

Research Terms of Reference

Refugee Intentions Assessment

MDA2408

Republic of Moldova

[30.09.2024]

[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 type="checkbox"/> Sudden onset	<input type="checkbox"/> Slow onset	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Protracted
Mandating Body / Agency	European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO)		
IMPACT Project Code	67 AZF		
Overall Research Timeframe (<i>from research design to final outputs / M&E</i>)	02/09/2024 – 14/02/2025		
Research Timeframe <i>Add planned deadlines (for first cycle if more than 1)</i>	1. Pilot/training: 31/10/2024		6. Outputs sent for validation: 10/01/2025
	2. Start data collection: 01/11/2024		7. Outputs published: 31/01/2025
	3. Data collected: 07/11/2024		8. Final presentation: 31/01/2025
	4. Data analysed: 23/11/2024		
	5. Data sent for validation: 13/12/2024		
Number of assessments	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Single assessment (one cycle) <input type="checkbox"/> Multi assessment (more than one cycle) <i>[Describe here the frequency of the cycle]</i>		
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	31/01/2025	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Inter-cluster plan/strategy	_ _ / _ _ / _ _ _ _	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Cluster plan/strategy	_ _ / _ _ / _ _ _ _	
	<input type="checkbox"/> NGO platform plan/strategy	_ _ / _ _ / _ _ _ _	
<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify):	_ _ / _ _ / _ _ _ _		
Audience Type & Dissemination <i>Specify who will the assessment inform and how you will disseminate to inform the audience</i>	Audience type	Dissemination	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Strategic <input type="checkbox"/> Programmatic <input 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"/> Cluster Mailing (Education, Shelter and WASH) and presentation of findings at next cluster meeting <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Presentation of findings (e.g. at HCT meeting; Cluster meeting) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Website Dissemination (Relief Web & REACH Resource Centre)	

		<input type="checkbox"/> [Other, Specify]
Stakeholder mapping <i>Has a detailed stakeholder mapping been conducted during research design to identify all actors that could contribute to and / or benefit from the research?</i>	X Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
General Objective	To provide a comprehensive understanding of the intentions of refugees from Ukraine, living in the Republic of Moldova, over the coming 12 months, via the analysis of the demographic profiles of refugee households, the identification of facilitators and barriers to staying in Moldova, and an appraisal of perceptions of Ukraine among refugees as a potential place of future return, to be completed in conjunction with an evaluation of how refugee-response policies are likely to evolve in the next year, with the goal of aligning refugee response planning in Moldova with the durable-solutions model for more effective and sustainable outcomes.	
Specific Objective(s)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop an understanding of the demographic profiles of refugee households from Ukraine, currently residing in Moldova, including possible vulnerabilities. 2. Identify the facilitators and barriers to remaining in Moldova, considering community integration, safety and security, and access to services. 3. Explore perceptions of Ukraine among refugees as a potential place of future return, considering their perceptions of their prospects in Ukraine, including perceptions of safety and security, and access to information. 4. Understand the mid and long-term intentions of refugee respondents in the next 12 months, and what factors could impact their decision to stay in Moldova, return to Ukraine, or relocate to a third country. 5. Consider existing policy frameworks, their evolution during their implementation period, as well as their effectiveness to date. 6. Examine how refugee-response policies may evolve strategically in the coming 12 months to respond to the changing circumstances and needs of the refugee crisis in Moldova. 	
Research Questions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What is the demographic profile of refugees from Ukraine who are currently residing in Moldova including their past movement patterns, places of residence, household composition and possible vulnerabilities? 2. What are the facilitators and barriers to staying in Moldova, among refugees, considering community integration, safety and security, and access to services? 3. What are the perceptions of Ukraine among refugees as a potential place of future return, considering their perceptions of their prospects in Ukraine, including perceptions of safety and security, and access to information. 	

	<p>4. What are the movement intentions of respondents in the next 12 months, and what factors may impact their decision to stay in Moldova, return to Ukraine, or relocate to a third country?</p> <p>5. What are the current policies of the refugee-response plan in Moldova, how have they evolved, and how have they been evaluated for effectiveness to date?</p> <p>6. What policies are envisaged as part of the longer-term response to the refugee crisis in Moldova and how will they be planned and enacted to meet the changing needs in the Moldovan context?</p>		
Geographic Coverage	Nationwide, across the Republic of Moldova, excluding Transnistria		
Secondary data sources	<p>1. IMPACT Initiatives, "What do we know about Ukrainian refugees returning home since the full-scale invasion", Longitudinal Survey of Ukrainian Refugees, Round 18, November 2023.</p> <p>2. IMPACT Initiatives, "Back, but not necessarily home: refugee experiences upon returning to Ukraine and becoming IDPs", Longitudinal Survey of Ukrainian Refugees, Round 20, January 2024.</p> <p>3. The Brookings Institute, University of Bern, "IASC Framework on Durable Solutions for Internally Displaced Persons", April 2010.</p> <p>4. The Brookings Institute, University of Bern, IASC, IASC Durable Solutions Indicator Library Question Bank, April 2010.</p> <p>5. Durable Solutions Platform, Norwegian Refugee Council, REACH, Save the Children, Action Against Hunger, Humanitarian Needs Assessment, Danish Refugee Council, "Syria Analytical Framework".</p> <p>6. REACH Initiative, Refugee Population Profiling Assessment 2024: Refugee Estimates and Trends Key Findings Presentation, September 2024.</p> <p>7. IMPACT Initiatives, REACH Ukraine MSNA 2024 Dataset, August 2024.</p> <p>8. Women's Refugee Commission, Refuge Point, Refugee Self-Reliance Initiative, Self-Reliance Index Version 2.0: Indicators to Measure Progress towards Self-Reliance, May 2020.</p> <p>9. IMPACT Initiatives, "Damage Impact Analysis Summary, July 2024.</p> <p>10. IMPACT Initiatives, ABA Toolkit Ingredient 01 – Contextual and Institutional Analysis, February 2024.</p>		
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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Refugees in RACs	<input checked="" 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]	
Stratification <i>Select type(s) and enter number of strata</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Geographical #: 2 1. Chişinău 2. North, South, Centre Population size per strata is known? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Group #: ___ Population size per strata is known? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> [Other Specify] #: __ Population size per strata is known? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Data collection tool(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Structured (Quantitative)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Semi-structured (Qualitative)	
	Sampling method	Data collection method	

Structured data collection tool #1: <i>Structured survey with members of the refugee community, currently residing in Moldova</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 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 <input type="checkbox"/> Snowballing	<input type="checkbox"/> Key informant interview (Target #):_ _ _ _ _ <input type="checkbox"/> Group discussion (Target #):_ _ _ _ _ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Household interview (Target #): 308 (To include 148 in Chişinău, 145 in the regions stratification, and buffer of 15 surveys (5% of total)) <input type="checkbox"/> Individual interview (Target #): <input type="checkbox"/> Direct observations (Target #):_ _ _ _ _ <input type="checkbox"/> [Other, Specify] (Target #):_ _ _ _ _	
Semi-structured data collection tool #2: <i>Key informant interviews (KIIs) with</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 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 <input type="checkbox"/> Snowballing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Key informant interview (Target #): 8-10 <input type="checkbox"/> Group discussion (Target #):_ _ _ _ _ <input type="checkbox"/> Household interview (Target #):_ _ _ _ _ <input type="checkbox"/> Individual interview (Target #): <input type="checkbox"/> Direct observations (Target #):_ _ _ _ _ <input type="checkbox"/> [Other, Specify] (Target #):_ _ _ _ _	
Target level of precision if probability sampling	95% level of confidence	8% margin of error	
Disaggregation by gender and age	Gender <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Age <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	
Data management platform(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IMPACT	<input type="checkbox"/> UNHCR	
Expected output type(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> [Other, Specify]		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Situation overview #: 1	<input type="checkbox"/> Report #: _ _	<input type="checkbox"/> Profile #: _ _
	<input type="checkbox"/> Presentation (Preliminary findings) #: _ _	<input type="checkbox"/> Presentation (Final) #: 1	<input type="checkbox"/> Factsheet #: _ _
	<input type="checkbox"/> Interactive dashboard #:	<input type="checkbox"/> Web map #: _ _	<input type="checkbox"/> Map #: _ _
	<input type="checkbox"/> [Other, Specify] #: _ _		
Access	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 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	REACH  Donor: ECHO		

	 Funded by the European Union
	Coordination Framework: n/a
	Partners: n/a

2. Rationale

2.1 Background

Decision-making surrounding movement intentions is widely recognised as a complex and uniquely personal activity for those involved.¹ Each displaced person and each displaced household can be characterised by a unique set of present-day vulnerabilities and future aspirations which are influenced by a wider range of personal, social, and contextual factors, and which ultimately influence their decisions to move location or remain in situ. For example, diverse factors, such as access to appropriate livelihoods, access to adequate legal protections, and the presence or absence of family-members, may all influence the movement of displaced persons or refugees in a wide variety of contexts. In sum, movement-intentions assessments can permit decision-makers in humanitarian settings to capture primary data on the enablers and obstacles which motivate the movement from or the settlement of displaced persons or refugees in a particular location. Such data further can further serve humanitarian decision-makers as they seek to provide durable solutions for displaced persons and refugees in cases where crises become protracted. Critically, such data also allows for decision-makers to hear individual voices and understand the individualised needs, and preferences of displaced people and refugees, giving them greater agency and information in their own decision-making and future choices.

In the context of the Ukrainian refugee crisis in Europe, due to the escalation of conflict in Ukraine in 2022, there has been significant movement of people across the continent and beyond. Indeed, as of 19 August 2024, 6.7 million refugees from Ukraine were recorded as displaced globally.² This movement of people, however, initially characterised by the mass departure of people from Ukraine is increasingly being distinguished by the return movement of refugees into Ukraine.³ As stated above, movement intentions are complex; nevertheless, some distinct movement patterns, related to geography, the provision of accommodation, and personal and emotional reasons, have emerged across Europe in countries where refugees from Ukraine are most numerous. For example, according to round 18 of the longitudinal survey, conducted by IMPACT Initiatives, the level of income and type of accommodation refugee respondents were living in were both strong predictors of refugees' decision to return to Ukraine.⁴ Similarly, among those returning home to Ukraine, personal and emotional reasons for returning were those most often indicated by respondents.⁵ These obstacles and motivations were corroborated by round 20 of the longitudinal survey in which similar results were found.⁶ Here, it is worthwhile to recognise the diverse ways in which refugees are often driven to return to Ukraine due to professional, financial, and logistical constraints which makes their stay in their host-countries untenable. In these cases, it should be further noted that many returnees in Ukraine, participating in the longitudinal survey, reported that they had returned to places where they did not

¹ UNHCR, "[Intentions Surveys](#)", UNHCR, consulted: 16/09/2024.

² UNHCR, "[Ukraine Refugee Situation](#)", UNHCR, consulted: 16/09/2024.

³ Ilona Sologoub, "[Ukrainian Refugees: Who Returns and Why?](#)", Stockholm School of Economics, February 2, 2024, consulted: 17/09/2024.

⁴ IMPACT Initiatives, "[What do we know about Ukrainian refugees returning home since the full-scale invasion](#)", Longitudinal Survey of Ukrainian Refugees, Round 18, November 2023, consulted: 16/09/2024.

⁵ *Ibid.*

⁶ IMPACT Initiatives, "[Back, but not necessarily home: refugee experiences upon returning to Ukraine and becoming IDPs](#)", Longitudinal Survey of Ukrainian Refugees, Round 20, January 2024, consulted: 16/09/2024.

necessarily feel safe.⁷ This particular finding demonstrates how the movement of displaced persons and refugees does not always lead to better outcomes in terms of safety and highlights the utility of intentions surveys as a means of understanding push and pull factors in the movement of displaced peoples and refugees.

In the Moldovan context, there is less granular information available on the movement intentions of refugees beyond their short-term movement intentions. For example, according to findings from the ABA in Anenii Noi in 2023, 91% of refugee households reported that they would remain in situ for the coming 6 months while 9% reported that they were undecided.⁸ Beyond limited information of this nature, which only clarifies the short-term movement intentions of refugees, there is a dearth of information available to explain these motivations as well as a lack of information, detailing the *concrete* movement plans of refugees in Moldova. It is this information gap that this movement-intentions assessment intends to fill.

2.2 Intended Impact

As stated above, there is currently an information gap in Moldova on the movement intentions of refugees in the medium-to-long term as well as a lack of precise and detailed information on the push and pull factors which influence such movement patterns. Given also that the conflict in Ukraine protracts,⁹ the need for durable solutions for refugees from Ukraine in Moldova remains critical. Here, a durable solution refers to a phase in which IDPs or refugees “no longer have specific assistance and protection needs that are linked to their displacement”.¹⁰ In the spirit of this definition, this movement-intentions assessment will seek to understand the reasons why refugees from Ukraine would elect to remain or leave Moldova so as to better understand the vulnerabilities, needs, as well as the preferences and aspirations of refugees from Ukraine in Moldova. Furthermore, this assessment will seek to assess the ways in which refugees in Moldova perceive their prospects of returning to Ukraine in terms of enabling factors such as safety and security, as well as access to services and information. Acquiring such information will allow for humanitarian and government actors to better plan programming and interventions for the longer-term with a more concrete understanding of the movement intentions of refugees. Such data will also further allow for humanitarian actors to better understand the needs of the people who they serve and can be used to create an environment where refugees can be encouraged to participate in the planning and implementing of solutions. Lastly, such data will provide evidence-based and tailored data to humanitarian authorities who can thereby promote durable and sustainable solutions for refugees in Moldova in more long-term fashion as Moldova exits an acute humanitarian response phase.

3. Methodology

3.1 Methodology Overview

For this assessment, a mixed-methods approach will be used to collect the desired data. Specifically, this assessment will make use of a structured household-level survey which is envisaged will be conducted via phone (CATI) with the assistance of the IMPACT Ukraine Field Team. The target number of phone interviews for this particular assessment is 293 household-level surveys as well as a buffer of 15 additional surveys. In relation to sampling, this assessment will use a non-probabilistic stratified purposive-sampling strategy on the basis of two strata (Chişinău & North, South, Centre).¹¹ While the results obtained from this approach will not be statistically representative or generalisable to the entire refugee population, they will provide indicative insights into their situation. In Chişinău, it is expected that 148 interviews will be conducted while in the North, South, Centre strata, 145 household interviews are planned. As previously stated, a buffer of 15 interviews is also expected to be

⁷ IMPACT Initiatives, “What do we know about Ukrainian refugees returning home since the full-scale invasion”.

⁸ REACH Initiative, “Anenii Noi Area-Based Assessment – Situation Overview”, January 2024, consulted: 17/09/2024.

⁹ Josh Holder, “Mapping Ukraine’s Surprise Invasion of Russia”, The New York Times, August 23, 2024, consulted: 16/09/2024.

¹⁰ The Brookings Institute, University of Bern, “IASC Framework on Durable Solutions for Internally Displaced Persons”, April 2010, consulted: 16/09/2024.

¹¹ The motivations for this particular stratification are outlined below.

completed to ensure that the target of clean, full surveys is fully achieved. Scoping for this assessment will be conducted purposively by the IMPACT Moldova Field Team via three methods outlined below. The quantitative component of this assessment will be complemented by a small qualitative study. Here, 8-10 KIIs will be conducted with high-level representatives of the humanitarian response in Moldova as well as with members of the Moldovan government to better understand their perspectives on how the refugee response in Moldova will evolve in the medium term to respond to the likely continued conflict in Ukraine. Scoping and the identification of suitable KIIs for this qualitative component will be done by members of the research team in conjunction with the Liaison Officer. It is envisaged that this qualitative component will provide contextual detail about the future of the refugee response in Moldova and will provide juxtaposition with the findings of the quantitative survey.

Key Definitions:

Here are a number of key definitions which featured in and informed the research-design process:

1. **Returnability:** The feasibility of refugees *potentially* deciding to return to Ukraine, encompassing both the subjective perceptions of the refugees (how they feel about returning) and the objective factors (conditions in Ukraine) that influence their decision-making, such as safety, security, livelihood opportunities, access to services, and more.
2. **Refugee:** For the purpose of this assessment, a person who has been displaced from Ukraine following the escalation of hostilities in February 2022, including third-country nationals. Therefore, the definition of refugee in this assessment is not limited to the legal-status designation.
3. **Third-country national (TCNs):** A person who has fled Ukraine but for whom Ukraine is not their country of origin, and who may be in need of international protection.
4. **Region:** There are 3 regions in Moldova: North, Centre and South, excluding the Transnistria region. Considering the high prevalence of refugees in the city, the Municipality of Chişinău will be extracted from the Centre region in the framework of this assessment and become a territorial region unit itself, resulting in 4 regions under this assessment.
5. **Temporary Protection (TP):** Temporary Protection was first established in the Republic of Moldova on 1 March 2023 to provide immediate temporary protection to Ukrainian citizens and eligible TCNs who were forced to flee the escalation of the conflict in Ukraine, according to the Government Decision No 21/2023 on granting Temporary Protection to displaced persons from Ukraine. Temporary protection status offers: the right of legal residence on the territory of the Republic of Moldova until 1 March 2024, was extended until 1 March 2025; access to social assistance measures, financed by international organizations, other social services for families with children; access to compulsory education in the Republic of Moldova; access to the labour market; free access to emergency and primary health care, free medical examination for public health reasons; and the right to be accommodated in a placement centre.

Expanded Methodology:

1. **Engagement with partners and stakeholders through preliminary consultations:** Partners and stakeholders will be consulted in the research-design process to ensure the relevancy and suitability of the research objectives to the Moldovan context and to ensure that an appropriate information gap is being filled by the research.
2. **Secondary-data review:** Secondary resources, including longitudinal surveys from IMPACT Ukraine, literature on durable solutions, as well as relevant indicator banks, are to be evaluated and are to be used to understand the current knowledge gaps in the Moldovan context and support research design for this assessment with the durable-solutions model in mind.
3. **Data-collection and sampling strategies for quantitative component:** For this assessment, a non-probabilistic stratified purposive-sampling strategy will be deployed. In this instance, two stratifications will be used: Chişinău and the amalgamation of North, South, Centre regions. These stratifications were decided upon after trial and error;

originally, it was envisaged that four stratifications, representing the three regions and Chişinău individually, would be used. This strategy was abandoned, however, as the number of interviews required were too logistically onerous. Instead, the Chişinău-North, South, Centre stratification was selected as a happy medium, guaranteeing representation for the regions of Moldova in which there are less refugees predicted to be living than in Chişinău.¹² Thereafter, a confidence level of 95% and margin of error of 8% were used to calculate the numbers of surveys required, using population figures from the RPoP Assessment, conducted earlier this year by IMPACT Moldova.¹³ These calculations indicated that 148 surveys would be required in Chişinău, and 145 surveys in the stratification of the regions. Following this step, the 145 regional surveys are to be proportionately divided among the three regions within the North, South, Centre stratification, based on the RPoP refugee population estimates. They will thereafter be converted to an average HH size, using data from the UNHCR Regional Population Profiling data for Moldova.¹⁴ Based on these calculations, it was decided that 50 surveys would be conducted in the North, 57 in the South, and 38 in the Centre. Additionally, a proportionate urban-rural split will be observed in the North, South, Centre stratification as the RPoP estimates showed region-specific urban-rural disaggregations. This split will not be included in the Chişinău region, as the vast majority of the refugee population (98%) is estimated to reside in urban areas.

4. **Scoping for quantitative component:** In relation to scoping for this assessment, three complementary strategies are to be utilised to support scoping for this assessment and to ensure the maximum diversity and representation of the sample and decrease reliance on any singular scoping method. Scoping will be done entirely by the IMPACT Moldova Field Team. The scoping strategies to be employed include the use of social-media channels, cooperation with partner organisations, and cooperation with the Moldovan social-assistance network. Scoping will be done well in advance of data collection, to ensure enough time to reach sufficient participants that will ensure a successful data collection. Refugee respondents will be asked to fill out a consent form in advance of the expected phone survey. This consent form will thus function as a screening device to ensure that only eligible participants are surveyed by the Ukrainian Field Team. The use of each strategy is expanded upon below.
 - a. **Social-media channels:** The primary method for selecting participants will be through social-media channels. Platforms, commonly used by refugees from Ukraine in Moldova such as Viber and Telegram, will be used to disseminate consent forms. Once consent forms have been gathered and verified, the consenting participants will be called by a member of the Ukrainian Field Team to partake in the survey. All refugees that consent to participate will be called at least once as a polite gesture for having taken the time to complete the consent form. However, as the split by regions cannot be ensured on the social media platforms through self-registration, the location of refugees will be requested and closely monitored in the consent form, ensuring the sampling will be able to replicate the desired regional stratification as well as the urban-rural division. Given that, in previous research cycles in Moldova where the consent-form method of scoping has been implemented, the rate of successful call-back among those who completed the consent stood at ~25%, it will be critically important to factor this information into any scoping exercise. In sum, this means that the targeted consent forms per region will be 4 times the number of sampled refugee households per region. When this number is reached for one region, the consent form survey will be closed, to avoid overrepresentation of a region. Remaining refugee households will be scoped by the Moldovan field team, using their existing connections and by applying the snowballing method.
 - b. **Cooperation with partner organisations:** Partner organisations will be asked to put up informational posters with details about the project, and a QR code in their public-facing spaces. This will direct interested parties to

¹² According to Refugee Population Profiling Assessment (RPoP), the following refugee-population estimates were created: Chişinău (17314 refugees), North (3367 refugees), South (3909 refugees), and Centre (2587 refugees).

¹³ REACH Initiative, Refugee Population Profiling Assessment 2024: Refugee Estimates and Trends Key Findings Presentation, September 2024, consulted 20/09/2024 ; UNHCR, “Regional Protection Profiling”, September 2024, consulted: 20/09/2024.

¹⁴ Since the data provided in the RPoP assessment was only at individual level, and this survey will be conducted on HH level, the average HH size per region was taken from the 2024 SEIS assessment.

the consent form and will enable to express their interest in participation. Consent forms will be collected by the data officer and converted into individual UUIDs, ensuring the safe storage of PII with a password-protected file. The type of activities and beneficiaries that are likely to be frequent the locations of partners will also be taken into account to ensure that this scoping method might not inadvertently reach mainly particularly vulnerable groups of refugees.

- c. **Social-assistance network:** Lastly, through the connections forged by the IMPACT Moldova Field Team, it is expected that the Field Team will ask social workers from the social-assistants' network to facilitate the process of disseminating information about the survey among refugees in their respective lists to assess their willingness to participate. This will be used as a contingency strategy if options a. and b. fail to yield results.
5. **Training and Piloting of Tool:** Given that the IMPACT Ukraine Field Team (FT) will be responsible for the quantitative part of data collection as part of this assessment, it is important to think early about the timeline and form that the FT training for the quantitative component and the piloting of this tool will take for this research cycle. It is also envisaged that the Ukrainian field team will support on the translation of tools into Russian, as well as Ukrainian. Taking this into account, the training will be planned for late October giving the research team a brief window to incorporate the feedback provided during the training. Furthermore, considering the similarities of this assessment with the longitudinal study, the Ukrainian field team will likely provide insightful feedback as part of the piloting of the tool. The pilot will be sent out to the Ukrainian field team, after all comments of the training are incorporated and the tool will be deployed on Kobo for data collection. Last spot checks will be done, and an estimation will be provided by them on the time it takes to complete the survey.
6. **Structured household survey with refugees from Ukraine, currently living in Moldova:** Data will be collected by the Ukrainian Field Team through the previously mentioned structured house-hold survey. Internal debriefs will be held daily among the Ukrainian field team, after which an assigned focal point will communicate the daily progress and feedback to the research team in Moldova for updates and troubleshooting.
7. **Key informant interviews:** 8-10 KIIs will be conducted with high-level members of the humanitarian response in Moldova as well as with members of the Moldovan government to better understand their perspectives on how the refugee response in Moldova will evolve in the medium term to respond to the likely continued conflict in Ukraine. Scoping and the identification of suitable KIIs for this qualitative component will be done by members of the research team in conjunction with the Liaison Officer. Scoping is to begin early and interviews are to be scheduled in advance to avoid a capacity overload. It is further envisaged that responsibility for conducting interviews will be divided between the Field Team and Research Team, on the basis of the preferred interview language of the interviewee: English and Romanian interviews being conducted by the Research Team, and Romanian interviews being carried out by the Field Team if capacity allows for such.
8. **Data processing and analysis:** The quantitative data will be cleaned, and statistical analysis will be conducted on the cleaned data set by the Data Officer with assistance from the Research Team. The qualitative interviews will be recorded, transcribed and analysis will be conducted through the creation of data saturation and analysis grids (DSAGs) by a member of the Research Team.
9. **Output production:** The analysed data will be assembled into a situation overview and one presentation and disseminated among partners and humanitarian actors in the Moldovan context.

3.2 Population of Interest

The primary population of interest for this assessment includes all refugee households that have been displaced from Ukraine to the Republic of Moldova, following the escalation of hostilities in February 2022, who are currently residing in Moldova. This population encompasses refugees living in private housing, being hosted by Moldovan families or relatives, as well as those residing in accredited or non-accredited collective centres, commonly known as refugee accommodation centres (RACs). Furthermore, all members of this displaced population will be included in this assessment regardless of their legal status in Moldova. As such, members of this population who are

beneficiaries of Temporary Protection, are asylum seekers, have the status of refugee or humanitarian protection, have permanent or temporary residence permits, have received Moldovan citizenship, or have no legal status at all will all be included within the scope of this assessment. In the structured survey with refugees from Ukraine, the unit of measurement will be the household level. In the KIs, the unit of measurement will be the national level.

In relation to the geographical coverage of this assessment, a nationwide coverage will be targeted. This will, however, exclude the Transnistrian region. Two strata have been defined as part of this assessment to ensure representativeness for those refugees living beyond Chişinău. Here, it is worthwhile to note again that the population numbers used in the sampling were based on the estimates produced in the RPoP research, conducted by REACH. Due to the high density of refugee population in Chişinău, the sample was decided through a split between Chişinău region, and the other regions (excluding Transnistria) to achieve a proportionate split of respondent refugees which could provide a “near-representative” picture of the Moldovan context. Of course, given that a non-probabilistic sampling strategy has been chosen, the findings will be indicative only. In this regard, one strata has been designated to cover Chişinău and another strata designated to cover the regions of Moldova (North, South, Centre). After these adjustments, the surveys were proportionately divided. Based on these calculations, it was decided that 50 surveys would be conducted in the North, 57 in the South, and 38 in the Centre. Additionally, a region-specific proportionate urban-rural disaggregation is targeted for the regions North, South, and Centre in accordance with RPoP figures. This is to ensure a reflective sample for analysis regarding refugee households living in rural and urban areas within this particular strata. This split will not be included in the Chişinău region, as the vast majority of the refugee population (98%) is estimated to reside in urban areas.

Sampling Methodology:

Quantitative Survey					
Stratification	Chişinău	North, South, Centre			
Total Refugee Population <i>(per RPoP data)¹⁵</i>	17,314	9,863	N=3,367		
			S=3,909		
			C=2,587		
Average Refugee HH Size <i>(per UNHCR Population Profiling)¹⁶</i>	2.4				
Total Number of Refugee HHs	7,214	4,109			
Total Number of Surveys to be Conducted <i>(per a Confidence Rate of 95% and a Margin of Error of 8%)</i>	148	145		U=73	R= 72
			N= 50	33	17
			S= 57	25	32
			C= 38	15	23

¹⁵ REACH Initiative, *Refugee Population Profiling Assessment 2024: Refugee Estimates and Trends Key Findings Presentation*, September 2024, consulted 20/09/2024

¹⁶ UNHCR, “Regional Protection Profiling”, September 2024, consulted: 20/09/2024.

3.3 Secondary Data Review

Resource:	Source:	Purpose:
Longitudinal Survey of Ukrainian Refugees, Round 20: <u>“Back, but not necessarily home: refugee experiences upon returning to Ukraine and becoming IDPs”</u>	IMPACT Initiatives	Research objectives Context Triangulation
Longitudinal Survey of Ukrainian Refugees, Round 18: <u>“What do we know about Ukrainian refugees returning home since the full-scale invasion”</u>	IMPACT Initiatives	Research objectives Context Triangulation
Syria Analytical Framework	Durable Solutions Platform, Norwegian Refugee Council, REACH, Save the Children, Action Against Hunger, Humanitarian Needs Assessment, Danish Refugee Council	Indicator selection
Refugee Population Profiling Assessment 2024: Refugee Estimates and Trends Database	REACH Initiative	Context Sampling Methodology
Self-Reliance Index Version 2.0: Indicators to Measure Progress towards Self-Reliance	Women’s Refugee Commission, Refuge Point, Refugee Self-Reliance Initiative	Indicator selection
IASC Framework on Durable Solutions for Internally Displaced Persons	The Brookings Institute, University of Bern, IASC	Context
IASC Durable Solutions Indicator Library Question Bank	The Brookings Institute, University of Bern, IASC	Indicator selection
Damage Impact Analysis	IMPACT Initiatives	Research Objectives
ABA Toolkit Ingredient 01 – Contextual and Institutional Analysis	IMPACT Initiatives	Indicator selection
Longitudinal Survey Ukraine DAP Round 27 (Refugee)	IMPACT Initiatives	Indicator selection
REACH Ukraine MSNA 2024 Dataset	REACH Initiative	Indicator selection

3.4 Primary Data Collection

Primary data will be collected through the following two strategies:

Structured household survey with refugees from Ukraine, currently resident in Moldova:

Method:

The quantitative data collection for this assessment will involve a household-level structured survey of refugees currently living in Moldova. Data collection will be conducted by the IMPACT Ukraine Field Team who will be responsible for conducting phone surveys (CATI) with interviewees who have given their consent to participate in advance. Scoping for participants will be conducted by the IMPACT Moldova Field Team and will involve three strategies: dissemination of the consent form via social-media platforms, cooperation with partner organisations, and cooperation with the Moldovan social-assistants’ network. Prior to data collection, a training session will be given to the IMPACT Ukraine Field Team by members of the Moldovan Research Team. Thereafter, the tool will be piloted by members of the Ukrainian Field Team and any last changes implemented before the formal commencement of data collection.

