

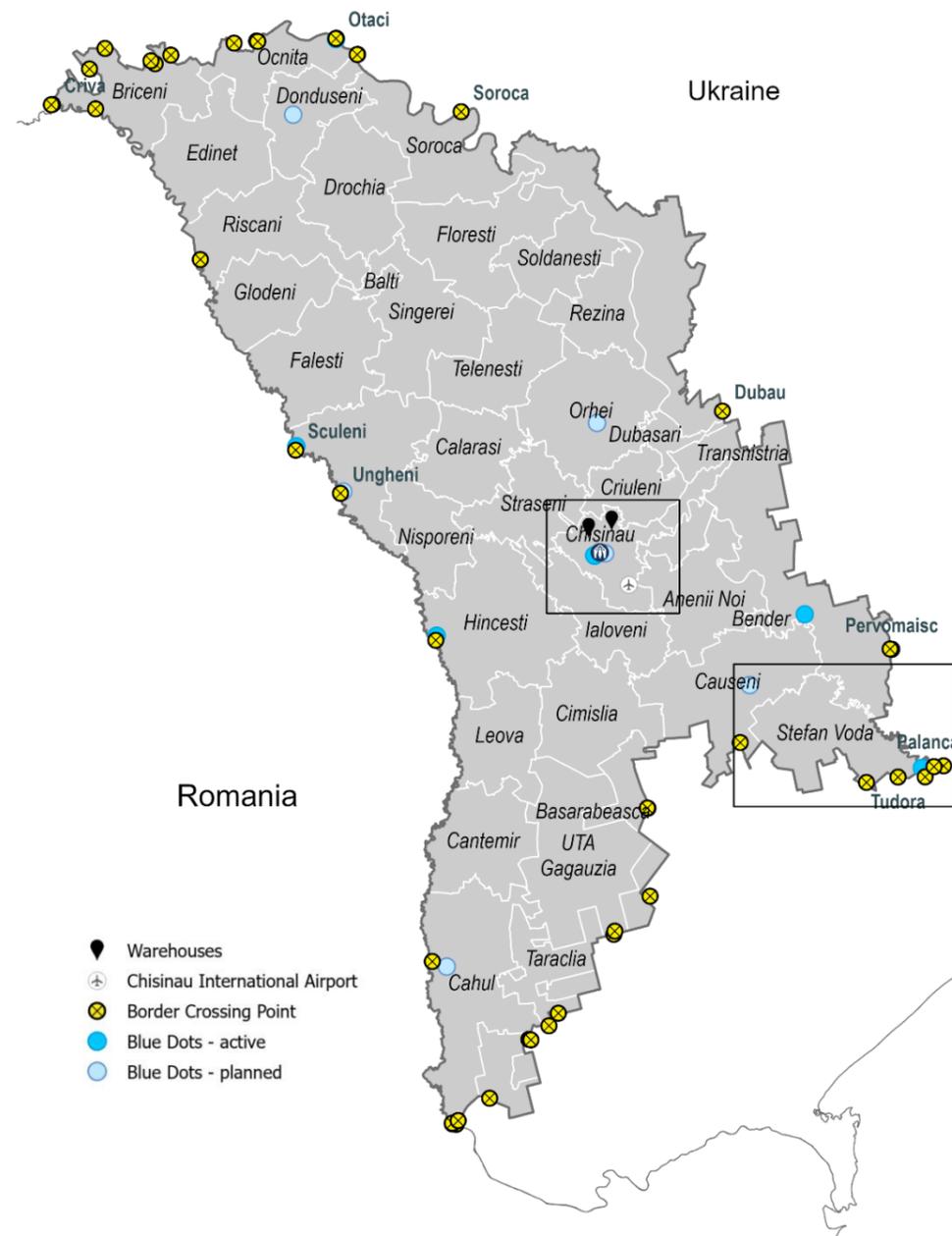
Moldova: Weekly Update

11-17 May 2022



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- On May 10, the [Secretary-General](#) concluded his visit to Moldova, where he met with President Maia Sandu. During that meeting, he thanked the Moldovan government and people for their immense generosity and solidarity towards those fleeing Ukraine.
- [Special Representative to the Secretary-General on Conflict-Related Sexual Violence](#) visited Moldova, where she visited UNHCR supported services at MoldExpo. During her visit, she provided recommendations for improved prevention and protection from sexual violence as well as for conflict-related trafficking. She highlighted that UNHCR has a robust GBV mainstreaming to connect survivors to specialized support.
- [UN Deputy High Commissioner for Refugees](#), Kelly Clements, concluded a four day (8-11 May 2022) visit to Moldova with gratitude to the people and Government of Moldova for their hospitality and offered full support to the government and people of Moldova including support in the contingencies.

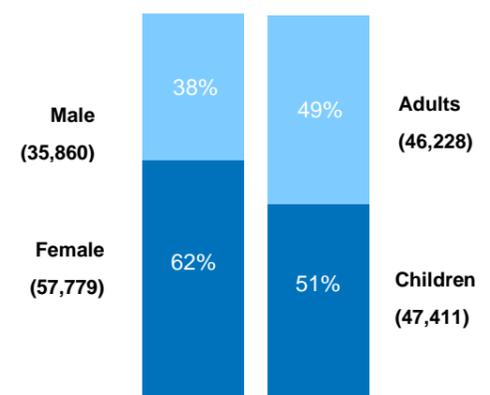


Trends and Key Figures

-  **461,480** Ukrainian Refugees arrived in Moldova since 24 February.
-  **89,948** Ukrainian Refugees Remaining in Moldova (as of 16 May)
-  **7,432** Ukrainian Refugees applied for asylum (between 24 Feb and 12 April)
-  **276,155** Ukrainian Refugees moved to Romania (since 24 Feb)



