

MSNA - Research Terms of Reference

Socio-Economic Insights Survey (SEIS) 2026 – Republic of Moldova

MDA2602

September 2026

Version 1

REACH Informing
more effective
humanitarian action

1. Executive Summary

A. General information						
Country of intervention	Republic of Moldova					
Type of Emergency	☐	Natural disaster	☒	Conflict	☐	Other (<i>specify</i>)
Type of Crisis	☐	Sudden onset	☐	Slow onset	☒	Protracted
Mandating Body/ Agency	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)					
IMPACT Project Code	67 BLV 5Y1					
Overall Research Timeframe (<i>from research design to final outputs / M&E</i>)	20/06/2026 to 31/12/2026					
Research Timeframe <i>Add planned deadlines</i>	1. Data Analysis Plan (DAP) sent for validation: 7/08/2026			7. Factsheet – Key Sectoral Findings sent for validation: 27/11/2026		
	2. Pilot/training: 14/09/2026			8. Situation Overview sent for validation: 11/12/2026		
	3. Start data collection: 16/09/2026			9. Bulletin published: N/A		
	4. Data collected: 09/10/2026			10. Other (specify): N/A		
	5. Clean dataset sent for validation: 23/10/2026					
	6. Data analysis sent for validation: 10/11/2026					
Humanitarian milestones	Milestone					Deadline
	X	Donor plan/strategy				31/12/2026
	☐	Inter-cluster plan/strategy				--/--/----
	☐	PiN calculation / HNO				--/--/----
	☐	IPC (Integrated food security Phase Classification)				--/--/----
	☐	Cluster plan/strategy				--/--/-----
	☐	NGO platform plan/strategy				--/--/-----
	X	Other (Specify): UN agencies, NGOs, CSOs and national authorities may use the findings to inform sectoral and cross-cutting planning, prioritisation, and the design of				31/12/2026

		partner programming and interventions targeting refugee households in Moldova		
Audience Type & Dissemination	Audience type	Dissemination		
	X Strategic X Programmatic X Operational ☐ [Other, Specify]	X General Product Mailing (e.g. mail to NGO consortium; HCT participants; Donors) X Working Groups Mailing (Inclusion and Solutions, Education, Protection, etc.) X Website Dissemination (Relief Web & REACH Resource Centre) X UNHCR data portal		
Detailed dissemination plan required	☐	Yes	X	No
General Objective	To inform the transition beyond the Regional Refugee Response Plan (RRP) 2025–2026 and support planning among key stakeholders in Moldova through the provision of updated, multi-sectoral insights into the socio-economic needs, integration gaps, and self-reliance of refugee households ¹ from Ukraine.			
Specific Objective(s)	1. Gain an understanding of the household composition of refugees, including key demographics. 2. Identify priority needs of refugee households related to protection, including child protection (CP), gender based violence (GBV), and protection of sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA), accommodation, education, health, including mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), livelihood and socio-economic inclusion, and economic capacity/vulnerability. 3. Understand coping capacity and vulnerability/resilience considering the protracted displacement, including socio-economic inclusion and the extent to which refugee households are unable to afford essential goods, services, and social activities necessary for an adequate standard of living. 4. Identify household profiles with the most critical needs to inform programming. 5. To collect data required for the calculation of the Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) ² , reflecting the economic, social, and living conditions of Ukrainian refugee households.			
Research Questions	1. What are the most common demographic profiles comprising refugees displaced from Ukraine in Moldova? 2. What are households' reported priority needs across the active sectors within the humanitarian response (specified below)?			

¹ For the purpose of this assessment, the term "refugee households" refers to households with at least one member holding Ukrainian citizenship who arrived in Moldova following the escalation of hostilities in Ukraine on 24 February 2022, with at least one member who signed up on the online platform for the extension of Temporary Protection between 1 and 16 February 2026 or between 1 and 30 April 2026, or those who signed up on the platform to obtain Temporary Protection between 1 May and 18 August 2026.

² The Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) provides a comprehensive assessment of poverty by examining deprivations in health, education, living conditions, and employment. In the Republic of Moldova, the MPI methodology was developed through a participatory process involving the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), UNDP Moldova, and the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI), with consultations from public authorities, vulnerable groups, and data users. Adapting the MPI to the national context provides relevant statistics to inform policies and programs, complementing traditional poverty measures and offering insights into the complexity and persistence of poverty. While the IMPACT team will not be directly involved in the MPI calculation, data from the current assessment will be used in an MPI calculation for the Ukrainian refugee population in Moldova.

