FACTSHEET

SOCIO-ECONOMIC INSIGHTS SURVEY (SEIS) 2025

NOVEMBER 2025 | REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

KEY MESSAGES

- The majority of respondents (**97%**) reported that all Ukrainian household members h**eld temporary protection status**, while **1%** had a**pplied and were awaiting a decision**.
- Although **90%** of respondents reported having a **very good or good relationship** with the host community, **9%** of households reported that at least one member had **experienced hostile behaviour or attitudes** in the past 12 months.
- During the 2024/25 school year, respondents indicated that **61%** of Ukrainian children and young people aged 3 to 24 (n=298) were attending a **school that is part of the Moldovan education system**.
- Approximately one third (**36%**) of household members aged 15 and above (n=817) were reportedly **employed**.
- Overall (n=499), the majority of respondents (**88%**) reported that their eligible Ukrainian household members **did not have, and were not able to use, state-provided health insurance**.

CONTEXT & RATIONALE

The SEIS aims to inform the **Ukraine Situation Regional Refugee Response Plan (RRP) 2026**. It seeks to provide up-to-date multi-sectoral data about the needs and coping capacities of refugee households displaced from Ukraine in Moldova following the escalation of the conflict in February 2022. This data will also **inform various stakeholders and programmes of humanitarian and development actors** active in the response.

The SEIS follows the regional approach established by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Regional Bureau for Europe (RBE), using a harmonised questionnaire to enable comparisons across countries participating in the Regional RRP[1].

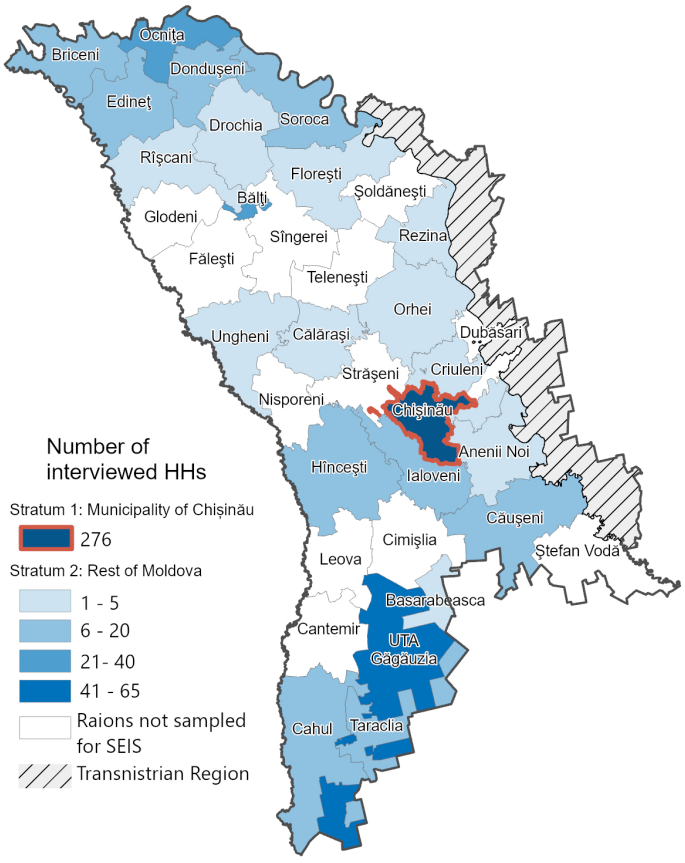
GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE
National coverage, excluding the Transnistrian region[2]

ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW

METHODOLOGY

The 2025 SEIS employed a quantitative approach, conducting in-person, structured household-level surveys with Ukrainian refugees displaced to Moldova following the escalation of hostilities in February 2022. Initially, SEIS applied a probability sampling design based on the UNHCR Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance (MPCA) household beneficiary database (May 2024). However, due to low response rates, the approach was adjusted to a non-probability, stratified purposive, and snowball sampling method. The two strata comprised the Municipality of Chișinău and the Rest of Moldova (excluding the Transnistrian region[2]), each hosting roughly half of the refugee population. A more detailed explanation of the sampling changes and adjusted targets is documented in the methodology note[3]. Consequently, **findings are indicative and cannot be considered representative** of the entire population.

Interviews were conducted nationwide, excluding the Transnistrian region, and stratified by the Municipality of Chișinău and the Rest of Moldova. Primary data collection took place from 21 May to 7 July 2025, encompassing 532 households. Findings at the national level were weighted[4]. For more details regarding the methodology and limitations, please refer to the Terms of Reference[5].



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Regional Refugee Response for the Ukraine Situation

DEMOGRAPHICS

Note: The demographics in this section represent the characteristics of the respondents surveyed for the SEIS, rather than the broader refugee population.

