

Refugee Coordination Meeting

15 August 2022

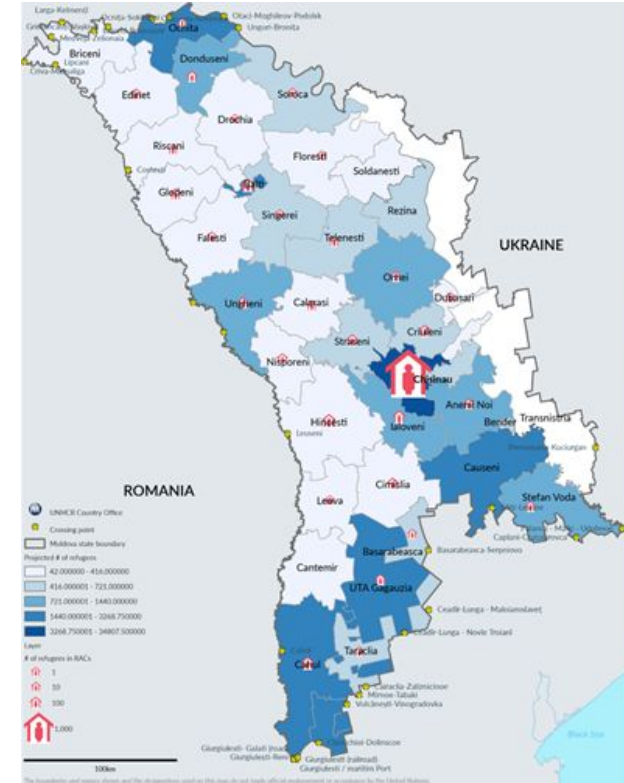
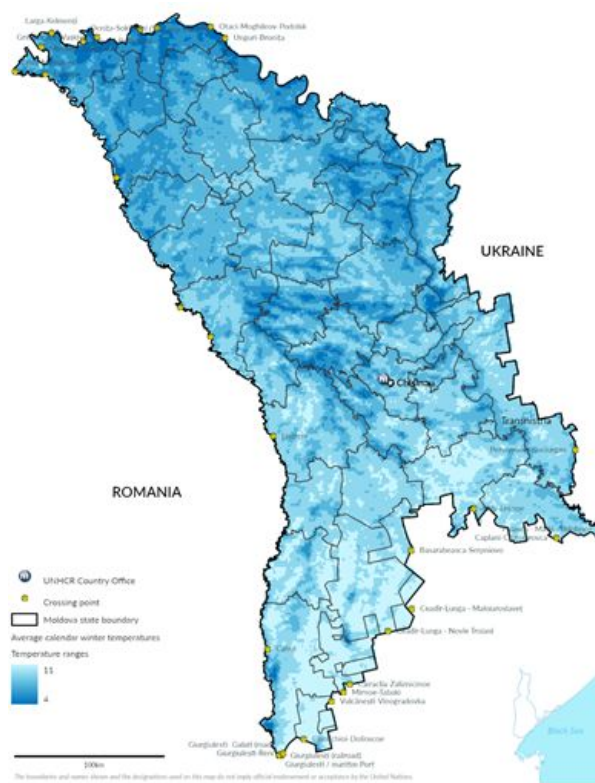
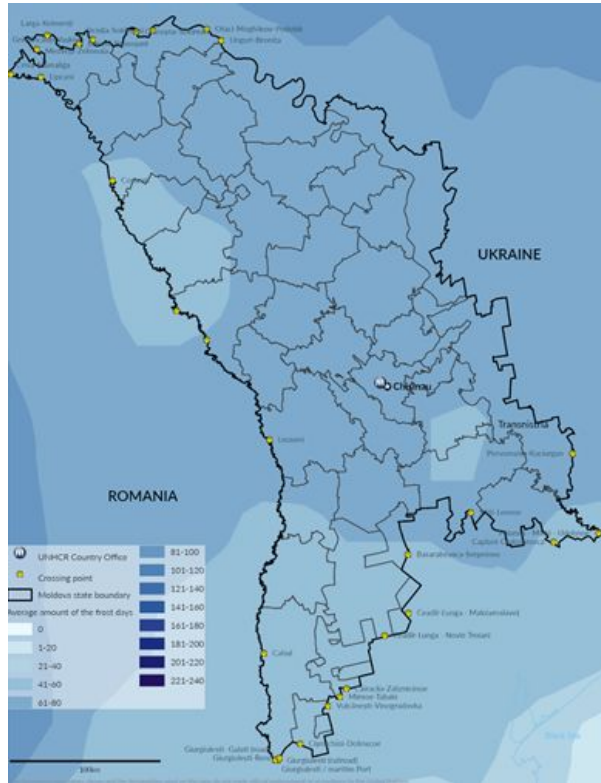
1. Updates
2. Winterization
 - Planning Assumptions and Figures
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3. AOB

