

Moldova: Information Management Working Group

Meeting Notes

Meeting Start Time: 20/07/2023, 11:00 AM

Location: Microsoft Teams (online).

Chaired by UNHCR and REACH Initiative

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Agenda:

1. Population figures update
2. Population Estimation Taskforce launch
3. Updates from REACH
4. Mid-year Reporting - ActivityInfo and narratives

1. Population figures update

A new population figures dataset is available on the [Inter-Agency Refugee Coordination Information Hub Moldova](#).

You can find it in the *CODs and Baseline Data* folder, or use this direct link [here](#). If you do not yet have access, please contact arnautov@unhcr.org to request access permission.

The dataset contains available data on refugee and Moldovan populations at the country, raion, and locality levels. Please refer to the README sheet of the file for further details.

The dataset will be updated monthly. Feedback and requests for additional data to be included is strongly encouraged in following IMWG meetings to maximise the value of this dataset.

Daniele Pedretti, HelpAge: *The age cohorts in the dataset are very useful for us.*

Erhan Saritas, IOM: *When you do the estimates like did you use the highest beneficiaries of the cash per each region or it is a cumulative figure?*

Response: For previous estimates, it has been on a case by case basis depending on the Raion. For example, in one Raion, only the MPCA beneficiaries figure was used. For another, it may have been the Area Monitoring data. Occasionally these were adjusted depending on expert judgement from the field. So no, not cumulative but also quite situational. This latest dataset does not yet contain estimates, as these approaches will be revised in the upcoming Population Taskforce. We are seeking advice in the IMWG on these matters. The population estimation exercises so far have been using triangulation, but with limited sources, making extrapolation difficult.

Sofia Copacinschi, DRC: *Do we have availability data for vulnerable individuals, such as people with disabilities who have received cash assistance?*

Response: We refrain from using this data from the cash assistance as it is on a self-declaration basis, and so therefore we refer to assessments such as the MSNA and protection monitoring which are more purposeful and reliable for vulnerability data.

Olivia Singer, FCDO: *I am looking at the dataset now and notice a declining Moldovan population between the 2014 census and 2023 update. Do you have any useful findings from analysis on these population datasets, for example differences between the MPCA beneficiaries*

and the known total population?

Response: There can be more work done on analysis on the population datasets – expect to hear more about this in the next meeting.

Olivia Singer, FCDO: *Who is involved in the upcoming 2024 census?*

Response: There are several ongoing processes related to the census. The biggest workstream to support the census is at the UN Country Team level, and under the leadership of the Resident Coordinator's office. UNFPA has taken the lead to be the primary focal point to the National Bureau of Statistics. For now there is a smaller working group working on preparing the census. The National Bureau of Statistics is seeking financial support to support certain elements of the process, such as information campaigns about the census. There will be a pilot census at the end of August and early September for a small number of settlements. Discussions about this pilot are ongoing. We hope to have the National Bureau of Statistics join a following IMWG meeting so that they can present this themselves. In the case of encountering refugees during the door-to-door data collection, they plan to include them in the process, and so it is expected that the resulting data will be very useful. They also intend to adopt some European standard questions in the census so we can expect something similar to Eurostat datasets.

2. Population estimation taskforce launch

Accurate and reliable data on the distribution of refugees in Moldova is critical to ensure an effective humanitarian response, targeted assistance, and evidence-based policy-making. Such data enables actors in the refugee response in Moldova to identify gaps in service provision, and allocate resources efficiently.

The Information Management Working Group coordination team has been maintaining, updating and distributing data on known refugee populations, estimations, and forecasts, at the Raion level, since early 2022. Figures have been based on triangulation of available data, supplemented by expert judgment, in order to mitigate as much as possible the limitations of each data source used.

The Information Management Working Group has identified a need for a smaller, more specialized task force focused on using available data to estimate the refugee population in the Transnistrian region and elsewhere in The Republic of Moldova. This is due to several recent developments and factors: The ability to make estimations at the settlement level has been strengthened with new data, recent data on the host population has been released by the National Bureau of Statistics, and updated estimations are needed to support response planning in the second half of 2023.

Purpose:

The purpose of the taskforce is to generate an updated estimated number of refugees residing in Moldova, including for the Transnistrian region, by reaching consensus on the

methodology and data sources used, and by triangulation and `reality-checking` with expert judgment from actors with field knowledge.

Participation and Frequency:

The first meeting will prioritize population estimation for the Transnistrian region.

Any actors who meet the following criteria are highly encouraged to attend:

- Actors with any data on refugees who are residing in the Transnistrian region, such as those who are providing assistance in the region and monitoring the number of people reached.
- Actors who implement activities in the Transnistrian region, who can provide an opinion on estimated refugee populations overall or for any particular region or settlement, based on field knowledge.
- Actors who have experience or technical expertise in population estimation.

Participation can include, but is not limited to:

- Government
- Local NGO Partners
- International NGO Partners
- UN and other International Agencies
- Academic and research institutions

The purpose of the first meeting will be to explore available data together and formulate a methodology for population estimation.

The second meeting will be a presentation of the results of the exercise, to provide an opportunity for feedback and revision.

Following meetings will be scheduled according to need. Once the objective of the task force is completed, the meetings will be discontinued.

Next steps: An email will be circulated soon with a link to register for participation.

3. REACH Updates

MSNA: Currently finalizing the questionnaire after WG consultations. Data Collection starts Mid-August.

Rafal Chibowski, PIN: *When can the MSNA preliminary results be expected?*
Response: The first half of October.

Erhan Saritas, IOM: *Can we see the questionnaire to see what data will be collected, to avoid any possible duplication and to see if we can contribute in any way? It would be good to be involved as IOM has experience on this and can contribute to the process.*

Response: Yes, although it is now too late to adjust to the questionnaire, it will be publicly available and shared once finalized. The consultation happened via the sector leads of the working groups. Moldova is the only country in the region where this is being done through REACH, and where it is being co-funded by UNHCR and UNICEF. In other countries in the response, this is being mostly led by UNHCR and lead by the UNHCR regional bureau. It was decided to have a core questionnaire for all countries, with limited flexibility to modify the questionnaire to track country specific indicators, in order to maintain cross-country analysis.

Daniele Pedretti, HelpAge: Will the MSNA dataset be available? It is very important for us to perform our own analysis on the data.

Response: Yes, the dataset will be released once cleaned, along with frequency tables, and findings.

Temporary Protection Assessment: We intend to give a presentation to the ISCG on the scope and methodology and will share with them the concept note. Once that is completed, further details will be shared in a following IMWG.

Rental Market Assessment: The latest 999.md dataset on rental advertisements is here: https://repository.impact-initiatives.org/document/reach/1e6a003d/REACH_MDA_RMA_999md-Dataset_2023-06.xlsx The Round 1 final report is coming towards the end of August.

The Round 2 research design is beginning in consultation with relevant actors. Timeline to be shared in a following IMWG meeting.

4. Mid-year Reporting - ActivityInfo and narratives

Thank you to all who have been submitting inputs to ActivityInfo. The deadline is Monday, so you still have time to see what you need to prepare and submit. Please do not extend over Monday, this is a hard deadline. We need to compile the data by mid-week so we need time to check, follow up with you if necessary, and clean. If you miss the Monday deadline, please instead update what is missing in the next reporting cycle.

We are currently working with sector leads on the mid-year achievements reporting, more on the narrative side. By end of week next week this will be published on the regional level, and these will be shared with you – supplemented at a later date by the numeric achievements extracted from ActivityInfo.

