



INTER AGENCY UPDATE #6 (2-5th of April 2022)

Photo: IINDP Moldova

MOLDOVA REFUGEE RESPONSE

390,187
95,731



65%
women

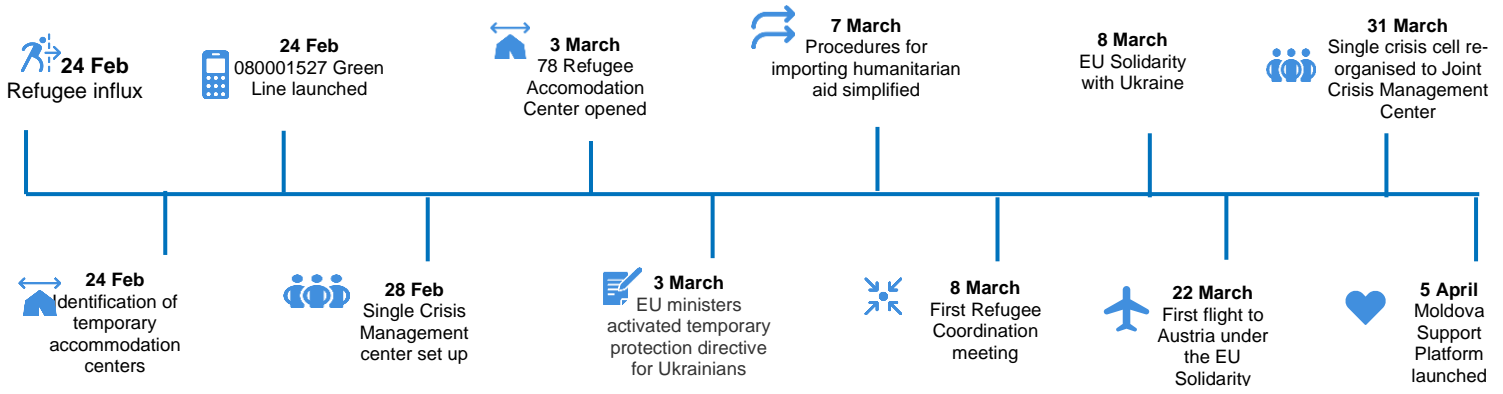


36%
Children

Moldova Support Conference “Bridge of Solidarity”

On 5 April, the Moldova Support Platform was launched at an event hosted by Germany, France, and Romania. National officials and international institutions agreed to collaborate to make progress along the five lines of action alongside Moldova. The five senior level working groups will contribute to the planning of a follow-up conference to be held in Bucharest at Romania's initiative. The five groups are (1) The war against Ukraine and the humanitarian situation of refugees from Ukraine; (2) Fight against corruption as a priority on Moldova’s reform agenda; (3) Energy challenges for Moldova; (4) Financial assistance and strengthening of Moldova’s economic resilience; (5) Effective border management.

Timeline of response



Updates in numbers

Updates on status of women and Girls (Source UNFPA)

1,700 estimated number of pregnant refugee women

24,500 estimated number of women refugees of reproductive age

570 refugee women will deliver in the next 3 months

30 women will have life-threatening complications in the next month

Status of children

Child Protection partners estimate that at least 2% of children would be separated or unaccompanied, which would mean at least **780 UASC and over 1000 children at risk currently in Moldova.**

Refugee Accommodation Center (RACs) in statistics (Source: REACH)

Number of RACs: 100 (34 in Chisinau)

Overall capacity: 8,893

Occupancy: 4,120 (46%)

% Change in needs in RACs (since 22 March)

