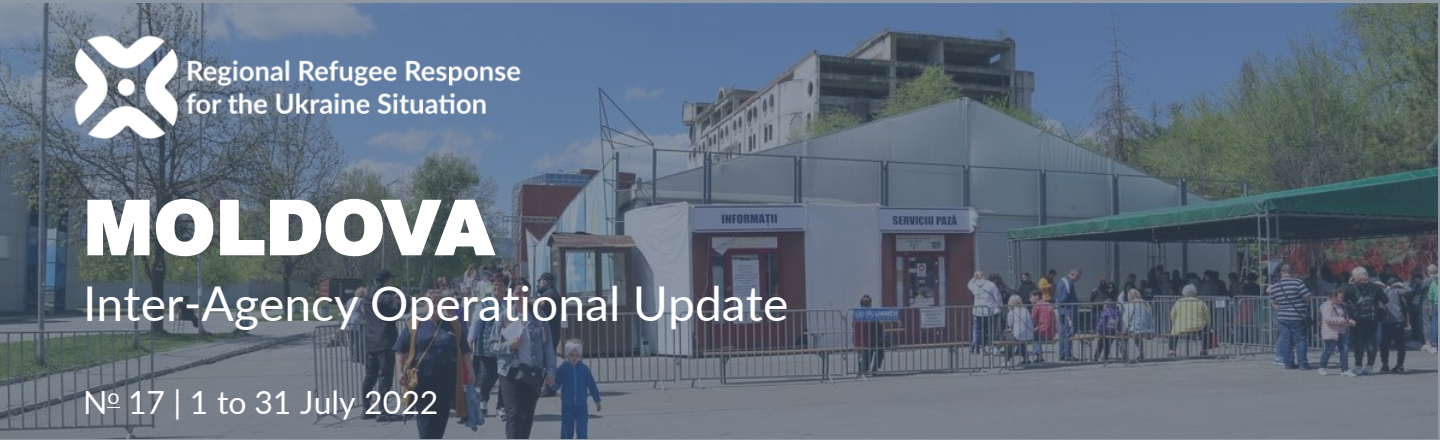


Regional Refugee Response for the Ukraine Situation

MOLDOVA

Inter-Agency Operational Update

№ 17 | 1 to 31 July 2022

As of 31 July, 555,345 people had entered the Republic of Moldova from Ukraine, of which 87,991 Ukrainian refugees and 4,223 third-country nationals have remained in the Republic of Moldova. The number of persons arriving from Ukraine into Moldova varies depending on both the intensity of the conflict and the location of the Russian attacks. For example, on 14 July an incident in the city of Vinnitsia in Ukraine, resulting in over 20 fatalities and more than 100 people injured, precipitated a perceivable increase of activity into Moldova. On 27 July, during a government meeting, the draft law on the extension of the state of emergency for a period of 60 days was approved, in the context of the war in Ukraine, (coming into effect on 8 August).

The Ministerial Conference of the Moldovan Support Platform took place on 15 July at Bucharest. (c) UNHCR

The Ministerial Conference of the Moldovan Support Platform took place on 15 July at Bucharest. The event was attended by delegations including various EU institutions, the G7 nations, international financial institutions, and specialized agencies from the United Nations. Moldova was represented by a ministerial delegation headed by Minister of Labour and Social Protection, Marcel Spatari. The Bucharest conference focussed on supporting Moldova's reform efforts, including achieving the goals set by the European Commission in last month's granting of Moldova EU-candidate status. A number of pledges were made and participants emphasized their solidarity with Moldova. A key component was the meeting of the five working groups of the Support Platform for Moldova, composed of government experts from participating states. Within the WG on Refugees, comments addressed the challenges of refugee response, the need to ensure support for Moldova's own vulnerable population, with emphasis on meeting the humanitarian needs of refugees and supporting host communities, while advancing local integration efforts. Discussion was made of specific vulnerable groups – women, children, persons with disabilities, Roma – and on onward movements from Moldova to Europe. The need for ongoing emergency preparedness was raised regarding the risk of an influx from Odessa. This is the second such conference, the first being held in Berlin last April; a further conference is scheduled for the end of the year at Paris.

KEY FIGURES*

87,991	555,345	67,279	56,600
Refugees from Ukraine in Moldova (as of 31 July)	Total refugees who have entered Moldova (as of 31 July)	Refugees who received cash assistance (as of 31 July)	Host families reached with cash assistance (As of 15 June)

REGIONAL REFUGEE RESPONSE PLAN (RRP) FOR THE UKRAINE SITUATION**

$1.85 B	$1.15 B	45	$414.1 M	87
Overall financial requirements (USD)	Funding Received (USD)	Percent of the Regional RRP funded	Financial requirements for the Moldova Refugee Response (USD)	Partners involved in the Moldova Response

*See the **Operational Data Portal for the Ukraine Refugee Situation** and the **Moldova portal page** for more details on refugee population figures and information resources. **See the **Ukraine Situation Regional Refugee Response Plan** for a breakdown of sectoral response priorities and requirements and the **Refugee Funding Tracker** for RRP funding information.

This report was produced by UNHCR in collaboration with inter-agency partners.

MOLDOVA | 1 - 31 JULY
SECTOR HIGHLIGHTS

Regional Refugee Response for the Ukraine Situation

PROTECTION

49,000
PERSONS SUPPORTED WITH LEGAL ASSISTANCE by LCA*

+430
PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES SUPPORTED**

1,787
PERSONS SUPPORTED THROUGH AIR TRANSFERS*

CHILD PROTECTION

+21,000
CHILDREN ACCESSING CHILD PROTECTION SERVICES*

GENDER BASED VIOLENCE

1,465
FRONTLINE RESPONDERS TRAINED ON GBV*

EDUCATION

1,670
MOLDOVAN AND UKRANIAN TEACHERS TRAINED*

1,852
REFUGEE CHILDREN BENEFTING FROM NATIONAL EDUCATION SYSTEM

HEALTH AND NUTRITION

6,558
REFUGEE RECEIVED BASIC HEALTH CARE BY HEALTH AND NUTRITION WG PARTNERS.

