

Multi-Sectoral Needs Assessment 2023

November, 2023

Republic of Moldova

KEY MESSAGES

- **17% of HHs with women perceived at least one safety and security concern** for women in their area of residence, with that proportion reaching 28% in the Center region and 21% in the South region. **The top concerns** for women perceived by HHs with women are **robbery (10%), being threatened with violence (9%), and verbal harassment (2%)**.
- The **overwhelming majority of HHs reported having sufficient heating (89%), insulation (91%), and hot water (94%)** in their accommodation for next winter.
- **77% of HH employed some level of negative coping strategies** based on the Livelihood Coping Strategy Index (LCSI). HHs in rural areas were more likely to resort to emergency-level coping strategies than in urban areas (24% and 8%, respectively).
- Nearly all HHs (**98%**) reported an acceptable Food Consumption Score.

CONTEXT & RATIONALE

The MSNA aims to inform the Ukraine Situation Regional Refugee Response Plan (RRP) 2024, UNICEF and UNHCR Moldova programming along with the programmes of humanitarian and development actors active in the response in Moldova, by providing up-to-date multi-sectoral data about the needs and coping capacities of refugee households displaced from Ukraine to Moldova.



DATA COLLECTION

From 14 August to 10 September 2023

ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW

METHODOLOGY

Data was collected through **890** face-to-face HH-level surveys with the self-reported head of household (HoHH) or another adult member knowledgeable about their HH conditions were collected. The survey included individual-level sections to collect information about each member of the household.

HH surveys were distributed based on **regional stratification (Centre, Chisinau, North, South)**, rural and urban quotas, and proportionality to the estimated distribution of the refugee population. **Findings at national level were weighted.**

Due to the unavailability of comprehensive refugee population figures, **non-probability stratified quota sampling approach** was applied based on cross-referenced population figures from the UNHCR Cash Programme beneficiary list, the REACH area monitoring exercise and the list of the Moldovan population published in 2019. The settlements with less than 15 HHs were excluded from the sampling frame.¹

Number of refugee HHs surveyed²

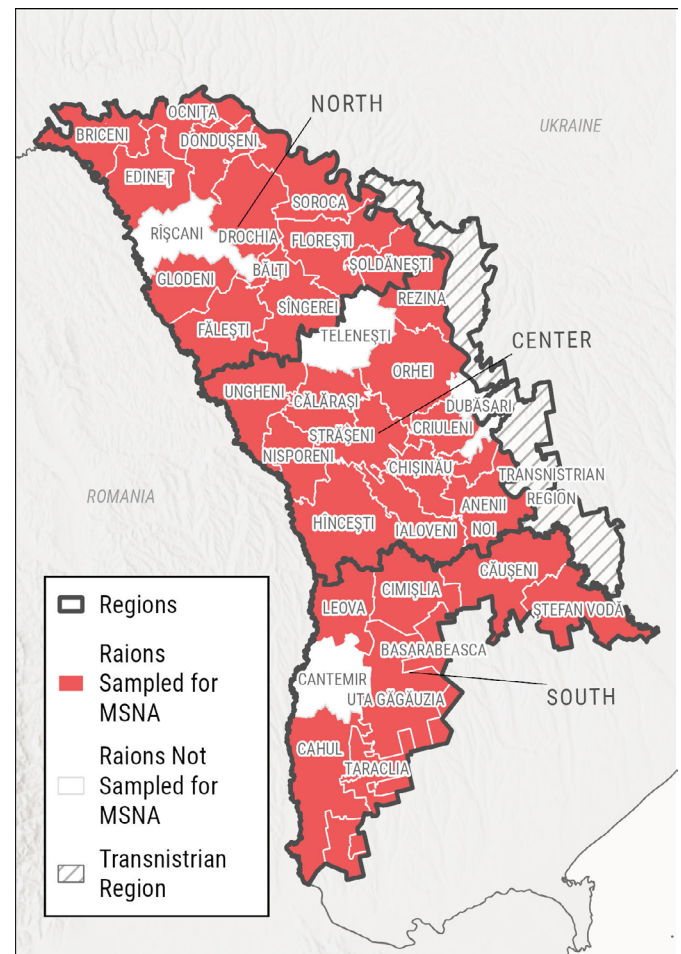
Region	Rural	Urban	Total
Centre	49	129	178
Chisinau	6	340	346
North	27	164	191
South	46	129	175
Total	128	762	890

Findings are not statistically representative of the refugee entire population and should be considered indicative only.



GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE

National coverage, excluding the Transnistrian region.²



¹ Based on the referenced population figures, all settlements in Rîșcani, Telenești, and Cantemir contained less than 15 refugee HHs. Hence, data was not collected in these raions.

² The population of interest consists of refugee HHs displaced from Ukraine to Moldova following the escalation of hostilities in February 2022 (including third-country nationals), regardless of the type of accommodation in which they resided.

