





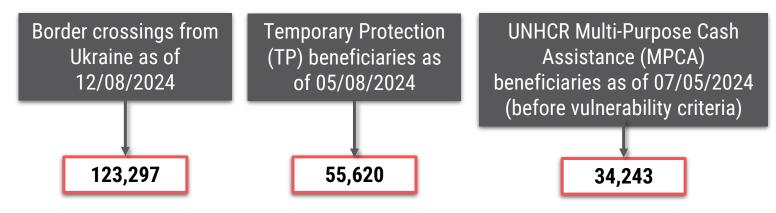








- Lack of complete and accurate figures of the total number of refugees from Ukraine in Moldova.
- Number of refugees in Refugee Accommodation Centres (RACs) known but lack of data on those living in rented accommodation or with host families. RAC consolidation increasing this imbalance.
- Humanitarian actors using **competing figures** of the total number of refugees and their geographical distribution:



• Affects efficient planning and resource allocation for humanitarian programmes targeting refugees in Moldova and prevents representative sampling for assessments.

Total number of refugees from Ukraine currently in Moldova

Border crossings (12/08/2024): 123,297

Refugees remaining in MDA in the last 90 days (March 2024): ~76,000

Temporary Protection
Beneficiaries (05/08/2024): 55,260

MPCA beneficiaries (07/05/2024): 34,243

RPoP (May-June 2024): 32,188

Disclaimer: Please note that some refugee population in certain databases may not be included in larger databases

Objectives and Methodology

Specific Objectives



Provide more accurate, up-to-date and updatable* estimates of the total number of refugees from Ukraine that are currently residing in Moldova.



Provide the geographic distribution at the settlement level of refugees from Ukraine who are currently residing in Moldova.



Identify gaps in coverage of refugees from Ukraine who are currently residing in Moldova in existing official databases and understand the factors behind these gaps.

Methodology

Phase:

- **Triangulation of databases** on the number of refugees in Moldova
- **Key informant interviews (KIIs)** in settlements identified as having information gaps in Phase 1; extrapolation of findings to unsampled settlements; and deriving estimates

- *The objective of providing updatable estimates could not be achieved due to:
 - 1. Overlapping factors that influence the influx and movement patterns of refugees in each settlement in Moldova which made patterns difficult to identify and quantify.
 - 2. Changes in coverage of triangulated databases (MPCA eligibility and vulnerability criteria).

Phase 1: Database triangulation

- 1. We gathered existing databases with residence information on refugees from Ukraine living in Moldova (settlement-level).
- 2. Databases were consolidated into four master databases based on minimal overlap.
- 3. Outlier settlements were identified by comparing databases and identifying large discrepancies between them. These were taken to indicate an information gap on the actual number of refugees.

Master Database	Last updated	# of individuals	Coverage
Temporary Protection (TP)	2024-03-26	40,220	TP beneficiaries nationwide
Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance (MPCA)	2024-04-12	37,808	MPCA beneficiaries nationwide including Transnistria (UNHCR + IOM)
Area Monitoring (AM)	2023-12 (AM) 2024-03-25 (RAC)	8,737	All refugees registered with the local social assistance departments in all raions except Chisinau and Transnistria + Refugees living in accredited RACs
Accommodation (ACC)	End of 2023 (cash programmes) 2024-03-25 (RAC)	22,237	Cash-for-rent beneficiaries of Acted, CRS and IOM + Cash-for-host beneficiaries of CRS and WFP + Refugees living in accredited RACs

Database limitations

Risk of <u>inaccuracy</u> due to

residence.

Limitations

Potential for falsified residence information since a self-declaration is sufficient as proof of

