



Regional Refugee Response  
for the Ukraine Situation



## Basic Needs Working Group Meeting – 26<sup>th</sup> August 2024

### Meeting Details

<b>Date</b>	26.08.2024
<b>Time</b>	15:00 pm
<b>Lead and Co-lead</b>	Andrea Cuisana, UNHCR – Almothana Hasan, ACTED
<b>Reporting</b>	Natalia Stelea
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### Agenda

1. RACs Update
2. Winterization activities updates
3. RRP 2025 planning updates
4. Food security SWG updates
5. DRC WASH committees in RACs and host community
6. Update from partners

### Information collection and relevant links

### Participants

<i>Andrea Cuisana, UNHCR</i>	<i>Ibrahim Marte, IOM</i>	<i>Stelea Natalia, UNHCR</i>
<i>Almothana Hasan, Acted</i>	<i>Eugen Cutie, DRC</i>	<i>Valentina Ungureanu, MAI</i>
<i>Rotaru Mihai, MLSP</i>	<i>Grigore Guzun, UNWFP</i>	<i>Aveen Jalal, NRC</i>
<i>Emmanuel Otika, UNHCR</i>	<i>Michel Gerges, World Vision</i>	<i>Hannah Ursol, PIN</i>
<i>Athina Nampalti, ACTED</i>	<i>Natasa Omerovic, IOM</i>	<i>Corina Andronic, UNICEF</i>
<i>Nicorici Diana, PIN</i>	<i>Putuntica Cristina, HelpAge</i>	