1,128 HH members (through **532 HHs** surveyed)

38% of HHs with older persons (60+)

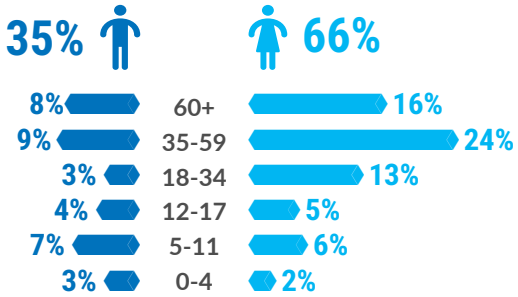
3% of HHs with infants (<2 years)

2.13 Average HH size

41% of HHs with children (<18 years)

12% of HH members with a disability (at least level 3 in WGSS[6])

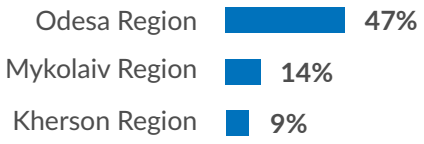
% of HH members by age group and gender* (n=1,128)



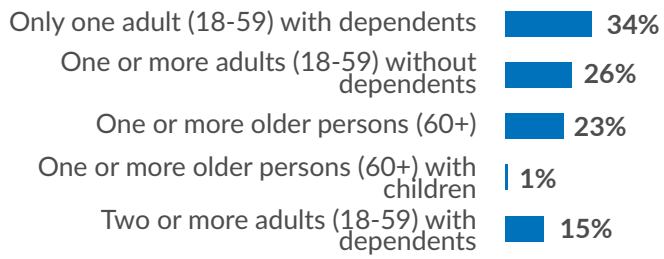
Average length of residence in Moldova among Ukrainian household members aged 3 and above

32 months

% of respondents by top 3 Regions of origin in Ukraine (n=532)



% of HHs by HH composition - number of adults (aged 18 to 59) with or without dependents (children aged 0-17 or older HH members aged 60 and older)* (n=532)



% of HHs by movement intention within the 12 months following data collection* (n=532)

% of HHs living in rural and urban areas (n=532)

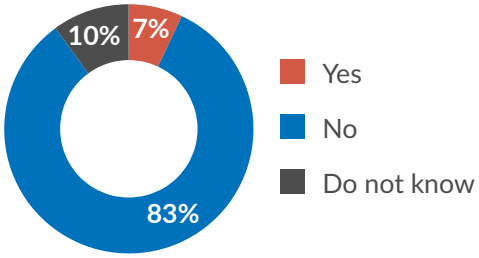
* Due to rounding, the percentages may not add up to 100%.

PROTECTION

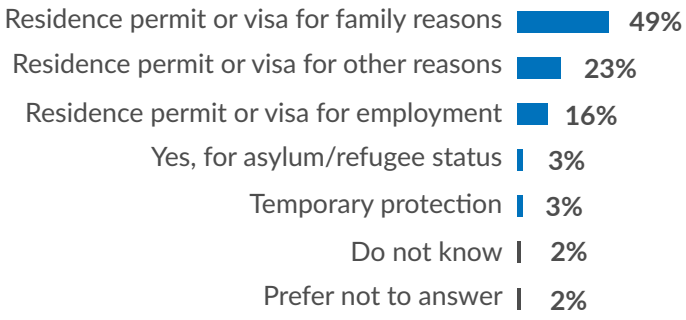
GENERAL PROTECTION

The majority of respondents (**97%**) reported that Ukrainian members of their household held **temporary protection status**. A small proportion (**2%**) reported that their household members held a **permanent or long-term residence permit or visa**, while **1%** indicated that they had **applied for temporary protection and were awaiting a decision**. Only a very small share (**0.2%**) of respondents reported that their Ukrainian household members **did not hold any legal status** in Moldova at the time of data collection.

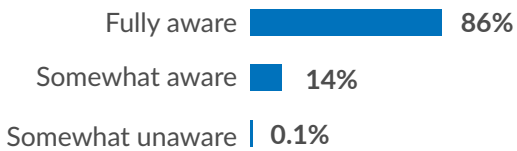
% of respondents by intention to apply for another legal status in the next 12 months (n=532)



Type of other legal status/residence permit respondents intend to apply for* (n=33)



% of respondents who are aware of their rights and available services under their current legal status in Moldova* (n=532)



Overall, **86%** of respondents reported being **fully aware of their rights and the available services** under their current legal status in Moldova. The **highest full awareness** was observed among **respondents aged 35 to 59** (n = 252), at **91%**, while younger adults aged **18 to 34** (n = 121) and older adults aged **60+** (n = 159) showed **similar patterns**, with **82% fully aware** and **18% somewhat aware**. **No differences** were observed **between genders**. Additionally, **a higher proportion** of respondents from the **Rest of Moldova stratum** (n = 256) reported **being fully aware** (**89%**) compared to those from the **Municipality of Chișinău stratum** (n = 276), where **84%** of respondents reported being **fully aware**.

