



MOLDOVA

Inter-Agency Operational Update

N. 16 | 15 May to 15 June 2022

As of 15 June, 498,896 people have entered Moldova from Ukraine., of which 85,947 Ukrainian refugees and 3,673 third-country nationals have remained in the Republic of Moldova. The number of persons arriving from Ukraine into the Republic of Moldova has fluctuated since the escalation of the war in Ukraine. Numbers of arrivals of refugees depends on the intensity of the conflict and the location of the Russian attacks. On 18 May, the Commission for Exceptional

Situations of the Republic of Moldova extended the permission for Ukrainians to regularly stay in Moldova for as long as the state of emergency is in place. Ukrainians have the right to work, and are entitled to access available public services, including primary and emergency health care, and enrol children in schools. On 3 June, An Inter-Agency Contingency Workshop took place to assess preparedness for a possible mass refugee influx. The workshop was

attended by 37 Participants from 16 agencies and a representative of the Joint Crisis Management Centre. During the training, participants analysed the operational capacity of Refugee Coordination Forum partners to support Moldovan authorities during an emergency response, while identifying strengths, existing gaps, complementarity and ways to enhance coordination to avoid duplications. A contingency plan is being developed together with the Government.

KEY FIGURES*



85,947

Refugees from Ukraine in Moldova (as of 15 June)



498,896

Total refugees who have entered Moldova (as of 15 June)



62,785

Refugees who received cash assistance (as of 15 June)



11,000

Host families reached with cash assistance (As of 15 June)

REGIONAL REFUGEE RESPONSE PLAN (RRP) FOR THE UKRAINE SITUATION**

\$1.85 B

Overall financial requirements (USD)

\$665 M

Funding Received (USD)

35

Percent of the Regional RRP funded

\$414.1 M

Financial requirements for the Moldova Refugee Response (USD)

85

Partners involved in the Moldova Response

*See the [Operational Data Portal for the Ukraine Refugee Situation](#) and the [Moldova portal page](#) for more details on refugee population figures and information resources. **See the [Ukraine Situation Regional Refugee Response Plan](#) for a breakdown of sectoral response priorities and requirements and the [Refugee Funding Tracker](#) for RRP funding information.

