



MOLDOVA | 5 -9 May INTER-AGENCY UPDATE n. 15

Photo: UNFPA Moldova


456,947
Refugees who
arrived in
Moldova since
24 February


93,233
Refugees
remaining in
Moldova

63% FEMALES


51% CHILDREN

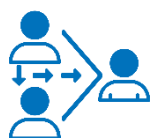

HIGHLIGHTS

ROMA TASK FORCE: SUPPORTING VULNERABLE GROUPS AT RISK



A Roma Task Force was constituted under the Protection Working Group to promote the effective inclusion of Roma community in the refugee response in Moldova. Main protection risks faced by Roma community members include discrimination by host communities, barriers to access health and education, access to documentation and lack of cultural awareness in the planning and implementation of humanitarian activities which may lead to marginalization and stigmatization. The task force brings together humanitarian actors and the authorities with Roma human rights organizations and members of the Roma community to identify risks, unmet needs and ensure an inclusive response.

INTER-AGENCY REFERRAL PACKAGE



The Protection Working Group has established a referral pathways taskforce to strengthen the multi-sector referral systems and pathways. The task force launched the inter-agency referral package that includes a guidance note on protection response and definitions, directory of service providers, and a common standard referral form. The Moldova Inter-Agency Referrals Package can be accessed here [Document - Ukraine situation: Republic of Moldova - Emergency Inter-Agency Referrals Package \(unhcr.org\)](#)

SECTOR HIGHLIGHTS

This section brings you on the ground coverage of activities by partners

Protection

- UNHCR launched a protection profiling exercise in collaboration with REACH, INTERSOS, and LCA. Interviews with refugees are being conducted by partners in various locations across the country, with the results being fed into national and regional dashboards.
- Following a request of Social Protection Authorities in Balti on supporting local coordination efforts, UNHCR – together with partners – will assist the authorities to put in place a local coordination structure in the locality.
- UNHCR convened the sixth weekly coordination meeting in Otaci. A major protection concern shared by members is current restrictions for Ukrainians leaving the country with documents other than Travel Documents. The situation has been temporarily solved by a decision of the Committee on Exceptional Situations.
- UNHCR partner Law Center of Advocates (LCA) continued daily monitoring of seven border crossing points in Palanca, Otaci, Cahul, Giurgiulesti, Sculeni, Basarbeasca and Leuseni. LCA works with authorities and refugees to assess and promote access to the territory and to the asylum system and provide individual counselling and legal support.
- Between 5- 9 May, a total of 1,243 calls from refugees and host community members were received by the Green Line (0800 800 11) managed by UNHCR. The helpline has 10 staff and is open all days between 8 am and 5 pm. Calls to the helpline are free of cost.
- Between 5 - 8 May, ACTED distributed 103 free pre-paid SIM cards at the Palanca border crossing, and 68 sim cards at Otaci BCP to promote connectivity and access to information by refugees arriving in Moldova.
- UN Women donated three laptops and three smartphones to the Congress of Local Authorities of Moldova (CLAM) to support

their Refugee Crisis Response Unit, which is based in Chisinau.

Gender-Based violence

- On 5 May, the GBV sub-working group met under the co-leadership of UNHCR and UNFPA to start the process for the development of GBV Standard Operating Procedures (SOP). The meeting was attended by 31 individuals from government institutions, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), including local women's organizations. UNHCR Global GBV expert briefed the group on the process of developing GBV SOP. During the meeting, the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection's Department of Gender expressed support for the development of the document. SOPs will be based on existing national GBV protocols and will emphasize the importance of responding to incidents of GBV faced by refugees in the current humanitarian context. Moldova will be one of two countries to pilot the development of GBV SOPs for refugee response contexts. During the meeting, ActionAid also presented the results of their recent Gender and Protection assessment for Moldova, which identified key risks and the need for a more inclusive response for groups at higher risk (for example Roma people, LGBTI, girls and elderly persons).
- UNICEF is collaborating with UNFPA and other GBV actors to strengthen GBV survivor-centered services. UNICEF is also increasing the integration of GBV prevention and risk mitigation at the Blue Dots.

Child Protection

- UNHCR and UNICEF hosted the eighth Child Protection Sub Working Group (CPSWG), with participation of over 40 participants. The working group discussed the sector workplan's next steps, including key areas, and reviewed and validated the child protection question for the multi-sector needs assessment

(coordination, capacity building, assessment, fundraising, reporting, advocacy, and technical support).

