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**REGIONAL PROTECTION  
SUPPORT PROJECT IN BELARUS,  
MOLDOVA AND UKRAINE  
2009-2011**



Implemented by the  
United Nations High  
Commissioner for Refugees

**PRESS RELEASE**

**Handover ceremony of a new 4x4 vehicle to the Border Guard Service  
of the Republic of Moldova within the framework of the  
Regional Protection Support Project in Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine**

29 December 2009. Chisinau, Moldova. *For immediate release*

On 29 December 2009 the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) will handover to the Border Guard Service (BGS) of the Republic of Moldova a new Mitsubishi Outlander 4x4 vehicle (total value 18 900 USD).

The procurement and handover of the vehicle is a part of a project funded by the European Union (EU) and implemented by UNHCR entitled "Regional Protection Support Project (RPSP)" that includes activities in Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine. The project, with the budget for Moldova of 400 000 EUR, started on 1 April 2009 and will be carried out during two years. The main objective of the project is to contribute to ensuring that asylum-seekers and refugees in the region have access to protection in accordance with international refugee law standards, including resettlement to third countries, should adequate protection be unattainable for specific individual cases.

With a view to improving access of asylum-seekers to the asylum procedure, UNHCR signed on 16 September 2009, in Chisinau, the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Border Guard Service (BGS) of the Republic of Moldova, the Bureau for Migration and Asylum (BMA) under the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Moldova and the Law Center of Advocates NGO.

Under the MoU, UNHCR is providing support to asylum and border authorities in order to facilitate cooperation and improve the transfer of asylum applications and the referral of asylum-seekers from the Border Guard Service (BGS) to the Bureau for Migration and Asylum (BMA). A number of capacity building activities for government authorities and NGO are being implemented, including a training strategy that is addressing the need to improve the knowledge on asylum, migration and protection principles.

Under the memorandum of understanding, joint protection monitoring missions are carried out regularly in border areas in order to ensure that asylum seekers have access to the country and to asylum procedures.

In addition to protection monitoring, counseling and legal assistance is included in the agreement, as well as assistance for those who are not eligible for international protection and want to return back to their home country.

Moldova and Belarus acceded to the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees in 2001, followed by Ukraine in 2002. The countries make a lot of efforts to bring the national asylum systems in line with the international and European standards. The refugee legislation and asylum institutions are put in place. During the last decade about 7,000 persons from 42 countries got refugee status in the three countries.

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