IOM'S OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES IN THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

SINCE 24 FEBRUARY 2022 (AS OF 15 JUNE)



HIGHLIGHTS

10,982 refugees and Third-Country Nationals (TCNs) have moved through the Green Corridor to Romania.

13,381 surveys conducted to support informed humanitarian response.

3,423 vouchers have been distributed to refugees and TCNs.

APPEAL

37M USD funding requirement in the RRP (February to December 2022).

14.34M USD received

against the Refugee Response Plan (RRP

February to December 2022).

For more information about IOM's Flash appeal for Ukraine and Neighboring countries

OVERVIEW

As of 15 June, **over half a million** refugees (458,414) and TCNs (42,037) have entered Moldova from Ukraine. 423,398 of these conflict-affected persons have exited Moldova to Romania, EU member states, or to their countries of origin. 73,362 refugees and 3,691 TCNs remain in Moldova¹.

1. Source: General Inspectorate for Border Police (GBP), Republic of Moldova. Data can also be found on the UNHCR Data Portal. For more information about TCNs, please also see https://displacement.iom.int/

IOM provides integrated multisectoral assistance to refugees, TCNs, and host communities. In particular, IOM is expanding its support to border crossing points (BCPs), Refugee Accommodation Centres (RACs), transit sites, and along movement routes, enhancing capacities on the ground as part of its preparedness and response planning. IOM is also adopting a comprehensive approach to the crisis to address the mid to long-term impacts and to support the Government of Moldova in transitioning from humanitarian assistance to longer-term recovery.

IOM INTERVENTIONS

On 24 February, the Russian Federation launched a broad military offensive against Ukraine. Since then, over 6 million conflict-affected people have fled the country and more than 8 million people have been displaced within its borders, sparking the largest humanitarian crisis Europe has witnessed since World War II. This adds to the ongoing conflict sparked in 2014 in the Donetsk and Luhansk regions of Eastern Ukraine, which previously displaced over one million persons inside Ukraine.

The neighboring countries, including Moldova, have been shouldering most of the conflict-affected people who have fled Ukraine. Moldova has received the highest number of refugees per capita among the neighboring countries, adding to already existing pressures such as geopolitical, inflationary, post-COVID19 recovery, and the energy crisis.

In addition to supporting the implementation of the UNHCR-led Regional Refugee Response Plan for the Ukraine crisis in areas such as shelter, non-food items (NFIs), cash-based interventions (CBI),

humanitarian border management (HBM), livelihoods, and protection including counter-trafficking and migrant health, IOM supports the Moldovan Government with contingency planning for new influx scenarios and decongestion through migration movement services, overland, and via flights.

To address vulnerabilities exacerbated by the influx, IOM will continue implementing transition and recovery activities through area-based approaches, in coordination with Resident Coordinator's Office and the rest of the UN Country Team. In this regard, IOM Moldova will draw upon insights on the strengths and weaknesses of Moldova's migration policy documented through the Migration Governance Indicators (MGI), as well as synergies with the mission's established programmes on migration and development, counter-trafficking, integrated border management, and migration, environment and climate change.

HUMANITARIAN TRANSPORT

The Governments of Moldova and Romania, together with IOM and UNHCR, have established the Green Corridor — a fast-tracked, safe and dignified mode of travel from Ukraine-Moldova BCPs to Husi in Romania. IOM also provides air transportation for refugees who wish to travel onwards to Europe and to TCNs who choose to return to their country of origin.

- 10,982 refugees and TCNs moved through the Green Corridor.
- 1,594 air transfers were arranged for refugees and TCNs.
- 466 TCNs voluntarily returned to their home countries, mostly to Azerbaijan.

HUMANITARIAN BORDER MANAGEMENT (HBM)



IOM delivering 21 mobile document verification workstations, as part of a larger set of border management equipment, to the General Inspectorate of Border Police in Moldova. @ IOM 2022.

HBM covers border operations before, during, and after humanitarian crises and recognizes the necessity of ensuring that national border authorities are prepared to respond appropriately to massive cross-border movements, in a way that protects crisis-affected refugees and migrants and guarantees their human rights and interests, while respecting national sovereignty and security.

IOM coordinates with national authorities on the provision of specialized assistance for crisis management, which includes border management and preparedness for intervention assessments, emergency provision of border equipment, delivery of training sessions and enhancing training systems, enhancing information awareness for people on the move, delivering technical support for the development of SOPs, and setting up of efficient referral systems. This includes:

- Five consultants contracted to support the Bureau of Migration and Asylum (BMA), on immigration, regularization measures, and information technology (IT);
- Distribution of over 70,000 leaflets and information materials to the border authorities, to be made available at all border crossing points;
- Donation of specialized equipment for document authenticity verification and registration totaling approx. 600,000 USD, to enhance the preparedness for accelerated border management process in case of need;
- Six off-road Ford Ranger vehicles delivered to the Border Police and two minivans to BMA;
- One country-wide humanitarian border management assessment completed and one infrastructure assessment under finalization for the BCPs along the southern Moldova Ukraine border.