PROTECTION



+6,380
PERSONS SUPPORTED WITH
LEGAL ASSISTANCE*



+370
PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES
SUPPORTED**



1,623
PERSONS SUPPORTED
THROUGH AIR TRANSFERS*

EDUCATION



7,087
REFUGEE CHILDREN ENROLLED
IN EDUCATION PROGRAMS*



900
MOLDOVAN AND UKRAINIAN
TEACHERS TRAINED*

ACCOMODATION AND TRANSPORT



3,312
REFUGEES ACCOMODATED IN
REFUGEE ACCOMODATION
CENTRES*



11,360
REFUGEES AND TCN
TRANSPORTED THROUGH THE
GREEN CORRIDOR*

CHILD PROTECTION



+16,500
CHILDREN ACCESSING CHILD
PROTECTION SERVICES*

GENDER BASED VIOLENCE



621
FRONTLINE RESPONDERS
TRAINED ON GBV*

HEALTH AND NUTRITION



6,080
REFUGEE CHILDREN AND
WOMEN REACHED BY PRIMARY
CARE SERVICES*



527
SERVICE PROVIDERS TRAINED
ON CLINICAL MANAGEMENT OF
RAPE (CMR)*

WASH



4,856
PROVIDED WITH ACCESS TO
WASH SERVICES**

FOOD SECURITY



+780,000
MEALS DISTRIBUTED BY FS
SWG PARTNERS*

*As of 15 June

** During the reporting period

CASH



62,772
REFUGEES REACHED
THROUGH CASH
ASSISTANCE*



11,000
HOST FAMILIES SUPPORTED
WITH CASH ASSISTANCE*

*As of 15 June ** During the reporting period

LIVELIHOODS AND INCLUSION



+75
HOST COMMUNITIES SUPPORTED TO
PROMOTE ECONOMIC INCLUSION
AND LIVELIHOODS OF REFUGEES*

LOGISTIC AND SUPPLY



227,501
CORE RELIEF ITEMS IN
STOCK*

OPERATIONAL CONTEXT

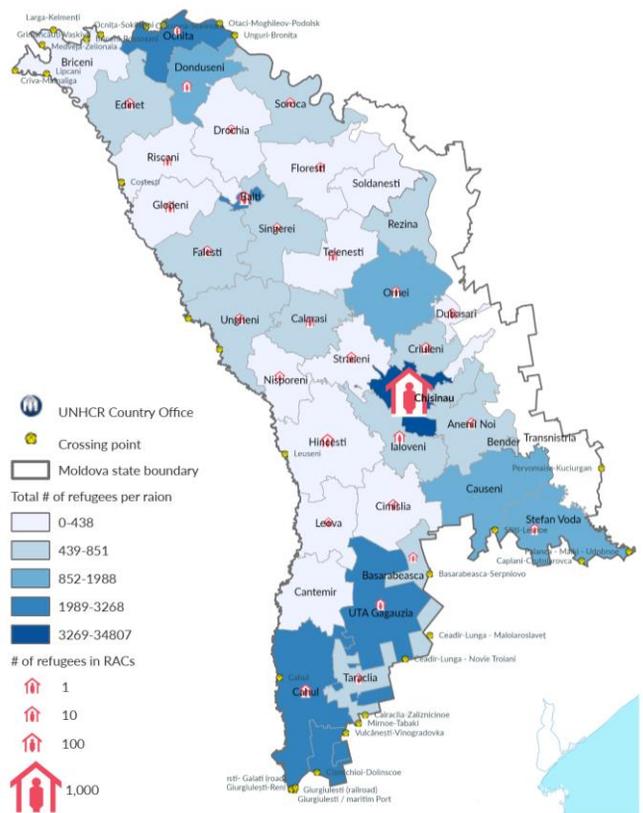
On 18 May, the Commission for Exceptional Situations (CSE) **lifted the restriction allowing Ukrainians to enter and remain for any 90 days in a 180-day period.** Now Ukrainian citizens and their family members can remain in **Moldova as long as a state of emergency is in place.** While coverage under these provisions gives Ukrainians the right to work, to receive primary and emergency health care (with some restrictions) and enrol children in school, there are concerns regarding their legal status in case the state of emergency is over. The current framework relies on periodic renewals and is posing challenges for refugees. For instance, they cannot be assured of work permits for longer periods of time, nor can they plan for their children to spend a school year in one place, etc. Moreover, the application of the CSE measure to third-country nationals (TCN) is not specified, and persons covered under the emergency laws do not have access to social protection benefits. TCN who were refugees in Ukraine or who have international protection needs shall apply to asylum.

On 30 May, the CSE adopted new measures to include Ukrainian refugee children in the Single Compulsory Health Insurance Program which will allow them to access medical services for free.

On 27 May, the Government of the Republic of Moldova, UNHCR, the Resident Coordinator Office and Refugee Coordination Forum partners launched the Moldova Chapter of the Regional Refugee Response Plan (RRP) for Ukraine Situation, appealing for sustained financial support to help refugees and Moldovan communities generously hosting them.

ESTIMATED DISTRIBUTION OF REFUGEES

By triangulating data on humanitarian assistance provided in the country, UNHCR developed an estimation of the distribution of refugee population. The baseline data was taken from UNHCR's Cash programme, as 54,000 people received cash assistance. This data was projected with a 20% coefficient (a standard PDM coefficient for no responses), and then triangulated with other data sources, such as data from local authorities, WFP cash programme, population in RACs.





PROTECTION

PROTECTION WORKING GROUP | MINISTRY OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS AND UNHCR

Achievements and Impact

- The **Protection Working Group** has trained 148 persons on general protection issues such as the identification of persons with disabilities and protection monitoring and profiling.
- UNHCR has established eight Protection Help Desks to identify persons with specific needs, assess their vulnerability, carry out protection monitoring interviews, for those willing to be relocated to the EU countries, conduct air transfer screening, and refer vulnerable refugees to appropriate services where needed.
- LCA together with UNHCR has supported 6,341 individuals with legal assistance and counselling in 33 different locations since March. Majority of individuals benefiting from legal support are children (2610) and adult women (1,419). Main areas covered by counselling include access to financial assistance, documentation, relocation within and outside Moldova and access to the asylum system.
- Local NGOs Fiecare Contribuie pentru Schimbare, Centrul de Resurse pentru Tineret DACIA and Clinica Juridica from Comrat with the support of UNDP Moldova and the Government of Sweden, provided judicial assistance to 42 refugees and over 133 children benefited from recreational activities and psychosocial support, through the Strengthening efficiency and Access to Justice in Moldova, A2J Project.
- DRC has been conducting a Learning Need assessment with the Bureau of Migration and Asylum (in Chisinau) to identify and tailor needed trainings that will be conducted in the next couple of weeks.
- Moldova For Peace through the "Moldova-Film" warehouse provided assistance to +18,800 persons with food kits, hygiene kits and baby boxes. An additional, 4,000 persons were assisted with transport and accessing services like accommodation, education, psychological, medical and legal support.
- UNHCR and IOM have supported 1,623 Individuals (since March) with air transfer support to EU member states and other countries: Austria, Germany, Spain, France, Lithuania, Latvia, Netherlands, Switzerland and Norway. Additionally, IOM continued supporting TCNs with returns assistance to their countries of origin.
- To further expand the efforts of the Roma Task Force, a Roma Community mediator was integrated on 1 June 2022 into the Joint Crisis Management Centre with UNHCR's support to strengthen their activities related to Roma refugees from Ukraine. Especially concerning managerial reorganizations, mapping of the Roma refugees and improvement of accommodation conditions and their criteria to access such services.
- IOM and ILO implemented preventive measures against human trafficking and forced labour affecting Ukrainian refugees. ILO produced and disseminated a multi-lingual leaflet on forced labour and human trafficking. All staff of the Labor Inspectorate received training sessions on forced labour and human trafficking.