Gender Breakdown of Refugees Remaining in the Republic of Moldova



Assistance in numbers

 **Cash Assistance**

49,380 Received First Payment **8** Cash Enrolment Centres

8,617 Second payment **4** Mobile Enrolment Teams

 **Air Transfer** Through E.U. Solidarity Platform

1,182 Number of refugees **14** European pledging countries

 **Green line 0800-800-11**

10,725 Calls Received (13 April-17 May)

Stocks in the UNHCR Warehouse	10 Rub Halls (10x24m)	15,012 Pillows	29,400 Bed Linen
12,000 Mattresses	990 Thermoses	3,050 Plastic Tarpaulins	3,114 Winterization Kits
4,655 Family Tents	106,674 Blankets 3,600 Quilts	19,992 Solar Lamps	9,208 Kitchen Sets
10,050 Towels	4,852 Sleeping Bags	8,115 Winter Coats	17,600 Jerry Cans

Partnership

- UNHCR assists the Government of Moldova on coordination, response delivery and protection issues. In this regard, UNHCR works in close collaboration with the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration, Humanitarian actors including UN agencies, NGOs, INGOs.
- UNHCR has project partnerships agreement with six NGOs including ACTED, Catholic Relief Services, INTERSOS, Law Center for Advocates, Charity Refugee Centre, and Ave Copiii, to provide protection and assistance to refugees.

Operational Response

- As of 15 May, **49,380 Individuals were enrolled and given bank cards and second tranche of payment for 8,617 is processed by UNHCR.** 8 cash centers remain operational. 92% of those receiving cash assistance are female headed households. Cash assistance enables vulnerable households to meet their basic needs, mitigates protection risks including use of harmful coping mechanism. Cash assistance directly supports Moldovan economy and boosts the local markets.
- Since March, **UNHCR in collaboration with Government Moldova, EU and IOM facilitated the departure of 1,182 vulnerable refugees to EU countries.** UNHCR is working with partners to increase outreach efforts to raise awareness about the programme and to identify family reunification needs. Efforts are being made to increase the identification and screening of vulnerable refugees, community outreach to provide counselling and streamlining procedures in coordination with the EU Solidarity platform, and coordination with IOM on the pre-departure support.
- UNHCR is managing the **Green Line helpline** to strengthen the two-way communication channel to address refugees' and host community's questions, needs and concerns. Between **13 April-15 May, 10,725** calls were received on Greenline. The queries are addressed with through the provision of information or through referrals. The helpline is staffed with ten staff and is open all days between 8 am and 5 pm. Calls to the helpline are free of cost. UNHCR's partner ACTED distributed **3,141 sim cards to vulnerable refugees** to stay connected and access information.
- As part of Community Based Protection efforts, UNHCR continued to engage with the 27 **Local Public Authorities (LCA)** and Community based organizations on coordination, peaceful co-existence, and protection issues, to facilitate service delivery and ensure local ownership of the processes.
- UNHCR in collaboration National Agency for Social Assistance (ANAS), ACTED, and REACH conducts a **weekly evaluation to identify needs and gaps in Refugees Accommodation Centers (RACs)**, which provides information to enhance support to RACs. Key recommendations in the monitoring report dated 27 April noted an increase in need for hygiene items, cleaning items, infant products, and first aid supplies.
- UNHCR in collaboration with National Agency for Social Protection and partners (UNICEF, IOM, CRS, ACTED, Solidarities) has completed the assessment for the **25 buildings as standby RACs** that UNHCR and partners will refurbish in case of refugee influx. UNHCR will work with National Agency for Social Protection and partners (UNICEF, IOM, CRS, ACTED, Solidarities) to rehabilitate (minor repairs and provision of essential services) the structures in the coming week. Such sites would be used primarily as transit centers (less than 72 hours stay). As of 4 May, there are 90 Refugee Accommodation Centres (RACs) with a capacity to host 7,383 refugees and are currently hosting 4,326 refugees.
- UNICEF, UNHCR, and government and civil society are working together to manage 7 Blue dots in Moldova at border crossing points and refugee accommodation centers. The "Blue Dots" are one-stop safe spaces that provide information to refugee families, help identify and protect unaccompanied and separated children, and connect people to essential services.

Challenges

- Of those who have fled to Moldova, majority of them are women and children, while men aged 18–60 are required to stay behind. This leaves women and children are at heightened risk of trafficking and exploitation, and gender-based violence.
- The refugee influx comes at a time when Moldova is struggling to cope with a strained welfare system due to the ongoing economic crisis and socio-economic impact of COVID-19, meaning refugees have inadequate access to basic services.
- The surge in asylum claims has overwhelmed the immigration authority's capacity to process the claims and they require additional support to manage asylum applications.
- The child and women protection services are over-stretched and overwhelmed, and they need to be strengthened and supported.
- Because most refugees live with host communities, which are dispersed across the cities, reaching out to communities requires a significant investment of time and human resources.
- Due to the high mobility of the refugee population, it is challenging to provide comprehensive protection and assistance services. Additionally, this exposes them to the risk of gender-based violence, as well as risks associated to vulnerable population such as children, older person, and person with disability.
- Ukrainian refugees from groups in the vulnerable situations such as Roma, face challenges with documentation and discrimination when accessing refugee services.
- Disruptions to education is impacting children, young people, and their caregivers.
- Access to mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) remains limited.
- Refugees are exhausting their saving, and resources, struggling to find employment and facing difficulties with high cost of living.