Multi-Sector Needs Assessment (MSNA) Moldova - 2023

Key Findings presentation

October 2023









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Objectives and Methodology

Assessment Objectives

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

Specific Objectives

- Gain understanding of the household composition of refugees, including key demographics.
- 2 Identify the priority needs of refugee households pertaining to protection, health, education, accommodation, livelihood and socioeconomic inclusion, food security, and WASH
- Junderstand coping capacity and vulnerability/resilience considering the protracted displacement, including socio-economic inclusion
- Identify household profiles with the most critical needs to inform programming.

Population Coverage and Data Collection



COMPLETED SURVEYS

890

Face-to-face household(HH)-level surveys with self-reported head of HH or another adult member knowledgeable about their HH conditions. The survey included individual-level sections to collect information about each member of the household.



DATA COLLECTION

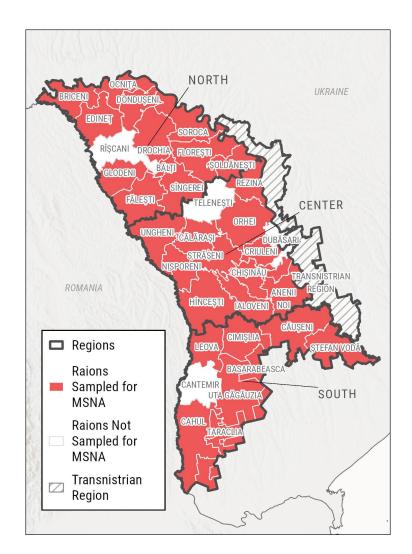
From 14 August to 10 September 2023



POPULATION OF INTEREST

Refugee households (HHs) displaced from Ukraine to Moldova following the escalation of hostilities in February 2022 (including third-country nationals), regardless of the type of accommodation in which they resided (private housing, hosted by Moldovan families or relatives, accredited or non-accredited collective centres).

Geographical coverage and Sampling



- National coverage, excluding the Transnistrian region*.
- Three-level hierarchical administrative framework: regions (North, Centre, South, Chisinau), raions (35 raions), and settlements (around 900 settlements).
- Non-probability purposive sampling approach, constructed based on crossreferenced population figures from the UNHCR Cash Programme beneficiary list, the REACH area monitoring exercise and the list of the Moldovan population published in 2019. The settlements with less than 15 HHs were excluded from the sampling frame*.
- HH surveys were distributed based on regional stratification, rural and urban quotas, and proportionality to the estimated distribution of the refugee population.

^{*} Based on the referenced population figures, all settlements in Rîşcani, Teleneşti, and Cantemir contained less that 15 refugee HHs. Hence, data was not collected in these raions.

Limitations

- Representativeness: Due to the unavailability of comprehensive refugee population figures and the adopted sampling framework, findings are **not statistically** representative of the refugee entire population and should be considered **indicative** only.
- Selection Bias: Although efforts were made to introduce a degree of randomisation (interviewing every third person encountered), enumerators frequently visited places where refugees typically gather (such as aid distribution centres, schools, public parks, etc) to identify potential respondents. Moreover, at times, they sought aid from local authorities to reach respondents. This approach could have introduced a selection bias.
- Kobo tool: Due to a Kobo tool construction error, questions pertaining to MHPSS were inadvertently omitted for individuals under the age of 18. In response to this issue and recognising the identified information gaps concerning this subject, the qualitative component of the MSNA will delve into the mental and emotional well-being of adolescent refugees.
- Sensitivity: Certain sensitive topics (income, mental health, protection, GBV, etc.) may have been underreported by the respondents.
- **Cleaning:** Modifications during the cleaning process sometimes resulted in discrepancies or missing values, impacting the completeness of the dataset for specific subsets. Therefore, in certain cases, the total number of responses obtained may not match the subsets being considered. When relevant, the sizes of specific are provided.
- Respondent fatigue: As a result of the relatively long survey, some respondents hurried through the questions, potentially leading to misinterpretations of questions, inaccurate responses, or errors in data input through the Kobo tool.

Demographics

Demographics: HH Composition



2.36 Average HH size



2130 HH members



64%





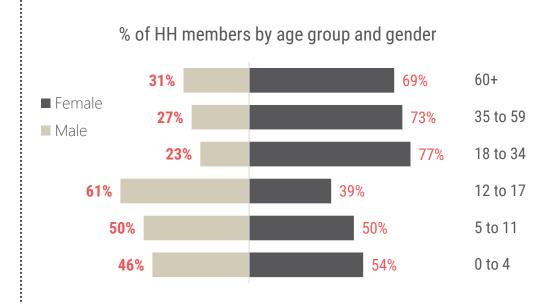
54% of HHs have children (under 18 of age)

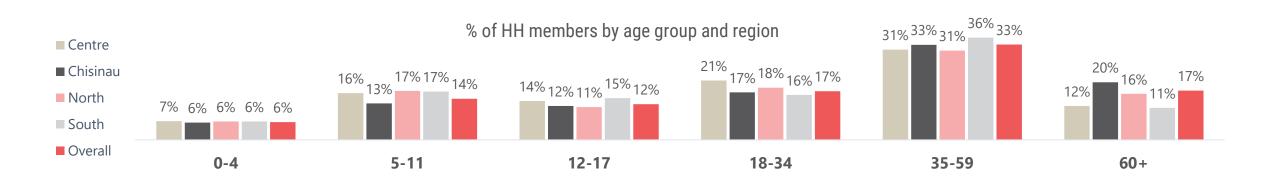


32% of HHs have older persons (60+)