IOM providing pre-embarkation assistance to refugees in Moldova supported with air transfers to EU member states. @ IOM 2022.

SHELTER/NFI AND SITE SUPPORT

IOM supports the government's efforts in providing dignified accommodation spaces for conflict-affected persons. In close coordination with the Single Crisis Management Centre, IGSU (General Inspectorate for Emergencies), as well as the Accommodation and Transportation Sector, IOM conducts distribution of NFIs, shelter assessment, site planning, and building rehabilitation works. Latest developments include:

- Assessment conducted at 12 BCPs and 7 transit sites for possible site improvement works.
- Site planning training for emergency preparedness to IGSU attended by 25 officials from each subdivision.
- Site planning and development for Otaci bus station, enabling larger scale of transportation capacity for contingency scenarios.
- Procurement of key field equipment for IGSU to scale up rapid mobilization capacity in case of the establishment of transit sites.
- Procurement and prepositioning 7,500 NFI kits.
- Assessment and rehabilitation of targeted public buildings in order to prepare contingency accommodation centres.
- Provision of short-term accommodation to refugees and TCNs via a partnership with the AirBnB., including 22 vulnerable families accommodated through <u>AirBnB</u> apartments.
- The Conditional Cash Grants activity for Moldovan host families for improvement of living spaces is at an advanced planning stage.



IOM providing site planning and sire preparations works for the temporary bus station at the Otachi border crossing point in Moldova. @ IOM 2022.

HEALTH

IOM ensures that refugees and TCNs assisted with transfers undergo pre-departure medical checks, referrals to secondary and tertiary healthcare, and covers costs of medication, treatment, and transportation to health facilities for exceptional medical cases. IOM also procures medicines and supplies for the Ministry of Health and provides mental health support services for conflict-affected people, as well as training for frontline workers.

To date:

- 4,146 refugees and TCNs have received pre-departure health checks for the Green Corridor to Romania.
- 1,670 refugees and TCNs have received pre-embarkation health checks supported with air transfers and returns assistance.
- 443 refugees and TCNs, including those living in RACs received psychosocial counseling.
- 3 mobile MHPSS teams are supporting socio-recreational activities in RACs and host communities.
- 170 IOM frontline responders, and six refugees, have been trained in psychological first aid and basic communication skills.



IOM providing supplies to the Republican Asylum for Persons with Disabilities and Pensioners in Moldova. @ IOM 2022.

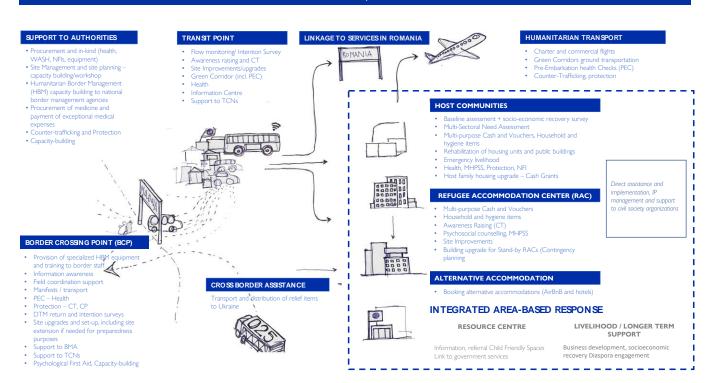
DTM | INFORMATION MANAGEMENT & ASSESSMENTS

In coordination with the Information Management Working Group (IMWG) in Moldova, IOM informs relevant stakeholders, including local governments, service providers, and protection actors in transit and intended destination areas, on the volume, composition, and basic needs of the displaced populations.

To date:

- 13,381 surveys have been conducted on displacement patterns, intentions, and needs, as well as on crossings of people to
 Ukraine
- Twelve reports have been released since the start of the crisis to inform the humanitarian response.
- Bimonthly analysis on TCNs.
- Contributions to monthly inter-agency community-level protection monitoring at BCPs (can be found here).
- A baseline assessment is currently ongoing in the Transnistria region.

IOM MOLDOVA - UKRAINE CRISIS RESPONSE | STRATEGIC AND OPERATIONAL OUTLOOK





IOM delivering humanitarian-border assistance in Moldova. @IOM 2022.

