

Refugee Population Profiling Assessment: Maps of Estimates at Regional, Raional and Settlement Levels

October 2024 | Republic of Moldova

Context & Rationale

Since the escalation of the conflict in Ukraine on 24 February 2022, there has been no exact count of the total population of refugees from Ukraine in the Republic of Moldova. According to the Border Police, 123,729 refugees from Ukraine are recorded to be in Moldova as of 29 September 2024. As of 30 September 2024, 60,209 refugees have received Temporary Protection (TP) status, while another 11,971 have other types of legal status, accumulating to 72,180 refugees. Since 2022, UNHCR and IOM provided monthly multi-purpose cash assistance (MPCA) to refugees from Ukraine. 37,808 refugees were registered in April 2024, prior to the implementation of vulnerability criteria. Although these figures come from official and trusted sources, they are based on different data collection methods with their own limitations, resulting in significantly varying numbers of the total refugee population. Consequently, humanitarian actors have been using competing figures and lack a single, reliable data source for planning and resource allocation for activities targeting refugees.

The Refugee Population Profiling (RPoP) assessment aimed to identify the limitations in coverage in existing refugee databases, understand the reasons behind these gaps, and how this has led to the existence of conflicting figures. Additionally, this assessment aimed to generate more accurate and up-to-date estimates of the refugee population in Moldova at a settlement level, following a transparent methodology. This information intends to bring an evidence-based perspective to inform planning and resource allocation for the humanitarian response, but should be viewed within the wider context of other information sources mentioned above.

Methodology Overview

The methodology of this assessment consisted of three phases. **Database Triangulation:** Data on refugees from Ukraine in Moldova was gathered from various official sources and consolidated into four master databases. These master databases were triangulated and 57 settlements were identified with significant discrepancies in refugee numbers.

Key Informant Interviews (KIIs): 103 KIIs were conducted between May-June 2024 in these settlements to gather information on the total refugee population, reasons behind discrepancies in official data on refugees in that settlement, and refugee movement patterns. Responses were analysed to identify trends, and further consultations

with partner organisations were conducted to help clarify gaps.

Derivation of Estimates: Numbers provided by KIIs were aggregated to estimate refugee numbers in sampled settlements. To estimate the number of refugees in all other settlements in Moldova, these were grouped according to similarity with the sampled settlements. The trends identified in the sampled settlements were extrapolated to the unsampled settlements to determine the most reliable of the four master databases per group. The database numbers were then adjusted per group to account for potential under- or overrepresented refugees.

For a detailed explanation on the methodology of this assessment, see the [Methodology Note](#) and [Terms of Reference](#).

***IMPORTANT TO NOTE:** The RPoP Assessment took a conservative approach to estimating the number of refugees in Moldova. The estimates rely on data of refugee beneficiaries of social assistance services or humanitarian programmes. While adjustments were made to account for refugees that are likely not covered in these services and programmes, the actual extent to which such refugees are accounted for is unclear. The following groups of refugees are expected to be less accurately covered in the estimates: Refugees without TP status and that are not beneficiaries of local social services or humanitarian programmes, including those that:

- Want to remain anonymous;
- Are uncertain regarding their length of stay in Moldova;
- Do not intend to stay over six months in Moldova;
- Are not eligible for TP and humanitarian programmes;
- Are regularly travelling abroad; and
- Don't want humanitarian assistance.