2022 - 2023 Winterization Planning Assumptions

| KEY PLANNING FIGURES | Current refugee population in Moldova | 89k ind. | Planning Moldovan | 658k ind. |
|----------------------------|--|---------------|--------------------------------|-----------|
| | Projected refugee population | +/- 130k ind. | population | |
| | 26% of ind. with specific (protection) needs | | 10,9k hosting HHs (24,6k ind.) | |
| | 15% of elderly people | | 580k ind. below poverty rate | |
| | 50% children | | | |
| | 60% female | | | |

- **Increasing inflation rate and prices.**
- **Increasing pressure on host communities.**
- **Impact of the energy crisis**, and potential shortages on supply of gas, electricity and winter goods.
- **Additional inflows from Ukraine during winter period**, which may amount to 40,000 new refugees entering the country during the winter season in addition to underlying conflicted related trends.
- **Movements of refugees from host communities/private accommodation to RACs.**
- **Difficulties to access the local labor market and/or sustainable sources of income by refugees an TCNs.**

2022 - 2023 Winterization Planning Assumptions



Priority Populations

● Refugees, with special focus on:

- Refugees residing in RACs. Special consideration should be given to those refugees in RACs who belong to one of the following groups: members of the Roma community, older persons and persons with disabilities, considering appropriate age and gender considerations.
- Refugees hosted by Moldovan Households also constitute a priority group due to increasing utility prices and the impact this may have on the socioeconomic situation of both refugee and host families.
- Refugees renting private accommodations without a stable source of income.

● Host community members:

- The following criteria should be taken into consideration when identifying potential beneficiaries: people with disabilities, members of minority groups, and households facing socio-economic hardship
- Moldovan households hosting refugees.
- Moldovan households living in rural areas and in dwellings not fit for the winter period.
- Additional gender and age considerations should be taken into account when targeting Moldovan households, including prioritization of female single-headed households and households with older persons or with 3+ children

● Third Country Nationals

- Third-country nationals are likely to face increased barriers to local integration due to documentation and language-related issues. Humanitarian support will be key to allowing this population group to cope with additional winter-related needs.



Government Response and Needs

- **Financial Aid for Winter Period:** A monthly payment on the value of 700 MDL (36.5 USD) will be made to persons receiving state pensions and/or social allowances with low income from November 2022 to March 2022.
- **Energy Vulnerability Reduction Fund:** through the Energy Vulnerability Reduction Fund – approved in July 2022 – households facing energy vulnerability will be granted compensations for the payment of energy bills as a measure to reduce the impact of rising energy prices.
- **Firewood price and distribution:** Vulnerable households or those who heat exclusively with firewood will be able to buy up to 3 cubic meters of firewood at a fixed price during the first phase (October – November). In a second phase (December – January), the Government Forest Agency (Moldsilva) will provide additional volumes depending on the existing need and stocks.

Government Expressed Needs

- **Contributions to the Energy Vulnerability Reduction Fund.**
- **Refugee Accommodation Centres (RACs):** While the number of RACs with a population residing in them has been gradually declining over the course of the year, a considerable amount of 74 RACs with more than 3,000 people staying are still active as of the beginning of August. These centers face challenges in coverage of utility bills amid increasing energy costs. Requested support from the government include improvements on RACs insulation, repairment/improvement of electricity systems, installation of electric generators, distribution of NFIs, among others.
- **Social Institutions** hosting most vulnerable population groups, including refugees.
- **Health and educational facilities:** support for the winterization of health and educational facilities have also been highlighted by the government. Support to ensure uninterrupted service provision may include installations of electricity generators, improvements/repairs to insulation and electrical systems, and distribution of hot meals.
- **Awareness Raising:** Develop and promote awareness raising campaigns among refugees and Moldovan households on rational consumption of energy and ways to promote energy efficiency during winter.