of

individuals

40,220

Coverage

TP beneficiaries

Last

updated

2024-

Database

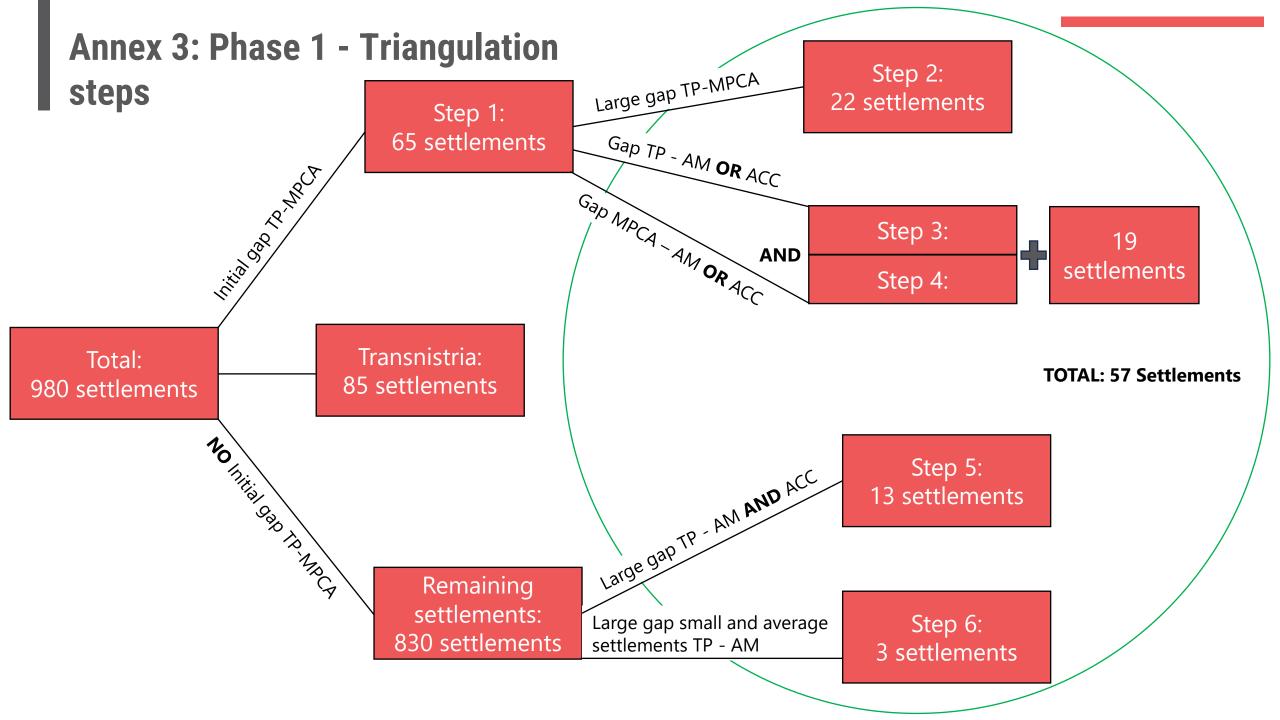
beneficiaries

beneficiaries (IGM)	03-26	40,220	nationwide	 Address of residence is rarely updated or verified except by self-declaration by beneficiaries. Risk of <u>overrepresentation</u> of refugees that may have moved to another country since removal of 45-day limit being out of the country would remain in the database.
UNHCR MPCA	2024- 04-12	34,856	MPCA beneficiaries nationwide	Risk of <u>underrepresentation</u> due to • Registration bias – only refugees that applied for cash assistance are included. Risk of <u>overrepresentation</u> due to potential beneficiaries who may have been crossing the border from Ukraine to access cash assistance in Moldova although they live in Ukraine. Risk of <u>inaccuracy</u> due to lacking a mechanism for verifying the residence address of beneficiaries.
IOM MPCA	2024- 04-19	4,743	MPCA beneficiaries in the Transnistrian region	Risk of <u>underrepresentation</u> due to registration bias – only refugees that applied for cash assistance are included. Risk of <u>inaccuracy</u> due to lacking a mechanism for verifying the residence address of beneficiaries.
Area Monitoring (REACH)	2023-12	7,745	Refugees living outside of RACs in all raions except Chisinau and the Transnistrian region	Risk of <u>inaccuracy</u> due to Respondent bias Data may be outdated since the last update was in December 2023 Risk of <u>underrepresentation</u> due to registration bias – only includes refugees that registered at their city/village halls. Risk of <u>overrepresentation</u> due to lacking a standardised mechanism for updating the database.

Database	Last updated	# of individuals	Coverage	Limitations	
RAC Monitoring (Acted, UNHCR)	2024- 03-25	2,277	All refugees living in accredited RACs in all raions in Moldova, except the Transnistrian region	Risk of <u>underrepresentation</u> as it does not cover refugees living in unaccredited RACs.	
WFP Cash- for-Host beneficiaries	2023-12	12,552	All refugees living with Moldovan host households that registered on UAHelp.md. All raions except the Transnistrian region, Hîncești, laloveni and Soroca.	Risk of <u>underrepresentation</u> due to registration bias – does not cover all refugees living in Moldovan households. Risk of <u>inaccuracy</u> and <u>overrepresentation</u> due to potential for falsified residence information as the database is updated via SMS to hosts and refugees.	
CRS Cash- for-Host beneficiaries	2024- 01-01	2,395	All refugees living with Moldovan host households that registered on UAHelp.md. Covers Briceni, Chişinău, Dondușeni, Edineţ, Hînceşti, Ialoveni, Ocniţa, Soroca and Ungheni.	Risk of <u>underrepresentation</u> due to registration bias – does not cover all refugees living in Moldovan households. <u>Lower risk of inaccuracy and overrepresentation</u> due to monthly door-to-door reverification of 30% of caseload. Beneficiaries in Edineţ, Ungheni and Donduşeni may overlap with WFPs due to just handing over to them.	
CRS Cash- for-Rent beneficiaries	2024- 01-01	2,429	Refugees living in rented	Risk of <u>underrepresentation</u> due to registration bias and selection criteria – must express a willingness to stay in Moldova for more than 6 months from the moment	
TOT-RANT	2024- 03-06	2,343	accommodation in Moldova registered as beneficiaries of CRS', IOM's or Acted's cash-for-rent	of registration and can cover their rent independently after assistance ends. As such retired refugees or refugees with disabilities who are unable to work are usually left out from being beneficiaries of this programme. Additionally, it prioritises vulnerable members of the refugee population and people exiting from RACs.	
Acted Cash- for-Rent beneficiaries	2023-12	1,394	programme.	Lower risk of overrepresentation due to regular follow-ups and deduplication through the UNCHR RAIS platform.	

Triangulation steps

Step	Method
1	TP and MPCA were compared. Settlements that had both more than 10 refugees' difference and more than 20% difference between the databases were identified.
2	Of the 65 settlements identified from Step 1, those in which there was a difference of more than 25 refugees and more than 50% between TP and MPCA were considered as having an information gap regardless of similarities with other databases.
3	For settlements from Step 1 that were not flagged for extreme differences in Step 2, TP was compared with ACC and AM. If either of them had more than 10 refugees' difference and more than 20% difference, step 4 was applied.
4	For settlements that did not meet the criteria in Step 3, MPCA was compared with ACC and AM, and if either of them had more than 10 refugees' difference, and more than 20% difference, this was considered as an information gap.
5	For the 830 remaining settlements that were not flagged in Step 1 and where TP and MPCA are similar, TP was compared to ACC and AM, and if both had more than 25 refugees' and more than 30% difference from TP, this was considered as an information gap.
6	In all small and average settlements in which TP is more than 25 refugees' and more than 50% larger than AM, this was considered as an information gap.



