

Refugee Coordination Forum (RCF) Meeting

Meeting Details	
Date	20 03 2023 - Next meeting on 03 04 2023
Time	14h00 – 16h00
Chair	Monica Vazquez, Associate Inter-Agency Coordinator Officer
Reporting	Julian Pack, Inter-Agency Reporting Officer
Email	mdachrcf@unhcr.org
Agenda	
<p>Temporary Protection Update National Congress of Ukrainians of Moldova (CNUM): assessment on TP PSEA Update IM WG Assessment Registry 2023 Internews: Flood and Deserts Area-Based Assessment (ABA) for Chisinau and Stefan Voda Brief: Cost of Living Survey</p>	
Information collection and relevant links	
<p>Moldova operational data portal: https://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/ukraine/location/10784 To register to RCF mailing lists, please access this link: RCF Partners Information and Contact RCF Calendar: RCF Moldova Meetings Calendar Direct links to the respective documents mentioned in the minutes are as below:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Assessment Registry 2023 RCF Presentation - https://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/99676 2. Flood and Deserts: Information Access and Barriers in Moldova Refugees Response Presentation – https://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/99677 3. Quick Assessment on the Implementation of the Temporary Protection in Moldova: Key Findings and Recommendations - https://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/99679 4. REACH - Area-Based Assessment for Chisinau and Stefan Voda - https://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/98651 5. REACH - Area-Based Assessment for Chisinau and Stefan Voda (Presentation) - https://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/99701 6. The impact of cost-of-living changes on Moldovan and refugee populations - https://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/98749 	

Participants			
Dr Sakhiev UNFPA	Natalia Postolachi, A.O. "HOPE 4" - Head of Programmes	Irene Basiul Programme Officer	Maura Reap, WHO
Radu Niculescu, Mercy Corps	Andrew Painter, UNHCR	Katerina Silhankova, Czech Embassy	James Whitaker REACH
Casey O'Neill, Church World Service (CWS)	Mihaela Lavrov, Peace Winds, Project Assistant	Natalia Athanasiadou, HoP, NRC	Emilia Ersov, REACH
Evghenia Hiora, GTF/UN Women	Kyrylo Prykhodko, CNUM Programme Coordinator,	Vitalie Sprinceană, AO PLATFORMA, coordinator	Suenanica de Rozario, UNHCR
Elena Cernicova, Informational Department, Laolalta NGO, Moldova for Peace	Liz Devine, MdM	Martina Gastaldello - UN Human Rights	Elisabeth Hoorens REACH
Andrei Hîncu, CARE&SERA Romania	Alexandr Macuhin, Dopomoga.gov.md	Catalina Sampaio, UNHCR	Lilian Severin, UNAIDS Moldova
Irene Scott - Internews	Maria Scicchitano WHO and PSEA Task Force Chair	Natalia Turcanu, APSCF	Andrew Blakely, Church World Service
Diana Iularji CNUM	Monica Vasquez, UNHCR	Maryna Bozkurt, UNHCR	Andi Szenasi, REACH
Martina Gastaldello OHCHR	Noor Bakhsh, UNICEF	Yigit Anil Gurer, UNHCR	Teodora Zafiu, UNDP
Fatima Al-Wahaidy, UNFPA		Yurii Arnautov, UNHCR	Svetlana Bebic, ICRC RFL FO
		Sara Sivkova, UNHCR	Daniele Pedretti HelpAge
		Cansu Bilgic, UNICEF	Julian Pack, UNHCR
		Celine Brixander, UNFPA	Catalina Birsanu, UNHCR
			Monica Vazquez, UNHCR

Summary of discussions and agreements / action points

Agenda	Discussion	Agreements / Actions
Temporary Protection (TP) Update Andrew Painter, UNHCR painter@unhcr.org	Brief overview and update of the progress towards TP. Introduced formally on 1 March and as of 16 March, 710 people had pre-enrolled. The low figure can be attributed to most people waiting to nearer the 5 April end of current emergency, as under TP there is a 45-day limitation of absence from the country. Second, some problems with required documentation, especially proof of residency. (See next item.)	NTR
National Congress of Ukrainians of Moldova (CNUM): assessment on TP Kyrylo Prykhodko,	Presentation of Quick Assessment on the Implementation of the Temporary Protection in Moldova: Key Finding & Recommendations . Apparent lack of interest in TP amongst Ukrainian refugees in Moldova. From 445 respondents, 88% had not applied. However, while >20% said they had no interest, 67.6% were interested, although 47% cited obtaining correct documentation as biggest barrier. Survey was carried out over all country, including Transnistria.	NTR