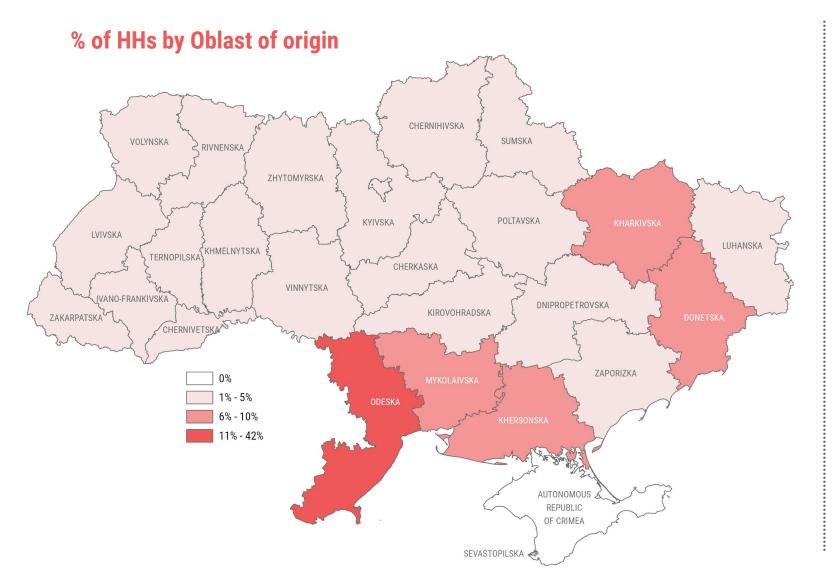


4% of HHs have Pregnant or Breastfeeding Women





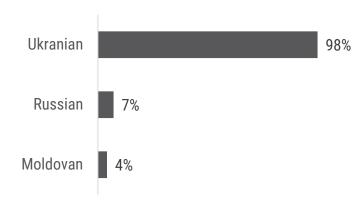
Demographics: Oblast of Origin and Ethnicity



The majority of the surveyed HHs in originate from Odeska Oblast (45%), followed by:

- Mykolaivska Oblast (9%),
- Khersonska Oblast (9%),
- Kharkivska Oblast (9%), and
- Donetska Oblast (8%).

Top 3 HH ethnic backgrounds (self-identified)*



03

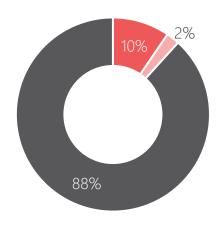
Key sectoral Findings



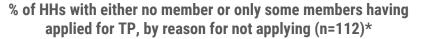
Protection

Temporary Protection (TP)

% of HHs with at least one member who had applied for temporary protection



- No
- Partially only some members have applied
- Yes every member of the HH has applied





^{*} Respondents could select multiple responses

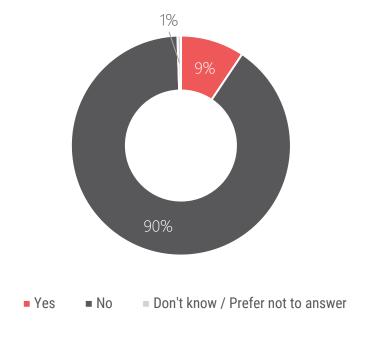
Of the HHs where no member or not all members had applied for TP, approximately half (51%) expressed no intention to apply.

The vast majority of HHs where at least one member had applied for TP reported that they did not encounter any difficulties during the application process (95%). However, among the remaining share of HHs (n=45), the reported challenges mainly revolved around issues with online enrollment, the lack of proof of residence in Moldova, and long queues with extended waiting times.

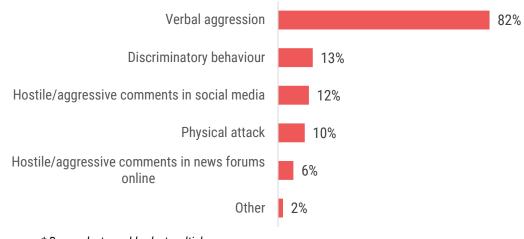
Protection

Social Cohesion

% of HHs reporting having experienced hostile behaviour or attitudes from citizens of Moldova since arrival



% of HHs by types of hostile behaviours reported (among HHs who experienced such behaviour since arrival) (n=83)*



