 USD per month) for their needs. Moldova welcomed over 428500 refugees from Ukraine and became host of over 96000 Ukrainian refugees that came and stayed in Moldova, from which over 48000 are children. In Moldova refugee children were enrolled in school; were given access to online learning libraries and online platforms for study; businesses that specialized in children entertainment, education and sports offered free or cheap tickets; non-governmental organizations gave psychological support; informal groups of people with or without the help of NGOs offered baby food kits, food kits for children. Also, every refugee that is eligible is entitled to 2200 MDL/month (circa 119 USD). The grant can be renewed for refugees remaining in the country. Households and individuals with the following characteristics are eligible for the grant: household with one or more dependents; single-parent household; child-run household (under 18 years); household with an unaccompanied or separated child; household run by an elderly person (over 60 years old); household with one or more people with special needs. Each Moldovan household hosting 2 or more Ukrainian refugees can get a unique allowance of 3500 MDL (circa 190 USD). In Slovakia where more than 340000 refugees the government decided to offer an accommodation allowance for refugees, which will be paid by the state to hoteliers or households who accommodate refugees. Adults will have a stipend of €7 per night, and those under 15 years old will get €3.50.

### **3. Conclusions**

Across historical periods and across geographical regions refugee crises have been appeared in diverse sizes, with various issues and with different durations. Political turmoil, war and famine are between the most frequent factors, which are interconnected and don't exclude one another. The children had the biggest share of refugees in most cases. Lack of food, shelter, money, education, sanitation, social protection and of psychological support are between the most pressing issues refugee children have faced and are still currently facing in ongoing refugee crises. International organizations, governments, non-governmental organizations, businesses, religious organizations, single individuals have helped millions of refugee children across the globe through fundraising, offering food and medical kits, cash, building hard and soft economic and social infrastructure and other forms of support. With the social and scientific progress these types of support have grown in diversity and size. As a direction of further development in refugee crises is the digitalization, the intensification of which can be useful. An example would be the following - a refugee child can get a secure a digital identity that can democratize the access to services, to unlock a range of essential services that now are available in online format (financial, health-related services, educational services).

*Acknowledgement: This paper has been elaborated and funded in the framework of the Scientific Project for the period 2020-2023, registered in the State Register of projects in the field of science and innovation of the Republic of Moldova with the code 20.80009.0807.29 Proiect Program de Stat "Perfecționarea mecanismelor de aplicare a instrumentelor inovatoare orientate spre creșterea durabilă a bunăstării populației Republicii Moldova" / Project State Program "Improving the mechanisms for applying innovative instruments aimed at sustainably increasing the welfare of the population of the Republic of Moldova".*

#### References:

1. Aghanaid, 2017. Who We Are - Our History. [online] Available at: <<https://www.afghanaid.org.uk/1980s>> [Accessed 2 April 2022].
2. Bradburn, J., 2013. *Toronto Feature: Irish Potato Famine Refugees*. February 4, 2013, last edited on July 15, 2020. [online] Available at: <<https://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/toronto-feature-irish-potato-famine-refugees>> [Accessed 2 April 2022].
3. International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), 2021. *Mozambique: Over 40 years of humanitarian work*. 30 June 2021. [online] Available at: <<https://www.icrc.org/en/document/mozambique-over-40-years-humanitarian-work>> [Accessed 2 April 2022].
4. JEN, 2016. *Project Yugoslavia*. [online] Available at: <[https://www.jen-ngo.org/en/project/project\\_yugoslavia.php](https://www.jen-ngo.org/en/project/project_yugoslavia.php)> [Accessed 2 April 2022].
5. Reboul, J., 2014. *French emigration in Great-Britain in response to the French revolution: memories, integrations, cultural transfers*. Doctoral dissertation, University of Leeds.
6. UNCHR, 2020. *South Sudan Refugee Crisis*. [online] Available at: <<https://www.unrefugees.org/emergencies/south-sudan/>> [Accessed 2 April 2022].
7. UNCHR, 2022. *Operational Data Portal - Ukraine refugee situation*. [online] Available at: <<https://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/ukraine>> [Accessed 2 April 2022].
8. UNICEF, 2018. *UNICEF in Bangladesh - Our timeline*. [online] Available at: <<https://www.unicef.org/bangladesh/en/unicef-bangladesh>> [Accessed 2 April 2022].
9. UNICEF, 2021. *Worldwide, more than 33 million children have been forcibly displaced at the end of 2020*. [online] Available at: <<https://data.unicef.org/topic/child-migration-and-displacement/displacement/>> [Accessed 2 April 2022].
10. Yip, R. & Sharp, T.W., 1993. Acute Malnutrition and High Childhood Mortality Related to Diarrhea: Lessons From the 1991 Kurdish Refugee Crisis. *JAMA*, 270(5), pp. 587–590.