

Refugee Coordination Forum (RCF) Meeting

Meeting Details	
Date	15.05. 2023
Time	14h00 – 16h00
Chair	Diego Nardi, Inter-Agency Coordinator Officer
Reporting	Monica Vazquez, Associate Inter-Agency Coordination Officer
Email	mdachrcf@unhcr.org
Agenda	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Update on Temporary Protection (Jana Costachi, State Secretary and Secretary of the National Commission for Asylum and Migration) 2. Gender Alert (Gender Task Force) 3. MSNA / ABA (IM Working Group) 4. Community Rumor Tracking (AAP Task Force) 5. Population Trends (IM Working Group) 6. AOB 	
Information collection and relevant links	
<p>Moldova operational data portal: https://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/ukraine/location/10784</p> <p>To register to RCF mailing lists, please access this link: RCF Partners Information and Contact</p> <p>RCF Calendar: RCF Moldova Meetings Calendar</p> <p>Direct links to the respective documents mentioned in the minutes are as below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liminal lives: Gender and diversity assessment of refugees from Ukraine in Moldova after one year of forced displacement 	

Participants

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| 1. Francesca Bonelli - UNHCR | 25. Katie Lampe - UNHCR | 46. Sivkova Sara - UNHCR |
| 2. Jana Costachi – Ministry of Interior | 26. Khalil Othman - AAR Japan | 47. Simona Ruznic - Terre des Hommes NL |
| 3. Bertrand Blanc - UNHCR | 27. Lilia Nenescu - Center for Policies,
Initiatives and Researches PLATFORMA
(Robota project) | 48. Svetlana Bebic - PFL FO, ICRC |
| 4. Alberto Tonon - UNHCR/OHCHR | 28. Liz Devine - MDM | 49. Svetlana Jioara - Centrul de Drept al
Avocatilor |
| 5. Aliona Onofrei - HIAS Moldova | 29. Ludmila Malcoci - Keystone Moldova,
Disability Task Force | 50. Tatiana Zaloj - Terre des hommes
Moldova Foundation |
| 6. Amanda Munoz de Toro - OXFAM | 30. Marcel Straton - Lumos Moldova | 51. Teodora Zafiu - UNDP |
| 7. Andrea Cuisana - UNHCR | 31. Marina Bozkurt - UNHCR | 52. Tomsa Ina - Charity Centre for Refugees |
| 8. Andrew Painter - UNHCR | 32. Maritta Niskanen-Tamiru - Plan
International Moldova | 53. Vasile Cuşca - MMPS |
| 9. Athina Nalmpanti - ACTED | 33. Maria Pîslaraş - Charity Centre for
Refugees NGO | 54. Violetta Obidimma - Charity Centre for
Refugees |
| 10. Cansu Bilgic - UNICEF | 34. Maritta Niskanen-Tamiru - Plan
International Moldova | 55. Yigit Anil Gurer - UNHCR |
| 11. Celine Brixander - UNFPA | 35. Mihaela Lavrov - Peace Winds | 56. Yurii Arnautov - UNHCR |
| 12. Chaza Ghandour - ICRC | 36. Mihail Voda - IGM | 57. Ahmad Djavid Paknehad - Charity Centre
for Refugees |
| 13. Cristina Ceclu - People in Need | 37. Monica Vazquez - UNHCR | 58. Alexandru Nicolaescu - Caritas Moldova |
| 14. Diego Nardi - UNHCR | 38. Natalia Curnic - UNHCR | 59. Amanda Munoz de Toro - new OXFAM
Country Lead for Moldova & Romania |
| 15. Dilnoza Niculescu - Caritas Moldova | 39. Natalia Morosanu - Caritas Moldova | 60. Andrei Curararu – HIAS |
| 16. Doina Craciun - Charity Centre for
Refugees | 40. Nao Iwano - Peace Winds Japan | |
| 17. Elena Bernaz - Catholic Relief Services | 41. Noor Bakhsh - UNICEF | |
| 18. Elisabeth Hoorens - REACH | 42. Olivia Singer - British Embassy | |
| 19. Erik Ugarte - International Federation of
the Red Cross / IFRC | 43. Radu Niculescu - Mercy Corps | |
| 20. Evghenia Hiora - UN Women/Gender
Task Force | 44. Rodica Moraru - VOICE | |
| 21. Fadia Jbara - UNHCR | 45. Sabine Ebner - UN Women | |
| 22. Julian Pack - UNHCR | | |
| 23. Karima - EU-ECHO | | |
| 24. Katerina Silhankova - Czech Embassy | | |