^{*} Respondents could select multiple responses

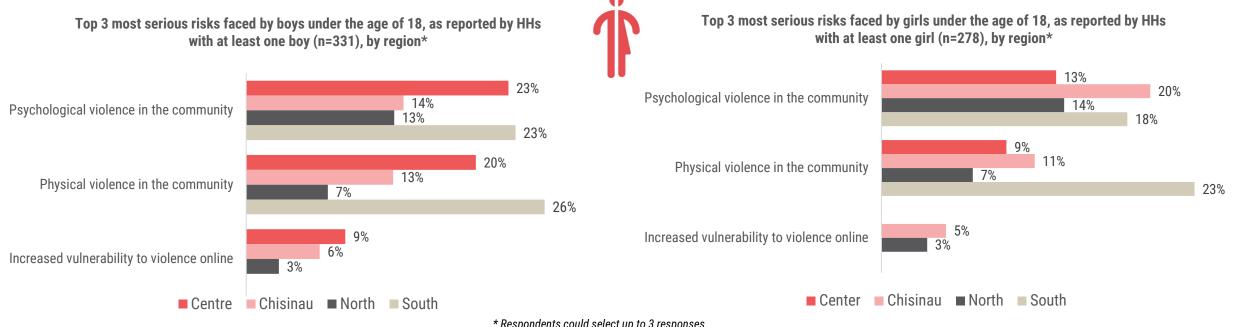
The primary underlying factors for hostile behaviours perceived by HHs who reported encountering such behaviour were related to their nationality, refugee status, and cultural disparities. These incidents were also linked to competition for resources (such as housing, food, or market access), language-based discrimination, and issues related to ethnicity.

Protection

Child Protection

HHs with at least one boy (<18) were inquired about the protection risks boys faced in their residence area. Likewise, HHs with at least one girl (<18) were asked about the risks faced by girls. Most HHs reported that there were no discernible protection concerns for boys and girls. (68% and 68%, respectively).

Nearly all surveyed HHs reported being aware of services to report cases of violence against children in the community, with the following services being the most frequently mentioned: Police (97%), Helpline (41%), Government services (38%), NGO services (25%).

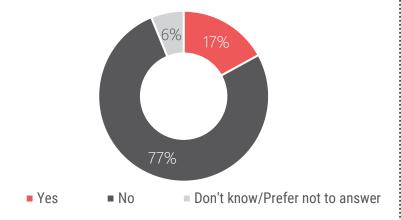


^{*} Respondents could select up to 3 responses

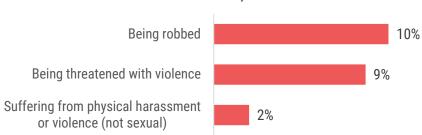
Protection

Gender-Based Violence (GBV)

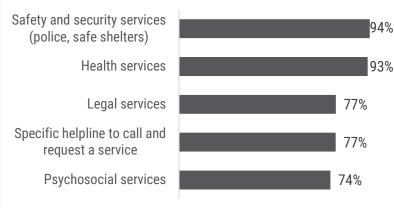
% of HHs with safety and security concerns reported for women (n=824 HHs with at least one adult female HH member)



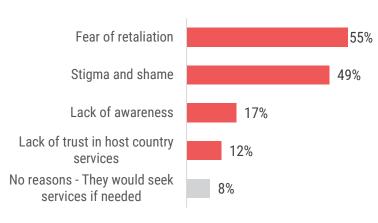
% of HHs by top 3 safety and security concerns for women (n=824 HHs with at least one adult female HH member)**



% of respondents by type of GBV services for women available in their area that they are aware of*



% of HHs by main perceived reasons why women would not seek services if they were victims of violence*



^{*} Respondents could select multiple responses

Notably, HHs in the Centre and South regions were more likely to mention concerns related to women being robbed, with 15% of HHs in both regions reporting such concerns. Additionally, HHs in the South were more inclined to report concerns about women being threatened with violence, with 15% expressing these concerns.

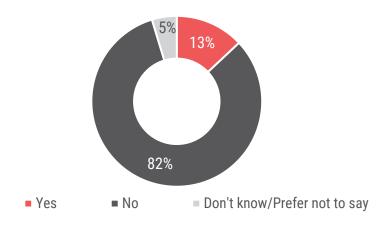
Regarding the availability of existing GBV services in their area, respondents in the Centre were found to be the most unaware of such services across all types. No notable variations were observed between urban and rural areas

^{**} Respondents could select up to 3 responses

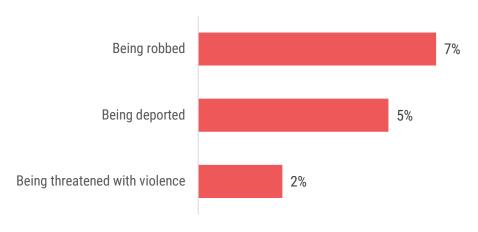
Protection

Gender-Based Violence (GBV)

% of HHs with safety and security concerns reported for men (n=366 HHs with at least one adult male HH member)



% of HHs by top 3 safety and security concerns for men (n=366 HHs with at least one adult male HH member)*



^{*} Respondents could select up to 3 responses

The proportion of HHs with at least one male HH member reporting safety and security concerns for men was slightly smaller than for women (13% and 17%, respectively).

Notably, HHs in the South were more likely to report concerns about deportation for men (10%), detention (5%), or being threatened with violence (5%), than in other regions. No major differences were observed between HHs in urban and rural areas.

Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP)

Satisfaction with aid received

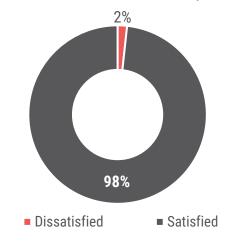
97%

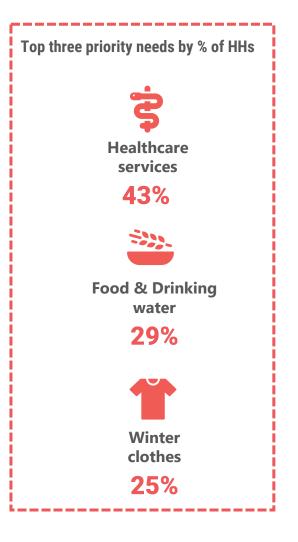
Of HHs reported having received aid in Moldova in the 3 months prior to data collection

Among those who reportedly received aid, the most commonly mentioned types of aid received were:

- Humanitarian distributions (NFIs, Clothing, Hygiene products, etc.) (78%),
- Humanitarian financial aid (cash or vouchers: unconditional) (77%),
- Humanitarian distributions (Food) (62%),
- Humanitarian financial aid (Cash or vouchers: conditional) (25%).

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

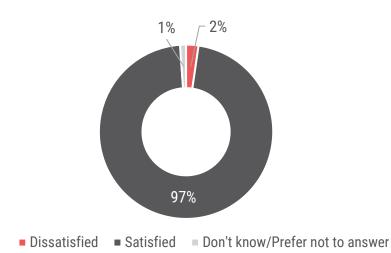




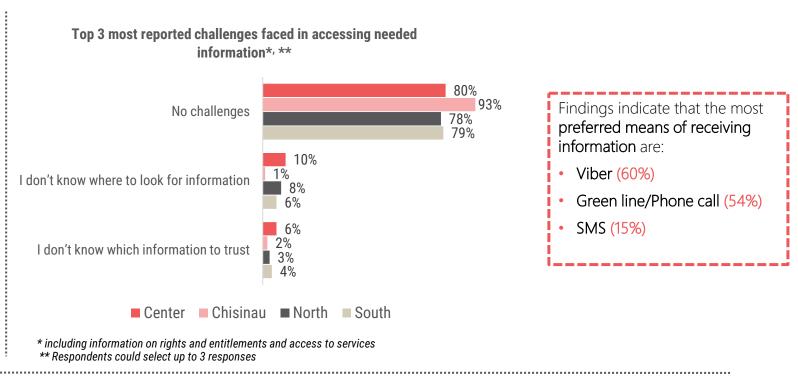
Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP)



% of HHs by the respondent and HH members being satisfied with aid workers' behaviour in the area



Access to information



Feedback/complaint mechanisms on aid providers behaviour

The majority of HHs (68%) expressed a willingness to report inappropriate behaviour by an aid worker if they experienced or witnessed such actions.

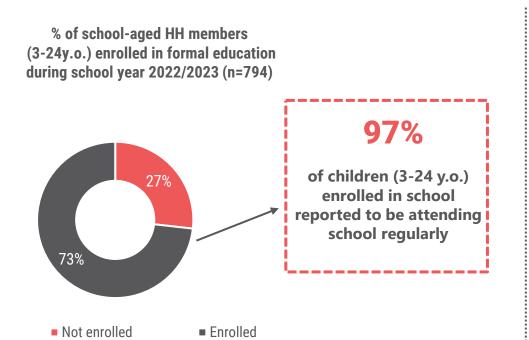
Among the 17% of HHs indicating their reluctance to report inappropriate behaviour by an aid worker (n=161), slightly less than half (44%) did not know the reason or preferred not to disclose it. For the remaining respondents, the primary reason was a lack of trust that reporting would make a difference (21%).

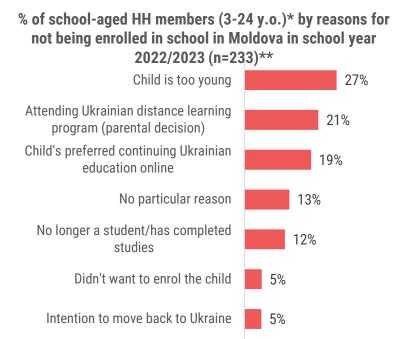
HHs showed a preference for telephone calls and social media as the primary channels for providing feedback or lodging complaints about aid providers' behaviour and addressing other sensitive issues (reported by 57% and 52% of HHs, respectively).

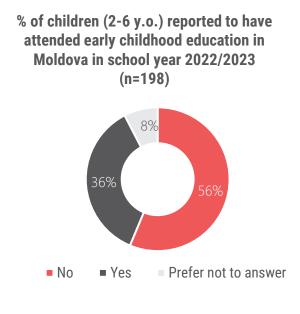
Education

Education

2022/2023 school attendance







During the school year 2022/2023, the majority of school-aged HH members who were reportedly enrolled in formal education were engaged in Ukraine distance learning (54%), while 45% were enrolled in schools in Moldova. Among theose enrolled in Moldovan schools, the largest groups were in pre-school (2-6 years old), gymnasium (5-9 years old), or primary grades (1-4). Interestingly, there seems to be a lower enrollment of refugee children in Moldovan schools in Chisinau, and this trend is also observed in urban areas.