	a. Protection, including Gender-Based Violence (GBV), Child Protection (CP), Protection of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) and Safety and Security b. Education c. Health, including MHPSS d. Shelter/Accommodation e. Livelihoods and Socio-economic Inclusion 3. What are the main socio-economic characteristics, livelihood conditions and financial vulnerabilities of refugee households? a. What are households' income and expenditure patterns? What are the main sources of household income and financial support? b. What are the employment and livelihood characteristics of working-age household members, including their education, occupations, employment conditions and barriers to employment? c. What are households' levels of savings, and how do they assess the adequacy of their household income? d. What are the main financial pressures (or main expenditure categories and financial commitments) faced by households? 4. How do respondents perceive social cohesion and their relations with Moldovan host communities? 5. Which household profiles, as determined through research question 1, appear to have the highest needs across the assessed sectors?			
Geographic Coverage	Nationwide Republic of Moldova			
Secondary data sources	- UNHCR, Ukraine Refugee Situation – Operational Data Portal – Moldova - UNHCR, Ukraine Refugee Situation – Operational Data Portal – Moldova: Population Trends - UNHCR, Ukraine Situation: Regional Refugee Response Plan – Revised Moldova Country Chapter – 2025–2026, January 2026 - Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Moldova, Equal rights for all: Government approves National Program for the Integration of Foreigners in Moldova, May 2025 - IMPACT / REACH, Ukraine Situation – Moldova: Socio-Economic Insights Survey 2025 Situation Overview, December 2025			
B. Sampling				
Population groups <i>Select all population group which your assessment will collect data on</i>	☐	IDPs in camp	☐	IDPs in informal sites
	☐	IDPs in host communities	☐	IDPs [Other, Specify]
	☐	Refugees in camp	☐	Refugees in informal sites
	X	Refugees in host communities	☐	Refugees [Other, Specify]
	☐	Host communities	☐	[Other, Specify]

Structured questionnaire (Quantitative) – <i>Select all the apply</i>	☒	Probability sampling	☐	Non - Probability sampling
Data collection level:	☐	Individual	☒	Household
	☐	Settlement	☐	Other (specify): _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

If probability sampling

Sampling method: ☒ Random sampling ☐ Cluster sampling

The sampling is stratified: ☐ Yes ☒ No

The sample was not stratified because the sampling frame did not include information on households' geographic location or demographic characteristics. Households were randomly selected from the full deduplicated list of households that had signed up on the platform for the TP extension between 1–16 February and 1–30 April 2026, and refugees who signed up for Temporary Protection application between 1 May and 18 August 2026.

Sampling frame:

Do you have the population number at PSU level for **all** population groups? ☐ Yes ☒ No

Population figures are not available at PSU level, as the sampling frame does not include information on households' geographic location and no PSUs are used in the sampling design.

Selection:

Probability Proportional to Size (PPS) : ☐ Yes ☒ No

Selection of PSUs with replacement? : ☐ Yes ☒ No

Not applicable, as the 2026 SEIS does not use PSU-based or cluster sampling. Households will be selected directly through simple random sampling from the deduplicated list of households that signed up on the platform for the TP extension between 1–16 February and 1–30 April 2026, and refugees who signed up for Temporary Protection application between 1 May and 18 August 2026.

Aimed precision at stratification level:

95% level of confidence
5.5% margin of error
Buffer: 5%
Total sample size: (Target #): 331

Resampling:

Do you have a reserve list of PSUs / households in case of inaccessible area ? ☒ Yes ☐ No

In cases of refusal or non-response, including disconnected phone numbers or households that do not answer after two call attempts, replacement households will be randomly selected from the remaining sampling frame. Replacement lists will be generated as needed during data collection, with their size determined based on the observed success rate of the sample contacted to date and the number of additional completed interviews required to reach the target sample size. If a replacement list is exhausted before the target is reached, an additional list will be generated using the same approach, taking into account the latest observed success rate and the remaining number of interviews required.

Data collection method: ☐ Face to face ☒ Remote data collection

C. Questionnaire

Questionnaire design

MSNA mandatory indicators

All the mandatory indicators from the [MSNA indicator bank](#), have been included without alteration: ☐ Yes ☒ No

The 2026 SEIS follows a different approach from other MSNAs. The questionnaire builds primarily on the version developed and shared by the UNHCR Regional Bureau for Europe for previous regional SEIS exercises, thereby maintaining continuity and comparability with earlier rounds. For the 2026 exercise, the IMPACT research team adjusted the questionnaire in consultation with UNHCR in Moldova and added the indicators needed to calculate the Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI).

XLSform for mandatory indicators

The [kobo questionnaire](#) provided for the mandatory indicators was used without alteration: ☐ Yes ☒ No

The 2026 SEIS follows a different approach from other MSNAs. The questionnaire builds primarily on the version developed and shared by the UNHCR Regional Bureau for Europe for previous regional SEIS exercises, thereby maintaining continuity and comparability with earlier rounds. For the 2026 exercise, the IMPACT research team adjusted the questionnaire in consultation with UNHCR in Moldova and added the indicators needed to calculate the Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI).

Data management platform(s)	☐ IMPACT ☒ UNHCR ☐ Other, Specify
Expected output type(s)	☐ MSNA Bulletin #: N/A ☐ Presentation (Preliminary findings) #: N/A ☐ Interactive dashboard #: N/A ☒ Report #: 1 Situation Overview ☐ Profile #: N/A ☐ Presentation (Final) #: N/A ☐ Webmap #: N/A ☒ Factsheet #: 1 ☐ Map #: N/A ☒ Other, Specify] #: 1 Clean dataset & analysis results tables
Data publication plan	☒ Final (anonymised) dataset public, available on REACH resource center
	☐ Final (anonymised) dataset public, through HDX connect
	☒ Analysis table public, available on REACH resource center
	☐ Analysis table public, available on HDX
Visibility Specify which logos should be on outputs	REACH
	Donor: UNHCR 
	Coordination Framework:  Regional Refugee Response For the Ukraine Situation
	Partners: N/A