+2,000
SERVICE PROVIDERS TRAINED ON CLINICAL MANAGEMENT OF RAPE (CMR)*

ACCOMMODATION AND TRANSPORT

3,005
REFUGEES ACCOMODATED IN REFUGEE ACCOMODATION CENTRES*

11,768
REFUGEES AND TCN TRANSPORTED THROUGH THE GREEN CORRIDOR*

WASH

8,515
PROVIDED WITH ACCESS TO WASH SERVICES**

FOOD SECURITY

+1.3 M
MEALS DISTRIBUTED BY FS SWG PARTNERS*

*As of 31 July
** During the reporting period

CASH

67,279
REFUGEES REACHED THROUGH CASH ASSISTANCE*

18,867
HOST FAMILIES SUPPORTED WITH CASH ASSISTANCE*

LIVELIHOODS AND INCLUSION

+75
HOST COMMUNITIES SUPPORTED TO PROMOTEECONOMIC INCLUSION AND LIVELIHOODS OF REFUGEES*

LOGISTIC AND SUPPLY

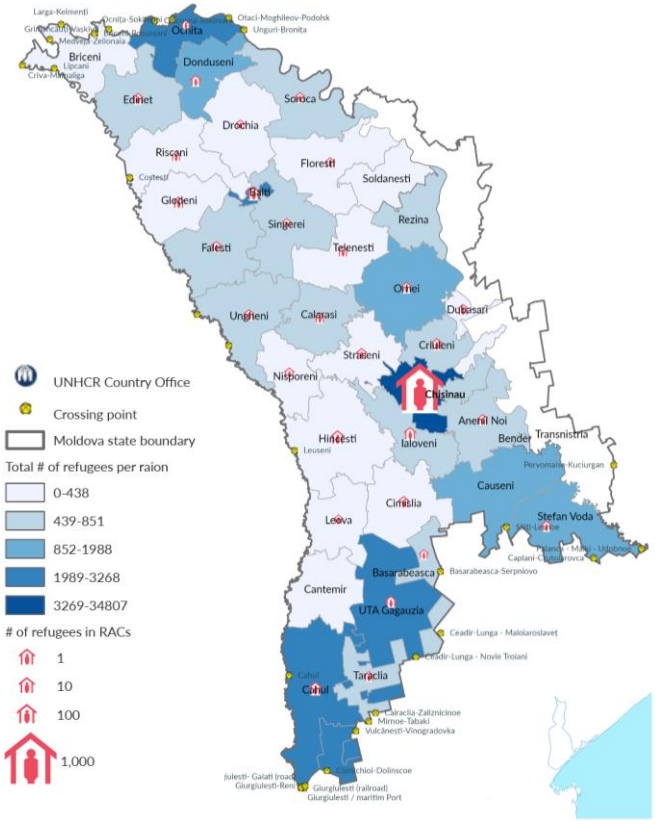
422,679
CORE RELIEF ITEMS IN STOCK*

*As of 31 July ** During the reporting period

OPERATIONAL CONTEXT

In terms of the creation of a viable **Winterization Strategy in Moldova**, through the Refugee Coordination Forum, the Inter-Agency Coordination team has launched an Inter-Agency Winterization Planning Process. As a first step of this process, partners were invited to submit information on planned activities in a purposed-designed online format, proposing locations and numbers of targeted beneficiaries. Throughout August, Refugee Coordination Forum sectors and partners will work on developing sectoral specific strategies and action plans for winter, which will be consolidated in one single document during an Inter-Agency Winter Workshop by mid-September. With the onset of Winter, it will be necessary to assess and implement measures for providing seasonal support for both the refugee and host-community populations in support of measures being implemented by the Government of Moldova, with particular attention to priority populations. The situation is compounded by the ongoing impact of the war in Ukraine, including the rising costs of living, with fuel prices globally rising way above rates of domestic inflation, and the energy crisis. An additional influx of refugees from Ukraine seeking respite from harsher winter conditions cannot be ruled out.. As well as rising fuel costs, the energy crisis may also affect supply chains resulting in shortages of winter-related items.

The **Prevention from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse** (PSEA) Network has developed an Inter-Agency Protection and PSEA Capacity-Building Plan with scheduled PSEA trainings and Training of Trainers (ToT) throughout July and August. The aim is to increase understanding of PSEA during a humanitarian crisis. PSEA awareness-raising sessions were held with over 50 Community Liaison Officers working on cash enrolment sites in coordinating with UNHCR registration and cash teams. On 27 and 28 July, in Chisinau, IOM, UNHCR and Plan International organized the first PSEA Training of Trainers (ToT) in Moldova for UN agencies, intended for both national and international NGOs and local partners.



PROTECTION

PROTECTION WORKING GROUP | MINISTRY OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS AND UNHCR

Achievements and Impact

- Through its partner INTERSOS, UNHCR is supporting psychological first aid and specialized psychosocial support services at border crossing points, in particular Palanca and Tudora, as well as in the Palanca Bus Hub. To date, over 2,000 refugees have been provided with such services and support assistance.
- UNHCR established an extensive Protection Monitoring and Profiling exercise in partnership with LCA, INTERSOS and REACH, which has interviewed over 4,145 refugees since March.
- With regard to Information, Counselling and Legal Assistance (ICLA), the Law Centre of Advocates (LCA) provides individualized legal counselling and assistance at border crossing points, cash enrolment centres, 73 refugee accommodation centres (RACs), the Temporary Accommodation Centre (TAC) for asylum-seekers and at Blue Dots. To date, LCA has provided legal counselling and assistance for more than 49,000 refugees from Ukraine on legal status issues, documentation issues, access to medical services, employment rights, access to education, etc. LCA has also provided legal aid to individuals seeking asylum or stateless status in the Republic of Moldova. Since 24 February, LCA has represented 5,441 individuals in asylum proceedings and seven applicants for stateless status. Up and until 31 July, the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), with its partner Roma Awareness Foundation (RAF) provided 1,315 individuals (Roma and third-country nationals) with information and counselling and legal assistance on civil and identity documentation, refugee status determination, employment law and procedures and access to essential services. The services were provided across Moldova – North, Centre and South, as well as in Transnistria.
- IOM Protection implementing partners and mobile teams throughout July reached close to 480 refugees, TCNs, and local community members with vulnerable profiles (38 received legal assistance, 319 psychosocial support, 30 were referred to other agencies/service providers for assistance, and all were provided with information on available assistance and awareness raising on counter-trafficking in Chisinau, Ocnita, Anenii Noi, Riscani, Straseni, Causeni, Cimislia, Floresti, Criuleni, Drochia, and Telenesti, Calarasi, Edinet, Briceni, and the Transnistrian region of Moldova.
- NRC in partnership with ADRA Moldova initiated Urban Displacement and Outside of Camps (UDOC) activities during July. UDOC mobile outreach teams started to conduct information dissemination and collection, referrals, service mapping, and coordination with service providers in Chisinau, Kahul, and Edinet, aiming at reaching displacement affected populations, prioritizing the facilitation of the identification of vulnerable populations in need of referrals for assistance.
- Throughout July, IOM trained 54 staff of RACs on the detection and referral of potential cases of trafficking in persons. When possible, the trainings included a Roma rights component introduced in cooperation with the Roma Task Force.
- IOM's Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration team of the Protection Unit assisted 15 TCNs (most are nationals of Azerbaijan, Georgia, and Armenia) with voluntary, safe, and dignified return to their home countries.
- UNHCR continues to support the Government of the Republic of Moldova with technical equipment. During the reporting period, UNHCR donated 10 laptops to the Ministry of Internal Affairs/ General Inspectorate for Emergency Situations.
- IRC signed Partnership Agreements with EcoVisio, Women's Law Centre, ADRA and Ave Copiii within the Protection programme (including Child Protection, GBV prevention, anti-trafficking). IRC and partners are setting up a multi-pronged emergency protection response through evidence-based

