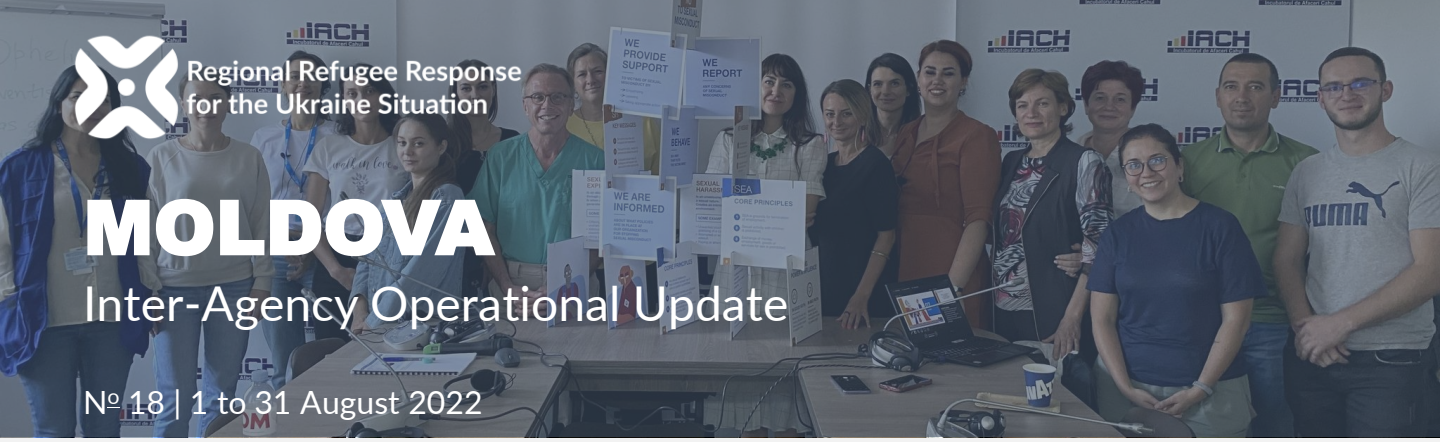


Regional Refugee Response for the Ukraine Situation

MOLDOVA

Inter-Agency Operational Update

№ 18 | 1 to 31 August 2022

As of 31 August, 591,957 people had entered the Republic of Moldova from Ukraine, of which 90,525 Ukrainian refugees and 4,901 third-country nationals have remained in the Republic of Moldova. On 8 August, the extension of the Emergency situation in Moldova adopted by the Commission for Exceptional Situations entered into force, the state of emergency was extended for another 60 days. On 11 August, Refugee Coordination Forum partners in Moldova actively participated in the Contingency Plan Validation Meeting together with the Joint Crisis Management Centre that took place at Ministry of Civil Protection and Emergency Situations. The Inter-Agency Contingency Plan is the result of close collaboration and joint work between Refugee Coordination Forum partners and the Government of the Republic of Moldova to ensure a timely and efficient emergency response if necessary.

One of the highlights of the reporting period was the celebration of Ukraine's Independence Day. On 24 August, six months after the commencement of hostilities in Ukraine, refugees residing in Moldova held celebrations to mark Ukraine's Day of Independence. Events were held to promote peace and solidarity with the Ukrainian people. The President of the Moldovan Parliament gave a speech, emphasizing Moldova's support whilst the Parliament building was illuminated in Ukraine's national colours. In Chisinau, over 500 participants joined the "Together for Peace" event, broadcast at national television and radio. At the 'Moldexpo' refugee accommodation centre a small concert was held and children were given school bags in preparation for excursions around Moldova. The "Moldova for Peace" initiative together with Community Centre 151 and supported by UNHCR and A.O. "Laolalta" held a gathering at the Alunelul Park, Chisinau, where attendees of all ages celebrated friendship and participated in cultural activities. LCA set up a protection desk and provided information on available services for refugees. In this regard, on 27 August, Charity Centre for Refugees organized an event at the Temporary Accommodation Centre for Asylum-Seekers in Chisinau to celebrate Moldova's Independence Day as well as 'Limba Noastra' (Our Language) holiday together with refugees and host communities. Representatives of the Bureau of Migration and Asylum and of the Border Police were present at the event together with UNHCR, and jointly organized a session of questions and answers in order to address refugees' queries.

Ukraine Independence Day Celebration in Chisinau – "Together for Peace". © UNHCR/Irina Odobescu

KEY FIGURES*

90,525	591,957	78,864	21,581
Refugees from Ukraine in Moldova (as of 31 August)	Total refugees who have entered Moldova (as of 31 August)	Refugees who received cash assistance (as of 31 August)	Host families reached with cash assistance (As of 31 August)

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

$1.85 B	$869.5 M	47	$391.5 M	92
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 AUGUST
SECTOR HIGHLIGHTS

Regional Refugee Response for the Ukraine Situation

PROTECTION

54,000
PERSONS SUPPORTED WITH LEGAL ASSISTANCE by LCA*

+180
PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES SUPPORTED**

1,787
PERSONS SUPPORTED THROUGH AIR TRANSFERS*

CHILD PROTECTION

+29,000
CHILDREN ACCESSING CHILD PROTECTION SERVICES*

GENDER BASED VIOLENCE

2,599
FRONTLINE RESPONDERS TRAINED ON GBV*

EDUCATION

1,712
MOLDOVAN AND UKRANIAN TEACHERS TRAINED*

1,263
REFUGEE CHILDREN BENEFITTING FROM NATIONAL EDUCATION SYSTEM*

HEALTH AND NUTRITION

6,924
REFUGEE RECEIVED BASIC HEALTH CARE BY HEALTH AND NUTRITION WG PARTNERS.

