By 30 September, 642,179 people had entered the Republic of Moldova from Ukraine, of which 93,579 Ukrainian refugees and 5,351 third-country nationals remained in the Republic of Moldova. The number of people arriving from Ukraine into the Republic of Moldova has fluctuated since the escalation of the war in Ukraine and RCF partners are conducting protection monitoring. At the start of the reporting period, the number of the refugees arriving to Otaci border crossing point had slightly increased. While generally refugees were coming from different regions of Ukraine, a significant proportion came the Vinnytsia Region. Lastly, within the reporting period, the Government of the Republic of Moldova approved the Moldovan-Romanian Agreement on the establishment of the Leova-Bumbata crossing point.

On the last day of September, Refugee Coordination Forum (RCF) partners and the Joint Crisis Management Centre (JCMC) gathered for a High-Level Meeting to launch the 2023 Refugee Response Plan (RRP) Planning Process. With the participation of key government counterparts, UN agencies, NGOs, IFRC and ICRC. During the meeting, the JCMC presented the strategic priorities for the Government of Moldova regarding next year's refugee response, and RCF Sectors' Coordinators presented sectoral priorities. The RRP is a multi-partner, multi-sector response plan led by UNHCR to support the Government-led efforts to respond to the needs of refugees. It provides a platform on which to coordinate the inter-agency response based on a comprehensive plan in alignment with the Government's strategy.

With the coming of Autumn, Winterization becomes increasingly imperative. On 15 September, the Inter-Agency Coordination team organized a half-day Inter-Agency Winterization Workshop in Chisinau, attended by 66 colleagues from various organizations, including government representatives from the State Chancellery, JCMC, and representatives from the ministries of Labour & Social Protection and of Infrastructure, as well as UN agencies and NGOs. Response focussed on the current refugee population in Moldova with a seasonal increase envisaged during wintertime. For Moldovan beneficiaries, planning figures focussed on those individuals living in areas hosting a significant percentage of refugees and who meet the Government's eligibility criteria for Winter Support. Participants were divided into five thematic roundtables: Cash, NFI, Shelter, Protection and Contingency.

**KEY FIGURES**

- **93,579** Refugees from Ukraine in Moldova (as of 30 Sept.)
- **642,179** Total refugees who have entered Moldova (as of 30 Sept.)
- **88,001** Refugees who received cash assistance (as of 30 Sept.)
- **31,954** Host families reached with cash assistance (As of 30 Sept.)

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

- **$1.85 B** Overall financial requirements (USD)
- **$883.6 M** Funding Received (USD)
- **48** Percent of the Regional RRP funded
- **$391.5 M** Financial requirements for the Moldova Refugee Response (USD)
- **93** 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.*

This report was produced by UNHCR in collaboration with inter-agency partners.
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<th><strong>PROTECTION</strong></th>
<th><strong>CHILD PROTECTION</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>+61,000 PERSONS SUPPORTED WITH LEGAL ASSISTANCE by LCA*</td>
<td>+31,000 CHILDREN ACCESSING CHILD PROTECTION SERVICES*</td>
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<tr>
<td>485 PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES SUPPORTED**</td>
<td>GENDER BASED VIOLENCE</td>
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<tr>
<td>1,901 PERSONS SUPPORTED THROUGH AIR TRANSFERS*</td>
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<td>1,968 MOLDOVAN AND UKRAINIAN TEACHERS TRAINED*</td>
<td>18,364 REFUGEE RECEIVED BASIC HEALTH CARE BY HEALTH AND NUTRITION WG PARTNERS.</td>
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<td>1,676 REFUGEE CHILDREN BENEFITTING FROM NATIONAL EDUCATION SYSTEM*</td>
<td>+2,700 SERVICE PROVIDERS TRAINED ON CLINICAL MANAGEMENT OF RAPE (CMR)*</td>
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<th><strong>ACCOMMODATION AND TRANSPORT</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>2,859 REFUGEES ACCOMMODATED IN REFUGEE ACCOMMODATION CENTRES*</td>
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<td>12,754 REFUGEES AND TCN TRANSPORTED THROUGH THE GREEN CORRIDOR*</td>
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<td></td>
<td>+1.8 M MEALS DISTRIBUTED BY FS SWG PARTNERS*</td>
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*As of 30 September
** During the reporting period
OPERATIONAL CONTEXT

On 26 September, the second Refugee Coordination Forum meeting of the reporting period was convened in which the preliminary findings of the local Winterization rapid needs assessment were presented, and updates provided on the overall Winterization process. The dashboard for the latter can be found here. On 7 September, the Government of the Republic of Moldova opened a new help line dedicated to answer questions on firewood distribution, including the procedures to be followed, prices, available stock and contact details of the distributors. The line 080010101 is available for the entire cold season – from Monday to Friday, between 9 a.m. and 8 p.m.

On 28 September, UNHCR’s inter-agency coordination (IAC) and information management teams jointly launched an “Activity Info Rollout: Sector Leads’ Training”. The information system will enable monitoring of humanitarian response in Moldova. The IAC team invited sector leads to the first out of several sessions on Activity Info. This first session will allow a final test of the system before expanding further to the partners.

As part of the process of the 2023 Refugee Response Plan (RRP) Planning Process on 21 September, a workshop in preparation for Local Mapping Consultation was held. The workshop provided interviewers with methodology and tools to enable effective data collation. The consultations themselves aimed to improve the humanitarian response by having reliable information; assist in identification of local needs and proposed solutions directly from relevant stakeholders, including community leaders from refugees and hosting communities; facilitate mapping of neighbourhoods with a high concentration of refugees, as well as the obstacles in those areas for people to access basic services. The two weeks of consultation commenced across the country on 26 September.