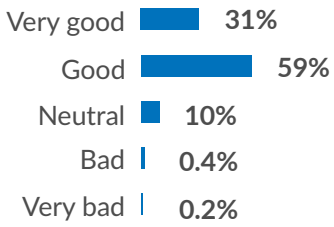
SOCIAL COHESION

9%

of households with at least one member having experienced hostile behaviour or attitudes from the local population in the last 12 months

The most commonly reported **hostile behaviours or attitudes**, among households with at least one member who had experienced them (n = 44), were **verbal aggression (93%)**, **discriminatory behaviour (50%)**, **hostile or aggressive comments in news forums online (10%)**, and **hostile or aggressive comments on social media (10%).****

% of respondents by perceived relationship between the refugee and the host community in their location of residence* (n=532)



The majority of respondents (**90%**) reported perceiving the **relationship between refugees and the host community** in their area of residence as **good or very good**.

Most respondents (**92%**) indicated that the **relationship had not changed** over the past 12 months. Only **3%** reported that the **relationship had improved**, **2%** indicated **it had worsened**, and **4%** said they **did not know**. **Stability in perceptions** was **highest** among respondents aged **60 and above** (n=159), with **97%** reporting **no changes**, compared with **91%** of those aged **35–59** (n=252) and **89%** of **18–34-year-olds** (n=121), suggesting that older respondents perceive greater stability in community relationships than younger age groups.

* Due to rounding, the percentages may not add up to 100%.

**Respondents could select multiple answers, therefore the sum of values may exceed 100%.

CHILD PROTECTION

5%

of HHs with boys (n=138) reporting at least one risk faced by boys (<18 y.o.) in their neighbourhood

7%

of HHs with girls (n=119) reporting at least one risk faced by girls (<18 y.o.) in their neighbourhood

Top 3 risks reported for boys		Top 3 risks reported for girls	
Psychological violence in the community	4%	Physical violence in the community	3%
Worsened mental and psychosocial wellbeing	3%	Psychological violence in the community	3%
Physical violence in the community	2%	Increased vulnerability to abuse	2%

The majority of HHs reported that there were **no discernible protection concerns for boys and girls** (**93%** and **90%**, **respectively**).

7%

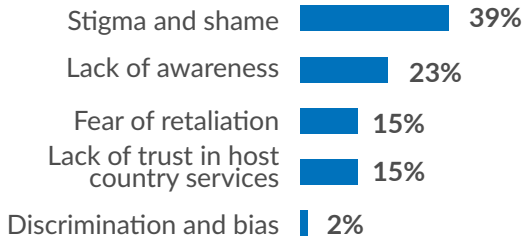
of households **in which a member has provided care in the past year for a child outside their nuclear family, even for a limited period**

GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (GBV)

% of respondents aware of lifesaving GBV services in their area, by type of service available following a GBV incident* (n=532)

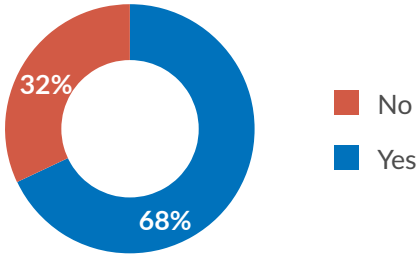
Overall, only a small proportion of respondents (**1%**) reported being **unaware of any GBV services** available in their area of residence.
Health services and **safety and security services** (e.g., police or safe shelters) were the **most widely known**, with awareness rates of **95%** and **97%**, **respectively**. In contrast, **awareness of legal assistance** (**79%**) and **psycho-social services** (**68%**) was comparatively lower.
Higher awareness of legal assistance was observed in the **Municipality of Chișinău** (n=276; *87%*) compared to the **Rest of Moldova** (n=256; **67%**), and a **similar pattern** was noted for **psychosocial services**, with **72%** and **60%**, **respectively**.

% of respondents by perceived main barriers that survivors could face when trying to access GBV services (n=532)

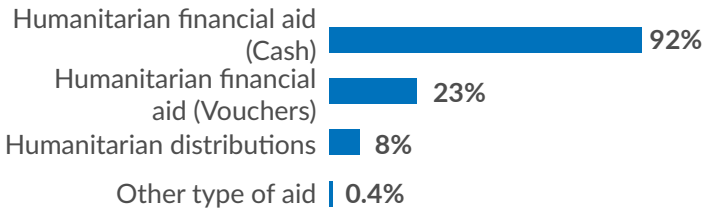


ACCOUNTABILITY TO AFFECTED POPULATIONS (AAP) - AID RECEIVED

% of respondents that received aid in the 3 months prior to data collection (n=532)



% of respondents by type of received aid in the 3 months prior to data collection (among those who received aid)* (n=364)



96%

% of respondents reported being satisfied with the aid they received in the 3 months prior to data collection (among those who received aid) (n=365)

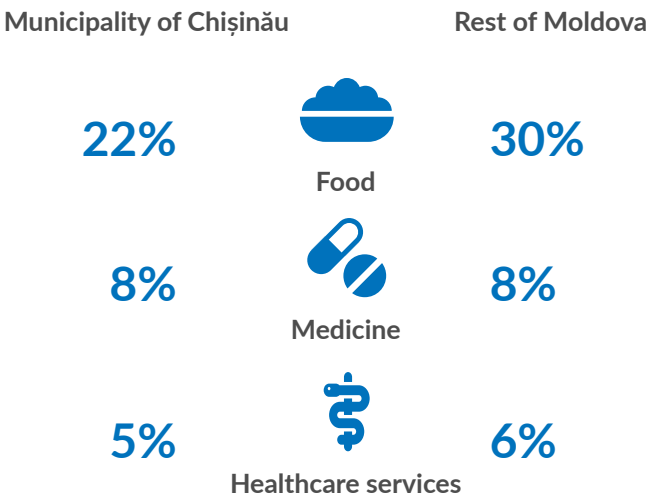
* Respondents could select multiple answers, therefore the sum of values may exceed 100%.