^{*} Among those who were not enrolled in Moldova

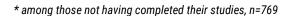
^{**} Respondents could select up to 5 responses

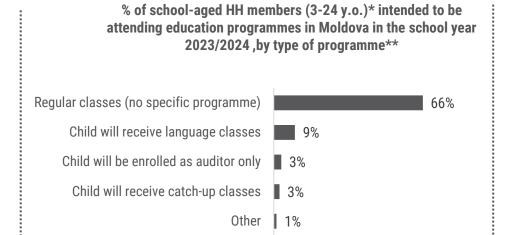
Education

2023/2024 school year

% of school-aged HH members (3-24 y.o.) intended to be enrolled in formal education in Moldova during school year 2023/2024)*

- Yes, will be enrolled in school in Moldova
- Yes will be enrolled in both Moldovan and Ukrainian curriculum
- No will be enrolled in school in Ukraine (or in Ukrainian distance learning)
- No will not be enrolled in any school
- Don't know/Prefer not to answer





24%

Notably, 8% of HHs in the Centre cited the lack of schools within a reasonable distance as the reason for non-enrolment in Moldovan schools in the school year 2023/2024.

None of the above

% of school-aged HH members (3-24 y.o.)* by reasons for not intending to enrol the child in school in Moldova in school year 2023/2024**



^{*}among those who will reportedly be enrolled in school in Ukraine (or in Ukrainian distance learning) or will not be enrolled, n=647

^{*} among those not having completed their studies, n=631 – subsets don't match due to elements could select multiple responses

^{**} Respondents could select multiple responses



Socio-Economic Inclusion and Livelihoods

Socio-Economic Inclusion and Livelihoods

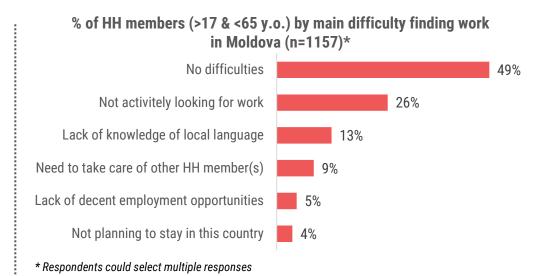
Employment

% of HH members (>15 & <65 y.o.) by employment status (n=503*), by region

	Unemployed**	(Self-)Employed		
Centre	11%	89%		
Chisinau	5%	96%		
North	12 %	88%		
South	11%	89%		
Overall	8%	93%		

^{*}Results do not add up to 100% due to rounding issues





Top 3 most reported employment sectors of (self-)employed HH members (>15 y.o.) (n=458)

- Beauty services (13%) All females
- Wholesale/retail trade, repair of motor vehicles/motorcycles (11%) - Mixed
- Other service activities (9%) Mixed

Notably, the share of unemployed HH members was relatively high in rural (17%) compared to urban areas (7%).

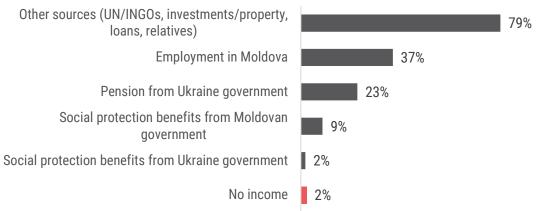
The most commonly reported activities of unemployed HH members at the time of data collection (>15 y.o., n=994) were **engaging in HH or family responsibilities**, including taking care of children and older persons (50%), being retired or a pensioner (29%), or studying (11%).

^{**}Among those reportedly (self-) employed; or seeking employment at the time of data collection and able to work if offered a job

Socio-Economic Inclusion and Livelihoods

Income and socio-economic needs

% of HHs by main sources of income in the 30 days prior to data collection (or since arrival if arrived less than 30 days prior to data collection)*

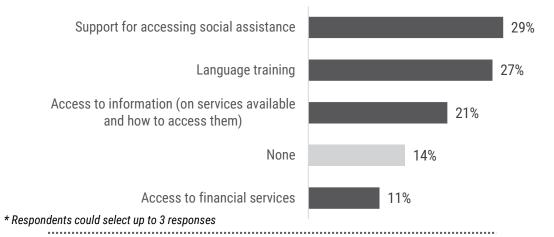


^{*} Respondents could select multiple responses

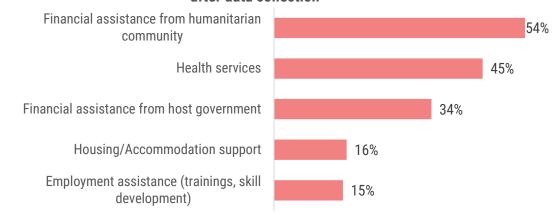
HHs in the Centre and South were more likely to report having no income sources (5% and 4%, respectively). Additionally, HHs in the Centre (14%) and South (11%) also showed a greater reliance on social protection benefits from the Moldovan government as their primary income source, in contrast with the other regions.

The highest share of HHs reporting employment as their primary income source was found in the **North** (42%).