DEMOGRAPHICS



2,130 HH members
(through 890 HHs surveyed)



32% of HHs had older persons (60+)



19% of HHs were composed of only older persons (60+)



2.36 Average HH size

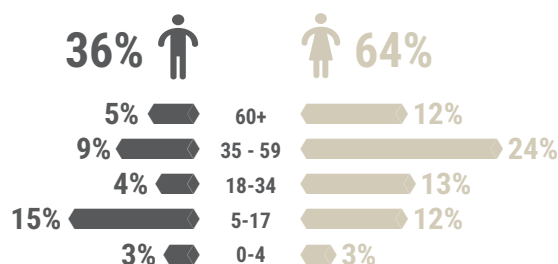


54% of HHs had children (<18)



78% of HHs had children and/or older persons

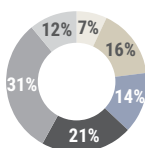
% Individuals by age group and gender



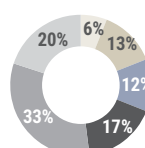
Distribution of Individuals by age group and region*

Age group in years

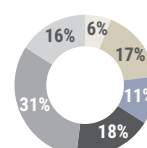
0-4 5-11 12-17 18-34 35-59 60+



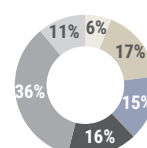
Center



Chisinau



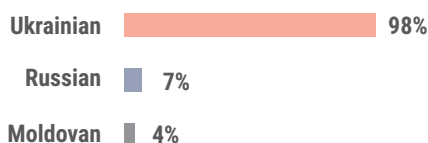
North



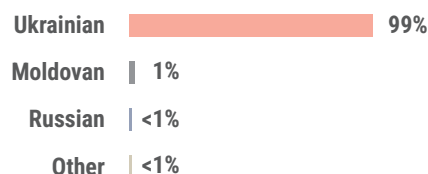
South

Cultural background

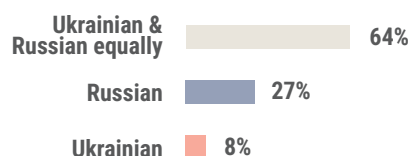
Top 3 HH self-identified ethnic backgrounds**



% of respondents by citizenship**



Top 3 primary languages HHs used within their homes



Specific Vulnerable groups

(At time of data collection)



33% of HHs had at least one member with a chronic condition

17% of HH members had a chronic disease, with a higher proportion of **21% in the North**



4% of HHs had pregnant or breastfeeding women

5% of women between 16 and 54 years old were pregnant or breastfeeding, with a higher proportion of **9% in the Center**

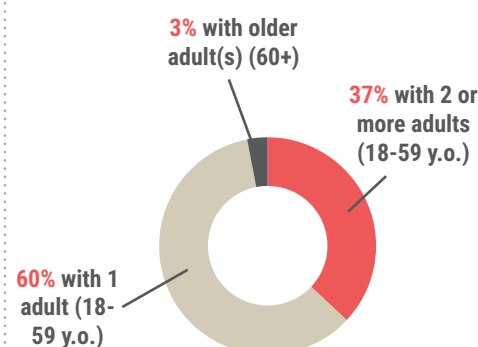


7% of HH members with disability (at least level 3 in WGSS)³

HH with children size and composition (n=481)



3.01 Average HH with children size



Type of HHs



67% of HHs were single-headed



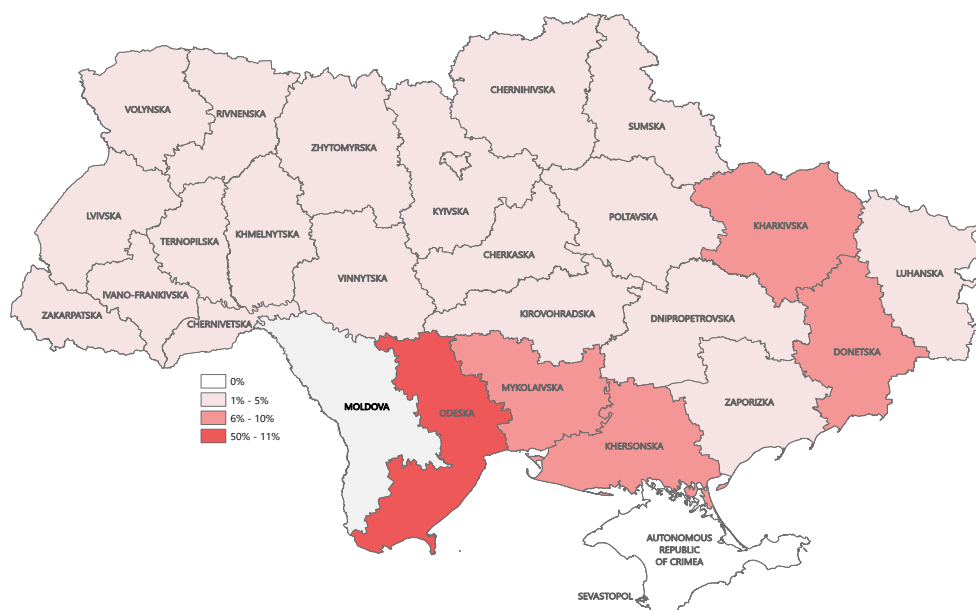
33% of HHs were co-headed

³ The 6-item Washington Group Short Set of Disability Questions is a set of questions to identify people with a disability. The questions assess whether people have difficulty performing basic activities such as walking, seeing, hearing, cognition, self-care and communication.

* Because of rounding up, the percentages might not add up to 100%.