In the reporting period, the Local Refugee Coordination Forum (LRCF) continued augmenting its structures and convened meetings at the following locations: Cahul (south) on 6 September; Comrat (south) on 8 September; Balti (north-west) on 9 September; Ungheni (west) on 12 September; Otaci (north) on 13 September; and at Palanca (east) on 7, 14, and 21 September.
Achievements and Impact

The Protection Working Group (PWG) met twice in September, with the main points of discussion being winterization, the possible grant of temporary protection to persons displaced from Ukraine, and protection needs and services for persons with disabilities. Situational updates were provided by INTERSOS and Law Centre for Advocates (LCA) based on their monitoring activities at border crossing points, in particular Palanca and Ocnița, and the Chisinau International Airport. The PWG also received expressions of interest from members wishing to join the proposed Protection Advisory Group (PAG) within the PWG. The PAG will be a small group of PWG members (eight in total, including the PWG co-chairs) that will support the development of protection policy and strategic documents for the Protection Sector.

As of 1 September 2022, Protection Desks at Cash Enrolment Centres have been staffed by UNHCR’s partner LCA, aiming to identify people with specific needs, advise them on their rights and services and, where appropriate, refer them to relevant service providers. With the support of UNHCR child protection staff, Protection Desk staff also conduct rapid best interests assessment for any unaccompanied or separated children, who are identified, to confirm their relationships with their adult caregivers and to identify any issues of concern.

Information services continued to be a primary need for refugees and displaced third country nationals (TCNs). A total of 33,547 calls were received at the Green Line managed by UNHCR, 82 per cent of which were from female callers. Between 16 March and 30 September, UNHCR’s Help Page had received 643,451 page visits, including 58,536 in September alone. Cash was the most visited page, followed by Air Transfers and cash for hosting families. On 22 September, the joint UNHCR and IOM Information Centre was officially opened in Comrat, the first centre of its kind in Moldova.

Protection services continued to be provided. During September, INTERSOS was operational at the Palanca bus hub reaching 592 people with information, including 27 people with disabilities. It also referred 480 individuals (252 women) to medical team services. Protection Desks at Cash Enrolment Centres, Roma Community and Libraries.

Mobile teams continue to be utilized to provide protection services in different areas of the country. In partnership with civil society organizations (CSOs) working in protection, People in Need (PIN) reached over 500 people through a PSS hotline, online counselling, women’s groups, non-specialized activities for children, mobile protection team operated by partners, as well as internal referrals. Moreover, PIN delivered its second psychosocial retreat/workshop for CSO partners working with refugees. Likewise, in the North, Centre and South of Moldova, Caritas Czech Republic, in cooperation with local NGOs, supported some 450 group and individual psycho-social consultations through mobile teams. Charity Centre for Refugees (CCR) provided 584 consultations to refugees requiring information, referrals, and specific services, while 45 refugees received clothes, shoes, food packets, etc.

Mobile Protection Teams (MPTs), Mental Health and Psycho-Social Support (MHPSS) mobile teams and implementing partners are jointly working on anti-trafficking awareness raising efforts and informing beneficiaries about IOM services and programmes. During September, the IOM protection mobile team reached 182 people in Ocnița, Comrat, Singerei, Drochia, Ceadir Lunga, and Tiraspol with information and awareness sessions, bringing it to a total of 1,994 persons since April 2022. UNDP, in partnership with local NGOs, provided legal and psycho-social support to some 100 refugees from Edinet and Causeni. INTERSOS is also present with MPTs in 16 regions all over Moldova providing Protection Monitoring, PSS, Case Management and Information provision to people fleeing from Ukraine. INTERSOS teams mainly focus their activities on Informal Refugee Centres, Roma Community and Libraries.

Refugees continue to seek legal services to assist with issues related to documentation and access to services. As of the end of September, LCA had provided legal counselling and assistance to over 61,642 people, including at cash enrolment centres, border crossing points, Refugee Accommodation Centres (RACs) and the information centre in Comrat. Through the Norwegian Refugee Council’s (NRC) Information, Counselling and Legal Assistance Programme, 610 individuals (415 being Roma and TCNs) received information on identity and civil documentation, asylum application procedure, Moldova employment laws, and HLP. NRC provided legal counselling and assistance to 575 (of whom 490 were Roma and TCNs). Further, NRC with its
partners ROMNI and ADRA Moldova reached 1,216 individuals with information on essential services, while 333 referral cases were registered.

Partners continue to support and strengthen local capacities by providing Capacity-Building Support to Moldova authorities. In September INTERSOS trained 30 Telenest Social Workers on Protection principles. On 20 September, the Embassy of Italy and UNHCR provided the Bureau of Migration and Asylum of the Ministry of Internal Affairs in Chisinau with donations, including vehicles, laptops, printers, internet routers, generators, air conditioners, refrigerators, safes and surveillance cameras. The donation will enhance the BMA's responsiveness in managing the current refugee crisis.

Through the EU Regional Solidarity efforts, UNHCR and IOM coordinate free flights to participating EU+ countries where persons fleeing Ukraine can register for Temporary Protection and receive support with accommodation and social/legal service referrals. During the reporting period, 92 people were transferred via one flight to France, one flight to Netherlands, five flights to Norway, and two flights to Spain bringing the total number of beneficiaries receiving assistance to 1,901 since the programme's inception in March until the end of September. This programme focuses on the most vulnerable persons, reuniting families, offering lifesaving medical care ranging from survivors of strokes needing medical care, supporting children with cerebral palsy to assisting unaccompanied elderly persons in need of care for daily tasks. (In addition to, and separate from, this programme, IOM supported 648 TCN returns to countries of origin, with 82 TCNs being assisted in the month of September alone.)

**Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps**

In the reporting period, INTERSOS and Casa Marioarei carried out different FDGs in Falesti, Causeni and Ungheni with Refugees women and the main needs identified were mainly on winterization, including clothes and support for domestic heating. Similarly, INTERSOS also ran KIIs and FDGs with Roma Community Service Providers and Roma Refugees identifying multiple needs in the sectors of NFIs, Shelter, WASH, Education and general protection issues.

**Achievements and Impact**

In September, the Gender Based Violence Sub-Working Group published the final version of the GBV Safety Audit Report, compiled jointly by UNHCR, UNFPA, and UNICEF. The audit’s objectives are to identify GBV risks, in particular those affecting women and girls, in different refugee settings within Moldova to develop a GBV risk reduction guidance for each sector; to assess GBV response needs, gaps, and barriers in accessing support in order to better inform survivor-centred GBV service provision; and to adapt, contextualize, and test a GBV Safety Audit toolkit for the Moldova refugee response. The GBV factsheet covering the period of July and August was also released. In addition, the GBV SWG published the GBV risk assessment in the Cash and Voucher (CVA) Assistance exercise conducted in collaboration with the Cash Working Group to assess potential GBV risks for refugees that may be created by such CVA programming in Moldova and to recommend enhancement of the response, so as to mitigate any risks.

On 8 September, a Trainer-of-Trainers on GBV core concepts and safe handling of disclosure was held for 31 participants under the framework of the GBV SWG. The participants were representatives of local NGOs and will replicate the training contributing to awareness raising and information sharing.

A meeting focused on GBV case management with GBV actors and the Ministry of Labour & Social Protection (MLSP) took place on 16 September, to have a better understanding on how to support the national protection system. The GBV SWG conducted an analysis of the GBV Legal Framework of the Republic of Moldova and the mandatory reporting requirements in the country. A GBV SWG meeting was held on 22 September and the GBV Interagency technical guidance were revised, with a total of 19 participants having joined this session.

Casa Marioarei organized 48 educational-cultural events in ten localities for a total of 3,003 participants, 1,975 of whom were female. The main goal of these awareness events was to create inclusion of refugees in the local community, reduce possible tensions between host communities and refugees and to increase knowledge about the GBV. On 29 September, within the
framework of joint activities on GBV with Casa Marioarei, a visit to Chircaesti village was conducted on occasion of the World Heart Day celebration, including kids’ activities (both Moldovan and Ukrainian) and planting of flowers in the village centre. GVB survivors and vulnerable families at risk, in Chisinau and districts, also received support and referrals based on their needs: 96 legal consultations, 91 medical consultations, 315 social support actions and 105 psychological sessions.

UNFPA has distributed 50 mobile phones to older refugees and offered sessions on digital skills to increase the access to information and existing services through five Orange Safe Spaces dedicated for older persons. Customized dignity kits are being assembled to meet the basic hygiene needs of older persons.

UNFPA through partner Artemida trained 456 members of multidisciplinary teams from Ialoveni, Ștefan Vodă, Fălești and Florești districts (raions), namely social workers, police officers, healthcare providers, representatives of probation service, were trained on using a coordinated and holistic approach when responding to GBV cases at a local level. Casa Marioarei also organized two trainings in Falesti on GBV and refugees’ rights for social assistants, police officers, library workers, teachers and other social actors from the localities reaching 35 people.

UNFPA partners reached 785 beneficiaries with dignity kits. The dissemination of the dignity kits serves as an entry point to share information on GBV including the types of GBV, the available support services for survivors and information on SRH rights and existing services.

A total of 3,096 people were reached through UNFPA static and mobile Safe Spaces including the rapid border service at Palanca, individual and group counselling, as well as one-on-one psycho-education/information sharing on topics such as anxiety, family crisis, mother-child relationships, psycho-emotional support, sexual and reproductive health, as well as referral to other specialized services (lawyer, doctor, psychiatrist, etc.). The target groups include women, adolescent girls and boys, and Roma population.

**DISABILITY TASK FORCE | KEYSTONE MOLDOVA AND OHCHR**

**Achievements and Impact**

In September, a total of 485 Ukrainian refugees with disabilities and serious chronic illnesses received targeted assistance and support in September. The assistance was provided by four local NGOs: Keystone Moldova, OSORC (Transnistria), Motivatie and CASMED. The Keystone Moldova Hotline Support Service provided 86 Ukrainian refugees with disabilities with information and counselling. At the same time, Keystone Moldova Mobile Team reached 210 refugees with disabilities and serious chronic diseases in host families and RACs. The number of refugees assisted by the Keystone Moldova Hotline and Mobile Team in September rose by 50 per cent, compared to August. Assistance included food packages and special diet products (gluten-free, sugar-free, etc.), as well as hygiene packages. Keystone Moldova and OSORC distributed medicine to 204 individuals and by the end of September 67 refugees had also benefitted from medical examinations covered financially by said NGOs. Medical and assistive devices were also provided. Complex needs assessments were conducted for 277 individuals, with a view to establishing the necessary interventions by Keystone Moldova, OSORC and CASMED. OSORC and CASMED offered legal assistance, while Motivatie and OSORC were able to provide adapted transport services. A total of 81 refugees with disabilities received psychological counselling.

**Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps**

Reduced access to specialized medical services and insufficient resources to buy the necessary medications remain serious issues, as reported by persons with chronic illnesses, mental health, epileptic syndrome and other disabling medical conditions. Medical equipment and assistive devices are still insufficient to cover the needs of refugees with disabilities. Many refugees with disabilities require rehabilitation services that are not available in all districts or are not financially accessible for them. Special diet products are expensive and unaffordable for many refugees who require them. At the same time, food distribution procedures can fail to accommodate the needs of persons that require a special diet both in RACs and in host communities.
In the reporting period, the CPSWG convened twice with the main topics of discussion being winterization, the localization of referral pathways, and 2023 RRP planning. **On 8 September, UNHCR, and partners the Law Centre of Advocates (LCA) and the Charity Centre for Refugees (CCR), together with UNICEF, commissioned a new Blue Dot at the Temporary Accommodation Centre for Asylum-Seekers in Chisinau** [Photo: ©UNHCR/Irina Odobescu]. This Blue Dot is set to assist asylum-seekers, refugees and the local community with information, legal counselling, and a range of other services including psychological support, employment counselling, and referrals for health care and education. Child protection referral pathways are in the process of being updated and localized. In September, 25 children accessed the child-friendly space at this new Blue Dot and daily benefitted from CCR's various educational activities: developing motricity, games, painting, handicrafts, and so on. Overall, the joint UNICEF-UNHCR initiative, Blue Dots, continued throughout September to offer support, with 4,539 persons assisted (2,254 children, including 102 with disabilities) in September, ten of whom were unaccompanied and 37 were separated children (UASC). These figures included 1,216 children (and caregivers) who accessed mental health and psychosocial support and 1,897 children accessed child-friendly spaces with intersectoral programming interventions. Some 1,357 children were referred to health, social welfare and justice services, while 118 children (and caregivers) were provided with legal aid or counselling: food and drinks were provided to 610 children and 1,580 children were provided with non-food items. During September, CNPAC, with support from Plan International and War Child Holland, offered mental health and psycho-social support to 1,668 Ukrainian children (909 girls and 759 boys) and their caregivers (891 adults: 739 female and 152 male) from 15 districts and 24 RACs, reaching a total of 2,559 attendances. AVE Copiii provided case management to 34 refugee children at risk. The Palanca Blue Dot mobile team organized three self-support meetings with 33 refugee parents in three communities (from Stefan Voda and Causeni districts), the main topic addressed being “Trauma and Separation”.

Through their 17 mobile and static Orange Safe Spaces (OSS), UNFPA reached 1,343 new refugee beneficiaries, including 321 girls and 320 boys, who accessed psychological and social support. Additionally, 35 Roma adolescents – 13 boys and 23 girls – were assisted and involved in daily activities at Testimiteanu 6, within the OSS for youth. Also, in this period, UNFPA delivered dignity kits sufficient for 129 girls and 175 boys. WeWorld organized PPS and recreational activities in Testimiteanu RAC for some 50 children and adolescents, and in Criuleni RAC through its local partner, CCF. Recreational and artistic activities were also organized with children hosted in private accommodation in Chisinau during child-dedicated food distribution events, reaching about 450 children per week, for a total of 1,800 children. In collaboration with the Moldovan Football Federation (MFF), CCR donated sports clothes and kit to 270 children and adults from the Temporary Accommodation Centre and from Chisinau. In September, 399 people, predominantly women and children, received warm clothes as part of the USA-for-UNHCR donation, distributed at the Charity Centre for Refugees.

With regard to the capacity building of professionals, AVE Copiii trained 61 child protection staff, including holding a training on protection of refugee children to 35 community social assistants, four local child rights protection specialists, one psychologist and two heads of social services within the Department of social assistance and family protection in Ungheni district.
and four thousand Roma refugees in Moldova, on both banks of the Dniester. According to some stakeholders over 45,000 Roma refugees are thought to have transited the country. These findings were presented in different IA Working groups and at IA workshops. In terms of support, in addition to other activities, WeWorld distributed cleaning products and hygiene items (towels for adults and children) in the Testemitanu 6 RAC, benefitting a total of 160 residents. MTI supported the Roma community in Vadul Lui Voda (around 100 persons), with first aid kits for adults and children distributed.

**Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps**

It is recommended that a second mapping stage be carried out to better understand where the Roma live and thus to ensure services are available. Other recommendations include reinforcing the capacity of local Roma NGOs and formulating community projects to enhance cohesion, integration and peaceful cohabitation, vocational training and employment integration. Stepping up Communicating with Communities activities, especially by increasing support for community mediators, who play such an important role in communicating with this community can be beneficial; while NGOs/INGOs involved in the refugee response are hiring community mediators, the North and Transnistrian areas need better coverage. Similarly, it would be helpful to have reporting without reinforcing of stereotypes and prejudices regarding Roma, and to proliferate positive human stories with an information campaign on improving the perception of the Roma refugee community. Accelerated programmes of education for illiterate children and adults are necessary; targeted outreach is required to ensure that Roma children are in school and learning, and here, it would be advantageous to have translated materials – written, audio and video – into different dialects of Romani and other languages. Transport and accommodation issues remain, and the case management concerning referrals to other working groups, organizations should be improved.

**ANTI-TRAFFICKING TASK FORCE**

**Achievements and Impact**

UNHCR provided support to the Centre for Assistance and Protection of Victims and Potential Victims of Human Trafficking in Chisinau by delivering core relief items, including 40 sets of blankets, bedsheets, pillows and towels. In September, the State Chancellery organized a training on anti-trafficking for the territorial commissions combatting human trafficking.