Top 5 main reported areas of support required for socio-economic inclusion (to improve economic opportunities in Moldova)



% of HHs by types of socio-economic needs anticipated in the 6 months after data collection*

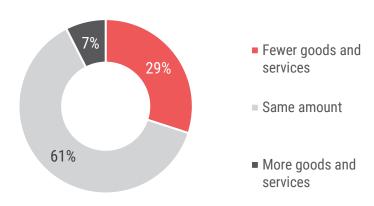


^{*} Respondents could select multiple responses

Socio-Economic Inclusion and Livelihoods

Economic Resilience

% of HHs reporting a change in purchasing power compared to the same time the year before*

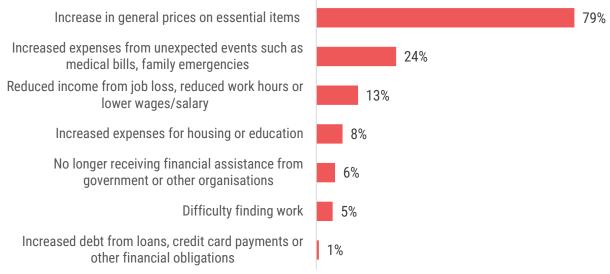


^{*}among HHs with at least one head of household having stayed in Moldova for more than 6 months before data collection, n=805

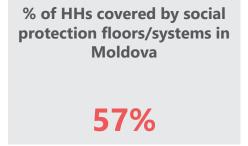
% of HHs having any household productive assets in Moldova

100%

% of HHs by main reported reasons for negative change in purchasing power compared to the same time the year before data collection (n=229)*



^{*} Respondents could select multiple responses



% of HHs covered by social protection floors/systems from Ukrainian government 25%

55%

% of HHs having an

account at a

bank/financial institution

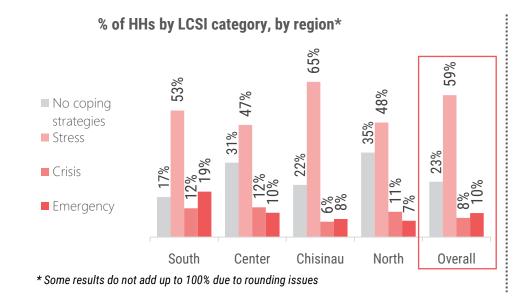
in Moldova

Socio-Economic Inclusion and Livelihoods

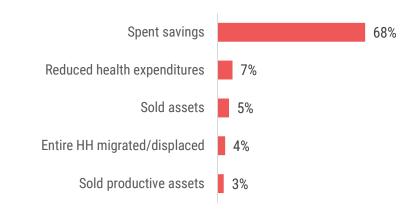
Livelihood Coping Strategies

Livelihood coping strategy index (LCSI): is measured to understand longer-term HH coping capacities. It is used to classify HHs into four groups: HHs using emergency, crisis, stress, or no adopted strategies to cope with livelihood gaps in the 30 days prior to data collection.

The use of emergency, crisis, or stress-level LCS typically reduces HHs' overall resilience and assets, in turn increasing the likelihood of unmet basic needs







^{*} The question on the reduction of essential education expenditures was asked only to HHs with at least one child (6-17 y.o.) (n=413)

More than **two-thirds of HHs** (77%) employed some level of negative coping strategies (stress or more severe). The **prevalence of adoption of livelihood coping strategies at levels of stress or above was notably higher in the South (83%). HHs in this region were also more likely to have used emergency-level coping strategies in the 30 days prior to data collection (19%, compared to 10% at the national level).**

While the proportion of HHs employing negative livelihood coping strategies was the same among urban and rural areas, **HHs in rural areas were more likely to resort to emergency-level coping strategies** than in urban areas (24% and 8%, respectively).

^{**} Respondents could select multiple responses



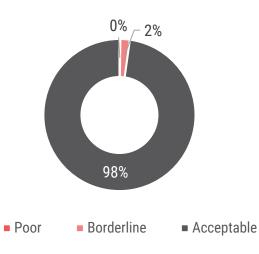
Food Security

Food Security

Food consumption and coping strategies

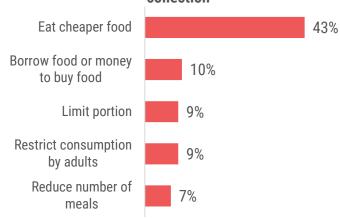
Food Consumption Score (FCS): used to measure dietary diversity, food frequency, and the relative nutritional importance of food groups based on a seven-day recall period of food consumed at HH level.

% of HHs per FCS



Reduced Coping Strategy Index (rCSI): used to measure the behaviour of HHs over a seven-day recall period when they did not have enough food or money to purchase food.

% of HHs by use of consumption-based coping strategies in the 7 days prior to data collection*



^{*} HH who used the strategy for at least one day, to cope with a lack of food or money to buy it

% of HHs with the closest food store/market/supermarket located within a 30-min walking distance from their residence

99%

% of HHs with food amenities in accommodation (to prepare/cook own food)

98%

Overall, the FCS results do not point to notable food security concerns among HHs across all regions and urban/rural areas.

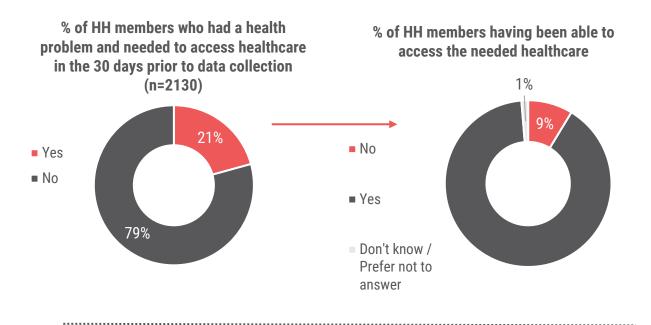
The national rCSI average was found to be 2.96, with the highest values observed in rural areas (4.91) and in the North (3.66).

HHs in the South were more likely to report non-availability of a food store/market/supermarket close to residence (within less than a 30-min walking distance): 7% of HHs in the South, compared to 1% nationally.

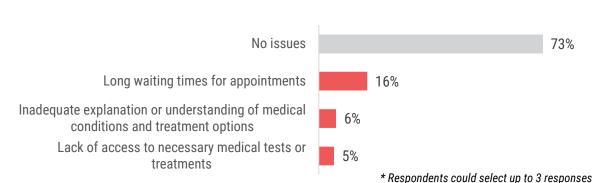
A similar trend was observed in rural areas (7% compared to 1% in rural areas).

Health

Health Access to healthcare



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



and reproductive health (n=663)

% of HHs with

female members

(10-55 y.o.)

reporting barriers

to accessing sexual

2%

% of HHs not aware of entitlement to emergency care in Moldova

13%

% of HHs not aware of entitlement to public healthcare services in

16%

Moldova

No notable variations between regions when it comes to access to the healthcare needed in the 30 days prior to data collection were recorded.

Among the small share of HH members that had not been able to access the needed healthcare services (n=38), the main reasons were surrounding:

- Lack of knowledge and information of how to access health services,
- Unavailability of specific medication, treatment or service needed,
- Unaffordability of hospital fees, and no functional health facilities nearby or no means of transport to get there.

Health Disability

The Washington Group (WG) Questions are targeted questions on individual functioning intended to provide an indication of the likelihood of the person having a disability. The WG short set of 6 questions was used for the assessment, covering:

- Vision
- Hearing
- Mobility
- Communication
- Cognition
- Self-care

Difficulties pertaining to the above functions were ranked as follows:

- 1. No issues
- 2. Some difficulty
- 3. A lot of difficulty
- 4. Cannot do it at all

Individuals with reported difficulty levels of 3 and 4 were considered potentially having disabilities

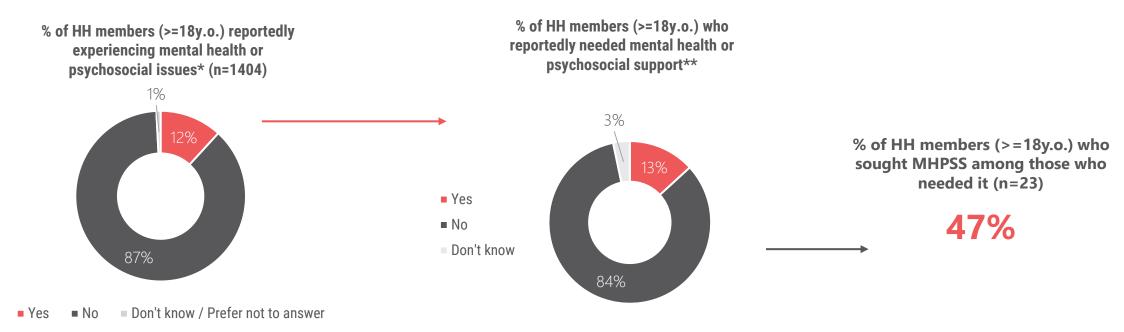
% of HH members (>=5 y.o.) experiencing any difficulty with the following at the time of data collection:

Difficulty	Centre (n=403)	Chisinau (n=748)	North (450)	South (395)	Urban (1673)	Rural (323)	Overall (1996)
Seeing	15%	20%	16%	18%	19%	18%	19%
Hearing	3%	5%	4%	3%	4%	3%	4%
Remembering/ concentrating	8%	5%	6%	4%	5%	7%	5%
Selfcare	3%	3%	2%	5%	3%	6%	3%
Walking	2%	1%	2%	1%	1%	2%	1%
Communicating	1%	0%	0%	2%	0%	3%	1%

% of HH members (>=5 y.o.) potentially having a disability – Difficulty level 3 or 4

Health

Mental Health and Psychosocial Suppport (MHPSS)



^{*} Feeling so upset, anxious, worried, agitated, angry, or depressed that it affects the person's daily functioning.