2. Rationale

2.1 Background

Over four years have elapsed since the escalation of the military offensive in Ukraine in February 2022, leading to a protracted situation of displacement for nearly 5.8 million refugees from Ukraine recorded globally.³ According to data published by the General Inspectorate for Migration, as of 3 August 2026, 55,478 people were benefiting from temporary protection in the Republic of Moldova, of whom 47,640 had submitted requests to extend their temporary protection status.⁴ The 2025–2026 Regional Refugee Response Plan (RRP)⁵ anticipated a significant decrease in newly displaced refugee movements into neighbouring countries and beyond, compared to the initial years of the response. This reduction implies that there will be a smaller yet still substantial group of refugees arriving in or passing through RRP countries⁶, necessitating initial reception assistance.

³ UNHCR, [Operational Data Portal, Republic of Moldova](#), consulted 29/06/2026.

⁴ General Inspectorate for Migration (IGM), [press release on temporary protection beneficiaries](#), published 03/08/2026, accessed 05/08/2026.

⁵ UNHCR, [Ukraine Situation: Regional Refugee Response Plan 2025–2026](#), published 29/06/2026.

⁶ The 2025–2026 Ukraine RRP covers Belarus, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, Poland, Romania and Slovakia; the Czech Republic's plan covered 2025 only.

The prolonged conflict and the extended duration of displacement have underscored the need for more predictable and structured support mechanisms for refugees in Moldova. A significant step in this transition was the implementation of Temporary Protection (TP) status in March 2023, which grants refugees a more secure legal status and allows them to access essential services within a formal institutional framework. TP was initially valid until 1 March 2024 and has since been extended automatically twice, with each extension adding one year. For the third and latest extension until 1 March 2027, the Government of Moldova introduced a revised procedure. Unlike previous automatic extensions, TP holders were required to submit an online application via the official TP portal between 1 February and 30 April 2026.⁷ Individuals whose extension request or first-time TP application is approved are permitted to remain in the Republic of Moldova under temporary protection until 1 March 2027.⁸

As the crisis persists and the 2025–2026 Refugee Response Plan enters its final year, the humanitarian response in Moldova has increasingly shifted from emergency assistance towards more sustainable, longer-term support.⁹ While initial efforts focused primarily on meeting urgent basic needs, the response now places greater emphasis on social and economic inclusion, access to national systems, and livelihood opportunities.¹⁰ This includes support aimed at strengthening refugees' self-reliance, such as skills development, language courses, vocational training, job counselling, and access to employment.¹¹ Education remains equally important for long-term resilience, helping children and young people affected by displacement to continue learning, support their well-being, and strengthen their prospects for integration into society.

In this context, recognising the need to continue monitoring the evolving needs, vulnerabilities, and socio-economic situation of refugees from Ukraine, UNHCR, through the 2025–2026 Regional Refugee Response Plan (RRP), is supporting the implementation of the Socio-Economic Insights Survey (SEIS) in 2026. The survey aims to provide up-to-date and comparable data to inform evidence-based planning, response prioritisation, and resource allocation. The 2026 questionnaire builds, where relevant, on previous SEIS rounds conducted in 2024 and 2025, allowing for some comparison over time. However, changes in the assessment methodology, respondent identification approach and questionnaire content may limit direct comparison between rounds. The questionnaire will also include additional indicators required to support an indicative estimation of the Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) for the surveyed households. The MPI will be calculated by the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI) and presented in a separate report, while IMPACT will only provide the underlying data collected through the SEIS. Any comparisons with the host population should be interpreted with caution, as the results will reflect relative levels of deprivation rather than allow for direct or definitive comparisons.

2.2 Intended impact

IMPACT, through its REACH Initiative and in partnership with UNHCR, is supporting the implementation of the Socio-Economic Insights Survey (SEIS) in Moldova. Building on previous rounds of the SEIS, the 2026 assessment

⁷ The Government of Republic of Moldova, <https://gov.md/en/press-releases/moldova-extends-temporary-protection-displaced-persons-ukraine-until-1-march-2027>, consulted 30/06/2026

⁸ The General Inspectorate for Migration (IGM) announced that the draft Government Decision (GD) on granting temporary protection to displaced persons from Ukraine has been approved and extended until March 1, 2027.

⁹ UNHCR, [Ukraine Situation: Regional Refugee Response Plan - Revised Moldova Country Chapter - 2025-2026](#), published 26/01/2026, consulted 30/06/2026

¹⁰ UNHCR, [Ukraine Situation: Regional Refugee Response Plan and Moldova Country Chapter - 2025-2026](#), published 11/03/2025, consulted 30/06/2026.

¹¹ UNHCR, [Republic of Moldova: Programme Summary 2026](#), published 02/2026, consulted 30/06/2026.

will provide updated evidence on the socio-economic situation, needs, and vulnerabilities of refugees from Ukraine in Moldova. In Moldova, the SEIS 2026 is coordinated in collaboration with UNHCR Moldova.

