Moldova

MULTI-SECTOR NEEDS ASSESSMENT (MSNA)

Key Findings presentation

November 2023
OBJECTIVES & METHODOLOGY
OBJECTIVES

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

1. Gain understanding of the household composition of refugees, including key demographics.
2. Identify priority needs of refugee households.
3. Understand coping capacity and vulnerability/resilience considering the protracted displacement, including socio-economic inclusion.
4. Identify household profiles with the most critical needs to inform programming.

These preliminary results cover the following topics:

1. DEMOGRAPHICS
2. PROTECTION AND AAP
3. EDUCATION
4. SOCIAL ECONOMIC INCLUSION AND LIVELIHOOD
5. FOOD SECURITY
6. HEALTH
7. ACCOMMODATION
Moldova

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).

OVERVIEW

COMPLETED SURVEYS

890 HH

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 BY

REACH Initiative

DATA COLLECTION

From 14/8 to 10/9

PRELIMINARY ANALYSIS BY

REACH Initiative
**METHODOLOGY**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>POPULATION OF INTEREST</th>
<th>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.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE</td>
<td>National coverage, excluding the Transnistrian region*.</td>
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<tr>
<td>DESIGN</td>
<td>Household surveys with individual-level sections.</td>
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<td>DATA COLLECTION</td>
<td>From 14/8 to 10/9 by enumerators from REACH Initiative.</td>
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<tr>
<td>SAMPLE SIZE</td>
<td>890 HHs; covering 2130 HH members.</td>
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Non-probability purposive sampling approach, constructed based on cross-referenced 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 refugee 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.

Findings are weighted.

* Based on the referenced population figures, all settlements in Rîșcani, Telenești, 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 randomization (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;

- **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
Around 81% of respondents were women, 19% were men. The largest age group is 35-59 years (54%), followed by 60+ (24%) and 18-34 (22%).

Almost all respondents have Ukrainian citizenship and self-identified as of Ukrainian background.
Moldova

Demographics

Household Profiles

- % of HHs with at least one child (<18): 54%
- % of HHs with children with two or more adults (18-59): 37%
- % of HHs with children with only one adult (18-59): 60%
- % of HHs with at least one older person (60+): 32%
HOUSEHOLD AND POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS

Average HH size
2.36

% of HHs with a chronically ill member
33%

HH with children
54%

% of HHs with a Pregnant or Breastfeeding Women
4%

% of children
33%

% of older refugees
17%

% of HH members (aged 5 or older) with at least one level 3 in WGSS
6%

Household Members by age group and gender

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Male</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0 to 4</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 to 17</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 to 34</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35 to 59</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60+</td>
<td>64%</td>
<td>5%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

% of children
33%

% of older refugees
17%

% of HH members (aged 5 or older) with at least one level 3 in WGSS
6%
The majority of the surveyed HHs originate from Odeska Oblast (45%), followed by:

- Mykolaivska Oblast (9%),
- Khersonska Oblast (9%),
- Kharkivska Oblast (9%), and
- Donetska Oblast (8%).
PROTECTION
88% of HHs reported that every member has applied to TP. Of the HHs where no member or not all members had applied for TP, approximately half (51%) expressed no intention to apply.

Most 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 (n=13), the lack of proof of residence in Moldova (n=13), and long queues with extended waiting times (n=10).
The primary assumed underlying factors for hostile behaviours (n=82) perceived by HHs who reported encountering such behaviour were related to their nationality (n=37), cultural differences (n=25), and refugee status (n=22). These incidents were also linked to competition for resources (such as housing, food, or market access), language-based discrimination, and issues related to ethnicity.
Top 3 most serious risks faced by boys under the age of 18, as reported by HHs with at least one boy (n=331) *

- Psychological violence in the community: 17%
- Physical violence in the community: 16%
- Increased vulnerability to violence online: 5%

Top 3 most serious risks faced by girls under the age of 18, as reported by HHs with at least one girl (n=278) *

- Psychological violence in the community: 18%
- Physical violence in the community: 13%
- Increased vulnerability to violence online: 3%

HHs with at least one boy (<18) were inquired about the protection risks boys faced in their neighbourhood. 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).

The 3 most commonly mentioned risks are also the same for both groups – psychological and physical violence in the community, as well as increased vulnerability to violence online.
Most respondents were able to mention at least one service where they can report violence against children. 1% said that they do not know of any services. 97% mentioned the police, 41% know of a helpline, 38% reported that they know of government services, and 25% know of NGO services.
17% of HHs report concerns regarding the safety and security of women. The top three risks reported were getting robbed (10%), being threatened with violence (9%), and suffering from physical harassment or violence (not sexual) (2%).

