

Research Terms of Reference

Area-Based Assessment (ABA) Căușeni

MDA2403

Republic of Moldova

[25/03/2024]

[1]

REACH Informing
more effective
humanitarian action

1. Executive Summary

| | | | | | |
|--|---|--|---|------------|---|
| Country of intervention | Republic of Moldova | | | | |
| Type of Emergency | <input type="checkbox"/> | Natural hazard | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Conflict | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (<i>specify</i>) |
| Type of Crisis | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Sudden onset | <input type="checkbox"/> | Slow onset | <input type="checkbox"/> Protracted |
| Mandating Body/ Agency | United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) | | | | |
| IMPACT Project Code | 67BCL | | | | |
| Overall Research Timeframe (<i>from research design to final outputs / M&E</i>) | 19/02/2024 to 31/08/2024 | | | | |
| Research Timeframe <i>Add planned deadlines (for first cycle if more than 1)</i> | 1. Pilot/ training: 10-12/04/2024 | | 6. Preliminary presentation: 17/06/2024 | | |
| | 2. Start collect data: 15/04/2024 | | 7. Outputs sent for validation: 08/07/2024 | | |
| | 3. Data collected: 03/04/2024 | | 8. Outputs published: 22/07/2024 | | |
| | 4. Data analysed: 24/05/2024 | | 9. Final presentation: 29/07/2024 | | |
| | 5. Data sent for validation: 24/05/2024 | | | | |
| Number of assessments | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Single assessment (one cycle) | | | |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> | Multi assessment (more than one cycle) | | | |
| Humanitarian milestones <i>Specify what will the assessment inform and when</i> <i>e.g. The shelter cluster will use this data to draft its Revised Flash Appeal;</i> | Milestone | | Deadline (can be tentative) | | |
| | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Donor plan/strategy | 31/08/2024 | | |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> | Inter-cluster plan/strategy | __/__/__ | | |
| | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Cluster plan/strategy | 31/08/2024 | | |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> | NGO platform plan/strategy | __/__/__ | | |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> | Other (Specify): DRR activities of implementation partners | __/__/__ | | |
| | Audience type | | Dissemination | | |

| | | | |
|--|---|-----|---|
| Audience Type & Dissemination Specify <i>who</i> will the assessment inform and <i>how</i> you will disseminate to inform the audience | <input type="checkbox"/> Strategic <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Programmatic <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Operational <input type="checkbox"/> [Other, Specify] | | X General Product Mailing (e.g. mail to NGO consortium; HCT participants; Donors) X Cluster Mailing (Education, Livelihoods, Shelter, Healthcare, Protection, Accountability to Affected People (AFP), and Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)) X Presentation of findings (e.g. at Information Management Working Group (IMWG) and Refugee Coordination Forum (RCF)) X Website Dissemination (Relief Web & IMPACT Resource Centre) X Distribution to relevant ministries (e.g., agriculture, environment) and local authorities |
| Stakeholder mapping Has a detailed stakeholder mapping been conducted during research design to identify all actors that could contribute to and/or benefit from the research? | X | Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| General Objective | To assess the conditions and access to basic services (education, healthcare, WASH, employment) of the refugee and host communities in 4 localities within the Căușeni raion, the social cohesion and integration of these communities, as well as the disaster-risk preparedness of these localities in mid-2024, in order to inform an area-based response of local government institutions and humanitarian actors, along with local development and contingency planning by identifying the vulnerabilities, capacity gaps and opportunities to strengthen the disaster risk preparedness across local institutions, local actors, and communities. | | |
| Specific Objective(s) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide information to local authorities and humanitarian actors about the priority needs, in terms of access to basic services (education, healthcare, WASH, employment) and economic needs of refugees and host communities- • Understand the access and barriers to basic services (education, health, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), employment) for refugees and host communities. • Appraise the sources of humanitarian aid available to refugees in the assessed localities, and their need for information on humanitarian aid. • Understand the movement and integration intention of refugees in the assessed localities. • Explore the social cohesion between the two communities in the assessed localities, as well the factors which facilitate or inhibit integration. • Explore the impact of natural hazards on the local communities and the socio-economic vulnerabilities of the refugee and host communities to such hazards • Understand the used coping mechanisms to natural hazards of local communities and institutions, services and businesses, their preparedness and response capacities and the opportunities for strengthening these capacities. • Produce a detailed map of local formal or informal emergency shelter points for each assessed locality. | | |
| Research Questions | 1. What are the priority needs of the refugee and host populations in the assessed areas in terms of access to basic services (education, health, water, sanitation and | | |

| | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|--|------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|
| | <p>hygiene (WASH), employment) and economic needs? How do needs vary within the two populations?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> What is the access and the barriers to access to basic services (education, health, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), employment) for the refugee and host populations in the assessed areas? What are the sources of humanitarian aid available to the refugees living in the assessed areas and what are their needs related to information on humanitarian aid? What are the movement intentions and integration plans of the refugees living in the assessed areas? What is the nature of the relationship between the refugee and host communities? What factors currently foster and/or inhibit social cohesion between refugees and the host community? What are the impacts of natural hazards on the populations in the assessed areas? What are the socio-economic vulnerabilities of refugees and the host community? How do these vulnerabilities vary within the refugee and host populations? What are the existing coping strategies and response capacities of the assessed communities and local stakeholders and what capacities are they lacking? What are the formal and informal emergency shelters available in case of a natural disaster and what is their condition and accessibility? | | | | | |
| Geographic Coverage | 4 settlements in Căușeni, including: one urban: Căușeni City and three rural: Chircăiești, Pervomaisc & Ucraina | | | | | |
| Secondary data sources | <p>ABA Sources:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> REACH, <u>Multi-Sector Needs Assessment 2023</u>, Republic of Moldova, February 2024. Republica Moldova Consiliul Raional Căușeni, <u>Population</u>. Republica Moldova Consiliul Raional Căușeni, <u>Geography</u>. UNHCR, <u>Ukraine Situation - Moldova: 2024 Refugee Response Plan Moldova: Local Consultations Final Report</u>, October 2023. Direcția Educație, Cultură, Tineret, Sport și Turism Căușeni, <u>School Network</u>. FAO, <u>Comprehensive Analysis of the Disaster Risk Reduction System for the Agriculture Sector in the Republic of Moldova</u>, Budapest, 2023. Wisner Ben, Blaikie Piers, Cannon Terry, Davis Ian, <u>At Risk: Natural Hazards, People's Vulnerability, and Disasters</u>, 2nd Edition, 2003. European Union Civil Protection, <u>Peer Review Report: Republic of Moldova</u>, 2023. United Nations, <u>Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030</u>, 2015. Republica Moldova Consiliul Raional Căușeni, <u>Local Economic Development Plan 2019-2021</u>. Republica Moldova Consiliul Raional Căușeni, <u>Strategia de Dezvoltare Durabilă a Raionului Căușeni 2012-2023</u>. Doh Eain, <u>Community-led Climate Adaption Solution Toolkit</u>. UNHCR, <u>2023 Participatory Assessment Report</u>, February 2024. HIAS Moldova, <u>Labour Market Assessment for Refugees and Asylum Seekers in the Republic of Moldova</u>, January 2024. WFP, <u>Social Cohesion and Food Security</u>, December 2023. | | | | | |
| Population(s) | <input type="checkbox"/> | IDPs in camp | <input type="checkbox"/> | IDPs in informal sites | | |
| <i>Select all that apply</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | IDPs in host communities | <input type="checkbox"/> | IDPs [Other, Specify] | | |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> | Refugees in camp | <input type="checkbox"/> | Refugees in informal sites | | |
| | X | Refugees in host communities | <input type="checkbox"/> | Refugees [Other, Specify] | | |
| | X | Host communities | <input type="checkbox"/> | [Other, Specify] | | |
| Stratification | X | Geographical #2 | X | Group #2 | <input type="checkbox"/> | [Other Specify] #: _ _ |

| | | | | |
|---|---|--|--|--|
| Select type(s) and enter number of strata | | Urban: Căuşeni City Rural: Chircăieşti, Pervomaisc & Ucrainca Population size per strata is known? X Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No | 1. Refugee families living outside of Refugee Accommodation Centres (RACs) 2. Host community Population size per strata is known? 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Yes X No ¹ 2. X Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No | Population size per strata is known? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| Data collection tool(s) | X | Structured (Quantitative) | X | Semi-structured (Qualitative) |
| | | Sampling method | | Data collection method |
| Structured data collection tool # 1 <i>Household interviews with refugees</i> | | X Purposive <input type="checkbox"/> Probability / Simple random <input type="checkbox"/> Probability / Stratified simple random <input type="checkbox"/> Probability / Cluster sampling <input type="checkbox"/> Probability / Stratified cluster sampling X Snowballing | | <input type="checkbox"/> Key informant interview (Target #): _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Group discussion (Target #) X Household interview (Target #): 46 <input type="checkbox"/> Individual interview (Target #): _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Direct observations (Target #): _____ <input type="checkbox"/> [Other, Specify] (Target #): _____ |
| Structured data collection tool # 2 <i>Household interviews with the host population</i> | | <input type="checkbox"/> Purposive <input type="checkbox"/> Probability / Simple random X Probability / Stratified simple random <input type="checkbox"/> Probability / Cluster sampling <input type="checkbox"/> Probability / Stratified cluster sampling <input type="checkbox"/> [Other, Specify] | | <input type="checkbox"/> Key informant interview (Target #): _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Group discussion (Target #): _____ X Household interview (Target #): 195 <input type="checkbox"/> Individual interview (Target #): _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Direct observations (Target #): _____ <input type="checkbox"/> [Other, Specify] (Target #): _____ |
| Semi-structured data collection tool (s) # 1 <i>Key Informant Interviews</i> | | X Purposive <input type="checkbox"/> Snowballing <input type="checkbox"/> [Other, Specify] | | X Key informant interview (Target #): 20 <input type="checkbox"/> Individual interview (Target #): _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Focus group discussion (Target #): _____ <input type="checkbox"/> [Other, Specify] (Target #): _____ |
| Semi-structured data collection tool (s) # 2 <i>Focus Group Discussions (FGD) with refugees and hosts</i> | | X Purposive X Snowballing <input type="checkbox"/> [Other, Specify] | | <input type="checkbox"/> Key informant interview (Target #): _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Individual interview (Target #): _____ X Focus group discussion (Target #): 8 (4 per each population group, including 1 FGDs in each locality for the host community, and 2 FGDs in Căuşeni city and 2 other FGDs in the remaining 3 localities for the refugee community, based on the availability of participants) <input type="checkbox"/> [Other, Specify] (Target #): _____ |
| Target level of precision if probability sampling | | 95% level of confidence | | +/- 10% margin of error |

¹ For the refugee population only estimates are available.