+2,700
SERVICE PROVIDERS TRAINED ON CLINICAL MANAGEMENT OF RAPE (CMR)*

ACCOMMODATION AND TRANSPORT

3,055
REFUGEES ACCOMMODATED IN REFUGEE ACCOMMODATION CENTRES*

12,337
REFUGEES AND TCN TRANSPORTED THROUGH THE GREEN CORRIDOR*

WASH

11,817
PROVIDED WITH ACCESS TO WASH SERVICES**

FOOD SECURITY

+1.6 M
MEALS DISTRIBUTED BY FS SWG PARTNERS*

*As of 31 August
** During the reporting period

CASH

78,864
REFUGEES REACHED THROUGH CASH ASSISTANCE*

21,581
HOST FAMILIES SUPPORTED WITH CASH ASSISTANCE*

LIVELIHOODS AND INCLUSION

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

LOGISTIC AND SUPPLY

496,311
CORE RELIEF ITEMS IN STOCK*

*As of 31 August ** During the reporting period

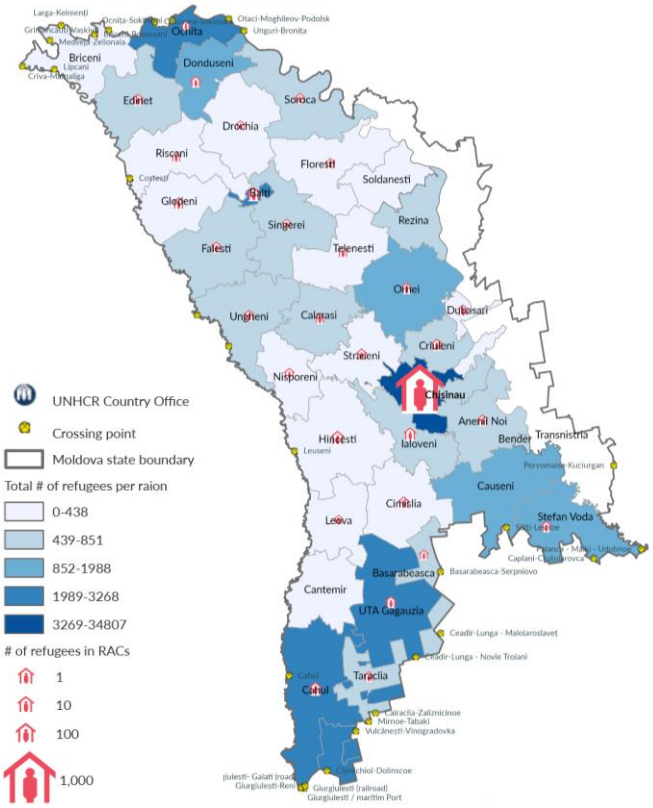
OPERATIONAL CONTEXT

Throughout August, the Inter-Agency Coordination Team continued to work with RCF partners on winterization-related activities, including coordination for the development and implementation of Winter Needs Rapid Assessment, coordination of NFI Kits composition and distribution and the development of a guiding document to support sectors while working on the development of sectors' winter strategies. A dashboard, developed to provide an overview of partners planned winterization activities to support coordination in avoiding duplication and promoting complementarity, can be accessed here: **IA Winterization Campaign**.

On 11 August, Refugee Coordination Forum partners in Moldova actively participated in the **Contingency Plan Validation Meeting** together with the Joint Crisis Management Centre that took place at Ministry of Civil Protection and Emergency Situations.

August saw the Refugee Coordination Forum continue to reinforce local coordination mechanisms, across Moldova, with the aim of strengthening participation at the local level and promoting an area-based approach to coordination. On 17 August, the Inter-Agency Coordination Team organized the first Local Refugee Coordination Forum (LRCF) Meeting for the Autonomous Territorial Unit of Gagauzia, held at the city of Comrat, led by the Comrat Municipality (Mayor and Deputy Mayor) and UNHCR. Twenty-nine participants were present and included 12 organizations (eight NGOs, two INGO and two UN Entities). LRCFs have previously been established in Palanca and Otaci, where regular meetings take place in coordination with local authorities.

Throughout August, LRCFs were also established in Cahul, Balti, Orhei and Ungheni. On 24 August, **Cahul** saw the inception of its Local Refugee Coordination Forum, with the participation of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor of Cahul, as well as LCA/CDA, Aphelia and Asociatia Perspectiva, Pidtrimka, CNPAC, and Association Ecou, Bureau of Migration and Asylum, Adventist Help, and Prolumina NGO. Lastly, on 17 August, Palanca LRCF convened, and on 30 August, **Otaci** LRCF met whereby it reinforced its terms of reference.



PROTECTION

PROTECTION WORKING GROUP | MINISTRY OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS AND UNHCR

Achievements and Impact

- In August, with regard to assistance, as of 29 August, UNHCR's partner Law Centre of Advocates (LCA) provided legal counselling and assistance to over 54,955 people, 32,183 calls were received at the Green Line managed by UNHCR, 82 per cent of the callers are females. Between 16 March and 29 August, UNHCR's Help Page had 305,193 page visits.
- UNHCR partners LCA, ACTED, and INTERSOS are stationed at border crossing points and refugee accommodation centres to provide transportation, protection monitoring, vulnerability screening, and counselling. Provision of SIM cards for vulnerable refugees is available at the crossing points and by the end of August, ACTED had distributed a total of 9,577 SIM cards both at refugee accommodation centres (RACs) and at border crossing points. Similarly, INTERSOS had by the end of the reporting provided psychological first aid and specialized psychosocial support services at crossing points and in RACs to some 2,646 refugees. In the reporting period, CDA performed 111 monitoring visits to all border crossing points with Ukraine and Romania; at the borders, 986 persons were counselled, 44 asylum-seekers were assisted to file asylum applications, with 23 separated children assisted. In August, IOM's implementing partners reached 1,023 Refugees/Third Country Nationals/local community members in Chisinau, Ocnita, Anenii Noi, Riscani, Straseni, Causeni, Cimislia, Floresti, Criuleni, Slobozia, Bendery, Donduseni, Tiraspol, Drochia and Telenesti; from the beginning of emergency operations until the end of August, 2,113 persons were provided with protection services.
- With regard to services made available at the Refugee Accommodation Centres (RACs) and to the host communities, partners offered legal assistance and counselling to refugees at 65 RACs as well as to host communities. In the reporting period a total of 5,509 consultations were provided to 1,890 refugees on issues relating to documentation, asylum claims, enrolment to school, employment and access to different types of assistance.
- UNFPA provided support through seven static and one mobile Orange Safe Space for Youth (OSS-Y). The static OSS-Ys are sited within RACs, thus 662 refugees have daily access to a safe and socially protective space, with support related to sexual and reproductive health and gender-based violence, Romanian language courses, legal assistance, childcare, and recreational activities. In August, the safe spaces were an important entry point for parents seeking information, support and counselling regarding the schooling of their children. The mobile OSS-Y reaches 15 localities in the centre of Moldova, including Chisinau suburbs, the outreach activities target Ukrainian and Moldovan youth and includes referral to specialized services including Youth Friendly Health Clinics, psychological support, and legal services. One more OSS was opened in Chisinau in the Municipal centre which provides life-skills and health information sessions, information on sexual and reproductive health, legal rights, childcare, GBV prevention, and recreational activities for 81 refugees in host community Botanica, Chisinau. Also, the static OSS-Y in the RAC for Roma people within State University is functional for 102 Roma refugees. In this RAC, UNFPA will ensure the daily transportation for 12 children to Vasile Lupu Lyceum.
- IRC partners ADRA, Women Law Centre, Ave Copiii and EcoVisio continued providing support to refugee and migrant women and children through safe spaces in both urban and rural communities. So far, 208 persons benefited from safe space activities, psychosocial (PSS) support, and referrals.
- People in Need (PIN) and its implementing partners reached 500 refugees with legal consultations, and psychosocial interventions. The first group therapy session for women took place in Comrat, organized by PIN's partner Asociatia Obsteasca BIAZ GUL. This activity received a lot of attention and interest from refugee women in the area, requesting its continuation.
- At the Palanca Bus Hub INTERSOS, a UNHCR partner, supported new arrivals from Ukraine with a team of psychologists, social workers and cultural mediators. Moreover, the project extended its coverage to central Moldova districts thanks to the sub-granting of protection activities and outreach to Casa Marioarei, a local NGO specialized in working with survivors of GBV and intimate partner violence. In August, the project team carried out 2,241 protection consultations and the most