** Multiple choice question, therefore the sum of values may exceed 100%.

Proportion of HHs by Oblast of origin in Ukraine



45% from Odesa
9% from Mykolaiv
9% from Kherson
9% from Kharkiv
8% from Donetsk

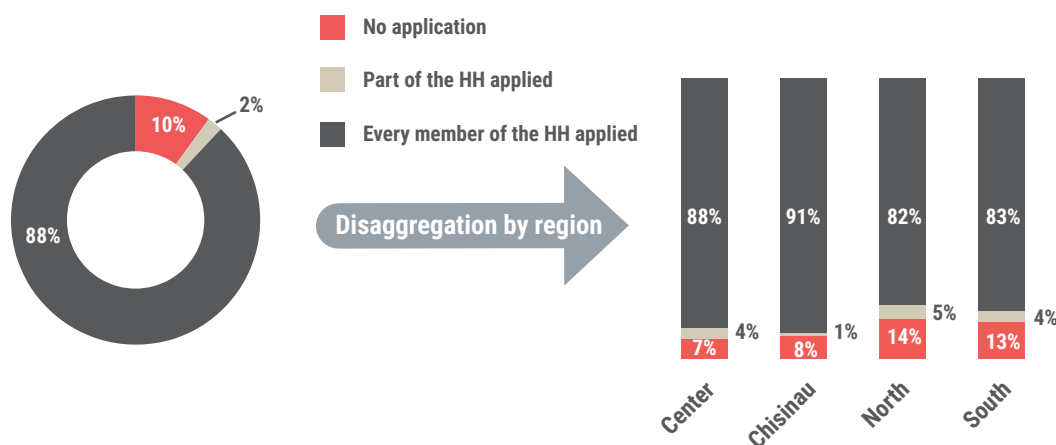
Average length of displacement of HH members

14 months

PROTECTION

TEMPORARY PROTECTION

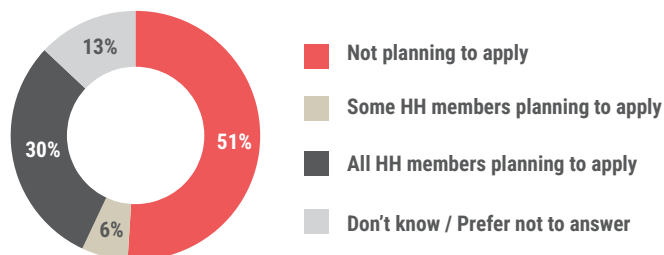
% of HHs which reportedly applied to Temporary Protection^{4,*} (n=890)



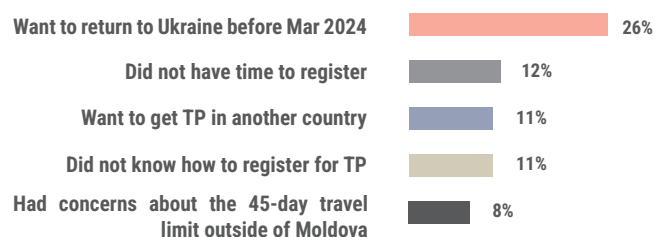
5% of HH experienced difficulties during TP application process (among HHs with at least one application n=797) with the highest proportion in the South region (**10%**).

Difficulties mentioned were about the **online registration**, the **lack of proof of residency in Moldova**, and **long queues/waiting times**.

% of HHs by intention to apply to Temporary Protection^{**} (among HHs with at least one member who did not apply)



Top 5 reasons for not applying for Temporary Protection (among HHs with at least one member who did not apply, n=115)



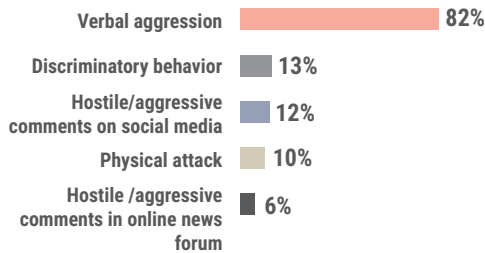
⁴ As a reminder, this assessment used a non-probabilistic sampling strategy and is subjected to potential selection bias (not representative), which might have led to an overestimation of the TP enrolment rate in the assessment compared to the actual rate.

* Because of rounding up, the percentages might not add up to 100%.

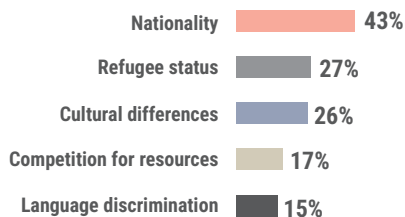
SOCIAL COHESION

9% of HHs reported having experienced hostile behavior or attitudes from the host community since arrival in Moldova

Types of hostile behaviors experienced by affected HHs* (n=83)



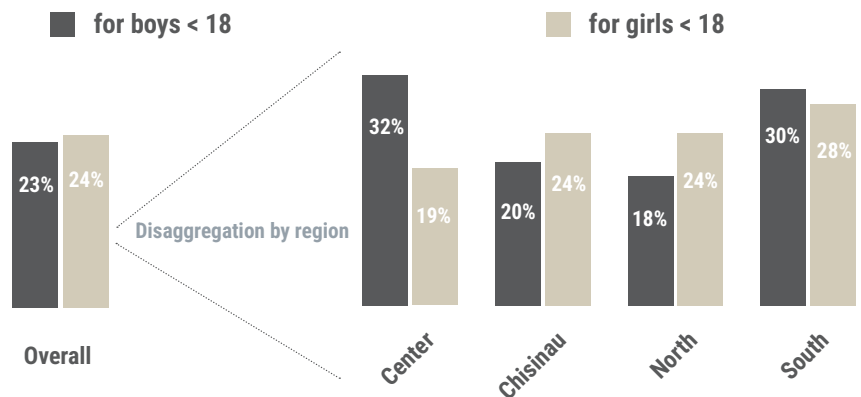
Main perceived reasons for hostile behaviors according to affected HHs* (n=82)