**EDUCATION WORKING GROUP**

The Education Working Group held meetings twice in September, with the main topics of discussion including updates on the enrolment of refugee children into the national education system, specific support needed for children with disabilities and Roma children, and the announcement of the winners of the ‘Education Cannot Wait’ grant. In September and with commencement of the new academic year, 1,676 refugee children were benefitting from the national education system. In September, many activities focussed on the start of the 2022/3 school year, especially with provision of supplies. World Vision’s partner AVE Copiii distributed age-appropriate school supplies consisting of teaching and learning materials to 579 children (both refugees and host communities) in Balti, Cahul, Basarabeasca, Vulcanesti and Cridar Lunga regions. NGO Concordia provided teaching materials and tailored school supplies to 110 refugee children in Bolohan, Tudora, Causeni, Rusestii Noi, Stefan Voda, Palanca, and Crocmaz. Of them, 55 are enrolled and integrated into Moldovan educational institutions, while 55 are studying online at Ukrainian educational institutions. Ukrainian refugee children have access to the internet, possess devices and high-performing interactive whiteboards for a harmonious assimilation of the educational material. Charity Centre for Refugees in Moldova (CCR), with the support of UNHCR, distributed school bags and supplies for asylum-seeking children living at the Temporary Accommodation Centre, as well as for children living in Chisinau; 270 refugee
children in total benefitted from this support. Fifteen asylum-seekers at the Temporary Accommodation Centre attended Romanian language classes. On 1 September, with support of UNHCR, CCR distributed books in Ukrainian to 21 refugee children hosted in the town of Criuleni.

UNFPA provided access and guidance for Ukrainian adolescents and youth to digital infrastructure for online school at all seven static Safe Spaces for Youth (OSS-Y). Additionally, UNFPA ensured daily transportation to and from school for 12 Roma children in the Testimiteanu 6 RAC. UNFPA delivered 533 group and 568 individual sessions, including Romanian language training and IT development skills based on a curricular approach, and non-formal activities, including GBV and SRH for youth, psychosocial support and access to mental health.

As part of a grant to accelerate the digital transformation in the Republic of Moldova, an online platform to learn coding will be expanded with UNDP’s support and made available to Ukrainian students and teachers. The platform will include a curriculum of twelve classes in Ukrainian, which trained teachers can then replicate or adapt to teach Ukrainian students in their native language on the platform. The classes will be aimed at children aged nine to sixteen years old. UNDP supported the Centre of Innovative Educational and Social Programmes in Tiraspol who, together with the School of Bloggers (Bender), Bender’s Higher Art College, Business Hub, Tiraspol and the Educational Centre “Razvitie”, organized trainings and excursion for 80 teenagers and children from Ukraine.

In September, NRC with its partner CRiC carried out an online workshop reaching 256 public school teachers from Causeni, Drochia, Cimislia and Sangerei districts. The objective of the workshop was to identify capacity-building needs to ensure proper integration of refugee students in public schools. NRC, through its partner SBSM, continued Non-Formal Education activities in Chisinau, Balti, Orhei and Laloveni reaching 243 children with Romanian and English language lessons as well as recreational activities. Romanian language sessions were also held in partnership with the National Youth Council in Moldova (CNTM) reaching 57 adolescents and youth. Amici dei Bambini, Moldova, organized non-formal educational activities for nearly 400 children, both refugee and Moldovan from host communities and including 24 orphans, at the Carpineni and Cupcui RACs and from the Edinet municipality. In addition, 818 children (both Ukrainian and Moldovan) from seven hosting communities participated, twice per week, in “storytelling” and “group reading” activities within community libraries.

HEALTH WORKING GROUP | MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND WHO

Achievements and Impact

In September, the Ministry of Health (MoH) and WHO coordinated the COVID-19 situation at the National Focal Point coordination meetings. By the end of September, a total of nine regional plans, adjusted to local contexts, had been developed and approved, regarding the intensification of the routine vaccination process and against COVID-19, and refugees are included.

With regard to the provision of basic health care, by the end of September, partners had provided 18,364 people with such services, including 5,944 consultations delivered by Emergency Medical Teams (EMTs). A total of 16 EMTs are on standby, with six in the field: INTERSOS, Emergency, Peace Winds Japan, Adventist Help, Doctors with African CUAMM, Medical Team International (MTI).

Throughout September, MTI supplied medicines to Primary Health Care Centres (PHCCs) in Cimislia and Basarabeasca. In partnership with the Emanuel Medical Centre, 86 people (including children) were consulted and received treatment. With UNDP’s support, the NGO Association of Health and Sport provided in cooperation with local medical institutions specialized care for 20 Ukrainian refugees. Refugees received the opportunity to vaccinate against COVID-19, as well as other vaccinations according to the calendar of vaccinations. IOM facilitated 34 people’s (19 females and 15 males) undergoing oncological diagnosis and treatment within the Oncology Institute; 35 patients performed 420 dialysis sessions.
A variety of medical supplies and equipment was provided to the MoH and its various institutions, including hospitals, by WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA and Czech Republic. IOM oversaw a second donation of essential medicines and medical equipment to the Oncology Institute to ensure the continuity of cancer care and treatment for the Ukrainian refugees and TCNs [Photo: ©IOM]. By the end of September, partners had distributed 33,346 leaflets on cancer care and treatment (IOM), available health care services (WHO), IYCF (infant and young child feeding) and immunization (UNICEF), and breastfeeding (UNICEF and WHO).

