

SEIS - Research Terms of Reference

Socio-Economic Insights Survey (SEIS) 2025 - Republic of Moldova¹

MDA 2502

May 2025

Version 1

REACH Informing
more effective
humanitarian action

1. Executive Summary

A. General information						
Country of intervention	Republic of Moldova					
Type of Emergency	<input type="checkbox"/>	Natural disaster	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Conflict	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other (<i>specify</i>)
Type of Crisis	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sudden onset	<input type="checkbox"/>	Slow onset	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Protracted
Mandating Body/ Agency	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)					
IMPACT Project Code	[Specify code here]					
Overall Research Timeframe	28/01/2025 to 31/12/2025					
Research Timeframe	1. Data Analysis Plan (DAP) sent for validation: 15/05/2025			7. Key Findings Presentation: 30/07/2025		
	2. Pilot/training: 19/05/2025			8. Factsheet – Key Sectoral Findings sent for validation: 06/08/2025		
	3. Start data collection: 21/05/2025			9. Situation Overview sent for validation: 29/08/2025		
	4. Data collected: 24/06/2025			10. Bulletin published: N/A		
	5. Clean dataset sent for validation: 03/07/2025			11. Other (specify): N/A		
	6. Data analysis sent for validation: 16/07/2025					
Humanitarian milestones	Milestone				Deadline	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Donor plan/strategy				__/__/__
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Inter-cluster plan/strategy				__/__/__
	<input type="checkbox"/>	PiN calculation / HNO				__/__/__
	<input type="checkbox"/>	IPC (Integrated food security Phase Classification)				__/__/__
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Cluster plan/strategy				__/__/__

¹ The UNHCR Regional Bureau for Europe has renamed the 2024 MSNA as the “Socio-Economic Insights Survey (SEIS)”. This assessment differs from a conventional MSNA by focusing more on socio-economic inclusion and key outcome indicators of UNHCR. Some indicators typically covered in an MSNA will not be included in this assessment. Therefore, the name has been changed to reflect this distinction and avoid confusion.

	<input type="checkbox"/>	NGO platform plan/strategy	--/--/----	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Other (Specify): UN agencies, NGOs, CSOs and national authorities will use the data to develop sectoral and cross-cutting response strategies, and to inform the design of partner programming and interventions	--/--/----	
Audience Type & Dissemination	Audience type		Dissemination	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Strategic <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Programmatic <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Operational <input type="checkbox"/> [Other, Specify]		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> General Product Mailing (e.g. mail to NGO consortium; HCT participants; Donors) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Working Groups Mailing (Education, Shelter and WASH) and presentation of findings at next Working Group (WG) meeting <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Presentation of findings (e.g. at HCT meeting; WGs meeting) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Website Dissemination (Relief Web & REACH Resource Centre) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNHCR data portal	
Detailed dissemination plan required	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No
General Objective	To support the Regional Refugee Response Plan (RRP) 2025-2026 planning cycle process and to enable planning among key humanitarian actors in Moldova through the provision of updated information on multi-sectoral needs and priorities of refugee ² households displaced from Ukraine in the country following the escalation of the conflict in February 2022.			
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.			
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)? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 			

² For the purposes of this assessment, the term "refugees from Ukraine" includes Ukrainian nationals who fled Ukraine since 24 February 2022 and are in need of international protection.

	<p>d. Shelter/Accommodation</p> <p>e. Livelihoods and Socio-economic Inclusion</p> <p>3. What is the degree of resilience among refugee households and the extent to which their coping strategies have been depleted, in this situation of protracted displacement?</p> <p>a. What are households' current income and expenditure patterns?</p> <p>b. What are the primary livelihood sources for adult household members?</p> <p>c. What are the most prevalent education levels attained and labour skills of adult household members?</p> <p>d. To what extent are households experiencing an enforced inability to afford essential goods, services, and social activities required for an adequate standard of living?</p> <p>4. What is the current state of social cohesion between refugee and Moldovan communities?</p> <p>5. Which household profiles, as determined through research question 1, appear to have the highest needs across the assessed sectors?</p>			
Geographic Coverage	Nationwide Republic of Moldova excluding the Transnistrian region			
Secondary data sources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - UNHCR, Ukraine Refugee Situation – Operational Data Portal – Moldova - UNHCR, Ukraine Refugee Situation - Regional Response Plan 2023, February 2023 - UNHCR, Ukraine Refugee Situation – Regional Response Plan 2024, January 2024 - UNHCR, Ukraine Refugee Situation - Regional Refugee Response Plan 2025-2026, January 2025 - UNHCR, Sectoral Working Groups documents, 2024/2025, April 2025 - UNHCR, Ukraine Situation - Moldova: Moldova Participatory Assessment Report 2024, February 2025 - UNHCR, Cash assistance for refugees in Moldova, April 2025 - REACH, Situation Overview - Socio-Economic Insights Survey 2024, December 2024 			
B. Sampling				
Population groups	<input type="checkbox"/>	IDPs in camp	<input type="checkbox"/>	IDPs in informal sites
	<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
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Refugees in host communities	<input type="checkbox"/>	Refugees [Other, Specify]
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Host communities	<input type="checkbox"/>	[Other, Specify]
Structured questionnaire (Quantitative) –	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Probability sampling	<input type="checkbox"/>	Non - Probability sampling