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|---|-----------------------------|--|--------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------|
| Disaggregation by gender and age <i>Are you planning to conduct sex/age disaggregated analysis?</i> | Gender | | Age | | | |
| | X | Yes | X | Yes | | |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> | No | <input type="checkbox"/> | No | | |
| Data management platform(s) | X | IMPACT | <input type="checkbox"/> | UNHCR | | |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> | [Other, Specify] | | | | |
| Expected output type(s) | X | Situation overview #: 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> | Report #: __ | <input type="checkbox"/> | Profile #: __ |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> | Presentation (Preliminary findings) #: __ | X | Presentation (Final) #: 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> | Factsheet #: __ |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> | Interactive dashboard #: __ | <input type="checkbox"/> | Web map #: __ | X | Map #: 4 |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> | [Other, Specify] #: __ | | | | |
| Access | X | Public (available on REACH resource centre and other humanitarian platforms) | | | | |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> | Restricted (bilateral dissemination only upon agreed dissemination list, no publication on REACH or other platforms) | | | | |
| Visibility <i>Specify which logos should be on outputs</i> | REACH | | | | | |
| | Donor: UNHCR | | | | | |
| | Coordination Framework: n/a | | | | | |
| | Partners: n/a | | | | | |

2. Rationale

2.1 Background

The conflict in Ukraine, which escalated in February 2022, resulted in the mass displacement of people internally and across international borders.² As of 14 March 2024, a total of 6,486 million refugees have left Ukraine and have entered into neighbouring countries, including Moldova.³ According to the Government of Moldova, almost 117,000 Ukrainian nationals and 9,400 third-country nationals have settled in the country as of 10 March 2024.⁴ Of this figure, women and children comprise 81% of the displaced.⁵ Estimations made by the REACH Moldova team further indicate that around 361 refugees have settled in the Căușeni raion.⁶

Notwithstanding the destabilising effects of conflict in Ukraine and significant levels of displacement in the region, the Republic of Moldova is further classified as one of the most vulnerable countries globally in terms of the proportion of its population exposed to natural hazards, including flooding, drought, hailstorms, and extreme heat.⁷ Given that agriculture constitutes a significant portion of the economic output of Căușeni,⁸ the possible loss and damage to this sector, caused by natural hazards, has the potential to have a disproportionate impact on the economic wellbeing of the entire raion. Indeed, this is exemplified by the fact that, across Moldova, about 90 percent of crop production in the country is rainfed, rendering the sector highly susceptible to climate variability.⁹ Certainly, the fallout from drought in 2020 is indicative of the extent of loss which can occur due to challenging climatic conditions; in this case, drought was reported to have compromised yields of sunflowers and corn in Central and Southern Moldova by 80% and 100% respectively.¹⁰ In a wider country context, as

² United Nations, "Ukraine Crisis: Protecting civilians 'Priority Number One', Guterres releases \$20M for humanitarian support", consulted 01/03/2024.

³ UNHCR, Operational Data Portal – Ukraine Refugee Situation, consulted 14/03/2024.

⁴ UNHCR, Refugee Coordination Forum, Daily Trends Dashboard - Republic of Moldova, consulted 10/03/2024.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ The estimated number of refugees in Căușeni was calculated by the averaging of several figures which measured refugee numbers in the raion at settlement level. The average was derived based on figures from the following sources: the refugee population estimate of the Information Working Group (IMWG) November 2023; REACH's Area Monitoring (AM) from November/December 2023; and data from the Căușeni social assistance from January 2024.

⁷ FAO, Comprehensive Analysis of the Disaster Risk Reduction System for the Agriculture Sector in the Republic of Moldova, Budapest, 2023, vii.

⁸ Republica Moldova Consiliul Raional Căușeni, Local Economic Development Plan 2019-2021, consulted 19/03/2024.

⁹ FAO, Comprehensive Analysis of the Disaster Risk Reduction System, 7.

¹⁰ Ibid., 8.

the conflict in Ukraine is at risk of transitioning into a protracted crisis,¹¹ humanitarian actors, much like development actors, are likewise being obliged to reconsider present strategies in Moldova in response to changing circumstances. Here, the new humanitarian focus on the creation of longer-term, durable solutions which can facilitate sustainable management of the refugee crisis resonates with the logic of the area-based assessment (ABA) which involves collaboration with local-crisis responders and service providers to ensure a participatory approach to longer-term humanitarian interventions.¹²

2.2 Intended impact

This ABA will evaluate the present state of basic services (education, health, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), and employment), supporting refugees, living outside of RACs, and members of the host community, and the access of both communities to these services. It will similarly assess the extent of integration and the quality of social cohesion between refugees and the host community. Here, secondary-data review has to date yielded limited information on how the arrival of refugees in the community has impacted access to basic services and livelihoods. Given the importance of understanding service capacities, service planning, and strategies for resilient community management, this assessment will gather actionable information which can effectively inform integrated and durable solutions to the challenges posed by an influx of refugees to Căușeni. Previous findings from the Multi Sectoral Needs Assessment (MSNA) 2023 have likewise shown that only 45% of refugee households (HHs) were in a financial position to cover all accommodation-related expenses.¹³ Similarly, 79% of refugee HHs reported that humanitarian cash-assistance programmes and financial loans or help from relatives or close friends comprised their primary source of income in the thirty days prior to the MSNA survey.¹⁴ Both findings suggest that refugee HHs remain highly dependent on humanitarian financial aid, highlighting the unsustainability of long-term humanitarian support. In this regard, the ABA will collect more granular data which will provide a clearer picture in the Căușeni context on the current challenges and risks which these communities continue to face in relation to service availability and access. In a similar fashion, as a lack of data on rural areas and the challenges in such areas persist, the ABA will also focus on both urban and rural areas, producing analysis for each area.