DISABILITY TASKFORCE

LEAD BY KEYSTONE MOLDOVA AND OHCHR

During the reporting period, over 370 refugees with disabilities have accessed specialized services and support provided by the Disability Task Force. Keystone Moldova (over 170 persons supported), Motivatie (60 families), OSORC Rehabilitation and Counseling Center (77 persons), The Center for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (22 persons), AREAP (12 persons), Voinicel (10 families), The Association of Entrepreneurs with Disabilities (22 persons) and other organizations such as Tony Hawks Center, Change for the better life Association, NGO SOS Autism, FCPS (Fiecare Contribuie pentru Scimbare), AZI, Parteneriatul Aachen-Moldova, provided information, food, health care (medical consultation, medicines, medical and assistive devices), adapted transport, hygiene and nutrition packages.



PROTECTION MONITORING AND PROFILING EXERCISE

To strengthen and promote an evidenced-based protection response, UNHCR is conducting an extensive protection monitoring and profiling exercise in partnership with the Law Center of Advocates (LCA), Intersos and REACH. Data is continuously collected through individual interviews (935 as of 15 June standing for 1,635 individuals reached) in order to build a solid, evidence-based response to the evolving situation. An [online dashboard](#) with key indicators and brief analysis has been published and it is updated every two weeks. A full Protection Monitoring Report will be published soon.



36 Enumerators
INTERSOS, LCA, REACH,
UNHCR Helpdesk



14 Locations
Interviews taking place in
key locations including host
communities.



DEMOGRAPHICS
2.41 AVERAGE HOUSEHOLD
SIZE. 76% OF RESPONDENTS
FEMALE – 39% ARE
TRAVELLING ALONE.



MOVEMENT
2 MAIN AREAS OF ORIGIN
ARE **ODESA** AND
MYKOLAIV.



INTENTIONS
36.2% PLAN TO STAY IN
MOLDOVA. 37.4% INTEND
TO MOVE ELSEWHERE.



BASIC NEEDS
MAIN REPORTED NEEDS
ARE **ACCOMODATION,**
CASH AND EMPLOYMENT.



COMMUNICATION AND AAP
MOST PREFERRED WAY TO RECEIVE INFORMATION IS OVER THE PHONE.
MAIN INFORMATION NEED IS ON FINANCIAL SUPPORT AND LEGAL
STATUS.



CHILD PROTECTION

CHILD PROTECTION SUB-WORKING GROUP | UNICEF AND UNHCR

Achievements and Impact

- Over **16,500 children** have accessed child protection services provided by Child Protection Sub Working Group members, including through Blue Dots, child-friendly spaces (static and mobile) and case management services.
- UNICEF and UNHCR, in partnership with Copil Comunitate Familie (CCP) Moldova, Terre des Hommes (TDH) and Partnerships for Every Child (P4EC), reached 5,921 people (2,816 children and 3,105 caregivers) with integrated services at the seven Blue Dots during this reporting period. Services were provided for 68 children with disabilities, 77 UASC, 48 cases of violence against children and GBV and 2,278 children (and caregivers) were reached with MHPSS. Additionally, 148 children and caregivers were provided with legal counseling, and 2,509 children were identified as needing specialized services and referred to health, social welfare, and justice services
- Over 650 individuals have received training on child protection and/or child rights by UNICEF, P4EC, Plan International and UNHCR. This included online and face-to-face modalities
- Plan International and Ave Copiii have been working closely with the border monitors & border police officers, as well the staff of BoMA and local & territorial guardianship authorities to guide them on child protection identification and referral systems, including 24/7 hours phone support and are in the process of developing a database for unaccompanied and separated children and children in needs of protection services. In addition to providing individual case support, Ave Copiii has supported transportation costs and facilitated access to medical care.



GENDER BASED VIOLENCE

GBV SUB-WORKING GROUP | UNFPA AND UNHCR

Achievements and Impact

- 621 frontline responders have been trained on prevention and response to GBV since the beginning of the emergency by various organization part of the GBV Sub working group targeting frontline workers, including border police, health service providers, volunteers, among others.
- GBV referral cards and posters have been developed and shared by UNFPA and UNHCR, to raise awareness in the refugee community, in particular for women and girls, on GBV services and risk reduction.

GBV SAFETY AUDIT

The GBV SWG conducted a GBV Safety Audit. In this process, UNFPA, UNICEF and UNHCR, jointly with different humanitarian sectors and partners, have conducted the process with a participatory approach (focus groups, interviews, observational walks) with refugees in key refugee locations of Moldova. A safety audit toolkit has been adapted to the local context. GBV and trafficking risks were identified, as well as gaps in GBV response. Findings and recommendations will be shared and GBV mainstreaming plans developed with all sectors.



Photo: UNFPA Moldova.



EDUCATION

EDUCATION WORKING GROUP | MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND UNICEF

