



# MdM-GREECE MISSION TO ROMANIA

## SIRET Situation Report 1

---

10-16/03/2022

## BACKGROUND

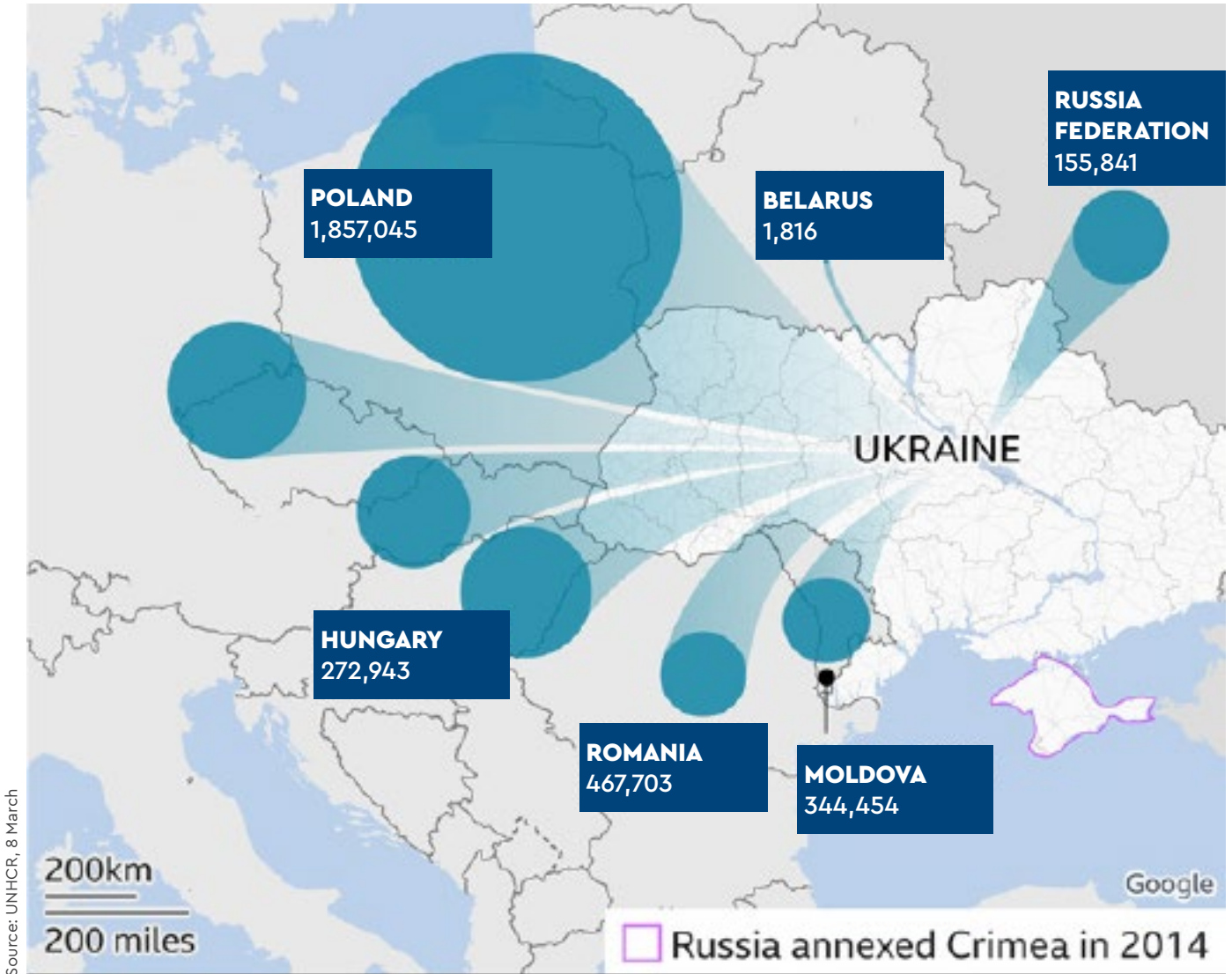
The Russian Federation launched a military offensive against Ukraine on 24 February 2022. In total, prior to the invasion by the Russian military forces, the number of registered internally displaced persons was more than **1.46 million**<sup>1</sup>.

