



EMERGENCY HUMANITARIAN AID TO UKRAINIAN REFUGEES

Briefing Note

18/03/2022

BACKGROUND

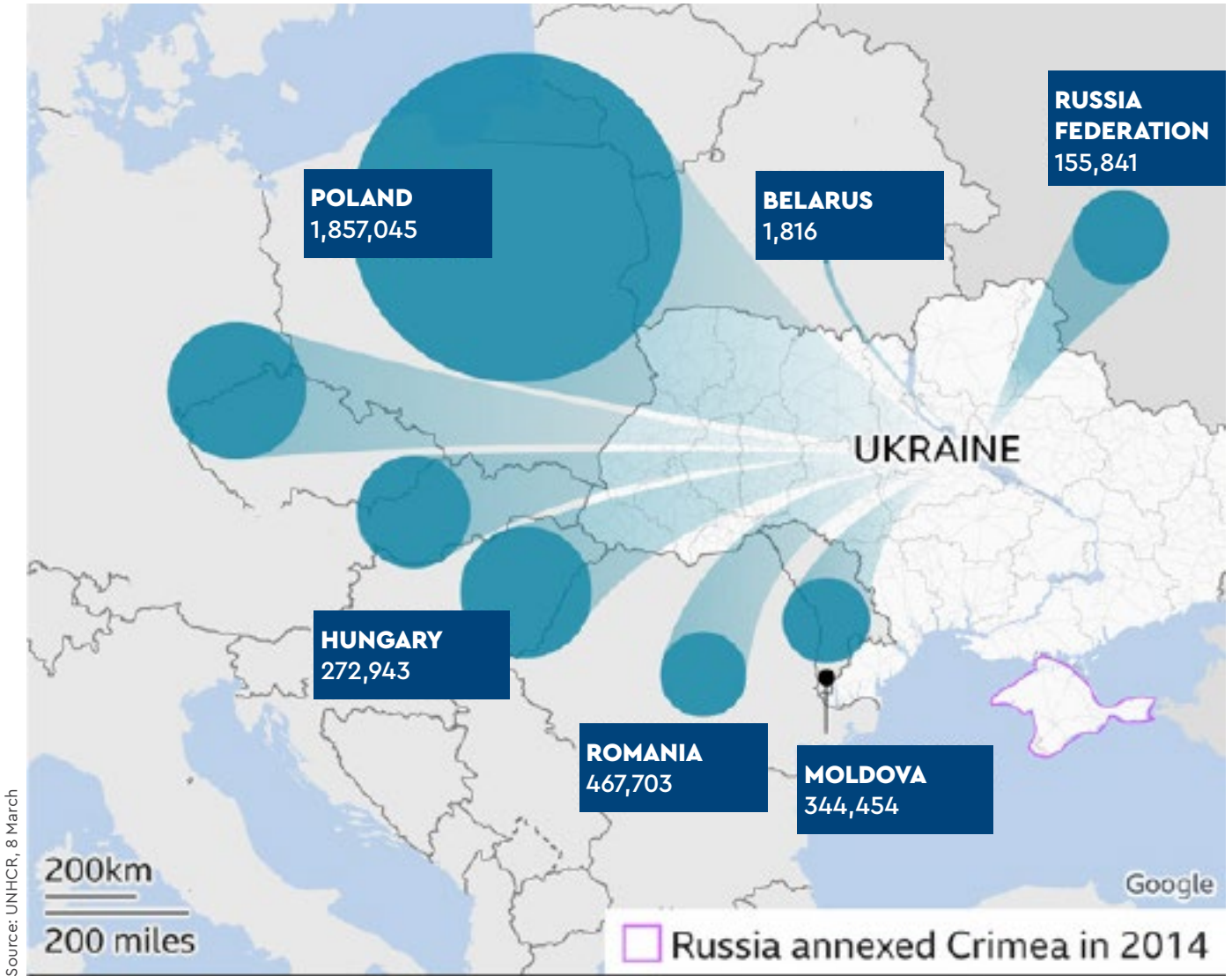
The Russian Federation launched a military offensive against Ukraine on 24 February 2022. In total, prior to the invasion by the Russian military forces, the number of registered internally displaced persons was more than **1.46 million**¹.

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 medicines².

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

² 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 country³.

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.

³ UNHCR, Operational Data Portal – Ukraine Refugee Situation (Source: 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.

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.