Phase 2: Klls

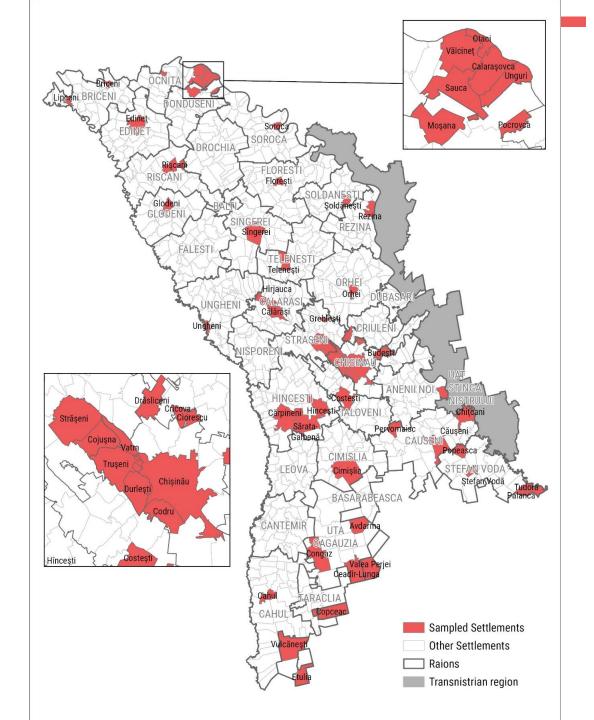
1. 57 sampled settlements across 27 Raions.

Size classification of settlements	Highest # of refugees in TP and MPCA databases	Target # of Klls
Small	10 to 49	1
Average	50 to 200	2
Large	201 and above	3

2. Due to operational challenges (see next slide), 103 out of 117 KIIs were done.

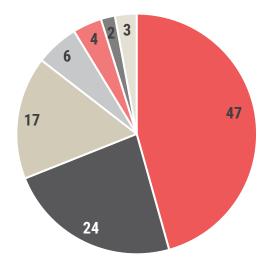
Scoping criteria:

- ✓ **OVERSIGHT** over the majority of the total population of refugees in the settlement of interest (Small to Large settlements)
- ✓ **OWN DATABASE** that has been recently updated of refugees inside the settlement, outside of the received databases in Phase 1 (Average to Large settlements)



KII Data collection

Type of KIs



- Social worker
- Local authority rep.
- Local NGO rep.
- Community Centre/RAC staff
- INGO rep.
- Church rep.
- Other

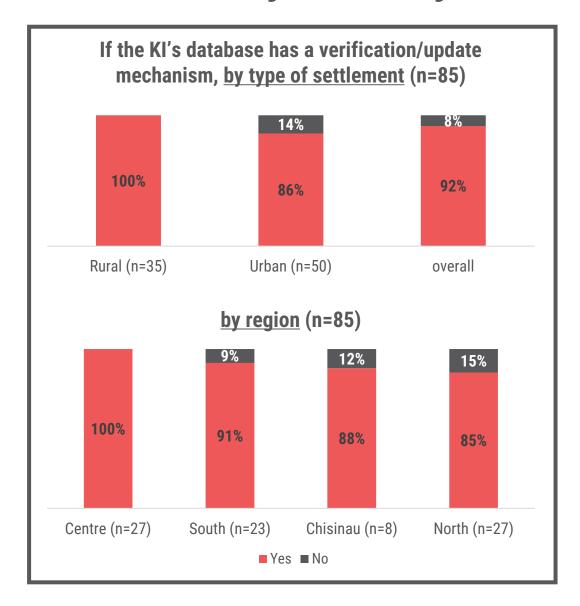
Challenges in data collection for KIIs:

- Meeting the target in Chisinau city and border settlements.
- Few mentioned that there were refugees in the settlement that were **under- or over- represented** in official databases, and even fewer were willing to give an estimate of how many of these there were.

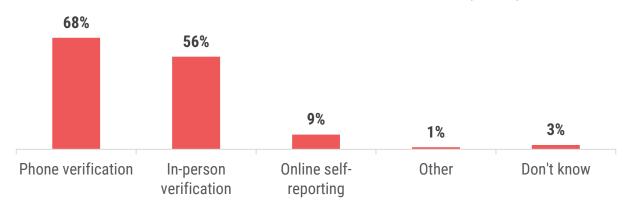
Underachieved KIIs:

No.	Region	admin1	admin2	Settlement size	Target # Klls	KIIs Done
1	Centre	Soldanesti	Soldanesti	Small	1	0
2	Centre	Straseni	Straseni	Average	2	1
3	Centre	Rezina	Rezina	Large	3	1
4	Chisinau	Chisinau	Chisinau	Large	3	1
5	Chisinau	Chisinau	Codru	Average	2	1
6	Chisinau	Chisinau	Durlesti	Large	3	0
7	Chisinau	Chisinau	Truseni	Average	2	1
8	North	Ocnita	Calarasovca	Large	3	2
9	North	Ocnita	Valcinet	Large	3	2
10	South	UTA Gagauzia	Copceac	Average	2	1
11	South	UTA Gagauzia	Etulia	Average	2	1
12	South	UTA Gagauzia	Vulcanesti	Large	3	2
13	South	UTA Gagauzia	Ceadir-Lunga	Large	3	2
14	South	Causeni	Causeni	Large	3	2
15	South	Stefan Voda	Stefan Voda	Large	3	2
16	South	Stefan Voda	Palanca	Average	2	1

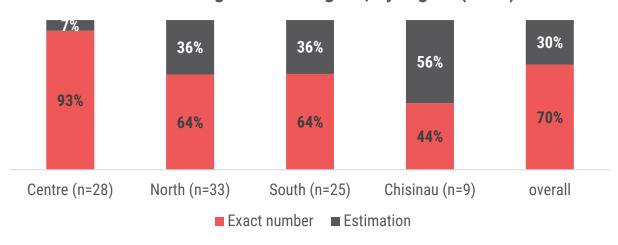
Reliability of key informants' databases