AAP – PRIORITY NEEDS

75%

of households reported their top pririty need (n=530)

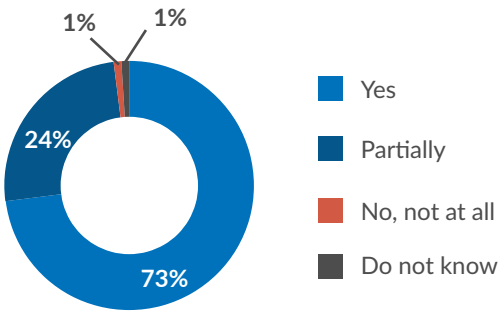
% of HHs by reported top three priority needs, by strata (n=530)



Additionally, around **11%** of respondents reported having **another type of priority need**. Among these households (n=61), two-thirds (**68%**) identified **financial assistance** as their main need, while **22%** cited the need for **support with accommodation and/or utility payments**, and **7%** mentioned **firewood** as their top priority.

AAP – ACCESS TO INFORMATION/ FEEDBACK & COMPLAINT MECHANISMS

% of respondents reportedly felt they have received sufficient, clear and timely information about available services and assistance from humanitarian organisations* (n=531)



Most respondents (**73%**) reportedly felt they had **received enough, clear and timely information about the services and assistance available to them** and their household from humanitarian organisations. **Respondents aged 60 and above** (n=159) were the **most likely to feel well informed** (**81%**), compared with **73%** of those aged **18–34** (n=120) and **69%** of those aged **35–59** (n=252). This suggests that younger and middle-aged respondents may have comparatively less access to, or awareness of, information provided by humanitarian organisations.

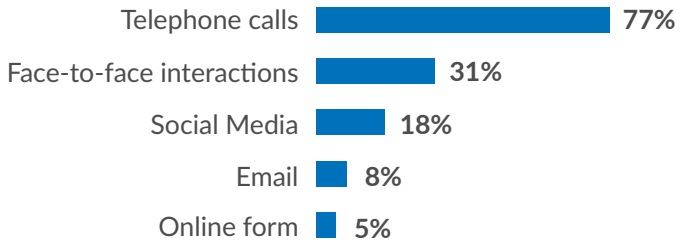
% of respondents who reportedly know how to provide feedback or make a complaint to humanitarian organisations about the services received (n=532)

The majority of respondents (**82%**) reportedly **received an appropriate response through reporting channels** such as hotlines, community centres, community volunteers, and local committees, while *2%* reportedly **did not**. Additionally, **15%** of respondents reportedly **never used or tried any of** these **reporting channels**.

98%

of households reported being satisfied with the behaviour of aid workers in their area

% of respondents by preferred channels to provide feedback to aid providers about the inadequate behaviour of aid workers (n=532)**



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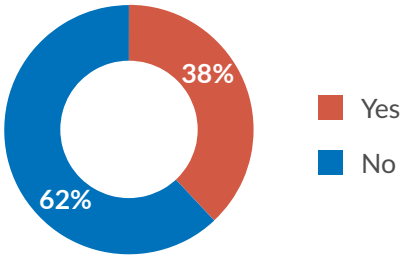
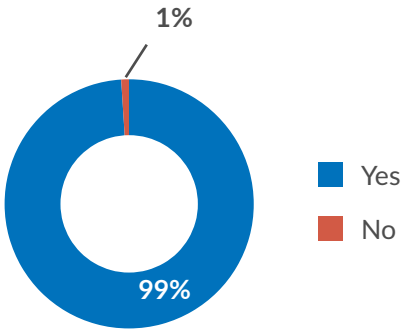
HEALTH

ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE

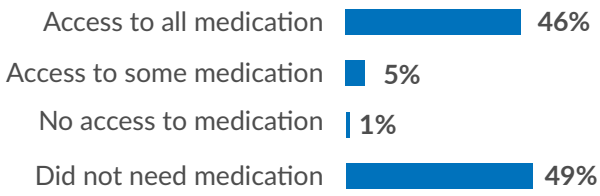
% of Ukrainian household members who are reportedly having a health problem and needing to access healthcare (in the 30 days before data collection) (n=980)



% of Ukrainian household members who were able to obtain the needed health care (among those who had a health problem and needed to access health care) (n=373)



% of Ukrainian household members by access to medication needed in the three months prior to data collection or since arrival in Moldova* (n=981)