The objective is to conduct a SEIS specifically aimed at ensuring response actors have the necessary evidence base to effectively address the evolving needs of refugees from Ukraine in Moldova. Additionally, the intention is that partner organisations will use the data to:

1. Provide targeted and effective assistance to address the identified specific needs of refugees across various sectors such as health, education, accommodation, food security, livelihoods, and protection.
2. Allocate resources by prioritising interventions based on the identified needs of refugees.
3. Provide evidence-based data and insights to support advocacy efforts aimed at mobilising resources, raising awareness to better address the evolving needs and challenges faced by refugee households in Moldova.

The SEIS is considered an essential interagency tool for strategic planning and prioritization, decision-making, and needs-based program design and development. It enables the tracking of relevant outcome indicators as outlined in the 2025–2026 Regional Refugee Response Plan. As the implementation period of the current 2025–2026 RRP approaches its conclusion, Moldova’s refugee response is increasingly moving towards a more sustainable and nationally grounded approach, with refugees progressively included within national systems. This transition is reflected in the 2026 RRP prioritisation for Moldova, which frames the response around a transitional, resilience-based model aligned with the National Program for the Phased Integration of Foreigners, including Displaced Persons from Ukraine, embedded in Moldova’s National Development Plan 2025–2027¹². The National Program aims to support access to public services and integration across areas such as health, social assistance, education, language learning, vocational training, employment, housing, and community participation.¹³ Within this context, the SEIS will provide timely evidence to support needs-based programming, prioritisation, and the identification of remaining gaps, including among the most vulnerable refugee households.

3. Methodology

3.1 Methodology overview

The Socio-Economic Insights Survey (SEIS) 2026 will employ a quantitative approach, using a structured household-level survey conducted remotely through computer-assisted telephone interviewing (CATI). The assessment will target refugee households in which at least one member signed up on the platform for the extension of TP until 1 March 2027, between 1–16 February and 1–30 April 2026, and refugees who signed up for Temporary Protection application between 1 May and 18 August 2026. Geographic coverage will extend nationwide.

The survey tool consists of a structured questionnaire collecting data at both household and individual levels. Household-level questions capture demographics, protection, health, shelter and accommodation, livelihoods, and socio-economic inclusion. Individual-level information is collected through a roster covering demographics, education, health, mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), protection, and socio-economic inclusion

¹² UNHCR, Ukraine Situation [Regional Refugee Response Plan - Moldova Chapter \(2025 - 2026\)](#), published 30/01/2026, consulted 03/07/2026.

¹³ Ministry of Internal Affairs, *Equal rights for all: Government approves National Program for the Integration of Foreigners in Moldova*, <https://mai.gov.md/en/node/9630>, published 14/05/2025, consulted 03/07/2026.

This source supports the list of areas covered by the National Program, including healthcare, insurance, social assistance, education, Romanian language courses, vocational training, housing, and community participation.

for each household member. Additional questions administered outside the roster collect respondent-specific information on demographics, protection, livelihoods, and socio-economic inclusion.

This assessment will employ a probability sampling approach to ensure the representativeness of refugee households with at least one individual who signed up on the online platform for the extension of Temporary Protection between 1–16 February and 1–30 April 2026, as well as refugee households with at least one individual who signed up on the platform to apply for Temporary Protection between 1 May and 18 August 2026. The database contains phone numbers for each refugee who signed up on the platform for the extension of Temporary Protection between 1–16 February and 1–30 April 2026, as well as those who signed up on the platform to apply for Temporary Protection between 1 May and 18 August 2026. A simple random sampling method will be applied, as no other information, such as location, or any demographic data, is available. Primary data collection will include a total of 331 household interviews (as further described in Section 3.4 below). Enumerators will contact the sampled households and confirm their eligibility, availability, and ability to respond on behalf of the household at the beginning of the call. If the eligibility criteria are met, the enumerators will proceed with the questionnaire.

Definitions:

- **Household:** The respondent and all individuals living together with the respondent at the time of the interview who share key resources and expenses (i.e. share income, key resources, and expenses beyond rent), with at least one household member being a Ukrainian national who fled Ukraine on or after 24 February 2022.
- **Head / co-head of household:** The head of household is defined as the main decision-maker in the household; in certain households, this responsibility can be shared between two or more people (co-headed household).
- **TP beneficiary** - a person who has been granted temporary protection status in the Republic of Moldova under the temporary protection mechanism for displaced persons from Ukraine. This status allows the individual to legally reside in Moldova for a limited period and provides access to rights including employment, education for children, primary and emergency healthcare, and certain social services. Beneficiaries include Ukrainian nationals, stateless persons recognised by Ukraine, non-Ukrainian residents displaced from Ukraine, and their family members.

3.2 Population of interest

The Socio-Economic Insights Survey (SEIS) 2026 will focus on households in the Republic of Moldova where at least one member signed up on the platform for the extension of TP until 1 March 2027, between 1–16 February and 1–30 April 2026, and refugees who signed up for Temporary Protection between 1 May and 18 August 2026. The precise geographic distribution of these households is not known prior to the survey; patterns of dispersion will be analysed following data collection.

At least one household member should be a Ukrainian national who fled Ukraine on or after 24 February 2022. Other household members may have different nationalities, legal statuses, or displacement backgrounds, while living together and sharing key resources and expenses. This approach ensures that the survey captures the living conditions, livelihood strategies, and vulnerability profiles of Ukrainian refugee households. The unit of measurement in this assessment will be the household, as defined above. Respondents will provide information

that accurately reflects all household members. Certain indicators will also be collected at the individual level for each household member using an individual roster module.