Furthermore, given the accented focus on sustainable and resilient development, this assessment will also appraise the extent to which both refugees and host communities are exposed to natural hazards. Given that natural hazards can often impair basic services, attention will focus on developing a better understanding of how communities in Căușeni raion prepare for, mitigate, and cope with natural disasters, considering access to basic services and available livelihoods.. It is interesting to note that food and environmental security, encompassing access to water, electricity, heating, and foodstuffs, was seen to be positively correlated to the attitudes of Moldovans towards Ukrainian refugees, pointing to the intertwined nature of questions of social cohesion and community well-being.¹⁵ Indeed, given the significant exposure of Moldova to a variety of natural hazards, including drought and flood, it remains important to understand the capacities and gaps of local authorities to reduce and manage the consequences of disasters.¹⁶ As previously stated, Căușeni can be characterised by its high dependence on climate-sensitive economic activities, chiefly agriculture.¹⁷ Here, there is minimal understanding of how this industry, as well as the broader raion, is being prepared for increasingly volatile natural disasters.¹⁸ As such, the ABA will seek to gather data that can be leveraged in the implementation of effective disaster-risk reduction strategies for diverse stakeholders, including local authorities and the host community-members, across Căușeni raion.

3.1 Methodology overview

The ABA will use a mixed-methods approach, incorporating both quantitative and qualitative data-collection tools to permit the collection of in-depth data on Căușeni raion. Before the start of data collection, a secondary-data review was undertaken in tandem with extensive stakeholder mapping of potential Kis. These processes helped provide context on existing research and local resources and has permitted the identification of key respondents, institutions, and organisations, embedded in

¹¹ Lizz Harrison, "Ukraine Humanitarian Crisis – 2 Years On", Reliefweb, consulted: 04/04/2024

¹² Katie Tooth, "After Two Years in Poland, Ukrainian Refugees Ask When – and if – They Will Go Home", The New Humanitarian, consulted: 25/03/2024.

¹³ REACH, Multi-Sector Needs Assessment 2023, Republic of Moldova, February 2024, consulted 11/03/2024.

¹⁴ *Ibid.*

¹⁵ WFP, Social Cohesion and Food Security, December 2023, consulted 11/03/2024.

¹⁶ FAO, Comprehensive Analysis of the Disaster Risk Reduction System for the Agriculture Sector in the Republic of Moldova, Budapest, 2023.

¹⁷ Căușeni Town, Local Economic Development Plan 2019-2021.

¹⁸ European Environment Agency, Extreme Weather: Floods, Droughts, and Heatwaves, October 2023, consulted: 19/03/2024.

local enterprise, local government, and civil society. Primary quantitative data will be collected from refugees households outside of refugee accommodation centres (RACs) and host-community households and will seek to capture household and individual level data related to basic-service needs, access and barriers; movement intentions; social cohesion and integration; and vulnerability to hazards. Similarly, primary qualitative data will be collected from focus group discussions (FGDs) with refugee and host-community members and will provide in-depth understanding of the said topics. Key informant interviews (KIs) will furthermore be conducted with sectoral experts from Căușeni to incorporate the perspectives of local authorities and service providers.

Key-steps in the ABA:

1. **Engagement with local authorities and the humanitarian actors in the assessed area:** Humanitarian actors and local authorities will be consulted in the research-design process, to ensure the informativeness of the findings and their relevancy in the local context.
2. **Secondary data review:** Secondary data, related to government demographic statistics, displacement numbers, the nature of basic services and the character of the local economy will be appraised as part of the ABA and will be utilised to understand the refugee and host community situation in Căușeni raion.
3. **Stakeholder mapping:** using secondary data and field exploration, a list of local authorities, basic service providers and external and internal actors active within the relevant sectors will be created.
4. **Quantitative survey of the refugee and host population:** A representative sample of the host population and a purposive sample of the refugee population outside of RACs will be surveyed in relation to basic service needs and access barriers; movement intentions; social cohesion and integration; and vulnerability to hazards.
5. **FGDs with the refugee and host population:** 4 semi-structured FGDs will be conducted with refugees outside of RACs and members of the host community for a more in-depth understanding of topics such as social cohesion, the impact of refugee arrival and barriers to access to services. The FGDs will be mixed-gender, as no sensitive topics will be discussed.
6. **KIs with service providers:** KIs will be conducted with 20 representatives, 4 from each of the 5 targeted sectors (local authorities, health service providers, education service providers, business representatives, NGO & CSO representatives) to understand the impact of the refugee arrival on their respective sector, the service provision and potential gaps as well as **to better understand disaster risk preparedness.**
7. **Participative Mapping:** A detailed map of local informal and formal emergency shelter points will be developed through consultations with community members in Căușeni raion.
8. **Data processing and analysis:** The quantitative data will be cleaned, and statistical analysis will be conducted on the cleaned data set. The qualitative interviews will be recorded, transcribed and analysis will be conducted through the creation of data saturation and analysis grids (DSAGs).
9. **Output production:** The analysed data will be assembled into a situation overview and presentation.