Select all the apply				
Data collection level:	<input type="checkbox"/>	Individual	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Household
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Settlement	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other (specify): _____
If probability sampling				
Sampling method: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Random sampling <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cluster sampling The sampling is stratified: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No If yes what are the stratifications: ° Geographic: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stratum 1: Municipality of Chişinău – Probability Simple Random Sampling • Stratum 2: Rest of Moldova – Probability Two-Stage Cluster Sampling ° Population groups: _____ ° Other: _____ What is the Primary sampling unit (PSU): Raion ³ If cluster sampling, what is the minimum cluster size?: 5 Sampling frame: Do you have the population number at PSU level for all population groups? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Selection: Probability Proportional to Size (PPS) : <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Selection of PSUs with replacement? : <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Aimed precision at stratification level: 95% level of confidence 7+/- % margin of error Buffer: 5% Total sample size: (Target #): 576 Resampling: Do you have a reserve list of PSUs / households in case of inaccessible area ? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No To account for non-response or refusals to participate, a replacement list has been created for both Stratum 1 (Municipality of Chişinău) and Stratum 2 (Rest of Moldova). For Stratum 1, this list includes other randomly selected households within the Municipality of Chişinău. For Stratum 2, this list includes other				



³ We define the primary sampling units (PSUs) as administrative districts (raions). In the Republic of Moldova, there are 32 raions, and, excluding the Transnistrian region, 3 municipalities (Chişinău, Bălţi, and Comrat), and an Autonomous Territorial Unit Găgăuzia (UTA Găgăuzia). For the sampling purposes of this assessment, Comrat is being included with the UTA Găgăuzia and is considered a "raion". The municipality of Bălţi is also considered a "raion" for the purposes of PSU selection.

randomly selected households within the same PSU. The number of households were selected with a buffer equivalent to 200% of the required sample.

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

C. Questionnaire

Questionnaire design	<p>MSNA mandatory indicators</p> <p>All the mandatory indicators from the MSNA indicator bank, have been included without alteration: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>The Regional 2025 SEIS follows a different approach from other MSNAs. The questionnaire was developed and shared by the Regional Board for Europe (RBE) to maintain comparability across participating countries, with minimal alterations allowed at the country level.</p> <p>XLSform for mandatory indicators</p> <p>The kobo questionnaire provided for the mandatory indicators was used without alteration: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>The Regional 2025 SEIS follows a different approach from other MSNAs. The questionnaire was developed and shared by the Regional Board for Europe (RBE) to maintain comparability across participating countries, with minimal alterations allowed at the country level.</p>
Data management platform(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> IMPACT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNHCR <input type="checkbox"/> Other, Specify
Expected output type(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> MSNA Bulletin #: N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Presentation (Preliminary findings) #: N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Interactive dashboard #: N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Report #: 1 Situation Overview <input type="checkbox"/> Profile #: N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Presentation (Final) #: 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Webmap #: N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Factsheet #: 1 Factsheet of key findings <input type="checkbox"/> Map #: N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other, Specify] #: 1 Clean dataset & analysis results tables
Data publication plan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Final (anonymised) dataset public, available on REACH resource center
	<input type="checkbox"/> Final (anonymised) dataset public, through HDX connect
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Analysis table public, available on REACH resource center
	<input type="checkbox"/> Analysis table public, available on HDX
REACH	

Visibility Specify which logos should be on outputs	Donor: UNHCR 
	Coordination Framework:  Regional Refugee Response For the Ukraine Situation
	Partners: N/A

2. Rationale

2.1 Background

Over three years have elapsed since the escalation of the military offensive in Ukraine in February 2022, leading to a protracted situation of displacement for nearly 6.9 million refugees from Ukraine recorded globally.⁴ According to the latest UNHCR data as of 31 January 2025, approximately 127,786 Ukrainian refugees have been recorded in the Republic of Moldova.⁵ Among the recorded refugees, 40% are women, 10% are men, and 49% are children (26% boys and 23% girls).^{6,7} The 2025-2026 Regional Refugee Response Plan (RRP)⁸ anticipates 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 countries, necessitating initial reception assistance.