3.3 Secondary data review

The secondary data review was conducted in June 2026, focusing on country-specific literature and programme documents related to the response to the Ukraine crisis. Sources consulted included UNHCR and inter-agency response documents, previous assessments, activity and situation reports, official government sources and figures, and documents related to Moldova's national development and integration frameworks. Particular attention was given to the 2025–2026 Regional Refugee Response Plan, the revised Moldova Country Chapter, the National Development Plan 2025–2027, and the National Programme for the Phased Integration of Foreigners, including Displaced Persons from Ukraine. Key repositories searched included the UNHCR Operational Data Portal – Ukraine Refugee Situation, ReliefWeb, the IMPACT Resource Centre – Moldova, and official Government of Moldova sources.

The literature review provided valuable context and informed the definitions used in this assessment. The findings from the secondary data review were instrumental in shaping the chosen methodology and establishing the sampling framework. In addition to the identified secondary literature, any pertinent studies, reports, and recent news released during data collection will be incorporated in the subsequent research cycle stages. These supplementary sources will enhance the analysis, contributing to the contextualization and validation of findings from the primary data collection process.

Source – Secondary Data with links	Used for
- UNHCR, Ukraine Refugee Situation – Operational Data Portal – Moldova - UNHCR, Ukraine Refugee Situation – Operational Data Portal – Moldova: Population Trends - UNHCR, Ukraine Refugee Situation – Regional Refugee Response Plan 2025–2026, January 2025 - UNHCR, Ukraine Situation: Regional Refugee Response Plan and Moldova Country Chapter – 2025–2026, February/March 2025 - UNHCR, Ukraine Situation: Regional Refugee Response Plan – Revised Moldova Country Chapter – 2025–2026, January 2026 - UNHCR, Ukraine Situation – Moldova: 2026 Programme Summary for Moldova, January 2026 - UNHCR, Ukraine Situation – Moldova: Moldova Participatory Assessment Factsheet 2025 Q4, February 2026 - Government of the Republic of Moldova, Moldovan government approves National Development Plan 2025–2027, May 2024	Context – transversal

Source – Secondary Data with links	Used for
- Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Moldova, Equal rights for all: Government approves National Program for the Integration of Foreigners in Moldova, May 2025 - General Inspectorate for Migration (IGM), press release on temporary protection beneficiaries, published 03/08/2026, accessed 05/08/2026. - IMPACT / REACH, Ukraine Situation – Moldova: Socio-Economic Insights Survey 2025 Situation Overview, December 2025	
- National Bureau of Statistics of the Republic of Moldova, Household Budget Survey (HBS) - Questionnaires HBS - Department of Statistics and Sociology of the Republic of Moldova, Classification of administrative-territorial units (CUATM), 2017 - Socio-Economic Insights Survey (SEIS) 2025, Republic of Moldova, Data Analysis Plan - Household Economic Capacity Assessment (HECA) 2026, Republic of Moldova, Data Analysis Plan	DAP specifics
- Population data source directly used for the sample frame: - o IMPACT, Research Cycle Management & Quality Assurance at IMPACT, 2026. [p. 48] - IGM, TP beneficiaries who have applied to TP extension until 1 March 2027 between 1–16 February and 1–30 April 2026, and refugees who signed up for Temporary Protection between 1 May and 18 August 2026. (<i>not published</i>)	Sampling specifics

3.4 Primary Data Collection

Method

Data collection will be conducted via phone calls using computer-assisted telephone interviewing (CATI). Interviews will be carried out with either the head of household or another adult member of the refugee household who is willing and able to respond on behalf of the household. In cases where the contacted individual indicates that another adult household member is the most appropriate respondent but is not available at the time of the call, limited personally identifiable information (PII), such as the name and contact details of the designated respondent, may be collected solely for the purpose of scheduling and conducting the interview. All PII will be collected, stored, and processed in line with applicable data protection standards and used exclusively for assessment-related purposes. The primary data collection will target 331 completed surveys nationwide. Sampled households will be contacted using the phone numbers included in the sampling frame, which consists of refugee households with at least one individual who signed up on the online platform for the extension of Temporary Protection between 1–16 February and 1–30 April 2026, as well as refugee households with at least one individual who signed up on the platform to apply for Temporary Protection between 1 May and 18 August 2026. Selected households will be invited to participate in the survey.

In cases of refusal or non-response (i.e., disconnected phone numbers or households that do not answer after two call attempts), additional households will be selected from a replacement list. The size of the replacement list will be determined once the initial sample of 331 contacts has been exhausted and all non-responsive contacts have been attempted a second time. Based on the observed success rate and the number of additional completed interviews required to reach the target, an appropriate number of replacement contacts will be randomly selected from the remaining sampling frame. If the replacement list is exhausted before the required number of completed interviews is reached, an additional replacement list will be generated using the same approach, taking into account the most recent observed success rate and the remaining number of interviews required.