3.2 Population of interest

The population of interest for this assessment comprises both refugee households, living in the community and outside of RACs,¹⁹ and households belonging to the host population of Căușeni raion. As of March 2024, there was an estimated number of 361 refugees living in the community in Căușeni, according to figures obtained from several different sources.²⁰ The total host population figures stand at 63,905 individuals, according to the data on usual resident population from the National Bureau of Statistics in 2023.²¹

¹⁹ As of the 25/03/2024, there are 21 refugees living in a RAC in Căușeni raion, according implementing partners.

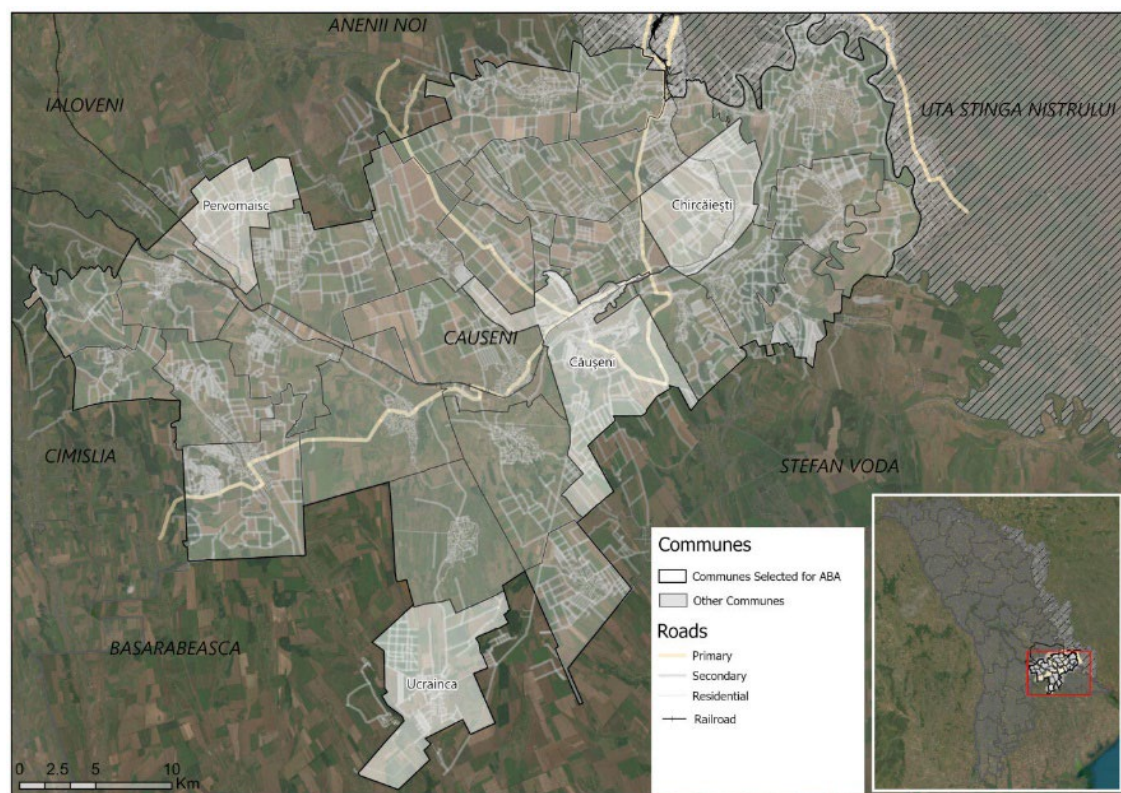
²⁰ The estimated number of refugees in Căușeni was calculated by the averaging of several figures which measured refugee numbers in the raion. The average was derived from the following figures: the Information Working Group (IMWG) counted 560 in November 2023; area monitoring (AM) counted 300 in November 2023; Căușeni social assistance counted 301 in January 2024; and field-team assessments in the raion estimated 284 refugees in January 2024.

²¹ Bureau of Statistics of the Republic of Moldova, [Statistical Databank](#), consulted: 20/03/2024..

The assessment will be conducted in the Căușeni raion; four areas, one urban and three rural have been selected. For the urban area, the largest settlement in the raion was chosen: Căușeni city, both due to it being the location hosting the largest share of the refugee population in the raion, but also due a number of other factors, listed below. For the rural areas, three village settlements, Chircăiești, Pervomaisc, and Ucrainca, were selected according to a similar logic. Firstly, the selection of settlements sought to incorporate broad geographical coverage into the assessment (see map 1). Secondly, increased exposure to climate related shocks and hazards was taken into account, through a consideration of incidence of wildfires, as indicated by GIS data, as well as through a preliminary participatory mapping of hazards with local authorities who indicated the localities that were most affected by drought, hail storms and flooding. Thirdly, data on economic vulnerability and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) were considered in the selection of these locations.²² Lastly, the numbers of refugees present in Căușeni city validated its inclusion in the assessment. In relation to the other selected settlements, the numbers of refugees were quite low though this reflected the fact that there was extremely low numbers of refugees present in rural localities across raion. This data was acquired by consultation with local authorities in Căușeni and also from GIS data. Additionally, consultations were completed frequently with the field team to ensure that the selected areas were accessible and that, based on recent data-collection exercises, adequate numbers of respondents could be identified due to reluctance among the host community to partake in HH surveys.