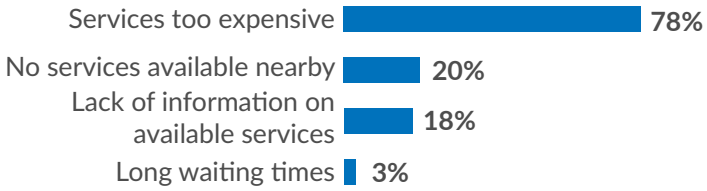
4%

of Ukrainian household members who reportedly missed at least one dose of their medication in the three months prior to data collection or since arrival

26%

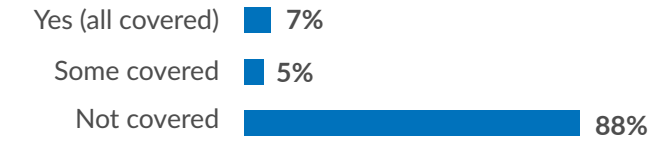
of Ukrainian household members (older persons aged 60 and above and persons with disabilities; n=276) reportedly did not access at all (11%), or only partially accessed (15%), rehabilitation services and/or assistive devices in the 12 months prior to data collection in Moldova

Main barriers to accessing rehabilitation services or assistive devices among Ukrainian household members (60+ and persons with disabilities) who did not access or only partially accessed them in the past 12 months (n=67)**



HEALTH INSURANCE

% of HH with eligible Ukrainian members having and being able to use state-provided health insurance (n=499)



Overall, only **7%** of households had **all eligible Ukrainian members having and being able to use state-provided health insurance,** while **88%** had **none** and **5%** had **some members having and being able to use it**. TP holders can access basic and emergency healthcare, but state-provided health insurance is limited to those with formally registered employment who pay taxes; those without a formal job cannot purchase it.[7] As a result, many refugees in Moldova lack comprehensive health coverage.

MENTAL HEALTH AND PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT

Of the Ukrainian household members aged 5 years and older (n=940), some reported **experiencing mental health and psychosocial support** (MHPSS) issues (**14%**).

Of those experiencing MHPSS issues (n=131), about one third reported to **have tried to access MHPSS services** (**36%**).

Among those who tried to access MHPSS services (n=48), **all Ukrainian household members** were reported to have **received MHPSS services**.

* Due to rounding, the percentages may not add up to 100%.
** Respondents could select multiple answers, therefore the sum of values may exceed 100%.

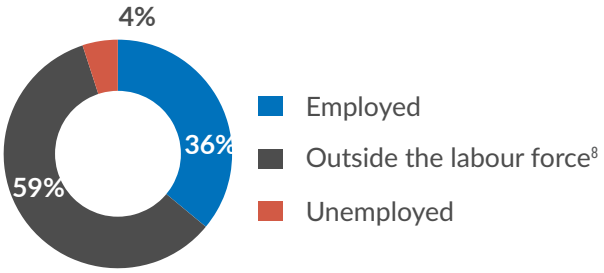
SOCIO-ECONOMIC INCLUSION & LIVELIHOODS

66%

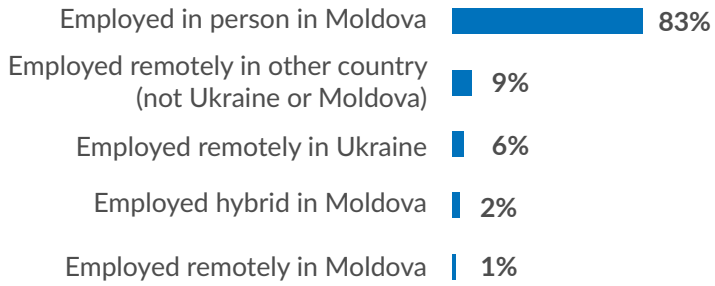
of Ukrainian employed HH members (aged 15 and older) with a formal employment contract at their main job

EMPLOYMENT

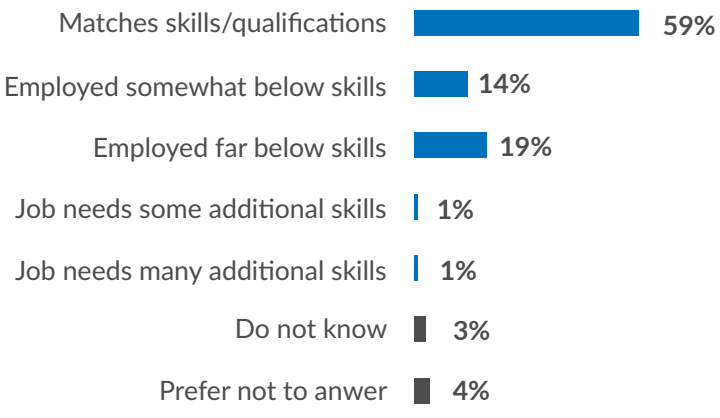
% of HH members (aged 15 and older) by employment status (employed, unemployed, outside labour force)* (n=817)



