

Ukraine Situation

RETS MOLDOVA

Coordination Call #2

17 Mar 2022

Agenda

1. UNHCR: Situation overview
2. RETS Update from Moldova
3. Information and data management overview
4. Digital Inclusion and Connectivity for Refugees
5. Field partner updates

Participants

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Nizar Zeidan, UNHCR	Iulia Iordachi, FAO
Elie Ayoub, UNHCR	Jose Toscano, Intelsat
Massoumeh Farman Farmaian UNHCR	Scott Walters, INTERSAT
John Warnes, UNHCR	Dagbjartur Brynjarsson, NetHope
Stjin Aelbers, Internews,	Hung Tran, SES Networks
Edisher Giorgadze, WFP	Dorian Gorea, UNICEF
Peter Davidson, Intelsat	Michael Dirksen, WFP
Abdullah Saleh, UNHCR	Simon Genin, UNICEF
Irene Scott, Internews	Isaac Kwamy, GSMA
David Hartshorn, Geeks without Borders	Adam Marlatt, Help.NGO
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	Jeya Kumar, UNICEF
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Anthony Kimani, World Vision International
Harry Papastavrou, World Vision International
Alexandru Ciubuc, Moldtelecom
Rami Jarrar, UN Women
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Yahya Eshall, IOM
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Britta Ramberg, MSB
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Situation Overview

Since the escalation of conflict in Ukraine on 24 February, over 3.5 million people have been forced to flee to neighbouring countries. As of 16 March, **350,886** people have been displaced to Moldova. The number is expected to increase over the incoming weeks. The total displacement across Europe surpassed 3 million on 15 March 2022.

As the situation evolves, more humanitarians are reaching Moldova and consequently, the needs of both people forced to flee and humanitarians delivering critical protection and programme activities in the country is increasing.

RETS Update from Moldova

Alexander Thomas is leading coordination in Moldova. RETS continues to coordinate all IT assessments and service delivery for the humanitarian response community in Moldova and Ukraine's other western neighbours.

Coordination

- RETS is grateful to local and international partners supporting the response for people fleeing the conflict in Ukraine.
- TSF is currently in the ground conducting a needs assessment
- NetHope is in the process of deployment.
- Ericsson and Cisco's Crisis Response teams are on standby.

Internet Connectivity

- Internet connectivity is prioritized in two groups of sites, Blue Dot Hubs and major transportation centres. Blue Dot locations in Palanca and Otaci have been connected via LTE routers. The aim is to strengthen these networks and add a layer of access control with a splash page.
- The connectivity in the UNHCR – Government of Moldova Enrolment Centre in Chisinau has also been established, allowing registration of individuals and enabling cash-based interventions.
- Local partners are encouraged to share their connectivity needs with RETS Coordinator, Alexander Thomas thomas@unhcr.org.

Security Communications

- A joint assessment of VHF network in Chisinau alongside with UNDSS, covering all UN agencies in the country.
- An extension of this network to the border areas is planned.

Information and Data Management

- RETS has established an Inter-agency coordination team on MS teams to facilitate collaboration and coordination. Colleagues and partners are encouraged to join the team and upload any reports, assessment,
- Collaboration with major MNOs is ongoing. Moldtelecom shared data on their SIM cards, and this is shared with the regional IMWG.
- Once the equipment reaches to the country, a splash page will be rolled out for all connected sites, collecting data on the activities, organizations and number of beneficiaries.

Field Partner Updates

HELP.NGO

- Help.ngo has prepositioned point-to-point equipment to Poland in the Logistics Cluster's warehouse and is available to support any requests.
- They are willing to support on cybersecurity and firewall perspective as required.
- Colleagues have been deployed to Poland and Ukraine. Many of them are multilingual.

NETHOPE

- NetHope is sending a team to Romania and Moldova to assess the connectivity and cybersecurity needs.
- NetHope is also sending equipment to Romania and Moldova, followed by Poland, and they are willing to provide connectivity in any of these countries.

MOLDTELECOM

- Moldtelecom has been cooperating with UNHCR on information and data sharing.
- They have expressed their willingness to provide connectivity in any number of the sites. They have been providing connectivity in several transportation hubs.
- They have so far distributed 15K SIM cards to refugees and 5K were distributed to the Ministry of Internal Affairs for more targeted distribution.

GEEKS WITHOUT FRONTEIRS

- 10 containers have been committed by a number of international partners to be shipped to Poland. Colleagues are open to modifying the containers to meet specific requirements.

Digital Inclusion and Connectivity for Refugees

- A dedicated coordination structure around digital inclusion and connectivity for refugees is established by UNHCR’s Innovation Service and the first meeting took place on 16 Mar 2022. Colleagues are encouraged to reach out to John Warnes warnes@unhcr.org to be included in the distribution and mailing list.

Action Points	Responsible	Deadline
1. The next RETS Coordination Meeting for Moldova will take place on 24 March, meeting invitation will be sent to all participants.	UNHCR	Immediate

2. Partners and colleagues are encouraged to upload their assessment reports, maps and other information and data materials to the RETS Ukraine Situation Team.

All partners present in Moldova

ASAP