In the quantitative survey for the refugee and host communities, the household will be the main unit of measurement, with some education, healthcare and employment indicators at individual level.

Map 1. The Causeni Raion, with the assessed settlements highlighted



3.3 Secondary data review

| Resource: | Source: | Purpose: |
|--|------------------|--------------------------|
| <u>Multi-Sector Needs Assessment 2023, Republic of Moldova</u> | REACH Initiative | Context Triangulation |
| <u>Ukraine Situation - Moldova: 2024 Refugee Response Plan</u> | UNHCR | Context Triangulation |

²² See: participatory mapping exercise on pg.7

| | | |
|--|--|-----------------------------|
| <u>Moldova: Local Consultations Final Report</u> | | |
| Comprehensive Analysis of the Disaster Risk Reduction System for the Agriculture Sector in the Republic of Moldova | FAO | Context Information Gaps |
| Natural Hazards, People's Vulnerability, and Disasters | Wisner Ben, Blaikie Piers, Cannon Terry, Davis Ian | Research Design |
| Peer Review Report: Republic of Moldova | European Union Civil Protection | Context Information Gaps |
| Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 | United Nations | Context Research Design |
| <u>Local Economic Development Plan 2019-2021</u> | Republica Moldova Consiliul Raional Căuşeni | Context |
| <u>Strategia de Dezvoltare Durabilă a Raionului Căuşeni</u> | Republica Moldova Consiliul Raional Căuşeni | Context |
| <u>Community-led Climate Adaption Solution Toolkit</u> | Doh Eain | Context Research Design |
| <u>2023 Participatory Assessment Report</u> | UNHCR | Context |
| <u>Labour Market Assessment for Refugees and Asylum Seekers in the Republic of Moldova</u> | HIAS Moldova | Context |
| <u>Social Cohesion and Food Security</u> | WFP | Context |

3.4 Primary Data Collection

Primary data will be collected through:

Quantitative surveys conducted with refugee HHs, outside of RACs, and host population HHs:

Method: Household surveys with refugee households and the host population will be conducted through face-to-face interviews.

1. **Host population:** A stratified simple random sampling approach will be used for the sampling of the host population. The population will be stratified on an urban-rural basis. The urban population comprises 13,253 individuals and is located entirely in Căuşeni city. The rural population comprises 4,497 individuals, including 2,279 in Chircăieşti, 997 in Pervomaisc, and 1,221 in Ucrainca. The number of HHs per settlement was calculated by dividing the figures by 3.1. This figure represented the average HH size in Căuşeni raion, according to data from the national census of Moldova in 2014.²³ Resultingly, the number of HHs in Căuşeni city was determined to be 4275. In Chircăieşti, Pervomaisc, and Ucrainca, 735, 322, and 394 HHs were likewise tallied. The sample of the host population surveys was then calculated with a confidence level interval of 95% and a margin of error of 10% at the urban and rural level. Table 1 outlines the sample size in each targeted location calculated with a probability proportional to size.

²³ Bureau of Statistics of the Republic of Moldova, Key Results of the 2014 Population and Housing Census, consulted: 21/03/2024.

Table 1. Sampling frame for the host population HHs in the targeted areas.

| Target Area | Settlement | Host Population | Estimate of host HHs | Target Host HH Surveys |
|-------------|--------------|-----------------|----------------------|------------------------|
| Urban | Căușeni city | 13253 | 4275 | 99 |
| Rural | Chircăiești | 2279 | 735 | 51 |
| Rural | Pervomaisc | 997 | 322 | 18 |
| Rural | Ucrainca | 1221 | 394 | 27 |

The second stage of sampling will consist of randomly selecting host community respondents. Using maps created by the GIS team, a random systematic sample of residences will be created.

- Areas where households would not be present will be removed from the map before the selection of the sample, including airports, military bases, etc.
- A larger area will be considered, as buffer. In the event that a respondent is not willing to participate in the survey, the nearest eligible host community respondent will be approached for the survey, within a radius of 100 meters. If no other eligible individual is present at the same point, the enumerator will continue to the next selected residence.

2. **Refugee population:** A purposive sampling strategy will be used to sample the refugee population in Căușeni raion. The results of this survey will therefore not be representative. The numbers of the refugee population, living outside of RACs, was estimated at around 361 individuals as of March 2024, according to calculations made by the REACH Moldova research team.²⁴ In the settlements selected for our assessment, 140 individual refugees are estimated to be living there in total. This includes 103 in Căușeni city, 14 in Chircăiești, 16 in Pervomaisc, and 7 in Ucrainca. The number of refugee HHs per settlement was calculated by dividing the aforementioned figures by 2.4, the average refugee HH size in Moldova, according to the MSNA 2023.²⁵ As a result, the number of refugee HHs was estimated to stand at 43 in Căușeni city, 6 in Chircăiești, 7 in Pervomaisc, and 3 in Ucrainca. While a prospective target of refugee HH surveys was calculated similarly to the host community sample, given the small number of HHs present in the raion, the final sample was decided following discussions with the field team. Due to refugee population numbers being only estimative, and the purposive sampling, results will only be indicative.