2% increase in cleaning items needs

9% increase in needs for appliances

5% increase in items for persons with disability

Access to Education

86% of the RACs assessed by REACH reported to have to education services

Access to Internet

90% of the RACs assessed by REACH reported access to free internet

SECTOR HIGHLIGHTS

This section brings you on the ground coverage of activities by partners

Protection

- 595 individuals were supported to move under the EU solidarity platform. The program will continue and expand significantly in the coming weeks. Other countries have confirmed their willingness to support, with a total capacity of approximately 14,000 places. UNHCR conducts screenings to identify vulnerable refugees for transfer, prioritizing female-headed families, those with disabilities or medical needs, and LGBTI refugees. Unaccompanied children will also be included in the program. IOM's activities included pre-embarkation health checks, assignment of medical escorts, pre-embarkation briefing, distribution of personal protective equipment (PPEs), baggage handling, ground transportation, snack packs, and airport assistance.
- Information air transfer for Austria, Germany, Latvia, and Spain is available on UNHCR Help Page and is regularly updated to reflect the upcoming air transfer and frequently asked questions.
- UNHCR partners Law Center of Advocates, ACTED, and INTERSOS are stationed at border crossing points, refugee accommodation centres to provide transportation, protection monitoring, vulnerability screening, and counselling. The strengthening of referral mechanism is currently underway. Provision of sim cards for vulnerable refugees is made at the borders.
- Authorities, the UN, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) continue to coordinate their efforts at Palanca BCP, addressing issues such as security, service mapping, and

coordination to avoid duplication, as well as the need to expedite the establishment of a central information point. The coordination efforts led by UNHCR have completed the service mapping for 14 partners and will convene the third coordination meeting on April 6th.

- There is progress being made on the establishment of Mother-Baby Corners (MBC) in Blue Dots in Palanca.

Gender Based violence

- La Strada Moldova is working on a public awareness video to educate refugees on gender-based violence and promote the Trust line for Women and Girls 08008 8008, as an available counselling service for reporting these cases. The campaign will be launched on Denim Day.
- IOM, UNICEF and UNHCR will provide consolidated inputs to the draft inter-ministerial SOPs for “the establishment of the intersectoral mechanism of cooperation for identification, assistance and monitoring of minors in the risk group, coming from the territory of Ukraine during declaration of a state of war in Ukraine” and were invited to share feedback.
- IOM conducted an awareness raising sessions on counter-trafficking for 5 volunteers partners/ organisation at Palanca bus station and distributed additional public information materials.
- UNFPA provided psychosocial support covering 500 women and girls.
- UNFPA launched an inter-agency briefing paper on GBV Considerations for Women and Girls - Cash in Ukraine and the Regional Refugee Response, which covers Ukraine, Moldova, and other refugee-hosting countries and includes key considerations and contacts for hotlines and messaging material, as well as endorsements from key donors.
- Following the Government’s approval of cross-border delivery of supplies from Moldova to Odesa in Southern Ukraine, UNFPA will ensure SRH supplies reach the refugees along with the food items delivery.

Child Protection

- The Ministry of Labour and Social Protection has established a guardianship system for unaccompanied and separated children, an emergency care centre for unaccompanied children has been identified, and the foster care system is available to accommodate unaccompanied children as needed.
- UNICEF prepared for signature the HPD with AVE Copiii NGO this week for strengthening child protection system response to UASC (unaccompanied and separated children).
- UNICEF worked with the Government of Moldova and relevant NGOs to move forward on a digitalized system for tracking unaccompanied children.
- UNICEF consulted with partners for expanding the network of blue dots.
- Child Protection partners estimate that at least 2% of children would be separated or unaccompanied, which would mean at least 780 UASC and over 1000 children at risk currently in Moldova.
- The Local Guardianship Authority has deployed staff at Palanka and Otaci border for screening and referral of children at risk, including UASC.
- The authorities have identified 11 unaccompanied children and placed them in emergency care.
- The Guardianship authorities, AVE Copiii, UNICEF, and UNHCR have assessed and assisted families hosting refugee children (the later as part of the flight transfer programme of families to various European countries).
- According to the protection partner, families with children who lack proper documentation are having difficulty re-entering Moldova from Romania (to return to Ukraine) due to a lack of proper travel documents.
- In collaboration with local authorities, plan international installed locations for baby friendly spaces have been identified in Stefan Voda municipalities.