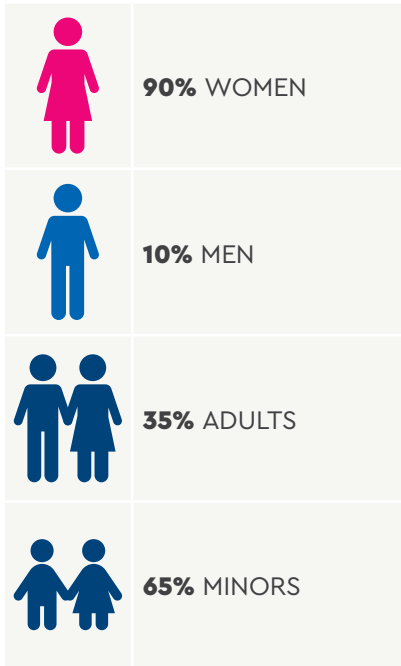
These needs are currently being met by humanitarian actors present in the borders and in the temporary transit centers.

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.



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 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.

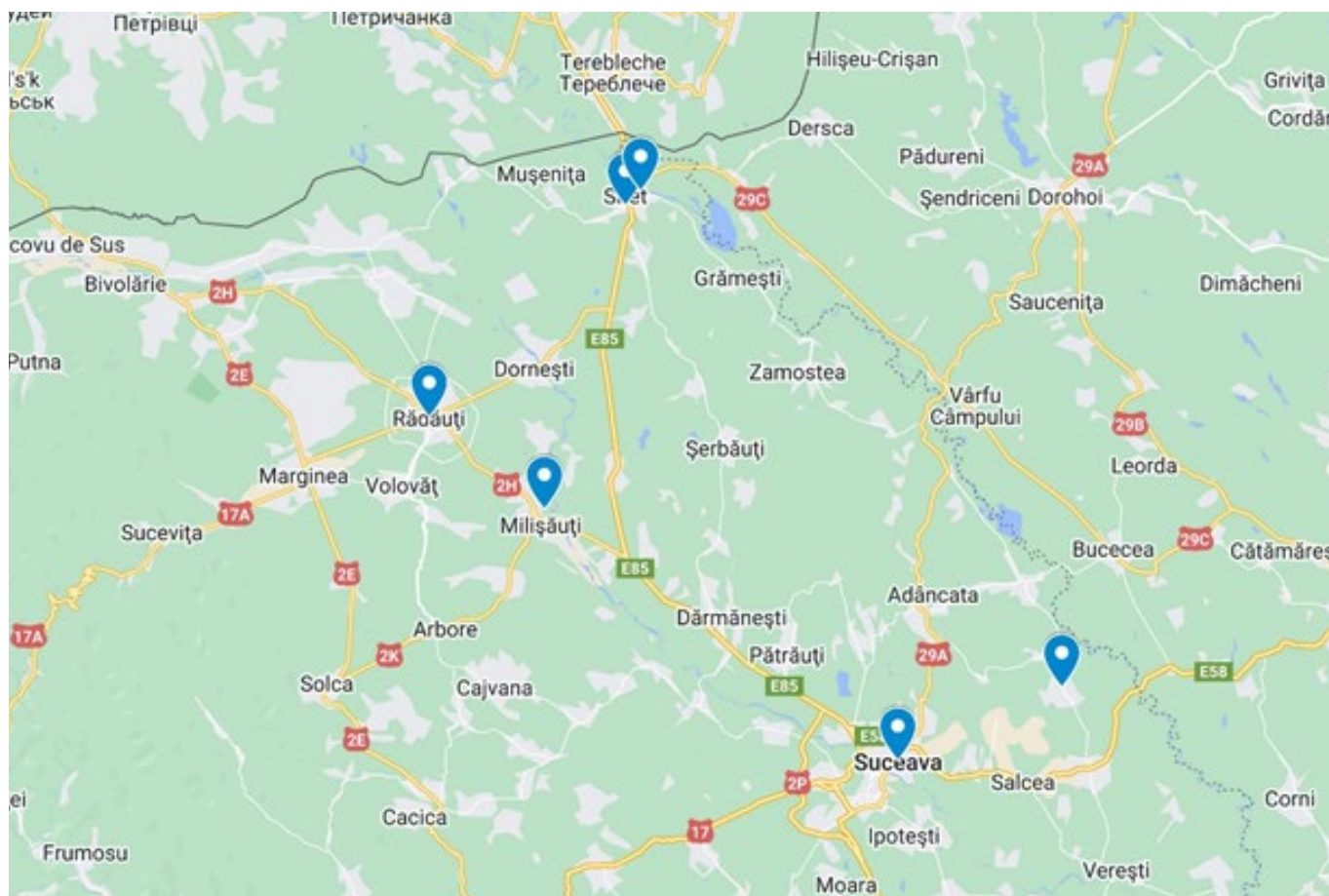
The voluntary medical team consists of a General Practitioner, a Pediatrician, a Gynecologist, a nurse and a midwife while a field coordinator assists the team and represents MdM-Greece in the local working group meetings.