Achievements and Impact

- 7,087 refugee children are enrolled in formal and non-formal education programs through the national education system, play and learning hubs, Blue Dots, and adolescent-friendly spaces. 1,717 of them are enrolled in the formal education program including 675 in preschools (39%), 547 in primary (32%), 456 in lower secondary (27%), and 39 in upper secondary (2%).
- UNICEF reached 900 Moldovan and Ukrainian teachers including 875 female teachers (22 Ukrainian and 853 Moldovan) with trainings enabling them to respond to the individual needs of refugee children.
- To promote social cohesion, UNICEF organized sports activities among 4,667 Moldovan students and 753 refugee children staying in RACs enrolled in municipal schools. 110 refugee children also received sporting goods.
- Step by Step and UNICEF organized recreational activities for 2,295 refugee children (61% of which are girls). In addition, 185 refugee children accessed MHPSS services organized by psychologists.
- At the UPSHIFT pitching event, 120 refugees (youth and adolescents) presented 31 social innovation startups. Furthermore, a mobile team of youth workers supported by UNICEF provided non-formal education programs to 250 adolescents from Tohaten, Cheltuitori, Baltata, and Patria Luckoil Triage Center.
- UNDP with financial support of Sweden and the United Kingdom, are providing support to 17 students from Ukraine and 90 local students through the digital lab at the Cremenciug village. The lab offers a UNDP-designed science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) course, comprised of 10 modules appropriate for 11-17-year-olds.
- NRC in partnership with Every Child organization carried out a master training for Ministry of Education staff on NRC's Better Learning Program (BLP), a psychosocial support program. 15 master trainers were trained in BLP1 foundation capacity building as well as trauma-sensitive approaches, including self-care. The participants will cascade the training topics during summer to 93 trainers who will then train schoolteachers across the country.
- UNFPA in partnership with Youth Friendly Health Centers reached out to 3,490 refugee adolescents and youth with psychosocial support, including 458 adolescents and youth who received services related to sexual and reproductive health.
- More than 1,700 youth and adolescent refugees benefited from the services of the newly launched UNFPA Youth Orange Safe Spaces organized in partnership with Youth Media Center and Educational Center Pro Didactica at Moldexpo, State Technical University in Chisinau, Nisporeni and Criuleni districts. The Orange Safe Spaces provide psycho-emotional support, life skills development programs, sports, Romanian language and leisure activities and access to personal hygiene products.
- Plan International trained 94 schoolteachers and psychologists on Psychological First Aid (INEE modules) from 50 schools indirectly benefiting 2,000 Moldovan and Ukrainian refugee children in the greater Chisinau area.

EDUCATION RAPID NEEDS ASSESSMENT

IsraAID, in collaboration with CBS Research and the Education WG, completed an Education Rapid Needs Assessment to provide a snapshot of the educational needs of refugee children. The findings based on face-to-face interviews with 548 refugee parents (96% women) indicate that:

- 13% of the adults refugees have a teaching background and the most common language spoken at home by refugee children are Russian (69%), followed by Ukrainian (29%).
- 10% of children, mostly staying in Chisinau, have specific needs whereas the lack of materials adapted to their needs such as assistive technologies, access ramps, and accessible toilets, poses a challenge for their access to education.
- A significant percentage of parents are worried about the quality of the online learning platform. The figures suggest a need for additional or alternative learning options.
- Special attention needs to be placed on two age groups: adolescents and preschool children. For adolescents, additional emphasis should focus on risky behavior and various forms of exploitation (e.g., trafficking, smuggling, substance abuse, sexual abuse). For preschool children (3-6), ensuring that informal educational settings are accessible is critical.



HEALTH AND NUTRITION

HEALTH WORKING GROUP | MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND WHO

Achievements and Impact

- The Health WG convened two technical meeting to discuss and coordinate efforts related to health activities related to protection against GBV and available financial mechanisms in the Ukrainian Refugee Emergency Team.
- The national coordination mechanism for the mass-casualties management -part of the Health WG Contingency Plan - has been tested during simulation exercise (18 May 2022) by representatives of the MoH, National Public Health Agency, USMF “Nicolae Testemitanu”, the National Center for Prehospital Emergency Medical Assistance, the Institute of Emergency Medicine and the Blood Transfusion Center.
- The Health Working Group is coordinating with seven International Emergency Medical Teams (EMT) that are currently deployed and 18 more teams are on standby. The teams are coordinated by the EMT coordination cell and provide services to the refugees in the biggest RACs in the Central, South, and North part of the country. 5.7% of EMTs consultations in June (1-10 June) were Mental Health consultations.
- UNFPA, UNICEF, Global Fund/UNAIDS, IOM are providing financial support (~5,240,500 USD) to the Ministry of Health in Moldova, including through partnerships with the National Health Insurance Company to cover primary and specialized health, and hospital services for refugees and third country nationals.
- 3,664 caregivers were reached with informational materials related to Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) and vaccination through primary health care facilities and Mother Baby Corners (MBC) during the reporting period. Moreover, 5,539 children and 541 women were reached by primary care services including for routine vaccinations, medicines, diapers, and infant formula procured by UNICEF.
- Members of the Health WG have been supporting the MoH through the procurement of various health related goods. UNICEF has supported the procurement of disinfectants and hygiene products (to be distributed to 1,300 health facilities), 6,048 cans of powdered infant formula for non-breastfed infants 0-24 months and 600,000+ diapers. UNFPA procured 30,000 ampoules of Oxytocin and emergency RH kit #11 A and B which will cover 250 cesarean sections. IOM provided 30,000 Covid Antigen Rapid Tests to the Clinical Hospital of the Ministry of Health. These tests will be used for COVID 19 screening during the pre-embarkation health checks (PECs) provided by IOM for people fleeing Ukraine, prior to their relocation to EU member states.
- UNFPA has started the distribution of PEP kits along with training for service providers. Training courses were conducted online and in person. 527 service providers have been trained on CMR up to date. Distribution of PEP kits still in process. All health facilities in 34 raions and municipalities will be equipped with PEP kits.

