

# Older Individuals Needs Assessment (OINA)

## Host Community Respondents

March 2025 | Republic of Moldova

### Key Messages

- Most respondents (91%) reported receiving pension as one of their income sources in the 6 months prior to data collection. However, 49% of respondents did not have savings, highlighting a potential economic vulnerability.
- At the time of data collection, 60% of respondents reported having healthcare needs, with the most commonly reported being medicine (prescription or subsidized), access to specialist doctors, and dental care. Furthermore, the most frequently reported unmet basic need was access to healthcare and medication (65%).
- Among those who did not try to access social support services, 71% of respondents reported it was due to a lack of information, suggesting a potential gap in awareness.

### Context & Rationale

As of 1 January 2025, an estimated 25% of the total population in Moldova consists of people aged 60 years and above.<sup>1</sup> Despite comprising a significant share of the population, the secondary data review indicates that the specific needs of older members of the host community have not been comprehensively documented, particularly regarding socio-economic inclusion and livelihoods.<sup>2</sup>

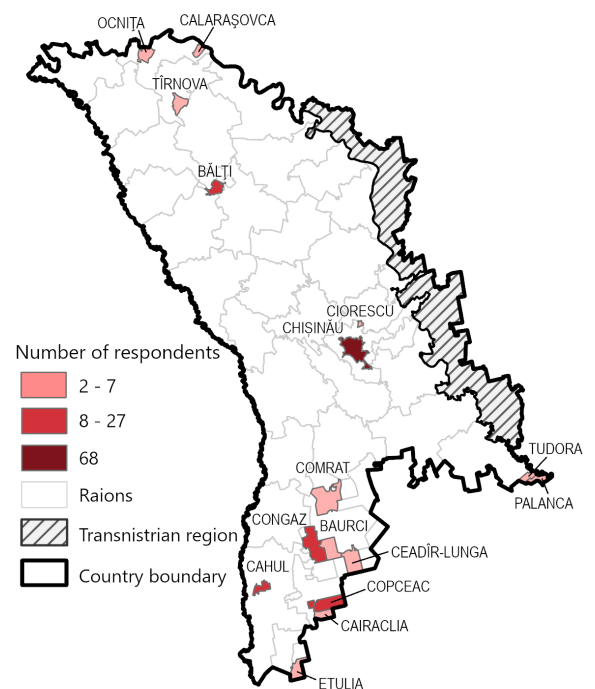
The OINA assesses the socio-economic inclusion and livelihoods needs of older refugees and older members of the host community. By assessing both groups, the OINA seeks to provide a comprehensive understanding of the challenges faced by older individuals in Moldova and inform humanitarian programming.

### Assessment Overview

The OINA conducted quantitative individual-level surveys with refugees from Ukraine and host community members aged 60 and above. The OINA employed convenience sampling, where respondents were selected based on the population of interest criteria and accessibility. Interviews were stratified by settlement type (Chişinău, urban areas excluding Chişinău, and rural areas), and conducted across 16 settlements with the highest number of older refugees.<sup>3</sup> A total of 160 interviews were conducted with refugees and 173 with with host community members. **Findings in this factsheet cover only host community respondents**, with a sample size of n=173, unless otherwise noted. **All results are indicative only.** For more details regarding the methodology and limitations, please refer to the [Terms of Reference](#).

### GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE

Location of host community respondents



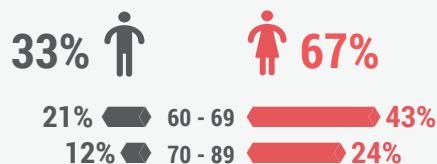
#### DATA COLLECTION

From 31 September to 25 October 2024

173 older members of the host community interviewed

### HOST COMMUNITY RESPONDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

Respondent age and sex, in %



11% of respondents were with disabilities<sup>4</sup>



68 years old average age of respondent



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## HOUSING

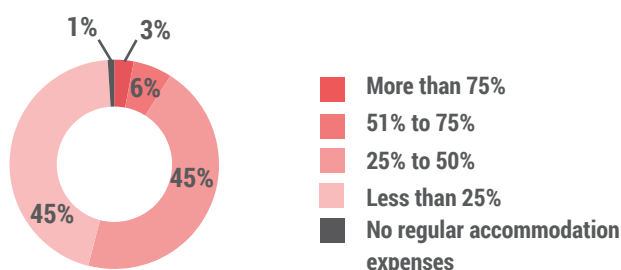


**98%** of respondents **owned their accommodation.**



**65%** of respondents were **paying fully for their utilities.**

% of monthly income spent on accommodation (housing and utilities), by % of respondents (n=160)