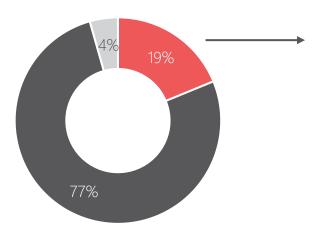
^{**} Among those experiencing mental health or psychosocial problems, n=175

Health

Vaccination

Measles vaccination

% of children (9mo - 5y.o.) having received measles-containing vaccination (n=178)



% of children (9mo – 5y.o.)
having received a second
dose of measles vaccination
(among those children who
received measlescontaining vaccination,
n=133)

56%

Polio vaccination

% of children (<7 years old, n=229) by number of doses received*

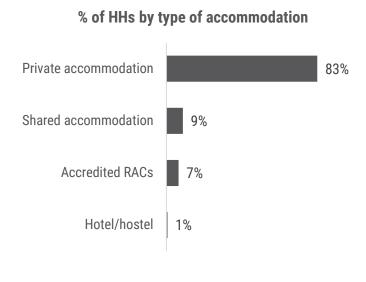
15 %	0 doses
27 %	1 dose
19%	2 doses
14%	3 doses
10%	4 doses

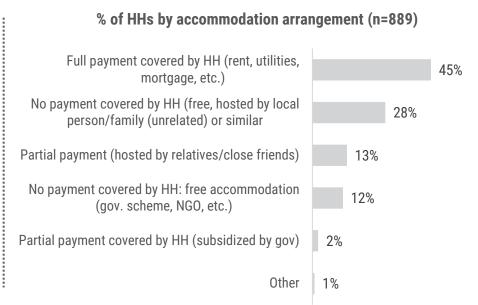
^{*} The remaining proportions pertain to HHs reporting not knowing or preferring not to answer

Shelter / Accommodation

Shelter / Accommodation

Accommodation arrangement









*Projections at the time of data collection, among HHs fully or partially paying for accommodation, n=487)

HHs in the Centre (20%) and South 17%) were more likely to report living in shared accommodations (room in an apartment, hosted, sharing with other refugees, etc.), compared to the other regions.

For most HH living in rented accommodation, the majority (85%) reported being able to pay their rent on time in the 3 months prior to data collection. During the same period, only 8% of households reported experiencing difficulties paying one time, 3% faced difficulties twice, and 1% reported consistently paying the rent late every month.

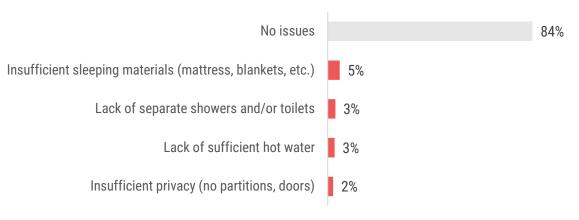
No concerns were recorded with regard to the risk of eviction, with only 0.3% of HH perceiving pressure to leave their accommodation.

^{**} Results do not add up to 100% due to rounding issues

Shelter / Accommodation

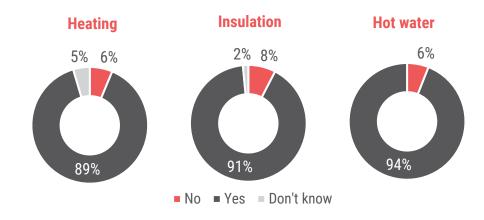
Accommodation conditions





^{*} Respondents could select multiple responses

% of HHs with sufficient accommodation winter readiness when it comes to:



The assessment found that the highest proportion of HHs experiencing living conditions issues was in the South (23%). Additionally, HHs in rural areas were more likely to report such issues (25%), compared to HHs in urban areas (14%).

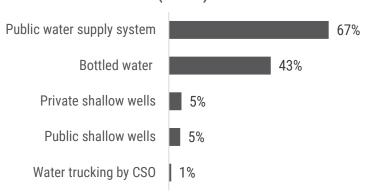
Issues with the inaccessibility of the accommodation using local transportation were mainly reported in the North. Moreover, Concerns regarding the lack of separate showers and/or toilets were most reported in the Centre. Finally, insufficient sleeping items (mattresses, blankets, etc.) were most frequently mentioned in the South.



WASH

Water

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



^{*} Respondents could select up to 3 responses

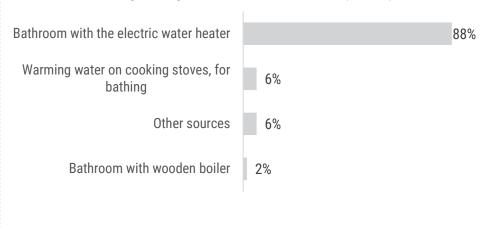
HHs in the North were most likely to report reliance on public shallow wells for drinking water (16%).

Furthermore, HHs in the **South and North** were found to rely the most on pit latrines (17% and 15%, respectively) as the main type of sanitation facility used compared to other regions.

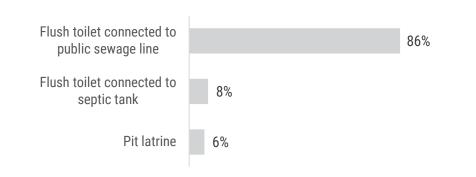
Using cooking stoves to warm water for bathing was mostly reported in the **North and South** (13% and 10%, respectively).

Sanitation

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



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



Hygiene

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







% of HHs somewhat or very satisfied with hygiene materials received from CSOs or government entities (n=739)

99%

Thank you for your attention



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