

SITUATION UPDATE #5: Republic of Moldova Refugee Emergency Telecommunications Sector (RETS)

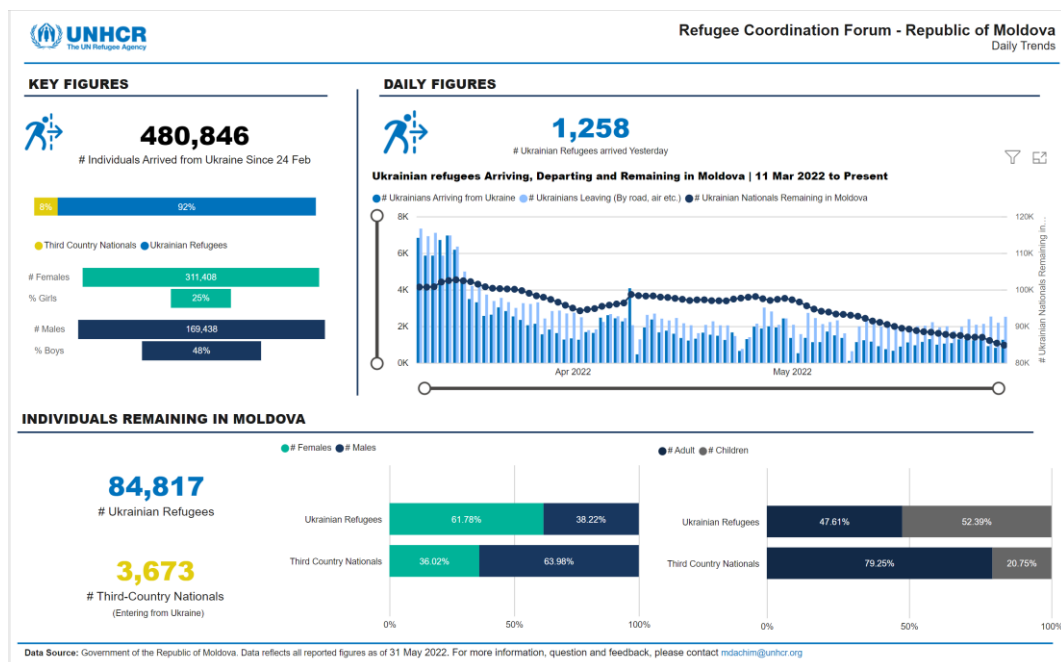
Update: 16 May – 31 May

OVERVIEW

The UNHCR-led **Refugee Emergency Telecommunications Sector (RETS)** is the coordinating body for IT and communications assessment and service delivery in refugee emergencies. RETS seeks reinforce multi-sector coordination by streamlining IT and communications into operational preparedness and response strategies for the delivery of assistance to refugees and other persons of concern.

In the Republic of Moldova, with the number of humanitarian partners providing services to persons of concern increasing, RETS is prioritizing the establishment of internet connectivity in reception centres and other key operational sites, and delivering internet connectivity in Blue Dot hubs across the country. Partners and other sectors are fully engaged in the assessment, planning and implementation of the RETS response, and play an active role in identifying sites where connectivity services are a core requirement for operational enhancement.

Below the Refugee Coordination Forum screenshot, with daily figures on individuals coming from Ukraine to Moldova. You can access the latest statistics by clicking on the picture below.





COORDINATION

Achievements and Impact

- UNHCR has taken the lead in the establishment of the Moldova IT Working Group, comprising of UNDP, WFP, and 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.
- ACTED continues to provide project management support to RETS service deployments.
- UNHCR convened a meeting with sector leads and the Government authority coordinating refugees' response in Moldova. Sector leads briefed the Joint Crisis Management Center on their activities, achievements, and key challenges.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- To address the increasing needs in sites assessment and deployment, discussions between UNHCR and our Partner Ericsson Response Team is on-going for the extension of the volunteer's assignment duration.
- Discussions between UNHCR, Cisco Crisis Response and their local partner DAAC Digital are ongoing to determine support to RETS services in Moldova.



UNHCR partners connect to RETS Wi-Fi in Causeni Train Station (Photo: ©UNHCR/Yulia Fedorenko)



CONNECTIVITY

Achievements and Impact

- The Wi-Fi network coverage has been extended and infrastructure has been upgraded in the Palanca Blue Dot, as well as several other sites to align with the demands and evolution of the sites' structure.
- RETS Wi-Fi has been established in 22 Refugee Accommodation Centres as well as other key sites such as enrolment centres, Blue Dots and transit centres.
- ACTED has distributed a total of 4,757 SIM cards in both RACs and border crossing points.



SECURITY COMMUNICATIONS

Achievements and Impact

- The VHF and UHF Repeaters and equipment have been received in the UNHCR warehouse in Chisinau, with installation planned over the coming weeks.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- UNHCR is working with UNDSS and local contractors to determine the timeline for the installation of the repeaters in Chisinau.
- As part of the IT Working Group actions, all agencies have identified key staff members to be trained on the programming of radios to better support security communication and build internal capacity.