The prolonged conflict and the extended duration of displacement have prompted a transition in the humanitarian response from emergency assistance toward more long-term and sustainable assistance, reflecting the evolving needs of the affected populations. 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. As of 14 April 2025, 72,094 individuals were granted this protection, out of which 17,769 were children.⁹ TP status holders are permitted to stay until 1 March 2026.¹⁰

As the crisis persists, the humanitarian response has evolved towards addressing sustainable, long-term needs. Initially focused on basic emergency assistance, the response now encompasses broader aspects such as social and economic inclusion, along with livelihood support. One such initiative focuses on livelihood programs, empowering displaced individuals with skills and resources to start businesses or secure employment. Education plays a pivotal role in long-term resilience. Organisations seek to ensure that children affected by the crisis have access to education, which is fundamental for their future well-being and integration into society.

Recognizing the need to grasp the evolving trends and dynamics of the situation, the UNCHR's Regional Bureau for Europe (RBE), through the Inter-Agency Regional Response Plan (RRP), has decided to repeat the regional exercise for the 2025 Socio-Economic Insights Survey (SEIS) across the countries involved in the Ukraine refugee response.¹¹ This regional approach aims to provide up-to-date data that accurately reflects the evolving needs and vulnerabilities of refugees from Ukraine, thereby informing evidence-based planning and facilitating effective prioritization of resource allocation. The 2025 SEIS regional core questionnaire, developed by RBE in collaboration with Inter-Agency partners, aligns with the 2023 and 2024 questionnaires, enabling indicative trend analysis between 2023, 2024 and 2025. To enhance comparability and consistency, concurrent assessments will be conducted using a similar methodological approach and a harmonized questionnaire.

⁴ UNHCR, Operational Data Portal, [Ukraine Refugee Situation](#), consulted 24/04/2025.

⁵ UNHCR, [Operational Data Portal, Republic of Moldova](#), consulted 24/04/2025.

⁶ UNHCR, [Operational Data Portal, Republic of Moldova: Daily Population Trends](#), consulted 24/04/2025/.

⁷ Due to rounding, the percentages may not add up to 100%.

⁸ UNHCR, [Ukraine Situation: Regional Refugee Response Plan 2025-2026](#), published 16/01/2025.

⁹ The General Inspectorate for Migration (IGM), <https://igm.gov.md/protectia-internationala-si-documentarea-ucrainenilor-in-republica-moldova-26/>, consulted 24/04/2025.

¹⁰ 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, 2026.

¹¹ RRP countries participating in the 2024 Regional MSNA (the same countries as in 2023): Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, Poland, Romania, and Slovakia.

2.2 Intended impact

IMPACT, in partnership with UNHCR and various sectoral and cross-cutting working groups, is aligning with UNHCR's regional approach to implementing the Socio-Economic Insights Surveys (SEIS) in countries neighbouring Ukraine. The RBE, in coordination with the Regional Information Management Working Group (Regional IMWG), has been involved in providing methodological and operational guidance for the regional exercise. The SEIS is coordinated through in-country Information Management Working Groups.

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 prioritizing 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 tracking of outcome indicators as outlined in the Regional Response Plan (RRP) for 2025-2026 and facilitates coordination and enables planning among key humanitarian stakeholders by providing updated information on the diverse needs and priorities of Ukrainian refugees.

3. Methodology

3.1 Methodology overview

The 2025 SEIS will employ a quantitative approach by conducting in-person, structured household-level surveys with refugees displaced from Ukraine to Moldova following the escalation of hostilities in February 2022. Geographic coverage will extend nationally, excluding the Transnistrian region.

The UNHCR RBE provided a core questionnaire to maintain consistency across all countries participating in the 2025 Regional SEIS. The questionnaire incorporates recommendations from UNHCR Sectoral Technical Leads and the Regional Information Management Working Group (in which IMPACT Moldova participated) at the RBE level. IMPACT Moldova have reviewed and provided inputs on critical issues related to the national contextualisation of the tool.

This assessment will employ a probability sampling approach to ensure the representativeness of the refugee household, based on the MPCA household beneficiary database as of May 2024. The database includes key information for each household, such as the unique object ID of the household focal point, administrative level 1 and level 2 locations, residential address, and phone number, which will facilitate the sampling process and the subsequent contact with sampled households to arrange interviews. The sample will be stratified into the Municipality of Chişinău and the rest of the country, excluding the Transnistrian region. For the Municipality of Chişinău, probability simple random sampling will be applied, as it has been defined as a separate stratum. This

allows for the random selection of households within the municipality, ensuring each household has an equal chance of being selected/included. For the rest of the country stratum, a probability two-stage cluster sampling method will be used. This approach enhances the logistical feasibility of data collection while ensuring that the results remain representative. Primary data collection will encompass a total of 576 household interviews (as further described in Section 3.4 below), which will be distributed nationwide.