See additional outputs of this assessment below:

- [Brief](#)
- [Estimates and Trends Database](#)
- [Key Findings Presentation](#)

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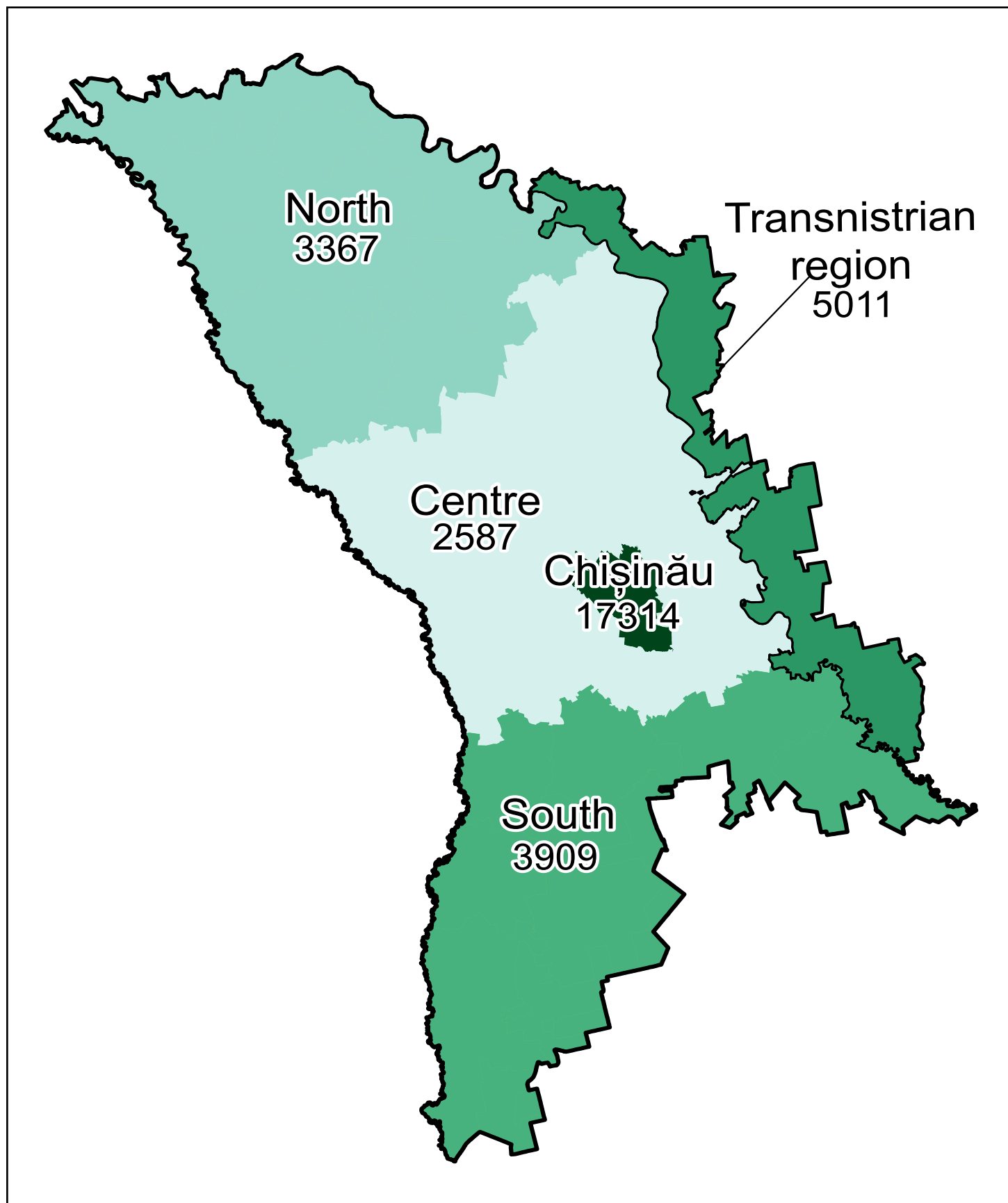


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ESTIMATES OF THE TOTAL NUMBER OF REFUGEES FROM UKRAINE IN MOLDOVA*

REGION-LEVEL ESTIMATES | AS OF MAY/JUNE 2024



*See note regarding the limitations of the estimates in the first page.