CHILD PROTECTION

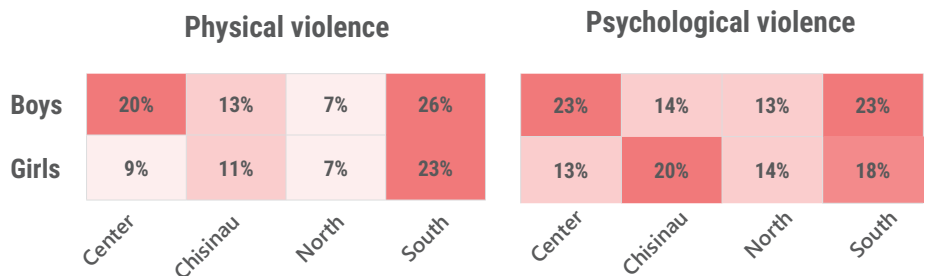
% of HHs with boys (n=331) reporting at least one risk faced by boys (<18 y.o.) in their neighbourhood

% of HHs with girls (n=278) reporting at least one risk faced by girls (<18 y.o.) in their neighbourhood



Most HHs reported that there were **no discernible protection concerns** for boys and girls (**68%** for both genders, respectively).

Most serious risks reported were about **psychological violence** in the community (**17%** for boys, **18%** for girls) and **physical violence** in the community (**16%** for boys, **13%** for girls), followed by an **increased vulnerability to violence online** (**5%** for boys, **3%** for girls).



GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (GBV)

17% of HHs with women perceived at least one safety and security concern for women in their area of residence, with that proportion reaching **28%** in the **Center** region and **21%** in the **South** region.

13% of HHs with men perceived at least one safety and security concern for men.

15% of HHs with women in the **Center** and **South** region reported concerns of **being robbed**

15% of HHs with women in the **South** region reported concerns of **being threatened with violence**

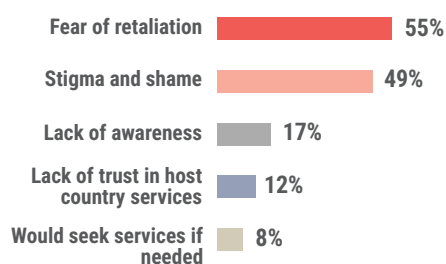
Top concerns for women perceived by HHs with women* (n=824)



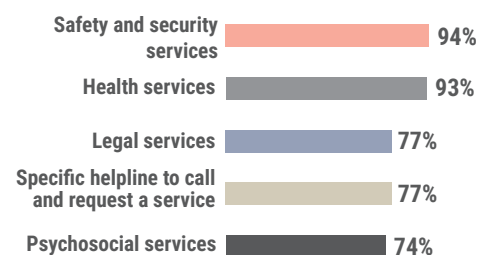
Top concerns for men perceived by HHs with men* (n=366)



Main perceived reasons why women would not seek services if victim of violence* (n=890)



% of HHs aware of existing GBV services in their area by type of services* (n=890)



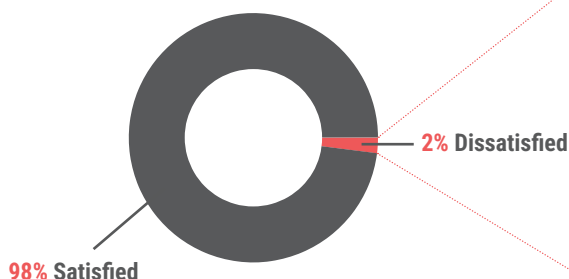
* Multiple choice question, therefore the sum of values may exceed 100%.

ACCOUNTABILITY TO AFFECTED POPULATION (AAP)

SATISFACTION WITH AID RECEIVED

% of HHs satisfied with the aid received in the 3 months prior to data collection among those who received aid (n=848)

97% of HHs reported having received aid in Moldova in the 3 months prior to data collection



Most mentioned reasons of dissatisfaction* (n=21)

by number of HHs



Dissatisfied HHs were more likely to report dissatisfaction with humanitarian financial aid (cash) and humanitarian distributions (NFI, food, clothing, etc.).

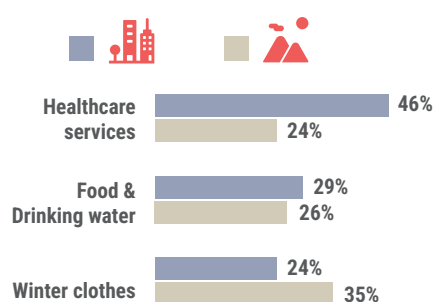
PRIORITY NEEDS

84% of HHs reported having at least one priority need at the time of data collection*

Top 3 priority needs reported (n=890)**



Urban vs Rural



Additionally, 21% of HHs reported employment and livelihoods support as a priority need.

