

Ukraine Situation

RETS MOLDOVA

Coordination Call #3

24 Mar 2022

Agenda

1. UNHCR: Situation overview
2. RETS Update from Moldova
3. Field partner updates
4. Global RETS Update

Participants

Alexander Thomas, RETS Moldova Lead	Hung Tran, SES Networks
Andrew Linehan, UNDOS/OICT	Igor Condrat, UNFPA
Alexandru Ciubuc, Moldtelecom	Isaac Kwamy, GSMA
Angelique Favor, UNHCR	Iulia Iordachi, FAO
Anthony Kimani, World Vision International	Jean Luc Abiyou, UNHCR
Antonios Martalis, UNHCR	Jeya Kumar, UNICEF
BP Panwar, UNICEF	Joe Simmons, Geeks without Borders
Dagbjartur Brynjarsson, NetHope	Jose Toscano, Intelsat
Daniel Ciobotaru,	John Warnes, UNHCR
Dorian Gorea, UNICEF	Kevin Schwartz
Edisher Giorgadze, WFP	Lars Ruediger, Ericsson
Elie Ayoub, UNHCR	Ludmila Nepotu, Moldtelecom
Erin Bown-Anderson	Mara Deckard, USAID
Ezzeddin Hassoume, Save the Children	Meghann Rhynard-Geil, Internews
Harry Papastavrou, World Vision International	Viorica Marcoci, Moldtelecom
Hem Bohora, UNICEF	Oisin Walton, Vodafone Foundation
Yulia Fedorenko, UNHCR	

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 23 March, **374,059** 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.

Rami Shakra, Global RETS Coordinator is supporting the RETS response in the neighbouring countries, working closely with the partners. Partners are encouraged to join the RETS Ukraine Situation team ([link](#)) and share their assessments from all neighbouring countries.

Together with UNICEF, UNHCR is supporting the establishment of Blue Dots in 6 countries: Czechia, Romania, Moldova, Poland, Slovakia, and Hungary. Whilst the exact locations and numbers of the Blue Dots are still being discussed, an estimated 25 locations will be established across the region, providing protection services to children and families.

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. In this regard, partners are encouraged to support the 5W data collection activities in Moldova to capture the services provided by different actors ([link](#)).

Coordination and Connectivity

- Engagement from all partners in the ground has been extremely positive. Collaboration within the country enables a rapid provision of telecommunications solutions and ensure a sustainable long-term development in the country.
- Two volunteers from Ericsson Response have arrived in the country and supporting the assessment.
- Colleagues from NetHope and TSF have been supporting the assessment in the country.
- The strategic priorities of the UNHCR are
 - Cash assistance centres,
 - Refugee accommodation centres

- Protection on the move.
- Working with ACTED and Ericsson Response 2 Blue Dot locations have been connected to the internet.
- A splash page to collect data in the blue dots has been deployed. In 24 hours, 70 unique users have connected in both Blue Dot locations.
- Another key operational site is the train station in the town of Causeni. RETS is prioritizing this transportation hub to provide connectivity as soon as possible.
- 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 and renewal of this network to the border areas is planned.

Field Partner Updates

MOLDTELECOM

- Moldtelecom will take over the call centre for refugees from the Government to the professional call centre that is serving 24/7. UNHCR's Protection team is working with the Government of Moldova and Moldtelecom to facilitate this process.
- Partners are encouraged to reach out to Alexandru Ciubuc (alexandru.ciubuc@moldtelecom.md) for any support and/or need regarding their customer support call centre.

Global RETS Update

- UNHCR is working with UNICEF to identify the remaining Blue Dot locations across the region.
- Global RETS coordinator Rami Shakra was on a mission to Romania, visiting the Blue Dot locations. Currently 8 Blue Dot locations have been identified, the number is expected to increase. The deployment will continue with Hungary and Slovakia to identify needs.
- In Poland, UNHCR and UNICEF are finalizing the list of locations. Currently only 1 Blue Dot is active in the country and the connectivity is provided via temporary solutions.

Global Partner Updates

SAVE THE CHILDREN

- Save the Children are continuously working in Ukraine with about 24 staff members in Lviv and Kyiv, providing psychosocial support, protection activities and WASH programmes.
- Save the Children are expected to increase the footprint in the country.
- An IT deployment for assessment of needs in Ukraine is expected to take place next week. Save the Children are focusing mostly on the bordering areas. According to the preliminary assessments, connectivity near the Polish border is reliable and there is enough power.

WORLD VISION

- World Vision is operating through their multiple locations in Romania, working to support the transit centres. They are gathering data on the refugee needs in 3 locations, once more information is provided by the teams on the ground, World Vision will update the partners.
- Preliminary results show that those Ukrainian refugees are seeking to integrate into the Romanian society generally move inland to the larger cities; whereas those who decide to stay near the Ukrainian and Moldovan border areas often express their desire to return to Ukraine when possible.
- They are also working with the Ukrainian authorities to support a number of hospitals.
- In Moldova, they are working with the local partners and WFP to identify the needs in terms of IT.
- In Poland, World Vision has established a logistics hub.

Action Points	Responsible	Deadline
1. The next RETS Coordination Meeting for Moldova will take place on 31 March, meeting invitation will be sent to all participants.	UNHCR	Immediate

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| 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 |
| 3. Partners are encouraged to submit their activities to the 5W Moldova. | All partners delivering services in Moldova | ASAP |