

Moldova: Information Management Working Group meeting

Meeting Notes

Meeting Start Time: 5/19/2022, 10:00 AM
Location: Microsoft Teams (online).
Chaired by UNHCR and REACH Initiative

Present:

UNHCR, UNDP, UNFPA, WFP, UNICEF, RCO, IOM, REACH, WVI

Agenda:

1. Update on the triangulation exercise of the refugee distribution figures.
2. Other countries' experience in tracking the refugee figures.
3. Recap from AAWG meeting.
4. AOB

Update on the triangulation of the refugee distribution figures

IMWG team explained the work done in relation to distribution of refugee population across Moldova. The initial planning figure of 90,000 refugees is comprised of the data received from the Border Police, i.e. the difference between the number of Ukrainians entering and exiting Moldova. This number could not further be disaggregated per raions in Moldova, since this cannot be traced by the Border Police. To tackle this, IMWG coordination team tried to compile and reference the population reached by different humanitarian programmes: cash programme of UNHCR for refugee population, cash programme for WFP for hosting HHs. Other sources were also considered, but no further datasets have been shared yet with the IMWG. With the help of the above mentioned datasets, the team managed to identify the approximate location (raion 1 level) of 65,000 people, which is 74% of Ukrainian citizens staying in Moldova as of the date of the meeting. The IMWG coordination team will continue the triangulation exercise to try to bridge the gap and to get more detailed sources of data. As soon as the dataset is finalized, it will be shared with the community to be used for planning figures.

Other countries' experience in tracking the refugee figures

Several countries in the region have similar systems in place like Moldova. Every country is tracking the entries-exits of Ukrainians across the borders of the respective countries. Like Moldova, other countries can potentially explore the possibility to work with Orange regarding the connectivity analysis of users of prepaid sim cards with refugee mobile plan. In Poland, there is a possibility to collect a better data on population movements using PESEL (Universal Electronic System for Registration of the Population), a code which is used to ease administrative procedures for refugees.

Recap from AAWG meeting

During the AAWG meeting on 17.05, several assessments were presented:

1. UNDP's LPA assessment. Assessment done in cooperation with CALM (Congress of Local Authorities in Moldova). The assessment is done in cooperation with UNHCR and IOM.

- The goal of the assessment is to analyze local authorities' capacities to respond to refugees' needs. The questionnaire has three main sections: profile of local public authorities, refugees' profile, and available services. In total, 898 key informants received invitation to fill in the survey. The data collection process is expected to finish at the end of May, following two weeks of analysis after that.
2. UNDP's human mobility assessment. Assessment done on behalf Government of Moldova in partnership with Orange. Two sets of data were analyzed: data of refugees using prepaid card with a special mobile plan, data of active users in roaming. Reportedly, out of the total number of Ukrainians in Moldova, 70% received a prepaid card, and then 70% of that subset replenished the card at least once. This assessment has a potential to be matched with some other layers of data to get a more elaborated analysis (e.g. data from emergency calls). Preliminary analysis from the assessment can be shared with the WG after 19-20.05, after the data is presented to the government.
 3. Emerging needs of the UNECE cities in the areas of housing, real estate, and urban development. The survey is intended to allow for: (i) identifying housing and urban development emerging needs in light of the Ukrainian crisis; (ii) highlighting areas for further city-to-city collaboration and joint-action; (iii) supporting city-to-city mutual learning through bringing forward the creative solutions implemented by cities; and (iv) informing discussions among UNECE member States on how best to support Ukraine's neighbouring cities during the annual session of the UNECE Committee on Urban Development Housing and Land Management. The session, which will take place on 3-6 October 2022 in San Marino, will also be attended by all the city leaders who participated in the UNECE Forum of Mayors, with the idea of enabling city-to-city collaboration. This assessment has some overlaps with UNDP's LPA assessment, as local authorities will be interviewed for UNECE's assessment as well, so the coordination will be ensured.

AOB

No AOB was raised during the meeting.

The next IMWG meeting is scheduled for Thursday, 26 May 2022