Prior to field deployment, enumerators will contact sampled households to confirm their residence within the selected locality and to verify their geographic eligibility. They will also ensure that at least one household member holds only Ukrainian citizenship, confirm the availability of a respondent able to answer questions on behalf of the household, and schedule the interview. This preparatory step facilitates more effective coordination of field activities and supports the optimal allocation of time and resources during data collection.

Definitions:

- Household: The respondent plus all individuals, including family or close acquaintances displaced from Ukraine to Moldova who are living with the respondent at the time of the interview, and share key resources and expenses (i.e. share income, key resources and expenses beyond rent).
 - o Refugee Household: For the purposes of this assessment, a refugee household is defined as a household with at least one household member with Ukrainian citizenship that has been displaced from Ukraine to Moldova after February 24, 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).
- Raion: Level 1 territorial-administrative unit. There are 32 raions in Moldova, and, excluding the Transnistrian region, 3 municipalities (Chişinău, Bălţi, and Comrat), and an Autonomous Territorial Unit Găgăuzia (UTA Găgăuzia). For the sampling purposes of this assessment, Comrat is being included with the UTA Găgăuzia and is considered a “raion”. The municipality of Bălţi is also considered a “raion” for the purposes of PSU selection.
- Settlement: Level 2 territorial-administrative unit. It should be noted that settlements are not officially recognised as a formal administrative unit, but rather a term selected by IMPACT to enable more granular data and differentiate between urban and rural settlements at a level below that of raions. In practice, settlements can be classified as villages (sate), communes (comune), cities (oraşe), or municipalities (municipii), and these terms are often used interchangeably. There are an estimated 900 administrative level 2 units in Moldova, including those situated within the Transnistrian region.

3.2 Population of interest

SEIS coverage will extend nationally, excluding the Transnistrian region (including the city of Bender). Transnistria is a self-declared autonomous region located on the left bank of the Dniester River, along the border with Ukraine. Due to political sensitivities and access constraints, IMPACT will not administer the questionnaire in the Transnistrian region. The final sample will cover the municipality of Chişinău and 24 raions.¹² The SEIS findings will be presented and aggregated by strata: the Municipality of Chişinău and the rest of the country, excluding the Transnistrian region. This stratification was chosen due to the high concentration

¹² These raions were selected from 32 raions, one municipality (Bălţi), and the Autonomous Territorial Unit of Găgăuzia (UTA Găgăuzia), the latter two being considered as raions within the SEIS 2025 framework. The selection followed a two-stage cluster sampling method using the probability proportional to size approach with replacement.

of refugee households residing in the Municipality of Chişinău (approximately 58% of the total refugee household population, according to the MPCA beneficiary list as of May 2024). By extracting the Municipality of Chişinău as a separate stratum, the assessment ensures a more balanced comparison between the municipality and the rest of the country in terms of population size and characteristics. The population of interest (PoI) comprises refugee households with at least one household member with Ukrainian citizenship that has been displaced from Ukraine to Moldova following the escalation of hostilities in February 2022, registered on the UNHCR MPCA beneficiary list as of May 2024.

The unit of measurement in this assessment will be the refugee household, which is defined in the section above. Respondents will be asked to provide information that accurately represents their entire household. Additionally, certain indicators within the questionnaire will be assessed at the individual level for each household member using a roster approach, including a limited number of questions that will also be asked about household members that do not have Ukrainian citizenship in the case of mixed-citizenship households.¹³

3.3 Secondary data review

The secondary data review was conducted in March 2025, focusing on country-specific literature and programme documents related to the response to the Ukraine crisis. Various sources were consulted, including assessments from NGOs and the UN, activity reports, situation reports, official government sources and figures, as well as reports from news outlets. Key repositories searched included the UNHCR Operational Data Portal – Ukraine Refugee situation, ReliefWeb, and IMPACT Resource Centre – Moldova.

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
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - UNHCR, Ukraine Refugee Situation – Operational Data Portal – Moldova - UNHCR, Ukraine Refugee Situation - Regional Response Plan 2023, February 2023 - UNHCR, Ukraine Refugee Situation – Regional Response Plan 2024, January 2024 - UNHCR, Ukraine Refugee Situation - Regional Refugee Response Plan 2025-2026, January 2025 - UNHCR, Sectoral Working Groups documents, 2024/2025, April 2025 - UNHCR, Ukraine Situation - Moldova: Moldova Participatory Assessment Report 2024, February 2025 - UNHCR, Cash assistance for refugees in Moldova, April 2025 	Context - transversal

¹³ The roster approach consists of a group of questions and subsections that will be repeated to collect information on each household member.