requested services were: information sharing (30 per cent), PSS assistance (26 per cent) and external referrals (18 per cent).

- UNHCR announced the launch of support (≤$5,000) to NGOs and initiative groups to bring host communities and refugees together, enhancing peaceful coexistence and social cohesion thus strengthening the protection in the interior of the groups. Such examples of submission can be events, Romanian language classes, women's clubs, activities for teenagers organized by local NGOs or initiative groups.
- To facilitate increased access of refugees to essential services, UNDP launched a new project to enhance Ukrainian refugees' access to justice, in cooperation with the Institute for Penal Reforms, and financially supported by Sweden. The initiative will strengthen provision of paralegal services for refugees, deploy mobile teams offering legal, psychological, and social services, and strengthen refugees' access to legal information and related support services.

GENDER BASED VIOLENCE

GBV SUB-WORKING GROUP | UNFPA AND UNHCR

LEAD BY UNFPA AND UNHCR

Achievements and Impact

- The GBV sub-working group continued its training efforts on prevention and response to GBV, reaching 2,599 frontline responders. In August, UNFPA organized a series of trainings targeting 143 specialists from all Orange Safe Spaces (OSS) teams across the country, and the women-led organization Casa Mărioarei in partnership with UNHCR and INTERSOS trained 71 participants in Calarasi, Căușeni and Fălești, UNHCR also trained colleagues from the partner agency CDA who will support the tasks of the Protection desks in the cash enrolment centres.
- Raising awareness about GBV and the available response services remains a top priority for the members of the SWG, and the organizations redoubled their efforts to reach out refugee and host communities through community-based protection interventions. In the reporting period, Casa Mărioarei in partnership with UNHCR and INTERSOS reached 4,171 people who participated in peaceful coexistence activities and psychosocial activities. La Strada in coordination with BizGul, Consens and FCPS under the agreement with the Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund and with the technical support of UN Women delivered information sessions to 365 refugee women and 50 men across the country. The GBV pocket guide was translated into Romanian and distributed with all relevant actors.
- Safe Spaces and Mobile teams played a key role to reach out refugees living in the host communities and facilitate the access to services to survivors or persons at risk of GBV. UNDP established two mobile teams in Edinet and Causeni districts (*raions*) delivering legal, social assistance and psychological services to both refugee and host communities. UNFPA launched a Mobile Safe Space in the Southern Region of Moldova in partnership with Home Care, and in partnership with HelpAge International opened five Safe Spaces for older persons in Cojușna, Anenii Noi, Staseni, Telensti, and Stefan Voda. La Strada and FCPS also assisted refugees through a mobile team.
- UNFPA continued its efforts to ensure the availability of post-rape treatment kits for adults and children at medical institutions and building the capacity of health professionals on responding to the needs of survivors' of GBV including sexual violence, distributing 744 dignity kits to refugees and host community members.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

Members have identified an increasing trend of single men in RACs. Even though this situation does not necessarily represent a protection concern, it requires implementing new GBV risk mitigation measures in the shelters.

DISABILITY TASKFORCE

LEAD BY KEYSTONE MOLDOVA AND OHCHR

Achievements and Impact

- In August, a total of 182 refugees with disabilities received targeted assistance and support for their better inclusion. Women and girls represented 62 per cent of beneficiaries; children – 22 per cent; adults - 60 per cent; and elderly - 18 per cent; of these, 48 per cent were living in RACs and 52 per cent in host families/communities. Partners such as the Keystone Moldova Mobile Team conducted needs assessment, medical examinations, and provided medicines, medical equipment and assistive devices, nutritional and hygiene packages, transportation services and other services in Chisinau and across Moldova, as well as in two localities of the Transnistrian region. Furthermore, in August, 44 refugees with disabilities accessed the Toll-Free Hotline and received counselling and referral to appropriate services as required. CASMED and SOS Autism supported eight persons with disabilities. UN Human Rights Office in Moldova (OHCHR) donated a series of assistive devices to local partners in Chisinau and from the Transnistria region.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Access to disability cash benefits remains a problem. Many Ukrainian refugees with disabilities reported to Keystone Moldova Toll-Free Hotline that children with disabilities upon reaching the age of 18 could not receive further disability cash benefits because the disability degree established in Ukraine had expired. In Moldova, the national authority responsible for disability assessment could establish the disability degree, but those who do not have a residence permit cannot benefit from allocations/pensions. Elderly persons cannot receive their pension from Ukraine because they do not have bank cards (usually they received it in cash at postal offices in Ukraine). Accommodation and access to health care for persons with severe disabilities remains a major challenge. Local NGOs that provide support to persons with disabilities need funds for longer period to maintain staff and to be able to provide rehabilitation and support services.