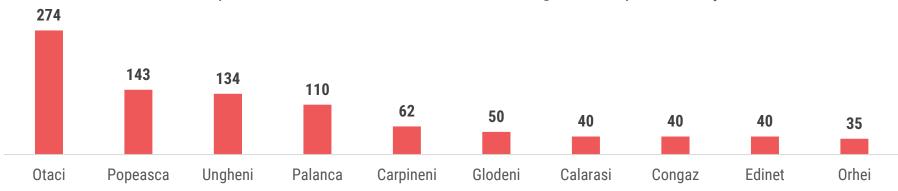
KIs providing exact numbers or estimations on the total number of registered refugees, by region (n=95)





Movement patterns

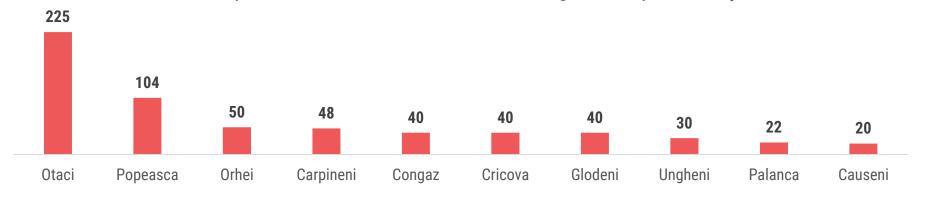
Top 10 settlements by approx. no. of refugees that **arrived in** the settlement in the 3 months prior to data collection based on the highest no. provided by KIs



Top reason for arriving in the settlement according to KIs (n=62):

Family (48%)

Top 10 settlements by approx. no. of refugees that **moved out** of the settlement in the 3 months prior to data collection based on the highest no. provided by KIs



Top reason for moving out of the settlement according to KIs (n=47):

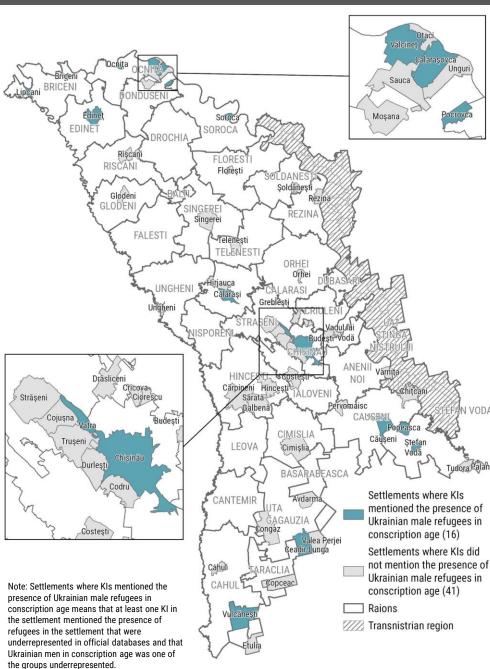
Returning to Ukraine (70%)

Settlements with overrepresented refugees Settlements with underrepresented refugees Settlements with both over and underrepresented refugees (11) Settlements with neither over nor underrepresented refugees (23) the presence of refugees in their settlement that were Transnistrian region

Under- & overrepresented refugees (according to KIs)

- The presence of refugees underrepresented in official databases was reported most in the **North** (16 KIs), followed by the South (7 KIs), Chisinau (5 KIs) and the Centre (4 KIs).
- The presence of refugees overrepresented in official databases was reported most in the **North** (14 KIs), followed by the South (11 KIs), the Centre (3 KIs) and Chisinau (2 KIs).

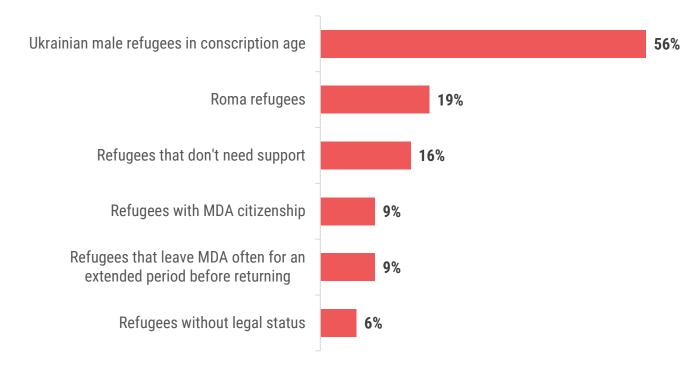
Settlements with **Ukrainian men in conscription age** that are underrepresented in official databases according to KIIs



Underrepresented refugees

(according to KIs)

Groups of refugees underrepresented in official databases in each settlement, according to KIs that mentioned the presence of underrepresented refugees (n=32)



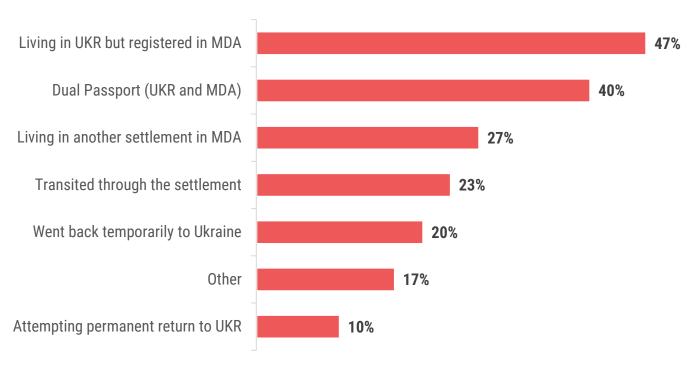
Settlements with refugees overrepresented in official databases due to **living** in **Ukraine** according to KIIs