Summary of discussions and agreements/ action points

Agenda	Discussion	Agreements/ Actions		
<p>1. RACs Update</p> <p>• RACs consolidation - Group F</p>	<p>The Chairperson of the BNWG welcomed the participants and thanked them for attending both online and in person. The BNWG briefly presented the agenda and proceeded with the meeting. Currently 30 active RACs, one in a process of closure. Currently - 1533 accommodated in RACs, 122 PwD, 281 residents 60+, 56 children 0-2, 566 children 2-18 y.o</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="386 558 1587 1289"> <tr> <td data-bbox="386 558 968 1289"> <p>➤ <b>RAC UID 210, Causeni</b> - closed 01.07.2024</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2HH/3 individuals - Relocated to another RAC</li> <li>• 3HH/6 individuals - Private accommodation</li> <li>• 2HH/5 individuals - Departure from Moldova</li> </ul> <p>➤ <b>RAC UID 44, Costesti</b> – ongoing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 HH/2 ind. Relocation to another RAC</li> <li>• 3 HH/7 ind. Private accommodation</li> <li>• 1 HH/5 ind. Rental assistance</li> <li>• 2 HH/12 ind. Departure from Moldova</li> </ul> <p>➤ <b>RAC UID 117, Chisinau</b> -closed 23.08.2024</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 HH/3 ind. Rental Assistance</li> <li>• 3 HH/5 ind. Relocation to another RAC</li> <li>• 2 HH/2 ind. Relatives/Host families</li> <li>• 2 HH/6 ind. Departure from Moldova</li> </ul> </td> <td data-bbox="968 558 1587 1289"> <p>➤ <b>RAC UID 137, Copceac</b> - closed 01.08.2024</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2HH/2 individuals - Relocated to another RAC</li> <li>• 1HH/1 individual - Rental assistance</li> <li>• 2HH/2 individuals - Relatives/Host families</li> <li>• 2HH/4 individuals - Departure from Moldova</li> <li>• 1HH/1 individual – other (RESPIRO center)</li> </ul> <p>➤ <b>RAC UID 82, Chisinau</b> – closed 23.08.2024</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4HH/8 ind. relocation to another RAC</li> <li>• 2 HH/4 ind. hosted by family</li> <li>• 2 HH/5 ind. left for Germany</li> <li>• 11 HH/42 ind. Rental assistance</li> <li>• 1HH/4 ind. waiting for EU Air Transfer</li> <li>• 1 person deceased</li> </ul> </td> </tr> </table> <p>Challenges encounter during the closure process:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Refugees face a shortage of suitable rental homes in the village.</li> </ul>	<p>➤ <b>RAC UID 210, Causeni</b> - closed 01.07.2024</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2HH/3 individuals - Relocated to another RAC</li> <li>• 3HH/6 individuals - Private accommodation</li> <li>• 2HH/5 individuals - Departure from Moldova</li> </ul> <p>➤ <b>RAC UID 44, Costesti</b> – ongoing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 HH/2 ind. Relocation to another RAC</li> <li>• 3 HH/7 ind. Private accommodation</li> <li>• 1 HH/5 ind. Rental assistance</li> <li>• 2 HH/12 ind. Departure from Moldova</li> </ul> <p>➤ <b>RAC UID 117, Chisinau</b> -closed 23.08.2024</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 HH/3 ind. Rental Assistance</li> <li>• 3 HH/5 ind. Relocation to another RAC</li> <li>• 2 HH/2 ind. Relatives/Host families</li> <li>• 2 HH/6 ind. Departure from Moldova</li> </ul>	<p>➤ <b>RAC UID 137, Copceac</b> - closed 01.08.2024</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2HH/2 individuals - Relocated to another RAC</li> <li>• 1HH/1 individual - Rental assistance</li> <li>• 2HH/2 individuals - Relatives/Host families</li> <li>• 2HH/4 individuals - Departure from Moldova</li> <li>• 1HH/1 individual – other (RESPIRO center)</li> </ul> <p>➤ <b>RAC UID 82, Chisinau</b> – closed 23.08.2024</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4HH/8 ind. relocation to another RAC</li> <li>• 2 HH/4 ind. hosted by family</li> <li>• 2 HH/5 ind. left for Germany</li> <li>• 11 HH/42 ind. Rental assistance</li> <li>• 1HH/4 ind. waiting for EU Air Transfer</li> <li>• 1 person deceased</li> </ul>	
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<p>2. Winterization activities update</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Limited job opportunities in rural areas make integration challenging, even with offered guidance.</li> <li>• Feeling anxious to move to a different location in relocation cases, accept the proposed location at the last minute.</li> </ul> <p><b>RTG-</b> the main activity focuses on the RAC assessment requested by the Ministry. The aim is to identify which RACs will close in the short and mid-term and throughout 2025.</p> <p><b>The methodology used:</b> Key indicators were identified to develop an indicator matrix, with input from RTG partners. The goal was to determine the essential questions for assessing whether a RAC should remain open or close. Six dimensions were established, including demographics, security, and food security, among others. Based on these dimensions, a rating questionnaire was developed and completed by RTG partners and the MLSP to create a scoring system.</p> <p>The RAC assessment will be carried out by a MFT consisting of representatives from IOM, WV, ACTED, and MLSP. Two sets of questionnaires will be administered: one for RAC managers and another through FGD with refugees. Once the data is analyzed by IM colleagues, the results will be shared with BNWG, RTG partners, and MLSP.</p> <p>A nine-module training package for RAC managers has been finalized, covering topics such as site management, protection, and food provision, with support from IOM, WFP, ACTED, DRC and UNHCR. The focus in the coming months will be on designing the training package, with the aim of beginning implementation by the last quarter of the year ToT, initially involving the social assistance in the RACs, followed by training sessions for the RAC managers.</p> <p>An overview of the winter activities collected through interagency submissions was presented and the main activities planned for the winter season: support provided for both refugees and HC.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Improvement of collective sites:</b> One partner will cover 24 facilities/sites, estimated budget \$360,000.</li> </ol>	
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<p>3.RRP 2025 planning updates</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. <b>Improvement of mid-to-long-term accommodation</b> – two partners involved, reach up to 800 beneficiaries, estimated budget about - \$1.5 million, a quarter to a third of the funds have been secured, with more fundraising needed. Targeted population: refugees – 590, HC – 210 individuals.</li> <li>3. <b>Support for community infrastructure improvement:</b> six partners will reach over 4,300 people, estimated budget about - \$2 million, only 50% funded. Targeted population: refugees -3.250, HC – 1071 individuals.</li> <li>4. <b>NFI distribution:</b> nine partners will cover at least 36,792 people, with an estimated budget -\$1.7 million. NFI distribution, most of the budget is covered, but a small amount still needs to be raised to reach 100%. Targeted population: refugees - 22.451, HC - 14.371</li> </ol> <p>There is a need for coordination among partners, particularly in NFI distribution, to avoid overlap and ensure balanced coverage across areas. A file with detailed data will be shared for further review, and any changes will be captured as partners proceed with implementation.</p> <p><b>Planning figures for 2025-2026:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For 2025, the target is 100,000 individuals.</li> <li>• For 2026, the target is 90,000 individuals.</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Refugees who fled to Moldova due to the conflict or persecutions, asylum seekers, vulnerable groups such as children, the elderly, Roma refugees, and those with disabilities, as well as national institutions and service providers.</li> <li>- Affected vulnerable Moldovans, unemployed, children at risk, elderly, GBV survivors etc</li> <li>- National institutions and service providers: Gov agencies, local authorities, civil society and NGOs providing support for refugees.</li> <li>- Moldovan society at large.</li> </ul> <p>The Theory of Change workshop clarified the vision and impact of the 2025-2026 RRP and aligned it with the national government’s plan.</p>	<p>Click below to update your <a href="#">BNWG 2024-2025 Winterization Plan</a></p>
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The 2025-2026 Refugee Response Plan (RRP) structure is divided into two main pillars: **Protection** and **Inclusion**. Each pillar focuses on specific areas of concern for refugees and host communities.

