REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

2 June – 14 June 2022

As of 14 June, a total of 498,896 have arrived in Moldova, with some 85,763 remaining in the country. During the reporting period, the number of refugees from Ukraine arriving in Moldova has fluctuated, the highest number of arrivals per day being reached on 7 June with some 1,647 arriving refugees. As a consequence of the general trend of decrease in arrivals, the number of Refugee Accommodation Centres (RACs) has been reduced to 81. However, the 'frozen' RACs remain equipped and ready to be reopened if needed.

During the reporting period, the National Programme on Child Protection for 2022 – 2026 and its implementation Plan have been adopted. The document sets out the objectives and priority actions to be implemented in the next five years and aims at strengthening the social protection system to ensure an efficient and prompt response to children's needs.

To ensure a wider geographical area as part of the response, UNHCR and its partners maintain a permanent presence at the main border crossing points (i.e., Otaci and Palanca). Additionally, seven Blue Dots are currently operational in Moldova. Blue Dots are operating in the following locations: one in Otaci in the north, one in Palanca in the south, one in Tirasapol, two at the MoldExpo RAC in Chisinau, and two at the border with Romania, at Leuseni and Sculeni. Plans are underway to scale up to further locations.

KEY FIGURES*

498,896

Refugees have crossed into the Republic of Moldova since 24 February.

14 June 2022, Source: Operational Data Portal

62,722

Refugees received Cash Assistance

14 June 2022, Source: UNHCR

15,786

Calls received on UNHCR Green Line

14 June 2022, Source: UNHCR Dashboard

1,623

Refugees have been transferred to EU countries

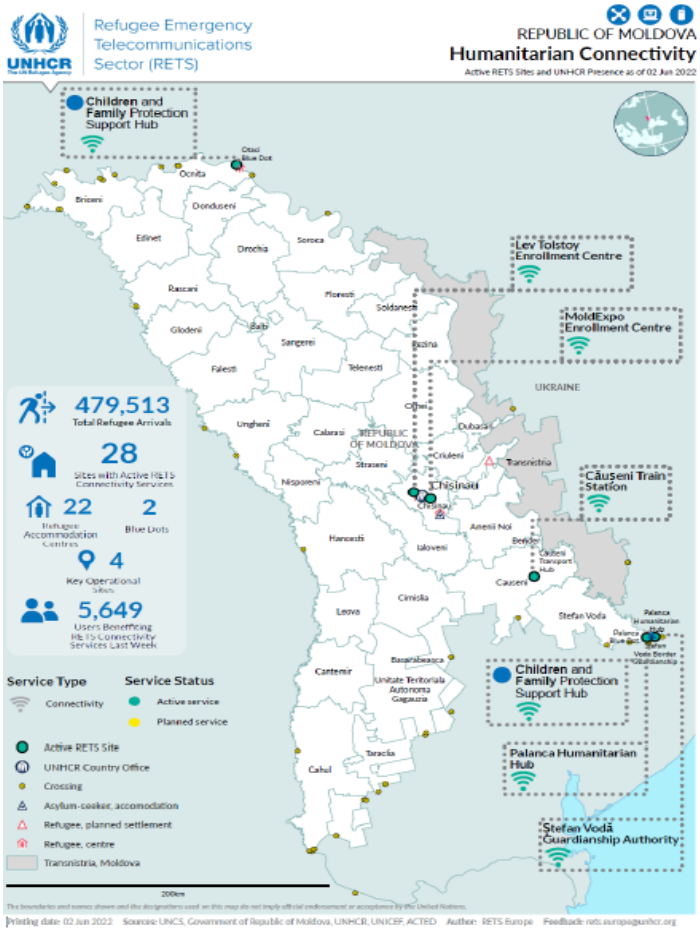
13 June 2022, Source: UNHCR

7,898

Applied for asylum

Between 24 February – 13 June 2022,

Source: Ministry of Internal Affairs



The **Wi-Fi network coverage has been extended** and infrastructure has been upgraded in the Palanca Blue Dot, as well as several other sites to align with the demands and evolution of the sites' structure.

Humanitarian Needs and Response

Protection

- An **Anti-Trafficking Taskforce is being established under the Protection Working Group** to coordinate anti-trafficking activities. The task force will be co-chaired by UNHCR and IOM. Terms of Reference are being developed and the first meeting is expected shortly.
- On 7 and 9 June, UNHCR and INTERSOS supported the first full-day training part of an awareness campaign at Casa Marioarei NGO in the following 3 areas: **gender-based violence phenomenon and competent authorities response; legal issues regarding refugee needs; intervention in the psychological crisis specific to refugees**. The series of training were held by local specialists and to date, a total of 29 participants took part, including social workers, psychologists and project coordinators from local institutions.

UNHCR supporting Edinet raion in organizing the Coordination Forum between LPAs and local civil society actors working on refugee response Photo credit: UNHCR / Olena Turchyn

- During the reporting period, UNHCR and Plan International provided two online trainings for protection specialists on **Identification and Referral for Children at Risk**. A total of **153 individuals attended**. The trainings were organized as part of a series of trainings offered by the Child Protection Sub Working Group.
- On 10 June, a **workshop on Emergency Protection Units (EPUs)** in Odessa contingency scenario was held for **50 participants** from UNHCR, UN agencies, and national and international organizations. The workshop aimed at developing and orientating Emergency Protection Units as the core protection response or the contingency plan. The teams provided crucial protection responses in emergency settings. The participants were members of the protection working group who will form the EPU teams on the ground in case of a contingency situation.

