

Multi-Sector Needs Assessment Romania

Key preliminary findings
November 2022



Objectives

Main objective:

Support an evidence-based humanitarian response in Romania through the provision of multi-sectoral data about the needs and coping capacities of refugee households (HHs) in the country.

Research questions:

1. What is the demographic composition of the refugee population in Romania?
2. What are households' reported priority needs across the active sectors within the humanitarian response (protection, health, education, accommodation, livelihoods and inclusion)?
3. To what extent do refugee households in Romania possess coping and resilience capacities, in the event of a protracted displacement?
4. To what extent are refugee households able to access information regarding services, assistance, and humanitarian aid?
5. What, if any, humanitarian assistance does the HH receive, and to what extent does this humanitarian assistance meet their needs?
6. Which household demographic profiles, have the highest needs across the assessed sectors?

Terms of reference

Methodology

Population of interest

All refugee HHs who have displaced from Ukraine to Romania, with a distinction (stratification) between refugees living in collective sites (CSs) and refugees living in the host community (LHC)

Sampling method

- **Non-probability purposive sampling** ⇒ indicative findings only
- Target sample:
 - Proportional to the estimated number of HHs in and out of CSs in each judet (county), according to DSU list and UNHCR estimates
 - Estimate number of HHs per strata: number of refugees / average HH size (3)
- Final data weighted to improve accuracy of estimates

Data collection method

Face-to-face interviews held with a head of household (HoHH) or another person knowledgeable about the socio-economic situation of the HH.

The questionnaire included both questions about the situation of the HH as well as individual members. Data was collected between 12 October – 1 November 2022.

Strata	Estimated number of HHs	Final sample (# of interviews collected)	# of entries for individual data
CSs	1,901	118	252
LHC	12,165	598	1,623
Total	14,066	716	1,875



Key limitations

Sampling frame:

- The sampling frame was non-randomized and purposive, based on the number of registered refugees in collective sites' data from the Romanian government and estimated number of refugees living in the host community from UNHCR. Non-random sampling may introduce selection bias into the data.
- Certain indicators may be under-reported or over-reported due to a respondent bias (subjectivity and perceptions of respondents).
- Purposive sampling strategy reduces the generalizability of the data, so any information captured is only indicative of those sampled.

Timing of assessment: When interpreting findings, users should keep in mind that data collection was conducted in the second half of October 2022. Due to the volatility of the situation and high level of movement, findings should be interpreted as a snapshot of the situation of refugees at this point in time.

Geographic coverage



Key Preliminary Findings

Sample demographics

Individual level (n=1875)

 **65%**  **35%**

Average age of **30** years


 **34%** are children under 18

Household level (n=716)

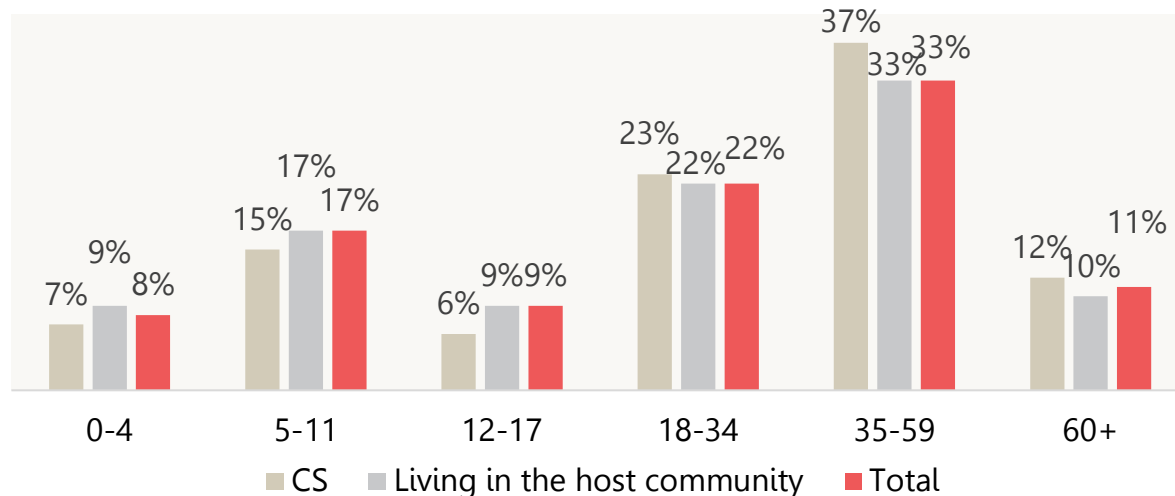
 **2.6** average HH size

 **31%** of HHs in the sample with at least one child

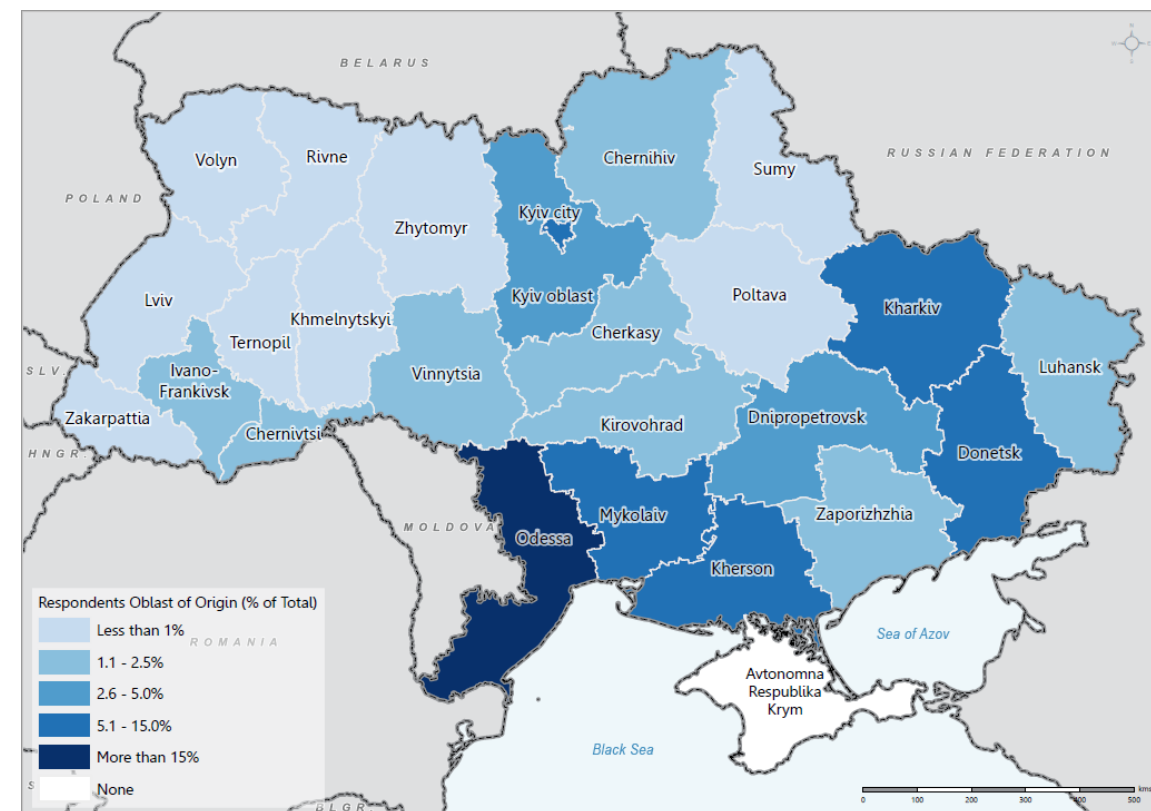
 **7%** of HH with pregnant or lactating women

 **12%** of HH with at least one person considered to be living with disabilities*

Proportion of individuals by age groups (n=1875)