**1. Protection:**

This pillar addresses legal and safety concerns for refugees. It is organized into two main areas:

- **Legal Framework, Legal Status, Access to Territory, Asylum, and Justice:** Ensures refugees have access to necessary legal protections and pathways for asylum and justice.
- **Inclusive Protection Services:** Focuses on the availability and accessibility of protection services for refugees, ensuring that they are inclusive and consider the most vulnerable populations.

The working groups (WG) and task forces (TF) supporting the protection pillar include Prot. WG, AT TF, GBV SWG, CP SWG.

**2. Inclusion:**

This pillar promotes socio-economic integration and access to essential services for refugees and vulnerable host community members. It is divided into four main areas:

- **Inclusive Social Protection Systems, Economic Empowerment, and Labor Market Integration:** Focuses on the integration of refugees into social protection systems and the labour market.
- **Equitable Access to Quality and Inclusive Education:** Ensures refugees, especially children, have access to education services.
- **Equitable Access to Quality Healthcare:** Aims to provide necessary healthcare services to refugees, with a focus on inclusivity and quality.

The working groups supporting the inclusion pillar include: BNWG, Socio-Economic Integration and Livelihoods Working Group (SEIL WG), CASH W, Education WG, Health WG.

**2025-2026 RRP Planning Calendar Overview:**

1. **Submission of Planning Templates:**



<p>4. Food security SWG updates</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Date:</b> 20 September (for Activities and Indicators) and 27 September (for Full Template)</li> <li>2. <b>RRP Project Alignment and Submission Meeting</b> - October 3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Focal Point:</b> The IAC team with support from sector leads.</li> </ul> </li> <li>3. <b>Project Submission:</b> 4 October - 15 October <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Focal Point:</b> Partners will submit their respective projects within this timeframe.</li> </ul> </li> <li>4. <b>Ballpark Figures (GHO)</b> - 17 October <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Focal Point:</b> The IAC team will work in consultation with sectors.</li> </ul> </li> <li>5. <b>Detailed Planning:</b> 21 October - 21 November <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Focal Point:</b> Sectors, with the support of the IAC team</li> </ul> </li> <li>6. <b>RRP Country Chapter (First Draft)</b> - 15 November <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Focal Point:</b> The IAC Team, in consultation with sectors.</li> </ul> </li> <li>7. <b>RRP Chapter Review and Submission</b> - December <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Focal Point:</b> The IAC team, in consultation with sectors</li> </ul> </li> <li>8. <b>RRP/HRP Joint Launch</b> - January 2025 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Focal Point:</b> The Regional RCF</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>The Food Security Sub-Working Group provided an update for the month of July with the following activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Hot meals in RACs:</b> WFP through HelpAge, provided hot meals in 31 RACs, number of refugees assisted - 1,770. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Budget:</b> MDL 8,091,085</li> </ul> </li> <li>2. <b>Hot meals and snack kits at Palanca and Otaci border-crossing points:</b> WFP through ACF, 373 refugees were assisted during this period. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Budget:</b> MDL 42,382</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>WFP raised a recurring issue regarding low salaries for RAC staff. While some salary compensation is provided by WFP through partners, many RACs remain uncovered, and a solution needs to be found. Currently, salaries are based on the number of accredited refugees in the center rather than a fixed rate, despite staff working 8-9 hours a day.</p>	
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<p>5.DRC WASH committees in RACs and host community.</p>	<p>The MLSP confirmed that salaries for June have been paid and are awaiting the financial report to proceed with additional fund transfers. Together with the Red Cross, MLSP has funds to cover expenses until October, but additional funding sources have yet to be secured. The Ministry of Finance has not allocated funds for RAC operations in the 2025 budget.</p> <p>Due to a lack of resources, the funding mechanism, which bases salaries on the number of accredited refugees, cannot be changed. The staff in RACs are employed on service provision contracts and are not full-time employees, as full-time staff is not required in smaller centers. These staff members are contracted by the founders of the centers, not directly by the ministry. Further clarification on the financial mechanism will be provided by MLSP after consulting the ministry's financial department.</p> <p>UNHCR requested from MLSP that the financial mechanism be shared to further seeking a solution with partners.