- As part of capacity building efforts under the Health WG, participant agencies have trained 18 medical and pedagogical staff through the delivery of a Training of Trainers on Infection Prevention and Control (UNICEF in partnership with the civil society organization Child, Community, Family), 1,025 service providers were trained on The Minimum Initial Service Package (MISP) for Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) in crisis situations.
- The 24/7 Youth Clinic Support Line (ages 10-24 years old) available to host communities and refugees was launched to support MoH and Chisinau City Hall. UNICEF, in partnership with Youth Clinic, brought 41 municipal and district youth friendly health services together. The support line provides information on Sexual and Reproductive Health and GBV awareness as well as support, assistance, and referral for GBV survivors. Since the launch on 7 May, more than 150 adolescents have received support.
- As of May 26, IOM provided Pre-Embarkation Medical Check (PEC) to 3,816 people at the Palanca Transport Hub. 1,115 people received PEC support before their onwards movement to EU countries, and 456 third-country nationals have received PEC support before their return flights to Azerbaijan and Colombia.

MENTAL HEALTH AND PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT

- MHPSS activities are integrated into Health sector actors' response through direct MHPSS services, capacity-building activities and establishing referral pathways to formal MH services. Advocacy messages about MHPSS key concepts and best practices in a refugee context in Moldova were shared during relevant sectors' coordination meetings, and a workshop on MHPSS in Emergencies was conducted to the staff of the Faculty of Psychology at the State University.
- A joint visit of WHO and MoH was organized to the primary health care facilities and community mental health centres to districts, bordering Ukraine, RACs and Otaci border crossing point to better understand the strengths and gaps in MHPSS response. Findings and recommendations will support the development of strengthening the MHPSS response plans.
- As of 26 May, IOM MHPSS teams have also provided psychological counselling for a total of 255 refugees and TCNs in RACs, psychological first aid (PFA) for 22 refugees and TCNs staying at RACs in Stefan Voda, and art therapy for 7 refugees and TCNs in Chisinau.

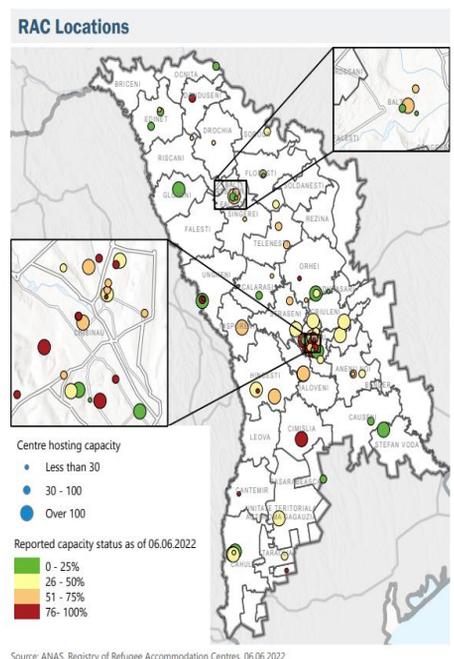


ACCOMODATION AND TRANSPORTATION

ACCOMODATION AND TRANSPORTATION WORKING GROUP | MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL PROTECTION AND UNHCR

Achievements and Impact

- Moldovan authorities have established Refugee Accommodation Centres (RACs) across the country. Currently, there are 81 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. To understand the needs of these centres, the National Agency for Social Assistance (ANAS), with the support of UNHCR, ACTED, and REACH, conducted key informant interviews (KIIs) with purposefully selected RAC focal points who reported on the situation in the centres. Data collection took place on 30 May through phone interviews. The factsheet with the findings can be [found here](#).
- On 9 June, a full-day dialogue was held with 35 managers of RACs in coordination with the National Agency for Social Assistance (ANAS). Training on PSEA, safeguarding and protection principles, as well as referrals for persons with specific needs and engagement with communities, was undertaken. The dialogue forms the basis for continued support from different sectors and was supported through an Intersectoral response inclusive of working/sub-working groups such as Child Protection, GBV, PSEA Network, Gender Taskforce and Protection Working Group(s).



- As a part of Accommodation and Transportation Sector contingency planning, IOM, UNHCR, UNICEF and ACTED are contributing to increase the availability of stand-by RACs that can be operational in case of surge inflows, including through infrastructure renovation. There are currently 18 stand-by RACs identified.
- Through the Migration and Local Development Project funded by the Swiss Development Cooperation, UNDP supported 17 Hometown Associations to provide equipment and goods required for the accommodation and catering of refugees, to provide access to vouchers and counselling, and to create socializing activities for children refugees. To date approximately 13,000 refugees from Ukraine have been hosted.
- IOM together with UNHCR continues to support the humanitarian “Green Corridor” between Palanca and Husi to alleviate traffic at border control points and facilitate the rapid transport of persons seeking onward movement. As of 14 June, 11,360 persons have been transported through the Green Corridor between Palanca and Husi.



FOOD SECURITY

FOOD SECURITY SUB-WORKING GROUP | WFP

Achievements and Impact

- Members of the Food Security Sub-Working Group continued their efforts on supporting an average of more than 3,500 refugees living in 77 RACs with food through the provision of hot meals on a daily basis. The total number of hot meals distributed by FS SWG members since 15 March exceeded **780,000 meals**. Under the overall coordination of ANAS, efforts are underway to ensure transition to on-site cooking in RACs with appropriate cooking facilities. More information can be found in the [FS SWG Online Dashboard](#).