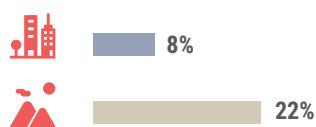
HHs in Chisinau were more likely to report at least one priority need.

The need for winter clothes was more important in the Center (34%) and the South (33%).

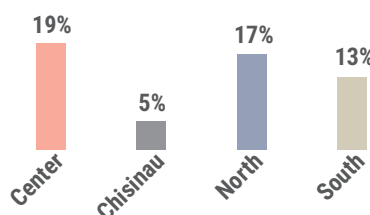
ACCESS TO INFORMATION

9% of HHs reported facing challenges in accessing information (rights & entitlements, access to services).

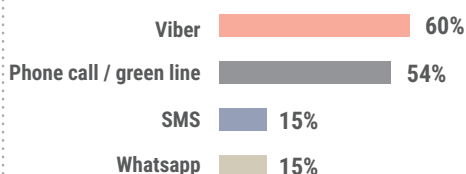
% of HHs reporting facing challenges in accessing information by urban/rural



% of HHs reporting facing challenges in accessing information, by region



Top preferred channel to receive information**



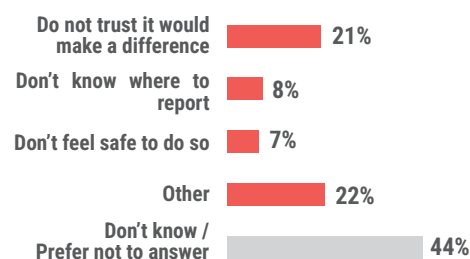
FEEDBACK / COMPLAINT MECHANISM

97% of HHs reported being satisfied with aid workers' behavior.

17% of HHs would not report inappropriate behaviour by an aid worker if they experienced or observed it.

11% of HHs reported not having access to safe and confidential reporting and information channels.

% of HHs by reason for not reporting inappropriate behavior (n=161)***



Preferred channels for feedback/ complaint mechanism on aid providers and other sensitive issues were telephone call (57%) and social media (52%).

12% of HHs reported not having received an appropriate response through reporting channels, among those who presumably used them (n=582).

* The data is self-reported and might be biased by the time of data collection.

** Multiple choice question, therefore the sum of values may exceed 100%.

*** Because of rounding up, the percentages might not add up to 100%.



SOCIO-ECONOMIC INCLUSION & LIVELIHOODS

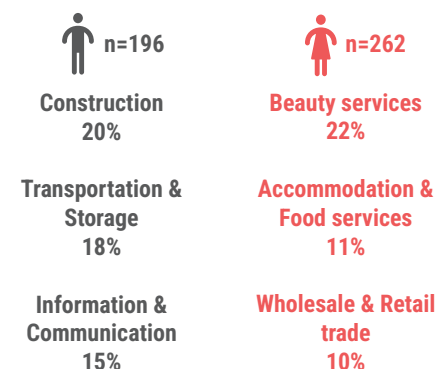
EMPLOYMENT

40% of the working age population in the sample (16 to 64 y.o.) (n=1472) was part of the labor force, i.e. (self-) employed; or seeking employment at the time of data collection and able to work if offered a job.

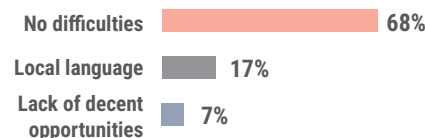
93% of HH members in the labor force (n=503) were **employed** according to the core ILO Labor Force Survey definition of employment.

The **unemployment** rate was **17%** in rural areas and **7%** in urban areas.

Top three sectors of employment of currently employed individuals by gender



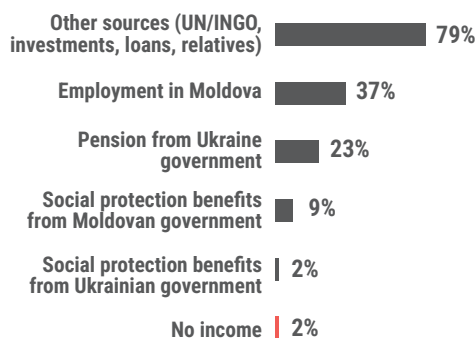
Top difficulties reported in finding employment among the labor force* (n=497)



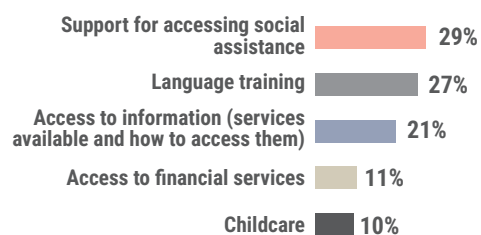
More difficulties were reported in the Center region (**53%**). **38%** reported the lack of knowledge of the local language as a difficulty.