EQUIPMENT

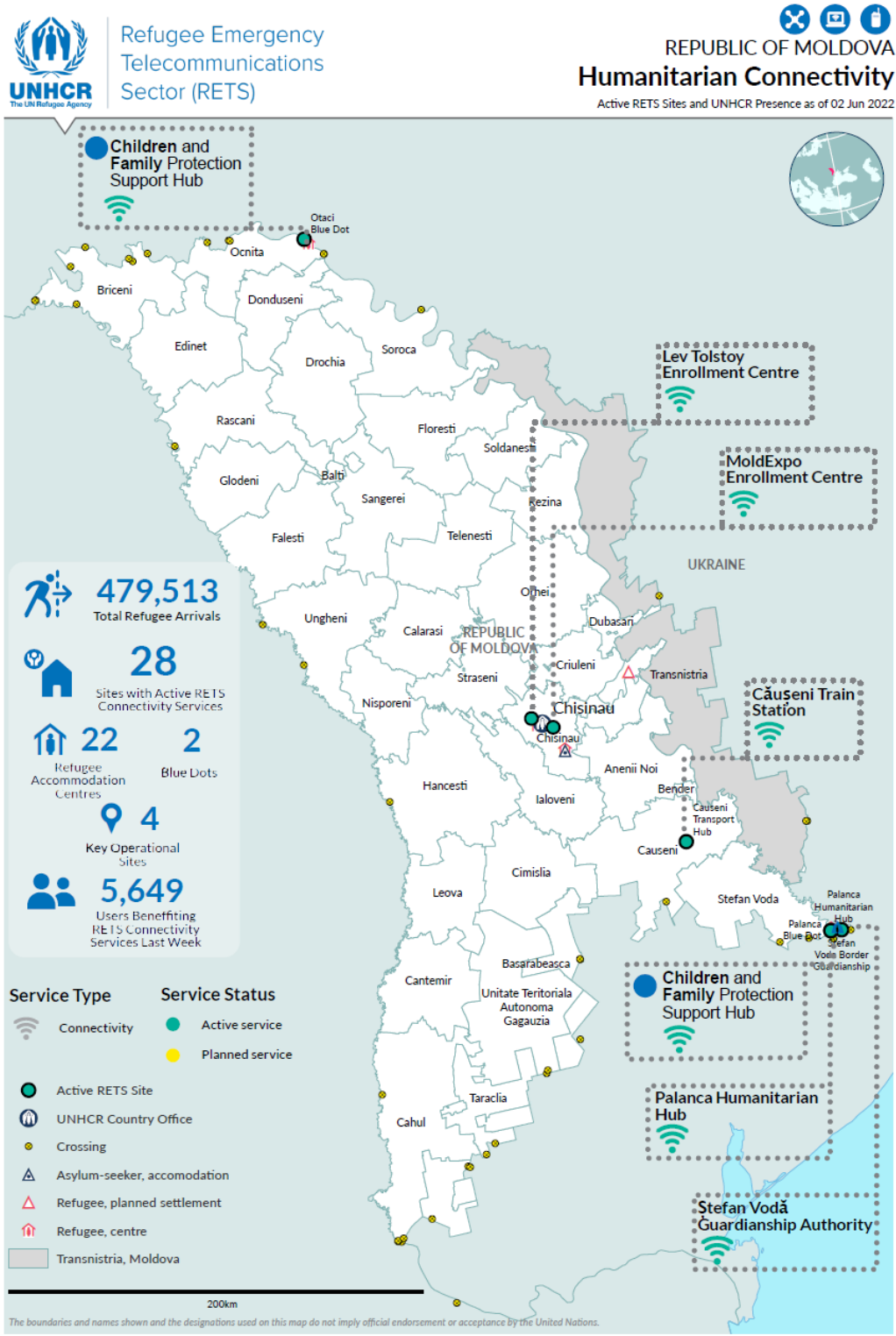
Achievements and Impact

- UNICEF has procured 1000 laptops, which have been placed in technical labs and assigned to specific schools to benefit refugee and Moldovan children by ensuring access to continuous learning.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Cisco Crisis Response is providing five additional emergency response kits to cater for increasing needs in Moldova. The kits will also be used for pre-positioning in line with preparedness planning.

Reference Map



NB: Locations of Refugee Accommodation Centres are not shared on the map.

Funding and Partnership

UNHCR is grateful for the contributions of its partners and donors who have generously given in support of the refugee response in the Republic of Moldova.



RETS PROJECTS IMPLEMENTED WITH THE SUPPORT OF



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LINKS

UNHCR's [Operational Data Portal](#) for the Ukraine Situation.

[Inter-Agency Operational Update](#) (Ukraine Refugee Situation): Republic of Moldova

[UNHCR Moldova Update](#)

[Regional Refugee Response Plan - March-December 2022](#) for the Ukraine Situation