When it comes to awareness of GBV services, respondents were most aware of safety and security services (94%) as well as health services (93%). More than half of respondents knew of a helpline (77%), how to request legal assistance (77%), or of psycho-social services (74%).
The proportion of HHs with at least one men reporting safety and security concerns for men was slightly smaller than for women (13% and 17%, respectively). The three main concerns for men were being robbed (7%), being deported (5%), being threatened with violence (2%).
% 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)

- Dissatisfied: 2%
- Satisfied: 98%

Reasons for dissatisfaction with aid received (n=21) (MCQ)

- Assistance received was insufficient, not enough, not frequent enough: 11
- Assistance/Services received were of poor quality: 7
- Did not receive the aid on time / delays in delivery of aid: 7
- I was not consulted on what I need: 5

% of HHs who reported at least one current priority need

- No needs: 15%
- Have needs: 84%
- Don't know: 1%

Top 3 most commonly reported priority needs by % of HHs (MCQ)

- Healthcare services: 43%
- Food & Drinking water: 29%
- Winter clothes: 25%
- Employment & Livelihoods support: 21%

97% of HHs reported having received aid in Moldova in the 3 months prior to data collection.
The large majority of HHs, 97% are satisfied with aid workers. Among those who are dissatisfied (n=24), the main reported reasons are that they were not consulted on what they need (n=11), that nothing changes when the give feedback or make complaints (n=6), and that aid workers behave disrespectfully toward members of their community (n=5).

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%).
EDUCATION
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 those 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).

Disclaimer: The education attendance figures are based on self-reported responses from participants and do not rely on official attendance records from schools. At the time of the publishing, around 2.3K children were reported officially enrolled in pre-school facilities and schools.
Socio-Economic Inclusion and Livelihoods
**Labour Force Participation** (out of working age population 16 to 64)

- **Outside labour force** 60%
- **Inside labour force** 40%

**Employment status of those inside the labour force (16 to 64 y.o.)**

- **Employed** 93%
- **Unemployed** 7%

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**SOCIO-ECONOMIC INCLUSION AND LIVELIHOODS**

**LIVELIHOODS AND INCLUSION**

The definitions below are based on the core ILO Labor Force Survey (LFS) questions.

**Employment**: Employment includes individuals of working age who have engaged in income-generating activities in the past week. This encompasses formal employment, self-employment, agricultural/fishing work, diverse income generation, temporary absence from paid roles, and unpaid contributions to family businesses.

**Unemployment**: # of working-age who were not employed during the past week (as per the definition above), who looked for a paid job or tried to start a business in the past 4 weeks, and who are available to start working within the next 2 weeks if ever a job or business opportunity becomes available.

**Outside labour force**: # working-age individuals (who were not employed during the past week, and who either cannot start working within the next 2 weeks if a job or business opportunity becomes available or did not look for a paid job or did not try to start a business in the past 4 weeks.

**Inside labour force**: Employed and Unemployed
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%).
% of HHs reporting a change in purchasing power compared to the same time the year before*

- The same amount: 7%
- Fewer goods and services: 29%
- More goods and services: 61%

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

- Increase in general prices on essential items: 79%
- Increased expenses from unexpected events such as medical bills, family emergencies: 24%
- Reduced income from job loss, reduced work hours or lower wages/salary: 13%
- Increased expenses for housing or education: 8%
- No longer receiving financial assistance from government or other organisations: 6%
- Difficulty finding work: 5%

% of HHs having an account at a bank/financial institution in Moldova: 55%

% of HHs having any household productive assets in Moldova: 100%

% of HHs covered by social protection floors/systems in Moldova: 57%

% of HHs covered by social protection floors/systems from Ukrainian government: 25%
More than two-thirds of HHs (77%) employed some level of negative coping strategies (stress or more severe). The most used coping strategies by households in the 30 days prior to data collection was spending savings (68%).

*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)
FOOD SECURITY
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). 49% of HHs didn’t use any strategies in the 7 days prior to data collection.
HEALTH
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.
% of HH members (>=18y.o.) reportedly experiencing mental health or psychosocial issues* (n=1404)

- Yes: 12%
- No: 87%
- Don’t know/Prefer not to answer: 1%

% of HH members (>=18y.o.) who reportedly needed mental health or psychosocial support** (n=175)

- Yes: 13%
- No: 84%
- Don’t know: 3%

Among the 13% (n=23) who needed support, 12 HH members tried to seek support and 10 received support. Among the 2 who tried to seek support and were unable to access it, the reported reason was that they did not know where to go.

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* 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
ACCOMMODATION
Regarding the living conditions of HHs, the most common arrangement was private accommodation (83%), followed by 9% shared accommodation, 7% accredited RACs, 1% live in a Hotel/hostel 1% live in a non-accredited RACs.

Only 0.3% of HHs reported facing pressure to leave their accommodation.

16% of HHs reported issues with their current living conditions at the time of data collection. The most commonly reported problems were insufficient sleeping materials, lack of separate showers or toilets, lack of sufficient hot water, and insufficient privacy.
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