INCOME & SOCIO-ECONOMIC NEEDS

Sources of income in the 30 days prior to data collection or since arrival* (n=890)



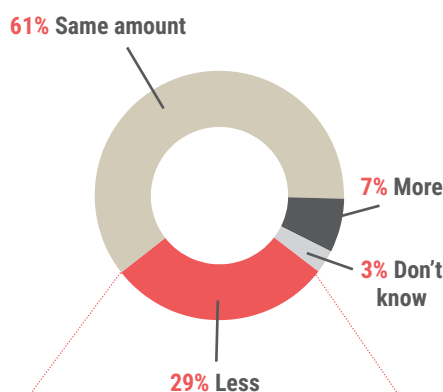
Top 5 reported areas of support required for socio-economic inclusion* (n=890)



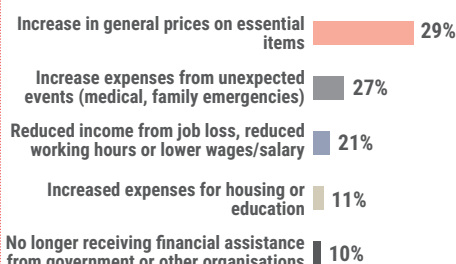
ECONOMIC RESILIENCE

Perceived change in purchasing power compared to same time last year (n=805)

(HH can afford more/same/less amount of goods and services compared to same period last year)



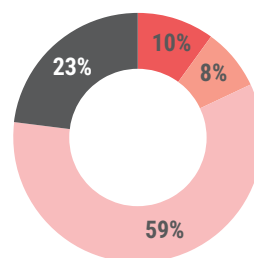
Main reported reasons for negative change in purchasing power* (n=229)



LIVELIHOODS COPING STRATEGIES

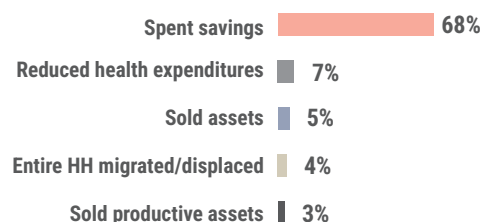
% of HHs by Livelihood Coping Strategy Index (LCSI) category (n=890)

Emergency Crisis
Stress No coping strategy



The prevalence of adoption of **negative coping strategies** is notably high in the South reaching **83%** (with **19%** emergency level).

Top 5 most reported negative livelihood coping strategies used to cover basic needs* (n=890)



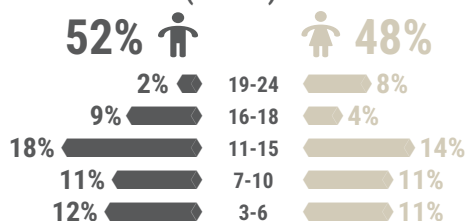
* Multiple choice question, therefore the sum of values may exceed 100%.



EDUCATION

SCHOOL-AGED CHILDREN AND YOUTH

% of school-aged children and youth (3-24 y.o.) by gender and age group (n=794)⁵



% of HHs with school-aged children or youth (3 to 24 y.o.)

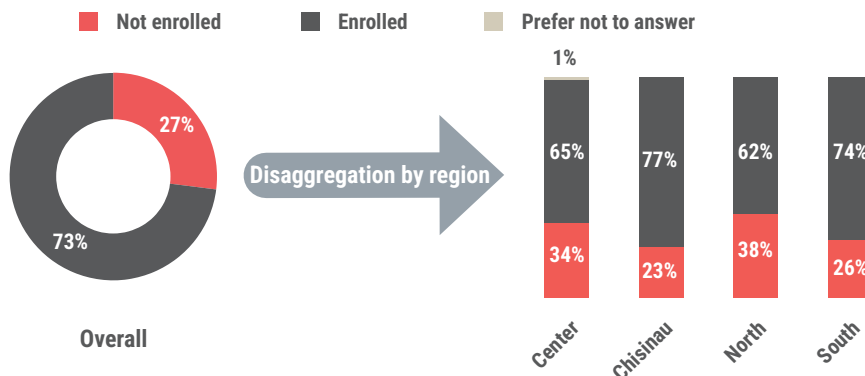
59%

% of school-aged children and youth enrolled in formal education during the 2022/2023 school year (3 to 24 y.o.)

73%

ENROLMENT IN SCHOOL YEAR 2022/23

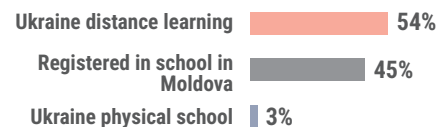
% of school-aged children and youth (3-24 y.o.) enrolled in formal education⁶



School-aged children and youth (3-24 y.o.) in **rural areas** were almost twice as likely to be reported **not enrolled in formal education**⁴ than in urban areas (44% and 24%, respectively).

97% of those enrolled in formal education reported to attend school regularly.

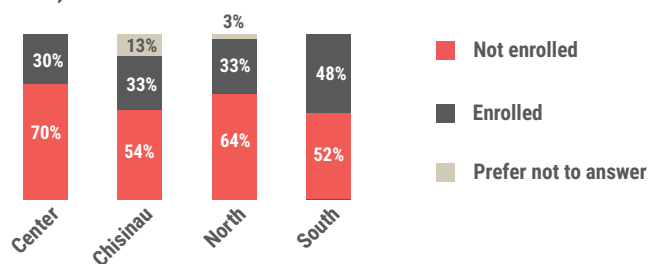
% of school-aged children and youth (3-24 y.o.) enrolled in formal education by type of curriculum* (n=556)



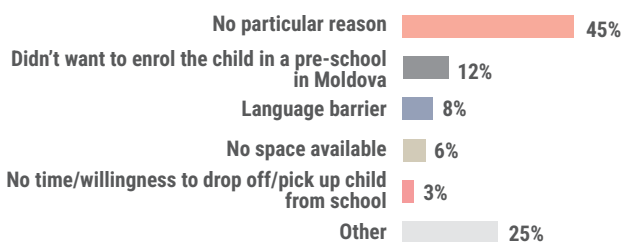
EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION 2022/23

56% of the children (2-6 y.o., n=198) reported not having attended early childhood education in Moldova in 2022/2023.