An estimated **12.65 million** people have been affected in the areas hardest hit by the war within Ukraine. The escalation of conflict has triggered an immediate and steep rise in humanitarian needs, both within the country as well as in the neighboring countries receiving refugees. Many people remain trapped in areas of escalating conflict and, with essential services disrupted, are unable to meet their basic needs including food, water and medicines<sup>2</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> ACAPS, Ukraine (Source: <https://www.acaps.org/country/ukraine/crisis/conflict>)

<sup>2</sup> UNHCR, Ukraine Situation Flash Update #3 (Source: <https://reliefweb.int/report/ukraine/ukraine-situation-flash-update-3-15-march-2022>)

WHICH COUNTRIES ARE UKRAINIANS FLEEING TO?



RECEPTION COUNTRIES

As of March 16th 2022 more than **3 million refugees** have fled Ukraine with the vast majority seeking protection in the neighboring EU countries: **Poland** (1,857,045), **Romania** (467,703), **Hungary** (272,943) and **Slovakia** (220,977), while a significant number of refugees has moved to the **Republic of Moldova** (344,454) to **Russia Federation** (155,841) and to **Belarus** (1,816). An additional **1.85 million people** have been displaced internally within the country<sup>3</sup>.

The majority of Ukrainians fleeing their country are vulnerable cases such as elderly people, mothers traveling with their children, people with disabilities, since the Ukrainian parliament declared martial law, prohibiting men aged 18 to 60 from leaving the country.

<sup>3</sup> UNHCR, Operational Data Portal – Ukraine Refugee Situation (Source: [https://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/ukraine#\\_ga=2.177471717.1925686798.1647518123-384959352.1632983098](https://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/ukraine#_ga=2.177471717.1925686798.1647518123-384959352.1632983098))



## SITUATION IN ROMANIA

The Romanian Government announced at the end of February that it was ready and able to receive more than 500,000 Ukrainian citizens. During the third week of March, this number has almost been reached.

The refugees who have arrived in Romania are not only coming from neighboring towns near the border, but from all over Ukraine, with some travelling two to three days to arrive. According to recent figures from the Romanian Ministry of Interior, the Civil Protection (Inspectoratul pentru Situații de Urgență – SMURD) has deployed more than 200 firefighters who are working to support the field teams in the 8 regions bordering Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova and to manage the situation created by the current development.

Having already established temporary refugee camps, the Romanian authorities have indicated at early March that they had the capacity to provide accommodation and food for 201 persons per camp, in a total of 39 pre-selected sites. Each of the camps is equipped with tents, folding beds, air conditioning and lighting, sleeping bags, water and sanitation and an open kitchen.

The majority of the population staying for a few hours or a couple of days to the refugee sites and then moves to Bucharest and other large cities and stay with friends, relatives, hostels or BnBs while a significant number of Ukrainian people go to the Suceava or Iasi Airport to catch a flight for Italy, Israel or US.

# MITIGATION OF COVID-19 & COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

The vaccination rate of the Ukrainian population is very low, considering the fact that only 30% of the total population has received the vaccination scheme of two doses, while in neighborhood countries such as Romania, the vaccination coverage is estimated to a 56% to the age group 18–59 and 46% at the elderly age group of 60+<sup>4</sup>.

In addition, uptake for childhood vaccinations is reportedly suboptimal in Ukraine.

Ensuring continuity of routine vaccinations and addressing gaps in prior vaccination histories is an essential element of public health support for displaced people. In this context, ensuring vaccination coverage against poliomyelitis, measles and COVID-19 should be a priority.

According to the recent ECDC report, the neighboring countries hosting displaced populations should ensure that those arriving from Ukraine due to the crisis have access to healthcare services in a similar manner as the local population. This will address continuity of care and prevention of complications due to medical preconditions and will aid early treatment of acute conditions. Additionally, it will help in the early detection of diseases that may cause outbreaks.