age- and gender-appropriate Safe Healing and Learning Spaces (SHLS) and Women and Girls Safe Spaces (WGSS), information provision, referral to relevant service providers, and mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) interventions that support resilience and recovery. Activities focussed on psychosocial support and social cohesion in July included a series of three-day training workshops on "Management of Emotions and Information in Crisis Situations" for 41 women, including 15 women with disabilities and three refugee women with children from Ialoveni, Leova and Șoldănești to empower them to get actively involved into planning and refugee response organized by the local organization "Motivatie" with support from the Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund and UN Women. Attended by more than 400 people, the theatre play "Fairytales Through the Stones", jointly organized by UNFPA implementing partner NGO MilleniuM, Ministry of Education, Culture and Research, Lifting Hands International, the Luceafărul Theatre, and the Ukrainian youth, offered drama therapy targeting young people who are experiencing war trauma.

Chisinau International Airport, 13 July 2022 © UNHCR

Twelve Member States of the European Union – **Austria, Bulgaria, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Portugal and Spain – as well as Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland have made pledges to transfer 17,870 refugees from Moldova as part of the EU Solidarity Platform**. So far, over 1,900 persons have transferred to European countries from Moldova. Among the transfers coordinated in the context of the Solidarity Platform, 1,787 vulnerable refugees have transferred on a total of 71 flights to Austria, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain and Switzerland, with 71 people in the month of July. IOM continues to support these Air Transfers for Ukrainian Refugees to EU Member states countries. In addition, **Lithuania** transferred over 200 persons from Moldova by bus, on a bilateral basis. UNHCR has expanded the online referral service for people who wish to avail of the programme so that persons can self-enrol or have others do it for them where they are elderly or need further assistance.

Since the start of the conflict, the EU Civil Protection Mechanism coordinated by Ministry of Health (MoH) and WHO support in collaboration with EU DG Sante/EU ECHO has evacuated 39 patients, mainly with oncological and rare diseases, from the Republic of Moldova to EU countries for care and treatment.

DISABILITY TASKFORCE

LEAD BY KEYSTONE MOLDOVA AND OHCHR

Achievements and Impact

- In total, 433 Ukrainian refugees with disabilities and serious chronic diseases received targeted assistance and support in July. The assistance was provided by six local NGOs: Keystone Moldova, Motivatie, Low Vision, SOS Autism, CASMED and OSORC (OSORC Rehabilitation and Counselling Centre operates in Tiraspol, Transnistrian region). For example, essential food and non-food items were provided mainly by Keystone Moldova, Motivatie and OSORC to 210 refugees with disabilities and serious chronic diseases. Other service provided included distribution of medicine, assistive devices, as well as providing counselling.
- On 6 July 2022, UNHCR delivered 200 wheelchairs to local NGO AO Societatea Invalizilor din Republica Moldova – an experienced support provider for both refugees and Moldovans with disabilities.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- There is still no data on the number of refugees with disabilities, including children staying in the Republic of Moldova and a mapping exercise would be needed to better plan and finance the interventions aiming at assistance and inclusion of this group of refugees.
- Lack of accessibility to RACs and host community facilities remains a major problem for inclusion of refugees with various disabilities. Interventions are urgently needed to ensure the access to facilities that are mainly accommodating persons with disabilities.
- In general, there is a reduced access to specialized medical services as well as lack of resources to buy the necessary medications by persons with chronic diseases, mental health conditions, epileptic syndrome and other medical conditions.

CHILD PROTECTION

CHILD PROTECTION SUB-WORKING GROUP | UNICEF AND UNHCR

Achievements and Impact

- Activities at the Blue Dots continued where practical and targeted support and information to children and families are provided. UNICEF and UNHCR jointly established two additional Blue Dots, one in partnership with Terre des Hommes (TdH) in the ARTICO Children and Youth Centre and the other in partnership with Moldova for Peace in a community centre. During the reporting period over 2,500 children, (including 156 children with disabilities and 79 UASC) were reached through the nine Blue Dots in Moldova with a variety of child protection services such as psychosocial support, legal aid & counselling, information and advice, recreational activities and mother/baby corners. To date, over 21,000 people had received support through Blue Dots, with over 10,000 children identified as being in need of specialized services and referred to health, social welfare and legal assistance services.
- Identifying children at risk and mediating the relationship between children, border police and the Government's child protection authority is a key service. To date, LCA has provided assistance in 67 cases regarding children without documents and unaccompanied and separated children, ensuring access to the territory and to a safe environment.
- Ave Copiii worked to strengthen existing child protection mechanisms, by providing trainings to child protection focal points and border authorities in each district. Sixty-two people were trained in the months of June and July 2022.
- Referral pathways have been established between civil society actors and national authorities. Additionally, UNHCR and UNICEF are working to strengthen the capacity of the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection (MLSP) to respond to the needs of unaccompanied and separated refugee children. The two agencies undertook a joint technical mission to Moldova in July 2022 to advise on the establishment of a child protection case management and information management system.
- An MOU has been signed between Chisinau municipality and UNICEF to provide technical assistance for upscaling the realization of the rights of children and adolescents, as well as refugee children in the country. UNICEF will also ensure the provision of free nutrition for refugee children from Ukraine and enrolment in pre-schools and primary schools, in accordance with the normative framework.
- UNICEF concluded a partnership with AO "CNFACEM" to strengthen the Child Helpline's staff capacities, including hiring Ukrainian speaking councillors and improving helpline visibility. Child Helpline will provide immediate support to children at risk by providing information, psychological support and counselling, and access to reporting mechanisms.

