INTER AGENCY UPDATE #9 (13-15th of April)

Photo: UNICEF Moldova

MOLDOVA REFUGEE RESPONSE

421,130 Arrived in Moldova since 24 February

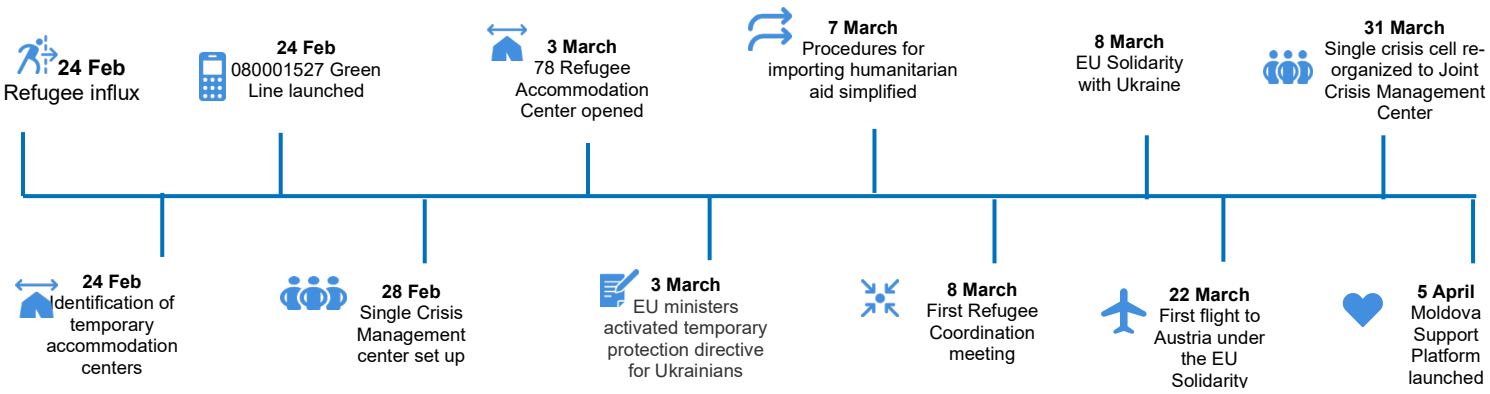
101,331 Remaining in Moldova

65% women

36% Children

The Government of Republic of Moldova developed a framework for the schooling of refugee students, including those who have applied for asylum. Moldova offers opportunities to all the children from Ukrainian refugee families so that they could be continue learning and education. The children are registered based on an application submitted by the parent or the legal representative to the local education division or education institution. The current needs include support for children to return to school, assistive devices, teachers who can address language barriers and trained to address the mental health needs of refugee children who may be suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder.

Timeline of response



Moldova for peace: Stories of refugee from Ukraine

(Click on the picture to watch)

Source: Ministry of Internal Affairs

SECTOR HIGHLIGHTS

This section brings you on the ground coverage of activities by partners

Protection

- UNHCR had a meeting with border officials at Palanca border crossing point (BCP) and visited the site to establish a registration point for refugees arriving as part of the contingency plan to receive 100,000 refugees.
- UNHCR organised the fourth round of the Palanca coordination meeting to discuss information provision and security issues. UNHCR has assigned five container spaces to be used by UNICEF, UNFPA, ACTED, and INTERSOS as part of the joint response. The work for fencing the Palanca bus station has commenced; this is part of the UNHCR's effort to support authorities to enhance security at the Palanca Bus station.
- UNHCR met with representatives of the National Congress of Ukrainians in Moldova, a body that brings together several long-standing non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to discuss collaborative efforts in support to shelter, information and outreach support, community, and social cohesion projects.
- UNHCR has opened a protection desk at six cash distribution centres in Chisinau (Moldexpo, Lev Tolstoy), Causeni, Cahul, Orhei, and Balti. The protection help desk provides counselling, identifies persons at risk, and makes referrals.
- First meeting of the Roma Task Force took place at the Testemitanu RAC which aimed to improve coordination and collaboration between the partners.
- The Refugee helpline (Green line | (0800 800 11) managed by UNHCR continues to provide refugees with information and advice on assistance available, processes and service

providers. On average 250 calls are received daily.
- ACTED continued monitoring visits of RACs and referrals for the protection services, health and NFI support.