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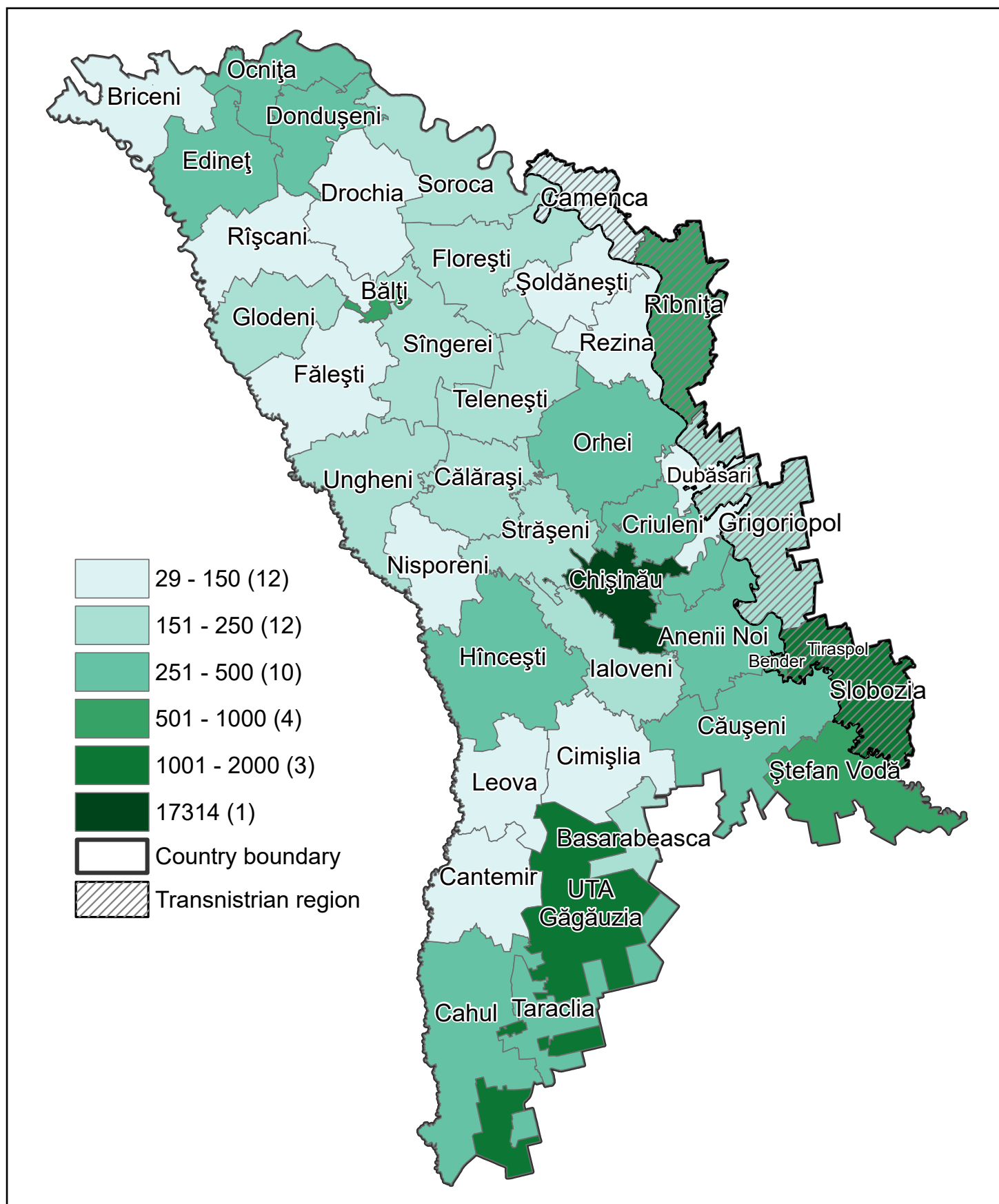