Proportion of HH by oblast of origin



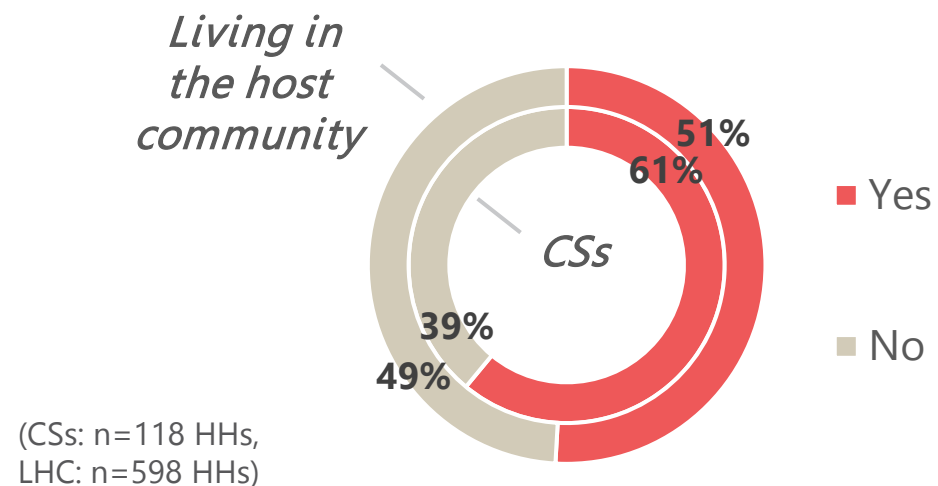
The main language spoken at home was **Russian** for 69% of HHs

99,7% of respondents were Ukrainian nationals

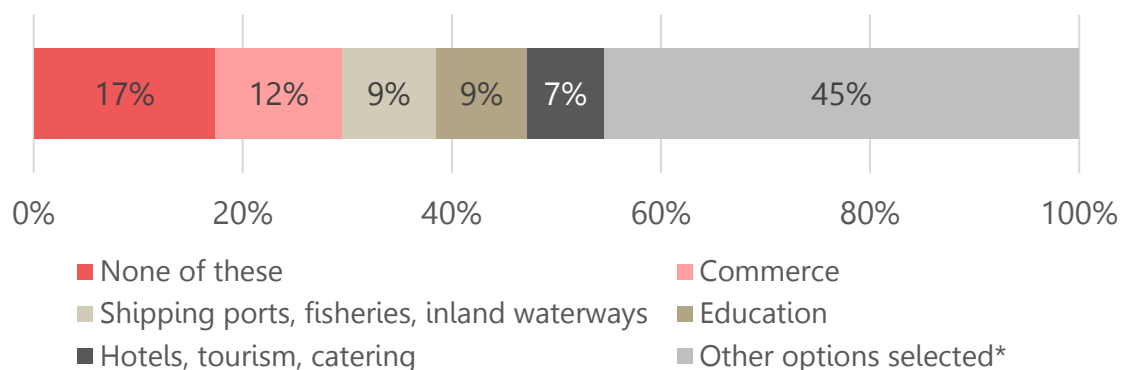
* According to Washington Group Index (see page 16 for more details)

Livelihoods and inclusion

% of HoHH having access to or planning to take Romanian language courses

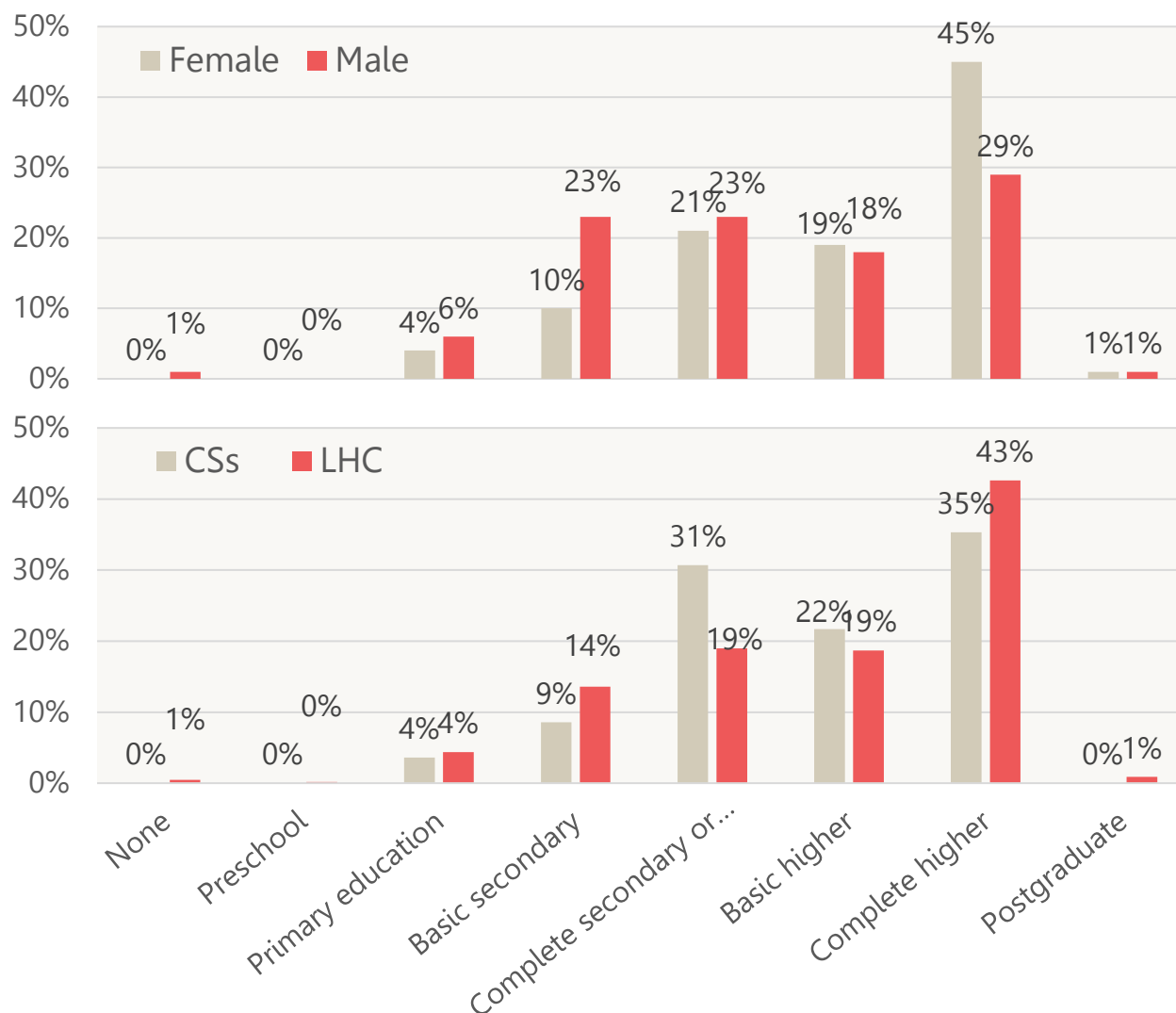


Top five sector of experience of the HoHH (n=583)



*The chart represents the top 5 selected options. The remaining 45% is composed of 19 other categories (e.g., financial services; food, drinks and tobacco production; beauty and care, etc.)

Highest level of education attained by the HoHH (n=716)

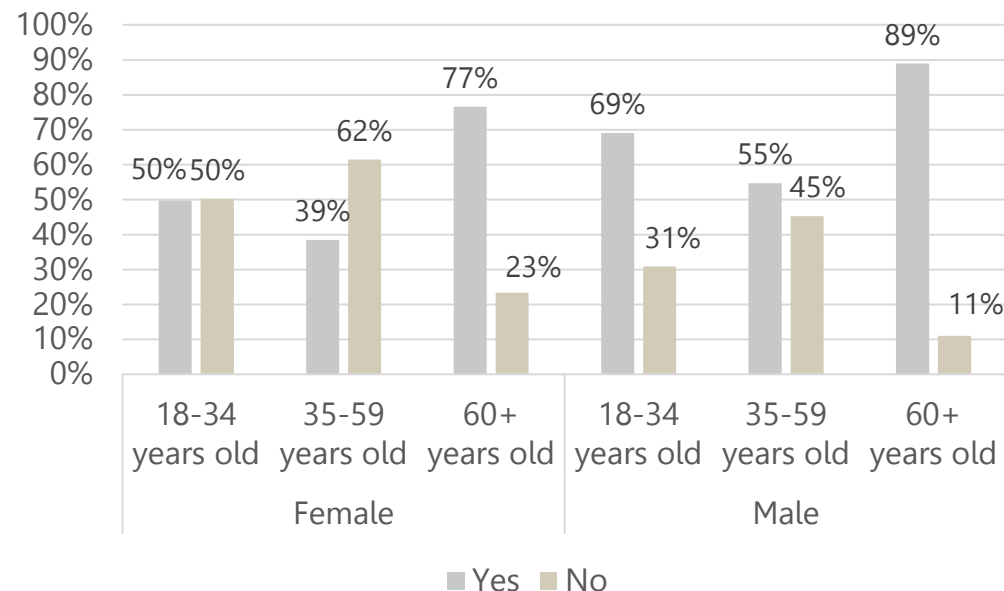


Livelihoods and inclusion

Most commonly reported professional status of HoHHs BEFORE displacement (n=707)