GENDER BASED VIOLENCE

GBV SUB-WORKING GROUP | UNFPA AND UNHCR

Achievements and Impact

- The GBV sub-working group has been working with partners to provide integrated services to survivors of GBV, including social assistance, psychological support, legal services, and safe shelter. UNHCR's partner INTERSOS has been collaborating with the local-women-led NGO "Casa Mărioarei" since May 2022. "Casa Mărioarei" provides several services to refugees and host communities, vulnerable families, GBV survivors and people at risk of GBV in the districts of Falesti, Ungheni, Calarasi, Causeni, and in some suburbs of Chisinau, such as Gratiesti, Ciorescu, Stauceni, Durlesti, Budesti.
- The SWG continued its training efforts on prevention and response to GBV, reaching 1,465 frontline responders. "Casa Mărioarei" in partnership with UNHCR and INTERSOS, engaged 227 participants through eleven training activities in Chisinau, Ungheni, Calarasi, Căușeni and Fălești. Furthermore, over 3,000 people from the host and refugee community participated in GBV awareness raising and peaceful coexistence activities
- UNFPA supported 16 Orange Safe Spaces across Moldova and mobile teams to conduct outreach activities targeting the refugees and host communities in the Northern region. The Orange Safe Spaces are run by professional psychologists and social workers to provide individual and group-based counselling. Participants also have access to recreational activities and skills-building sessions. UNFPA partners Artemida, Home Care, Youth Media Centre, and Pro Didactica, reached 3,940 persons through the various activities of the Orange Safe Space for women, youth, and older persons as well as the outreach activities.

ROMA TASKFORCE

ROMA TAKFORCE | UNHCR

Achievements and Impact

- On 14 July a joint visit of the representative of the Joint Crisis Centre, Roma Community Mediator and UNHCR was held to two RACs in Straseni and Hincesti raions upon allegations of tensions with the host communities. Several counterparts were listened to, discussion with refugees and community leaders, especially of Roma ethnicity, but also Ukrainian were held and further measures were taken in the following days in order to improve the reception and accommodation conditions of Roma refugees. The Roma Community Mediator noticed improvements of the situation and processes from both sides after such joint visits in the field.
- On 22 July a multistakeholder joint visit took place at Glodeni-to-Glodeni lyceum RAC at the invitation and initiative of the Crisis Centre Consultant, the appointed Roma Community mediator, with the participation of the INTERSOS representative and Roma Task Force co-chair, to monitor and assess the protection and inclusion of members of Roma community.
- Overall, the TF stressed the importance of having access to the community via Roma Community Mediators and establishing trust in order to collaborate with efforts around prevention, risk mitigation and response to situations related to GBV and child protection, as well as identify and respond to the needs of persons with specific needs, including those facing acute medical needs. In addition, prioritizing the most vulnerable cases and families, especially with children with protection needs by referring them sooner to the airlifting. Improving access to medical services and medication is key.

ANTI-TRAFFICKING TASKFORCE

ANTI-TRAFFICKING TASKFORCE | IOM AND UNHCR

Achievements and Impact

- The Task Force on Anti-trafficking has been operational since late June 2022 and is led by the Permanent Secretariat to the National Committee on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, Moldova's de facto National Anti-Trafficking Coordinator, with the support of UNHCR and IOM. The members of the TF have currently been developing a joint action plan which focusses on the prevention, protection and partnerships and includes activities that contribute to the implementation of key international recommendations on anti-trafficking in the context of the current emergency response addressed to the Government by international monitoring missions. As soon as the action plan is approved by the Task Force, its meetings will be held on a monthly basis to collect updates and discuss challenges/ proposed solutions.

EDUCATION

EDUCATION WORKING GROUP | MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, UNICEF AND UNHCR

LANGUAGE LEARNING

Promotion of languages is an effective mechanism for supporting a refugee population, either in their own language or with that of the host country or even a foreign language. In order to support Ukrainian identity, in collaboration with the Embassy of Ukraine and thanks to the generous support of the United States, UNHCR printed 12,000 children's books in the Ukrainian language for distribution in Blue Dots, community centres, RACs, local schools and libraries. To facilitate integration opportunities for Ukrainians in Moldova, Romanian language courses for refugees started in Balti municipality and Edinet district. The project is supported by UNHCR at the initiative of the Association of Ukrainian language teachers in Moldova, which offered to hold Romanian language courses for the children and their parents during the summer holidays. The courses are also available to Moldovan citizens who are ethnic Ukrainians.

Young refugee children in Chisinau are learning English as part of the non-formal education programme supported by UNICEF and Step-by-Step. ©Licurici National Puppet Theatre/2022/Andrei Prepelita UNFPA Moldova.

Achievements and Impact

- After a brief summer break in early July, 975 (675 girls, 69 per cent) refugee children resumed classes and activities in the non-formal education programme supported by UNICEF and Step-by-Step in the Chisinau municipality. To ensure a safe learning environment against a recent surge in COVID-19 cases, 90 (52 girls, 58 per cent) children received hygiene materials, including masks and antibacterial gel along with education supplies.
- During July, a number of Summer Schools, often mixing both refugee and Moldovan children, were facilitated, for example, by UNICEF (with the Technical University of Moldova), Catholic Relief Services (CRS), UNFPA partner National Youth Council and "Concordia: Proiecte Sociale". Activities included IT, resilience building and recreational activities, aimed at intercultural dialogue and social cohesion.
- Capacity development remains a priority and during the reporting period, 252 teachers attended the UNICEF-supported online training on child-centred pedagogy and resilience building, increasing the total number of participants to 1,670 (98 per cent females) since the beginning of the crisis. UNFPA, in cooperation with EC Pro Didactica, trained 285 teachers from 87 VET institutions on life skills development, GBV prevention, emotional resilience and fostering psychosocial wellbeing of refugees. IRC signed a partnership agreement with Foundation of Advancement of Moldova within Education programming. IRC and partners will provide learning programmes and supplemental academic support, tutoring, language classes and capacity-building training for community leaders, educators, youth peer support networks, to create protective learning environment with links to Healing Classrooms and SHLS, and utilize social-emotional learning and teaching.
- In July, 2,865 beneficiaries participated in the activities targeting youths and adolescents conducted through Orange Safe Spaces for Youth. Topics covered addressed referral services, sexual and reproductive health (SRH), GBV prevention, and emotional support skills-building, such as comprehensive Romanian language training, IT programmes, and workshops dedicated to recreational, sports, and arts and crafts activities.
- Through the EU Confidence Building Measures Programme (EU-CBM V), funded by the European Union and implemented by UNDP, 1,567 Ukrainian refugees on both banks of the Nistru (Tiraspol, Dnestrovsc, Varnita, Gura Bacului) benefitted of educational, psychologic, and informational services. In July 2022, 18 children including refugees took part in an arts educational event.
- NRC in partnership with Step-by-Step initiated non-formal educational activities in Chisinau, registering more than 100 conflict-affected children in the programme to meet their developmental needs and support transition to formal education pathways. Consultations with communalities is ongoing in Balti, Orhei, Causeni and Stefan Voda to design and implement non-formal education activities.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

