

# SITUATION UPDATE #4: Republic of Moldova

## Refugee Emergency Telecommunications Sector (RETS)

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**Update:** 13 – 26 April 2022

### OVERVIEW



*Humanitarian organizations assisting refugees in the Palanca Humanitarian Hub rely on Internet connectivity provided by the Refugee Emergency Telecommunications Sector. (Photo: ©Yulia Fedorenko/UNHCR)*

The UNHCR-led **Refugee Emergency Telecommunications Sector (RETS)** is the coordinating body for IT and communications assessment and service delivery in refugee emergencies. RETS seeks to reinforce multi-sector coordination by streamlining IT and communications into operational preparedness and response strategies for the delivery of assistance to refugees and other persons of concern.

In the Republic of Moldova, with the number of humanitarian partners providing services to persons of concern increasing, RETS is prioritizing the establishment of internet connectivity in reception centres and other key operational sites, and delivering internet connectivity in Blue Dot hubs across the country. Partners and other sectors are fully engaged in the assessment, planning and implementation of the RETS response, and play an active role in identifying sites where connectivity services are a core requirement for operational enhancement.



## COORDINATION

### Achievements and Impact

- UNHCR is collaborating closely with Cisco Crisis Response who is providing remote support and configuring emergency deployment kits out of their office in Poland.
- Ericsson Response has deployed a third volunteer to Chişinău to support the deployment of connectivity in new sites.
- ACTED continues to provide project management support to RETS service deployments.
- The [Regional Refugee Response Plan](#) for the Ukraine Situation was released on 26 April.



## CONNECTIVITY

### Achievements and Impact

- The Wi-Fi network in Palanca has been extended to align with the growth of the Humanitarian Hub, covering the new waiting area and camp area.
- New RETS Wi-Fi networks have been established in:
  - Six new Refugee Accommodation Centres
- Nine other operational sites remain connected to RETS Wi-Fi networks:
  - The office of the Guardianship Authorities of the district of Ştefan Vodă, on the Palanca border crossing point
  - One Refugee Accommodation Centre (RAC) in Chişinău municipality
  - Two RAC in the district of Bălţi
  - One RAC in the district of Anenii Noi
  - Blue Dot, Palanca.
  - Palanca Humanitarian Hub, Palanca
  - Blue Dot, Otaci
  - Căuşeni Train Station
- ACTED continues to distribute pre-paid SIM cards to refugees arriving in Moldova. Between 13 and 20 April, ACTED distributed 375 SIMs in Palanca, 222 in Otaci, and 451 in Refugee Accommodation Centres.

### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Two Blue Dots have been established in Leuseni and Sculeni. Deployment of internet connectivity is pending the green light from UNICEF.
- Internet connectivity deployments are planned in a further three Refugee Accommodation Centres over the coming week.



*Ericsson Response and UNHCR conduct visit to Căușeni Train Station, which has served as one of the main transportation hubs since the start of the Ukraine crisis. Connectivity is provided here to humanitarians and refugees thanks to the support of Cisco Crisis Response and Ericsson Response. (Photo: © Yulia Fedorenko/UNHCR)*



## SECURITY COMMUNICATIONS

### Achievements and Impact

- The telecommunications regulatory authority has approved VHF and UHF frequencies for the UN Joint Radio Network.

### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Delivery of equipment for the installation of the VHF and UHF networks is pending.



## INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

### Achievements and Impact

- UNICEF launched its third Viber poll to assess evolutions in primary education access for Ukrainian refugee children.



## EQUIPMENT

### Achievements and Impact

- Cisco Crisis Response has agreed to provide five emergency response kits to cater for increasing needs in Moldova. The kits will also be used for pre-positioning in line with preparedness planning.

### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

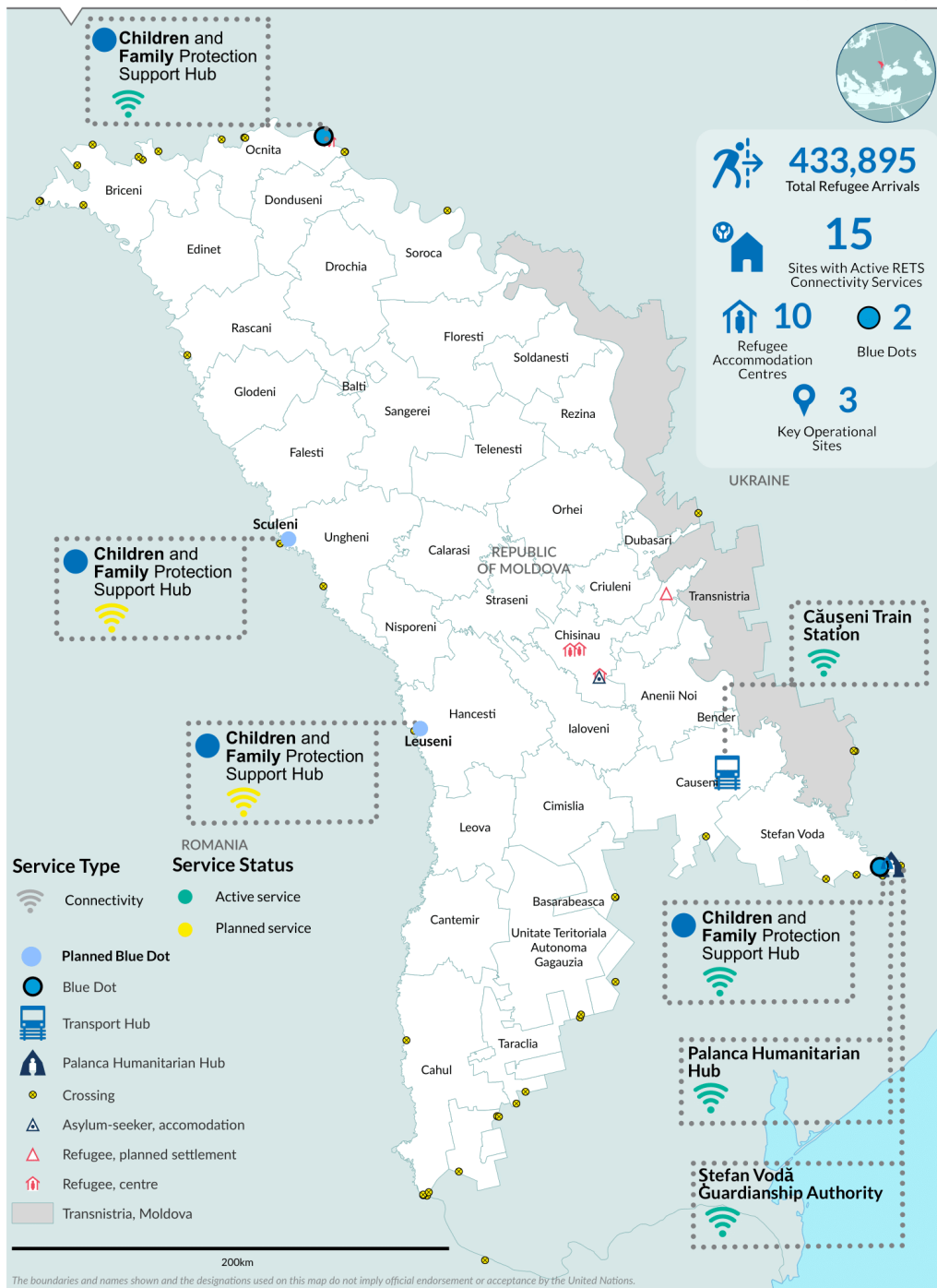
- UNICEF is procuring 1000 laptops, which will be placed in technical labs and assigned to specific schools to benefit refugee and Moldovan children by ensuring access to continuous learning.

# Reference Map



Refugee Emergency  
Telecommunications  
Sector (RETS)

REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA  
**Humanitarian Internet Connectivity**  
Connectivity Status as of 25 Apr 2022



N.B.: Locations of Refugee Accommodation Centres are not shared on the map.

## Funding and partnership

UNHCR is grateful for the contributions of its partners and donors who have generously given in support of the refugee response in the Republic of Moldova.



### RETS PROJECTS IMPLEMENTED WITH THE SUPPORT OF



### CONTACTS

#### **Alexander Thomas**

Refugee Emergency Telecommunications Sector Coordinator

[THOMAS@unhcr.org](mailto:THOMAS@unhcr.org) | Tel: +373 (78) 341 164 | WhatsApp: + 45 23 99 78 04

#### **De Romain Lecadou**

IT Emergency Coordinator, incoming

[LECADOU@unhcr.org](mailto:LECADOU@unhcr.org)

#### **Akinalp Orhan**

Information Management Officer

[ORHAN@unhcr.org](mailto:ORHAN@unhcr.org)

### LINKS

UNHCR's [Operational Data Portal](#) for the Ukraine Situation

[Inter-Agency Operational Update: Republic of Moldova](#)

[UNHCR Moldova Update](#), 16 April 2022