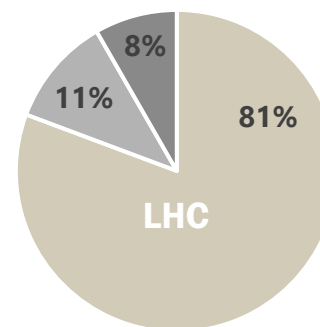
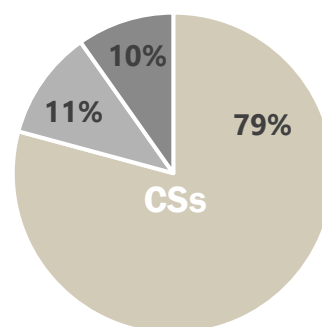


% of HoHH having the same professional status BEFORE and AFTER displacement (n=716)



Professional status of HoHH after displacement among those reporting not having the same occupation (n=313)

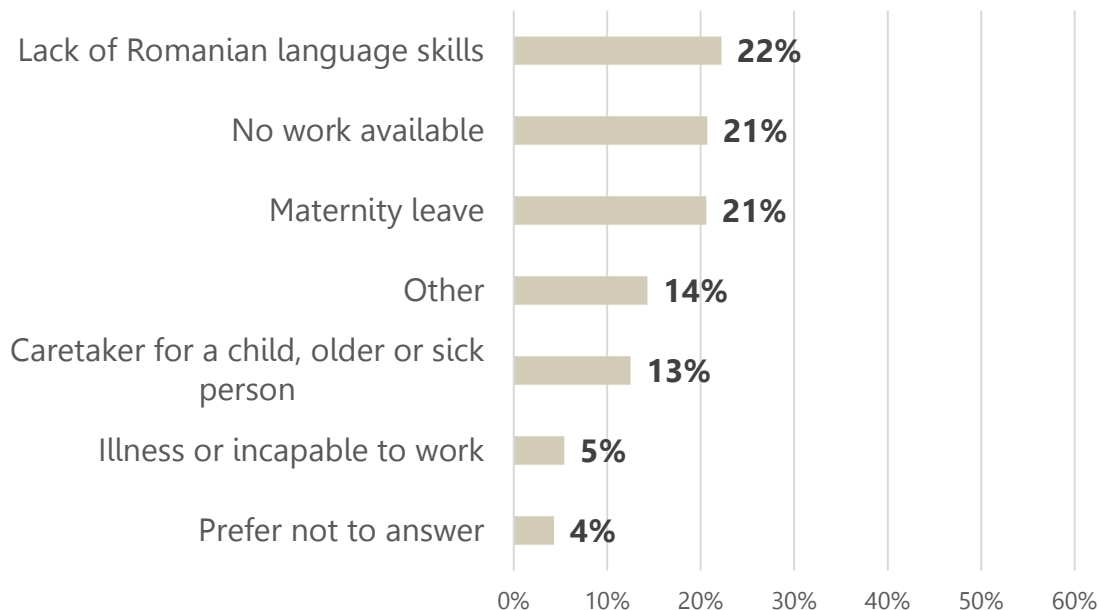
- Not working
- Formal work (paid) labour in Romania
- Others



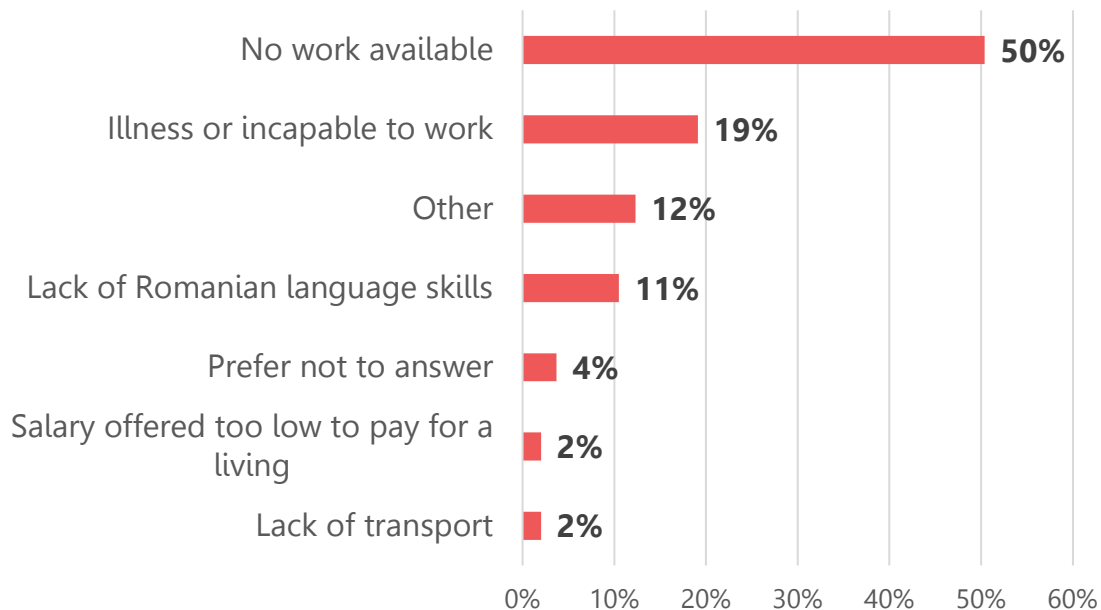
Livelihoods and inclusion

Main reasons for current unemployment of the HoHH by gender

Female (n=280 HoHHs)



Male (n=51 HoHHs)



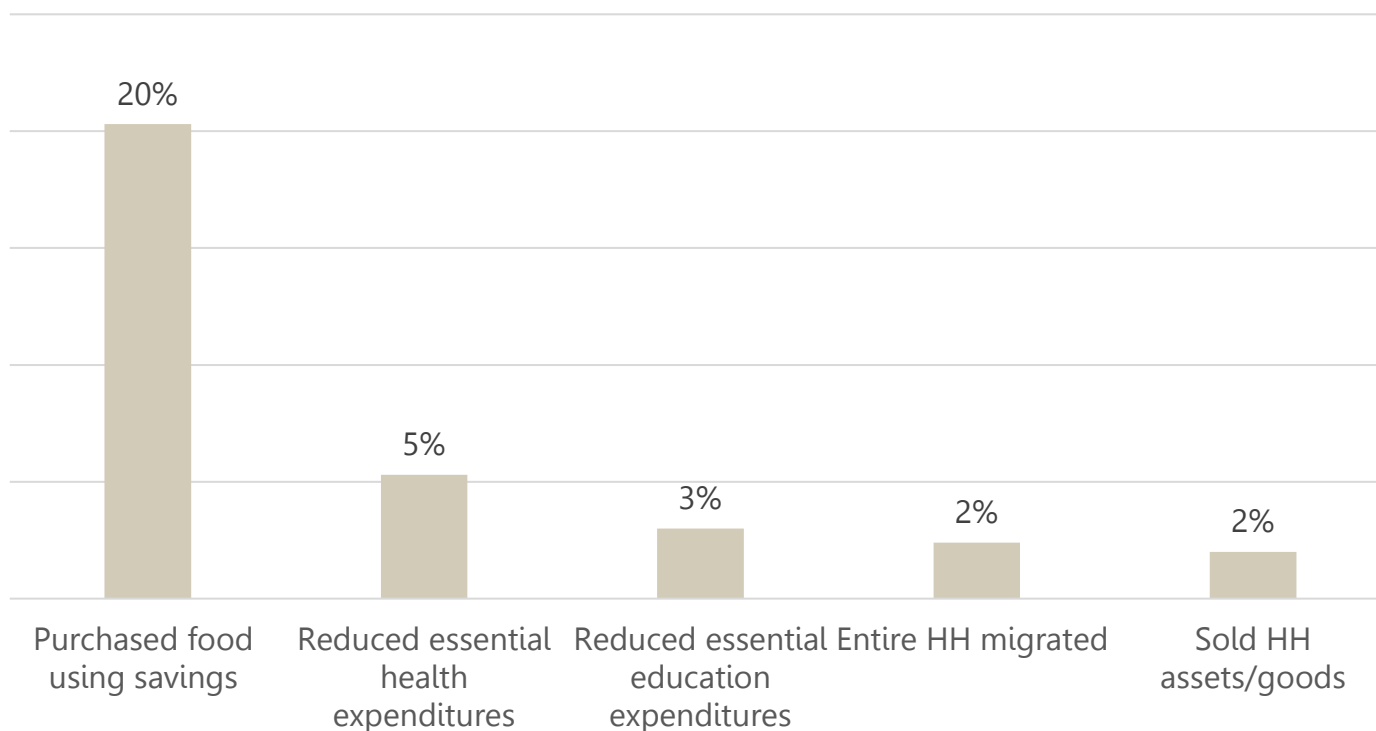
9 HHs registered to AJOFM

3 HHs received assistance in the form of an offer of employment

Only 2% of HoHHs reporting unemployment, had at least one person of their HH registered with the Romanian government's employment services agency (AJOFM), and of those, 3 HHs received assistance through a job offer.

Livelihoods and inclusion

5 main livelihood coping strategies used by HHs in the last 30 days prior to data collection (n=716)



20% of all HHs purchased food using savings due to a lack of resources to cover basic needs (such as food, shelter, health, education, etc.) in the 30 days prior to data collection, representing the most often reported coping strategy.

Livelihoods and inclusion

Challenges in obtaining enough money to meet HH needs over the last 30 days prior to data collection (n=162)

Main challenges	% of total respondents
Language barrier	41%
Social assistance too low	29%
Lack of employment or unable to get work	27%
Salary or wages too low	24%
Childcare needs	15%
Lack of knowledge of labour market	12%
Cannot access humanitarian assistance	11%
Unable to access social assistance	8%
None of the above	6%
Other	4%
I don't know	4%
Registered for social assistance but no payments have been made so far	3%
Discrimination	2%
Lack of technical or financial support for relocating/starting my business	1%

Multiple options could be selected in this question.

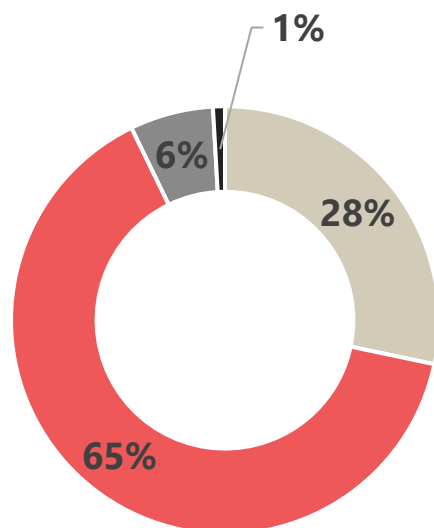
Top ten challenges in obtaining money reported by HHs as expected in the next 3-6 months after data collection (n=716)

Main challenges	% of total respondents
Language barrier	33%
I don't know	27%
Social assistance too low	14%
Lack of employment or unable to get work	14%
Salary or wages too low	13%
Cannot access humanitarian assistance	13%
Unable to access social assistance	11%
None of the above	11%
Childcare needs	10%
Lack of knowledge of labour market	7%

Multiple options could be selected in this question. The other options available in the list were: lack of technical or financial support for relocating/starting my business, other, registered for social assistance but no payments have been made so far, discrimination, prefer not to answer

Cash and markets

HHs with a bank account in Romania (n=716)



- Yes
- No, and did not try to open it
- No, tried to open it but was denied access
- Prefer not to tell

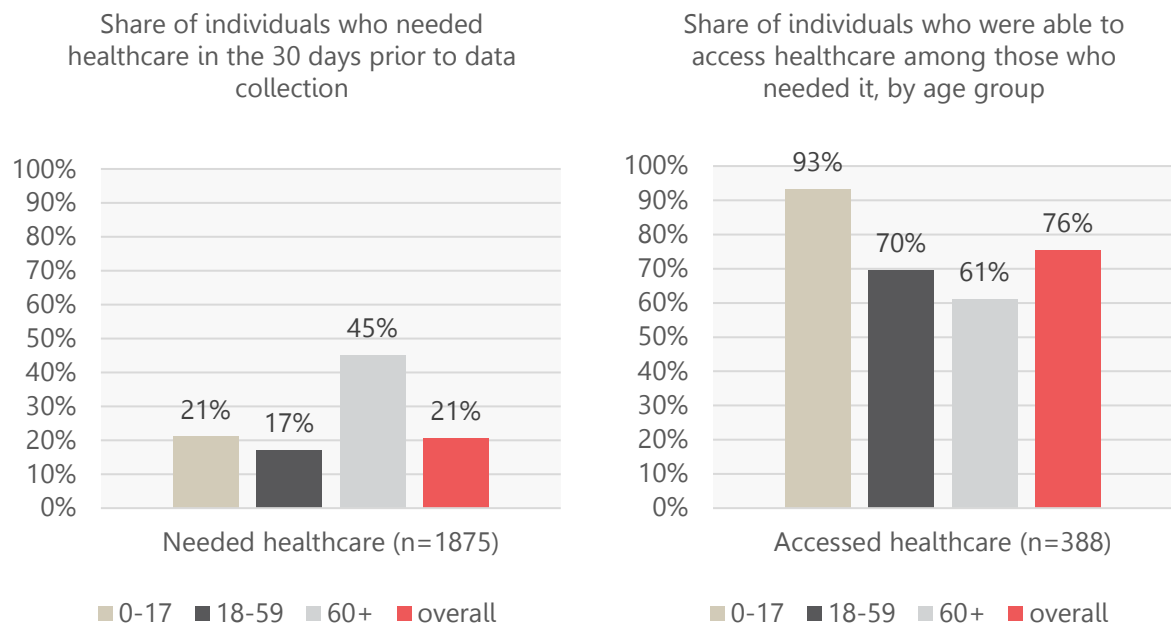
Top 10 main sources of income reported by HHs

Choices	CSs (n=115)	LHC (n=595)	Overall (n=710)
No income	32%	33%	33%
Remittances	20%	18%	19%
Social benefits from Ukraine (pension, disability, etc.)	20%	15%	16%
UNHCR cash assistance	14%	14%	14%
Formal or informal income in Ukraine	7%	12%	11%
Formal income in Romania	12%	11%	11%
NGOs/agencies/private sector (businesses) – giving cash support	10%	8%	8%
Government social benefits in Romania	7%	6%	6%
Remote income	3%	6%	6%

Multiple options could be selected in this question. The other options available: prefer not to answer, other, Loans (debt or credit)

Health and nutrition

Individuals having a healthcare need in the last 30 days prior to data collection and being unable to access healthcare services (n= 1875)



Just below a quarter (21%) of individuals reported having healthcare needs in the 30 days prior to data collection. Among those who needed it, **76% accessed healthcare services for their medical issue.**

The three most often reported healthcare needs were preventive consultations (45%), consultations for acute illnesses (19%), and medical check-ups related to chronic diseases (23%).

Type of healthcare needs (based on self-assessment)	% among individuals who reported a need (n=388)
Preventative consultation / check-up	45%
Chronic disease	23%
Acute illness (fever, diarrhea, cough, etc)	19%
Dental services	15%
Sexual and Reproductive Health	4%
Other	2%
COVID-19	1%
Mental/Psychosocial Support services	1%

Health and nutrition

Perceived barriers to access healthcare among individuals reporting a healthcare need and being unable to access healthcare services

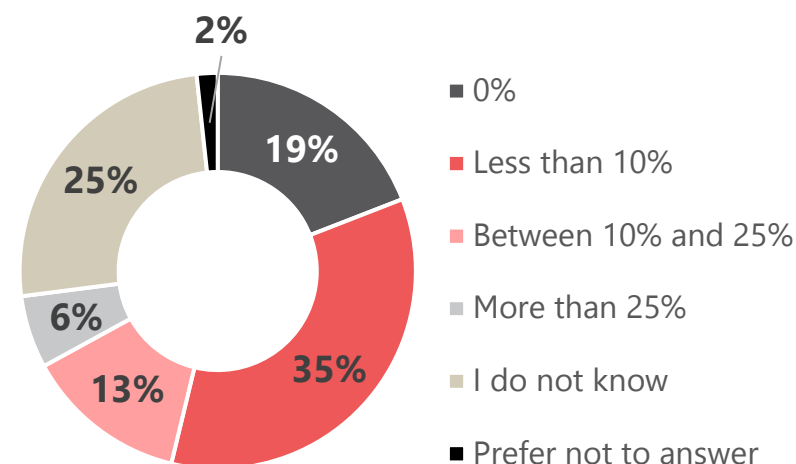
Type of barrier	Number of times barrier was reported	% of total respondents
Cost of services*	32	46%
Language barrier	35	42%
Information barrier	16	20%
Logistics	10	12%
Lack of treatment	7	11%
Insecurity	3	3%
Long waiting time	3	2%
Don't know	2	3%
Other	1	2%

The three most often reported barriers for accessing healthcare were language (42%), high cost (46%), and information barriers (20%) based on the feedback from 78 respondents.

Of the 78 HHs reporting having a barrier, 32% of these selected more than one barrier from those listed in the table.

**Among those who reported cost of services as a barrier, the main reported needs were dental services, preventive/check-up consultations and chronic disease*

HHs reporting on their healthcare expense proportion, relative to their income in the last 30 days prior data collection (n=716)



The figure suggests that over half of households spent less than 10% or none of their income in the last 30 days prior to data collection on health-related expenses.

Health and nutrition

Individuals reporting having at least one of the following vulnerability profiles (n=1713)

Washington Group Indicator	No difficulty	Some difficulty	A lot of difficulty	Cannot do it
Seeing, even if wearing glasses	80%	18%	1%	0%
Hearing, even if using a hearing aid	94%	5%	1%	0%
Walking or climbing steps	88%	9%	2%	0%
Remembering or concentrating	91%	8%	1%	0%
Self-caring such as washing all over or dressing	93%	6%	1%	0%
Communicating, for example understanding or being understood	93%	6%	1%	0%

Note: respondents could also select the option "prefer not to answer" or "I don't know". These options have not been displayed on the table.

Most commonly, respondents reported having some difficulty in seeing, walking, with few not being able to perform any of these tasks at all (below 0,5%).

Washington Group Index is a [methodology](#) used for standardized disability statistics.

A set of six questions was asked to each member of the HH in order to determine whether the individual had difficulties undertaking certain activities that could be deemed a disability. Individuals reporting 'a lot of difficulty' or 'cannot do it' were considered as living with disabilities.



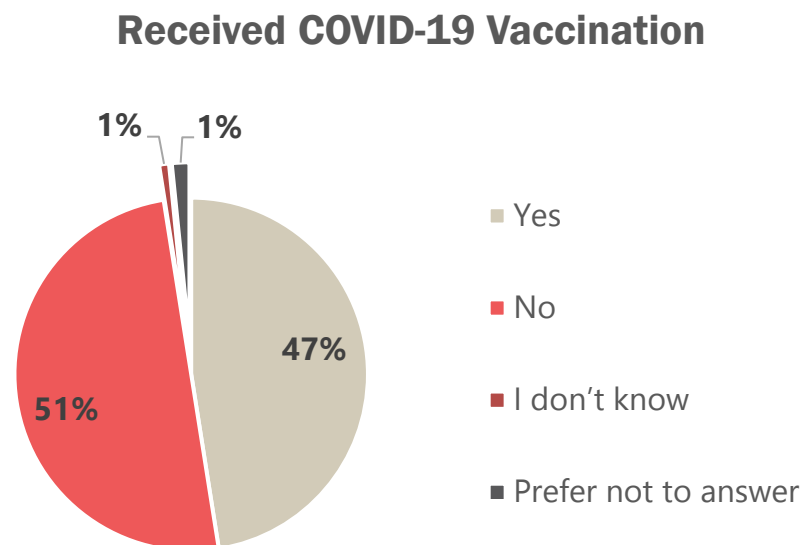
Pregnancy and breast-feeding

Overall, approximately 7% of women aged 14-49 in the sample (n=703) were either pregnant, breast-feeding, or both.

Pregnant	3%
Breast-feeding	4%
Overall	7%

Health and nutrition

Individuals that reported having received the COVID-19 vaccine (n=1713)



Half of individuals reported not receiving the COVID-19 vaccine (51%). Of the reasons reported for not getting vaccinated, 49% did not want to get the vaccine, while 43% believed that their child was too young to be vaccinated.

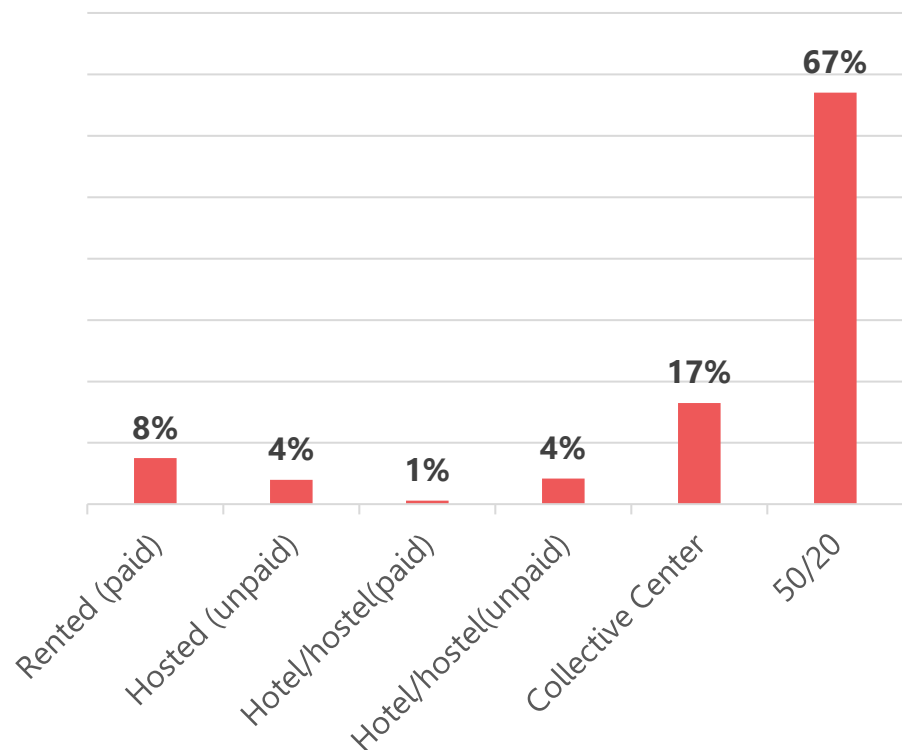
Reported reasons for not receiving the COVID-19 vaccine among those not vaccinated (n=854)

Reasons	% of individuals
Do not want to vaccinate against COVID-19	49%
Child was too young	43%
Other	2%
I don't know	2%
Prefer not to answer	2%
Did not have time to go	1%
Did not know where to go for vaccination	1%
Did not know which vaccination to choose from	0%
Forgot to get vaccinated	0%

Accommodation

Accommodation types as reported by HH

(n=716)



The main accommodation type reported by HHs was through the state funded 50/20 programme (67%), while 17% of HHs reported living in collective sites.

Winterization

The majority of HHs reported that their current accommodation had the winterization elements listed in the table below. Only 5% reported having none of the elements for their accommodation.

Winterization elements available	%
Hot water	86%
Sufficient heating	85%
Insulation	76%
Place to store winter clothes	71%
None of the above	5%

Equipment

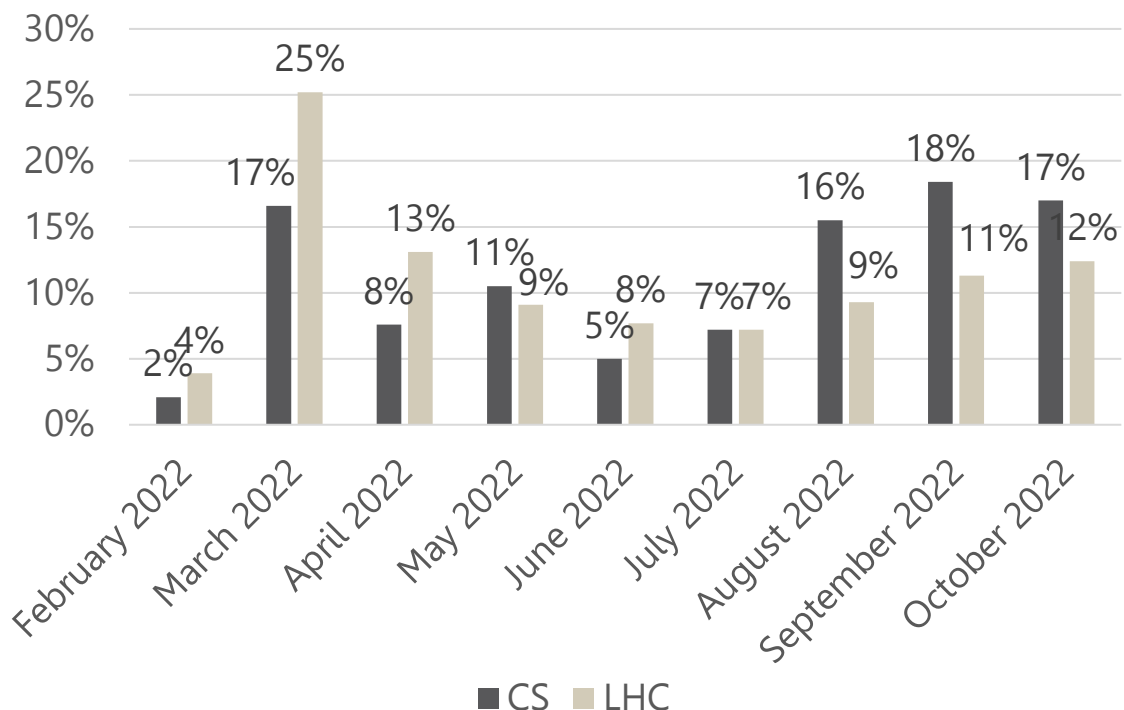
Missing accommodation equipment	% of overall
Everything is available	73%
Kitchen sets/household cooking items	14%
Adult clothing	13%
Basic hygiene items (soap, shampoo, toothpaste, etc.)	10%
Temperature regulating devices (heater or cooler)	9%
Menstrual materials	7%
Children's clothing	6%

Multiple options could be selected in this question.

73% of all HHs responded that everything was available in their accommodation. Of the needed items, kitchen supplies (14%), and adult clothing (13%) were the most needed.

Movement Intentions

Month of arrival to Romania as reported by HoHHs (n=716)



The highest percentage of refugees in the sample arrived in March 2022 followed by September-October 2022.

HHs movement intentions (in the next 30 days) (n=716)

Choices	LHC	CSs	Overall
Remain in present location	87%	72%	85%
Return to area (oblast) of origin	2%	6%	3%
Return to another location (oblast) inside Ukraine	1%	1%	1%
Move to another city or area (judet) inside Romania	2%	6%	3%
Move to another country	4%	7%	4%
Do not know - waiting to make a decision	4%	8%	4%
Prefer not to answer	0%	0%	0%

Overall, 85% of HHs reported that they intend to remain in their present location in the 30 days after data collection. Fewer HHs were also waiting to decide on their movement or are continuing to other countries.

Education

Current plans for attending school this school year (2022-2023) (n=573)

Will be enrolled (registered) in formal school in Romania	Will access Ukrainian distance learning	Will attend school in Ukraine	Will attend school in different country	Will attend Ukrainian school in Romania	Will follow both Ukrainian and Romanian curriculum	Will not be enrolled in a school	I don't know
10%	54%	1%	1%	13%	3%	10%	9%

% of total individuals aged 4-17 (n=573).

The plans for the school year 2022-2023 reflected that most HHs would be involved in Ukrainian distance learning (54%), while only 10% would be formally enrolled in a school in Romania. Ten percent reported that they would not be enrolling in school this year.

For those either attending formal school (10%) or UK school (13%) in Romania or following both Ukrainian and Romanian curriculum (3%), Romanian language classes was among the reported needs (8%). However, 66% replied that no support was needed or desired.

Top seven education support needs for Romanian schooling (n=92)

Needs reported	Overall
No support needed or wanted	66%
Additional Romanian language classes	8%
Transportation	8%
Ukrainian textbooks	7%
I don't know	6%
Equipment (bags, pencils, uniforms)	4%
Internet connection	4%

Multiple options could be selected in this question.

Education

Top seven education support needs for students following Ukrainian online learning (n=307)

Support needs	% of students
No support needed or wanted	46%
Laptop	27%
Tablet	23%
Internet connection	10%
Ukrainian textbooks	9%
Space to attend or listen to distance learning classes	9%
Equipment (bags, pencils, uniforms)	7%

Multiple options could be selected in this question.

Nearly half of the students following Ukrainian online learning reported no support needed (46%). Of those that did need assistance, technology such as laptops (27%) or tablets (23%), internet (10%) and as well as space to listen to or attend class (9%) were reported as needs.

Main reported barriers to attending school in Romania	% of indiv. not enrolled in Romania
Child is attending online classes in Ukraine	57%
None	11%
Language barrier	11%
Other	7%
Intention to move soon to another country or return to Ukraine	6%
Lack of schools in accessible distance	4%
I do not want to put additional burden on child(ren) to follow both (Ukrainian + Romanian) curriculum	4%
Space in school not available	3%
Waiting for a response to the application	3%

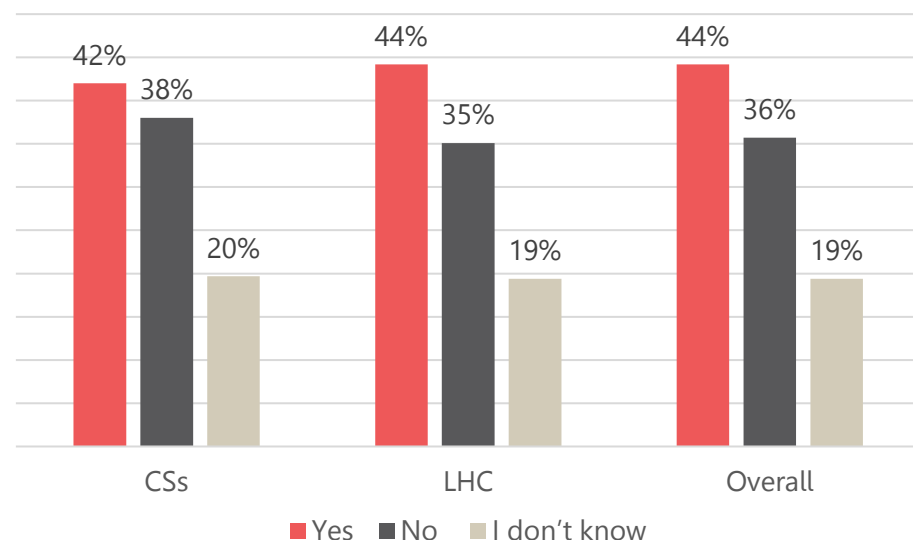
Top 9 answers over a list of 23 options. N = 337.

Barriers to attending school focused on the reasons why a student has not been registered for class in Romania, and instead have been enrolled in another schooling option or no schooling for the current year. Of the reasons given for not attending class in Romania, attending online classes in Ukraine (57%) and language barrier (11%) were the most reported.

Note: the barriers were reported by the HoHH on behalf of school-age children, who may have a different perception

Mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS)

HHs reporting awareness of psychosocial services in the area (n=716)

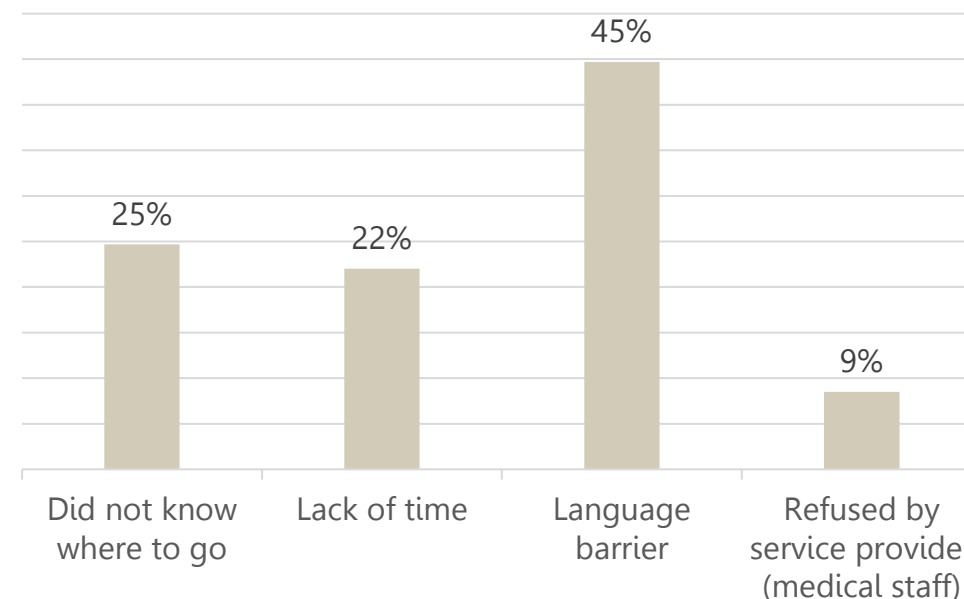


Note: respondents could also select the option "prefer not to answer".

Less than half of all families (44%) reported being aware of psychosocial services in their area. An additional 20% of HHs responded 'I don't know'.

14% of HHs reported having at least one member **with mental health concerns** affecting daily functioning. Among those, **27% considered that this person needed psychosocial support** at the time of the interview for this concern. Of those members that sought support, 38% received it, while 44% reported that they did not, and 18% did not know.

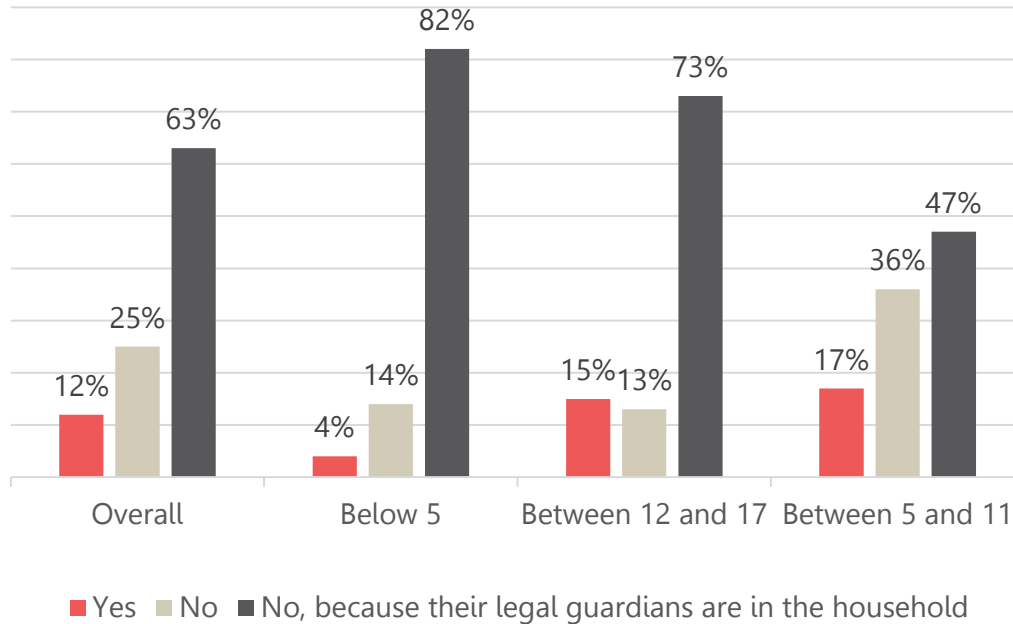
HHs reported barriers to psychosocial services in the area (n=12)



Of the barriers to psychosocial services, the language barrier was the most reported (45%). The lack of information (25%) about where to go, or no time to access services (22%) were also reported as barriers.

Protection

HHs reporting caring for children outside the nuclear family (n=64)



Among the HHs who reported living with a child from outside the nuclear family (n=64), 12% of HHs included an entrusted minor. The greatest percentage of minors were between 5 and 11 years of age. Of those who responded, 100% (n=7) reported having official documentation of this arrangement.

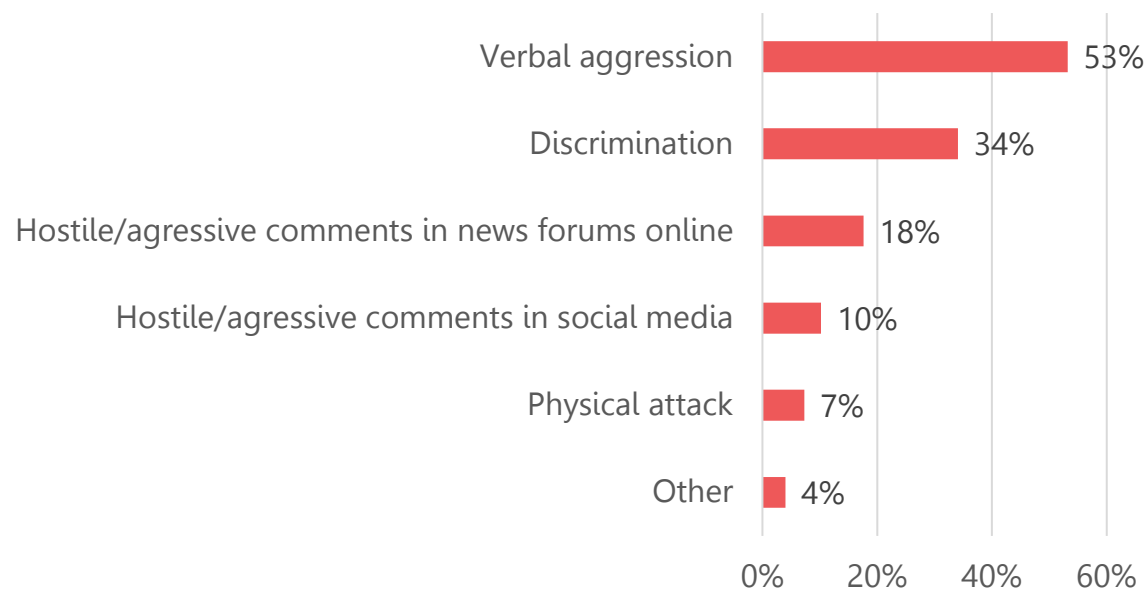
80% of HHs reported that every adult in the HHs had obtained **temporary protection documents**, while 4% had only some of their adult members with this document.

HHs reporting having received temporary protection (n=716)

Registered to temporary protection	% of HHs
Yes: every adult person has been issued this document	80%
No, but I know what the temporary protection is	11%
No, and I'm not aware about the temporary protection system	5%
Partial: only one/some adult member have been issued this document	4%
Residence issued before the start of the war	1%
Prefer not to answer	0%

Protection

Types of hostility experienced among the 7% of HHs who reported hostility (n=45)



7% (n=45) of HHs reported receiving hostile behavior. Among those that responded, 53% (n=23) reported that this type of behavior was verbal aggression, while 34% (n=15) reported discrimination.

Of the HHs sampled (n=716), over **75% reported no safety concerns** for children, men, or women in the area.

Protection concerns regarding ...	No concerns	Don't know
Women	83%	10%
Children	80%	15%
Men	75%	22%

A set of options were listed as: being robbed, verbal harassment, physical violence, etc. This table summarizes the 2 main selected answers.

Accountability to Affected Persons

HHs reporting having received aid, by strata

Received Aid	CSs	LHC	Overall
Yes	105	462	567
No	12	131	143
Total sample (n=716)			710*

* The 6 remaining respondents did not know or preferred not to answer.

Type of aid received, by HHs (n=567)

Type of aid received	% of HHs
Food	91%
Hygiene items	73%
Cash	55%
Clothing	47%
Support with accommodation	42%
Support with transport	28%
Healthcare services	24%
Medicines	19%
Support with documentation	16%
Education services	12%
Formula	10%
Diapers	8%
Employment	7%

Multiple options could be selected in this question.