CHILD PROTECTION

CHILD PROTECTION SUB-WORKING GROUP | UNICEF AND UNHCR

Achievements and Impact

- The percentage of refugee children currently in Moldova remains around 50 per cent (49 per cent of Ukrainian refugees and 17 per cent of TCN refugees are children). Between 14 March and 30 August 2022, 13,820 children accessed Blue Dot (joint UNICEF/UNHCR initiative) services, with 2,558 children (16 of whom were UASC) in August alone. CNPAC, with support of the main partners, Plan International and War Child Holland, offered mental health and psychosocial support to Ukrainian children and their caregivers, from 15 districts and 24 RACs. The mobile PSS teams offered services to 3,011 beneficiaries (2,088 children, 1,168 girls, 920 boys; and 923 adults, 767 females, 156 male), out of which 707 unique beneficiaries (262 adults, 166 female, 96 male; and 445 children, 261 girls, 184 boys) and 24 persons with disabilities. To date and until the end of the reporting period, some 29,000 children have been able to access child protection services. Activities in August included the following.
- World Vision operates some 17 child-friendly spaces that provide psychosocial support to refugees and the local population; 261 children had benefitted of friendly child spaces (Happy Bubble) by 31 August. In partnership with communities, WV reached 1,402 children (635 refugee children) and about 1,121 refugee women in the month of August through protection activities. CCF organized music therapy workshops at six different RACs, as well as two days of training for facilitators. A total of 125 children participated and over 30 adults – both parents and

facilitators. Music sets were distributed in six RACs, accessing 262 children. WeWorld organized recreational and artistic activities for around 400 children a week children hosted in private accommodation in Chisinau district during child-dedicated food distributions, reaching a total of 1,868 children.

- Training activities continued during August. UNHCR's child protection partner, AVE Copiii, trained 92 national child protection staff and provided case management services to 31 Ukrainian children in the month of August. UNICEF's partners reached 62 girls with GBV risk mitigation, prevention and/or response interventions. Thirty-three foster care service provider/individuals (other than those appointed to receive refugee children in placement) and seven specialists working at the Social Assistance and Family Protection Departments from Donduseni and Causeni districts participated in a day training on, *"Care and assistance to separated or unaccompanied children from Ukraine"*.
- UNICEF is investing over USD 16.5 million in the child and family protection services systems with the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection and the Municipality of Chisinau (which hosts approximately half the refugees and the population of Moldova). All measures introduced (such as salary top-ups to social workers, increasing technical capacities in the Child Protection Unit, etc.) were negotiated and designed as bridges for sustained practices in the years to come. All measures serve to redress and suppress risks of violence and neglect, child labour and exploitation, family separation and institutionalization, school dropout, children in conflict with the law, etc., caused by the multiple crises.

ROMA TASKFORCE

ROMA TAKFORCE | UNHCR

Achievements and Impact

- The Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) continued the provision of information, counselling and legal assistance to the Roma and third-country nationals through its partner Roma Awareness Foundation (RAF). Some 700 individuals received information on civil and identity documentation and refugee status, 455 received counselling and 215 received legal assistance. The services were provided across Moldova – North, Centre and South, as well as in Transnistria. Further, through its partnership with ADRA and ROMNI in Moldova, NRC initiated Urban Displacement Out of Camp (UDOC) activities during August. The mobile outreach teams started to conduct information dissemination, referrals, service mapping, and coordination with service providers in Chisinau, Cahul, Edinet, Tiraspol, and Gagauzia to reach displacement-affected populations and the most vulnerable community members who require referrals for assistance.
- Mediation sessions with Roma parents were organized promote child enrolment into the national school system.
- WeWorld organized hygiene educational training sessions with children, adolescents and adults, for the Roma community hosted at the two RACs in Chisinau and Criuleni (Testemiteanu 6 hosting Roma people and at the Temporary Placement Centre for Refugees IP "Vocational School from Criuleni").
- Internews, together with IRC and ROMNI partners, conducted the assessment of the Roma refugee's Information needs, preferences, and barriers during the reporting period. The key findings were to be presented during the Roma Task Force in early September and the full report launched and shared widely thereafter. The main findings showed that "accommodation", "education", and "health" are those topics where Roma refugees meet the lack of access to information the most. The results are based on the three focus-group discussions and four key informants' interviews.

ANTI-TRAFFICKING TASKFORCE

ANTI-TRAFFICKING TASKFORCE | IOM AND UNHCR

Achievements and Impact

- UNHCR and the Moldovan Centre for combatting human trafficking (CCTP) organized a training session on anti-trafficking on 10 August at Palanca bus station; 25 participants attended, including staff and volunteers from UNFPA, ACTED, INTERSOS and LCA. On 12 August, IOM, in joint efforts with UNHCR, co-chaired the National Task Force on Trafficking of Persons (TFTP), chaired by the State Chancellery, to finalize the Action Plan for 1 July 2022 - 1 July 2023 under the Ukraine crisis response.