% of children (2-6 y.o.) who attended early childhood education in Moldova in school year 2022/2023, by region (n=198)



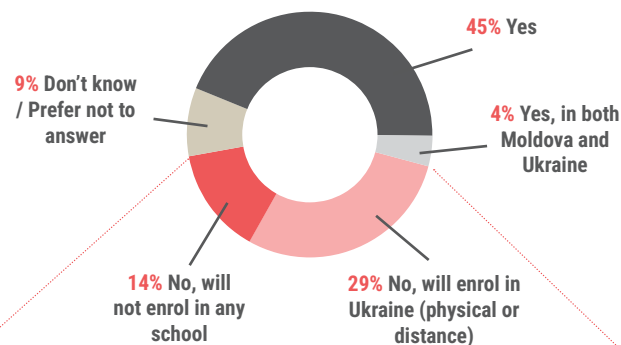
Reasons for not attending early childhood education in Moldova among those who did not attend* (n=117)



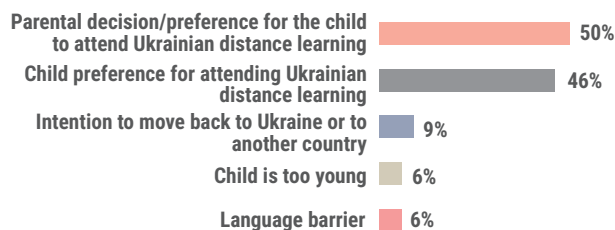
ENROLLMENT INTENTIONS FOR SCHOOL YEAR 2023/24

% of school-aged children and youth (3-24 y.o.) intending to be enrolled in formal education in Moldova during school year 2023/24 (n=769)

(among those not having completed their studies)



Most mentioned reasons for not intending to enrol in Moldova* (n=311)



⁵ In this assessment, 'school-aged children and youth' refers to HH members aged 3-24. This approach was taken to account for youth attending higher education in the analysis.

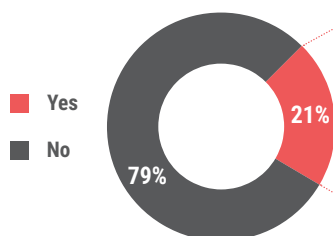
⁶ Formal education refers to structured and organized learning provided by educational institutions, irrespective of the country of the curriculum (including Moldova, Ukraine or third country's formal education).

* Multiple choice question, therefore the sum of values may exceed 100%.



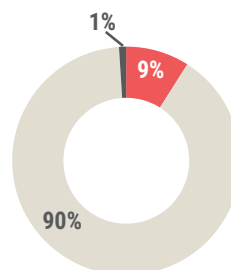
HEALTHCARE NEED & ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE

% of HH members who had a health problem and needed to access healthcare in the 30 days prior to data collection (n=2,130)



% of HH members having been able to access the needed healthcare (n=433)

■ No
■ Yes
■ Don't know / Prefer not to answer



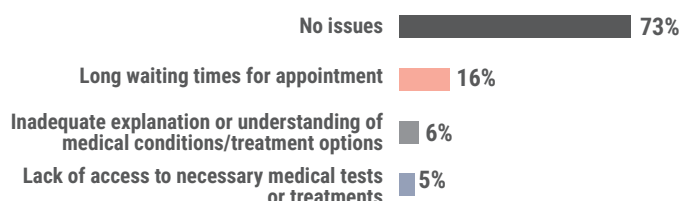
HH female members were slightly more likely to report having a health problem and needing to access healthcare than HH male members (**23%** and **18%**, respectively).

52% of HH members with a disability reported having a health problem and needed to access healthcare, compared to **19%** of HH members without a disability.

Out of the **46%** of HH members aged 60+ y.o. who needed healthcare, **7%** of them did not access it.

Out of the **24%** of children aged 0 to 4 y.o. who needed healthcare, **13%** of them did not access it.

Top 4 most reported HH members' grievances on the quality of healthcare* (among those who accessed it in the 30 days prior to data collection, n=389)



The South region had only **46%** of HH members reporting no issues on the quality of healthcare. The issue mostly reported was the long waiting times for an appointment (**32%**).

DISABILITY

% of HH members (aged 5 y. or older) with difficulty level 3 and 4 in WGSS, by type of difficulty (n=1996)

Difficulty	Urban	Rural	Overall
Seeing	4%	5%	4%
Hearing	2%	1%	2%
Walking	2%	3%	2%
Remembering / Concentrating	1%	2%	1%
Self-care	0%	2%	1%
Communicating	0%	0%	0%

56% of individuals with disabilities (15 y.o. or older) reported that it affected their ability to work.

21% of individuals with disabilities (5 y.o. or older) reported they were not able to access specialised services needed.

* Multiple choice question, therefore the sum of values may exceed 100%.

** Because of rounding up, the percentages might not add up to 100%.

MENTAL HEALTH AND PSYCHOLOGICAL SUPPORT

12% of HH members (>=18 y.o.) were reported to be experiencing mental health or psychological issues. Out of them, **13%** (n=23) were reported to be needing support. 12 HH member were reported to be trying to seek support. 10 received support and 2 did not know where to seek support.

