INTER AGENCY UPDATE (26-28 March 2022)

MOLDOVA REFUGEE RESPONSE

Key figures

385,222 Individuals arrived from Ukraine to Moldova between 24.02.2022 – 28.03.2022

65% are women and **36%** are children

91% are Ukrainian nationals

9% are third country nationals

97,922 refugees remaining in Moldova as of 28th March 2022

Refugee emergency management and challenges was touched upon during the official high-level meetings of **WHO Regional Director for Europe, Dr Hans Kluge with President Maia Sandu, Prime Minister Natalia Gavrilita,** Speaker of the Parliament Igor Grosu, Minister of Health, Dr Ala Nemerenco as well as HE Mr Janis Mazeiks, Ambassador of the EU Delegation in the Republic of Moldova.

492 refugees' families benefited from UNHCR cash-based assistance. UNHCR is implementing the programme with it partners Catholic Relief Services (CRS), Caritas Moldova and Diakonia.

WFP's cash-based transfers programme for host population in Moldova started on 28 March. The first enrolment took place in Chisinau via Catholic Relief Services partner.

As of March 29, **some 34,780 individuals** moved through Moldova supported by Government of Moldova, UNHCR and IOM, facilitated onward movements of "Green Corridors."

450 individuals moved to Austria and Germany facilitated by UNHCR and IOM under the EU solidarity framework.

From Commission for Emergency Situations, chaired by Honourable Prime Minister Natalia Gavrilita.

- The Labour and Social Protection Ministry will cover the costs of the temporary refugee placement centres (MMPS) and Ministry of Finance making the provision for it.
- From 29 March onwards, the National Social Assistance Agency (ANAS) will authorize new temporary refugee placement centers provided that existing ones are occupied at least 90%.
- Establish the presence of the World Food Programme (WFP) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in Moldova.

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MAIN SECTOR AND KEY UPDATES

1. Protection

- The Protection Working Group (PWG) is chaired by UNHCR with the Ministry of the Interior (Bureau for Migration and Asylum) as honoured participants. Members participating in last meeting include AAR Japan, Caritas, Clear Global, CRS, CWS, ECHO, Handicap International, HelpAge, Hope4, INTERSOS, IOM, IRC, LCA, Mercy Corps, NRC, OHCHR, OSCE, OXFAM, Palladium, Plan International, SDC, SHA, TdH, UNDP, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, USAID, War Child.
- PWG, at the consensus of members, established three functional task forces: Disabilities, led by local NGO Keystone, AAP (data collection) and Referral Pathways Task Forces.
- In addition to the PWG joint work, PWG members are collaborating on major protection initiatives including IOM / UNHCR collaboration on air transfers and UNHCR / OHCHR protection monitoring at borders, with a common site monitoring tool and data feedback, including smaller border crossings in the south highly relevant to contingency planning, as well as irregular crossing through the Transnistria region.

2. Child Protection

- Three Blue Dots at Otaci, Palanca and Moldexpo have supported over 3,100 people (including 1,621 children). Four additional ones are under establishment. In Transnistria region, approximately 80 families were supported.
- UNICEF together with partners is boosting child protection capacities at border crossings, placing designated full-time protection and psychosocial specialist at two major checkpoints.
- UNHCR has entered into partnership with Ave Copiii to support the local authorities on child protection issues related to refugees.
- Hunger Action In collaboration with local authorities, established child-friendly spaces in Stefan Voda municipalities.

3. Prevention and response to Gender based violence

- The GBV sub-working group co-chaired by UNHCR and UNFPA organized a GBV referral pathway workshop with 20 participants with strong participation from local organizations (50% from national non-governmental organizations) as well as UN and INGOs.

- During the GBV sub-working group, UNHCR introduced 29 members (96% female) to the Protection Site-level Monitoring Tool (part of the Safety Audit package) and UNCR Emergency Safety Audit package. The tool is currently being used systematically by UNHCR and UNHCR partners.
- UNHCR in collaboration with Moldova for Peace, La Strada and IOM developed and disseminated a flyer with Anti-trafficking messages and key hotlines to be used for food and NFI distributions kits by Moldova for Peace based on the partner's request. 1000 were distributed with kits this weekend, 1000 more during the coming days, reaching approximately 8000 refugees.
- UNHCR trained 37 cash enrolment staff (76% female) from Caritas and Diaconia on safe disclosure and referral of survivors / victims of gender-based violence, trafficking in persons and PSEA.
- A joint UNHCR-UNICEF-UNFPA site assessment was conducted to determine the risk of GBV and CP in potential refugee accommodation centers. The visit was coordinated through refugee response coordination mechanisms, and recommendations were made to help improve the mainstreaming of GBV risk reduction across all sectors, as well as to identify the needs of GBV response services.