Source – Secondary Data with links	Used for
- IMPACT, Situation Overview - Socio-Economic Insights Survey 2024 , December 2024	
- UNHCR, MSNA 2025 Regional DAP (<i>not published</i>) - IMPACT, MSNA 2025 Indicator Bank (<i>not published</i>)	DAP <i>specifics</i>
- Population data sources directly used for the sample frame: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ UNHCR, MPCA list of beneficiaries, May 2024 (<i>not published</i>) ○ IMPACT, Sampling methodology guidelines, 2020 - Department of Statistics and Sociology of the Republic of Moldova, Classification of administrative-territorial units (CUATM) , 2017	Sampling <i>specifics</i>

3.4 Primary Data Collection

Method

Data collection will be conducted through in-person structured household surveys, involving either the head of the household or another adult member of the refugee household who is capable and willing to respond on behalf of the household. Given the available resources, agreed timeline, and potential operational challenges such as the lack of a complete refugee population list, primary data collection will encompass 576 surveys nationwide, excluding the Transnistrian region. The sampled households will be contacted by phone using the number available in the MPCA beneficiary database for May 2024 and invited to participate in the interview. Households with Ukrainian phone numbers will be contacted via WhatsApp or Viber. In case of refusal or non-response (i.e., disconnected phone numbers or households that did not answer after two call attempts), another household will be randomly selected from the replacement list within the same raion (PSU). If the target number of interviews is not achieved during the initial visit and returning to the selected location is not practical due to logistical issues, a limited number of surveys may be conducted over the phone.¹⁴

Data collection is expected to start on 21 May 2025 and will last for 4 weeks, with an additional buffer of 1 week to accommodate unforeseen situations or operational challenges. A team of 6 enumerators will be assigned. Prior to data collection, the enumerators will participate in a two-day training programme covering the Kobo tool, sampling and methodology, and protection concerns and best practices.

Sampling Framework and Strategy

Data collection will be conducted through a household-level survey using a structured questionnaire to interview a randomly sampled list of beneficiary households from the UNHCR multi-purpose cash assistance (MPCA) list for refugees in Moldova, as of May 2024. The database includes key information for each household, such as the unique object ID of the household focal point, administrative level 1 and level 2 locations, residential address, and phone number. Due to political sensitivities and access limitations in the Transnistrian regions, households located in Bender and the locality of Gîsca, both requiring access through the Transnistrian region, were excluded from the sampling frame. Additionally, focal points identified as minors were excluded from the sample, with the exception of individuals who were 17 years old as of May 2024 and will have reached the age of majority by the time of data collection, May – June 2025. The 2025 SEIS will implement a probability sampling approach. The

¹⁴ This alternative method will only be used when necessary to complete the sample and will follow the same data quality and ethical standards as in-person interviews.

results will be statistically representative and generalisable to the UNHCR MPCA beneficiary population in Moldova, as of May 2024.

Household surveys will be stratified by the Municipality of Chişinău and the rest of Moldova. Since the Municipality of Chişinău is defined as a separate stratum, probability simple random sampling will be applied. For the rest of the country (Stratum 2), a probability two-stage cluster sampling method will be used. This method was chosen to make data collection more logistically feasible by reducing the number of survey locations while still ensuring the representativeness of findings for the refugee population residing in Moldova (excluding the Transnistrian region and the Municipality of Chişinău), as registered in the UNHCR MPCA list as of May 2024.

The sample size is calculated based on the total population of each stratum. As of May 2024, 12,294 refugee households registered in the UNHCR MPCA list met criteria for inclusion in the sampling frame (after excluding HHs located outside of the geographic area of interest and HH focal points identified as minors): 7,173 households in the Municipality of Chişinău and 5,121 in the rest of Moldova (excluding the Transnistrian region).

- **Stratum 1 (Municipality of Chişinău):** The sample is drawn using a 95% confidence level and a 7% margin of error, with a 5% buffer to account for incomplete or inaccurate surveys. The target sample size is 191 households, which increased to 201 after applying the buffer. Households were randomly sampled using an R script.
- **Stratum 2 (Rest of Moldova):** Sampling is conducted in two stages. The primary sampling units (PSUs) / clusters have been defined as raions, and the secondary sampling units (SSUs) have been defined as households within those raions. The number of refugee HHs in each PSU is determined based on the MPCA beneficiary list from May 2024. The first stage involves selecting the PSUs using the [online IMPACT sampling tool](#), with the same 95% confidence level and 7% margin of error as used for Stratum 1, plus a 5% buffer. PSUs are selected with a probability proportional to size (PPS) and with replacement. A cluster size of 5 is applied. To account for the design effect, an intra-cluster correlation (ICC) value of 0.06, estimated based on prior IMPACT assessments, is used. This leads to a target sample size of 375 household interviews across 24 raions (PSUs/clusters), including the UTA Găgăuzia. In the second stage, households are randomly selected within the sampled raions using an R script.