- UNICEF provided technical support to the development of the template for rapid assessment of the best interests of children at risk. The Ministry of Labour and Social Protection has approved the template.
- The Child Protection Sub-Working Group is developing a Child Protection Capacity Self-Assessment for all organizations, agencies and government departments involved in the Ukrainian emergency response to identify the current capacity gaps among child protection actors and to prioritize technical trainings to improve the quality of child protection services and interventions.
- UNICEF and partners trained eight youth workers to deliver adolescent-friendly services and support at Blue Dot in Palanca.
- Twelve Ukrainian unaccompanied children were assisted by CDA to access specialized child protection services and support.

Supply and Logistics

- During the reporting period, UNHCR received two shipments of core relief items from Global stockpile. 11,600 jerry cans, 5,472 thermal blankets, 5,517 kitchen sets, 1,150 plastic tarpaulin, 7,000 solar lamps were received from Dubai Global stockpile. 7,920 blankets, 6,000 jerry cans, 2,652 kitchen sets, 900 plastic tarpaulin, 1,536 solar lamp, and 16,128 blankets from Amman Global Stockpile. In addition, UNHCR received a shipment of five generators (Number- capacity: 2 - 30KVA, 1- 100 KVA, 1- 150 KAV, 1 -230 KVA). These items are stored in the UNHCR warehouse in Moldova.
- ACTED continued to manage two warehouses, one for the Government and the other to receive and dispatch orders received from the UA Help. During the reporting period, ACTED dispatched supplies to the following village and town halls in Sociteni, Vasieni, Capaclia, Drochia and Vasileuti.

Accommodation and Transportation

- UNHCR is collaborating with IOM, WFP, ACTED, and CRS on the strategic priority for transitional accommodation and the development of criteria for assessing the suitability of housing in host communities. The strategy builds upon the existing local structures and supports the cash programme rollout. In summary, the strategy will work with local partners and volunteer groups to establish committees within the communities to identify host families with space and capacity to host. Once spaces are determined suitable for accommodating refugees, the host families will be assisted through partners. The strategy builds on the existing network of Moldova for Peace, which refugees rely on and contact when they need assistance locating housing. This strategy will be piloted in several Raions and the Chisinau neighbourhood.
- UNHCR and IOM in collaboration with Local Public Authorities are developing plans to improve bus hub in Otaci BCP. Work is underway for the site improvement at Palanca bus hub.
- UNHCR has completed the site assessment for the 25 standby RACs in the context of contingency planning. UNHCR will work with National Agency for Social Protection and partners (UNICEF, IOM, CRS, ACTED, Solidarities) to rehabilitate (minor repairs and provision of essential services) the structures in the coming week. These structures are intended to be used as transit centres to respond to a situation of mass influx of refugees. UNHCR is providing financial, technical and coordination support under this exercise.
- IOM, UNHCR and ACTED continue to provide transport to refugees to travel from Palanca to Husi, Romania. Between 5-8 May, 324 people were transported. In total, 10,243 people were transported since 24 February.
- UN Women delivered and installed 202 curtains at Moldexpo RAC to ensure privacy, dignity and safety for women and children.
- Between 5-8 May, IOM conducted pre-embarkation checks for 197 refugees and third-country nationals (TCN). 3,443 people have received pre-embarkation check (PEC) support

from IOM at the Palanca Transport Hub, 771 people received PEC support before their departure to Germany, Austria, and France, and 406 third-country nationals have received PEC support before their return flights to Azerbaijan.

Education

- UNICEF organized a training on child-centred methodologies, inclusive education, bullying and violence prevention, and building resilience and social cohesion skills, reaching 100 educators and teachers (both Moldovan and Ukrainian). So far, 700 teachers out of the targeted 900 have been trained. The teachers will partake in the Day Summer Camps to organize various non-formal activities, including coverage of learning loss caused by COVID pandemics and the war in Ukraine.
- UNICEF, in partnership with Football Federation in Moldova, organized sports activities for children and their parents within the Lukoil Placement Centre, reaching 46 refugee boys and three refugee girls from refugee placement centres.
- UNICEF is organizing a series of four weekends of UPSHIFT boot camps in May aimed at developing 20 youth-led start-ups with participation from Ukrainian refugees. 120 Moldovan and Ukrainian adolescents participated in the UPSHIFT boot camp at the Municipal Youth Centres in TohaTeen Centre (Chisinau, Ciocana sector), Cahul and Balti.
- UNICEF, in partnership with the Chisinau Youth Mobile team at Patria Luckoil Refugee Center, FIDES - Education Center, Lyceums "Gloria", "Ivan Neciui-Levitchi" and "Dmitrie Cantemir" reached 210 young people through the delivery of non-formal education programs.
- UNICEF has launched a U-report poll on the integration of Ukrainian children and young refugees into communities. A total of 500 teenagers responded. 68 per cent said the school is prepared to integrate Ukrainian refugees. The poll is still open.