Cash Assistance

- As of 14 June**, 62,722 refugees received cash assistance, including 42,725 receiving the second payment, and 8,538 third payment.** In order to enrol for the next payments, the refugees are required to submit an online application for the verification of their eligibility. UNHCR has eight cash enrolment centres across the country and four mobile teams covering other locations or reaching those with specific needs. Cash assistance enables refugees to buy food, and medicines, and to cover their expenses with rent contributing in this way to the prevention of harmful coping mechanisms.

- The Post distribution monitoring showed that refugees are using cash to buy primarily food, hygiene items, and clothes, followed by, health and paying for utilities. In addition, 97% of households reported that they can find the right items and services in the markets. However, **needs remain high, as only 16% of households reported that could meet more than half of their basic needs**

EU Air Transfers

- The refugee crisis triggered by the war in Ukraine has generated waves of solidarity and mobilisation throughout Europe. In this regard, The European Commission set up on 23 March 2022 the **EU Solidarity Platform**, bringing together EU Member States and EU agencies. The Platform aims to create, *inter alia*, a framework for the organisation of transfers of people from Moldova to the EU Member States that have reception capacity. Refugees

with specific needs, **such as persons with limited mobility or disabilities, persons with serious medical conditions, single women with many children, expectant mothers, older persons at risk,** are offered support to be transferred, provided this is in their best interest. **UNHCR in collaboration with the Government, IOM** and partners ensure that persons of concern are identified, undergo a pre-embarkation check and receive medical assistance if needed. As of 13 June, **1,623 refugees** were transferred from Moldova to EU Member States

Accommodation and Transport

- UNHCR's partner ACTED, continued to provide support to the refugees crossing the Palanca Border adapting the number of buses depending on the number of arrivals on the previous day. From the beginning of the project to 13 June, some **13,670** people have been transported.
- UNHCR and IOM continue to collaborate on fast-track transfer of refugees from Ukraine from Moldova to Romania. So far, **11,360** persons have been transported through the Green Corridor.
- Currently, there **are 81 refugee accommodation centres** (RACs) with a capacity of 6,745 places. Over 3,312 refugees are accommodated in RACs, while 3,433 spaces are still available. The RACs have been consolidated and some have been frozen in case there is another influx from Ukraine.

Supply and logistics

- UNHCR relief supplies lie at the heart of UNHCR's operations, enabling the organization to deliver life-saving assistance to people in Moldova. UNHCR continues to pre-position CRI through HQ and Regional stockpiles in different countries.
- Pre-positioned stock in **two warehouses** in Moldova currently includes: **7,055** tents I **106,674** blankets I **29,400** bed linen sets I **20,088** solar lamps I **22,000** jerry cans I **15,000** mattresses I **20,023** kitchen sets I **7,110** quilts I **4,852** sleeping bags I **3,114** winterization kits I **3,050** tarpaulins I **10** Rub Halls (10x24m) I **10,050** Body Towels I **990** Thermoses I **500** Wheelchair Folding I **173** Outwear Clothing I **50** Multipurpose Trolley I **6** Portable Toilets

Information Management

- The existing **online "pre-enrolment form":** Moldova pre-enrolment, has been updated to become a "one-stop-shop" for all UNHCR services, **Cash enrolment, Verification, EU flight transfer, and Protection**. This will allow refugees to request appointments for different services by accessing the help page Moldova.

External Engagement

- Japanese artist MIYAVI, UNHCR Goodwill Ambassador visited the Republic of Moldova for three days. He concluded his visit with a call for increased international support to Ukrainian refugees and Moldovan families who have welcomed them with open arms.
- During his visit, he toured facilities providing key services to refugees, including UNHCR's cash enrolment centre, and met with the General State Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration. The star guitarist also met with UNHCR's national and international partners, including a local NGO - Moldova for Peace which mobilized thousands of volunteers and mounted a spontaneous response at the onset of the refugee crisis.

"My mission as the UNHCR Goodwill Ambassador is to share these stories with the rest of the world and appeal for increased support for Moldova, a small country with a big heart so that it can continue to support the refugees." Miyavi
©UNHCR/Daniel Codreanu

- The highlight of his visit was a music session with children from Moldova as well as from Ukraine, Syria, Turkey and Iran who played violin, guitar and piano, sang and danced with him, brining much needed smiles to their faces.

Working in 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, and Humanitarian actors including UN agencies, NGOs, and INGOs. Institutional support (technical, mobility) to boost the capacity to respond to refugee crisis is implemented by UNHCR targeting the listed ministries.
- UNHCR works closely with a wide array of humanitarian partners as part of the Refugee Coordination Response Model. In addition, successful partnerships have also been ensured with local and national authorities in all relevant sectors. UNHCR has project partnerships agreement with seven NGOs; ACTED, Catholic Relief Services, INTERSOS, Law Centre for Advocates, Charity Refugee Centre, Ave Copiii, and A.O Laolalta, to provide protection and assistance to refugees.
- UNHCR and its partners are developing a Transition and Stabilization Plan for refugee population remaining in Moldova. Four main areas of priorities for the coming period are Decent Work, Education, Housing, Health and Social Protection. To ensure full package of information and assistance reaches the refugee population, it is envisaged to implement ONE STOP SHOP (Service Hubs) in rayons with higher concentration of refugees and in places where UNHCR is present. More robust outreach and information on services, programmes of assistance to refugees and host communities will also be developed as a multi-functional multi-partner mechanism (mobile) to ensure refugees and local population in non-urban areas have access to this information and can access relevant services and hubs.

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LINKS

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