During the reporting period, 417 pre-embarkation health checks (PECs) were performed to refugees shortly before their departures, either to EU Member States or as part of returns to their country of origin, to ensure that individuals do not pose any health threat to themselves or other passengers during transit, or upon their arrival in the country of resettlement. This activity is undertaken by UNHCR, the agency responsible for case management, and IOM. As of the end of September, 12,754 PECs had been performed for individuals going through the Green Corridor, 1,877 PECs for EU Air Transfers, and 648 TCNs returning to their countries of origin.

With regard to strengthening capacity, partners continue to deliver in-person training. In September, partners reached the following: 6,000 teachers regarding technical aspects and raising awareness of immunization for educational staff and healthcare workers from schools during the educational staff forum (WHO); local stakeholders from districts with the lowest vaccination coverage to reach unvaccinated persons prior to the school year in Calarasi, Ungheni, Singerei, Causeni, Edinet (WHO); 25 European Programme for Intervention Epidemiology Training (EPIET) fellows received training in Epidemiology in Emergency (WHO); MTI continued strengthening the capacity of local medical response efforts to respond to the needs of refugees and host communities in Cimislia, Basarabeasca and Criuleni.

MENTAL HEALTH & PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT
Partners carried out a number of MHPSS activities over the reporting period. NGO Concordia offered three group counselling sessions for 35 refugees from Bolohan, Causeni and Stefan Voda. During these sessions, refugees (both adults and children) benefitted from mental health and psycho-emotional support and had the possibility to hold discussions with professional psychologists, especially with focus on the psycho-emotional support provided by the social workers of Concordia’s Family Type Placement Centres for Children. Caritas Czech Republic in cooperation with local NGOs, provided around 450 group and individual psycho-social consultations through mobile teams in the North, Centre and South of Moldova. Amici dei Bambini, Moldova provided 14 in-person PSS to refugee women hosted in Carpineni RAC and other hosting communities and nine Ukrainian women assisted with PSS provided by the psychologists of the Hot Line 0800 10 804. The CCR psychologist from Blue Dot provided 14 persons with psychological counselling. IOM MHPSS teams provided psychological counselling to 609 individuals while 1,587 received socio-relational activities. To date, IOM MHPSS teams have provided socio-relational activities and psychological counselling for a total of 8,077 individuals (1,760 male, females 2,697, children 1,507 boys, and 2,113 girls) in Chisinau and across the communities.

During the reporting period, AVE Copiii, a World Vision partner, conducted an online workshop on Inductive Games to Educators, how to play educative games with children. World Vision and HelpAge established partnerships at the local level, within three public events, held in the towns of Criuleni, Ungheni and Singerei with the participation of representatives of the municipalities, social assistance departments, public libraries, and local NGOs. These events served to present the project, the activities and the services which will be offered within the Community Safe Spaces created through the project and in partnership with District Councils and Municipalities, four such sites were identified. INTERSOS provided psychological support at the Palanca Bus Hub to 237 people (including 21 children, and 15 people with disabilities) and MTI provided psychosocial first aid training for medical staff from Cimislia PHCC with 30 participants.

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Achievements and Impact

UNHCR in partnership with ACTED continued the support of humanitarian transportation from the Palanca bus station and Otaci BCP to Chisinau and Refugee Accommodation Centres (RACs). On 28 September, the Otaci bus station became officially operational, with its containers connected to electricity, and with security cameras, fences, storage containers and bio-toilets installed. The new facilities include three washroom containers (toilets, hand basins and showers), installed by Solidarités International, which are for women, men and staff, two of which have access for PwD; tents and other features offer dignified spaces for people while waiting. In September, 597 individuals were transported to Chisinau and 377 people to RACs, bringing to over 17,000 the number transported. In order to alleviate traffic at border crossing points and to facilitate rapid transport of persons seeking onward movement a humanitarian “Green Corridor” operates between Palanca and Husi with IOM assisting over 400 individuals in September. With a view to strengthening the capacity of a quick response to influx of displaced population, IOM Moldova procured and handed over ten trailers, two forklifts and two vans to the office of the General Inspectorate for Emergency Situations.

At the RACs, ACTED CCCM teams conducted weekly monitoring across Moldova with 70 centres visited: 26 in Chisinau, 19 in central Moldova, 12 in the south, and 13 in the north. A total of 39 RACs have to date had their living conditions improved by ACTED interventions, mainly focussing on the provision of safe and dignified spaces, including repairs to the electrical system, installation of lights and sockets, WASH interventions, repair of doors and windows, installation of locks, and the repair of the heating system. As part of the AT sector’s contingency planning, the rehabilitation of five contingency RACs was completed, at Balti, Crepor, Cimisilia, and at two centres in Ungheni. CDA continued the provision of legal assistance at 47 RACs, while Solidarités International is supporting WASH interventions at six RACs. Peace Winds Japan’s support at five RACs located in Chisinau was ongoing, with NFI distributions and support for children to access online classes.

During this month, ACTED conducted an assessment of the RACs to estimate the cost of utility bills during the winter months, as part of winterization planning. The findings were presented at the winterization consultation meeting conducted by the inter-agency coordination team. CWS, in partnership with local partner Ormax, installed a 15-kWh photo-voltaic solar panel system at the RAC in the Soroca district. This system is expected to supply most of the Soroca RAC’s electricity needs with renewable energy, helping to meet heating needs in the coming winter. It is also a long-term contribution to the community, since at some point in the future the RAC will eventually revert to its function as a government-run children’s camp.