WASH

WASH SUB-WORKING GROUP | MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL PROTECTION AND UNICEF

Achievements and Impact

- Swiss Resource Center and Consultancies for Development (SKAT) is working on a humanitarian WASH project to improve sanitation services for 600 Households. Communication and coordination about this project are ongoing with 150 municipalities. The initial criteria are Household families who have hosted refugees for 2-3 weeks.
- UNICEF, in partnership with Solidarity International and Partnership for Every Child, has installed 4 sanitary containers (sinks, toilets and showers) near the Blue Dot and close to the border crossing with Ukraine to respond to needs at the Border of Ukraine, Border of Romania and at the Blue Dots. An additional two sanitary containers were installed at MoldExpo RAC in response to the center’s increased WASH needs and to improve the hygienic conditions of the refugees.
- 4,856 refugees (4,127 female; 729 male), including 1,942 children, were provided with access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene services in the Blue Dots of Otaci and Palanca.
- UNICEF has partnered with Moldova for Peace to distribute hygiene items and raise awareness of the importance of WASH. The messaging is expected to reach 81,600 refugee children and adults in Chisinau and its suburbs.
- UNHCR supported the importing procedure of 19 sanitary containers procured by UNICEF. The containers are now at UNHCR’s warehouse ready to be distributed by UNICEF.



UNICEF launched a U-Report poll reaching 1,000 young people. Feedback and insight were provided on the perception of readiness of Moldovan schools to integrate Ukrainian refugee children into Moldovan schools and the integration of Ukrainian refugees into Moldovan communities. While the results were largely positive, with 68 % of young people feeling schools were ready and 76% felt communities were welcoming to Ukrainian refugees, a significant percentage felt there are still barriers to be overcome. This poll will inform the basis of planned engagement with young people on making schools more inclusive and communities more accommodating to refugees.



CASH BASED ASSISTANCE

CASH WORKING GROUP | MINISTRY OF LABOR AND SOCIAL PROTECTION AND UNHCR

Achievements and Impact

- Under the co-chairmanship of the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, the Cash Working Group established Strategic Directions for Cash Assistance. The high-level directions establish common design parameters for cash and vouchers, to ensure predictable and equitable access to cash assistance that addresses immediate basic needs of refugees, while ensuring protection and promoting self-reliance; mitigates potential social tensions and enhances social cohesion between host communities and refugees; and contributes to the government's social protection system, ensuring no-one is left behind.
- As of 14 June, 62,772 refugees have been reached through the national cash assistance program, 42,725 have received their second payment, and 8,538 third payment. The refugee cash assistance programme has injected \$13,678,200 in the country.
- Mobile missions are organized to help vulnerable individuals to enroll for cash-based assistance. Several missions were also organized to exchange with local public authorities and to strengthen collaboration with them on cash assistance.
- In addition, 11,000 host families have been supported with cash assistance and over 10,000 refugees and TCN families have been supported through vouchers. These programs are being implemented by among other UNHCR, UNICEF, IOM, WFP, CRS, ACTED, Caritas Moldova and Czech Republic, and Charity CenRre for Refugees, in close cooperation with the government of the Republic of Moldova.
- Post Distribution Monitoring was conducted in May. The monitoring results show that cash assistance is well adapted to the context and that beneficiary satisfaction was high. Cash was used to cover basic needs. The most commonly reported expenditures were food (96%), hygiene items (50%) and clothes/shoes (45%). A vast majority of households (95%) reported that they were able to find the items and/or services they needed in the markets and/or shops. No household reported feeling unsafe or at risk of harm during or due to cash assistance. Despite massive onward movement especially during the first few months, results also show that 74% of interviewed households are intending to stay in Moldova. The most frequently reported conditions for returning to Ukraine include total cessation of conflict (93%) and/or a temporary ceasefire or reduction in conflict (45%).

Identified Needs and Remaining Gap

- WFP, UNICEF and UNHCR with other actors will collaborate with the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection to strengthen the work on humanitarian-development-peace nexus and to contribute to the ongoing social protection reform. The future collaboration will aim to increase the coverage of Government's social assistance and to promote its shock-responsiveness and inclusiveness in the mid- and longer term.
- UNICEF and IOM organized a joint mission to the Transnistrian region to clarify needs and possible options for financial or in-kind assistance to refugees. The mission identified the need for alternative money transfer services (e.g., bank transfer) beyond the existing voucher system/cash transfer system used to date in order to reach the estimated 4,000 to 6,000 refugees in the Transnistrian region.



MULTI SECTOR NEEDS ASSESSMENT: REACH, UNICEF and UNHCR – with financial support of the European Union Humanitarian Aid - lead and coordinated the Multi-Sector Needs Assessment (MSNA) in the context of the Refugee Response in Moldova in close coordination with Refugee Coordination Forum and Working Groups. Quantitative data was collected from around 100 families living in RACs and 560 families living in hosting communities across the country. The dataset was verified and validated, and an analysis of preliminary findings was completed. The preliminary findings [can be found here](#).