<p>cnum.moldova@gmail.com</p>	<p>Please click here for further details.</p>	
<p>PSEA Maria Scicchitano WHO and PSEA Task Force Chair</p>	<p>PSEA Network and PSEA Task Force is working on the creation of a pool of independent SEAH investigators in Moldova, as outlined in the PSEA Action Plan. The object is to develop a pool of local independent PSEA investigators in Moldova who can conduct investigations into allegations of sexual exploitation, abuse, and harassment with sensitivity and cultural awareness.</p> <p>An online Misconduct Disclosure Scheme session will take place on 24 March, upcoming Friday. The purpose of the scheme is to build capacity of organizations in taking better hiring decision, and reduce hiring an abuser, and, by extension, mitigating the risk of sexual exploitation and abuse. The scheme facilitates sharing of misconduct data between employers. It is currently implemented by over 170 organizations. Up to date, more than 29,000 checks have been conducted, resulting in over 140 applications being rejected at the final stage of recruitment.</p> <p>A country-level risk assessment re sexual exploitation and abuse is being conducted on the basis of risk management tools, under the auspices of the RC and UNHCR. The purpose of it is to identify and mitigate the SEA risks and develop, in coordination with RCF Sector Leads, sector specific risk mitigation plans based on PSEA Risk Assessment Findings. Partners are kindly asked to complete the risk assessment surveys that are already shared, allowing 5 to 7' to complete them. There is one for staff and a second for senior management.</p>	<p>Re the creation of a pool of independent SEAH investigators, prospective enrolment should be made by the end of March.</p>
<p>IM WG Assessment Registry 2023 James Whitaker IM Working Group mdachim@unhcr.org</p>	<p>The registry is a record of all data collection activities related to informing the refugee response in Moldova. The output is a dashboard publicly available on the UNHCR data portal and will help inform people on which assessments are planned and which coordination decisions are being made.</p>	<p>The registry is the only source of recorded assessments, and it is urged that it be kept up to date.</p>
<p>Flood & Deserts: Internews Irene Scott, Internews</p>	<p>The presentation 'Flood and Deserts: Information Access and Barriers in Moldova Refugees Response' was delivered, in which details how information moves. Information Ecosystem Assessments aim to: identify available information, sources and preferences (the environment); identify priority information needs (gaps); identify the main barriers to information access; and to understand dynamics such as trust relationships.</p>	<p>NTR</p>

	<p>Overall, it has been found that Key Information Channels are performing well, although some challenges with hotlines have been recorded. The study also compares urban and rural areas. Common rumours/misperceptions include that Ukrainians from areas of Ukraine less affected by war receive less assistance and that there is a blacklist for those who complain. Some social tensions noted in Balti and Cahul. Other findings include that the elderly feel less well-served with information.</p> <p>Casey O’Neill: Please clarify statement that ‘volunteers feel disconnected’. Volunteers stated that they feel lacking in information on what to tell refugees and where to direct them; would like to be better informed. Services advisor is going towards meeting this concern.</p> <p>Dr Alexandr Macuhin added that more complaints came from RACs over access to services.</p> <p>Please click here for further details.</p>	
<p>ABA for Chisinau and Stefan Voda Andrea Szenasi andrea.szenasi@reach-initiative.org</p>	<p>REACH made a presentation on ‘Area-Based Assessment for Chisinau and Stefan Voda’. The overall objective is to inform of a more holistic and sustainable area-based response by humanitarian actors and local authorities about the needs and access to services of the refugee population and their hosts, as well as to examine the relationship between the refugees and the hosts in Chisinau and Stefan Voda with high numbers of refugees in Moldova. More specifically to: identify displacement dynamics, household priority and winter needs; identify barriers to access to basic services and to integration; assess the impact of refugee arrival on the local economy and access to basic services for the host community, as well as social cohesion between the refugee and host communities.; and provide information on local and external actors engaged in the crisis response and basic service provision in the assessed areas.</p> <p>Please click here for further details.</p>	<p>NTR</p>
<p>Cost of Living Survey Emilia Ersov, REACH emilia.ersov@reach-initiative.org</p>	<p>Presentation made on ‘The impact of cost-of-living changes on Moldovan and refugee populations’ by REACH. The aim was to examine the combined effects of the compounded economic and refugee crises. As such, REACH Initiative conducted an assessment (in Calarasi, Hincesti, Nisporeni, and Singerei, chosen due to high levels of socio-economic instability prior 2022) to understand the impact of cost-of-living changes on refugees’ and host communities’ ability to sustain themselves, the coping mechanisms they adopted or planned to implement for the 2022-2023 winter season, and any potential shifts in host communities’ attitudes towards and ability to support refugee populations. The assessment used a qualitative approach based on</p>	<p>NTRS</p>



	<p>semi-structured Key Informant Interviews (KIIs). Main findings included rising utility costs, reduced quality of life and stress, and an increased reliance on external financial support (Moldovans from the government and refugees from international organizations). Unemployment and migration were also addressed, as well as effects on consumption and gender (with more men seeking work abroad).</p> <p>Please click here for further details.</p>	
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