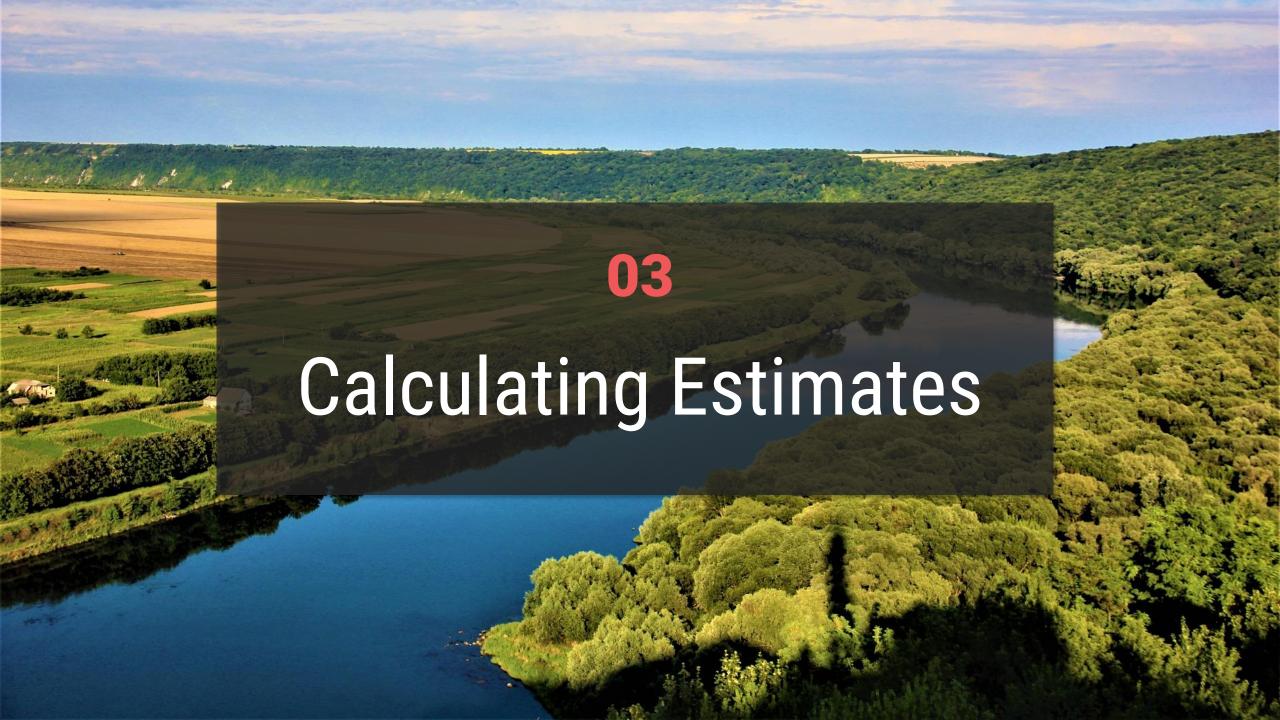


Overrepresented refugees

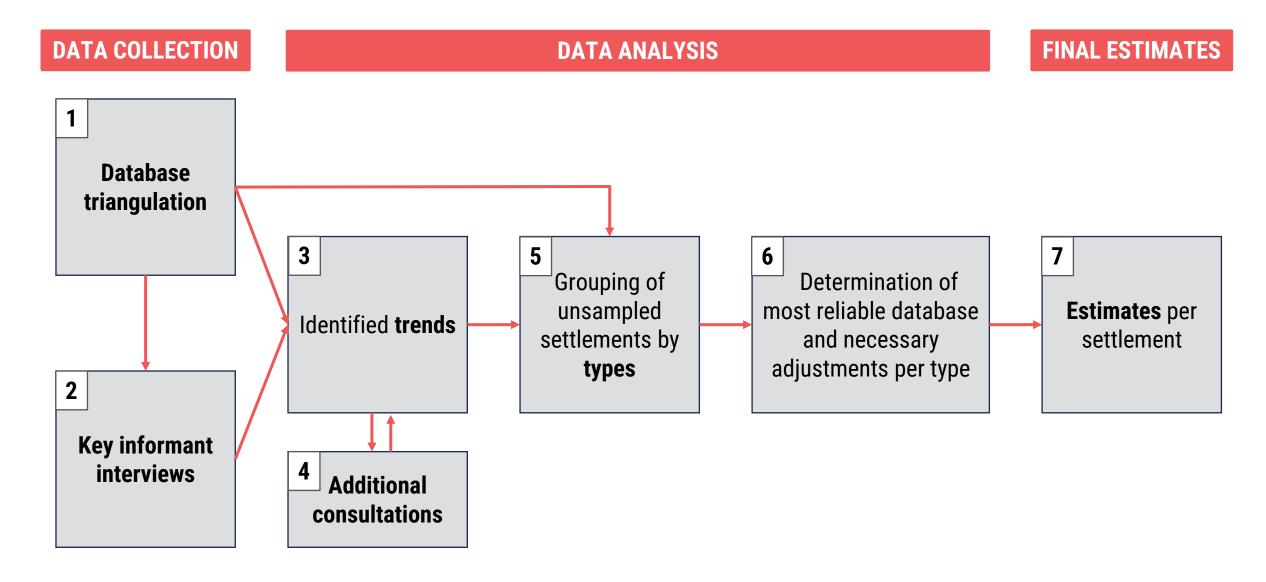
(according to KIs)

Reasons why refugees are overrepresented in official databases, according to KIs that mentioned the presence of overrepresented refugees (n=30)





Methodology for calculating estimates



Identified trends

1. Proximity and connectivity to Otaci border crossing

Very high overrepresentation in MPCA and TP databases (up to 20x more) likely due to beneficiaries crossing the border to collect assistance even though they live in Ukraine.