LIVELIHOODS AND INCLUSION

Livelihoods and Inclusion Working Group | State Chancellery and UNDP

Achievements and Impact

UNDP Moldova has supported the following actions:

- Approximately \$1.27 million were allocated with partners EU, Switzerland, Sweden, UK – to partially cover the immediate needs of refugees and host communities, as well as support socio-economic inclusion of refugees in more than 75 host communities, from both banks of Nistru river, benefitting more than 21,000 Ukraine's refugees.
- In partnership with Orange together with the Ministry of Internal Affairs/Bureau for Migration and Asylum launched a Refugee Mobility Dashboard. The dashboard and analytical report were recently completed by using mobility data for estimating the number of refugees and their location in the country outside the RACs.
- With support from the European Union, Confidence Building Measures Programme supported the temporary integration of refugees in communities on both sides of the Nistru river. The total budget allocated is 130,000 EUR. 206 refugee children benefited from recreational activities, psychological counseling was offered to 53 refugees, and 110 refugees were assisted in the Varnița and Gura Bacului villages in coordination Youth Association "Sansa".
- In Tiraspol, 175 refugees were assisted with provision of information from Center for Innovative Educational and Social Programs.
- 932 refugees (mostly women and children) accessed educational, psychologic, and informational services for refugees hosted on both banks of the Nistru river services.
- Launched a Digital Public Goods First Digital Innovation Call to generate digital solutions for the specific needs of the refugee population and host communities from Moldova. The 3 pre-finalists were selected for further consideration. Next call will be announced by mid-June 2022.
- Is conducting the "How is Life" survey to collect stories ('micronarratives') from the local population, refugees, and owners of the local businesses to analyze the effects of the current refugee influx in Moldova. More than 200 micronarratives have already been collected primarily from refugees.

UN Women Moldova has supported the following actions:

- Selected 12 refugee women to participate in the Women in Online Work (WoW) training program in Comrat, which is part of the STEM project. WoW training programme was designed for women to acquire the necessary IT competencies and skills to access various international platforms for freelance services. Other 5 women refugees joined communities' events to discuss on opportunities to start and develop their career in IT.
- Supported the Congress of Local Authorities from Moldova (CALM) in equipping the Unique Refugee Crisis Response Unit managed by CALM.
- Supporting 10 communities from 6 districts with largest refugee populations in addressing the essential needs of refugees, primarily women and children, hosted in private families and Local Public Administration (LPA) adapted spaces. The essential livelihood support (in value of \$15,000) is channeled through CALM and is reaching 515 refugees, of which 218 are women (including 5 with disabilities and chronic diseases and 13 Roma women), 48 men (including 4 with disabilities and chronic diseases and 5 Roma), 136 girls and 113 boys.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- UNDP Moldova recently released the report "The Development Impact of the War in the Republic of Moldova – initial projections". The brief aims to assess the potential impact of the war in Ukraine on household welfare in Moldova, regarding increased food and energy prices. According to the data, the share of the population living in poverty could reach between 21% and 32%, depending on the level of inflation, surpassing the poverty levels recorded in 2020 at the onset of the pandemic —14% of the population. These estimates highlight the need for policy action —e.g., by providing emergency relief, either targeted or universal, to smooth households' consumption and potentially mitigate the short-term poverty increases, and which can take the form of either one-off transfers or timebound schemes that could be extended for a few months.