Data collection is expected to commence on 16 September 2026 and will last for four weeks, with an additional one-week buffer to accommodate potential lower response rates. A team of four enumerators will be assigned to the exercise. Prior to data collection, enumerators will participate in a two-day training covering the Kobo tool, sampling methodology, and protection considerations and best practices.

Sampling Framework and Strategy

Data collection will be conducted through a household-level survey using a structured questionnaire. The sample will be randomly drawn from the database of households with at least one member who signed up on the platform for the extension of temporary between 1–16 February and 1–30 April 2026, and refugees who signed up for Temporary Protection between 1 May and 18 August 2026.

The database contains the phone numbers of individuals who signed up on the temporary protection extension platform during this period. The sampling frame has been deduplicated and includes unique phone numbers, which are assumed to correspond to individual households. To ensure the protection of personally identifiable information, the sampling framework will be stored in a password protected environment with restricted access. The Data Officer will assign a unique identification code to each phone number. Enumerators will receive only a list of the identification codes assigned to them and will enter these codes into the Kobo data collection tool. The corresponding phone number will then be displayed through the tool solely for the purpose of conducting the assigned interview, without enumerators receiving access to the complete sampling frame. All calls will be conducted exclusively using REACH devices, and no personal phones or personal numbers will be used at any stage. Standard data cleaning procedures will be applied to the dataset to ensure internal consistency and the removal of invalid or unusable entries. After data collection is finalised, standard data cleaning procedures will be carried out, and once the dataset has been validated by IMPACT HQ, all phone numbers will be permanently removed in line with data protection standards.

The Socio-Economic Insights Survey will employ a probability sampling approach, specifically simple random sampling, as the sampling frame does not include information on geographic location or household demographic characteristics. The sample size was calculated based on the total number of households included in the deduplicated list. As of 18 August 2026, a total of 30,788 households had signed up on the platform either for the extension of Temporary Protection or for applying for Temporary Protection. The sample was calculated using a 95% confidence level and a 5.5% margin of error, with an additional 5% buffer to account for incomplete or invalid surveys.

The minimum required sample size is 315 households, which increases to 331 households after applying the buffer. Households will be randomly selected using an R script.

Table 1: Overview of sampling parameters

Estimated # HHs	Confidence level	Error Margin	Buffer	Sample size
30,788	95%	5.5%	5%	331

To account for potential non-response, disconnected phone numbers, or refusals, a replacement list will be generated as needed during data collection. The size of the replacement list will be determined based on the observed success rate of the initial sample and the number of additional completed interviews required to reach the target sample size. Replacement households will be randomly selected from the remaining sampling frame to preserve the probability-based sampling approach. If further replacements are required, additional lists will be generated using the same approach, based on the latest observed success rate and the remaining number of interviews needed.

Data source on the refugee population

Since the onset of the conflict, there has been no nationwide record of the exact number or geographic distribution of the refugee population in Moldova. For the purpose of this assessment, the primary data source on the refugee population is the list of households with at least one member signed up on the platform for the extension of TP until 1 March 2027, between 1–16 February and 1–30 April 2026, and refugees who signed up for Temporary Protection between 1 May and 18 August 2026. Although this list covers only part of the refugee population, it allows the assessment to produce findings that are representative of households included in the sampling frame, rather than of the entire refugee population in Moldova.

The list of households used for sampling comprises all displaced persons who signed up on the platform for the extension of temporary protection until 1 March 2027 during this period. At the time of sampling, the database as of 18 August 2026 represented the most complete, updated, and operationally available dataset. This cut-off was used as the sampling freeze date as it represented the most complete and updated list while still reflecting the vast majority of extension applications submitted during the initial phase of the process.

This list is generated with the support of UNHCR from the national electronic TP extension application system, which is managed by the General Inspectorate for Migration (Inspectoratul General pentru Migrație – IGM) of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Moldova, as part of the Government's procedure to extend TP until 1 March 2027.¹⁴ However, signing up on the platform does not necessarily mean that the application was completed, processed, or approved. It therefore cannot be confirmed that every phone number included in the sampling frame corresponds to a current Temporary Protection beneficiary.

IGM is responsible for receiving, processing, and storing applications submitted via the official portal (protectietemporara.gov.md), maintaining the database of TP applicants, and updating their status in the national information system. While applications for extension were open until 30 April 2026,¹⁵ the dataset as of

¹⁴ General Inspectorate for Migration (IGM), [Extension of Temporary Protection in the Republic of Moldova](#), official webpage, consulted on 19 February 2026.

¹⁵ General Inspectorate for Migration (IGM), [Extension of Temporary Protection in the Republic of Moldova](#), official webpage, consulted on 19 February 2026.

18 August 2026 was used for this assessment to ensure methodological rigor and the reliability of the sampling frame.

Tool

The primary data collection tool for this assessment is a structured household questionnaire, designed to collect comprehensive information on the characteristics, living conditions, and well-being of Ukrainian refugee households in Moldova.

The questionnaire collects information at two levels:

- **Household-level data**, covering household demographics, protection, health, shelter and accommodation, livelihoods, and socio-economic inclusion.
- **Individual-level data**, collected through two components. The individual roster captures information on demographics, education, health, mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), protection, and socio-economic inclusion for each household member. Additional respondent-level questions are administered outside the roster and collect information specifically about the respondent, including demographics, protection, livelihoods, and socio-economic inclusion.