Based on the above strategy, 576 interviews will be conducted throughout the country. Tables 1 and 2 below summarize the sampling parameters and methods used and the target number of interviews to be conducted across each stratum.

Table 1: Overview of sampling parameters and methods by stratum

Stratification	Confidence level	Error Margin	Buffer	Sample size	Sampling type
Municipality of Chişinău	95%	7%	5%	201	Probability Simple Random
Rest of Moldova	95%	7%	5%	375	Probability Two-Stage Cluster

Table 2: Sample – targeted number of interviews per strata

Stratum	Raion ¹⁵	Estimated # HHs	# interviews
Municipality of Chişinău	Municipality of Chişinău	7173	201
Rest of Moldova	Anenii Noi	172	5
	Bălţi	793	55
	Basarabasca	137	5
	Briceni	50	5
	Cahul	326	20
	Călăraşi	57	5
	Cantemir	28	5
	Căuşeni	218	20
	Criuleni	100	5
	Donduşeni	225	20
	Drochia	56	5
	Edineţ	92	15
	Floreşti	42	5
	Hînceşti	92	10
	Ialoveni	85	15
	Ocnîţa	540	45
	Orhei	133	5
	Rezina	164	5
	Rîşcani	50	5
	Soroca	101	20
	Ştefan Vodă	261	20
	Taraclia	185	10
	Ungheni	131	5
	UTA Găgăuzia	690	65
		11,901¹⁶	576

¹⁵ Administrative-level 2 breakdowns are not available because the two-stage sampling frame is defined only by raion-level clusters and individual households. To address anticipated non-response, non-responding households are replaced by randomly selected households from the same raion, preventing reliable assignment to administrative level 2 at this stage. Additionally, the MPCA database lacks information related to administrative level 2 for some households.

¹⁶ This figure reflects the total estimated number of refugee households in the selected raions and the municipality of Chişinău (11,901 households). However, the assessment findings, as noted on page 12, are representative of the total number of 12,294 refugee households registered in the UNHCR Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance (MPCA) list as of May 2024.

The sampling frame was constructed based on the UNHCR MPCA beneficiary list as of May 2024. To account for the high non-response rate during the phone interviews observed in the 2024 rounds of Post-Distribution Monitoring (PDM) of UNHCR's Cash Assistance in Moldova, which also used the MPCA database, and considering the high mobility of the refugee population, a replacement list will be created. This list is based on conservative estimates of the response rate observed during the first two rounds of 2024 PDM rounds to ensure sufficient capacity to achieve the minimum number of interviews required. In Round 1, February -March 2024, a 250% buffer was applied, resulting in a 39% response rate to phone calls. In round 2, June 2024, a 155% buffer was used, resulting in a 46.1% response rate. For the 2025 SEIS, a replacement list is generated based on a 200% buffer for both strata. This approach ensures that households from the primary sample are contacted first, with the replacement list used only as needed to meet the target number of complete interviews.

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. However, for the purpose of this assessment, the primary data source on the refugee population in Moldova is the list of beneficiaries of the Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance (MPCA) programme, as of May 2024.

The cash assistance programme is managed by UNHCR and implemented by its partners—Catholic Relief Services (CRS), Caritas Moldova, and Diaconia—in coordination with the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of the Republic of Moldova. The programme aims to provide emergency cash assistance to people who fled Ukraine and are currently residing in Moldova.

The beneficiary list includes all households that received assistance in May 2024. To be eligible, beneficiaries were generally required to prove their legal status in Moldova. However, the list may also include newly arrived refugee households at that time who were able to access the programme without having to prove legal status.

Data Source Collection Method and Coverage:

- Registration of beneficiaries in the UNHCR cash programme database;
- National coverage across all raions, excluding the Transnistrian region;
- Inclusive of refugees residing both in and outside Refugee Accommodation Centres (RACs);
- Total number of households (after excluding HHs located outside of the geographic area of interest and HH focal points identified as minors): 12,294.

Tools

For the 2025 SEIS, the UNHCR Regional Bureau for Europe (RBE), in collaboration with Inter-Agency partners, developed a detailed data analysis plan and a standardised core questionnaire. This core tool is closely aligned with the 2024 SEIS templates to ensure comparability of results across the 2023, 2024, and 2025 assessments. To preserve consistency across participating countries¹⁷ in SEIS 2025, changes to the core questionnaire were kept to a minimum.

