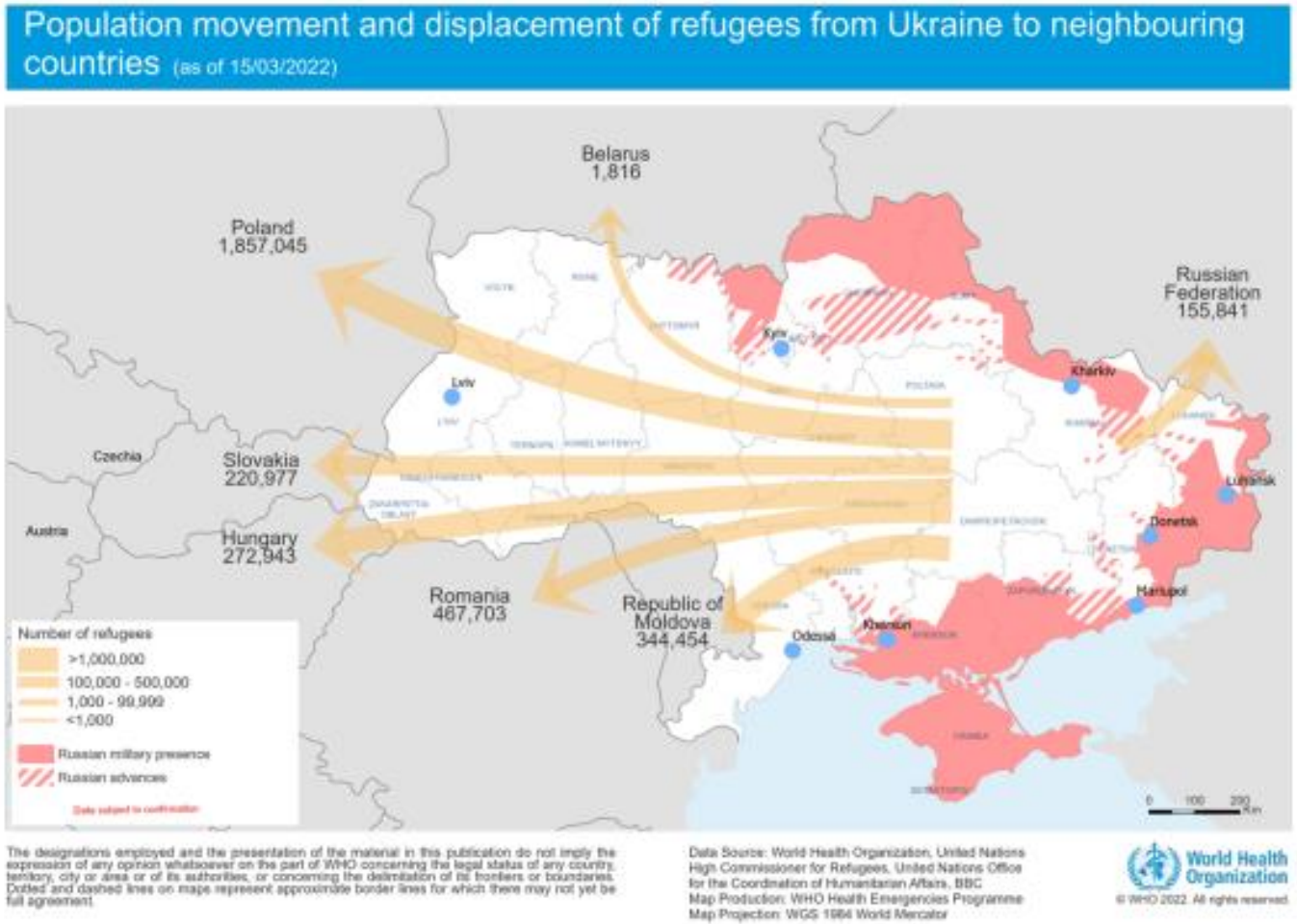
Public health measures: needs and response to the Refugee Emergency. Immunization services

Ministry of Health

State Secretary, Svetlana Nicolaescu

06.04.2022

The flow of migrants from Ukraine by country



Key health risks over the coming 3 months (as of 17.03.2022)

Public health risk	Level of risk		Rationale
Months starting now	1	2 - 3	
COVID-19			Decreasing trends, but from very high level of incidence and bed occupancy for ICU care. Unsanitary, crowded living conditions with poor ventilation; low vaccination coverage in vulnerable groups both within Ukraine and some neighbouring countries.
Measles			Increased risk of measles transmission given crowded living conditions with poor ventilation, prior endemicity, reduced vaccine coverage in recent years, and cases recently reported in some refugee-hosting countries.
Poliomyelitis			Ongoing outbreak of circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus type 2 (cVDVP2), and low uptake in mass immunization campaign (22%). Risk of spread into surrounding countries, especially with suboptimal vaccination coverage (Romania, Moldova).
Diphtheria			Diphtheria cases, although small in number are still reported in the Region. DTP3 coverage in Ukraine was among the lowest in the Region in recent years (2016-2020) at 19-81%.
Other infectious respiratory diseases, including influenza			Poor hygiene and sanitation, overcrowding, poor shelter, cold. Influenza still circulating in some neighbouring countries e.g. Moldova, Slovakia, with activity rising again since week 4. H3 dominant – with potential for increased vaccine uptake low in priority groups in UKR. Risk of influenza-associated morbidity is expected to decrease as winter abates.
Acute watery diarrhoea, incl. cholera & rotavirus			Lack of access to safe water and appropriate sanitation, poor hygiene, and overcrowding. A cluster of cholera was identified in Ukraine in 2011.
Hepatitis A			Some levels of endemicity have been observed in Ukraine and surrounding countries for hepatitis A, and detection and monitoring of acute jaundice is essential to mitigate the risk of outbreaks.
Vector-borne diseases (CCHF, WNF)			Crimean Congo Haemorrhagic Fever cases have been reported in southern affected areas. Risk of West Nile Fever increases in late spring in the bordering countries.
Chronic infectious diseases (TB/HIV/HBV/HCV)			Interruption of treatment likely – impact on viral load and disease if treatment interrupted for a number of weeks for HIV and hepatitis. Limited access to health care for acute flare ups and opportunistic infections may result in excess deaths for all conditions.

https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/352494/WHO-EURO-2022-5169-44932-63918-eng.pdf?sequence=3&isAllowed=y

Risks of Vaccine Preventable Diseases

Refugees in Ukraine are at increased risk of infectious diseases, as living conditions during transit or on arrival may increase the risk of transmission and / or susceptibility to disease.

Migrants want them have probably a vulnerability bigger because _ shelters weak and living conditions _ _ overcrowd and factors _ exacerbated , such as stress nutritional and weather exposure _ cold .

In addition, given the suboptimal coverage of routine vaccination of children, the crisis and relocation will continue the crisis in Ukraine with the increase in existing immunity gaps and the risk of outbreaks of vaccine-preventable diseases, especially measles.

The latest outbreak of measles nationwide in Ukraine, which began in 2017 and peaked in 2019-2021 , reflects prolonged and persistent suboptimal coverage of measles vaccine-containing vaccines.

Another concern is the outbreak of the circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus type 2 (cVDVP2) that Ukraine has been facing since September 2021. The affected regions are Rivne (northwestern Ukraine) and Zakarpattya (southwestern Ukraine).

cVDPV2 from asymptomatic contacts were detected in Ukraine.

Vaccine coverage distribution map with neighboring countries, 2021

Fig 7. Reported subnational Pol3 coverage in the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine, 2018-2020

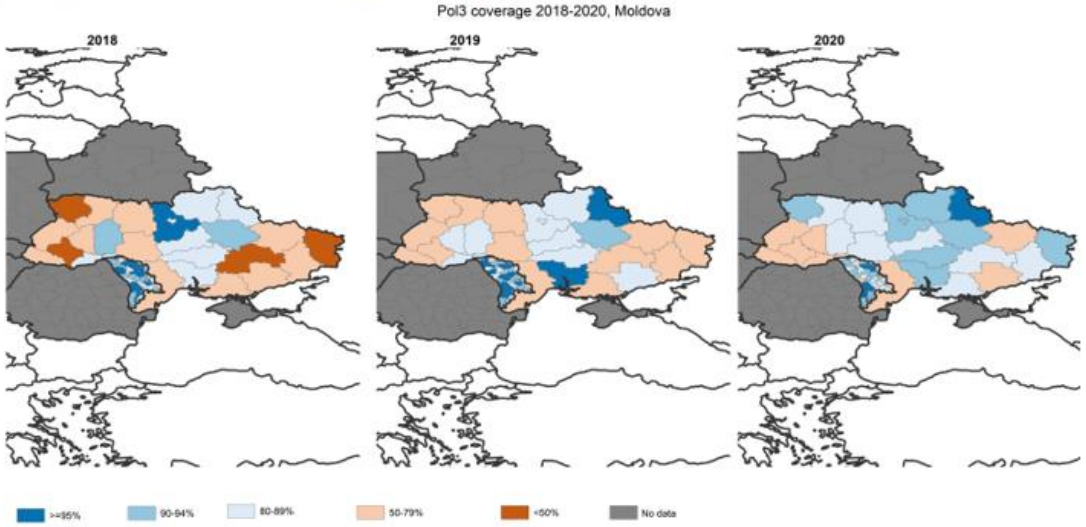
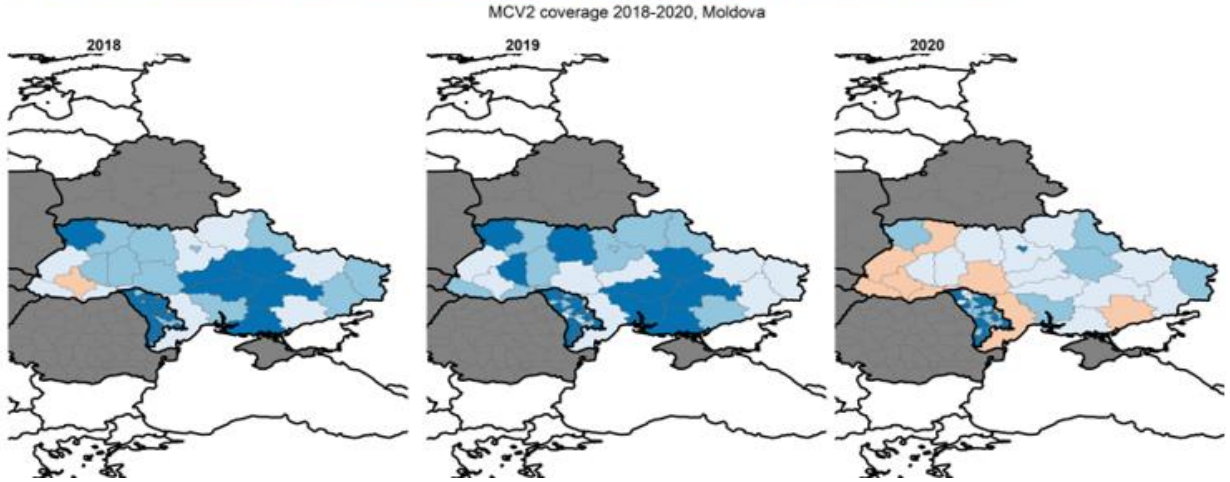
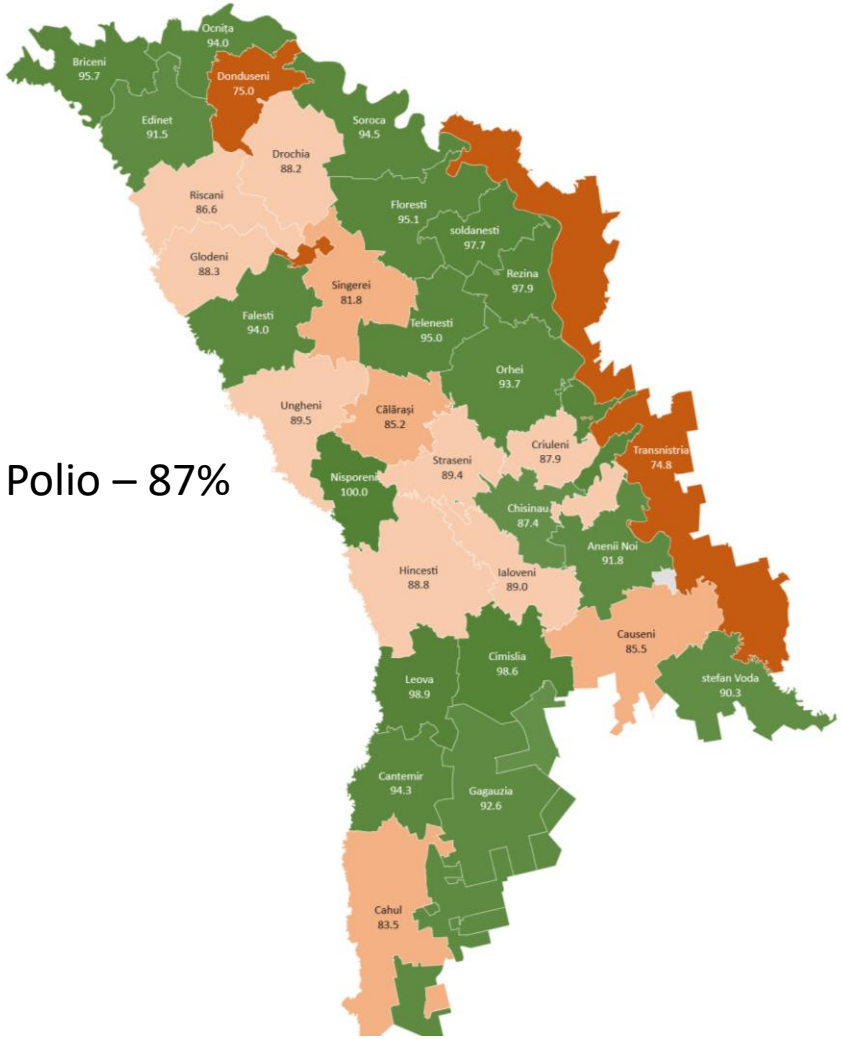


Fig 6. Reported subnational MCV2 coverage in the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine, 2018-2020

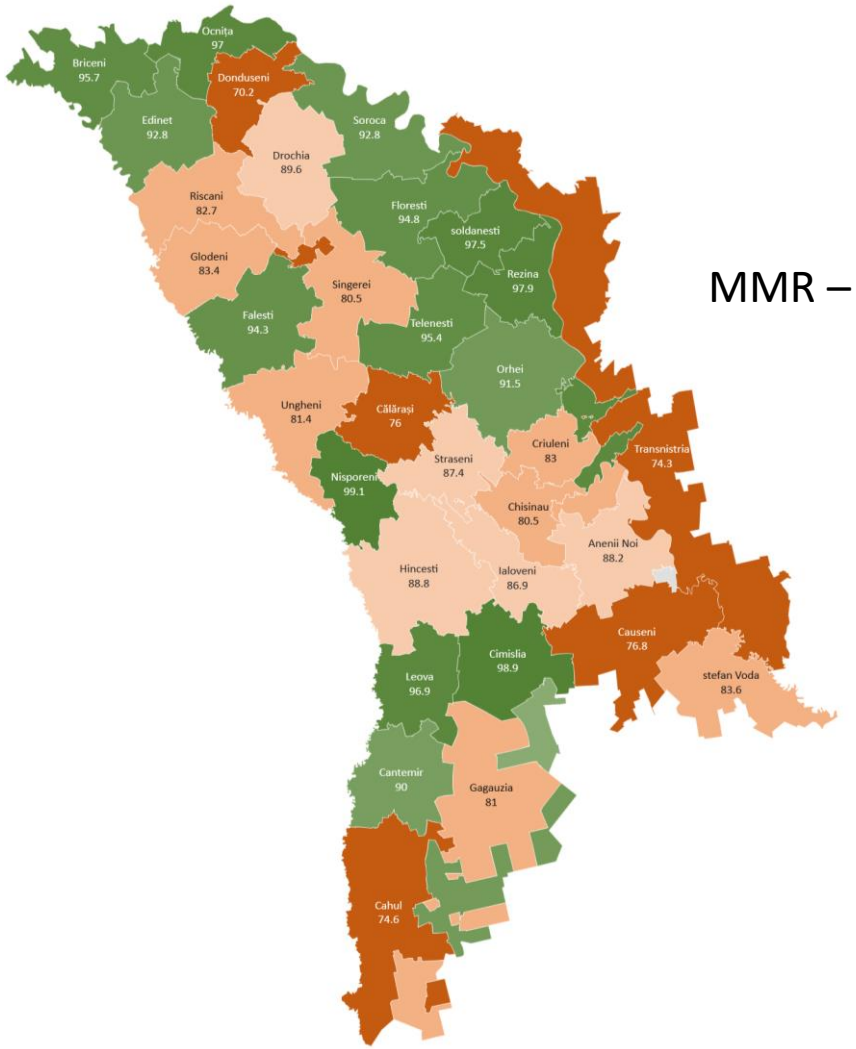


Subnational measles and polio vaccine coverage, 2021

Polio – 87%



MMR – 83.2%



Risk gradation

High risk for measles and moderate risk for Polio for the exposed population group (migrants and those from the Republic of Moldova)

- Significant negative impact on a group of people (migrants, religion, unvaccinated)
- Potentially significant disruption to the normal way of life of the community .
- Significant expenses of human and financial resources for the health system at the level of affected districts.
- High possibility of spread in all territories of the country, especially in the clusters of unvaccinated communities

Additional public health risks

- Chronic infectious diseases (TB/HIV/HBV/HCV)
- Foodborne and waterborne diseases
- Technological and environmental health risks
- Radio-nuclear threats
- Chemical threats
- Flood hazards

Health system response interventions

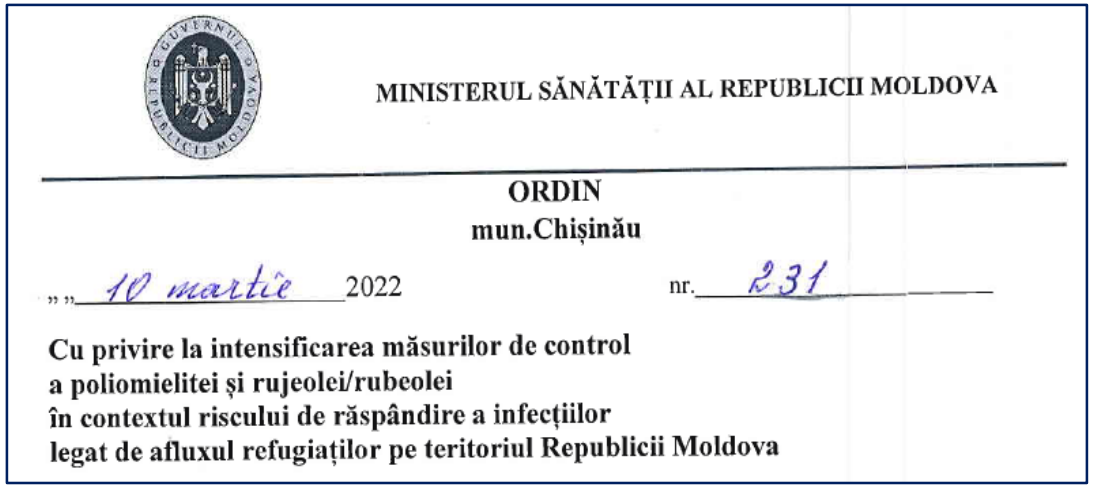
1. Access to quality preventative health services
2. Intensification of immunization activities – vaccination catch up campaign
3. Vaccination of refugees for key diseases
4. Reinforced surveillance and reporting systems
5. Outbreak investigation, case management and response capacities
6. Increase vigilance of medical workers in case detection
7. Raising public awareness

MINISTERUL SĂNĂTĂȚII AL REPUBLICII MOLDOVA

ORDIN
mun. Chișinău

„02" martie 2022 nr. 191

Cu privire la asigurarea accesului la imunizare pentru persoanele refugiate pe teritoriul Republicii Moldova



MINISTERUL SĂNĂTĂȚII AL REPUBLICII MOLDOVA

ORDIN
mun.Chișinău

„10 martie 2022 nr. 231

Cu privire la intensificarea măsurilor de control a poliomielitei și rujeolei/rubeolei în contextul riscului de răspândire a infecțiilor legat de afluxul refugiaților pe teritoriul Republicii Moldova

Actions implemented

- Health sector contingency plan based on the needs assessment
- Field visits – supportive supervision visits
- Action plan developed to fulfill immunization and surveillance gaps
- Unimmunized children under 6 years are highly recommended one dose of MMR (measles, mumps and rubella) and IPV (polio)
- National conference on public health risks and measures to be undertaken – 03.03.2022
- Information immunization system adjusted for refugees
- SOP developed for emergency medical teams
- National assessments conducted (Immunization, WASH, Lab)
- Series of trainings (21) for health care workers – (04.04 – 16.05.2022)
- Communication materials developed and distributed

Thank you!