Child Protection

- UNICEF has successfully launched three additional Blue Dots this week in Moldova, including two at border crossing points in Leuseni and Sculen.
- UNICEF and UNHCR, as co-leads of the Child Protection Sub-Working Group, have agreed to include in the agenda of PWG tasks teams critical issues impacting children, including a focus on disabilities, the Roma community, and safety in Refugee Accommodation Centres (RACs).
- UNICEF signed a new Humanitarian Programme Document (HPD) with AVE copiii to scale-up support in child protection efforts.

Supply and Logistics

- WFP managed 12 shipments on behalf of the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection (MSLP), delivering 5MT of assorted humanitarian cargo to eight locations across Moldova, including RACs and municipalities.
- Two trucks (8x pallets of Blankets, 3x pallets of Toys, and 40x pallets of adult clothing/children's clothing) of humanitarian cargo have been sent from Tudora border crossing point to Odessa on Tuesday, 12 April. With that, IOM completed the handover of the 98 pallets of humanitarian aid donated by Pompiers de l'urgence Internationale (PUI).

Accommodation and Transportation

- The Joint Crisis Management Center has requested UNHCR to conduct a site assessment for approximately 30 potential sites of various types as part of its contingency planning standby capacity. The UNHCR is putting together two teams of partners to conduct the assessment by the end of the week. Teams comprised of experts from the UNHCR, IOM, World Food Programme, UNICEF, and ACTED will work in collaboration with local authorities. The assessments will run for four days, from 13-16 April.
- From 15 March to 14 April, Moldova Food security sub-working Group, WFP and partners provided 122,025 hot meals (3 meals per day) in 30 different localities/regions and 64 centres. An average of 1,414 people per day are being supported.
- HelpAge Moldova currently provides 2,948 refugees at 45 refugee centers with hot meals and/or food vouchers. These centers are spread throughout Moldova and house many of the most at-risk refugees. HelpAge also provides vouchers for hygiene items such as soap, toothpaste, and laundry detergents at 41 refugee centers. HelpAge plans to target older refugees with psychosocial and financial support.
- UNHCR presented the concept of the Virtual Humanitarian Aid platform (VHAP), which was also approved by the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection. The VHAP is intended to link the Government Ukraine (UA) help system to resources available from the international organization.
- UNHCR is in discussions with the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection on UNHCR assistance to the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection through NGO partner LCA for the provision of additional staff, payment of utilities, and other information technology equipment.
- UNHCR and IOM continue to support the movement of refugees between Palanca and Husi in Romania. Between 11 to 14 April, 414 people were transported in 10 buses.
- On April 12, IOM supported the return of four third-country nationals (TCN) from Moldova to Kyrgyzstan on commercial flights. IOM's support included PCR test, pre-embarkation briefing, distribution of personal protective equipment (PPEs), baggage handling, ground transportation, snack packs, and airport assistance. To date, 354 TCNs have been supported by IOM to return to their countries of origin.

- On April 13, IOM made the first booking through the Airbnb agreement for two vulnerable female Ukrainian refugees.
- UNHCR and ACTED continued to provide transportation for refugees crossing the border at the Palanca crossing point. Between 11 to 13 April, 506 refugees have benefitted from such service.
- ACTED during the field monitoring assessments identified RACs with internet connectivity issues and is working together with UNHCR to provide internet connectivity. In Nisporeni, Hincesti, and Anenii Noi RACs, three new Wi-Fi points were installed. Nine Wi-Fi hotspots have been installed at transit stations and RACs so far.
- ANSA (National Agency for Food Safety) has reached out to ACTED and HelpAge to monitor food caterers providing cooked meals at RACs.