LOGISTIC, SUPPLY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

LOGISTIC AND SUPPLY WORKING GROUP | UNHCR

Achievements and Impact

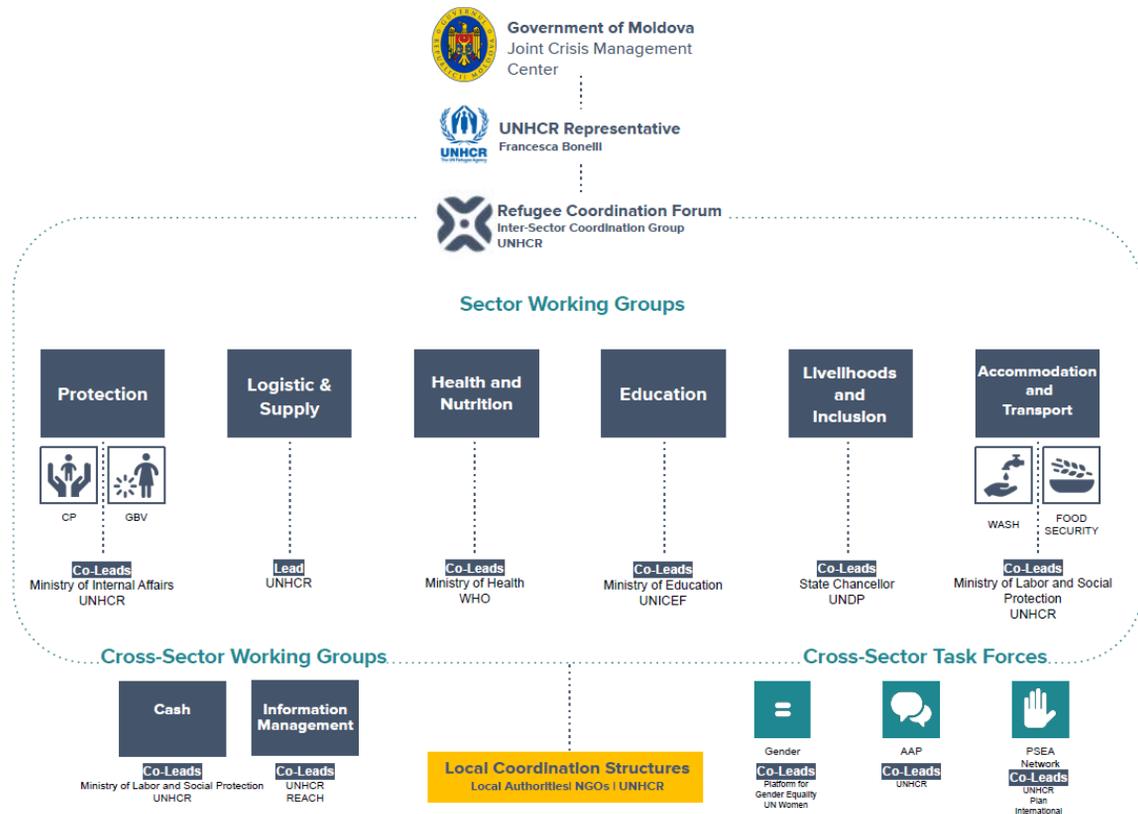
- UNHCR and ACTED work in close coordination with the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection, including the management of the operation extension of the Vatra Warehouse. Coordinated efforts have ensured a robust and agile humanitarian supply chain, which is vital for an effective refugee response.
- UNHCR's warehouse has the following CRI in stock as of 15 June: 106,674 blankets, 29,400 bed sets, 20,008 solar lamps, 22,000 jerry cans, 15,000 mattresses, 9,208 kitchen sets, 7,110 quilts, 4,852 sleeping bags, 7,055 tents, 3,144 winterization kits, 3,050 tarpaulins.
- UNHCR supported the importing procedure of 19 sanitary containers procured by UNICEF. The containers are now at UNHCR's warehouse ready to be distributed by UNICEF.
- Working closely with the Ericsson response Team, UNHCR continues to connect new sites, monitor all the live RETS locations and take necessary actions when needed
- RETS wi-fi has been established in 22 RACs as well as key sites receiving refugees.
- VHF and UHF Antennas repeaters and equipment have been received in the UNHCR Warehouse, with installation planned over the coming weeks.
- ACTED has distributed a total of 4,757 SIM cards in both RACs and border crossing points.

CROSS-CUTTING TASKFORCES

- **The Gender Task Force (GTF)** finalized the Gender in Humanitarian Action (GiHA) checklist for implementation of all working groups and sub working groups. The list has been aligned with the RCF structure in Moldova and covers all the thematic areas of the Structure. In addition, the GTF is developing a set of trainings of Gender Mainstreaming in Humanitarian Action (GIHA) for all RCF actors. The training will encompass specialists with international experience and involvement of local NGOs with experience on the field.
- The **PSEA Network** strengthened the awareness on PSEA and capacity of INGO, national, and UN agency staff, through joint PSEA Network training of 25 participants on May 27th. The training was led by IOM, UNHCR and Plan International, based on IASC Say no to sexual misconduct training package and an overview of protection referral pathways and the PSEA network was presented. The Network has finalized its ToR and Work Plan and is working in coordination with the UNCT PSEA Task Force on the development of a common PSEA Protocol for the refugee response and development programme in Moldova.
- In the framework of **the AAP task force**, UNICEF and UNHCR produced visibility and information materials to better inform refugees of the services offered at the 7 Blue Dots. 18 indoor banners and more than 16 "Welcome to Blue Dot" outdoor banners were produced on how to access the integrated services, including Cash Assistance, PSEA, Child Protection, Education, Infant and young child feeding, Health, and Immunization. As part of AAP tools, UNICEF and UNHCR designed feedback forms on A5 simple paper containing 4 questions to collect feedback from BD visitors. Additionally, Child-Friendly Mood Boards with stickers and emoticons (smileys) were designed for young children to provide feedback on Blue Dot services, and this will be placed at all Blue Dots.

WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP

REFUGEE COORDINATION FORUM STRUCTURE AS OF 15 JUNE:



GBV Sub Working Group Co-Leads: UNHCR and UNFPA | Child Protection Sub Working Group Co-Leads: UNHCR and UNICEF | WASH Sub Working Group: UNICEF | Food Security Sub Working Group: WFP |



CONTINGENCY PLANNING

An Inter-Agency Contingency Workshop took place on 3 June to assess preparedness for a possible mass refugee influx. The workshop was attended by 37 Participants from 16 agencies and a representative of the Joint Crisis Management Centre. During the training, participants analysed the operational capacity of Refugee Coordination Forum partners to support Moldovan authorities during an emergency response, while identifying strengths, existing gaps, complementarity and ways to enhance coordination to avoid duplications. A contingency plan is being developed together with the Government.

RCF member organizations discussing during the Inter-Agency Contingency Workshop on Jun 3rd, Photo Credit: UNHCR, Yuka Hasegawa

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LINKS: [Regional data portal](#) | [Moldova portal](#) | [Ukraine Situation RRP](#) | [Refugee Funding Tracker](#)