Data will be collected using Enketo webforms, enabling enumerators to conduct phone interviews efficiently, enter data in real time, and ensure high data quality throughout the survey process.

3.5 Data Processing & Analysis

The primary quantitative data for the Socio-Economic Insights Survey will be collected using the Enketo webform. Once collected, the Assessment Officer will clean the raw data daily to account for any duplicates or issues during data collection, as well as to ensure that the correct methodology was followed. The data will be anonymised and cleaned in accordance with REACH's [Data Cleaning Minimum Standard](#) and the [Data Management Standard Operating Procedures \(SOPs\)](#). Following the data cleaning process, the Data Officer, the Senior Assessment Officer and the Assessment Officer will conduct descriptive statistical analysis on the cleaned data set in line with the data analysis plan created during the research design phase using relevant software such as R and Excel. Additionally, the analysis may include some disaggregation at the geographic and demographic levels, which would be indicative. The quantitative refugee survey data analysis will be conducted in compliance with REACH's [Minimum Standards Checklist for Quantitative Data Analysis](#).

All data cleaning and analysis will be reviewed by the IMPACT HQ Africa and Europe Unit before the output production.

3.6 Limitations

Methodological Limitations

- *Sampling frame*: The assessment relies on the list of households with at least one member signed up on the platform for the extension of Temporary Protection between 1–16 February and 1–30 April 2026, and refugees who signed up for obtaining Temporary Protection between 1 May and 18 August 2026. Households that signed up on the platform after this period, or did not sign up at all, are not included in the sampling frame, which may lead to underrepresentation of certain segments of the refugee population. The sampling unit in the source frame is a unique phone-number registration rather than a

verified unique household. The assessment will confirm household composition during data collection, but potential duplicate household representation may result in unequal inclusion probabilities

- *Phone-based survey:* Using CATI and Enketo webforms limits the assessment to households with valid and functional phone numbers. Households that do not answer calls, including disconnected or inactive phones, may be excluded, potentially introducing non-response bias into the sample.
- *Self-reporting:* Responses rely on household members accurately reporting sensitive information such as income, expenses, health status, or vulnerabilities. There is a risk of recall bias or under/over-reporting, especially for financial and health indicators.
- *Response rate:* Based on previous exercises, which recorded relatively low response rates, and considering that the registration platform did not include constraints preventing individuals from registering even if they were not physically present in Moldova, a lower response rate is anticipated. To mitigate this, a replacement list will be generated as needed during data collection, with its size determined based on the observed response rate and the number of additional completed interviews required to reach the target sample size. Despite this approach, low response rates and potential differences between respondents and non-respondents may still affect the representativeness of the final dataset.

Contextual Limitations

- *Access and security:* Certain areas or households may be harder to reach due to phone network limitations, privacy concerns, or sensitivities regarding sharing personal information, which may limit coverage in some regions.
- *Sensitivity of topics:* Questions on income, expenditure, vulnerabilities, and health may be considered sensitive by respondents, which could result in partial responses or refusal to provide complete information.

4. Key ethical considerations and related risks

The proposed research design meets / does not meet the following criteria:

<i>The proposed research design...</i>	<i>Yes/ No</i>	<i>Details if no (including mitigation)</i>
... Has been coordinated with relevant stakeholders to avoid unnecessary duplication of data collection efforts?	Yes	
... Respects respondents, their rights and dignity (specifically by: seeking informed consent, designing length of survey/ discussion while being considerate of participants' time, ensuring accurate reporting of information provided)?	No	The questionnaire is relatively lengthy due to the number of indicators required to assess refugees' socio-economic conditions and vulnerabilities, including additional indicators needed to support the calculation of the Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI). This may increase the risk of respondent fatigue and

		affect response quality. Survey fatigue among refugees from Ukraine in Moldova is also an ongoing concern given the number of assessments conducted among this population. To mitigate these risks, the questionnaire will be reviewed and piloted to identify opportunities to simplify wording, remove unnecessary duplication, and apply appropriate skip logic. Enumerators will receive comprehensive training on the questionnaire to ensure that interviews are conducted clearly and efficiently. During the informed consent process, respondents will be informed of the expected interview duration and reminded that participation is voluntary, that they may decline to answer any question, and that they may end the interview at any time without consequences. Interviews will be scheduled at a convenient time where possible, and interview duration and completion rates will be monitored throughout data collection to identify and address potential respondent-fatigue or data-quality concerns.
... Does not expose data collectors to any risks as a direct result of participation in data collection?	Yes	
... Does not expose respondents / their communities to any risks as a direct result of participation in data collection?	Yes	
... Does not involve collecting information on specific topics which may be stressful and/ or re-traumatising for research participants (both respondents and data collectors)?	No	The survey includes questions related to protection, GBV/CP/PSEA-related issues, and mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), some of which may touch on sensitive personal experiences or circumstances and