Education

- UNICEF supported 50 refugee children with semi-structured educational activities and psychosocial support within three Child-Friendly Spaces (CFS).
- UNICEF, in partnership with Football Federation in Moldova, organized sports activities for 40 refugee children at Zimbru Stadium to help children overcome trauma and stress and get a sense of normality.
- UNICEF organized the visit of 170 refugee children to the "Licurici" Theatre, where children watched a theatre play and were provided with hot meals, individual hygiene kits and individual learning kits.
- UNICEF organized the training of 20 ToTs on building social cohesion as a response to the Ukrainian crisis. The trainers will build the capacities of 900 teachers nationwide.
- UNICEF and MER organized a ToT for 25 youth workers from community centers to carry out and deliver UPSHIFT social innovation program within their communities for Moldovan and Ukrainian adolescent refugees.
- UNICEF organized its first boot camp' for 20 Moldovan and Ukrainian adolescent refugees from MoldExpo and other placement centers from Chisinau
- U-report Moldova launched a poll on adolescents and youth refugee needs and allowed its system to operate the regional chatbot for young Ukrainian refugees, launched simultaneously for Ukraine, Balkans, Italy, Romania and Moldova.
- In partnership with Chisinau Municipality, UNICEF built the capacity of 10 youth workers from Tohatin Municipal Youth Centre and Youth Centre to deliver youth-friendly services to refuge adolescents and young people.
- UNICEF and UNHCR have completed a high-level visit for the Education Cannot Wait (ECW) Secretariat, which has pledged USD 1.5M to support learning efforts in Moldova.

Health

- In collaboration with the Ministry of Health, WHO evaluated the rapid needs assessment of cancer management capacity, medicines list, and procurement process for refugees and host communities in order to provide recommendations taking timeline and sustainability into account.
- The WHO and the Ministry of Health coordinate the work of nine Emergency Medical Teams in providing health services. On 14 April 2022, two EMTCC meetings were held to discuss MDS reporting and services on the delivery of mental health and psych-social support services.
- The Ministry of Health updated Secured medical evacuation pathways to the EU countries in coordination with their Romania counterparts.
- In collaboration with UNICEF and WHO, 9 regional trainings for strengthening Health Care Workers' capacities on routine immunization catch-up campaigns, including refugee vaccination, were held. HCWs from 26 districts (70%) out of 37 improved their knowledge of routine immunization.
- UNICEF WASH colleagues have been supporting the government contingency planning that is ongoing, particularly focused

on scenarios in case there is an offensive in Odesa.

- UNICEF has met with the National Centre for Rehabilitation of Children with Disabilities, which is currently supporting roughly thirty refugee families from Ukraine. A needs assessment is ongoing, and UNICEF will provide supplies and support as needed.
- UNICEF continued the trainings of primary health care workers on immunization, including the vaccination of refugee children from Ukraine.

Cash-Based Intervention

- As of 15 April, 18,000 individual refugees have been enrolled and issued bank cards for UNHCR's MPCA programme, of which 88% are women, and 12% are persons over the age of 60. Seven enrolment centers are operational in the country, with mobile teams supporting enrolment in other locations. Over USD 2.1 million has been disbursed by the UNHCR cash programme. UNHCR is working with UNICEF, CRS, Caritas Moldova, Diaconia, and Maib on cash assistance for refugees.
- 736 refugee families in Hincesti, Glodeni, Falesti, Balti, and Roscani received vouchers during the period from 11-14 April. Each voucher is worth 1,000 Moldovan leu and can be used at Linella and Fidesco supermarkets nationwide. IOM also distributed safety leaflets and information on human trafficking during the CBI distribution. 1,825 refugee and 15 TCN families in 11 Moldovan districts have received vouchers (Anenii Noi, Chisinau, Cimislia, Criuleni, Ialoveni, Hincesti, Glodeni, Falesti, Balti, Roscani and Telenesti).

  WFP is sending daily SMS messages with links to the self-enrollment survey to beneficiaries listed by cooperating partners and municipalities. As of 14 April, 1684 households had received an SMS/identified. 1,060 were self-registered, 614 households received SMS pending registration; 604 households received cash transfers (68% of recipients were female | Family size: 3.2).

  As of 14 April, the WFP hotline was operational and had received over 298 calls. Most callers (75 percent) are women who live in Chisinau. Most queries (84 percent) continue to be individuals seeking information on how to apply for assistance.

Moldova refugee inter-agency coordination

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