



Photo: Government of Moldova

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INTER-AGENCY UPDATE #10



HIGHLIGHTS



Access to Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights: Refugees from Ukraine will benefit from free of charge medical assistance in the reproductive health sector at all medical centres of in Moldova. The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) is supporting the National Health System to promote inclusion of refugees through technical and financial support to national health authorities. Cooperation between UNFPA and the Ministry of Health guarantees access to Ukrainian women to sexual and reproductive health services, including to free comprehensive pre and postnatal care, family planning and cytological test for the prevention of cervical cancer.



Estimates by UNFPA



Contingency Planning: UNHCR is working with partners to support Moldova’s National Government on the development of a multi-sector contingency plan to respond to an eventual increase of the refugee flows from southern Ukraine. The development of the contingency-plan is being led by the Government’s Single Emergency Management Center. Pre-positioning of Non-Food Items and site improvements are taking place in key border entry points, as well as mapping of existing capacities on various sectors – including on accommodation and transport - to respond to a massive flow.

Update in Numbers



Projection of refugees in need of Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) in the Republic of Moldova (Source: WHO)

22.1 per cent (an estimated 20,000 refugees) are expected to have some form of mental health disorders, including:

5.1 per cent severe mental disorders (schizophrenia, bipolar, severe depression, severe anxiety (including severe PTSD)

4.0 per cent moderate mental disorders (moderate forms of depression and anxiety, including moderate PTSD)

13.1 per cent Mild mental disorders (mild forms of depression and anxiety, including mild PTSD)

SECTOR HIGHLIGHTS

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

Protection

- UNHCR is leading the coordination of humanitarian actors at the Palanca border crossing point (BCP) and Bus Hub. Partners present on Palanca BCP include IGSU, IOM, UNFPA, ACTED, INTERSOS, MSF, ACR Volunteer group, Action Against Hunger, Blue Dots – P4EC, CDA (LCA), Helvetas, IsraAID.
- UNHCR has identified local organizations outside of Chisinau, including refugee-led organizations to scale up local responses and build local capacity to enhance the community-based approach. Daily field visits are being organised to build rapport and protection capacity.
- UNHCR maintains a 24/7 protection presence at Palanca and responds to the late arrival of convoys from Ukraine. Reception, transportation and accommodation are organized in coordination with the authorities and organizations with field presence.
- UNHCR Palanca Field team connected The Tenth of April NGO, UNHCR partner in Ukraine, with LCA and ACTED in Moldova to work closely on information sharing and coordination at border crossing points.
- During the reporting period, 1,058 calls were received by the refugee helpline (0800 800 11) supported by UNHCR, and which provides

information on rights, and available services and assistance.

- UNHCR and IOM continued to collaborate on the relocation of vulnerable refugees from Moldova to EU countries. UNHCR is working on pre-screening for upcoming flights, while IOM provides pre-flight assistance for the upcoming flights.
- IOM conducted protection monitoring in Briceni, Criva, Larga, Sculeni and Ungheni BCPs on April 15 and 16. The activity aims to identify protection risks and needs as a part of inter-agency efforts.
- IOM delivered a session on protection principles and survivor-centred approach to first responders as part of the Psychological First Aid training implemented on 15 April. In total, 25 Government Psychologists participated in the training.

Gender-Based violence

- UNHCR and UNFPA are making efforts to encourage local women's organizations to participate in coordination structure and increase funding for them to scale up their vital work. In this sense, both organizations are conducting joint missions to approach local organizations to enhance coordination, promote inclusion of refugees in their services. In the reporting period, 'SOTIS' Family Crisis Centre and the Honour and Rights of

Contemporary Women were visited in the locality of Balti. The organizations provide services to GBV survivors and vulnerable women refugees, including through mobile services, and are part of the GBV SWG referral pathways.

- Gender Task Force, under the leadership of UN Women and UNHCR, is supporting sectors to ensure gender mainstreaming across the refugee response. During the reporting period, the Task Force provided recommendations on needs assessments being implemented by the Livelihoods and Education sectors, and has worked with sector leads on the RRP indicators.
- UN Women provides financial assistance to civil society organizations to raise awareness about sexual and gender-based violence and address the most pressing needs of women and children. The second round of targeted for NGOs/CSOs to apply for the Women, Peace, and Humanitarian Fund is on-going.