Supply and Logistics

- UNHCR in partnership with WFP and ACTED is working on a virtual warehouse for humanitarian actors in Moldova. As a result, the government and humanitarian actors will have a single source of data to make decisions.
- UNHCR supply team has prepositioned the following CRI in its warehouse in Moldova: 3,322 family tents, 3,000 winterization kits, 33,456 HT blankets, 4,852 sleeping bags, 1,040 kitchen sets, 1,536 solar lamps, 1,000 plastic tarpaulins.
- WFP dispatched 3 trucks carrying food, WASH items and shelter products to Anenii Noi, Stefan Voda, Causeni, Chisinau, and Straseni.
- Plan international has established a warehouse in Stefan Voda village
- WFP continues providing management of warehousing and dispatch of cargo in the Government warehouse in Varta with partners DHL and DB SHENKER. On 01 April:
- WFP transported humanitarian cargo (1 truck) on behalf of the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection from Leuseni to the Vatra Government Warehouse.
- WFP transported humanitarian cargo via partner ACTED to 6 destinations in Chisinau.
- WFP dispatched 3 vehicles from the Vatra Government Warehouse to 8 destinations across Moldova carrying humanitarian cargo for MLSP.
- WFP continues delivering cargo from warehouses to refugee registration centers. WFP increased the number of trucks and reduced their size since most destinations are small villages in remote locations to smaller trucks to reach them all.

Accommodation and Transportation

- UNHCR and partners have provided assistance provided to 95 RACs covering 4,443 individuals. More needs are reported than in the previous week; needs include cleaning items, appliances, infant products, clotting and items for person with disability.
- As chair of the Moldova Food security sub-working Group, from 21 to 03 April, WFP and Cooperating Partners – with signed FLAs – have reached 17,497 individuals with hot meals (3 per day) in 33 different localities/regions and 106 centers. WFP

coverage is growing exponentially country wide.

- UAHelp is now available to Refugee Accommodation Centres and host communities; however, requests are still being accepted on a limited basis. Partners' engagement with local communities and support for the government system is becoming increasingly important.
- The government warehouse is completely stocked, with more items arriving than leaving.
- UNHCR, WFP, ACTED, have begun work on the Virtual Humanitarian Aid Platform (VHAP). The virtual warehouse system will only work if everyone participates and contributes.
- The Refugee Emergency Telecommunications Sector has continued to scale up its infrastructure and connectivity support for RACs. The Refugee Emergency Telecommunications Sector is providing infrastructure and connectivity support to the RACs on a scaled-up basis.
- Given the recent developments in Odesa, UNICEF carried out an assessment of pre-positioned supplies and will work to re-stock on necessary WASH items in the coming week to ensure adequate ability to scale up support for an additional 10,000 people.
- Two Technical Condition Assessments were carried out in the Cimislia district. IOM met with representatives from the Department of Social Assistance and visited two buildings that could be used as Refugee Accommodation Centers (RAC).
- IOM and UNHCR continue to operate the humanitarian "Green Corridor" between Palanca and Husi.
- On the Green Corridor's various buses, free WiFi has been installed. Twenty devices have been installed in collaboration with Telecom's sans Frontiers, allowing beneficiaries of the green corridor to access free internet on their journey from Moldova to Romania.
- IOM Moldova officially handed over cross-border humanitarian assistance (donated by ." received from Pompiers de l'urgence Internationale (PUI) to Faith, Hope, and Love.
- ACTED offers support to municipalities engaged in the management of RACs with staff, training, and in-kind support to help alleviate the costs associated with the RACs.