Table 2. Estimated refugee HHs living outside RACs in the targeted areas.

| Settlement | Refugee Population | Estimate of Refugee HHs | Target Refugee HH Surveys |
|--------------|--------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| Căușeni city | 103 | 43 | 32 |
| Chircăiești | 14 | 6 | 5 |
| Pervomaisc | 16 | 7 | 6 |
| Ucrainca | 7 | 3 | 3 |

²⁴ The estimated number of refugees in Căușeni was calculated by the averaging of several figures which measured refugee numbers in the raion. The average was derived from the following figures: the Information Working Group (IMWG) counted 560 in November 2023; area monitoring (AM) counted 300 in November 2023; Căușeni social assistance counted 301 in January 2024; and field-team assessments in the raion estimated 284 refugees in January 2024.

²⁵ REACH, *Multi-Sector Needs Assessment 2023*.

Enumerators, through consultations with key-informants, will identify locations where it is likely to encounter refugee respondents in Căușeni. In the rural localities, given the small number of refugees, the field team may be directed to the respective households by local partners.

FGDs with the refugee and host population:

Method: Semi-structured FGDs will be conducted to obtain a more in-depth understanding of the social cohesion and integration of the host and refugee communities; the access and barriers to basic services of the host and refugee communities, as well as questions relating to the vulnerability of the local community to natural and anthropogenic hazards. The host community FGDs will also encompass the participatory mapping exercise to identify the formal and informal shelters available, and their state and accessibility.

Sampling: Eight FGDs will be conducted in total. Four FGDs will be carried out with refugee community and another four with the host community. The FGDs with refugees will include two FGDs in Căușeni city and two FGDs in the remaining three rural localities, reflecting the larger refugee population in Căușeni city. FGDs with the host community will be evenly distributed among the four assessed localities. Focus group participants will be identified purposively through .

Tool: A semi-structured discussion guide will be used to moderate the discussion. The discussions will be recorded once consent is given by all FGD participants. During the discussion, the interviewer will take notes to facilitate the discussion and record the information when no consent is given for audio-recording. After the completion of the discussion, the interviewer and notetaker will fill a debrief form to assess how the discussion went. Here, they will further address difficulties during the interview.

KIs with local authorities; health service providers, education service providers, business representatives, and NGO & CSO representatives

Method: Semi-structured discussions will be conducted with KIs from different sectors in Căușeni. Questions will mirror those included in the host and refugee HH surveys and will seek to assess the character of social cohesion and integration of the host and refugee communities; the service needs of the host and refugee communities, as well as questions on service access and barriers; and questions on the vulnerability of both communities to natural and anthropogenic hazards as well as the impact of such hazards on community life in the assessed settlements. 5 types of sector respondents will be consulted, with four interviews being conducted per sector, one per locality:

1. Local Authorities/DRM specialists,
2. Health service providers,
3. Education service providers,
4. Business representatives,
5. NGO & CSO representatives.

Sampling: Key informants will be identified through purposive sampling based on SDR and field visits.

Tool: A semi-structured discussion guide will be used to moderate the discussion. The discussions will be recorded if consent is given. During the discussion, the interviewer will take notes to facilitate the discussion and record the information when no consent is given for audio-recording. After the completion of the interview, the interviewer will fill a debrief form to assess how the discussion went. Here, they will further address difficulties during the interview.

Data collection will be carried out from 15 April to 1 May 2024. Before data collection, enumerators will be trained on the questionnaires to ensure a clear understanding of all questions and how to administer these questions in face-to-face surveys, FGDs and KIs. Enumerators will be made aware of the Emergency Inter-Agency Referral Channels (general protection, gender-based violence, child protection) and referral procedures to follow if they encounter any cases of vulnerability during the interviews.

3.5 Data Processing & Analysis

The primary quantitative data for the ABA will be collected using Kobo Platform. 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 Management of Personally Identifiable Information. Following the data cleaning process, the Data Officer and the Assessment Officer will conduct 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. The host population household survey data analysis will be conducted in compliance with REACH's Minimum Standards Checklist for Quantitative Data Analysis.

The qualitative KIs and FGDs will be recorded (when consent is given), and interviewers will take notes during the interviews. The recordings will be transcribed by the interviewers and translated into English for data analysis. All qualitative data will be processed in accordance with REACH's Management of Personally Identifiable Information. The analysis of the qualitative data will be conducted through the construction of data saturation and analysis grids in order to identify patterns across the FGDs and KIs. The analysis will be conducted in accordance with REACH's Minimum Standards Checklist for Semi-Structured (Qualitative) Data Processing and Analysis.