Child Protection

- Plan-international held a two-day online training for partners on safeguarding and child protection in emergencies (in English and Romanian), attended by 40 staff from partner organizations (CNPAC, Amici dei Bambini and Moldova Project.)
- Plan International and CNPAC (Centrul Național de Prevenire a Abuzului față de Copii) reached 860 children and 490 adults through the mobile Child Protection units in the north and south of the country.
- Plan International donated 49 backpacks to the office of the Mayor in Cahul for distribution to refugees and host communities' children.

Supply and Logistics

- On behalf of the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, WFP dispatched 27 shipments totalling 18.4 MT of humanitarian cargo to the Refugee Accommodation Centers (RACs) and municipalities.
- In partnership with UNHCR and Moldova for Peace, ACTED provided logistical and human resource support to the Moldova Film Warehouse in Chisinau. The support has been requested from the Ministry of Labour and

Social Protection. During the reporting period, ACTED received and unloaded two 20-ton trucks from Leuseni in the Moldova Film warehouse.

- The WHO has procured a new batch of disinfectants, dispensers, and other infection prevention and control (IPC) items to ensure infection prevention and control measures in RACs.

Accommodation and Transportation

- From 15 March to 17 April, WFP and Cooperating Partners – with signed FLAs – have delivered 146,220 hot meals (3 per day) in 30 different localities/regions and 79 centres. This represents an average of 1,520 people per day. Please see the dedicated [dashboard](#) for more details.
- IOM, UNHCR, and ACTED continue supporting refugees who wish to be transported from Palanca to Husi in Romania, adapting the number of buses to the number of arrivals on the previous day.
- During the reporting period, ACTED supported the installation and reinforcement of the internet network at the University of Moldova, where 100 refugees are currently hosted.
- Multi-sector assessment (including WASH) was undertaken for 30 RACs (to accommodate 10k refugees) as part of Contingency planning.
- UNICEF finalized WASH Humanitarian Programme Document finalized with INGO Solidarité International for WASH facilities and services for 75,000 refugees at border crossings, Blue Dots, RACs, and host communities.
- UNICEF procured WASH supplies for 20,000 refugees.
- ACTED received six requests for support from RACs during the reporting period and is working with partners to address them. Five orders to RACs were dispatched. ACTED supported one RAC twice with their electrical system installation. Two additional assessments were completed, and procurement has been launched to repair showers and toilets in two RACs in Chisinau.
- Plan-international distributed 1,500 food kits and 1,500 hygiene kits to refugees. The kits are designed to support a family of 3-4 members for 10 days.

- ACTED maintains eight standard latrines and two latrines for people with specific needs at Palanca, in partnership with UNHCR. The latrines are emptied every two days and cleaned every day. ACTED has also installed five handwashing points which are regularly maintained.

Education

- UNICEF is procuring 1,000 laptops to be placed in technical labs and assigned to specific schools to benefit refugee and Moldovan children.
- UNICEF launched a virtual chat bot for young refugees on the move. The bot provides speedy answers to questions on EU/Non-EU border crossings and youth services.
- UNICEF is meeting with the head of the Youth Centre in Chisinau to establish a wide range of services for refugee and host populations.

Health and Nutrition

- With WHO support the health sector Contingency plan for Refugee emergency management targeting health care service delivery, public health and procurement and supply management was updated.
- The rapid needs assessment of capacity to manage cancer, medicines list and procurement process for refugees and host communities have been evaluated by WHO in coordination with Ministry of Health in order to provide recommendations considering the timeline and sustainability.
- The data collection required for costing to implement National Cancer Control Program and Action Plan (2023-2027) including cancer care for Ukrainian refugees were tackled.
- 9 Emergency Medical Teams health service delivery work is coordinated by the WHO & Ministry of Health.
- The Ministry of Health in context of Secured medical evacuation pathways to the EU countries was updated and synchronized with Romania counterparts.
- 9 regional trainings for strengthening Health Care Workers capacities on routine immunization catch-up campaign, including vaccination of refugees were conducted with UNICEF and WHO. The HCWs from 26 districts

(70%) out of 37 improved their level of knowledges on routine immunization.