This should be an integral part of the overall provision of healthcare to those fleeing Ukraine, as should the diagnosis and treatment of chronic disease and mental and psychosocial health.

Receiving countries should consider enhancing surveillance for vaccine-preventable and other communicable diseases. Furthermore, it is important to consider establishing syndromic surveillance systems within reception centres and, if possible, in the community<sup>5</sup>.



<sup>4</sup> WHO, Ukraine crisis, Public Health Situation Analysis – Refugee-hosting countries

(Source: <https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/352494/WHO-EURO-2022-5169-44932-63918-eng.pdf?sequence=3&isAllowed=y>)

<sup>5</sup> ECDC, Prevention and control of infectious diseases in the context of Russia's aggression towards Ukraine

(Source: <https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/news-events/prevention-and-control-infectious-diseases-context-russias-aggression-towards-ukraine>)

## INSIGHTS FROM SIRET

In Siret, Northern Romania – the busiest border-crossing between the two countries – long convoys of more than 9 – 12 km continues until today, while many people spend the night in the fields, in conditions of extreme cold, waiting to cross to the other side. Queues to enter Romania are between 6 – 20 hours long.

The priority needs among refugees include onward transportation, transit accommodation, first aid and provision of PPEs.

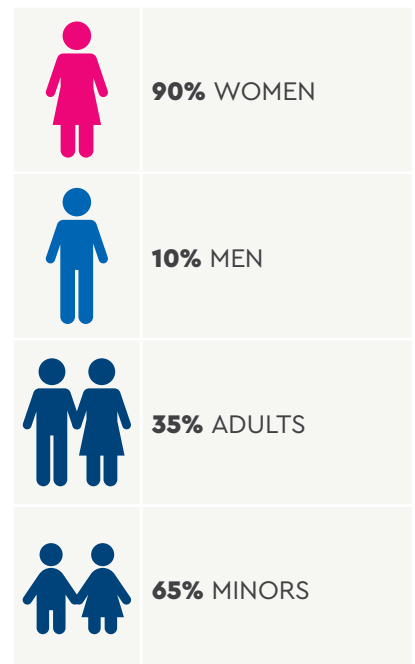
These needs are currently being met by humanitarian actors present in the borders and in the temporary transit centers.

Transit is mostly done by women with children and less by older people. Elderly, persons with chronic illness and pregnant women are in need of First Aid. They stay for a very short time at the site, then board buses to provincial towns and villages for an overnight stay and then on to their final destination. App. 1500 – 2000 people pass the border on daily basis.

PFA and Psychosocial Support: There is a need here due to emergencies such as panic attacks.

Beneficiaries who visited the MdM-Greece Medical Mobile Unit report that there are very high shortages of medicines, mainly injectables and insulin in the north (*from Kiev and above*) and less in the south.

As the days go by the psychological problems become more intense. Psychologists are moving around the camp speaking different languages. Mild antidepressants have been administered by our team based on both co-morbidities and since they have been clinically evaluated and we have worked with emergency psychologists for immediate psychological treatment.



UNICEF has set up a child-friendly space which has been taken over and ran by the coordination group from Romania that is there, which deals with creative activities for children.

Up to now the situation at the border is still very well organized and the point is still functioning as a transit. People are quickly resupplied with clothing, food, medical supplies and board buses to the interior (either camps or hotels/intermediate stops to the final destination).

During the Romanian authorities' coordination meeting it was decided that no tolls will apply for humanitarian missions and the transport of humanitarian material.

No systematic field presence of UNHCR or other UN organizations in Siret.

No unaccompanied minors have been observed, but the coordination team and authorities recommend special care and observation in locating possible unaccompanied minors.

The health region of Suceava has health deficiencies anyway, the regions in the north of Romania are generally poor, even before the crisis.



# MdM-GREECE RESPONSE

MdM-Greece voluntary based mission in the border of Siret in northeastern Romania started on Thursday 10th of March.

The first mission delivered the first medical and pharmaceutical supplies to the NGO HELPUKRAINE.