2. High level of transit

Mainly in larger settlements. AM and TP databases considered a less reliable source, due to higher movement patterns.

3. Presence of an MPCA enrolment centre

High overrepresentation in MPCA and TP databases likely due to **refugees registering their addresses where they enrol for MPCA** even though they live in other settlements in Moldova, or they live in Ukraine and have no address in Moldova.

4. Proximity and connectivity to border with UKR, ROM and Transnistria

Overrepresentation in MPCA and TP likely due to beneficiaries registered in Moldova that are living in Ukraine, Romania or Transnistria.

5. Raional capitals

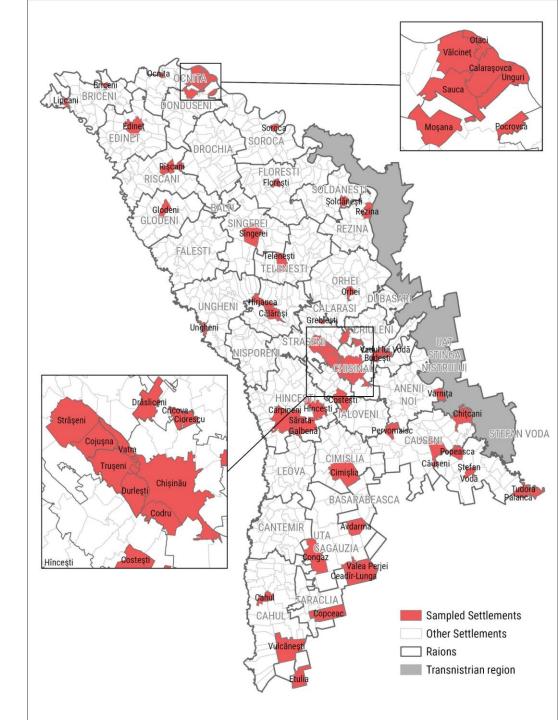
Especially those well-connected to surrounding settlements show overrepresented MPCA and TP databases likely due to refugees **registering their addresses as the nearest cities** if they live in smaller settlements. Underrepresentation expected in surrounding settlements.

6. Proximity to Chişinău city

Underrepresentation in MPCA database likely due to refugees **registering their addresses as Chisinau**. TP database considered less up to date. KIs appear to lack oversight compared to those in other settlements.

7. Presence of a RAC

Databases and KII number more reliable when the majority of refugees live in RACs.



Reliability levels of estimates

Reliability level	# of Settlements	Description	Explanation	
Very High	14	This reliability level refers to a very high confidence level, and the number is crossed referenced from at least one additional source.	Expect comprehensive coverage of refugees in the settlement, verified by multiple sources.	
High	768	The source that is used is reliable and the number provided is accurate within small ranges.	Estimates are highly reliable with a potential error margin.	
Medium High	12	The number is based on a database that is accurate for the trend and settlement, and doesn't alternate too much from other reliable sources.	Data aligns well with other credible sources, showing minimal discrepancies	
Medium	164	The number provided would fall between ranges, but is affected by trends and other circumstances.	Estimates are reasonably reliable but may be influenced by external factors and trends.	
Medium Low	21	The number is linked to a database with a medium validity and cannot be crosschecked through an alternative source.	Confidence in data is moderate; cross- referencing is limited, making verification challenging.	
Low	1	A database is used with a low validity, without alternative data in a region with high trends.	Numbers are indicative but may have significant inaccuracies due to low data validity.	

Extrapolation Types

Туре	Name	Database used	# of settlements	Reliability				
	Sampled settlements							
		Type 1: KIIs (57)						
1.1	KII without adjustments	KII	47	Customised				
1.2	KII with adjustment	KII +20%	4	Medium High				
1.3	KII low reliability	Considered with non-sampled	6					
		Non-sampled settlement	ts					
		Type 2: Transnistrian region (85)					
2.1	Transnistrian region	Take TP	85	Medium				
		Type 3: Chişinău Municipality	(15)					
3.1	Chișinău city	MPCA -15% -5% +20%	1	Low				
3.2	Non sampled Chişinău settlements	Take TP or Take CRS (C4R & C4H)	14	Medium – Medium Low				
		Type 4: Raional capitals (14	-)					
4.1	Raional capitals with enrolment centres for MPCA	Take AM	3	Medium Low				
4.2	Raional capitals close to a border	MPCA -25%	5	Medium High				
4.3	Raional capitals without trends	Average of: MPCA -25% and TP - 10%	6	Medium High				

Extrapolation Types

Туре	Name	Database used	# of settlements	Reliability				
	Non-sampled settlements							
		Type 5: Average-sized settleme	nts (6)					
5.1	Average settlements close to UKR	Take AM	2	Medium Low				
5.2	Average settlements without trends	Take MPCA	4	Medium High				
		Type 6: Small-sized settlements	(809)					
6.1	Small settlements close to the border (UKR, ROM, Transnistria)	Take AM	24	Medium				
6.2	Small settlements close to rational capital	Take the highest number between TP, MPCA and AM	46	Medium				
6.3	Small settlements with 0 refugees in AM	If MPCA <= 10, take MPCA If MPCA > 10, and TP > 0 and <= 10, take TP If MPCA > 10 and TP = 0, take AM (zero) If MPCA > 10 and TP > 10, take MPCA	110	High				
6.4	AM large difference with TP	If AM >0 and the difference with AM and TP >10, the number that is closest to MPCA will be taken	8	High				
6.5	Small settlements without trends	Take AM	621	High				

DISCLAIMER!: The following estimates should be interpreted as a **conservative approach** to estimating the number of refugees in Moldova. Although data was gathered from a diverse range of sources for both the triangulation of databases and KIIs, the majority were providing data on beneficiaries of social assistance services or humanitarian programmes for refugees. Based on responses of the KIs and additional consultations, adjustments were made to the number provided by KIIs or the database number used for the estimate to account for refugees not covered in these services and programmes. However, it is unclear the actual extent to which such refugees are accounted for in the estimates.

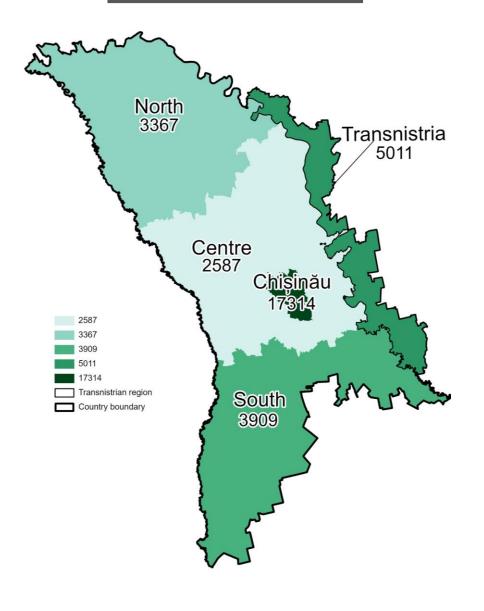
The following groups of refugees are expected to be less accurately covered in the estimates due to lack of data on them:

- > Refugees without Temporary Protection status in Moldova and not beneficiaries of local social services or humanitarian programmes due to:
- > Wanting to remain **anonymous**
- > Uncertain regarding their length of stay in Moldova
- > Do **not intend to stay** over six months in Moldova
- > Not eligible for TP and humanitarian programmes for refugees
- > Regularly traveling between Ukraine and Moldova on a tourist visa
- > **Do not want** humanitarian assistance





RPoP Estimates by Region



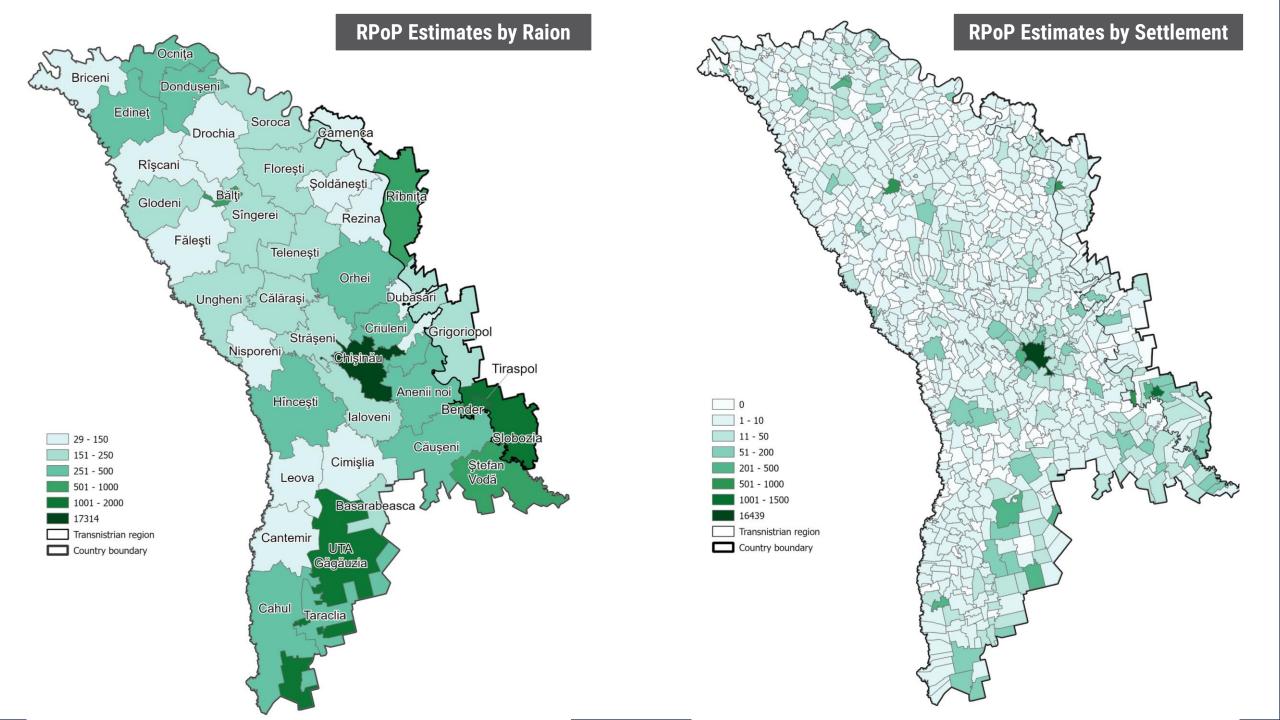
Estimates

National

Database	RPoP estimates	Reliability	TP	MPCA
Moldova nationwide	32188	Medium Low	40220	37808
Difference with RPoP			+8032	+5620

Regional

Region	RPoP estimates	Reliability	TP	MPCA
North	3367	Medium	5744	6705
Centre	2587	High	3110	3578
Chisinau	17314	Low	21563	17245
South	3909	Medium High	4792	4958
Transnistria	5011	Medium	5011	5322