- 100 coordinators from 36 primary health care institutions across the country have been trained during four trainings regarding boost up the COVID-19 immunization campaign and development of the long-lasting microplanning for COVID-19 immunization.
- UNICEF, in partnership with Action Against Hunger, is working on Humanitarian Programme Document (HPD) to ensure that the vulnerable families in refugee accommodation centres and border crossing points have the ability and means to reduce risks related to nutrition, physical health and mental well-being of pregnant women, children under two and their caregivers and to procure supplies and services for 'mother-baby corners' in RACs and border crossings points.
- UNICEF and WHO are preparing for an Immunization Week event (routine and COVID-19 immunizations) for refugee and host populations.
- National AIDS program, NGOs and UNAIDS continue to work together to support refugees with HIV/ AIDS. Since 28 March, 113 refugees have been referred for ARV treatment. A child born to an HIV positive mother received Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission assistance. More than ten persons were enrolled for tuberculosis treatment.
- IOM provided psychosocial counseling to 27 individuals in RACs. Two individuals were referred to specialized mental health services. Between 28 March and 18 April, IOM provided psychological counseling (individual/group) to 52 refugees and third-country nationals in RACs.
- IOM conducted training on Psychological First Aid (PFA) training for 25 psychologists (five males and 20 females) working with the General Inspectorate of Border Police, General Inspectorate of Police, Civil Protection and Emergency Inspectorate.

Livelihood and Inclusion

- Plan International has distributed 6,000 resilience building information leaflets through Moldova for Peace (5,000) and CN-PAC (1,000).

- ACTED also continued to distribute SIM cards in RACs as part of the Site Management activity. In total, 1,500 SIM cards have been handed out to refugees since the beginning of the project, at border crossing points and in RACs.

Cash-based intervention

- 20,000 individual refugees have been enrolled and issued bank cards for UNHCR's Multipurpose Cash Assistance programme, of which 88 per cent are women and 12 per cent are persons over the age of 60. Seven enrolment centres are operational in the country, with mobile teams supporting enrolment in other locations. Over USD 2.4 million has been disbursed by the UNHCR cash programme. UNHCR is working together with UNICEF, CRS, Caritas Moldova, Diaconia, and Maib on the delivery of cash assistance for refugees.
- UNICEF and WFP developed a joint proposal to work with the Minister of Labour and Social Protection to improve information sharing on social assistance programme.
- 1,085 new households self-registered via the government's online registration link for the WFP cash assistance programme in Chisinau. Option for individuals to register in-person have been made available by WFP in cooperation with World Vision, since 18 April at five sectors in the central Chisinau at Municipality premises.
- In the rest of the country, WFP and its partners continue to upload the lists of eligible households provided by the municipalities for self-registration via SMS. 1,217 households have received cash transfers, of which 67 per cent are women. Please see [the WFP cash transfers programme for Moldovan host communities dashboard for more information](#).
- Posters on the WFP cash programme are available here [GoDocs](#). Communication strategy rolled out, details [HERE](#). WFP prepared and distributed social media assets for the CBT campaign.
- As of 17 April, 406 calls were received on the WFP hotline. 78 per cent of the callers were women, and 94 per cent requested information about the process to seek assistance.

- IOM distributed 441 vouchers to refugee families in Balti, Drochia and Sangerei between April 14-17. The value of each voucher is 1,000 Moldovan leu and can be redeemed at Linella and Fidesco supermarkets throughout the country. Up to 18 April, 2,186 vouchers have been distributed to 2,171 refugee and 15 third-country nationals' families across eleven districts in Moldova (Anenii Noi, Chisinau, Cimislia, Criuleni, Drochia, Ialoveni, Hincesti, Glodeni, Falesti, Balti, Roscani, Sangerei and Telenesti).

Information management

- IOM, in partnership with UN Women and CBS conducted 7,676 displacement patterns, intentions and needs surveys in transit (4 BCPs, 3 transit areas in Chisinau). Of these 1,141 were conducted over the last week. Ukrainian refugees represent 97 per cent of the sample, while TCNs and Moldovans account for three per cent.
- IOM started return intentions and needs surveys with individuals returning to Ukraine from Moldova at two border crossing points.
- ACTED facilitated a Population Movement Intentions Survey at Otaci and Palanca border crossings. REACH's call centre gathered population figures for RACs.

MOLDOVA REFUGEE INTER-AGENCY COORDINATION



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