## SOCIAL SUPPORT SERVICES<sup>5</sup>

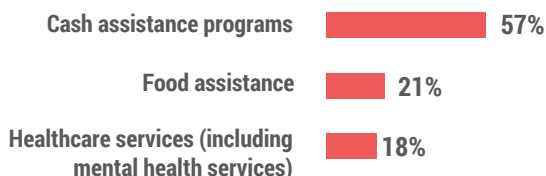


**57%** of respondents **did not try to access social support services.**



**71%** of respondents who did not try to access social support services (n=99) noted it was **due to a lack of information.**

Top 3 most reported social services that would help improve access to employment, financial assistance or community resources, by % of respondents\*



**Cash assistance programs** were the most reported needed social support service, particularly among respondents in **rural areas** (69% of n=52).

## HEALTHCARE

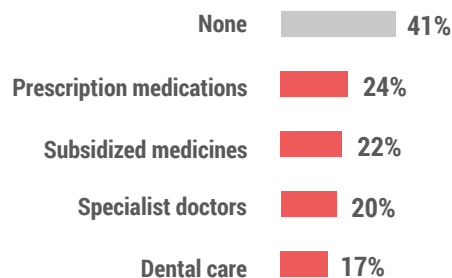


**99%** of respondents **had compulsory health insurance.**<sup>6</sup>



**60%** of respondents **had healthcare needs** at the time of data collection.

Top 5 reported healthcare needs at the time of data collection, by % of respondents\*



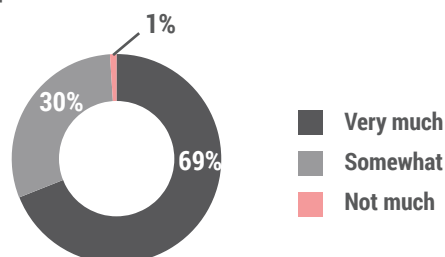
**100%** of respondents that needed to access healthcare services in the 6 months prior to data collection were **reportedly able to access them.**



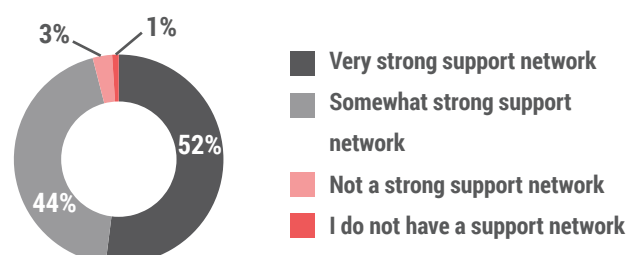
**36%** of respondents with health insurance (n=172) reported **healthcare as one of the basic needs they are currently unable to meet.**

## COMMUNITY INCLUSION

Reported sense of community inclusion, by % of respondents



Perceived availability of a strong informal support network (friends, family, neighbors) reliable in times of need, by % of respondents



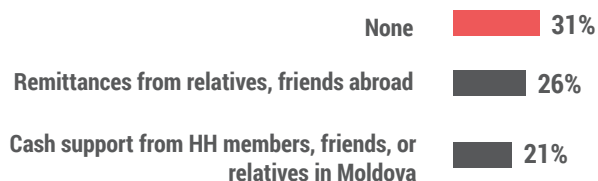
## INCOME AND LIVELIHOODS

Reported **main source of income** in the 6 months prior to data collection, by % of respondents



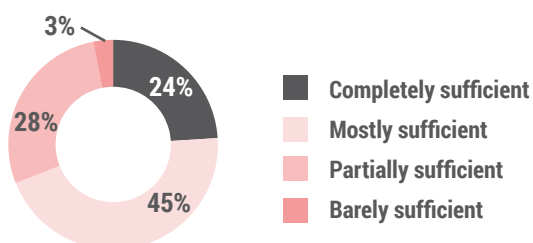
**52%** of respondents reported that their average monthly income from their reported **main source of income** was between **2,000-3,999 Moldovan lei (MDL)**.

Most reported **additional source of income** in the 6 months prior to data collection, by % of respondents\*



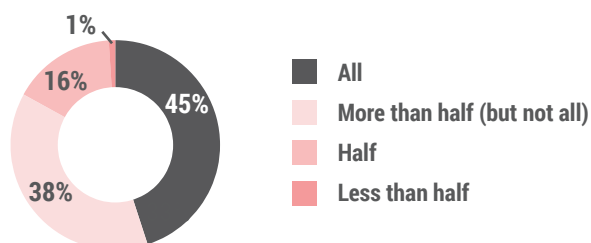
**41%** of respondents (n=120) reported that their average monthly income from their reported **additional source(s) of income** was between **2,000-2,999 MDL**.