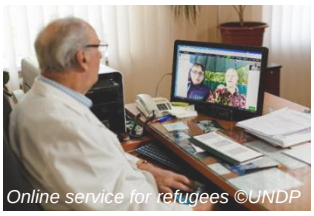
- The Education Rapid Needs Assessment (RNA) and the Multi-Sector Needs Assessment indicated refugee parents' and children's strong preference to continue online learning through the digital platforms provided by the Ministry of Education in Ukraine. The Education RNA further sheds light on concerns expressed by parents regarding online learning, such as concerns about the quality of learning and the lack of devices. A detailed assessment focussed on the gaps to address in this respect would help develop an appropriate response for the upcoming school year. The assessment should include refugees' intentions and motivation for continuing classes online and mapping of available devices and spaces in learning centres and schools in Moldova to facilitate access to IT equipment.

HEALTH AND NUTRITION

HEALTH WORKING GROUP | MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND WHO

Achievements and Impact

- Coordination with the government is key to overseeing Moldova's refugee response and sector lead WHO with the MoH together coordinate the health system's response and the mental health and psychosocial support activities throughout the refugee response. In the reporting period, MoH, UNICEF and WHO coordinated the development of the national action plan for 2023 on integrating immunization into primary health care (PHC), aiming to increase routine and COVID-19 immunization by taking into consideration risk assessment activities and addressing the immunization system gaps, as well as the inclusion of refugees. The Institute of Oncology and the WHO experts revised the Action Plan for the revised National Cancer Control Programme.
- A number of assessments were carried out in the reporting period. A joint assessment team comprising representatives of MoH, WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA, UNAIDS, IOM and Medecins du Monde conducted a rapid assessment of 100 primary healthcare facilities using a pre-defined questionnaire. The evaluation focussed on human resources, financial and organizational matters, and access to services and medicines at the primary healthcare level. Secondly an assessment of nine Perinatal Centres was conducted by a joint assessment team comprising MoH, the Institute of Mother and Child and UNFPA. The purpose was to understand the capacity and needs of the medical institutions providing sexual and reproductive health services, so that they can provide quality services, without discrimination and according to the needs of all women who will seek assistance, including of Ukrainian refugees. Lastly, partners developed an assessment tool for the nutritional components among refugees and started the piloting phase.
- WHO EMTCC coordinates the work of six international Emergency Medical Teams (EMTs) (INTERSOS, Peace Winds Japan, Medical Team International, Emergency, Adventist Help, Doctors with African CUAMM) deployed in the country. EMTs continued to provide primary healthcare services in the RACs (immunization, monitoring and treatment of chronic diseases, MHPSS, first aid, referral to diagnostic and treatment in the national health system) and at the community level. In total, EMTs have provided 5,053 consultations since 11 March 2022.
- UNICEF-supported the 24/7 Youth Clinic Support Line for 10- to 24-year olds provided psychological counselling to around 30 refugee adolescents. The hotline offers counselling on mental health, suicide prevention, sexual and reproductive health, gender-based violence (GBV) awareness, and assistance and referral for GBV survivors. In a related action, partners reached more than 500 people with information materials on stress and specialized mental health and social services.
- UNDP Moldova, EU-CBM V and CSO Homecare provided 4,450 Ukrainian refugees with medical assistance (357 refugees), legal aid, administrative and consular support (142 refugees), food and non-food packages (295 refugees), information support using an online Telehealth service for refugees (6,650 refugees).


Online service for refugees ©UNDP

- **Health financing and Financial Protection**. On 15 July 2022, IOM signed the partnership agreement with the National Medical Insurance Company (CNAM) to cover expenditures for dialysis services for Ukrainian refugees.

Installation of ICU beds at Falesti Raional Hospital. ©WHO

A variety of medical supplies and equipment was provided to the MoH and its various institutions, including hospitals, by WHO, UNICEF, and CSO "Voinicel Early Intervention Centre". The National Agency for Public Health took delivery of 15 vehicles from WHO and EU, donated in order to conduct supportive supervisory activities towards immunization. The procurement is in process for 20 ambulances aimed to reinforce the Prehospital Emergency Medical Service (PEMS) with the support of US Government funds.

- Partners are delivering in-person training on post-rape treatment, gender-based violence and psychosocial support to the sexual and reproductive health service providers in 27 medical institutions, with more than 2,000 doctors reached to date.
- Several risk communication and community engagement actions were undertaken in the reporting period. In order to promote awareness regarding Covid-19 vaccinations, local public health coalitions, through the 'VACCINEAZĂ-TE! PROTEJEAZĂ-ȚI VIITORUL!' campaign, reached ten districts. information materials relating to Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) and vaccination through primary healthcare facilities and Mother-Baby Corners (MBC) were distributed to some 100 carers. During an event organized by "Mamica Alaptează" in partnership with Action Against Hunger, around 100 mothers and carers, including refugees, received materials and information pertaining to breastfeeding.

Door-to-door awareness campaign on immunization in Straseni Town. ©WHO

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Local actors lack wheelchairs for persons with disabilities and strollers for children. They have difficulties in providing necessary support and services to children with specific needs, such as allergies and autism.
- Based on the Gender Task Force reports, refugees reported being unaware of medical services available for women (mammologists, gynaecologists and sexual and reproductive health) and children, as well as for persons with chronic diseases, requiring more intense and cooperative work on information management and communication. Also, there is a need for communication materials about the list of services available for the refugees in RACs, healthcare facilities and communities.
- Service providers and health authorities require clarification about the health financing mechanism for the services. The health working group is working to establish regular feedback and access to the information on the number of health services and used financial support, including in the framework of memoranda with the National Health Insurance Company.