4. Information Management (IM)

- The Information management team has successfully established a page for Moldova on the Operational Data Portal. 35 documents have already been uploaded, and partners have been requested to share documents and publications.
- The IM group oversees data collection for the 5W and has created a dashboard on Power BI. They have met with members from all sectors under the refugee coordination structure and briefed them on IM initiatives.
- The IM group has launched a data collection exercise called the "Moldova Assessment Registry" to compile a list of assessments currently underway or planned in Moldova. This is necessary to identify the gaps.
- The Moldova page on the Operational Data Portal has been established. Individual page will be created for each working group, as well as a calendar of meetings, upload documents. Link to page [Situation Ukraine Refugee Situation (unhcr.org)]

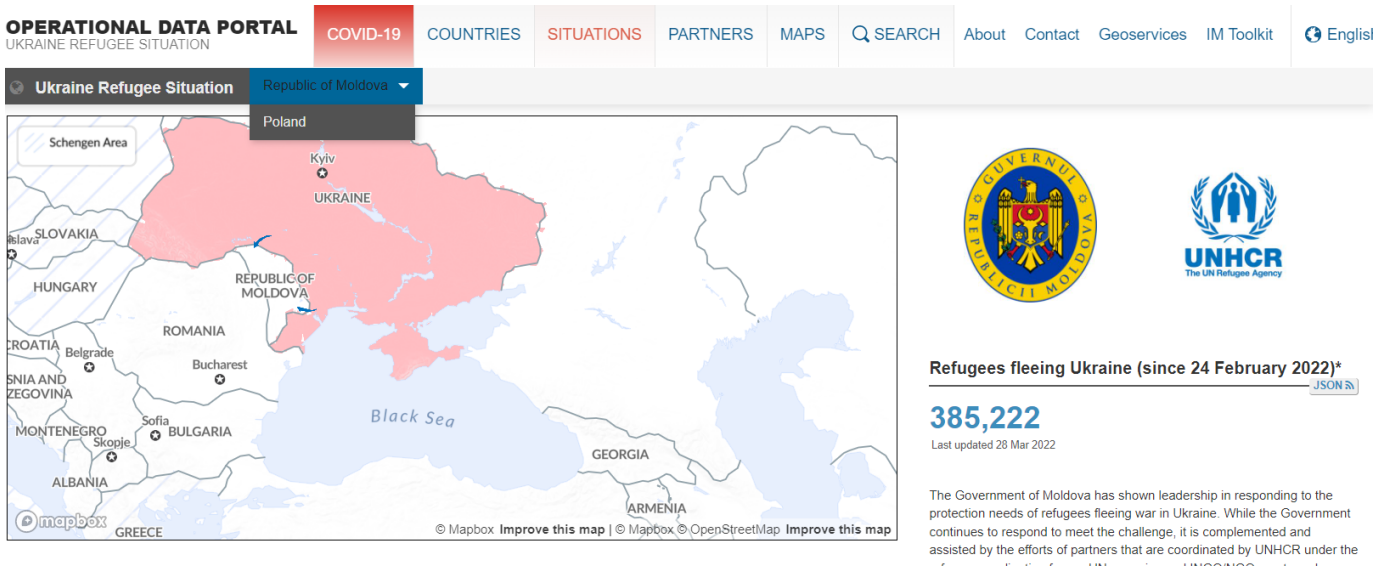

Photo: WHO Moldova

5. Health and Nutrition

- The 5th Inter Agency Health Working group meeting was conducted by the MoH and WHO with focus on the main strategic actions and health care services delivered for the refugees. The follow-up bilateral meetings were addressed the issues on health sector assessments coordination.
- WHO and the MoH have discussed the Procedures on secured medical evacuation pathways, management pf patients with life-threatening medical conditions and chronic diseases requiring specialized care to EU countries
- The workshop (on-line) for 400 HCWs was conducted to improve the data reporting on refugee health status and type of services accessed was conducted. The e-platform to ensure standardized data reporting and processing was presented by the WHO.
- 12 Emergency Medical Teams (EMT) were deployed to the Refugee centers across the country and the EMT Minimum data set (MDS) reporting was established. The supervisory visits of the EMTs in RACs in Chisinau (MoldExpo, Dormitory) and North part (Briceni, Ocnita) was conducted.
- The WHO with the MoH is coordinating the Mental Health and Psychosocial Support technical activities, MHPSS technical reference group has been established, meeting biweekly. The draft of the action plan is coordinating with UN national stakeholders and international partners.
- The WHO and the MoH continued the rapid assessments of the health services available to refugees. The Briceni and Ocnita District Hospitals were visited, and the capacity to manage mass casualties was estimated. Follow-up visits to health services at points of entry in North Part and the nearby refugee camp were conducted to assess surge capacity and strengthening needs.
- UNICEF distributed 40 basic medication kits in the RACs, benefiting around 14,000 children. UNICEF also launched a mother and child room in Palanca and distributed over 10,000 fliers promoting mother and child health and nutrition benefits.
- UNODC reported that 9 male and 2 female refugee patients from Ukraine have been enrolled into methadone and buprenorphine treatment in Chisinau and in Balti. 2 patients have been hospitalized for more complex treatment.