EDUCATION

EDUCATION WORKING GROUP | MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, UNICEF AND UNHCR

Achievements and Impact

- With UNICEF's support, 17,999 children (3-17 years old) participated in learning/catch-up programmes during the summer, including some 11,700 refugee children (of whom 8,500 were at summer camps. Key achievements include that STEAM on wheels reached 30 localities and 20 RACs providing digital training to over 1,500 children and adolescents and Upshift supported 25 start-ups at 20 localities with the engagement of 2,000 young people.
- In order to support at-risk children and Ukrainian refugee children during the summer break, some 3,329 children were enrolled in non-formal/informal educational activities such as day-camps with Puppet theatre, Robotics, arts and other recreational activities; 230 children received educational supplies and 1,101 refugee children were provided with hot-meals in formal and non-formal settings. Five summer camps were organized for 1,500 Moldova and Ukraine young people by the Ministry of Education and Research (MoER), Chisinau Municipality, private sector and CSOs. Between 13 June and 31 August, AO "Concordia". Social Projects" organized the "Intensive recreation and socialization programme" (day camp) at ten Multifunctional Centres, where 705 children benefitted, including refugees from Ukraine.
- With UNICEF's support, young people were provided services at four Youth Centres in Chisinau while three youth centres were refurbished in Cahul, Ungheni and Balti. Through the Youth Centres network, for the first six months of the year, from the total number of beneficiaries (2,635 persons), 880 persons (546 girls and 252 boys) were young people refugees from Ukraine. Twelve Play and Learning Hubs (PLH) continued their activity at national level with non-formal recreational activities and psychosocial support provided to children and their caregivers by a psychologist. Through PLHs in August, 776 new children participated in non-formal educational activities, organized in the refugee centres; 530 refugee children and their caregivers received mental health and psychosocial support activities during August. The LEGO Foundation provided 200 LEGO and DUPLO boxes to be distributed to PLHs in support of stimulation and non-formal educational activities. Some 3,200 refugee children in total benefitted for activities at the PLHs.
- During August, in partnership with Partnership for Every Child (P4EC), a refresher training on NRC's PSS programme, Better Learning Programme (BLP), was conducted for 17 master trainers of MoER. This training was followed by a workshop on BLP implemented by the master trainers and targeting 97 pedagogues from all Moldova districts (*raions*). The pedagogues will then train formal schoolteachers, focussing on schools with high numbers of Ukrainian children, to build their capacity on how to support the children to cope in a new context.
- UNHCR partner Charity Centre for Refugees (CCF) is providing Romanian language classes to children and adults as well as English classes (Beginners and Intermediate level). On 12 August, 31 people completed the Romanian language course provided in Edinet and Balti under the educational project "Friendly partnership – the key of successful integration" implemented by the Association of Ukrainian language teachers in Moldova "Promin'" and supported by UNHCR.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- The WG identified continual advocacy for enrolment of refugee children into national the education system as a main need. Additional actions include the procurement of additional IT supplies to ensure connectivity and participation of refugee children in education; the identification of Ukrainian teachers and their involvement in learning, monitoring and mentoring; the mapping of children with disabilities (CWD) nationally; the evaluation of individual needs of CWD to ensure their participation in education, and; the procurement of accommodation and transport to ensure CWDs' participation in continuous learning.

HEALTH AND NUTRITION

HEALTH WORKING GROUP | MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND WHO

Achievements and Impact

- Partners completed a joint winterization strategy and budget for health which includes procurement of supplies for prevention (immunization) and management of acute respiratory illness (pneumonia and influenza) expected during winter 2022/23, and winterization of perinatal centres with assorted NFIs. Together with the Ministry of Health (MoH), preparation for COVID-19 winter response is ongoing. Partners (MDM, UNICEF) reached 264 people with health promotion and breastfeeding promotion activities, while partners provided vaccination against routine antigens (1,264 doses for children), and COVID-19 (1,535 doses for adults).
- By the end of August 2022, partners had provided 6,924 people with basic health care services, including 5,567 consultations delivered by EMTs (29% male, 70% female and 1% pregnant female). A total of 16 Emergency Medical Teams (EMTs) are on standby, with six EMTs in the field: INTERSOS, Emergency, Peace Winds Japan, Adventist Help, Doctors with African CUAMM, Medical Team International.
- During the reporting period, in coordination with UNHCR, IOM performed 732 pre-embarkation health checks (PECs) for refugees prior their departures to either EU Member States and third-country nationals returning to their country of origin, to ensure that individuals do not pose any health threat to themselves or other passengers on the aircraft during transit, and/or upon their arrival. By the time of reporting, 11,997 PECs had been performed for individuals going through the Green Corridor, 1,780 PECs for EU Air Transfers, and 543 TCNs returning to their countries of origin. UNHCR's protection team is working closely with IOM on referring refugees to the health services covered by IOM.
- A Memorandum of Understanding was signed with National Health Insurance Company for financial support and payment for selected services (UNFPA, UNICEF, IOM, Global Fund (TB & HIV cost reimbursement)).
- With regard to capacity strengthening, partners reached 2,719 health providers with the training on clinical management of rape and post-rape treatment kit utilization (UNFPA), information sessions in infection prevention and control for healthcare workers (UNICEF) and infection prevention and control measures in the context of COVID-19 for managers of the long-term care facilities (WHO).
- By the end of August, partners had reached 121,050 people with awareness-raising campaigns and 5,000 people with social media posts. Partners have also distributed 11,060 leaflets on cancer care and treatment (IOM), available health care services (WHO), IYCF and immunization (UNICEF), breastfeeding (UNOCEF and WHO). IRC partners Positive Initiative and Union for Equity and Health provided high-quality health information for youth and at-risk populations in Moldova. So far, referral for medical and psychosocial support, for specialized secondary and tertiary health care has been provided to 164 persons from key-affected population in Chisinau, Balti, and Transnistria.

• UNDP in partnership with the Ministry of Health coordinated the donation of three smart and portable health diagnostic devices to the RACs in Cahul and Ungheni, and the Centre for Rehabilitation of Victims of Domestic Violence in Gagauzia region that provides shelter to people fleeing the war in Ukraine. The donation was provided through the Slovak Challenge Fund. (*Enhancing refugee's access to health through provision of smart health diagnostic devices. © UNDP*).

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- In the course of August, the WG members produced the following assessments: the rapid assessment of breasting knowledge, attitudes and practices among mothers in communities including Ukrainian refugees (WHO); Evaluation of the nutrition component (validation of the data collection tools) (WHO); Regional Perinatal Centres Needs Assessment (UNFPA); RAC Assessment for health needs and disability related needs (EMTs), and; Mental Health assessment at RACs (EMTs).