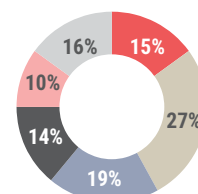
CHILD HEALTH & NUTRITION

77% of the children (9 mo - 5 y.o.) were reported to have received measles vaccination. Out of them (n=133), **56%** were reported to have received a second dose.

27% of the children (9 mo - 5 y.o.) in the North region were reported to not having received measles vaccination.

% of children (up to 6 y.o.) who received polio vaccination, by number of doses** (n=229)

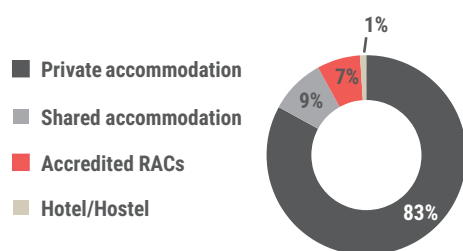
■ None
■ 1 dose
■ 2 doses
■ 3 doses
■ 4 doses
■ Don't know / Prefer not to answer



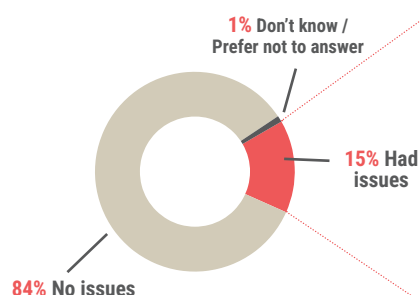


SHELTER / ACCOMMODATION

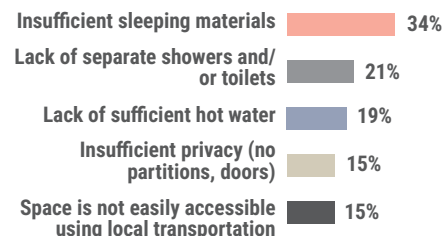
% of HHs by type of accommodation (n=890)



% of HHs with living conditions issues in current accommodation (n=888)

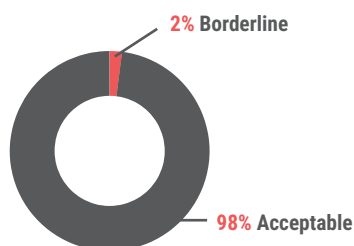


Top 5 issues* (n=143)

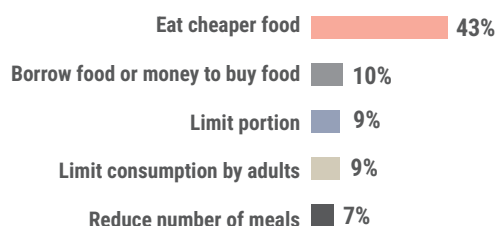


FOOD SECURITY

% of HHs by FCS⁷ category 21/35 (n=890)



% of HHs by use of consumption-based coping strategies in the 7 days prior to data collection* (rCSI⁸) (n=890)



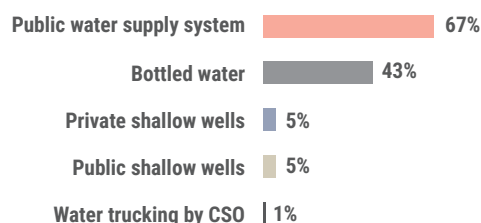
49% of HHs did not use any coping strategies in the 7 days prior to data collection (rCSI).

99% of HHs had a food store, market or supermarket within a 30-minutes walking distance from their residence.



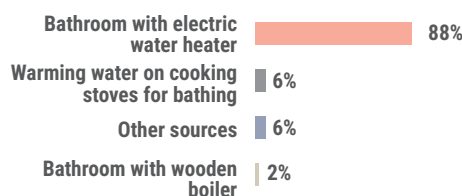
WATER SANITATION & HYGIENE (WASH)

Top 5 most reported HH main sources of drinking water* (n=889)

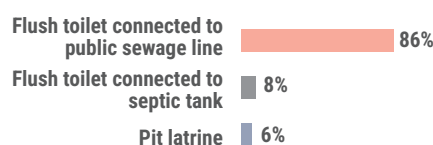


16% of HHs in the North reported reliance on public shallow wells for drinking water.

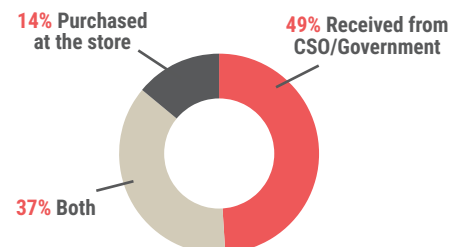
% of HHs by type of water heating system for bathing facility mainly used in accommodation (n=887)**



Top 3 most reported sanitation facilities used in accommodation (n=890)



Sources of access to hygiene materials (soap, toilet paper, diapers, sanitary pads) (n=887)



Among those who received hygiene materials from CSOs or government entities (n=739), 99% of HHs were somewhat or very satisfied with them.

⁷ Food Consumption Score: 0-21 Poor; 21,5-35 Borderline; >35 Acceptable.

⁸ Reduced Coping Strategy Index

* Multiple choice question, therefore the sum of values may exceed 100%.

** Because of rounding up, the percentages might not add up to 100%.