2022 - 2023 Winterization Overview of Kobo Inputs



Overview

\$21,901,217
Cumulative budget

20 Organizations | **114** Activities

NFI distribution

7,139 Moldovans | **1,850** TCNs

70,107 Refugees

Cash & vouchers

15,530 Moldovans | **195** TCNs

92,289 Refugees

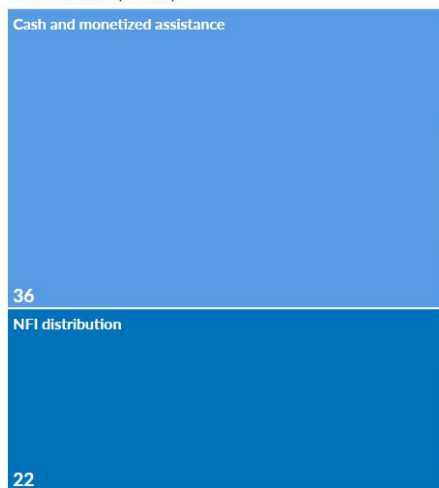
Food distribution

7,660 Moldovans | **53,116** Refugees

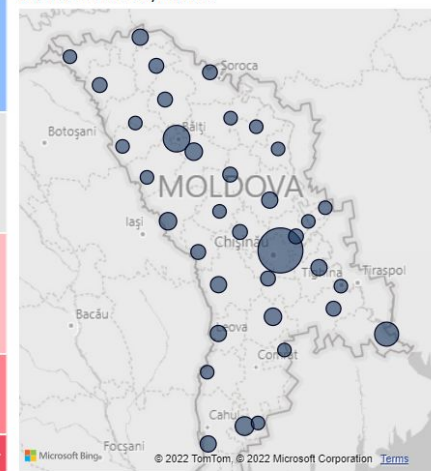
Community infrastructure

163
of buildings/facilities

Count of raions by Activity



Count of activities by Admin 1



| Organization | Activity | Budget | Where - adm1 | Start | End | Refugees | Moldovans | TCNs | # of I... |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------|--------------|-----------|-----------|----------------|---------------|--------------|-----------|
| ACTED | Cash and monetized assistance | \$500,000 | Chisinau | 01-Sep-22 | 01-Feb-22 | 250 | 250 | | |
| Action Against Hunger | Cash and monetized assistance | \$40,184 | Balti | 01-Nov-22 | 01-Dec-22 | 350 | | 350 | |
| Caritas Czech Republic | Cash and monetized assistance | \$100,000 | UTA Gagauzia | 01-Oct-22 | 01-Mar-23 | 2,000 | | | |
| Concordia. Proiecte Sociale | Cash and monetized assistance | \$14,000 | Chisinau | 01-May-22 | 01-Apr-23 | 60 | | | |
| Concordia. Proiecte Sociale | Cash and monetized assistance | \$14,680 | Stefan Voda | 01-May-22 | 01-Apr-23 | 160 | | | |
| CRS | Cash and monetized assistance | \$5,283,600 | Chisinau | 01-Oct-22 | 01-Jan-22 | 38,850 | | | |
| HelpAge | Cash and monetized assistance | \$82,000 | Singerei | 01-Sep-22 | 01-Mar-23 | 1,400 | | | |
| Helvetas | Cash and monetized assistance | \$187,155 | Causeni | 01-Oct-22 | 01-Feb-23 | 250 | 2,565 | | |
| Helvetas | Cash and monetized assistance | \$187,155 | Cimislia | 01-Oct-22 | 01-Feb-23 | 250 | 2,565 | | |
| Helvetas | Cash and monetized assistance | \$187,155 | Leova | 01-Oct-22 | 01-Feb-23 | 250 | 2,565 | | |
| Helvetas | Cash and monetized assistance | \$187,155 | Stefan Voda | 01-Oct-22 | 01-Feb-23 | 250 | 2,565 | | |
| IERC | Cash and monetized assistance | \$0 | Balti | 01-Oct-22 | 01-Mar-23 | 2,560 | | 640 | |
| Total | | \$21,901,217 | | | | 250,512 | 40,329 | 3,145 | |