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.

IN GREECE

MdM-Greece has its Open Polyclinics, its housing programmes and its Medical Mobile Units in Athens, Thessaloniki and Kavala for the care and protection of refugees arriving in Greece from Ukraine.

The health and psychosocial support teams already have welcomed and provided assistance to the first wave of Ukrainian citizens arriving in Greece.

In order to better interconnect the refugees, at the Ukrainian Embassy, in Thessaloniki's consulate office, at the bus stations at Karaïskaki Square in Athens, and at Monastiriou Street in Thessaloniki, there are posters with information and a map in Ukrainian, that have been prominently displayed so that those interested can contact Médecins du Monde – Greece directly for assistance.

In the same context, Médecins du Monde – Greece is working to prevent and protect the population against Covid-19 by providing immediate personal protective equipment (PPEs), scheduling Covid-19 vaccinations for those who are interested and conducting rapid diagnostic tests on people concerned.

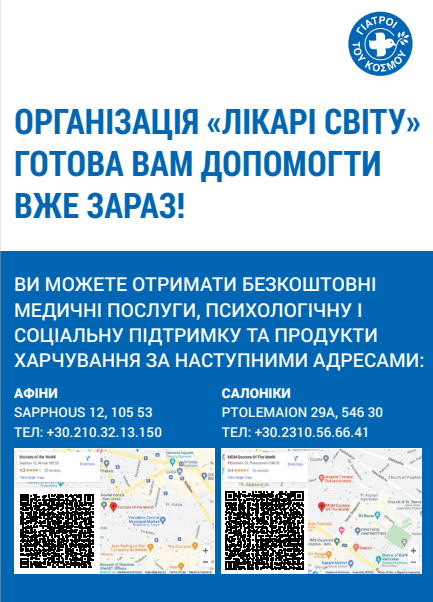
Provision of material aid to Ukrainian Families that already have arrived in Greece is one of the priorities of MDM-Greece in order to cover basic needs of the people while at the same time the Open Accommodation Center A Step Forward is prepared in order to host vulnerable women and mothers and children fleeing from Ukraine to Greece.

The Social Workers of MdM's Help Desk provide appropriate social and administrative support for the Ukrainian citizens who have taken refuge in Greece to date, providing their services on a daily basis in Athens and Thessaloniki, while facilitating their orientation in Greek society.

MdM-Greece is expanding its operations for Ukrainian citizens who continue to be displaced daily, seeking safety and protection in the European Union.

So far, 130 individuals are receiving the necessary services. At the same time MdM-Greece has collected more than 25 metric tons of food items and medical and paramedical supplies for the support and relief of the people of Ukraine.

AS OF 16/03/2022, APPROXIMATELY 11.000 CITIZENS OF UKRAINE HAVE BEEN ARRIVED IN GREECE, THE MAJORITY OF WHOM ARE HOSTED BY THE LOCAL UKRAINIAN COMMUNITY, RELATIVES AND FRIENDS.



The poster features the Médecins du Monde logo in the top right corner. The main text is in Ukrainian and reads: 'ОРГАНІЗАЦІЯ «ЛІКАРІ СВІТУ» ГОТОВА ВАМ ДОПОМОГТИ ВЖЕ ЗАРАЗ!' (The organization 'Doctors of the World' is ready to help you now!). Below this, it states: 'ВИ МОЖЕТЕ ОТРИМАТИ БЕЗКОШТОВНІ МЕДИЧНІ ПОСЛУГИ, ПСИХОЛОГІЧНУ І СОЦІАЛЬНУ ПІДТРИМКУ ТА ПРОДУКТИ ХАРЧУВАННЯ ЗА НАСТУПНИМИ АДРЕСАМИ:' (You can receive free medical services, psychological and social support, and food products at the following addresses:). Two columns of contact information are provided: Athens (SAPPHOUS 12, 105 53, TEL: +30.210.32.13.150) and Thessaloniki (PTOLEMAION 29A, 546 30, TEL: +30.2310.56.66.41). At the bottom, there are two QR codes and two maps showing the locations of the centers in Athens and Thessaloniki.

Poster with information and map in Ukrainian



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