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

3.6 Limitations

It is expected that, during the course of this assessment, limitations will be encountered in relation to the methodology, context, and logistics. In relation to the methodology, a first limitation expected is that the refugee population in the Căușeni raion is quite small, as well as that exact numbers of refugees present in the raion and its localities is not available. As such and given the purposive sampling strategy, the findings of the refugee household surveys will only be indicative, and cannot be regarded as representative of the entire refugee population in the raion. Additionally, due to the small number of refugees present in some of the assessed localities, the identification of available respondents may prove a challenge and in some instances, it may happen that fewer refugee HHs will be present compared to the estimates. If this is the case, the refugee HH surveys will be redistributed among the four localities, so that the total number of interviews is reached, if possible. Additionally, given the small size of the refugee HH surveys sample, the assessment team will closely follow the IMPACT reporting guidelines and ensure that the share of the sample or respective subset will be clearly reported. In addition, and related to the context, field-team excursions to Căușeni have indicated that the raion is inaccessible in parts due to the poor quality of roads. This factor will likely have a minor impact on data-collection though it may slow down the data-collection process. Here, it will be important to remain cognisant of this fact and prepare strategies to mitigate the consequence of inaccessible areas for the assessment to ensure that data-collection is achieved within the allotted time given. Field-team assessments similarly revealed an unwillingness among the host community to participate in surveys due to this community's unfamiliarity with survey-taking. So as to reduce the impact that this limitation might have, these constraints were taken into account during the design of the sample, by selecting areas with higher populations and by stratifying the population on a rural-urban basis. Nevertheless, if significant reluctance among the host community is encountered during the data-collection phase, this may reduce the number of interviews successfully completed. Further, to understand the extent of this barrier, the number of refusals will also be recorded, to be considered in upcoming assessments.

3. 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 (<i>specifically by: seeking informed consent, designing length of survey/ discussion while being considerate of participants' time, ensuring accurate reporting of information provided</i>)? | Yes | |
| ... 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)? | Yes | |
| ... 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.? | Yes | |
| ... Follows IMPACT SOPs for management of personally identifiable information ? | Yes | |

4. Roles and responsibilities

| Task Description | Responsible | Accountable | Consulted | Informed |
|---|---|----------------------------|--|------------------------------|
| <i>Research design</i> | Senior Assessment Officer, Junior Assessment Officer | Associate Research Manager | GIS Officer Data Officer ACTED DRR Focal point Field team Africa and Europe Unit | Country coordinator UNHCR |
| <i>Supervising data collection</i> | Field Officer Senior Assessment Officer | Field Manager | Associate Research Manager | Country Coordinator UNHCR |
| <i>Data processing (checking, cleaning)</i> | Assessment Assistant (quant) Field Officer (qual) Senior Assessment Officer | Associate Research Manager | Africa and Europe Unit | Country Coordinator UNHCR |
| <i>Data analysis</i> | Junior Assessment Officer (qual) Assessment Assistant (quant) Data Officer | Associate Research Manager | Africa and Europe Unit | Country Coordinator UNHCR |

| | | | | |
|------------------------------------|--|---|--|------------------------------|
| | Senior Assessment Officer | | | |
| <i>Output production</i> | Junior Assessment Officer Senior Assessment Officer | Associate Research Manager (or replacement) | Associate Research Manager Africa and Europe Unit | Country Coordinator UNHCR |
| <i>Dissemination</i> | Junior Assessment Officer Senior Assessment Officer | Associate Research Manager (or replacement) | Africa and Europe Unit Communication Department | Country Coordinator UNHCR |
| <i>Monitoring & Evaluation</i> | Junior Assessment Officer, Senior Assessment Officer | Associate Research Manager (or replacement) | Projects and Funding Officer Africa and Europe Unit | Country Coordinator UNHCR |
| <i>Lessons learned</i> | Junior Assessment Officer, Senior Assessment Officer | Associate Research Manager (or replacement) | HQ ABA Unit Africa and Europe Unit | Country Coordinator UNHCR |

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

5. Data Analysis Plan

The Data Analysis Plan (DAP) is separately published, click [here](#) to view the DAP.

6. Data Management Plan

Data Management Plan available upon request.

7. Monitoring & Evaluation Plan

Drafting tips: Please complete the M&E Plan column in the table and use the corresponding Tools in the Monitoring & Evaluation matrix to implement the plan during the research cycle.

| 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 | # of downloads of x product from Resource Center | Country request to HQ | User_log | X Yes |
| | | # of downloads of x product from Relief Web | Country request to HQ | | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes |
| | | # of downloads of x product from Country level platforms | Country team | | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes |
| | Number of individuals accessing | # of page clicks on x product from REACH global newsletter | Country request to HQ | | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes |

| | | | | | |
|--|---|--|-----------------------|--|---|
| | IMPACT services/products | # of page clicks on x product from country newsletter, sending Blue, bit.ly | Country team | | X Yes |
| | | # of visits to x webmap/x dashboard | Country request to HQ | | <input type="checkbox"/> 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 | # stakeholders who received the output and maps |
| | | # references in single agency documents | | | |
| Humanitarian stakeholders are using IMPACT products | Humanitarian actors use IMPACT evidence/products as a basis for decision making, aid planning and delivery | Perceived relevance of IMPACT country-programs | Country team | Usage_Feedback and Usage_Survey template | Usage survey to be conducted at the end of the research cycle related to all outputs, targeting at partners to whom the outputs have been disseminated. |
| | | Perceived usefulness and influence of IMPACT outputs | | | |
| | | Recommendations to strengthen IMPACT programs | | | |
| | | Perceived capacity of IMPACT staff | | | |
| | | Perceived quality of outputs/programs | | | |
| | Number of humanitarian documents (HNO, HRP, cluster/agency strategic plans, etc.) directly informed by IMPACT products | 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 (providing resources, participating to presentations, etc.) | # of organisations providing resources (i.e. staff, vehicles, meeting space, budget, etc.) for activity implementation | Country team | Engagement_log | X Yes |
| | | # of organisations/clusters inputting in research design and joint analysis | | | X Yes |
| | | # of organisations/clusters attending briefings on findings; | | | X Yes |