Summary of discussions and agreements / action points

Agenda	Discussion	Agreements / Actions
<p>Introduction</p> <p>Francesca Bonelli, UNHCR Representative</p>	<p>Mrs. Bonelli thanked all the RCF partners for the work done in the first months of the year, highlighting that under the 2023 RRP, over 100,000 individuals have already been supported by the aid community in Moldova. She mentioned how relevant this moment is for the Republic of Moldova into the implementation of Temporary Protection.</p>	
<p>Temporary Protection (TP) Update</p> <p>Jana Costachi, State Secretary of the Ministry of the Interior and Secretary of the National Commission for Asylum and Migration</p>	<p>The State Secretary shared two main messages, one related to the amendments made to the legislative framework regarding the legal stay of Ukrainian citizens in the Republic of Moldova. The second one, about the next meeting of the National Commission for Asylum and Migration.</p> <p>In response to the influx of refugee from Ukraine in February 2022, the Government of the Republic of Moldova (through the Commission on Exceptional Situations (CES)) issued a series of decisions allowing for derogations from existing laws to accommodate the arrival and presence of Ukrainian refugees in the country. Notably, these measures allowed Ukrainian citizens who entered the Republic of Moldova following the declaration of the state of emergency on February 24th, and in the subsequent period, to remain in the country beyond the usual 90-day limit. In addition, these individuals were granted the ability to access governmental services using their Ukrainian identification documents.</p> <p>However, as of May 15th, a number of these CES decisions were repealed and the regular, pre-existing laws reinstated. This included the CES decision related to the duration of legal stay of Ukrainians in the Republic of Moldova. Consequently, while individuals from Ukraine can still enter the Republic of Moldova using their Ukrainian passports, they will be required to obtain a legal status after 90 days. This could include residency permits for family reunification, study, or work purposes, Temporary Protection, asylum or any other legal status available in the Republic of Moldova to which they may be entitled.</p>	<p>Organizations who identify individuals who may need support with mobile teams, please contact the Protection Working Group for support on liaising with the Mol.</p> <p>Sean Seager (seager@unhcr.org)</p>

	<p>While they will not be at risk of deportation to Ukraine, after 90 days, no Ukrainian citizen will be able to identify themselves based only on documents issued by the government of Ukraine. Efforts should be made during this period to ensure compliance with Moldova's legislation.</p> <p>On the second issue, the State Secretary announced that the next meeting of the National Commission for Asylum and Migration will take place on June 5th. The meeting will be dedicated to reviewing the first quarter's progress, assessing what has been accomplished, and identifying remaining tasks. Regular meetings of the Commission will be held every three months. The Commission inherits many of the responsibilities of the Joint Crisis Management Centre.</p> <p>The RCF partners are invited to participate in the Commission's activities on June 5th. The State Secretary emphasized the importance of collaboration and learning from previous experiences.</p> <p>The partners raised concerns related to employment, as well as the registration of persons with disabilities and persons with serious medical conditions. Regarding employment, concern was expressed about the repeal of the CES decision that made it easier to work in the Republic of Moldova, without meeting the conditions required for an employment-based residence permit. The State Secretary stated that these reinstated requirements would not be applied retroactively, so refugees should not be at risk of losing their current work contracts. That said, they should use the next 90 days to regularize their status and accompanying eligibility to work, either by obtaining temporary protection, a residence permit, asylum or another form of legal stay.</p> <p>The IGM announced information will be made available in Russian about the derogations, and that partners can reach out directly to the IGM if they know about persons with disabilities and/or reduced mobility.</p> <p>The Secretary of State expressed gratitude for the support and assistance provided and encouraged organizations to share verified information on this matter.</p>	
<p>Gender Alert Gender Task Force</p>	<p>Liminal lives: Gender and diversity assessment of refugees from Ukraine in Moldova after one year of forced displacement, is an assessment that aims to assess the gender differentiated impacts,</p>	