At the same time a Mobile Health Unit (MHU) is offering services on the spot. During the 8 days of operation of the MHU, the MdM-Greece medical team has supported **250 vulnerable persons** in need of emergency medical attention.

The voluntary medical team consists of a General Practitioner, a Pediatrician, a Gynecologist, a nurse and a midwife while a field coordinator assists the team and represents MdM-Greece in the local working group meetings.

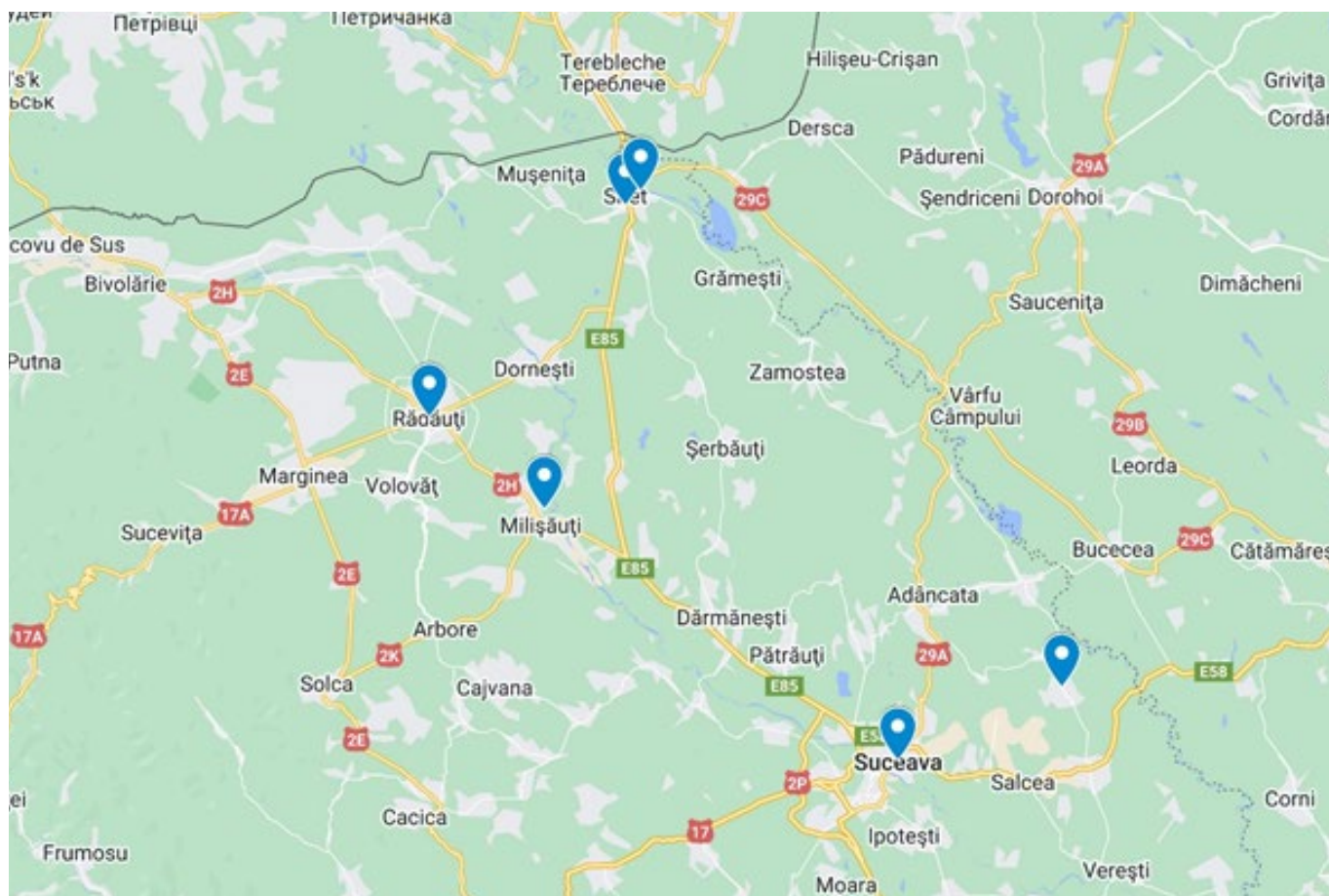
Through the MHU, MdM-Greece has provided the necessary PPEs to persons in need, in order to mitigate the risk of Covid-19 infection.