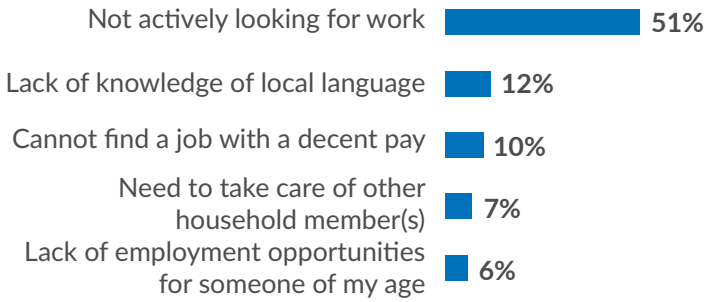
% of Ukrainian employed HH members (aged 15 and older) by employment arrangement when it comes to work modality at their main job* (n=226)



% of employed Ukrainian HH members (aged 15 and older) by perceived match between their current main occupation and their professional skill level or qualifications (n=229)

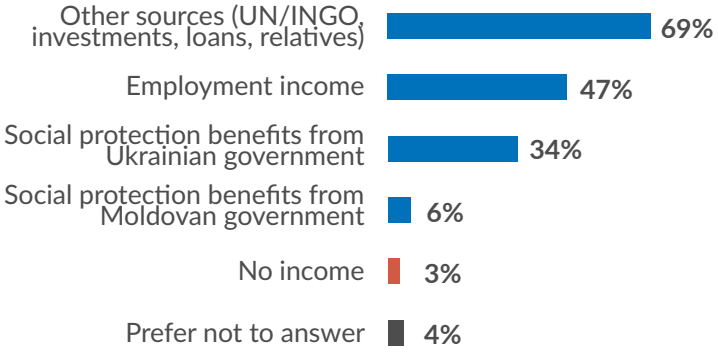


% of Ukrainian HH members (aged 15 and older) by main difficulty encountered in finding work in Moldova (n=481)

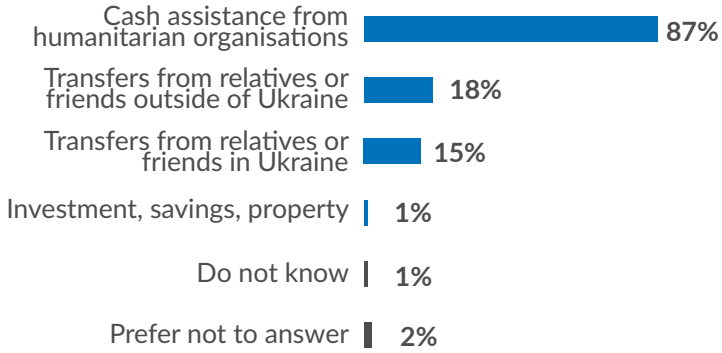


INCOME & ECONOMIC CAPACITY

% of HHs by income source in the 30 days prior to data collection (n=532)**



% of HHs receiving other forms of income in the 30 days prior to data collection, by type of income source (n=365)**



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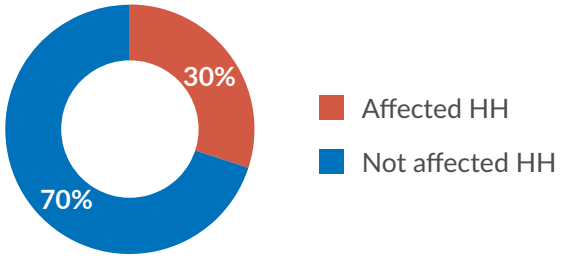
** Respondents could select multiple answers, therefore the sum of values may exceed 100%.

SEVERE MATERIAL AND SOCIAL DEPRIVATION (SMSD)

% of HHs who cannot afford at least 7 out of 13 essential material and social items (SMSD[9]) (n=521)



EDUCATION

ENROLLMENT IN SCHOOL YEAR 2024/25

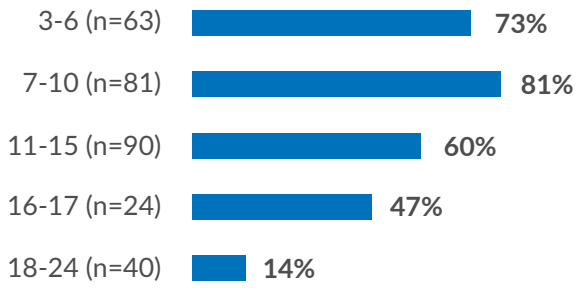
61%

of Ukrainian children and young people (aged 3–24) (n=298) reportedly attended **a university, school, kindergarten, nursery that is part** of the national education system in Moldova in 2024/25*

26%

of Ukrainian children and young people (aged 3–18) (n=261) reportedly were learning remotely or online in 2024/25

% of Ukrainian children and young people (aged 3–24) attending a university, school, kindergarten, nursery that is part of the Moldovan national education system in 2024/25, by age group* (n=298)



In the 2024/25 school year, **61%** of Ukrainian children and young people aged 3 to 24 reportedly **attended an educational institution that is part of the Moldovan national education system.***

Attendance rates varied significantly by age group. The **highest attendance** was observed a**mong children aged 7–10** (**81%**) and those **aged 3–6** (**73%**), reflecting strong participation in early and primary education. **Attendance decreased among older groups**, with **60%** of those aged **11–15** and **47%** of those aged **16–17** attending. **The lowest rate** was **among young adults aged 18–24**, where only **14% were enrolled** in the national education system.*