Moldova remains the only country in the Regional Refugee Response where IMPACT is leading the SEIS process. At the national level, IMPACT Moldova and sector leads from Working Groups were consulted to adapt the core

¹⁷ Countries participating in the regional SEIS include: Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, Poland, Romania, and Slovakia.

questionnaire to the Moldovan context. These consultations allowed for the addition of context-specific questions addressing national priorities, while ensuring the tool remained aligned with the regional framework. However, the questionnaire was not designed based on the 2025 MSNA indicator bank developed by IMPACT HQ, which follows previous MSNA indicators and recommendations from the Global Clusters. As a result, there is a significant difference between the two questionnaires.

After receiving the final tool from RBE, IMPACT will also work to ensure that the data collection tool functions effectively in the field. The KOBO tool, prepared centrally by RBE for all participating countries, will be reviewed and tested in Moldova. IMPACT will conduct a pilot to identify technical or usability issues and refine the tool's functionality.

3.5 Data Processing & Analysis

Data entry and cleaning: Data entry and cleaning processes will adhere to the [Minimum Standard Data Cleaning Checklist](#) developed by IMPACT HQ, to guide data checking, cleaning, and consolidation processes, as well as indicator-specific parameters. The dataset will undergo verification by the Assessment Officers and Data Officer through manual checks and cleaning, especially during the initial phase of data collection. Data checks will be systematized through an R script, which will be adjusted during data collection as issues are identified. Surveys with discrepancies that cannot be corrected will be deleted.

The SEIS Assessment Team and Field Officer will hold daily morning briefings with the field team to review data collection procedures and flag any issues noticed in the field and during data cleaning checks. Specific data that are deemed inconsistent will be highlighted and shared with the relevant enumerator for clarification/rectification. Data quality issues will be logged in a shared spreadsheet in which focal points for each base will provide responses. All changes will then be made and logged by the SEIS Assessment Team or Data Officer. All issues raised during data collection will be addressed during the concurrent data cleaning phase and recorded in a log that enables retracing of cleaning steps.

Data analysis: A framework will be developed and agreed upon with partners to determine priority indicators for preliminary analysis. A more comprehensive analysis will also be prepared, encompassing a wide range of indicators covering all key sections of the questionnaire: Protection (including Gender-Based Violence (GBV), Child Protection (CP), Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA) and Safety and Security), Education, Health (including MHPSS), Shelter/Accommodation, and Livelihoods and Socio-economic Inclusion. All these sectors will be included in the final deliverables. In collaboration with RBE, IMPACT will participate in a task force to help develop a general data cleaning script in R Studio. The SEIS Assessment Team and Data Officer will adapt the script to the Moldovan context and Moldova SEIS methodology, analyze the priority indicators, and process the complete dataset. Analysis will be conducted at the national level with disaggregation by gender, age, disability status, and other characteristics of the refugee population. The analysis will be weighted at the national level to enhance comparability to the true distribution of refugees across Moldova. Upon completion, the dataset will be made accessible to external partners for further analysis.

Outputs: IMPACT will prepare a range of materials for public dissemination and collaboration with key partners to facilitate the utilisation of SEIS data and analysis. These will include:

- Clean quantitative dataset and analysis results tables
- Key findings presentation
- A factsheet presenting key sectoral findings
- A complete situation overview presenting detailed findings

3.6 Limitations

Geographical coverage: Transnistria is a self-declared autonomous region located between the Dniester River and the Ukrainian border. This region is not controlled by the government of the Republic of Moldova. Due to political sensitivities and access constraints, the SEIS will not cover the Transnistrian region.

Data source:

- The list includes only refugees with legal status in Moldova (per eligibility criteria) and therefore does not capture all refugee households.
- It may include refugees who transited through Moldova, potentially inflating the number of actual residents.
- As the list reflects the refugee population as of May 2024, it may not fully capture recent changes in population size and geographic distribution. These potential discrepancies could pose operational challenges in locating respondents and drawing a sample that accurately reflects the current refugee population, potentially leading to delays in data collection.
- As mentioned previously, a low response rate for the SEIS 2025 is anticipated due to low phone answer response rates in the first two rounds of PDM data collection in 2024. To mitigate this, a replacement list has been prepared for both Stratum 1 (Municipality of Chişinău) and Stratum 2 (Rest of Moldova). For Stratum 1, the list includes other randomly selected households within the Municipality of Chişinău, while for Stratum 2, it includes households randomly selected within the same PSU. A buffer equivalent to 200% of the required sample size has been applied to ensure adequate coverage.