<p>Evghenia Hiora, UN Women, evghenia.hiora@unwomen.org</p>	<p>needs, priorities, and capacities of different groups among the affected population; and evaluate the gender and diversity-specific considerations for planning from an interdisciplinary perspective.</p> <p>The Gender Alert focuses on the following aspects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gender roles and responsibilities • Control over resources and capacity, • Coping mechanisms • Access to information and participation • Priority needs <p>Detailed information about the methodology employed and its limitations can be found in the report.</p> <p>The assessment revealed several key findings, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traditional gender and age roles have been impacted, with single women now shouldering the main caregiving responsibilities for children and older people. In addition, many women are now the single provider of the household. • Older people have experienced a loss of independence and often feel like a burden to their families. • Adolescent males are at risk of dropping out of school at an early age, while female adolescents are taking into caregiving activities negatively impacting their education and social lives. • A significant number of refugees express their intention to return to Ukraine as soon as the situation permits. This is causing a state of liminality for refugees, reducing their capacity to make long-term planning. • There is increased pressure to secure a sustainable income, and certain groups, such as older persons and Roma women, face specific barriers in achieving this. • Humanitarian programs have primarily targeted women and girls, leaving refugee men and boys marginalized, particularly in the areas of livelihoods and mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS). Fighting-age men report feeling discriminated. 	<p>Disability Inclusion and how to identify Persons with Disabilities. <i>Friday, May 19th 14:00 – 15:30</i> / Zoom meeting.</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roma refugee women face discrimination based on their gender and ethnicity, which hinders their ability to secure shelter and livelihoods. • Sexual exploitation and abuse remain a concern as refugee resources diminish, and there is a need for medium-term solutions. <p>Some of the cross-cutting and sectoral recommendations are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prioritize gender-age and diversity-specific needs, including ensuring diverse and meaningful participation. • Invest in the localization of the response and ensure the involvement of organizations and local government. • Regularly collect, analyse, and utilize disaggregated data. • Support sustainable and inclusive income generation activities. • Ensure accessible MHPSS services for all (including men) • Address the risks of school dropout among Roma girls and adolescent boys, and ensure that children with disabilities have access to inclusive education. <p>During the interventions, it was mentioned the relevance of looking into positive coping mechanisms and identify good practices for sustainable livelihoods.</p> <p>In line with the mention and the study, the Age and Disability Task Force invited to a training session that will provide a general overview on disability inclusion presenting the human right-based approach to disability based on the Convention of the Right of Persons with Disabilities. It will present the must do action to achieve inclusion identify by the IASC Guidelines and provide the tool on how to identify persons with disabilities.</p>	
<p>MSNA / ABA</p> <p>IM Working Group</p> <p>Elisabeth Hoorens, REACH,</p>	<p>The Multi-sectoral needs assessment (MSNA) objective is to provide multi-sectoral data about the needs of refugees in Moldova to support the refugee response planning and monitoring. It has a national coverage, although the assessment will have a regional approach. The latter is important to see the trends of refugees in different countries and improve the coordination.</p>	<p>REACH Team will conduct consultations with sector leads in the coming weeks.</p>

<p>elisabeth.hoorens@im-pact-initiatives.org</p>	<p>There is a quantitative component of the study, and a qualitative one to provide and in-depth understanding and contextualize the findings. The data collection will take place in July, preliminary results will be ready in September and a bit later in the year the full report.</p> <p>The sectors covered will be Livelihoods, education, accommodation, intensions, food security, protection, health, wash, accountability to affected people and disabilities. Although there is ongoing discussion.</p>	
<p>Community Rumor Tracking</p> <p>AAP Task Force</p> <p>Elena Cernicova, Moldova for Peace, infounit@laolalta.md</p>	<p>Refugee and local community online feedback</p> <p>This report presents an analysis of refugees’ feedback shared via online social media sources.</p> <p>Monitoring includes 25 Telegram, 18 Facebook, 13 Viber and 13 online mass media sources.</p> <p>2023 Info Unit has collected 1074 feedbacks.</p> <p>The most discussed topics in March were: Legal status with a 42%, being Temporary Protection the main issue; UNHCR cash assistance 32% of the comments, with focus on the Cash Green line and the potential linkage to the legal status; and border crossing rules being an 11%, in specific the documents required for Ukrainian cards, and 13% humanitarian aid.</p> <p>On the first quarter of the year TP was one of the main topics, concerns were related to the lack of presence of IGM in villages, to persons with disabilities and reduce mobility that have no access to the registration, and in relation to proof of residency, including the property owners who don’t want to declare the rent agreement (More than 55% of the comments from refugees were related to the documents required for Temporary Protection and the challenges they face).</p> <p>Cash is discussed constantly among refugees, more than 75% of comments related to cash expressed concerns on the continuation of UNHCR cash program after the approval of Temporary protection. There is also a need for more detailed information on the program and the different process within. The concerns were addressed through the Cash Working Group and in direct dialogue with the organizations involved.</p>	

	<p>The concern of the linkage of humanitarian aid to a legal status is not exclusive to cash, as it is also a common topic regarding all programs and available services.</p> <p>The rumor tracking also looks into social cohesion aspects. In the last quarter tensions related to social aspects were predominant, with concerns about the influx of Ukrainian refugees and the fear of Moldova becoming more Slavic. Some locals also perceive refugees as a burden on the economy. Hate speech is prevalent in various channels.</p>	
<p>Population Trends IM Working Group</p> <p>Yurii Arnautov, UNHCR, arnautov@unhcr.org</p>	<p>The population trends show no significant change. During this period, it is important to acknowledge the one-year anniversary of the war, and the disruption in the airline services in the country.</p> <p>Scenarios with the potential figures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scenario 01 - Current trends with gradual improvement of the situation, leads to an approximate of 65-80k people at the end of 2023. The same scenario being more conservative results in 95-100k people towards the end of the year. • Scenario 02 - where we look at a new contingency and consequently an escalation, which would lead to approximate 270k people at the end of 2023. • Scenario 03 - in case of end of hostilities and a significant improvement of the situation, with significant returns, around 40k by the end of the year. 	