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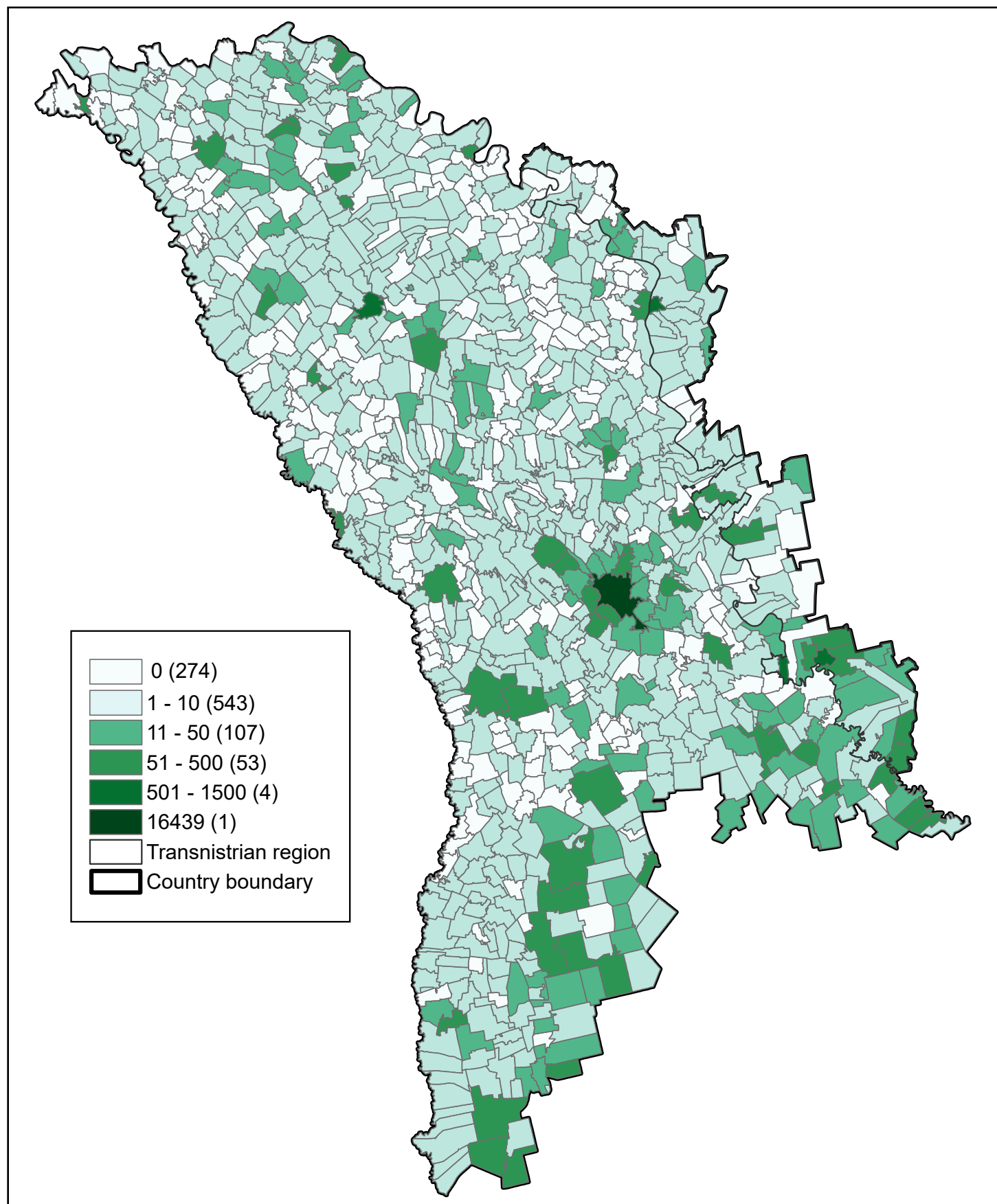
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SETTLEMENT-LEVEL ESTIMATES | AS OF MAY/JUNE 2024



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