		could cause discomfort, distress, or potentially re-traumatisation for respondents. To mitigate these risks, enumerators will receive dedicated training on administering sensitive questions in a respectful, non-judgmental and trauma-informed manner, including how to recognise signs of distress and when to pause or discontinue an interview. Participation will be voluntary, and respondents will be informed that they may decline to answer any question or stop the interview at any time without consequence. Sensitive questions will be asked only where necessary for the assessment objectives, using carefully reviewed and appropriate wording, and respondents will not be asked to provide unnecessary details about potentially traumatic experiences.
... Does not involve data collection with minors i.e. anyone less than 18 years old?	Yes	
... Does not involve data collection with other vulnerable groups e.g. persons with disabilities, victims/ survivors of protection incidents, etc.?	No	The sampling frame contains only respondents' phone numbers and does not include information on disability, protection experiences, or other vulnerabilities. It is therefore not possible to identify in advance whether sampled respondents belong to vulnerable groups, and the survey may include persons with disabilities or survivors of protection incidents. To mitigate potential risks, enumerators will be trained on informed consent, confidentiality, safeguarding, and the appropriate handling of sensitive questions. Respondents may decline to answer any question or end the

		interview at any time, and all findings will be reported anonymously and in aggregate form.
... Follows IMPACT SOPs for management of personally identifiable information ?	Yes	

5. Roles and responsibilities

Table 3: Description of roles and responsibilities

Task Description	Responsible	Accountable	Consulted	Informed
Research design	Senior Assessment Officer, Assessment Officer, Field Officer	Senior Assessment Officer	HQ Research Department, UNHCR	Country Representative, UNHCR
Supervising data collection	Field Officer	Field Officer	Senior Assessment Officer, Data Officer	Country Representative, UNHCR
Data processing (checking, cleaning)	Senior Assessment Officer, Assessment Officer, Data Officer	Senior Assessment Officer	Field team, HQ Research Department	Country Representative, UNHCR
Data analysis	Senior Assessment Officer, Assessment Officer, Data Officer	Senior Assessment Officer	HQ Research Department	Country Representative, UNHCR
Output production	Senior Assessment Officer, Assessment Officer	Senior Assessment Officer	HQ Research Department	Country Representative, UNHCR
Dissemination	Senior Assessment Officer	Senior Assessment Officer	HQ Communications & Advocacy Unit, Country Representative	UNHCR
Monitoring & Evaluation	Senior Assessment Officer	Country Coordinator	HQ MEL Unit	Country Representative, UNHCR
Lessons learned	Senior Assessment Officer, Assessment Officer, Field Officer	Senior Assessment Officer	Country Representative, UNHCR	HQ MEL Unit

Responsible: the person(s) who executes the task

Accountable: the person who validates the completion of the task and is accountable of the final output or milestone

Consulted: the person(s) who must be consulted when the task is implemented

Informed: the person(s) who need to be informed when the task is completed

6. Data Analysis Plan

Quantitative part: Research questions addressed with a structured tool.

The data analysis plan has been published as a separate document in the IMPACT Resource Centre, [IMPACT MDA SEIS 2026 - Data Analysis Plan](#).

7. Monitoring & Evaluation Plan

IMPACT Objective	External M&E Indicator	Internal M&E Indicator	Focal point	Tool	Will indicator be tracked?
Humanitarian stakeholders are accessing IMPACT products	Number of humanitarian organisations accessing IMPACT services/products Number of individuals accessing IMPACT services/products	# of downloads of x product from Resource Center	Country request to HQ	User_log	☒ Yes
		# of downloads of x product from Relief Web	Country request to HQ		☒ Yes
		# of downloads of x product from Country level platforms	Country team		☐ Yes
		# of page clicks on x product from REACH global newsletter	Country request to HQ		☐ Yes
		# of page clicks on x product from country newsletter, sendingBlue, bit.ly	Country team		☐ Yes
		# of visits to x webmap/x dashboard	Country request to HQ		☐ Yes
IMPACT activities contribute to better program implementation and coordination of the humanitarian response	Number of humanitarian organisations utilizing IMPACT services/products	# references in HPC documents (HNO, SRP, Flash appeals, Cluster/sector strategies)	Country team	Reference_log	UNHCR Moldova Multi-Year Strategy 2027-2029 Working Group/Sector Strategy
		# references in single agency documents			
Humanitarian stakeholders are using IMPACT products	Humanitarian actors use IMPACT evidence/products as a basis for decision	Perceived relevance of IMPACT country-programs	Country team	Usage_Feed back and Usage_Survey template	General partner usage survey to be conducted at the end of 2026 for all 2026 activities, targeting at least 10 partners.
		Perceived usefulness and influence of IMPACT outputs			

	making, aid planning and delivery	Recommendations to strengthen IMPACT programs			
		Perceived capacity of IMPACT staff			
	Number of humanitarian documents (HNO, HRP, cluster/agency strategic plans, etc.) directly informed by IMPACT products	Perceived quality of outputs/programs			
		Recommendations to strengthen IMPACT programs			
Humanitarian stakeholders are engaged in IMPACT programs throughout the research cycle	Number and/or percentage of humanitarian organizations directly contributing to IMPACT programs (<i>providing resources, participating to presentations, etc.</i>)	# of organisations providing resources (i.e.staff, vehicles, meeting space, budget, etc.) for activity implementation	Country team	Engagement_log	☐ Yes
		# of organisations/clusters inputting in research design and joint analysis			☒ Yes
		# of organisations/clusters attending briefings on findings;			☐ Yes