A total of 40 refugees received rental assistance through the Airbnb project within the reporting period, bringing the total number of beneficiaries to 480 (rental support to both TCNs and refugees).
Throughout September, reported partner non-food item (NFI) distributions throughout Moldova totalled over 8,000. IOM distributed a total of 5,524 NFI kits (including hygiene kits, bedding sets and kitchen kits in Aneni Noi, Causeni, Balti, Cahul, and Chisinau, to refugees in host communities [Photo: ©IOM]). Two shipments of 1,800 NFIs reached the Transnistria region and are out for distribution.

In September, ACTED distributed 818 hygiene kits in partnership with ShelterBox at the Palanca border crossing and 301 Welcome kits at the Otaci border. Caritas Czech Republic, in cooperation with local authorities and NGOs, distributed 572 Hygiene kits for refugees in host communities. In addition, hygienic products were distributed in RACs, for up to 75 refugees. UNDP provided aid packages to some 108 refugees from both banks of the Dniester. The packages included hygiene and household chemical products, office supplies kits, and pharmacy kits. With the financial support of the EU, UNDP also provided non-food items (first-aid kits, household appliances, furniture, mattresses, heaters, and IT equipment) to 14 local public authorities, for distribution to refugees in their localities. Solidarités International distributed 92 family hygiene kits to 163 persons in Chisinau and Aneni Noi during the reporting period. WeWorld distributed hygiene kits to 957 people living in private accommodation in Chisinau district, including 505 kits for women, 185 kits for men and 267 kits for children. During the reported period, a total of 425 refugees and asylum-seekers from Chisinau and Criuleni, as well as from the village of Greblesti, benefitted from food and hygiene vouchers distributed by CCR. CCR also distributed 20 vouchers for medical products to the elderly and to people with chronic illnesses. These vouchers are an efficient tool through which beneficiaries have access to basic hygienic items and food products, as they see fit.

As of 30 September, the Food Security SWG had provided a total of 1,852,317 meals, since commencing activities on 15 March of this year. Early in September, WFP reached the milestone of one million hot meals delivered to Ukrainian refugees in Moldova since the beginning of operations, reaching 1,126,965 such meals by the close of the month; three hot meals a day being provided to 2,000 residents at 43 RACs across the country. Where government-approved kitchen facilities are available at RACs, WFP provides commodity vouchers worth 100 MDL per person, per day for the RAC managers to purchase food for cooking onsite. If cooking facilities are not available, then local caterers or restaurants provide the food, thereby helping the economy in these often-remote communities.

During September, CRS/Caritas distributed food and hygiene vouchers to 2,327 households and distributed 31,625 cooked meals at eight RACs across Moldova. NGO Concordia offered 77 food packages and 34 sanitary packages for refugee families placed in Concordia accommodation centres and in the community. Simultaneously, 137 food packages were distributed to host families. Caritas Czech Republic in cooperation with local authorities and NGOs, distributed food vouchers (to the value of 1,500 MDL) for 750 vulnerable refugees in Criuleni, Dubăsari, Călărași, Ceadir-Lunga, Comrat and Vulcanesti districts. The activity was funded by Caritas Luxembourg.

In September, WeWorld distributed food bags to Ukrainian refugees at its distribution centre in Chisinau, amounting to 8,582 food bags distributed to 2,982 families (6,536 individuals). At the same time, WeWorld distributed 2,250 child-dedicated food bags (including a small toy), reaching 1,868 refugee children. All distributed products are fresh and locally grown thereby supporting the local economy.
Achievements and impact

During September, 1,209 refugees and affected host communities (846 females; 363 males), including around 520 children, were provided with access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene services at the Blue Dots in Palanca. WASH facilities were installed at Otaci’s new bus station to support and provide safe and adequate facilities to refugees arriving from northern Ukraine. Solidarités International distributed 833 travel hygiene kits to 1,038 persons at Palanca’s bus station border point during the reporting period. The insulation of the sanitation container water supply is planned for October to keep them open during wintertime at Palanca TCMC (camp), Palanca bus station and Otaci bus station. During the reporting period 235 refugees and affected host communities (165 females; 71 males), including around 101 children, were provided with access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene services in Moldexpo and Testemitianu RACs (Chisinau).

Achievements and impact

Since the beginning of the Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance (MPCA) programme in Moldova and till end of September, a total of 88,001 refugees had been enrolled and issued bank cards for multi-purpose cash assistance in Moldova by UNHCR and partners, and with the support of UNICEF and UNFPA. Of those enrolled, 75,283 have already received a second payment, 66,265 have received a third payment, 52,471 have received a fourth payment, 37,141 have received a fifth payment, 17,674 have received a sixth payment and few hundreds have received a sixth payment. A snapshot of partner activity includes the following. NGO Concordia distributed 3,500 MDL each to 77 refugee families. Caritas Czech Republic, in cooperation with local authorities, continued to provide cash assistance for refugees in the Gagauzia region; thus, by the end of September 542 new refugees had been enrolled and 915 refugees received cash assistance (2,200 MDL) through Posta Moldovei. NRC, operating in Chisinau, Drochia, and Anenii-Noi regions provided monthly MPCA to vulnerable refugees (particularly to the Roma community). In September, NRC delivered a second monthly cash disbursement to 247 existing beneficiaries. The delivery mechanism used is a MoneyGram transfer, while the transfer value and the frequency of transfer are those recommended by the Cash Working Group.