</p> <p><b>DRC:</b> The project was initiated in partnership with UNICEF in September 2022 and is scheduled to conclude in September 2023. The primary goal is to improve Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) services for refugees, particularly children and women, to ensure their protection and safety in Moldova. The project specifically <b>targeted 12,000 individuals</b>, (8,600 women and 3,400 children), across multiple regions in Moldova.</p> <p>Structure of <i>WASH committee comprised 3-4 members</i>, with representation from both the refugee community and RAC staff, where members - developed an action plan, to maintenance cleanliness in WASH facility, including monthly clean-up events. The WASH committees served as a link between the refugees and RAC management, ensuring that hygiene supplies were replenished when necessary and that any issues with facilities were addressed promptly.</p> <p>The committee members were responsible for monitoring the cleanliness and functionality of WASH facilities, organizing regular cleaning events, and managing the distribution of hygiene supplies.</p>	
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	<p><b>Proposed actions to improve and sustain WASH services to Refugees and vulnerable HC</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improved and sustained WASH services to Ukrainian Refugees and vulnerable host communities by integrated WASH and Social Protection &amp; Community-based activities, public health promotion with cultural sensitivity embodiment, waste management, comprehensive approach to addressing GBV in the context of WASH</li> <li>• Enabled use of safe and appropriate sanitation facilities in refugee accommodations in Moldova</li> <li>• Enhanced availability of data to strengthen protection monitoring and accountability to affected populations in Moldova including local population.</li> </ul> <p><b>Different activities were conducted throughout the project:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Interactive workshops</i> on WASH to involve the community in discussions and hands-on activities.</li> <li>• Sessions that foster <i>community involvement in WASH</i> decision-making, ensuring ownership and relevance.</li> <li>• Establishing <i>feedback mechanisms</i> for continuous dialogue and adapting strategies based on community input.</li> <li>• <i>Training sessions</i> to equip community members with skills and knowledge for sustainable WASH practices.</li> <li>• Culturally tailored engagement sessions to respect local customs and <i>enhance communication effectiveness</i>.</li> </ul> <p>Hygiene promotion sessions were conducted by DRC's hygiene promotion officers, including medical professionals, to raise awareness about essential hygiene practices.</p> <p>Hygiene kits, which included soap, sanitary products, and cleaning supplies, were distributed to the beneficiaries. Over the course of the project, around 6,000 kits were distributed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 95 sessions were held across 23 districts, with each session lasting 30 minutes to 1.5 hours.</li> <li>- 28 sessions were conducted to engage the community in discussions about hygiene practices and facility management.</li> </ul>	
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	<p>Renovation and improvements were made to WASH facilities in several RACs, including the installation of additional showers, toilets, and handwashing stations. Notably, centers in northern and southern Moldova received significant upgrades to meet the growing demand for services.</p> <p><b>The project focused on 23 districts out of a total of 32 in the Republic of Moldova:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Northern Region: Bălți, Edineț, Rîșcani, Drochia, Dondușeni, Glodeni, Ocnița, Soroca</li> <li>• Central Region: Chișinău, Anenii Noi, Ialoveni, Orhei, Strășeni, Călărași, Telenești, Cimișlia, Ungheni, Hîncești, Criuleni</li> <li>• Southern Region: Cahul, Căușeni, Ștefan Vodă, Palanca</li> </ul> <p><b>Challenges:</b> constant movement of refugees between RACs. Some refugees were reluctant to participate, in centers with dedicated cleaning staff reduced the motivation among the refugees.</p> <p>The project is concluding in mid-September, and DRC will work with partners to ensure a smooth handover of responsibilities, particularly concerning WASH committee management and hygiene kit distribution.</p> <p>DRC has committed to sharing its methodology for establishing and running WASH committees with other humanitarian actors, to facilitate the replication of successful models across additional RACs.</p> <p>During the meeting, participants emphasized the importance of maintaining WASH Committees in Refugee Accommodation Centers (RACs) to manage hygiene and cleaning items effectively. The discussion also focused on the distribution of hygiene kits, with a request for streamlined communication to avoid involving multiple actors. It was noted that one organization would oversee cleaning supplies until the end of the year, after which another would need to take over.</p> <p>The Chairperson announced that future Basic Needs meetings would be moved to the first Monday of each month, starting in October, for better coordination with other working groups.</p>	
	<p><b>Next meeting:</b> 7th October</p>	