6. Accommodation and Transportation

- UNHCR/REACH dashboard on RAC management was shared (24.03) with Government and partners.

- As chair of the Moldova Food security sub-working Group, from 21 to 26 March, WFP and Cooperating Partners – with signed FLAs – have reached 5,913 individuals with hot meals (3 per day) in 29 different localities/regions and 94 centers.
- Based on needs assessment in fifteen RACs, UNICEF provided baby kits for 211 children, hygiene and dignity supplies to Palanca and Calaraseuca, benefitting 15,600 adults (10,200 children), blankets to 5,000 people in four RACs and clothing to 3,960 children in Chisinau.
- Action Against Hunger procured 200 cleaning kits, 200 Family kits and 200 Baby kits to be distributed to refugees and hosting families in Stefan Voda region starting the coming week. Two latrines have been installed at the Palanca transportation hub, and a daily cleaning service has been established for all of the site's latrines. Provision of ten baby kits to refugee families residing in small accommodation centers in Chisinau, in collaboration with the local NGO Concordia.
- Based on assessed needs for food assistance, 70 RACs are now covered by WFP and partners (ACF, ACTED, CRS, Help Age, WCK)
- After completing an assessment of repair needs at RACs (doors, windows, disabled ramps, plumbing, and electricity), UNHCR/ACTED began work.

7. Education

- UNICEF has partnered with a new non-governmental organization to increase the number of adolescents receiving non-formal education from 5,000 to 10,000 across four centers.

8. Supply and Logistics

- As of March 29, UNHCR currently maintains a stockpile of 3000 family tent, 3003 winterisation kits, 9456 HT blankets, 4854 sleeping bags in its warehouse in Moldova.
- WFP conducted visits to 11 border crossing points (BCP) with both Romania and Ukraine to assess borders and cargo capacity throughout Moldova.
- WFP Moldova dispatched two trucks of cargo consisting of non-food items (NFIs) arriving from Portugal on 25 March, from the Varta Government warehouse, which were delivered to four destinations in Chisinau.
- WFP received a truck with 20mt of NFIs contracted from DHL received at Vatra, arriving from Leuceni (Romanian Border). WFP expects the volume of dispatches to increase to 20-30 dispatches per day and is recruiting additional local staff to face the increase in demand.
- The WHO procured and delivered to the primary and hospital care facilities and points of entry for the refugees: 300,000 SARS-CoV-2 Rapid antigen tests, 55 trauma kits and 10 trauma backpacks, 24 kits for non-communicable diseases treatment.
- A new batch of personal protective equipment, disinfectants and medical devices has been contracted by WHO to enhance refugees' triage in placement centers such as to increase health safety environment among them and to support the health system to ensure proper IPC measures
- IFRC received a shipment of 2000 blankets, and 600 hygiene kits. Volunteers from Moldovan Red Cross will help to get the aid into the hands of those who need it the most.

MOLDOVA REFUGEE INTER-AGENCY COORDINATION