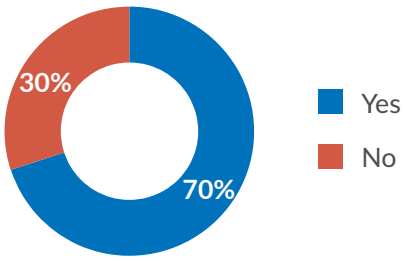
6%

of Ukrainian children and young people (aged 3–24) (n=181) reportedly experienced bullying while attending a school or university in Moldova (among those enrolled in an educational institution)

Primary barriers for enrolling children in school part of the national education system in Moldova in 2024/25 (top 5) (n=114)

ENROLLMENT INTENTIONS FOR SCHOOL YEAR 2025/26

% of Ukrainian children and young people (aged 3–18) reportedly expected to enroll in Moldova's national education system, 2025/26 (n=260)

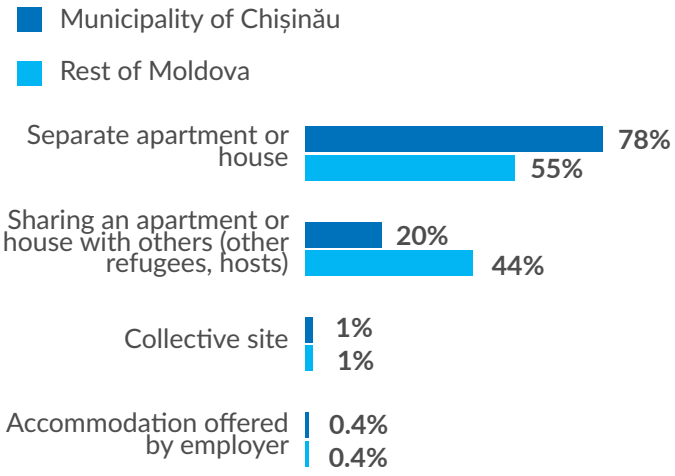


Similarly to enrollment in 2024/25, **expected enrollment for 2025/26** is **higher among younger children**. Among **those aged 3–6** (n=63), the majority (**88%**) are **expected to be enrolled**; for ages **7–10** (n=80), **83%**; for ages **11–15** (n=90), **57%**; for ages **16–17** (n=24), **9 individuals** (33%) are **expected to enroll**; and for **18-year-olds**, **none are expected to be enrolled**.

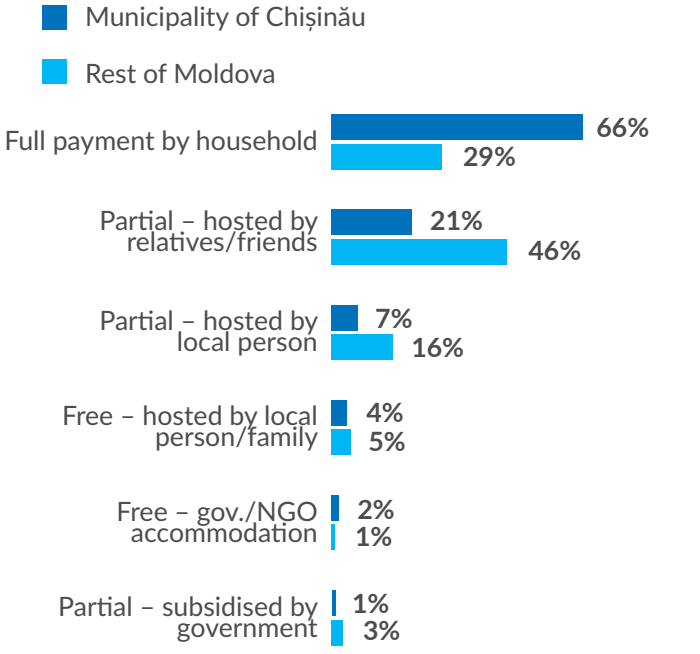
* The reported school attendance reflects only the responses provided by survey participants and does not represent official attendance figures reported by the Ministry of Education.

ACCOMMODATION

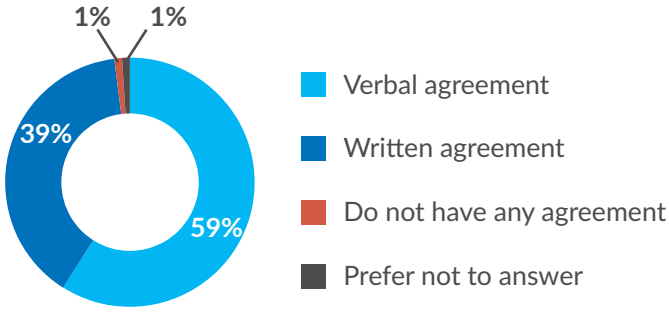
% of HHs by type of accommodation* (n=532)



% of HHs by payment arrangement for their accommodation* (n=531)