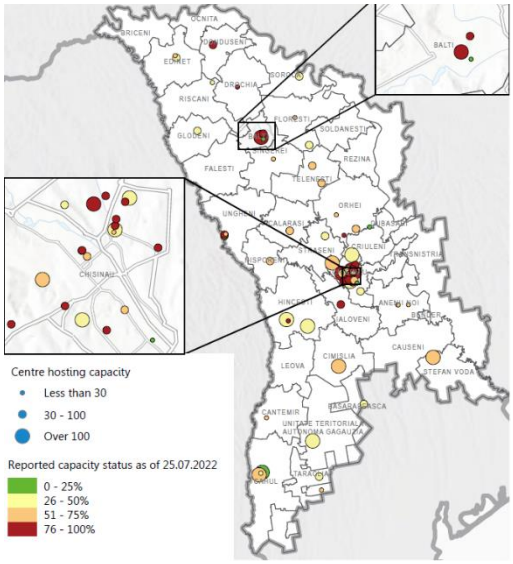
ACCOMMODATION AND TRANSPORTATION

ACCOMMODATION AND TRANSPORTATION WORKING GROUP | MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL PROTECTION AND UNHCR

Achievements and Impact

- There are now 73 Refugee Accommodation Centres (RACs) hosting 3,005 refugees with an overall capacity for 5,520 persons. UNHCR, ACTED, IOM together with partners are conducting regular monitoring visits and assessments. Rehabilitation works at a number of RACs are planned, following such assessments. To date, over 1,540 visits were conducted to RACs.
- IOM completed a technical evaluation of seven Refugee Accommodation Centres (RACs). Six are to be renovated. Two RACs were handed over to contractors for rehabilitation works and administrative steps are being finalized on the other four RACs prior to rehabilitation.
- On 5 July, IOM delivered a van to the General Inspectorate for Emergency Situations (IGSU) in order to enhance the GIES emergency preparedness and response in the event of increased influx of refugees. IOM conducted transit site assessments for IGSU at Cahul and Causeni, bringing the total to five assessed sites and three more planned.

RAC Locations



- NFIs continued to be supplied. ACTED distributed 465 welcome kits at border points, and 139 hygiene kits were handed out at RACs across the country. ACTED are also involved in the distribution of NFI kits to ensure that beneficiaries can maintain good health and wellbeing from the point of their arrival in Moldova.
- “Concordia: Proeicte Sociale” continued to provide direct access to the facilities, support with food and non-food items, and psycho-emotional support provided directly by social workers. Some 100 refugee families received sanitary packages in the Stefan Region. Concordia provided housing for 87 refugees within seven accommodation sites. At the end of July, 49 refugees were still housed at the sites hosting refugees. Those sites are located in the regions of Orhei, Stefan Voda, Ialoveni and Chisinau.
- ADRA Moldova started repairs and improvements to 17 transit facilities that ADRA was using or is preparing to use for winter or a higher influx of refugees with a total capacity of 600 people.
- IOM together with UNHCR continue to support the humanitarian “Green Corridor” between Palanca and Husi to alleviate traffic at border crossing points and to facilitate rapid transfer of those seeking onward movement. In the month of July, 580 individuals were assisted with humanitarian transport through the Green Corridor (and to date, a total of 11,768 people have done so). Over the July reporting period, ACTED transported a total of 1,857 refugees from the border points of either Otaci or Palanca. From Otaci, 348 were transported to Chisinau and another 348 to Iasi in Romania. From Palanca, individuals were taken to Chisinau train station (535), Stefan Voda (3), Causeni (20), to specific RACs (249), and 354 transported in Moldova upon special request to access specific services, such as medical, or to provide transport to a large group. Since the beginning of the project, ACTED has transported a total of 14,877 people.

FOOD SECURITY

FOOD SECURITY SUB-WORKING GROUP | WFP

Achievements and impact

- In July, members of FSSWG continued their efforts to provide food assistance for refugees living in host communities and RACs. The total number of refugees covered through food assistance in RACs in July remained very stable throughout the month, keeping its average of 3,000-3,100 refugees, with, ACTED, AAR Japan, HelpAge, CRS and Caritas, as well as WFP all contributing to the supplying of meals to RACs. Beyond the RACs, Church World Services (CWS) provided food items to around 2,900 individuals in Balti and the surrounding northern region at its distribution centre in Balti operated by CWS grantee partner organizations Zdorovii Gorod and Friends of Moldova. World Vision provided food support to 900 refugee households and 600 local vulnerable households in Căușeni, Sîngerei, Fălești, Rezina, Orhei, Telenești. The intervention is funded by Disaster Emergency Commission (DEC) and implemented by WVI's cooperating partner – Foodbank. Lastly, CRS and Caritas Moldova continued food and hygiene voucher distribution with 4,623 refugee households across Moldova receiving vouchers in July. The estimated total number of hot meals provided since 15 March by FSSWG members has exceeded 1.3 million.

WASH

WASH SUB-WORKING GROUP | MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL PROTECTION AND UNICEF

Achievements and impact

- During the reporting period 8,515 refugees and affected host communities (5,943 females; 2,572 males), including 3,653 children, were provided with access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene services at the Blue Dots in Otaci and Palanca. UNICEF and UNHCR in partnership with Solidarity International and ACTED coordinated and distributed 437 hygiene kits at border points and host families.

CASH BASED ASSISTANCE

CASH WORKING GROUP | MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL PROTECTION AND UNHCR

Achievements and impact

- A total of 67,279 refugees have been enrolled and issued bank cards for multipurpose cash assistance. Of those enrolled, 61,961 have already received a second payment and 47,059 have received a third, with 17,093 having received a fourth one. Through the programme, USD 20.7 million has been injected in the country and this total amount increases to USD 24 million when the

payments in the pipeline are also counted. UNHCR is currently facilitating awareness-raising sessions on PSEA for 50 Community Liaison Officers working on Cash Enrolment Sites across the country in coordination with Registration and Cash teams.