SUPPLY CHAIN AND LOGISTICS TO ODESA

In coordination with border authorities in Moldova and Ukraine, IOM ensured cross-border delivery of 134 pallets of humanitarian non-food items to internally displaced persons and people in need in Odesa on April 12. IOM Moldova has extended support to IOM Ukraine to procure 2,919 first aid medical kits for the State Customs Service of Ukraine and the State Border Guard Service. Further modalities in the country are being explored for sustained cross-border delivery to Odesa, Ukraine.



IOM contracted humanitarian cargo delivering assistance at the Tudora border, Moldova. @IOM 2022.

LIVELIHOODS AND INCLUSION

IOM is deploying livelihoods and inclusion teams on the ground to identify both needs and opportunities for livelihoods programming and transitional recovery efforts. Livelihoods teams will conduct socioeconomic and labor market assessments to develop tailored livelihood support for refugees, TCNs, and host communities through support to startups, small businesses, trainings and capacity building. IOM will also facilitate employability including self-employment, skills matching and certification, and support Quick Impact Projects (QIPs) identified through participatory and community-led approaches to promote social cohesion and integration.

PROTECTION

The IOM Moldova Protection programme builds on the frameworks, structures, and coordination modalities that predate the crisis, integrating the refugee and TCN response into the existing systems while strengthening the latter for longer-term sustainability. In this context, IOM continues to closely work with a variety of governmental, civil society, humanitarian, and other partners. IOM Moldova currently works on:

- Capacity building and support for the governmental countertrafficking (CT), gender-based violence (GBV), and child protection systems, as well as for civil society partners in 16 districts of Moldova and the Transnistrian region;
- Support of the core CT and GBV infrastructure on both banks of the Nistru River;
- Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration (AVRR) for TCNs wishing to return to their country of origin;
- Deployment of two mobile teams to conduct outreach and awareness-raising, with a special focus on CT and AVRR to RACs, host communities, and transit points;
- Direct assistance to GBV survivors and victims of trafficking

The program also supports IOM's cross-cutting efforts on PSEA, disability inclusion, and AAP.

CASH-BASED INTERVENTIONS

IOM is supporting refugees, TCNs and host families through the provision of cash-based assistance to meet basic needs (including food and non-food items).

- 3,423 refugees and TCNs households have received multipurpose vouchers.
- Planned expansion of multipurpose cash assistance vouchers to address unmet needs.

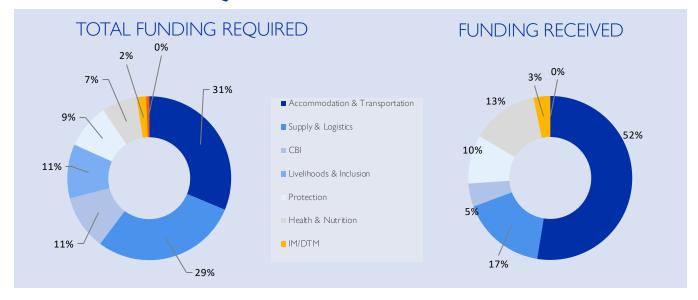
IOM APPROACHES - TRANSNISTRIA REGION

The security and stability in the Transnistria region have deteriorated since 24 February with several explosions reported in April 2022.

IOM has been operational in the Transnistria region since 2004, working through civil society organizations in preventing and responding to trafficking in persons and GBV, and migration conducting profiling. IOM's approaches for the Transnistria region include:

- Capacity building of implementing partners on how to conduct Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) Baseline Assessments, in coordination with UNICEF.
- Support to local organizations for protection awareness, direct assistance and support to the CT hotlines
- Preparing for the provision of Cash-Based Intervention (CBIs), Non-Food Items (NFIs), and protection activities through a coordinated area-based approach, as required in coordination with UNICEF and IOM implementing partners in the region.
- Establishment/strengthening of coordination mechanisms through existing partnerships and collaborations with local CSOs to expand transition, recovery, and durable solutions, and link ground-level efforts with national-level coordination mechanisms to foster social cohesion and community stability

IOM FUNDING REQUIRED VS FUNDING RECEIVED AGAINST THE RRP



IOM has been operating in Moldova since 2001, with its main office located in the capital, Chisinau, and a field presence at the national level and at two border crossing points — Palanca and Otaci. IOM is an active partner under the Refugee Coordination Framework, partnering with different UN agencies including UNHCR, UNICEF, UNDP, WFP, and UN Women, among others.

IOM OPERATIONS ARE SUPPORTED BY



















IOM Moldova: eitiommoldova@iom.int