Research design:

- The Probability Proportional to Size (PPS) method may over-represent certain groups or areas, leading to biased results, as larger settlements, particularly urban areas, will be better represented.
- Two-stage cluster sampling suffers from the “design effect”, which increases the number of units that need to be sampled to achieve the same level of precision as a random sample. The reason for this is due to the intra-cluster homogeneity reducing the informational value of each sampled unit. While the design effect was accounted for using a general estimate of the intraclass correlation coefficient (ICC) from previous IMPACT assessments, a context-specific ICC for this assessment could not be determined.

4. Key ethical considerations and related risks

Throughout the research cycle, the SEIS Assessment team will take all necessary measures stipulated in the global [IMPACT Data Protection Policy](#). These measures will protect and safeguard personal data to minimise the risk of attributing findings to specific individuals and households. Besides personal data protection, the assessment team will uphold data responsibility: the safe, ethical and effective management of data as outlined in the IASC Operational Guidance on Data Responsibility in Humanitarian Action. This includes asking for informed consent and taking measures to prevent the exposure of sensitive non-personal data, ensuring data protection and security are in line with the principles for data responsibility in humanitarian action.

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</i>)	No	The questionnaire length and respondent fatigue

while being considerate of participants' time, ensuring accurate reporting of information provided)?		<p>While the Regional tool has been shortened compared to the SEIS 2024 tool, there are still concerns regarding questionnaire length as 4 questions per sector will be added at the national level. In addition, survey fatigue among refugees from Ukraine in Moldova remains a persistent concern.</p> <p>To address these concerns and ensure smooth and efficient interviews, enumerators will receive comprehensive training on the tool, enabling them to navigate surveys confidently, address any questions or ambiguities from respondents effectively, and streamline the interview process. In addition, while the data source available for the sampling frame includes sampled respondents' addresses, sampled respondents will be contacted first via phone. Enumerators will use work phones provided by IMPACT, and the call history will be deleted following data collection.</p>
... 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	<p>The regional questionnaire includes questions regarding child protection needs, specifically the most serious risks faced by boys and girls under 18 years old. Similarly, the tool contains questions on Gender-based violence, specifically the main safety and security concerns of men and women in their area of residence. These questions were designed in accordance with best practices (e.g. no respondent will be asked to report on their own personal experiences or to recount any experiences or incidents in which they were personally involved).</p> <p>Moreover, through the informed consent process, enumerators will explain to respondents that they can</p>

		withdraw from participating in the interview or decline to answer questions at any point.
... 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	<p>Given the severe security situation in Ukraine leading to forced displacement and significant protection-related challenges, it is possible that respondents may include survivors or victims of protection incidents, who might be the household head or the sole adult member.</p> <p>The enumerators' field training will include a sensitivity component to ensure appropriate and sensitive interview techniques are communicated. Enumerators will also be trained on and made aware of referral channels and procedures to follow if they encounter any specific vulnerable cases.</p>
... 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	AOs ¹⁸	SAO ¹⁹ ,	SAO, HQ Specialists, HQ RRU-AE ²⁰ , UNHCR	UNHCR
Supervising data collection	FO ²¹ , AOs	FO, AOs	SAO	UNHCR
Data processing (checking, cleaning)	FO, AOs, DO ²²	SAO	SAO, HQ RRU-AE	
Data analysis	AOs	SAO	SAO, HQ RRU-AE	UNHCR
Output production	AOs	AOs	SAO, UNHCR and HQ RRU-AE	UNHCR
Dissemination	AOs	AOs	HQ Communications	UNHCR
Monitoring & Evaluation	AOs	CC ²³		HQ RDDU
Lessons learned	AOs	CC	UNHCR	HQ RDDU, 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

¹⁸ Assessment Officer(s)

¹⁹ Senior Assessment Officer

²⁰ IMPACT Initiatives HQ Research Regional Unit – Africa and Europe

²¹ Field Officer

²² Data Officer

²³ Country Coordinator

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 2025 - 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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes
		# of downloads of x product from Relief Web	Country request to HQ		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes
		# of downloads of x product from Country level platforms	Country team		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes
		# of page clicks on x product from REACH global newsletter	Country request to HQ		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes
		# of page clicks on x product from country newsletter, sendingBlue, bit.ly	Country team		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 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	<i>UNHCR country strategy Regional MSNA/RRP products Working Group/Sector Strategy</i>
		# 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	<i>General partner usage survey to be conducted at the end of 2025 for all 2025 activities, targeting at least 10 partners.</i>
		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 (<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	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
		# of organisations/clusters inputting in research design and joint analysis			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes
		# of organisations/clusters attending briefings on findings;			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes