

Research Terms of Reference

Household Economic Capacity Assessment 2026 – Republic of Moldova
MDA2601

April 2026
Version 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	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)					
IMPACT Project Code	67BLV GLN					
Overall Research Timeframe	12/01/2026 to 30/06/2026					
Research Timeframe	1. Pilot/ training: 26/03/2026		6. Key findings factsheet: 05/06/2026			
	2. Start collect data: 26/03/2026		7. Situation Overview sent for validation: 16/06/2026			
	3. Data collected: 30/04/2026					
	4. Data analysed: 20/05/2026					
	5. Data sent for validation: 06/05/2026					
Number of assessments	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Single assessment (one cycle)				
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Multi assessment (more than one cycle)				
Humanitarian milestones	Milestone		Deadline (can be tentative)			
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Donor plan/strategy	30/06/2026			
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Inter-cluster plan/strategy	_ / _ / _ _ _			
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Cluster plan/strategy: Moldova: Inclusion and Solutions Working Group	30/06/2026			
	<input type="checkbox"/>	NGO platform plan/strategy	_ / _ / _ _ _			
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other (Specify): Humanitarian, development, and local/governmental actors will use the data to develop programming targeting refugees displaced from Ukraine in Moldova.	30/06/2026			

Audience Type & Dissemination	Audience type		Dissemination	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Strategic <input checked="" 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"/> Working Groups Mailing (Inclusion and Solution, Information Management,) and presentation of findings at next working groups meeting <input 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	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No
General Objective	This assessment aims to inform humanitarian programming and response planning in Moldova by providing up-to-date, evidence-based data on the living conditions, socio-economic situation, and vulnerabilities of Ukrainian refugee households ¹ displaced to the Republic of Moldova, following the escalation of hostilities in February 2022, with particular focus on income, expenditures, access to services and accommodation.			
Specific Objective(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To understand the composition and demographic characteristics of Ukrainian refugee households in Moldova, including age, gender, household size, and legal status. • To identify main sources of household income, livelihood activities, and employment status of household members. • To evaluate health status, disability prevalence, healthcare access, and health insurance coverage. • To assess current living conditions and accommodation arrangements, including type, payment, facilities, and access to basic services. • To analyse household expenditures, savings, and debt levels among Ukrainian refugee households. • To identify key vulnerabilities and the role of external support, including remittances and humanitarian assistance, in household well-being. • To understand households' planned future locations and the reasons behind these plans. • To compare household income and expenditure levels against the national Minimum Expenditure Basket in Moldova in order to assess economic adequacy and vulnerability. • To collect data required for the calculation of the Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI),² reflecting the economic, social, and living conditions of Ukrainian refugee households. 			

¹ "Ukrainian refugee households" refers to households with at least one member holding Ukrainian citizenship who arrived in Moldova after the escalation of hostilities in Ukraine on 24 February 2022, whether solely or alongside another citizenship.

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

Research Questions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What are the demographic characteristics, household composition, and legal statuses of Ukrainian refugee households in Moldova? 2. What are the main livelihood activities, employment conditions, and education participation levels among household members? 3. What is the health status of household members, and to what extent do they have access to healthcare services and health insurance? 4. What are the current housing conditions, accommodation arrangements, and access to essential services and assets? 5. What are the primary sources of household income, and how do households manage expenditures, savings, debt, and financial shocks? 6. What are the overall living standards and key vulnerabilities experienced by households, and how does external support contribute to their well-being? 7. What are households' intentions regarding their future location, and what factors shape these decisions? 			
Geographic Coverage	Nationwide Republic of Moldova			
Secondary data sources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - UNHCR, Operational Data Portal, Ukraine Refugee Situation - UNHCR, Operational Data Portal, Population Trends – Republic of Moldova - Government of the Republic of Moldova (Guvernul Republicii Moldova), Decision no.21/2023, p. 4 - UNHCR, Temporary Protection in Moldova: Rights as a Beneficiary of TP - UNHCR, Ukraine Refugee Situation - Regional Refugee Response Plan 2025-2026, January 2025 - General Inspectorate for Migration (IGM), Protecția internațională și documentarea ucrainenilor în Republica Moldova - REACH, UNHCR, Situation Overview — Socio-Economic Insights Survey (SEIS) (December 2025) 			
Population(s)	<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]
Data collection tool(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Structured (Quantitative)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Semi-structured (Qualitative)
	Sampling method		Data collection method	
Structured data collection tool	<input type="checkbox"/> Purposive <input checked="" 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"/> [Other, Specify]		<input type="checkbox"/> Key informant interview (Target #):_ _ _ _ <input type="checkbox"/> Group discussion (Target #):_ _ _ _ _ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Household interview (Target #): 551 HHs <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	98% level of confidence		5% +/- % margin of error	

Disaggregation by gender and age	Gender		Age			
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No		
Data management platform(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	IMPACT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	UNHCR		
	<input type="checkbox"/>	[Other, Specify]				
Expected output type(s)	<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) #: __	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Factsheet #: 1
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Interactive dashboard #: _	<input type="checkbox"/>	Webmap #: __	<input type="checkbox"/>	Map #: __
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	[Other, Specify] #: 1 Quantitative dataset and analysis results table				
Access	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Public (available on REACH resource center 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: UNHCR					
						
	Coordination Framework: N/A					
	Partners: N/A					

2. Rationale

Over four years have elapsed since the escalation of hostilities in Ukraine in February 2022, leading to prolonged displacement and a sustained humanitarian crisis. As of 16 January 2026, more than 5.8 million refugees from Ukraine have been recorded globally.³ As of 26 January 2026, 87,888 refugees had been granted temporary protection, including 20,039 minors.⁴ However, while there is no definitive information on the number of Ukrainian refugees currently residing in Moldova, identification exercises place estimates at significantly lower figures.⁵ As the crisis has become increasingly protracted, humanitarian efforts in Moldova have gradually shifted toward a development-oriented approach, expanding beyond immediate relief to include long-term and sustainable solutions that promote refugee self-reliance, social and economic integration, and access to essential services such as education, healthcare, and employment opportunities.

To operationalise this development-oriented approach, the Government of the Republic of Moldova introduced Temporary Protection (TP) on 1 March 2023.⁶ This special legal status provides displaced Ukrainians and eligible third-country nationals with immediate legal recognition and access to employment, social assistance, and primary and emergency healthcare.⁷ TP was initially valid until 1 March 2024 and has since been extended twice, with each extension automatically adding one year, first to 1 March 2025 and then to 1 March 2026. For the upcoming extension to 1 March 2027, the Government of the Republic of Moldova has introduced a revised procedure.⁸ Unlike previous automatic extensions, current beneficiaries are required to submit an online application via the official TP portal between 1 February and 30 April 2026.⁹

Over recent years, several assessments have provided insights into the socio-economic conditions of Ukrainian refugees in Moldova. These include the Multi-Sectoral Needs Assessment (MSNA) 2023 and the Socio-Economic Insights Surveys (SEIS) 2024 and 2025, conducted by the IMPACT/REACH Initiative in partnership with UNHCR. These assessments collected household-level data on income, employment, access to services, protection, education, and living standards, highlighting persistent vulnerabilities such as low income, limited savings, and reliance on external support. Findings from SEIS 2025 indicated that among households fully covering their accommodation costs (n=199), self-reported income and expenditure data showed a negative income gap of –1,768 MDL.¹⁰ Approximately 43% of these households were beneficiaries of UNHCR cash assistance, which may have influenced the observed income–expenditure dynamics.¹¹ It is also important to note that data collection took place between 21 May and 7 July 2025,¹² shortly after UNHCR cash assistance was reduced from 2,200 MDL to 1,625 MDL per individual in April 2025.¹³ During this transitional period, households may have temporarily relied on savings or other coping strategies to manage expenditure levels.

Given that SEIS 2025 was conducted during a period of adjustment following funding reductions, its findings require cautious interpretation. In this context, the Household Economic Capacity Assessment for Ukrainian refugee households would generate updated and more granular data on income and expenditure patterns, enable triangulation with existing socio-economic assessments, and provide critical insights into household resilience and the capacity of refugees to absorb economic shocks under evolving assistance conditions.

This assessment will employ a probability sampling approach, ensuring that the selected households provide a statistically robust basis for analysis. The results will be representative specifically of the list of refugee households in which at least one

³ UNHCR, Operational Data Portal, [Ukraine Refugee Situation](#), consulted on 3 February 2026.

⁴ General Inspectorate for Migration (IGM), [Protecția internațională și documentarea ucrainenilor în Republica Moldova](#), consulted on 3 February 2026.

⁵ The Refugee Population Profiling Assessment conducted by REACH in 2024 suggested approximately 32,188 refugees were in the country at that time, with medium accuracy. Additionally, during the 2024 census conducted in Moldova, preliminary estimates shared bilaterally by the NBS indicated around 15,000 Ukrainian refugees present in the country.

⁶ Government of the Republic of Moldova (Guvernul Republicii Moldova), [Decision no.21/2023](#), p. 4, consulted on 3 February 2026.

⁷ UNHCR, Temporary Protection in Moldova: [Rights as a Beneficiary of TP](#), consulted on 3 February 2026.

⁸ Government of the Republic of Moldova, Press Release: [Republic of Moldova extends Temporary Protection for displaced persons from Ukraine until 1 March 2027](#), consulted on 3 February 2026.

⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰ REACH, UNHCR, [Situation Overview — Socio-Economic Insights Survey \(SEIS\) \(December 2025\)](#), consulted on 3 February 2026.

¹¹ Ibid.

¹² Ibid.

¹³ UNHCR, [Important Update for refugees receiving Cash Assistance in the Republic of Moldova](#), consulted on 3 February 2026.

member signed up on the platform for the extension of temporary protection until 1 March 2027, between 1 February and 16 February 2026, and not necessarily of the entire refugee population in Moldova. The survey will also generate the data required for an indicative estimation of the Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) for these households, with the MPI calculated by the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI). This calculation will be presented in a separate report, and IMPACT will solely provide the underlying data. While the results may allow for indicative comparisons with the host population, the MPI estimated for this group should be interpreted with caution, reflecting relative levels of deprivation rather than supporting direct or definitive comparisons.

2.1 Intended impact

This assessment aims to inform key decision-makers, including the Government of the Republic of Moldova, UNHCR, humanitarian and development partners, and donors involved in the refugee response. The findings will support evidence-based decisions related to cash assistance design, social protection targeting, and livelihood and integration programming, particularly in the context of evolving assistance levels under Temporary Protection. By providing updated and household-level evidence on income, expenditures, coping strategies, and indicative multidimensional poverty index, the assessment will improve understanding of the current economic realities and resilience of Ukrainian refugee households. This will enable humanitarian actors to better tailor interventions to actual needs, mitigate the negative effects of funding reductions on daily living conditions, and prioritise support for the most vulnerable households. At a strategic level, the results will contribute to resource allocation decisions, programme adaptation, and the alignment of humanitarian and development responses, thereby supporting a more sustainable, coordinated, and system-wide approach to the further integration of refugees in Moldova.

3. Methodology

3.1 Methodology overview

The Household Economic Capacity Assessment (HECA) 2026 will employ a quantitative approach, using a structured household-level survey conducted remotely through computer-assisted telephone interviewing (CATI). The assessment will target refugee households in which at least one member signed up on the platform for the extension of TP until 1 March 2027, between 1 February and 16 February 2026. Geographic coverage will extend nationwide.

The survey tool consists of a structured household questionnaire and an individual roster module capturing demographic and socio-economic information for each household member. The questionnaire will collect data on household composition, accommodation arrangements and living conditions, income sources and livelihood activities, expenditure patterns, access to healthcare, and vulnerability profiles, including the role of external assistance and remittances.

This assessment will employ a probability sampling approach to ensure the representativeness of refugee households who signed up on the platform for the extension of TP between 1 February 2026 and 16 February 2026. The database contains phone numbers for each household in which at least one member signed up on the platform for the TP extension between 1 February and 16 February 2026. A simple random sampling method will be applied, as no other information, such as location, or any demographic data, is available. Primary data collection will include a total of 551 household interviews (as further described in Section 3.4 below).

Enumerators will contact the sampled households to confirm their eligibility, availability, and ability to respond on behalf of the household, prior to administering the questionnaire.

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).
- Head / co-head of household: The head of household is defined as the main decision-maker in the household; in certain households, this responsibility can be shared between two or more people (co-headed household).

- TP beneficiary - a person who has been granted temporary protection status in the Republic of Moldova under the temporary protection mechanism for displaced persons from Ukraine. This status allows the individual to legally reside in Moldova for a limited period and provides access to rights including employment, education for children, primary and emergency healthcare, and certain social services. Beneficiaries include Ukrainian nationals, stateless persons recognised by Ukraine, non-Ukrainian residents displaced from Ukraine, and their family members.

3.2 Population of interest

The Household Economic Capacity Assessment (HECA) 2026 will focus on households in the Republic of Moldova where at least one member signed up on the platform for the extension of TP until 1 March 2027, between 1 and 16 February 2026. These households consist of individuals who were displaced as a result of the escalation of hostilities in Ukraine in February 2022. The precise geographic distribution of these households is not known prior to the survey; patterns of dispersion will be analysed following data collection.

The population under assessment includes Ukrainian nationals, stateless persons recognised by Ukraine, non-Ukrainian residents displaced from Ukraine, and their family members who live together in the same household and share key resources and expenses. This approach ensures that the survey captures the living conditions, livelihood strategies, and vulnerability profiles of Ukrainian refugee households. The unit of measurement in this assessment will be the household, as defined above. Respondents will provide information that accurately reflects all household members. Certain indicators will also be collected at the individual level for each household member using an individual roster module.

3.3 Secondary data review

The secondary data review was conducted in January 2026, focusing on country-specific literature and programme documents related to the socio-economic situation and integration of Ukrainian refugees in Moldova. Various sources were consulted, including previous IMPACT/REACH assessments (such as SEIS 2025 and relevant PDM rounds), reports from UN agencies and NGOs, official government publications, and national statistical data. Key repositories reviewed included the UNHCR Operational Data Portal – Ukraine Refugee Situation, ReliefWeb, the IMPACT Resource Centre – Moldova, and publications from the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS). Documentation from the General Inspectorate for Migration (IGM) regarding temporary protection extension procedures was also consulted to better understand the characteristics of the sampling frame.

The literature review provided important contextual background and supported the identification of key socio-economic indicators relevant to refugee households. Findings from the secondary data review informed the assessment design, including the sampling framework and questionnaire development. Additional relevant publications released during the data collection and analysis phases will be incorporated, where appropriate, to support the triangulation and contextualization of primary data findings.

Source – Secondary Data with links	Purpose of source
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - UNHCR, Operational Data Portal, Ukraine Refugee Situation - UNHCR, Operational Data Portal, Population Trends – Republic of Moldova - Government of the Republic of Moldova (Guvernul Republicii Moldova), Decision no.21/2023, p. 4 - UNHCR, Temporary Protection in Moldova: Rights as a Beneficiary of TP - UNHCR, Ukraine Refugee Situation - Regional Refugee Response Plan 2025-2026, January 2025 - General Inspectorate for Migration (IGM), Protecția internațională și documentarea ucrainenilor în Republica Moldova - REACH, UNHCR, Situation Overview — Socio-Economic Insights Survey (SEIS) (December 2025) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Context - transversal

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - IMPACT, MSNA 2025 Indicator Bank (<i>not published</i>) - National Bureau of Statistics of the Republic of Moldova, Household Budget Survey (HBS) - Questionnaires HBS - Department of Statistics and Sociology of the Republic of Moldova, Classification of administrative-territorial units (CUATM), 2017 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - DAP specifics
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Population data source directly used for the sample frame: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o IMPACT, Sampling methodology guidelines, 2020 o IGM, TP beneficiaries who have applied to TP extension until 1 March 2027 between February 1 and February 16 2026, (<i>not published</i>) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sampling specifics

3.4 Primary Data Collection

Method

Data collection will be conducted via phone calls using computer-assisted telephone interviewing (CATI). Interviews will be carried out with either the head of household or another adult member of the refugee household who is able to and willing to respond on behalf of the household. In cases where the contacted individual indicates that another adult household member is the most appropriate respondent but is not available at the time of the call, limited personally identifiable information (PII), such as the name and contact details of the designated respondent, may be collected solely for the purpose of scheduling and conducting the interview. All PII will be collected, stored, and processed in line with applicable data protection standards and used exclusively for assessment-related purposes. The primary data collection will target 551 completed surveys nationwide. Sampled households will be contacted using the phone numbers available in the list with households in which at least one member signed up on the platform for the TP extension between 1 and 16 February 2026. Selected households will be invited to participate in the interview.

In cases of refusal or non-response (i.e., disconnected phone numbers or households that do not answer after two call attempts), a replacement household will be randomly selected from a pre-generated replacement list. The replacement list will include a 70% buffer of the minimum sample size (resulting in an additional 386 phone numbers).

Data collection is expected to commence on 23 March 2026 and will last for five weeks, with an additional one-week buffer to accommodate potential lower response rates. A team of six enumerators will be assigned to the exercise. Prior to data collection, enumerators will participate in a two-day training covering the KOBO tool, sampling methodology, and protection considerations and best practices.

Sampling Framework and Strategy

Data collection will be conducted through a household-level survey using a structured questionnaire. The sample will be randomly drawn from the database of households who signed up on the platform for the extension of temporary protection between 1 and 16 February 2026.

The database contains the phone numbers used by households to submit online applications for the extension of temporary protection for their household members during this period. The sampling frame has been deduplicated and includes unique phone numbers, which are assumed to correspond to individual households. To ensure the protection of personally identifiable information, the sampling framework will be stored in a password protected environment with restricted access. Enumerators will be granted access only to the phone numbers assigned to them for data collection. All calls will be conducted exclusively using REACH devices, and no personal phones or personal numbers will be used at any stage. Standard data cleaning procedures will be applied to the dataset to ensure internal consistency and the removal of invalid or unusable entries. After data collection is finalised, standard data cleaning procedures will be carried out, and once the dataset has been validated by IMPACT HQ, all phone numbers will be permanently removed in line with data protection standards.

The Household Economic Capacity Assessment will employ a probability sampling approach, specifically simple random sampling, as the sampling frame does not include information on geographic location or household demographic characteristics. The sample size was calculated based on the total number of households included in the deduplicated list. As of 16 February 2026, a total of 16,658 households had signed up on the platform for the TP extension. The sample was calculated using a 98% confidence level and a 5% margin of error, with an additional 5% buffer to account for incomplete or invalid surveys.

The minimum required sample size is 524 households, which increases to 551 households after applying the buffer. Households were randomly selected using an R script.

Table 1: Overview of sampling parameters

Estimated # HHs	Confidence level	Error Margin	Buffer	Sample size
16,658	98%	5%	5%	551

To account for potential low response rates, a replacement list will be prepared in advance, comprising 70% of the total sample size (386 additional phone numbers). This approach is intended to mitigate the risks of non-response, disconnected phone numbers, or refusals, which are common in phone-based surveys, and to ensure that the minimum required sample size is achieved within the planned data collection timeframe. If, after all households from the initial sample have been contacted, the minimum target sample has not been reached, additional households will be randomly selected from the pre-established replacement list to maintain the statistical validity and representativeness of the survey results.

Data source on the refugee population

Since the onset of the conflict, there has been no nationwide record of the exact number or geographic distribution of the refugee population in Moldova. For the purpose of this assessment, the primary data source on the refugee population is the list of household in which at least one member signed up for the extension of TP until 1 March 2027, between 1 February and 16 February 2026. Although this represents only a fraction of the refugee population, it allows us to collect representative data, which has not been possible previously.

The list of households used for sampling comprises all displaced persons who signed up on the platform for the extension of temporary protection until 1 March 2027 during this period. At the time of sampling, the database as of 16 February 2026 represented the most complete, updated, and operationally available dataset. This cut-off was used as the sampling freeze date to ensure consistency, allow sufficient time for sample selection, and support data collection planning, while still reflecting the vast majority of extension applications submitted during the initial phase of the process.

This list is generated with the support of UNHCR from the national electronic TP extension application system, which is managed by the General Inspectorate for Migration (Inspectoratul General pentru Migrație – IGM) of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Moldova, as part of the Government's procedure to extend TP until 1 March 2027.¹⁴ However, it cannot be determined with certainty whether each number corresponds to an actual TP beneficiary or to someone who may have interacted with the platform for other purposes.

IGM is responsible for receiving, processing, and storing applications submitted via the official portal (protectietemporara.gov.md), maintaining the database of TP applicants, and updating their status in the national information

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

system. While applications for extension remain open until 30 April 2026,¹⁵ the dataset as of 16 February 2026 was used for this assessment to ensure methodological rigor and the reliability of the sampling frame.

Tool

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

The questionnaire collects information at two levels:

- Household-level data, including household composition, accommodation, income sources, expenditure patterns, access to services, and overall living standards.
- Individual-level data, captured through an individual roster module, records demographic characteristics, health status, education, and other relevant indicators for each household member.

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

3.5 Data Processing & Analysis

The primary quantitative data for the Household Economic Capacity Assessment will be collected using the Enketo webform. Once collected, the Senior 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 Senior Assessment Officer will conduct descriptive statistical analysis on the cleaned data set in line with the data analysis plan created during the research design phase using relevant software such as R and Excel. Additionally, the analysis may include some disaggregation at the geographic and demographic levels, which would be indicative. The quantitative refugee survey data analysis will be conducted in compliance with REACH's [Minimum Standards Checklist for Quantitative Data Analysis](#).

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

3.6 Limitations

Methodological Limitations

- Sampling frame: The assessment relies on the list of households in which at least one member signed up on the platform for the extension of temporary protection between 1 and 16 February 2026. Households that signed up on the platform after this period are not included, which may lead to underrepresentation of certain segments of the refugee population.
- Phone-based survey: Using CATI and Enketo webforms limits the assessment to households with functional phone numbers. Households without access to phones, or those who do not answer calls, may be excluded, potentially biasing the sample.
- Self-reporting: Responses rely on household members accurately reporting sensitive information such as income, expenses, health status, or vulnerabilities. There is a risk of recall bias or under/over-reporting, especially for financial and health indicators.
- Response rate: Based on previous exercises, which recorded relatively low response rates, and considering that the registration platform did not include constraints preventing individuals from registering even if they were not physically present in Moldova, a lower response rate is anticipated. To mitigate this, a replacement list equivalent

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

to 70% of the initial sample size has been prepared, consistent with the most recent PDM round conducted in November 2025. However, although replacements will be randomly selected, differences between the original and replacement respondents may affect the level of representativity of the dataset.

Contextual Limitations

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

4. Key ethical considerations and related risks

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

<i>The proposed research design...</i>	<i>Yes/ No</i>	<i>Details if no (including mitigation)</i>
... Has been coordinated with relevant stakeholders to avoid unnecessary duplication of data collection efforts?	Yes	
... Respects respondents, their rights and dignity (<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.?	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. While the assessment will not include any protection-related questions, the broader context requires a conflict-sensitive approach.</p> <p>The enumerators' field training will include a sensitivity component to ensure appropriate and sensitive</p>

		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.
... Follows IMPACT SOPs for management of personally identifiable information?	Yes	

5. Roles and responsibilities

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

Responsible: the person(s) who executes the task

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

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

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

6. Data Analysis Plan

Quantitative part: Research questions addressed with a structured tool.

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

7. Monitoring & Evaluation Plan

IMPACT Objective	External M&E Indicator	Internal M&E Indicator	Focal point	Tool	Will indicator be tracked?
Humanitarian stakeholders are accessing IMPACT products	Number of humanitarian organisations accessing IMPACT services/products Number of individuals accessing IMPACT services/products	# of downloads of x product from Resource Center	Country request to HQ	User_log	<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 type="checkbox"/> Yes
		# 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, sendingBlue, bit.ly	Country team		<input 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 Moldova Country Strategy 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_Feed back and Usage_Survey template	<i>General partner usage survey to be conducted at the end of 2026 for all 2026 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 type="checkbox"/> Yes