Sufficiency of reported total income in covering essential expenses,<sup>7</sup> by % of respondents



**38%** of respondents reported **owning or having access to livestock or a garden**.

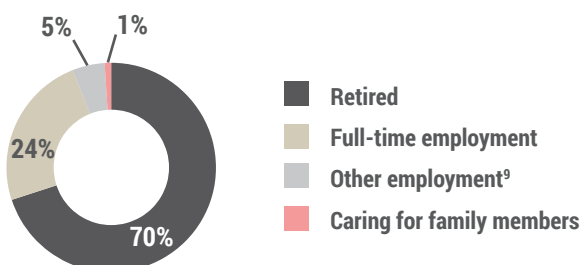
Reported ability to meet basic needs<sup>8</sup> at the time of data collection, by % of respondents



Among respondents reporting that they were unable to meet all their basic needs (n=95), the **top 3 reported unmet basic needs** were access to healthcare services and medication (65%), appropriate clothing for different weather conditions (16%), and access to sufficient and nutritious food (15%).

## EMPLOYMENT

Main employment status at the time of data collection, by % of respondents



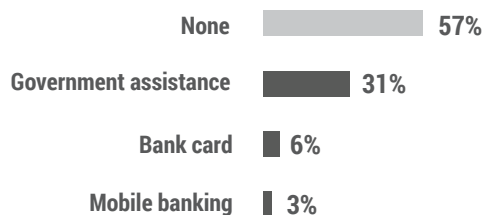
**12%** of respondents reported **facing barriers when trying to access employment opportunities in Moldova**. The top 2 reported barriers were age discrimination (4%) and insufficient job opportunities (4%).

## FINANCIAL INCLUSION



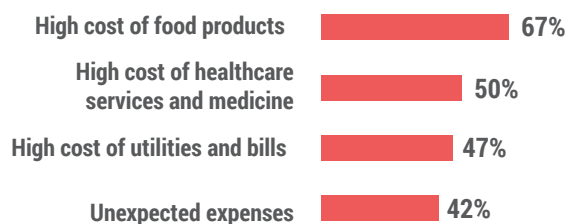
**83%** of respondents were reportedly **using financial services** (i.e. bank accounts, bank cards, formal money transfers, government assistance, and mobile banking services) at the time of data collection.

Top 4 financial services respondents would like to access, by % of respondents\*



## COPING STRATEGIES

**Top 4 financial challenges faced in the 6 months prior to data collection, by % of respondents\***



**64%** of respondents **perceived their main source of income to be very secure.**



**49%** of respondents reportedly **did not have access to savings or emergency funds** for unforeseen expenses.

## Endnotes

\* Respondents could select multiple responses.

<sup>1</sup> National Bureau of Statistics of the Republic of Moldova, [Elderly people in the Republic of Moldova in 2023](#), accessed on 14.01.2025.

<sup>2</sup> For a full overview of sources under in the secondary data review, please refer to the [Terms of Reference](#).

<sup>3</sup> Settlements were sampled based on the population of older refugees rather than older members of the host community, due to the smaller number of older refugees and expected greater difficulty in finding older refugee respondents compared to older members of the host community. The population of older members of the host community in the sampled settlements was cross-checked to ensure they also had high concentrations of older members of the host community which could be sampled for this assessment.

<sup>4</sup> The [Washington Group Short Set \(WGSS\) on Functioning](#) was used to determine respondents with disabilities. Individuals with reported difficulty levels of 3 and 4 were considered to potentially have disabilities.

<sup>5</sup> Defined as public services (those provided by the government, international organizations or non-governmental organizations) intended to provide assistance and improve well-being, stability, and inclusion.

<sup>6</sup> Health insurance purchased or offered through the National Medical Insurance House.

<sup>7</sup> Essential expenses refer to basic, necessary costs for daily living, including housing such as rent, and utilities, food, healthcare, any required medication or treatments, and transportation.

<sup>8</sup> Basic needs include food, water and sanitation, housing, healthcare, and other resources/conditions required for individuals to sustain their livelihoods.

<sup>9</sup> Other employment includes self-employed or entrepreneur (2%), seasonal employment (2%), and ad hoc jobs (1%).

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## ABOUT REACH

REACH Initiative facilitates the development of information tools and products that enhance the capacity of aid actors to make evidence-based decisions in emergency, recovery and development contexts. The methodologies used by REACH include primary data collection and in-depth analysis, and all activities are conducted through inter-agency aid coordination mechanisms. REACH is a joint initiative of IMPACT Initiatives, Acted and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research - Operational Satellite Applications Programme (UNITAR-UNOSAT).



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