% Difference between RPoP estimates and TP and MPCA

I P allu MPC	A	
•		
Ocnita Briceni Donduşeni Edinet Drochia	Soroca Camerica	Bender
Rîşcani Băl Glodeni Făleşti	Floreşti Soldăneşti Rezina Rezina Orhei	ibnita
	ni Călărași Strășeni Criu Nisporeni Chișinău	Dubasari Jeni Grigoriopol Anenii Noi
MPCA TP	Hînceşti laloveni Cimişlia Leova	Sloboz Căuşeni Ştefan Vodă
- 0 - +1% to +50% - +51% to +100% - +100%+ - Raion - Transnistrian region - Country boundary	Cantemir UTA Găgăuzia Cahul Taraclia	>

spol	
555	
lobozia	
lobozia	
I was	

Raion

Anenii Noi	381	
Balti	827	
Basarabeasca	241	
Briceni	130	
Cahul	379	
Calarasi	161	
Cantemir	77	
Causeni	323	
Chisinau	17314	
Cimislia	146	
Criuleni	327	
Donduseni	439	
Drochia	143	
Dubasari	29	
Edinet	337	
Falesti	145	
Floresti	151	
Glodeni	242	
Hincesti	277	
Ialoveni	215	
Leova	46	

+28%
+107%
+22%
+68%
+112%
+30%
+1%
+102%
0%
+25%
+4%
+107%
+36%
+114%
-6%
+12%
+10%
-16%
+8%
+20%
+15%

MPCA

RPoP estimates

+27%	Nisporeni
+90%	Ocnita
+15%	Orhei
+32%	Rezina
+137%	Riscani
+32%	Singerei
-3%	Soldanesti
+66%	Soroca
+25%	Stefan Voda
+8%	Straseni
+25%	Taraclia
+80%	Telenesti
+40%	Ungheni
+34%	UTA Gagauzia
-32%	Bender
+14%	Camenca
-11%	Dubasari (Transnistria)
	(Transmistra)
-12%	Grigoriopol
-12% +13%	
	Grigoriopol

Raion

TP

+17%

Tiraspol

RPoP estimates

111

492

339

124

106

158

46

197

695

226

343

164

187

1659

797

93

163

156

800

1063

1939

MPCA

-4%

+346%

+25%

+373%

+40%

+27%

+39%

+43%

+7%

+9%

+19%

-19%

+92%

+5%

+43%

-12%

-54%

+13%

-27%

+10%

+9%

TP

+23%

+276%

+6%

+28%

+3%

-27%

-24%

-2%

-13%

+23%

+5%

-2%

+43%

+10%

0%

0%

0%

0%

0%

0%

0%

Raions ranked by number of refugees

Ranking	Raion	RPoP estimates	Reliability
1	Chisinau	17314	Low
2	Tiraspol	1939	Medium
3	UTA Gagauzia	1659	Medium
4	Slobozia	1063	Medium
5	Balti	827	Medium Low
6	Ribnita	800	Medium
7	Bender	797	Medium
8	Stefan Voda	695	Medium High
9	Ocnita	492	Medium High
10	Donduseni	438	Medium
11	Cahul	379	Medium
12	Anenii Noi	381	Medium High
13	Taraclia	343	Medium High
14	Orhei	339	Medium High
15	Edinet	337	Medium
16	Criuleni	327	High
17	Causeni	323	High
18	Hincesti	277	High
19	Glodeni	242	Medium High
20	Basarabeasca	241	Medium High
21	Straseni	226	High

Ranking	Raion	RPoP estimates	Reliability
22	laloveni	215	High
23	Soroca	197	Medium High
24	Ungheni	187	Medium High
25	Telenesti	164	High
26	Dubasari (Transnistria)	163	Medium
27	Calarasi	161	High
28	Singerei	158	High
29	Grigoriopol	156	Medium
30	Floresti	151	High
31	Cimislia	146	Medium High
32	Falesti	145	Medium High
33	Drochia	143	Medium High
34	Briceni	130	Medium High
35	Rezina	124	Medium
36	Nisporeni	111	Medium High
37	Riscani	106	High
38	Camenca	93	Medium
39	Cantemir	77	High
40	Leova	46	High
41	Soldanesti	46	Medium High
42	Dubasari	29	High

Limitations

Conservative Estimation

Reallocation of Overrepresented Refugees

• In large settlements (Chisinau and rational capitals) where the database numbers were underrepresented to account for overrepresentation of refugees that register there but live in other settlements, the refugees were not reallocated elsewhere due to lacking information on where they actually live and how many they are.

Potentially Excluded Groups

Protection status in Moldova and not beneficiaries of local social services or humanitarian programmes due to: Wanting to remain anonymous, uncertain regarding their length of stay in Moldova, do not intend to stay over six months in Moldova, not eligible for TP and humanitarian programmes for refugees, regularly traveling between Ukraine and Moldova on a tourist visa, do not want humanitarian assistance.

Quality of KIIs Affects Accuracy

Unequal Levels of Oversight

• KIs in some settlements, especially larger ones may have limited oversight on the total population of refugees in the settlement.

Interpretation of KII Questions

• Enumerators observed that KIs interpreted questions about under- and overrepresented refugees to be referring to their own database, rather than TP and MPCA as originally intended. This was accounted for as much as possible when calculating the estimates for sampled settlements.

Extrapolation Inaccuracies

Complexity of Settlement Dynamics:

• Full settlement dynamics may not be captured, leading to inaccuracies in unsampled areas.

Snapshot in Time:

• Estimates are only a snapshot in time and therefore, may already be outdated in areas with high transit rates.

Reliability of Final Estimates

Dependence on Database Coverage:

Reliability limited by the coverage and quality of databases used.

Representative Nature:

• Findings are not representative and only indicative.

Joint Analysis Workshop – Key takeaways





1. Data Management

2. Interorganisational Coordination & Cooperation



3. Advocacy and Collaboration with National Actors

Thank you for your attention



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