- WFP-funded national cash assistance is being implemented by People in Need (PIN), World Vision, Helvetas Swiss Intercooperation, Solidarites International, and Catholic Relief Services. In coordination with WFP, and in alignment with the Hosting Families support scheme, in July PIN supported 2,500 hosting households during the second round of support. The organization distributed MDL 3,500 to households from 15 raions; Gagauzia, Cahul, Balti, Ungheni, Floresti, Edinet, Briceni, Rascani, Nisporeni, Cantemir, Glodeni, Donduseni, Taraclia, and Basarabeasca.
- Further, as preparation for the third round of support, PIN organized info-sharing sessions for 362 mayors and provided virtual training to the social assistants on the new database registration process. In order to ensure inclusiveness and accessibility of the most vulnerable people, PIN set up 15 central in-person registration points distributed along the 15 raions it covers. In this context, PIN was able to reach 2,057 households and provide them with support and guidance and facilitated the registration of those who were digitally illiterate, unwilling, or facing issues with the registration on the new data portal.
- In preparation for the third round of cash distributions for host families in Moldova, ACTED scheduled meetings with local authorities in Ocnita, Telenesti, and Rezina. The purpose of these meetings was to prepare for the efficient distribution of multipurpose financial aid.
- ACTED is coordinating with the CWG and UNHCR for the verification of beneficiaries for the second round of distributions. This will begin in the second week of August, targeting refugees from Ukraine. In preparation for the third round of cash distributions for host families in Moldova, ACTED scheduled meetings with local authorities in Ocnita, Telenesti, and Rezina. The purpose of these meetings was to prepare for the efficient distribution of multipurpose financial aid
- IOM is working on a post-distribution monitoring survey for voucher assistance provided from March to June 2022, to obtain feedback on voucher distribution.
- Helvetas Swiss Intercooperation covered the utility bills for the period March-June of several informal refugee centres across the country assisting approximately 5,175 refugees (including Roma). The organization also distributed MDL 3,500 to 760 host families from the raions of Stefan Voda, Cimislia, Leova Causeni, Drochia, Soldanesti and Floresti towards their utility bills.
- “Concordia: Proiecte Sociale” provided 185 refugee families with financial support for various purposes including medical supplies, coverage of training costs for job-seeking refugees, clothing, food and various needs on an individual request basis. A total of 141 families hosting refugee families also benefitted from cash assistance.
- IOM is in the process of finalizing an agreement with UNICEF and ADRA to provide cash assistance to refugees in the Transnistria region, having registered 2,000 refugees. They also finalized and tested a joint survey for beneficiary registration, which is to be rolled out in the near future. UNHCR registered 1,716 individuals residing in the Transnistrian area (this includes Bender).
- In relation to increasing sector capacities, ACTED trained 26 social assistants to provide support for beneficiaries when registering onto UAHelp.

LIVELIHOODS AND INCLUSION

Livelihoods and Inclusion Working Group | State Chancellery and UNDP

Achievements and Impact

- A recent SMS-based demographic profiling of refugees carried out by UNDP and Orange Moldova, based on a sampling of 800 respondents, shows that 37 per cent have higher education or a specialist degree and that 37 per cent are actively job seeking, targeting primarily the hospitality sector, community services, wholesale and retail trade. These findings are leading the Sector members to design targeted interventions toward the socio-economic inclusion of refugees. For instance, UNDP is financing courses for 60 refugees (58 women) from Chisinau and Balti in manicure, hair styling, baking, bartending, cosmetology, and tailoring. Each student receives a stipend of MDL 2,200. Furthermore, ILO's Local Employment Partnerships project aims to furnish 1,000 new jobs (at least 50 per cent for women). Similarly, PIN has designed the "Skills for employment" programme with a budget of EUR 500,000 focussing on supporting private companies to provide vocational training courses to refugees, assisting them with job creation, requalification, self-employment, and addressing specific requirements for labour market inclusion for people with disabilities. Twelve civil society organizations have been selected to receive small grants from the Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund to facilitate dialogue, inclusion and integration of refugees in 12 districts, with the financial disbursement expected in August 2022. The IOM Livelihoods team is working on drafting the selection criteria for all planned livelihoods services, including micro-business grants, skills training, Upwork platform grants, and capacity development for governmental institutions.
- Towards the end of July, the National Employment Agency (ANOFM) had received notifications from economic agents about the employment of 676 citizens from Ukraine: 523 women and 153 men, with some three quarters employed in Chisinau. Some 140 employers have shown their willingness to employ Ukrainian citizens, declaring 2,197 job vacancies to be available.
- In order to support refugees from Ukraine and host communities in the Republic of Moldova, UNDP aims to finance digital solutions. Since the start of the conflict in Ukraine, TEKWILL has been providing co-working space for refugees, more than 90 to date, enabling those who work from home to find a space to work online where their domestic situation may prohibit this.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Comprising 36 organizations, the interagency Inclusion and Livelihoods Working Group under the Refugee Coordination Forum for Moldova co-led by the State Chancellery of Moldova and UNDP continues to act as an advocacy and partnership platform for building sustainable livelihoods, fostering socio-economic inclusion, and investing in local development and social cohesion interventions (Issue Brief 5 and Issue Brief 6). A key priority for the sector member organizations going forward will be to scale up collective action addressing the socio-economic inclusion of refugees that benefit the entire population
- The refugee crisis triggered by the conflict is not the only crisis affecting Moldova: the energy crisis, rising inflation and the currency instability risk are all contributing to Moldova's economic and social fragility. According to UNDP's study "Moldova: Potential impacts of increased food and energy prices

on poverty and vulnerability", the share of the population living in poverty could reach between 21 per cent and 32 per cent, depending on the level of inflation. One developing trend shows that a surprisingly high number of Moldovan citizens exhibited a survivalist mentality of 'getting through each day', not far below the levels experienced by refugees escaping a war zone. This requires a comprehensive approach that considers not only meeting the refugees' immediate needs, but also development interventions that address the economic and social fragility and risk of further degradation of the hosting population's quality of life.

- Capacitating and empowering local public authorities and communities to contribute to the socio-economic inclusion remains another critical need in Moldova**.** Recently, UNDP, CALM, IOM and UNHCR, with support of the State Chancellery, completed a capacity and needs assessment covering close to 500 local public authorities (LPAs) (except for Chisinau city) – representing 55 per cent of all LPAs in the country. The findings show that over 50 per cent of LPAs need support with information sharing on the opportunities and services offered to refugees, and close to 40 per cent require training on social cohesion and conflict prevention. In terms of local service delivery, 47 per cent of LPAs estimate that there is a need for local employment opportunities for refugees and the same percentage estimate the need for improved access to IT equipment for online learning in schools and refugee accommodation facilities. Over 35 per cent of LPAs estimate a need for improved community centres, health services and improved local transportation, while 29 per cent of LPAs see the need for additional kindergartens and 25 per cent of schooling services addressing the needs of refugees.
- Finally, engaging the private sector will be pivotal in the success of socio-economic inclusion**.** The active engagement of the private sector, especially business associations and large companies, to encourage job creation, co-finance skills training or business-incubation programmes, and advocate for enhanced inclusion into the local economy, will be essential in for the economic inclusion of refugees, return migrants and host communities.