Sampling:

Respondents for the quantitative component of this assessment will be sampled purposively. In relation to scoping for this sample, three complementary strategies are to be utilised to support scoping for this assessment and to ensure the maximum diversity and representation of the sample and decrease reliance on any singular scoping method. Scoping will be done entirely by the IMPACT Moldova Field Team. The scoping strategies to be employed include the use of social-media channels, cooperation with partner organisations, and cooperation with the Moldovan social-assistants' network. Scoping will be done well in advance of data collection, to ensure enough time to reach sufficient participants that will ensure a successful data collection and to allow for the development of mitigation measures if adequate numbers of respondents are not found. Refugee respondents will be obliged to fill out a consent form in advance of the expected phone survey. Refugees can thus choose to participate by filling in the disseminated consent form with their name, contact information, and area of residence. The area of residence will be important to monitor in order to assess the progress of the stratified sampling targets and as well, to observe the urban-rural cleavage in the regional stratification. This consent form will thus function as a screening device to ensure that only eligible participants are surveyed by the Ukrainian Field Team as well as a barometer of our sampling progress.

Additionally, a snowballing strategy will be applied in the event of insufficient sign-ups during data collection, as a mitigation strategy. This will entail adding a question in the end of the survey that will ask participants if they know anyone that would be interesting in participating in the survey, and then to collect their phone number and first name.

Tool:

The content of the survey will include questions devised in alignment with the IMPACT and IASC durable-solutions indicators. Altogether, the survey will include questions on demographics, including movement patterns, places of residence, and potential household vulnerabilities. Questions will also be asked on the movement intentions of respondents in the coming 12 months with an accented focus on *concrete movement plans*. Otherwise, questions about push and pull factors will be asked in order to better situate the expressed movement intentions in context, here, questions will look to assess refugee access to services, integration, and safety and security. Lastly, some questions will be asked to understand respondents' perception of Ukraine as a place of potential return in the future. These questions will seek to better comprehend how refugees regard the safety and security of Ukraine. It will further seek to understand the means by which Ukrainians access information and how that information informs their perception of safety and security in current-day Ukraine.

Key informant interviews with high-ranking humanitarian workers and governmental officials in Moldova**Method:**

The qualitative part of this assessment will be conducted through a semi-structured qualitative KII survey. In total, between 8-10 interviews will be held, conducted by members of the IMPACT Moldova Research Team which has been leading this assessment.

Sampling:

Participants for this qualitative component will be selected using purposive sampling. In the scoping for this particular component of the survey, several considerations will be taken into account to ensure that only KIs with the most relevancy and expertise are selected to participate. This approach was adopted owing to the fact that KIs with significant understanding and knowledge of coordination in the refugee response are required to guarantee rich and complete answers to the questionnaire. As such, KIIs are to be selected according to the following criteria. KIs ideally should be involved in coordination in the refugee response in Moldova over a long period and should have knowledge of national strategies and policies for the management of the refugee crisis. KIs should furthermore have a certain level of national oversight within their organisation / institution, should ideally be familiar with different parts of the country, and should be aware of their organisation's past and present policies and strategies. KIs should also show contextual awareness of the changing circumstances of the refugee crisis in Moldova and must be willing to provide details about how their

organisation / institution will strategically adapt to align with the changing refugee crisis to address the connected research question and objectives.

Tool:

This component of the research will be conducted through a qualitative semi-structured survey tool. The tool will cover structured topics with probes that give the respondents the opportunity to elaborate, and the interviewer to ask for more specific information when they deem it relevant. The tool will aim to better understand what the current policies of the refugee-response plan in Moldova are. Furthermore, it will seek to understand how such policies have evolved over the course of their lifetime and how these policies have been evaluated for effectiveness to date in terms of their achievement of given objectives? Otherwise, it is envisaged that this tool will assess what policies are envisaged as part of the longer-term response to the refugee crisis in Moldova. Here, questions are planned on how policies will be planned, considering best practices and lessons learned; who will be involved in planning; and how policies will be enacted to meet the changing needs in the Moldovan context?

3.5 Data Processing & Analysis

All primary quantitative data from the structured phone surveys for the Intention Assessment 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 an R script. Data analysis will be conducted in-country by the IMPACT Moldova Data Officer. This analysis will provide results at two levels: the consolidation national level, and at the level of chosen stratifications (Chişinău and North, South, Centre). The refugee population household survey data analysis will be conducted in compliance with REACH's Minimum Standards Checklist for Quantitative Data Analysis.