The MdM-Greece's field team has also conducted visits at camp locations nearby, on Northern Romania, from which the following have been observed in terms of capacity and occupancy:

There are two places for the accommodation of Ukrainian refugees near the Siret border, two more in Radauti, one closed stadium in Milisauti and another in Dumbraveni and lastly, a school in Suceava region (*depicted at the table below*):







Location	Maximum Capacity	Current Occupancy (as of 14/03/2022)
Tabara Siret	402	55
Scoala Siret	140	10
Radauti Corturi	162	0
Radauti Sala de Sport	230	30
Milisauti Sala de Sport	593	8
Dumbraveni Sala de sport	250	18
Scoala Suceava	200	10

Regarding the health needs of the aforementioned camps, we have noticed that all of them are closed and secured areas (mostly schools and sports centers) where there are available doctors and pharmacies inside. They are close to small and medium-sized towns in the province of Romania.

Also, there are local ambulances that remain on-call to transport emergency situations to a nearby hospital.

4. Actors at the Reception site (by sector):	In total: App. <b>20</b>
4.1) Health:	MdM-Greece, Vital Solutions, Red Cross Romania, Türkiye National Medical Rescue Team UMKE (WHO-EMT) Turkey
4.2) WASH:	Primăria Rădăuți. Direcția de Asistență Socială
4.3) MHPSS:	Amurt (Emergency Psychologist)
4.4) Child Protection:	Unicef (child-friendly space) – World Vision – Star of Hope Romania (child-friendly tents), Save the Children Romania
4.5) Food:	World Central Kitchen, JDC (Jewish Humanitarian Aid), Embassy of India, Arhiepiscopia Sucevei și Rădăuțiului, Asociația Fight for Freedom, ADRA Romania,
4.6) NFIs :	Serviciul de Ajutor Maltez în România, Inspectoratul pentru Situații de urgență SMURD, Rădăuțiul Civic
4.7) Info:	Amurt, ONCR-Scouts of Romania

## MOLDOVA

From the information we have received from the field, in the Republic of Moldova there is a need for both the staffing of humanitarian personnel and material delivery and equipment. However, the authorities have no capacity at all, they want to know that any team willing to help, will be able to go and cover services autonomously and that they will not ask for more funding/support from the authorities.

There are also discussions in place at the moment, regarding the opening of a humanitarian corridor for the transfer of traumatized people and refugees from the Republic of Moldova to Romania in the next weeks.

## USEFUL LINKS:

- **Coordination of Humanitarian Aid in Siret Border**  
<https://siret.help/>
- **Romanian Government's Site for Humanitarian Aid**  
<https://www.gov.ro/ro/pagina/ukraine-together-we-help-more>
- **Declaration of Humanitarian aid offers**  
<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeyirIDJ2dD-SMm8wPLRxLTdagDQoCxVY-QBn1uE2t7GUZnjQ/viewform>
- **Respective publication for Organisations or Individuals that have expressed an interest in supporting**  
<https://www.romania-insider.com/solidarity-ukraine-romania-refugees-2022>
- **Romanian Red Cross**  
<https://cruceariosie.ro/>
- **FARA Charity**  
<https://faracharity.ro/>



## **MÉDECINS DU MONDE – GREECE**

12 Sapphos Str, 105 53 Athens

T: +30.210.32.13.150, F: +30.210.32.13.850, e-Mail: [info@mdmgreece.gr](mailto:info@mdmgreece.gr)

[www.mdmgreece.gr](http://www.mdmgreece.gr)

**TÜV**  
**AUSTRIA**

EN ISO 9001:2015

Registration number of Certificate  
20001200004215