- Two centers for hosting refugees: Homecare from Chisinau and Tirotext from Tiraspol, were equipped by UNDP with EU support with educational toys for children. Seven other centers on both banks of the Nistru river will shortly receive educational toys for children.
 - Plan International distributed 1,000 food kits to 500 families via its partner,
 - In the Stefan Voda district, Action against Hunger distributed 150 cleaning kits, 97 family kits, and 34 baby kits to refugees and hosting families. To be distributed to refugees and hosting families in the Stefan Voda district are 185 cleaning kits, 163 family kits, and 14 baby kits. Procurement of 400 hygiene kits for distribution in the districts of Stefan Voda and Causeni.
 - • ACTED has taken over responsibility for two latrines and the cleaning staff at the Palanca transportation hub. A six-month agreement has been reached with the major municipality of Palanca to support waste management (oil tank, fuel). Initial contacts established to assist the municipality of Causeni with the distribution of hygiene kits and registration of hosting families and refugees.
 - 8,000 dignity kits produced and distributed to refugee women by UNFPA
- will then train 900 school managers and teachers in the coming weeks.
- Plan International ensured the access of school kits to 575 Ukrainian refugees immediately after the initial influx caused by the war to enable them to be integrated into the Moldovan Educational system, at the request of the Government. We supplied:
 - Plan International provided the Municipality of Chisinau with 500 school bags for refugee children enrolled in schools (primary secondary and high school). 25 school bags have been distributed to refugee children currently residing at the Congaz refugee center (primary and secondary). The Municipality of Edinet received 50 school bags for refugee children enrolled in school (primary and secondary)
 - Plan International, in collaboration with Amici dei Bambini, intends to provide play-based activities, socioemotional learning, bridging language classes, reading groups, and storytelling to children from refugee and host communities in the following districts: Cahul, Leova, Basarabesc, and Causeni are located in the south. Hincesti, Calarsi, Nord: Balti, Falesti, Ungheni – reaching 1,800 children (900 boys and 900 girls) over a six-month period (31.03.2022-31.09.2022).

Education

- UNICEF continues to discuss on technical issues with Ministry of Education and Research (MER) about needs and response to the refugee crisis.
- Education partners have started conducting a cross-sector needs analysis, including on education, for children and parents' needs in two districts and will share the results by the end of April. UNICEF is planning to conduct a national needs assessment on education in the coming weeks.
- With UNICEF technical support, 3 CFS and 3-day camps have been set up in Chisinau addressing socio-emotional learning and recreational needs of refugee children and adolescents
- UNICEF has started the national ToT for 30 teachers on dealing with individual needs of refugee children, prevention of bullying, violence and fostering tolerance and promoting social cohesion and volunteerism among adolescents. The 30 teachers trained

Health and Nutrition

- A WHO/Europe Risk Communication and Community Engagement mission took place on 28 March – 1 April 2022, to support Ministry of Health's communications and encourage Ukrainian refugees to accept and uptake health protective measures, including immunization. A set of recommendations on strategic communication and behavioural change interventions were presented to MoH.
- The 6th Inter Agency Health Working group meeting was conducted by the MoH and WHO with focus on mother and child health care services delivered for the refugees. The health sector need assessment platform will be updated to coordinate the procurement and goods delivery process.
- The MoH with WHO support activated the Procedures on secured medical evacuation pathways to the EU countries. One child was evacuated using this platform, other 20

patients with cancer are in the process of initiation the evacuation to EU countries.

- The WHO and the MoH continued the rapid assessments of the hospital health services available in the context of mass casualties. Three District Hospitals Soroca, Orhei and Floresti were visited, and the capacity to manage mass casualties was estimated.
- The instruction on the immunization service delivery for EMT was developed. The EMT will be involve in the immunization service promotion and guidance in order to improve the vaccine coverage among refugee families.
- Supportive supervision visits of the immunization process against routine vaccination and COVID-19 was conducted with WHO support.
- The WHO with the MoH is coordinating the Mental Health and Psychosocial Support technical activities, MHPSS technical reference group has been established, meeting biweekly. The draft of the action plan is coordinating with UN national stakeholders and international partners.
- The SO for the procurement of equipment for 10 perinatal centres has been raised.
- Following the field visit to Leuseni cross-border checkpoint, the needs have been identified and subsequent activities will follow.
- Communication materials on breastfeeding have been prepared and ready to be printed and distributed to Blue Dots/ RACs a. o.
- A guide for the procurement criteria of breast milk substitutes (BMS) has been developed for instances where mothers are unable to breastfeed.
- UNICEF is also working with WFP to ensure nutritional food is provided to children in Refugee Accommodation Centres (RACs).
- Between March 12 and April 1, pre-embarkation medical check was conducted for 337 refugees and TCNs using the busses from Palanca to Husi (Romania).
- UNFPA assessed and initiated the first-line procurement for **six maternity units** with an additional labour room and equipping the operating theater for emergency obstetric care (North, South and Centre) of state-of-the-art equipment to ensure safe deliveries among refugee women.

Livelihood and Inclusion

- UNDP launched a funding competition for digital solutions for accessing public services dedicated to refugees from Ukraine who have come to Moldova. The selected solutions will be funded by a maximum of \$40,000, but not more than 50% of the total value of the proposal.
- Monday.com in partnership with UNDP piloted a data collection exercise (survey) at the Palanca border crossing point and designed a platform to store and analyze the data. In 72 hours, over 320 refugees registered within the platform. The data can be used by the National Employment Agency and Migration and Asylum Bureau for further action and communication with the refugees.
- With the support of the EU4Moldova Programme, implemented by UNDP and financed by the EU, the centers hosting refugees in Cahul and Ungheni regions were endowed with the necessary equipment (washing machines, drying machines, refrigerators, electric kettles, electric table nobs, microwave ovens, electric generators, heaters, aerotherms, lanterns, convectors) of a total value of EURO 9,715.
- Through the EU funded Confidence Building Programme and Cross-river Cooperation Platform, UNDP conducted a needs assessment of the educational and psychological needs of the children's refugees. Recreational activities for 40 children from both banks located in refugee centers (teachers, psychologists, animators) on both banks were conducted.
- ACTED will employ 20 Ukrainian refugees currently living at Moldexpo and 3 other RACs in Chisinau for sorting the items at the Moldova Film warehouse

Cash-based intervention

- 6458 individuals have been enrolled and received cash-based assistance since the official launch on 25 March 2022. UNHCR estimates to provide direct assistance to 100,000 refugees over a period of 4-6 months. The grant will be renewed for refugees remaining in the country, until the transitional safety net kicks in

- WFP and UNHCR have developed and are engaging in a communications strategy to disseminate and inform the Moldovan population of our complementary approach to cash assistance to refugees and host communities in Moldova.
- The payments for the first 33 eligible households - total caseload of the pilot for the Cash assistance for host communities programme - were processed on 31 March. The breakdown is 28 households in Stauceni, Chisinau and 5 households in Inesti and Telenesti. 70% of the recipients are women.
- On 31 March, WFP briefed an audience of over 400 attendees composed of Moldovan social workers and mayors on the cash assistance for host communities programme procedures and circulated corresponding guidance and advocacy materials.
- The Community Feedback Mechanism (CFM) hotline for the CBT programme is live (+373 060 865 841). WFP has onboarded a CFM Manager and hiring of CFM is in process.
- UNICEF will enter into a UN-to-UN agreement with UNHCR for scaling up cash-based interventions this week.
- UNICEF engaged with WFP to look into mid-term long-term development responses and linkages of the cash-based intervention to the national social protection system.
- Between March 13 and April 2, 854 refugee and 15 TCN families have benefitted from

voucher assistance. 869 vouchers have been distributed at different locations in Anenii Noi, Chisinau, Cimisia, Criuleni, Ialoveni. The value of each voucher is 1000 Moldovan leu and can be redeemed at Linella and Fidesco supermarkets throughout the country.

- As the gender focal point of the Moldova Cash Working Group, UNFPA works closely with UNHCR and other key actors to ensure that GBV risks are addressed in the Moldova cash response. Simultaneously, UNFPA is planning its own sectorial cash support for refugee women and girls with a focus on SRH and GBV.

Information management

- UNHCR and REACH convened a meeting on Assessments and Analysis to ensure coordination and cooperation on assessments on Assessment Registry, Light MSNA, Protection Monitoring, Border monitoring, RAC monitoring, Cost-of-living.
- UNHCR has established the Moldova inter-agency 5W matrix [Microsoft Power BI](#)
- Plan international - Data collection of refugees and hosting families in Stefan Voda, supporting municipalities on the registry.



"I can give up clothes and shoes, but not my photos – they are my life" - Refugee from Ukraine.

Photo and story Credit: UNFPA Moldova

Moldova refugee inter-agency coordination



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