Regarding the collection of consent forms, PII's will be stored on Kobo by our data officer, who will only have access to this data. The consent form will also collect data on geographical locations and questions that ensure that the household respondents match the scope of this assessment, which will be monitored by the Data Officer. **PII's will not be shared with the enumerators.** Rather, respondents will receive a unique UID, which will be shared with the field team, together with their contact information. After the data has been cleaned, PII's of the consent forms will be deleted.

Additionally, regarding the collection of PII's for the potential snowballing method that will be deployed, enumerators will be responsible for collecting first names and phone numbers of potential survey participants. After collecting this information and completing the survey, only the Data Officer will have access to this information through Kobo, and when downloaded it will be password protected. Our data officer will attach the potential participants a UUID and will provide this information in the document with other potential participants from the consent form.

The qualitative KIIs 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 interviews will be coded thematically in accordance with the questions in the DAP, using Max QDA software. Thereafter, the analysis of the qualitative data will be conducted through the construction of data saturation analysis grids (DSAGs) in order to identify patterns across KIIs. 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, and logistics.

In relation to the methodology of this assessment, several limitations appear. Firstly, given that the sampling strategy for this assessment is purposive, the findings of the assessment will be indicative only. Furthermore, given the scoping strategies envisaged for this project, there likely will be a degree of self-selection in this process which will likely introduce bias into the final data. This limitation was witnessed earlier this year in the RPoP assessment where those who participated in their Viber survey indicated greater needs, especially in terms of X, when compared with the data gathered by SEIS 2024. Here, it is worthwhile to further note that levels of unemployment were higher among respondents to the Viber survey than in the SEIS. Such a difference in employment levels could indicate that those who are unemployed are more likely to participate in surveys, directed at refugees, rather than their counterparts who are engaged by work. Here, it will thus be important to take measures which can reduce the exposure of this assessment to a homogenised cohort of people. In this regard, as explained above, to mitigate this the methodology will use three different scoping strategies to locate participants for this survey with the expectation that this will lead to a greater diversity of profiles in the respondent pool.

Secondly, given that the methodology, sets forth that interviews will be conducted via phone and that it is known that the response rate is typically lower using the method of data collection. It will be important to ensure that scoping is done well in advance and extensively to ensure that target numbers of surveys is achieved. Here, it will be particularly important to use a consent form that allows us to track numbers, and critically locations accurately while simultaneously, reducing the burden upon the respondent to fill in the form. Furthermore, designing and printing posters well in advance for dissemination among partners will be very important. Likewise, ensuring the operability of the QR Code will be very important.

In terms of logistics, several other limitations are likely to crop up. Firstly, given that data collection has been delegated to the Ukrainian Field Team for this assessment, it is altogether probable that data collection may be stalled due to cuts to electricity or other unforeseen disruptions due to the on-going conflict in Ukraine. Ultimately, such factors cannot be foreseen and therefore, it is important to in-build additional time into data collection to account for potential loss of collection capacity to ensure that data collection is concluded within the allotted time.

4. Key ethical considerations and related risks

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

<i>The proposed research design...</i>	<i>Yes/ No</i>	<i>Details if no (including mitigation)</i>
... Has been coordinated with relevant stakeholders to avoid unnecessary duplication of data collection efforts?	Yes	
... Respects respondents, their rights and dignity (<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	

5. Roles and responsibilities

Task Description	Responsible	Accountable	Consulted	Informed
<i>Research design</i>	Assessment Officer	Associate Research Manager	Data Officer Field Team Africa and Europe Unit	Country Coordinator
<i>Supervising data collection</i>	Assessment Officer	Field Team Manager	Associate Research Manager	Country Coordinator
<i>Data processing (checking, cleaning)</i>	Assessment Officer	Associate Research Manager	Africa and Europe Unit	Country Coordinator
<i>Data analysis</i>	Assessment Officer	Associate Research Manager	Africa and Europe Unit	Country Coordinator
<i>Output production</i>	Assessment Officer	Associate Research Manager	Africa and Europe Unit	Country Coordinator
<i>Dissemination</i>	Assessment Officer	Associate Research Manager	Africa and Europe Unit Communication Department	Country Coordinator
<i>Monitoring & Evaluation</i>	Assessment Officer	Associate Research Manager	Projects and Funding Officer Africa and Europe Unit	Country Coordinator
<i>Lessons learned</i>	Assessment Officer	Associate Research Manager	Moldova Research Team Africa and Europe Unit	Country Coordinator

Responsible: the person(s) who executes the task

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

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

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

6. Data Analysis Plan

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

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	# of downloads of x product from Resource Centre	Country request to HQ	User_log	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 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 IMPACT services/products	# of page clicks on x product from REACH global newsletter	Country request to HQ		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
		# of page clicks on x product from country newsletter, sending Blue, bit.ly	Country team		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes
		# of visits to x web map/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 (ECHO, UNHCR, Relevant WGs)
		# 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.
	Number of humanitarian documents (HNO, HRP,	Perceived usefulness and influence of IMPACT outputs			

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