Cash-based intervention

- As of 9 May, 42,807 refugees were enrolled and given bank cards and second tranche of payment for 4,237 is processed by UNHCR. Eight cash centres remain operational. 92 per cent of those receiving UNHR cash assistance are female-headed households.
- As of 5 May, 8,205 households have been registered for the cash assistance programme for Moldovan families hosting refugees; 6,217 eligible households have received cash transfers via Western Union (including Chisinau). Please see the [WFP cash transfers programme for Moldovan host communities dashboard for more information](#).
- Between 4 April - 4 May, the WFP hotline received 1,254 calls. Callers are mainly female (75 per cent), with an average age of 35 and residing in Chisinau. Most cases (88 per cent) involve people seeking information on how to apply for assistance.
- On 5 May, IOM cash teams assisted 236 Ukrainian refugee households in Ceadir-Lunga, Gagauzia's Autonomous Territorial Unit. IOM CBI provides voucher assistance to refugees and TCNs in Moldova. To date, 3,154 vouchers have been distributed to 3,139 refugee and 15 TCN families in 15 Moldovan districts (Anenii Noi, Chisinau, Cimisia, Criuleni, Dubrasi, Drochia, Ialoveni, Hancesti, Glodeni, Falesti, Balti, Roscani, Sangerei, Telenesti and Ungheni).

Health and Nutrition

- The Primary Health Care Assessment Tool was developed through participatory approaches led by WHO in collaboration with UN Agencies. A series of technical working groups, including the UNFPA, UNICEF, UNAIDS, NGOs, and other organizations, agreed on the assessment tool's content and methodology. On 6 May, the Primary Health Care Assessment Tool was piloted in several primary health care facilities in Stefan-Voda and Causeni.
- The hospitals in Stefan-Voda and Causeni have both been assessed by WHO, in terms of the

hospital Mass Casualty Management (MCM) contingency Plan's development and operationalization.

- The Primary Health Care rapid assessment tool was developed jointly by UNAIDS, UNICEF, and UNFPA with guidance from the WHO. Its purpose is to provide support for the Ministry of Health. The assessment will make it possible to determine the essential services that need to be provided to refugees in terms of primary health care as well as the resources that are currently available to provide those services and maintain continuity of care for the population that is hosting them in Moldova.
- National AIDS program of Moldova, which is supported by UNAIDS and NGOs, provided ARV treatment to 127 people living with HIV: 43 men and 84 women (including 7 pregnant women, 2 children and other 4 new-born children on HIV prophylactic treatment). Pre-exposure prophylaxis was given to five people (PrEP). In the Transnistrian region, 15 of the 127 people received ARV treatment. 27 people/families from the Transnistrian region received HIV prevention/treatment, TB screening, psychosocial and humanitarian assistance (food and hygienic) packages. About 3,000 vulnerable people were assisted by NGOs through crises cell, which is supported by UNAIDS Moldova.
- Between 15 March- 4 May, WFP and Cooperating Partners have delivered 257,535 hot meals (3 per day) in 31 different localities/regions and 97 centres. This represents an average of 1,861 people per day. [Please see the dedicated dashboard for more details.](#)
- The WFP and its partners are in the process of carrying out an evaluation in order to compile a list of Refugee Accommodation Centres according to their capacity and durability in the short, medium, and long term, as well as gain an understanding of their readiness and requirements to transition to vouchers.
- Between 5-7 May, IOM MHPSS teams provided psychological counselling (for both individuals and groups) for 21 refugees and

TCNs staying at the Ceadir-lunga Refugee Accommodation Centres.

Livelihoods and Inclusion

- With support from the **European Union, UNDP** is currently implementing the [“Mayors for Economic Growth Facility”](#), with an allocation of 290,000 EURO dedicated to support the refugee crisis response and recovery. The interventions will support host communities in catering to the immediate needs of the refugees and support their socio-economic inclusion and strengthen municipalities’ crisis response and future readiness capacity, including through innovative capability development.
- UN Women secured six months of access for three refugee women to Chisinau's iHub, a coworking and office space for individuals and start-ups, so they could work remotely in IT or other digital industries to support themselves.
- UN Women has enrolled twelve refugee women in Comrat's "Women in Online Work" training program as of 6 May. The program assists women in developing IT skills, gaining access to international platforms, and integrating into local and global freelance markets. Participants will receive job placement assistance after completing a four-month course in social media management, graphic design, software testing, or web design.

Moldova refugee inter-agency coordination



For more information, please contact

Marwa Hashem, External Relations Officer, hashemma@unhcr.org | Kiri Atri, Reporting Officer, atri@unhcr.org | Interagency Coordination mdachrcf@unhcr.org