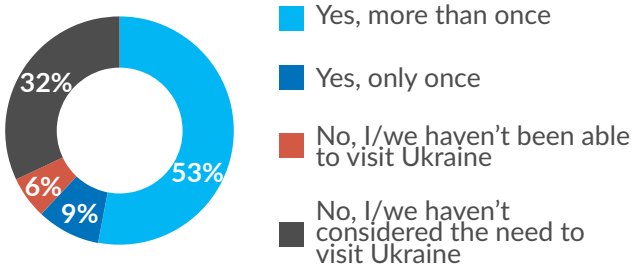


% of HHs by agreement type to prove occupancy arrangement for accommodation (n=532)



RETURN PATTERNS AND INTENTIONS

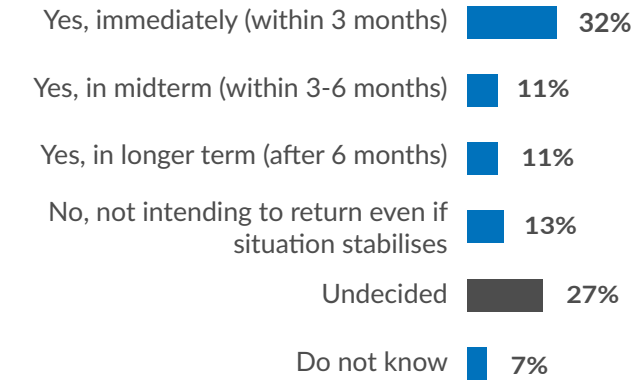
% of HHs where one or more HH members have been back to visit Ukraine after 24 Feb 2022 (n=532)



Among households where one or more members had reportedly returned to Ukraine at least once after 24 February 2022 (n = 327), the most commonly cited **reasons for their most recent** visit were **visiting relatives (63%), obtaining documents (17%), accessing healthcare (17%), checking or repairing property (14%), and attending to other family matters (13%).**

Only 1% of households reported experiencing difficulties returning to Moldova after traveling to Ukraine.

% of HHs who reported plans to return to Ukraine if the situation stabilises* (n=532)



The majority of households (**72%**) reportedly **intend to remain in their current location in Moldova** over the 12 months following data collection. However, **if the situation in Ukraine stabilises**, **54%** of households **would reportedly return**, while **13%** reported that they **do not intend to return** even if the situation stabilises.

* Due to rounding, the percentages may not add up to 100%.
** Respondents could select multiple answers, therefore the sum of values may exceed 100%.

In collaboration with
UNHCR The UN Refugee Agency
REACH Informing more effective humanitarian action
Regional Refugee Response for the Ukraine Situation

ENDNOTES

[1] RRP countries participating in the 2025 Regional SEIS: Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, Poland, Romania, and Slovakia.
[2] The SEIS does not cover the Transnistrian region, a self-declared autonomous area not controlled by the Moldovan government, due to political sensitivities and access constraints.
[3] REACH, Methodology Note - Socio-Economic Insights Survey (SEIS) 2025, published September 2025
[4] The SEIS data has been weighted at the national level to correct for sampling distortions, particularly due to stratification. Although weighting improves the accuracy of national-level findings, the data remains indicative and not representative of the entire population
[5] REACH, Research Terms of Reference - Socio-Economic Insights Survey (SEIS) 2025, published May 2025
[6] The 6-item Washington Group Short Set of Disability Questions is a set of questions to identify people with a disability. The questions assess whether people have difficulty performing basic activities such as walking, seeing, hearing, cognition, self-care and communication. The WGSS questions were asked at the individual level.
[7]UNHCR, Ukraine Situation - Moldova: Matrix on Rights and Entitlements of Refugees According to their Legal Statuses (ENG), published 29 Obctober 2024
[8] Outside the labour force includes individuals aged 15 and above (who were not employed during the past week, and who either cannot start working within the next 2 weeks if a job or business opportunity becomes available or did not look for a paid job or did not try to start a business in the past 4 weeks.
[9] Eurostat, Glossary: Severe material and social deprivation rate (SMSD), consulted 15 October 2025
The Severe Material and Social Deprivation Rate (SMSD) is an EU-SILC indicator measuring the enforced lack of essential and desirable items necessary for an adequate standard of living. Adopted by the Indicators' Sub-Group (ISG) of the Social Protection Committee (SPC), it distinguishes individuals who cannot afford certain goods, services, or social activities. The indicator is defined as the proportion of the population experiencing an enforced lack of at least seven out of thirteen deprivation items—six related to the individual and seven to the household.
Household-level items include: capacity to face unexpected expenses; capacity to afford one week of annual holiday away from home; absence of payment arrears (mortgage/rent, utility bills, hire purchase, or other loans); capacity to afford a meal with meat, chicken, fish, or vegetarian equivalent every second day; ability to keep the home adequately warm; access to a car or van for personal use; and ability to replace worn-out furniture.
Individual-level items include: having an internet connection; ability to replace worn-out clothes with new ones; having two pairs of properly fitting shoes (including one all-weather pair); ability to spend a small amount of money on oneself each week; participation in regular leisure activities; and getting together with friends or family for a drink or meal at least once a month.