Next Steps

| Next Steps | Due Date | Focal Points |
|---|-----------------|---|
| Development of Sector Specific Strategies and Plans | 2 of September | Sector Leads in coordination with Partners |
| Inter-Agency Winterization Workshop | 9 of September | Inter-Agency Coordination Team in coordination with SL and RCF Partners |
| Release of the Joint Winterization Plan | 15 of September | Inter-Agency Coordination Team in coordination with SL and RCF Partners |

2022 - 2023 Winterization Winterization Overview



MOLDOVA

Winterization 2022-2023: General overview

August 2022

| | | | |
|-----------------------------|---|---------------------------|---|
| KEY PLANNING FIGURES | Current refugee population in Moldova 266k ind. with specific (protected) needs | 89k ind. +/- 1.50k ind | Planning Moldova population 650k ind. 90.9k heading HRK (2.6k ind) 580k ind. below poverty rate |
|-----------------------------|---|---------------------------|---|

Background

Between 24 February and 8 August, 538,359 refugees arrived in Moldova from Ukraine. While many move on to the European Union, over 88,780 refugees remain in the country on the time of writing and receive aid each day. 83% of those who stay are female, elderly persons and/or children.

With the onset of winter, it is necessary to assess and implement measures to provide seasonal support for both the refugee and host-community populations, in support of measures being implemented by the Government of Moldova, with particular attention to the priority populations. The situation is compounded by the ongoing impact of the war in Ukraine, including the rising costs of living, with fuel prices globally rising well above rates of domestic inflation, and the ever-specific crisis.

In July 2022, UNHCR conducted a participatory assessment with a total of 249 individuals (154 Ukrainian refugees and 95 Moldovan nationals) ranging from 17 to 70 years old. Accounting its findings related to the winter season, the main findings are:

- Rising living and utility costs are further deteriorating the living conditions of refugees in private accommodations. The majority of refugees living privately and in host communities state that cash assistance is a top-priority on rent and utility bills. The cost of living and basic needs (such as food, clothing, etc.) on the rise, and the population of concern fears that they will not be able to cover winter-related expenses.
- Moldovan households interviewed are worried as to whether refugees would be able to cover the costs of utilities during winter. Moreover, there were also concerns related to its community perceptions on the access of refugees to assistance and support, via a vet the support provided by local communities falling below the poverty threshold.
- Concerns have been shared by both refugees and host communities related to discriminatory access to assistance and information by those living in rural areas, contrary to Chişinău and other urban areas.

Considering the impact of the winter season on both refugees and host communities, it is key to ensure a coordinated inter-agency approach to respond to winter needs. With regard to the creation of a viable Inter-Agency Winterization Plan in

Moldova, through the Refugee Coordination Forum (RCF) the Inter-Agency Coordination team launched a consultative and collaborative process with RCF partners to develop an inter-agency winterization strategy and action plan that complements and support the winter response implemented by the Government of Moldova.

The present document presents key planning assumptions to be considered by RCF sectors and partners when developing sector-specific winter strategies and planning/adapting their winter-related programs.

Planning assumptions and considerations

- Increasing inflation rate and price inflation 20% for August compared to July (source: National Bank of Moldova), together with gas prices – by 5% electricity – by 20%. Impact of the energy crisis, which may cause potential shortages in the supply of gas and electricity, as well as potential pressure on host communities.
- Potential shortage of winter-related goods in the local markets. The complex crisis entails an increased demand from all the population groups that include an increased preparedness from the suppliers. This might lead to delays in supply and/or further shortages.
- Additional inflows from Ukraine due to winter, which may result in an additional amount of up to 40,000 new refugees entering the country during the winter season independent of underlying trends.
- Internal mobility must also be considered as higher numbers of refugees may move from host communities to refugee accommodation centers as a strategy to cope with the winter period. This factor may entail an increased need for individual-based assistance – such as cash and personal NFI.
- Mitigation of tensions through the promotion of social cohesion by supporting Moldovan households in close coordination with the national and local authorities, recognizing their leadership in the response.

Difficulties to access the local labor market and/or sustainable sources of income also represent an additional layer of challenge for refugees during the winter season, as the inability to access a stable income source may result in failure of covering their basic needs and only exacerbate the existing vulnerabilities.