MENTAL HEALTH & PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT

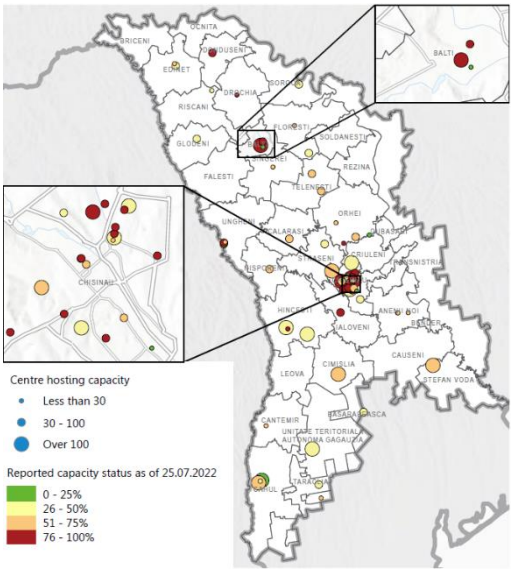
- Partners (IOM, MDM, UNFPA, UNICEF) provided mental health care and psychosocial support to 7,553 people, which includes individual and group psychological and socio-relational counselling in RACs and communities; individual counselling at the Oncology Institute; PFA at the BCPs, mental health care and psychosocial support through Blue Dots and youth clinics' Helpline. Reported partner achievements during August include:
- Through Blue Dots and Youth Clinics and with UNICEF's support, 6,194 beneficiaries cumulatively benefitted from psychosocial support. In the last two weeks of August, 428 refugee parents benefitted from psychosocial support through Blue Dots and 20 refugee adolescents through youth clinics.
- IOM provided psychological counselling to 793 individuals (194 males and 599 females) and socio-relational activities (team sports, disco, art activities, face painting, productive debates, creativity games) to 1,662 children (728 boys and 934 girls). To date, IOM MHPSS teams have also provided socio-relational activities and psychological counselling for a total of 6,168 individuals (537 male, 1,417 female, 1,982 boys, and 2,232 girls).
- People in Need (PIN) through partners supported 108 beneficiaries with psychological consultations/assistance, with an additional 32 children engaged in group sessions led by an educational psychologist. PIN supported AO Centrul de Consiliere și Dezvoltare Personală - RETHINK to operate a PSS hotline for refugees; refugees are also able to receive consultations by making appointments directly with psychologists through ReThink.center website.
- During the month of August, the CNPAC mobile teams offered services to 3,011 beneficiaries, including 24 persons with disabilities.
- Dorcas Moldova, through partners and through direct implementation, offered MHPSS services to 330 adults and organized child activities for 669 kids in Child Friendly spaces during the month of August in 14 different locations.
- In August, the technical reference group identified the following issues requiring attention: Winter season and its challenges for refugees and response; limited access to medicines and specialized medical consultations (shortage of psychiatrists); lack of coordination among centres providing services in the field; cultural barriers on help-seeking behaviour; lack of participation of National MHPSS actors in TRG. The need for robust referral pathways and more awareness raising/trainings was raised. The WG group noted a shift away from vulnerability-based approach to comprehensive resiliency approach when dealing with those affected by Ukraine crisis.

ACCOMMODATION AND TRANSPORTATION

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

Achievements and Impact

RAC Locations



- By the end of August, there were 73 Refugee Accommodation Centres (RACs) hosting 3,055 refugees with an overall capacity for 5,433 persons. During the reporting period, UNHCR together with the Government, partners and the majority of RAC managers met to discuss the network of RACs, especially on preparing RACs for the upcoming winter.
- As part of the Accommodation and Transportation sector contingency planning, IOM rehabilitation of RACs activities reached 40 per cent of works in Balti during the reporting period. Electrical works, tiling, and finishing works were ongoing at the time of reporting. A total of 45 refugees received rental assistance within the reporting period, bringing the total number of beneficiaries receiving assistance to 480 (including rental support to both TCNs and refugees). In August, A.O. "Concordia. Social Projects" offered placement services/housing to 61 refugees and provided 64 food packages to refugee families at various localities in the Stefan Voda district, Chisinau, and Causeni.
- In August, IOM in partnership with UNHCR, assisted 551 individuals with humanitarian transport through the Green Corridor between Palanca and Husi. To date, 12,337 people have been transported through the Green Corridor. UNHCR partner ACTED has transported a total of 16,029 persons since the beginning of the project.
- During the reporting period, IOM in partnership with UNHCR assisted 27 people with Air Transfers for Ukrainian Refugees to EU Member States, bringing the total number of beneficiaries receiving assistance by the end of August to 1,785. In addition, 566 TCNs have been supported with returns assistance by IOM to their countries of origin, with 33 TCNs in the month of August alone.

FOOD SECURITY

FOOD SECURITY SUB-WORKING GROUP | WFP

Achievements and impact

- In August, members of FSSWG continued to provide food assistance for refugees living in both host communities and at RACs maintaining the steady average of 2,900 refugees a month. The estimated total number of hot meals provided since 15 March by FSSWG members exceeded 1.6 million meals. While some partners stopped their activities on hot-meal provision at some RACs, coordination among FSSWG members ensured continuity in provision of assistance at those RACs by having other partners take them over.
- ACTED provided a total of 73,167 hot meals at its supported RACs, including 711 meals via newly piloted voucher modality, a change welcomed by refugees, who also noted the benefits of more involvement in menu preparation. Church World Services (CWS), through partners Friends of Moldova and Zdorovii Gorod, provided food items to 6,678 beneficiaries (roughly 5,500 unique beneficiaries) both at a distribution centre in Balti and throughout northern Moldova through deliveries to local authorities and NGOs. HelpAge offered food support at 26 accredited RACs,

with three meals a day for around 1,300 refugees, as well as for 176 refugees staying in four non-accredited RACs. HelpAge also supported 2,300 refugees living in host communities by providing vouchers for MDL3,000 to cover their basic needs (half for food and half for hygiene products). Solidarites International was able to work with eight RACs in Chisinau, supporting up to 200 refugees a day, a total of 12,839 hot meals being delivered during this period. World Vision In partnership with the food bank distributed 2,750 Food and hygiene kits to the refugees and host community in Causeni, Singeri,Telenesti, Falesti, Rezina, Orhei, Stefan Voda, Ialoveni and Chisinau. World Food Programme (WFP) continued implementation of its hot-meal activities at 40 RACs through contracting arrangements with its main implementing partners ACTED and HelpAge, marking an important milestone of reaching 1,000,000 meals distributed since the beginning of this intervention in March. The distribution of hot meals by Action Against Hunger at Palanca bus station and the tent continues as well as the provision of food and family and baby hygiene kits in the Stefan Voda district (*raion*) as well as in Chisinau.

- In August, WeWorld distributed 8,977 bags of fresh fruit and vegetables were distributed in Chisinau district to 3,435 families, a total of 7,693 individuals having been served. All products are fresh and purchased from small local producers. At the same time, 2,250 child-dedicated food bags were given to refugees in Chisinau district (in parallel with fresh fruit and vegetables distributions), to a total of 1,868 children. All products are fresh and purchased from small local producers. The products, including a small toy, are natural and were selected so as to be recognizable to Ukrainian children.

WASH

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

Achievements and impact

- During the reporting period 11,817 refugees and affected host communities (7,100 females; 4,717 males), including 5,672 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 1,934 hygiene kits at border points. Joint mission of sector partners including UNHCR, UNICEF, IOM and UNICEF/SI was deployed to the areas at the Romania border to assess the WASH needs of the refugees on route (movement) or crossing the borders. The findings suggest installation only of sanitary containers at two border points that include toilets and showers.