For Moldovan households hosting refugees from Ukraine, WFP is providing cash-based assistance. More than three rounds of cash-based transfers have taken place reaching over 12,000 unique household, injecting more than $4 million into the local economy. In September, 4,200 households so far had received cash assistance through the ongoing third round. During September, WFP completed the harmonization of cycles with PIN and CRS. Registration for the fourth round has been completed by all agencies, and payments will start in October. World Vision, through its partnership with WFP, were able to reach 1,196 households who are hosting Ukrainian refugees in order to complement their support efforts. Similarly, PIN was able to reach 1,884 such households in 17 districts (raions) around Moldova, to alleviate the burden and release the extra pressure they encounter due to hosting Ukrainian refugees. In September, the Catholic Relief Services’ (CRS) Accommodation Programme in partnership with Caritas Moldova provided emergency cash payments through MoneyGram to 610 host families. CRS signed 40 hosting agreements with hosts for independent accommodation that meets the minimum housing standards for refugees.
LIVELIHOODS & INCLUSION

Achievements and Impact

By the end of September, the National Employment Agency (ANOFM) had received notifications from economic agents about the employment of 801 citizens from Ukraine: 607 women and 194 men, with more than 74 per cent employed in Chisinau. More than 140 employers have shown their willingness to employ Ukrainian citizens, declaring over 2,200 job vacancies to be available. The Livelihoods & Inclusion WG members continued to provide support to strengthening refugees’ livelihoods, including through training and information distribution regarding employment opportunities. UNDP facilitated refugees’ access to employment services through information distribution and dedicated events, in partnership with the National Employment Agency. Following a competition for energy efficiency and mobility project proposals, supported by UNDP and the French Government, up to four local communities from Moldova will benefit from support to ensure uninterrupted access to decent public services during the wintertime to refugees and community members.

IOM conducted a multi-sector survey in Chisinau, Comrat district (including Comrat city), Ceadir-Lunga city, and Transnistria, covering 286 households with a total of 812 family members. The lists of the refugees have been coordinated with the local public authorities from Comrat district and Ceadir Lunga City, thus covering almost all refugees and third-country nationals from the region. The survey included questions on the situation of the family, age disaggregation, primary needs, education level, intention to seek employment, to start a business, etc.

PIN initiated activities to support grassroots organizations and local public authorities to increase their competencies to participate, monitor and advocate for greater social accountability. The activity will contribute to social cohesion and improved access to public services including for refugees. The capacity building will take place in five districts – Cahul, Comrat, Glodeni, Fălești, and Râșcani. On 20 September, UNHCR and LCA held discussions with refugees hosted in a RAC in Ungheni, who expressed interest in attending vocational courses, particularly as beauticians. On 21 September, UNHCR and LCA met with the managers of two beauty salons in the Nisporeni district who expressed their willingness to train refugees interested in working as beauticians. In September 14 refugee women successfully completed vocational courses for beauticians, within the framework of the vocational empowerment project for refugee women, implemented by CCR.

UNHCR partner A.O. Laolalta’s Volunteers Coordination Unit launched a call for participants to conduct a study aiming to identify the specific needs of refugees, targeting 1,000 people. Refugees will be asked what they need in Moldova for a better life. The results of the study will be communicated to international organizations, the Government of the Republic of Moldova and other interested partners.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

The aforementioned survey conducted by IOM underlined recurrent challenges to employment, including language issues required for the job specifications, limited to difficult to find information on employment opportunities that match the skills, legal issues related to the work permit, required qualification and experience, recognition of certificates, and inability to cover expenses until securing employment.

LOGISTIC, SUPPLY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

By the end of September UNHCR had pre-positioned regional stock in warehouses in Moldova totalling 515,868 items. This included: 132,242 blankets; 7,000 plastic tarpaulins, 20,088 solar lamps, 32,780 jerry cans, 14,749 mattresses, 6,900 quilts, 7,055 tents, 5,514 winterization kits, 56,455 sleeping bags, 121,065 hygiene kits, 52 refugee housing units (RHUs). Since August, UNHCR has received a total of 26,791 items from IKEA including kitchen items as well as furniture. In September, UNHCR distributed 251 mats to the National Congress of Ukrainians and to the Ministry of Internal Affairs and to one RAC; 210...
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One of the main showcases of the Accountability to Affected Populations Task Force (AAP TF) in September was the Rumour Tracking exercise by Moldova for Peace, which aims to determine patterns of misinformation regarding refugee and host-community issues. Since its initial inception in August, the service has greatly improved, with clearer process that can be easily utilized by Dopomogi to formulate reports on the Green Line call centre. During September 2022, a total number of 6,428 calls reached the Refugee Response Green Line, which represents a decrease of 17 per cent compared to August. Eight out of every ten calls came from Chisinau, the majority of callers being women (75 per cent).

The “Understanding information preferences, barriers and needs of Roma refugees in Moldova” assessment utilizes Internews’ Information Ecosystem Assessment (IEA) approach, being a framework to understand the information supply, demand, and dynamics in this environment. The result from both Internews and IRC Signpost assessments regarding the information needs and barriers of Roma refugees were presented. Two different methodologies were used for the data collection process. Among the main findings, Roma refugees presented several barriers to access information, especially in written and digital formats, as well as significant cultural differences. Their preference is in-person communication, and their own networks.

**WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP**

**REFUGEE COORDINATION FORUM STRUCTURE AS OF 30 SEPTEMBER**

[Diagram of the refugee coordination forum structure]

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**LINKS:** Regional data portal | Moldova portal | Ukraine Situation RRP | Refugee Funding Tracker