LOGISTIC, SUPPLY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

LOGISTIC AND SUPPLY WORKING GROUP | UNHCR

Telecommunication Sectors

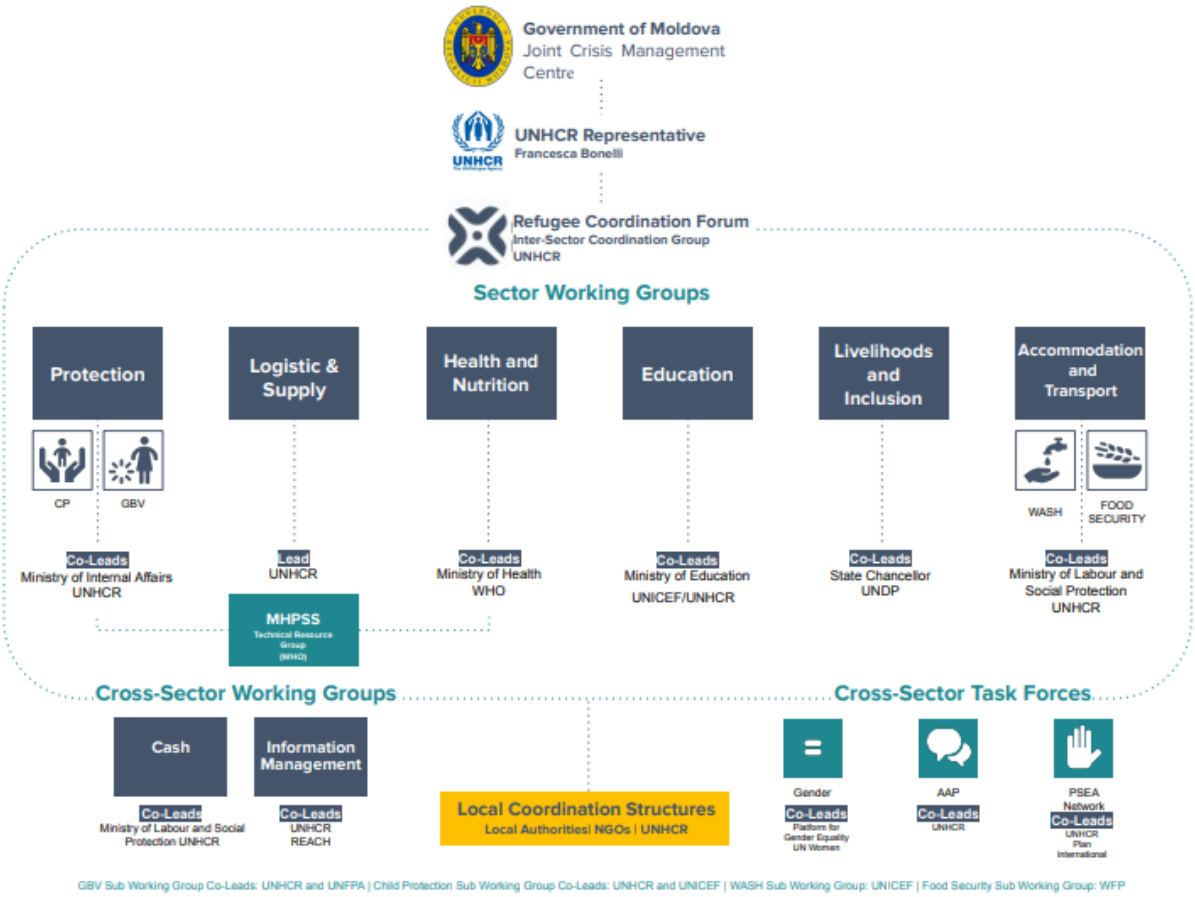
- UNHCR has continued to provide warehousing service to UNICEF, UNFPA and OHCHR as the lead in logistical activities in the operation.
- UN Women with the logistical support of ACTED has donated a fridge to the Refugee Accommodation Centre "Sport Republican Lyceum" to contribute to food safety during summertime and assure better placement conditions for the refugees.
- ACTED continued to enhance beneficiaries' access to up-to-date news and information resources through its installation of WiFi hubs. Over July, five additional RACs were equipped with WiFi, bringing the total installations to 29; 22 at RACs, five at border crossings and two at cash enrolment centres.
- To ensure individuals could receive news and access information using their mobiles, 764 SIM cards and 185 power banks were distributed. To date, ACTED has distributed a total of 9,168 SIM cards to refugees in both RACs and crossing points. Information Hubs were set up at Palanca and Otaci border points to provide a dynamic and official point of contact for new arrivals to receive information on relevant information, such as accommodation, transport, and health options.

CROSS-CUTTING TASKFORCES

- The Gender Task Force in cooperation with UNHCR launched procurement to carry out mapping of local NGOs providing refugee response services in Moldova, including but not limited to refugee-led, women-led and women's rights organizations in 12 districts of Moldova and in Transnistria to better understand the landscape of service providers, existing capacity and opportunities to enhance support and promote meaningful engagement and participation of local NGOs on the refugee response. UN Women has produced and published a Brief Analysis on the Gendered Impacts of the refugee crisis in Moldova to inform the refugee response in Moldova on key priorities for gender responsive refugee response, including sector-specific. More capacity building on Gender in Humanitarian Action is necessary for humanitarian actors in Moldova. More gender consultations on questionnaires and gender analysis of the preliminary findings of multi-sectoral and sector-specific assessments is needed. According to light gender analysis of the MSNA preliminary findings more women (28 per cent) than men (20 per cent) reported the need to learn Romanian in order to integrate in the labour market in Moldova.
- The PSEA Network continued its activities throughout July. Inter-Agency Standard Operating Procedures for Recording and Processing Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA) complaints were developed and first draft presented. SEA complaint and feedback channels (CFCs) have been established including a SEA awareness section on the Help Moldova website, a dedicated SEA reporting email address, and training for the Green Line hotline to receive and handle sensitive complaints, including SEA. Trainings done jointly by IOM, UNHCR and Plan International -including the first training of trainers on PSEA- were conducted throughout July and August covering border entry points and key locations in Moldova: 103 humanitarian workers participated. Prioritization on awareness activities and outreach to areas where refugees are staying in host communities remains a major gap and increased awareness on PSEA through trainings and community outreach needs to be mainstreamed across overall response efforts.
- The Accountability to Affected Population Task Force compiled and shared with the sector leads of different IA working groups a compilation of main information requests from refugees. The objective is for the different WGs to be informed of questions from the refugee community and for humanitarian actors to respond in one voice, sharing with refugees accurate, reliable and updated information. The list is intended to be a living and regularly updated document.

WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP

REFUGEE COORDINATION FORUM STRUCTURE AS OF 31 JULY:



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LINKS: Regional data portal | Moldova portal | Ukraine Situation RRP | Refugee Funding Tracker