CASH BASED ASSISTANCE

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

Achievements and impact

- From 25 March up and until 29 August, a total of 78,864 refugees were enrolled and issued bank cards for multipurpose cash assistance in Moldova by UNHCR and partners, and with the support of UNICEF and UNFPA. Of those enrolled, 63,597 have already received a second payment, 52,872 have received a third payment, 29,261 have received a fourth payment, and 3,338 have received a fifth payment.
- Effective as of 1 August, pre-enrolment modalities for new cash assistance have been temporarily transitioned to in-person enrolment. Individuals can approach any of the seven cash centres in the country to pre-enrol and will be provided with an appointment via phone.

- The IOM Cash Based Interventions (CBI) Unit, in cooperation with IOM's Livelihoods team and volunteers, registered 60 households (200 beneficiaries) for onward assistance. The CBI Unit successfully assisted 59 households (199 individual beneficiaries) with Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance (MPCA) through MoneyGram for Third-Country Nationals and refugees accommodated by Airbnb.
- Throughout August, Concordia offered financial support to 131 refugee families from the following locations: Antonești, Carahasani, Ermoclia, Feștelița, Tudora, the city of Causeni, and the city of Chisinau. Under ACTED programming, 204 separate households, comprising 639 individuals, received cash assistance in Moldova.
- World Vision, an implementing partner for WFP, distributed cash both to the host community and refugees. By the end of August, WV had reached 397 households with about $75,430 ($190/family). Some 1,325 children, both refugees and the host community, were in the process of receiving vouchers for school supply. Action Against Hunger Moldova provided cash top ups to 691 refugees, 475 vulnerable Moldovan families and 240 Host families in the Stefan Voda district (*raion*). PIN concluded its support for 2,600 households who benefitted from a second round of cash support and started the registration for Round 3, where 2,400 households in 17 districts (*raions*) will be supported. Further, PIN started preparation for the winterization cash support of vulnerable Moldovan households by conducting six consultation sessions with representatives from the targeted districts and developed participatory targeting criteria for the winter support.
- All cash activities being implemented are being coordinated under the Cash Working Group led by the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection to promote coherence an avoid duplications.

LIVELIHOODS AND INCLUSION

Livelihoods and Inclusion Working Group | State Chancellery and UNDP

Achievements and Impact

- Comprising more than 35 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 7).
- By the end of August, the National Employment Agency (ANOFM) had received notifications from economic agents about the employment of 743 citizens from Ukraine: 571 women and 172 men, with more than 73 per cent employed in Chisinau. Some 140 employers have shown their willingness to employ Ukrainian citizens, declaring over 2,200 job vacancies to be available.
- In August, iHUB and UN Women organized an event for 16 Ukrainian refugees and local women to inform them about initiatives, programmes and opportunities for women in the field of ICT. UN Women has developed two videos (*link and link*) about Ukrainian refugee women in IT to empower both local and refugee women to advance in this area.
- During August, working group organizations also worked towards enhancing social cohesion in refugee host communities. Almost 700 refugee children participated along with children from local communities in various sports and cultural activities organized by civil society organizations, Hometown Associations and local governments with the support of PIN, UNDP, and UN Women respectively. ACTED also facilitated sports, arts, and educational activities for refugee children in two RACs.

- On 26 August, UNHCR met with the Lear corporation in order to assess working conditions for refugees as well as to address any challenges refugees may face. Lear company is conducting activity in a free economic zone, Ungheni district, and to date have employed some 15 refugees while offering 100 vacant positions for refugees. The meeting was attended by a refugee community leader who will disseminate the information to interested refugees.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- A recent study on energy poverty conducted by UNDP identified more than 64 per cent of the Moldovan households as energy poor by incomes, spending more than 10 per cent of their income on energy. The situation is deteriorating, as prices continue to rise, pushing many into severe energy vulnerability during the winter season. Refugees are also affected, given that 88 per cent of the refugees stay in private homes, either with friends or relatives, or in rented accommodation. It is essential that focus is maintained on promoting livelihood opportunities and socio-economic inclusion that would enable refugees to become self-reliant and overcome the challenges of the winter period. Furthermore, promoting social cohesion in host communities will continue to be needed particularly during increasingly more difficult times.

LOGISTIC, SUPPLY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

LOGISTIC AND SUPPLY WORKING GROUP | UNHCR

Telecommunication Sectors

- The installation of a WI-FI router for the Otaci bus station was implemented by ACTED and Ericsson during the last week of the reporting period. The Wi-Fi was also connected for UNHCR's field office in Otaci.

Achievements and Impact

- UNHCR by the end of August had pre-positioned regional stock in warehouses in Moldova totalling 469,331 items. This includes: 132,287 blankets; 121,065 hygiene kits; 20,088 solar lamps; 32,780 jerry cans; 14,989 mattresses; 24,823 kitchen sets; 292 wheelchairs; 7,455 quilts; 56,455 sleeping bags; 7,055 tents; 3,144 winterization kits; 3,050 tarpaulins. Additionally, UNHCR received 11,715 items donated by IKEA including kitchen items as well as furniture. The received items were to be distributed at Moldexpo refugee accommodation centre in Chisinau and at Palanca and Otaci border crossing points.