Nearly 80% of the total sample has received some form of aid. The most frequently received aid type was food (91%), followed by hygiene items (73%), and cash (55%).

Aid provider according to the perception of HHs who received assistance (n=567)

Aid provider	% of HHs
Romania Red Cross	63%
UN agency	51%
International NGO	48%
Local NGO	38%
Faith-based group	34%
Romanian authorities	30%
Romanian society	29%
I don't know	2%

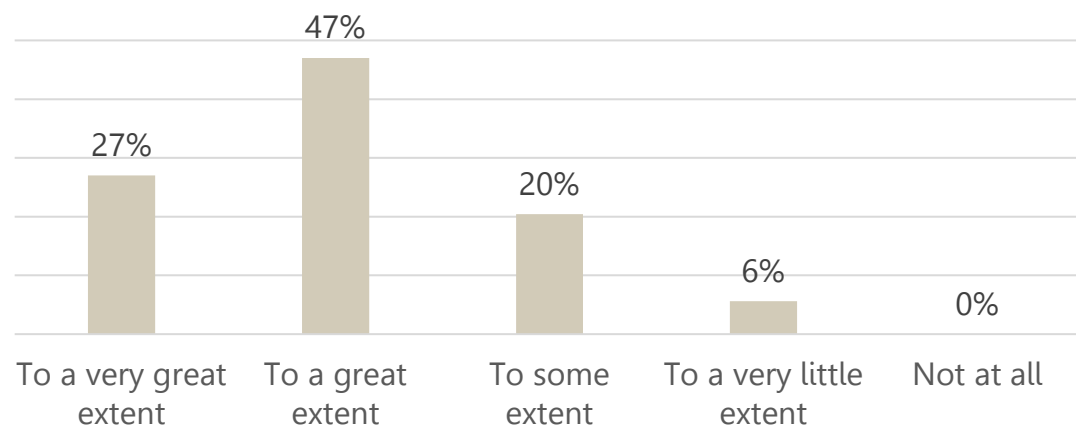
Overall, the top 3 providers of aid that HHs reported receiving aid from were the Romanian Red Cross (63%), UN agency (51%), and international NGOs (48%).

Accountability to Affected Persons

HHs reasons for not accessing humanitarian aid (n=143)

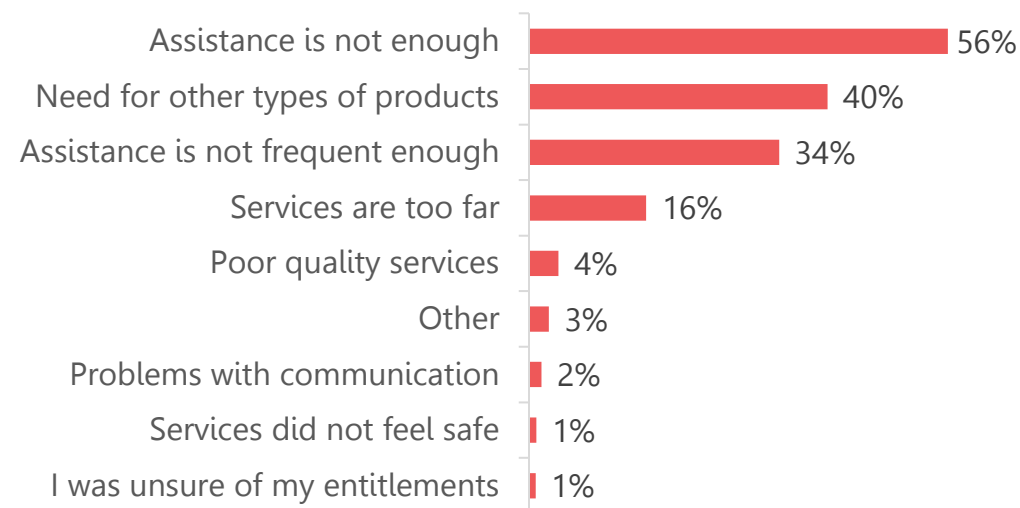
Reasons	% of HHs
I do not need humanitarian aid	46%
I do not know where to reach out to receive humanitarian aid	29%
I did not have time to apply	20%
Other	4%
Prefer not to answer	1%

Satisfaction with aid received, by HH (n=567)



Most HHs (64%) reported that the reason for not accessing aid was that they did not need it. Another significant share of HHs (29%) did not yet have time to apply for it.

Reasons for dissatisfaction among HHs (n=110)



Of those HoHHs who were dissatisfied with the aid received, 56% responded that the aid was not enough, 40% that they needed other types of products, and 34% believed that it was not frequent enough. (n=110)

Accountability to Affected Persons

Top types of information that HHs would like to receive (n=716)

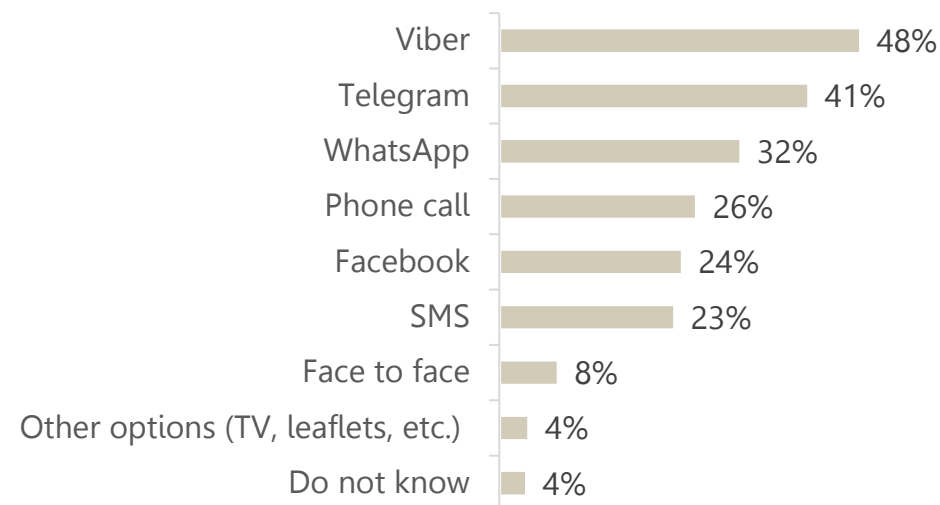
Information type	% of HHs
None	30%
How to access health care services	29%
How to access financial services	21%
How to find work	18%
How to get more money/financial support	17%
How to enrol children in school / kindergarten	10%
News on what is happening at home	10%
How to replace personal documentation (e.g., birth certificate, ID)	9%
News on what is happening in Romania	7%
How to register for aid	7%
How to access financial aid	6%
How to stay safe to prevent attack / harassment or to get help after	4%

Top 12 answers from a list of 20 options. Multiple options could be selected in this question.

The main information needs of HHs included how to access health care services (29%), financial services (21%), and information pertaining to financial/job support.

The preferred channels for accessing information, were primarily message-based applications such as Viber, Telegram, Whatsapp or SMS.

Preferred information channels (n=716)



Accountability to Affected Persons

Top immediate priority needs, by HH (n=716)

Types of needs	% of HHs
Food	49%
Cash	47%
Housing / accommodation	29%
Healthcare services	26%
Clothes	22%
Sanitation and Hygiene Products (e.g., soap, sanitary pads)	16%
Medicines	9%
Support with transport	8%
Employment	7%
No needs	7%
Baby items	7%
Support with child-care/child education	6%

Top 12 answers from a list of 19 options. Multiple options could be selected in this question.

The top priority needs reported by HHs focused on main livelihood necessities (cash, food, housing, clothes and healthcare). These also corresponded with medium to long-term needs of HHs.

Top medium/long-term needs of HHs (n=716)

Types of needs	% of HHs
Shelter / housing	48%
Healthcare	42%
Financial support	41%
Food	40%
General information	16%
Livelihoods support / employment	10%
Language courses	9%
Transportation support	9%
None	5%
Education for children under 18	3%
Support to return home	2%
Other	2%

Top 12 answers from a list of 22 options. Multiple options could be selected in this question.

Next Steps

Dates	Activity
End of December	Publication of MSNA report

Other resources	
Terms of reference of the MSNA	Link
Dataset of the MSNA	Link

Thank you for your attention



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