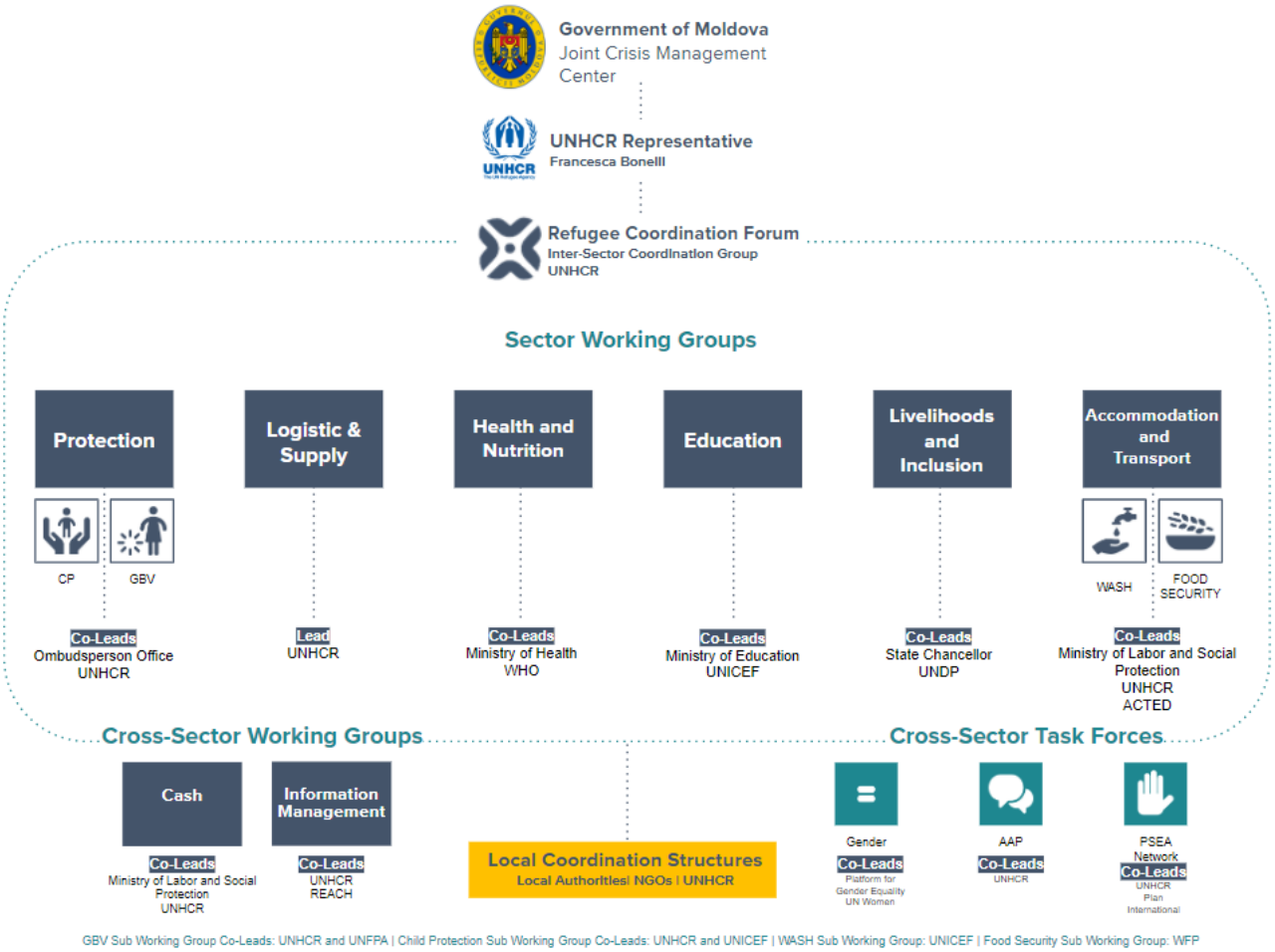
CROSS-CUTTING TASKFORCES

- The Gender Task Force (GTF) in cooperation with UNHCR contracted a company to carry out mapping of local NGOs providing refugee response services in Moldova, including but not limited to women-led, women's rights and refugee 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. Gender Centru under the agreement with the Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund and with the technical support of UN Women organized a National Conference "Localized and Inclusive Humanitarian Action" that gathered 45 women and six men, representatives of the women-led, women rights organization, activists and refugees for the round table discussions to capitalize on experiences and expertise around the impact of the crisis, lessons-learned and best practices in the refugee response. Similarly, Women Leaders for Peace Academy was organized for 30 women and girls from Moldova and Ukraine in the period of 25-27 August and developed their understanding and skills in gender equality, non-discrimination, stigma, stereotypes, security in the context of humanitarian crisis, leadership and gender in humanitarian action. Up to 10 small grants will be offered to the rural participants of the Academy to develop locally relevant initiatives. Gender Centru also delivered training to 88 women and 15 men, including four refugees, from 22 local communities hosting Ukrainian refugees (mayors, secretaries, social assistants, doctors, police officers, representatives of schools and local NGOs, refugees) on gender in humanitarian action including sex and age disaggregated data, needs assessment and analysis, gender-based violence, sexual exploitation and abuse. The training fostered the establishment of long-term partnership through memorandums of understanding and offered small grants to build the capacity or reinforce Refugee Response Cells established at the local level.
- The PSEA Network has conducted a mapping of UN Implementing Partners' Capacity Assessment in Moldova to strengthen inter-agency coordination avoiding duplication and fostering collaboration when implementing capacity building plans to enhance local organizations' capacity to meet minimum PSEA standards. According to the data collected, UNICEF, IOM, UNHCR, UNFPA and UN Women have assessed a total of 71 partners in Moldova, including 1 government institution, 62 local NGOs and 8 INGOs.
- By the end of August, the PSEA Network delivered trainings to 225 humanitarian workers in Moldova using the IASC Training Package on Protection Against Sexual Misconduct. Trainings have counted with the technical and material support of UNHCR, IOM and Plan International.
- IOM and UNHCR agreed to translate the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) PSEA package into Romanian to ensure mainstreaming in Moldova. On 16 August, in a joint capacity building, UNHCR and IOM co-facilitated and supported a local NGO that delivered its first PSEA training in Vadul lui Voda to 28 participants from Straseni local public administration.
- World Vision conducted a Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) training to implementing partners Communitas and Ave Copiii and first aid training.
- 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. In August, the Green Line (0800-800-11) helpline responded to 7,768 calls, which represents an increase of 5 per cent compared to July. Most calls (80 per cent) come from Chisinau, and 78 per cent of the users are women. The main enquiries were regarding cash assistance, vouchers and housing, with some enquiries directed to registering for the EU transfer system. Refugees interested in registering for a flight were assisted in filling out the Online Service Request form. Thirteen feedback/complaints were registered. The Moldova for Peace information unit initiated a Rumour Tracking exercise and analysed over 14 different social media groups, monitoring the most popular social networks, in particular those dedicated to refugees. The most active rumours include such topics as education and the difference between 'listening-only' and full school enrolment; cash assistance, complaints about the verification in-persons, taxes, and doubts on how to use the requisite form; alleged unequal distribution of vouchers; and information regarding the border. Possible rising tensions within the local community were also noted. Clear Global is supporting organizations to develop language-informed programmes and communication strategies through language data research and analysis.

IOM and UNHCR co-facilitated and supported a local NGO in delivering a first PSEA training on IASC package at Strășeni. ©IOM

WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP

REFUGEE COORDINATION FORUM STRUCTURE AS OF 31 AUGUST:



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