

Multi-Sectoral Needs Assessment (MSNA)

December 2023
Moldova

Households with children

CONTEXT

As of 1 December 2023, more than 6.3 million refugees have reportedly fled Ukraine (UKR), with around 978,000 refugees crossing into the Republic of Moldova (MDA), around 113,000 of whom are currently reportedly in the country.¹

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 (HHs) displaced from Ukraine to Moldova. The core of the questionnaire was designed by the UNHCR Regional Office to maintain uniformity across countries involved in the Regional Refugee Response to the Ukraine Situation.

This factsheet complements the findings presented in the MSNA Key Findings factsheet and the MSNA Situation Overview and aims to provide a more in-depth analysis of the socio-economic status of the households (HHs) with children displaced as a result of the escalation in hostilities in Ukraine and living in Moldova.

METHODOLOGY

Primary data collection consisted of 890 face-to-face household-level surveys that took place between 14 Aug. - 10 Sept. 2023 and included individual-level sections to collect information about each member of the household. It covered the entire country, except the Transnistrian region. A non-probability stratified quota sampling approach was applied based on cross-referenced population figures from the UNHCR Cash Programme beneficiary list, the REACH area monitoring exercise and the list of the Moldova population published in 2019. The sampling frame was at the settlement level (admin 2). Settlements with fewer than 15 HHs were excluded from the sampling frame.²

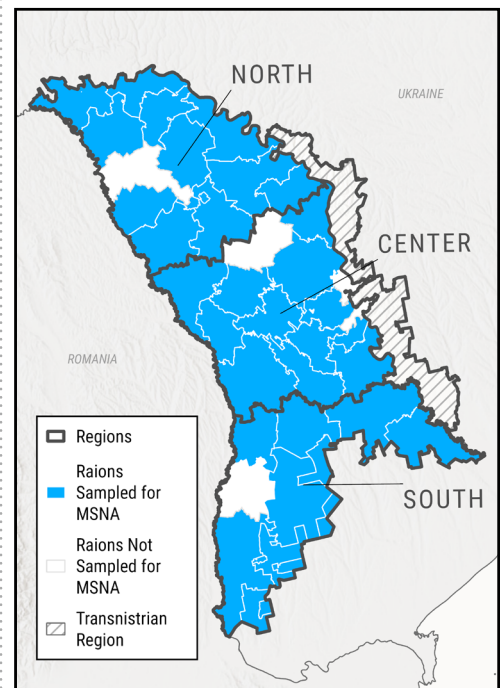
Surveys were distributed based on regional stratification (North, Center, South, and Chişinău), rural and urban quotas, and proportionality to the estimated distribution of the refugee population.

Indicators in this factsheet are based on the MSNA 2023 Moldova dataset, with key indicators disaggregated between the HHs with children (n=492) and HHs without children (n=398). Findings are indicative only and weighted at the national level.

For the purpose of analysing data at a national level, the results have been adjusted using weighting techniques. This

adjustment accounts for any imbalances in the distribution of the population across different regions, induced by the sampling design, specifically the stratification of the sample by region. Applying weights to the analysis enhances the accuracy of the estimates. However, it is important to note that while weighting improves accuracy, it does not result in representative findings.

COVERAGE MAP



Demographics

Proportion of households with or without children (n=890)



55%

HHs with children



45%

HHs without children

Proportion of households with children by rural/urban (n=492)



86%

Urban



14%

Rural

Proportion of households by number of children (n=492)**

One child	64%	<div style="width: 64%;"></div>
Two children	29%	<div style="width: 29%;"></div>
Three children	4%	<div style="width: 4%;"></div>
Four or more children	2%	<div style="width: 2%;"></div>

KEY FINDINGS

Households with and without children reported similar experiences across Moldova with the most significant differences being reported needs, sources of income and sanitation facilities in the Central region. HHs with children frequently mentioned education as a primary need, while HHs without children were more likely to report healthcare services and medicines as primary needs.

HHs with children were more likely to report other sources of income (UN/INGOs, investments/property, relatives, etc.) and income from employment in Moldova compared to HHs without children. The latter were more likely to be receiving pensions from the Ukrainian government.

HHs with children were more likely to be covering the full payments for their accommodation, while HHs without children were more likely to be hosted by a local person or family (unrelated) for free.

HHs with children were slightly more likely to report having experienced hostile behaviour from the host community since arriving in Moldova compared to HHs without children.

* Indicators marked with an asterisk throughout this factsheet booklet represent indicators for which respondents could select multiple answer choices, and/or for which not all answer choices have been presented on the factsheet (most commonly reported). Percentages may not add up to 100%.
** Due to rounding, percentages may not add up to 100%

¹ UNHCR (<https://data.unhcr.org/en/situations/ukraine/location/10784>)

² Based on the referenced population figures, all settlements in Rîşcani, Teleneşti, and Cantemir contained fewer than 15 refugee HHs. Hence, data was not collected in these raions.

ACCOUNTABILITY TO AFFECTED POPULATION

% of households (HHs) with or without children by type of aid received within 3 months prior to data collection* (n=848)

Reported aid received	HHs with children	HHs without children
Non-food items (clothing, hygiene products, etc.)	79%	77%
Cash or vouchers (unconditional)	78%	76%
Cash or vouchers (conditional)	27%	22%
Food	57%	68%
Protection services	4%	4%
Government social protection	2%	1%
Government assistance programs	1%	1%
Government housing programs	1%	1%
Total % of HHs	97%	96%

% of HHs with or without children by self-reported primary needs (up to three choices per HH)*

Reported primary needs	HHs with children	HHs without children
Healthcare services	39%	48%
Winter clothes	28%	21%
Food and drinking water	27%	30%
Employment/livelihood support	22%	19%
Education for children under 18	19%	0%
Sanitation and hygiene products	13%	13%
Accommodation	13%	12%
Language courses	13%	7%
Baby items	11%	1% [§]
Medicines	9%	18%
Training/Education of adults	8%	5%
Feeding support (children >2 years old)	4%	1% [§]
Information on how to access services	3%	2%
Support with child-care	3%	0%
Support with transport	2%	4%
Need to repay debt	1%	1%
Cooking materials	1%	3%
Legal support	1%	2%
Communication (phone or internet)	1%	2%
Psychosocial support	1%	1%
Information about country of origin	0%	1%
None	11%	21%

% of HHs reporting being satisfied with the aid they received (among those who received aid in the 3 months prior to data collection), by HHs with/without children (n=848)

Response	HHs with children	HHs without children
Yes (satisfied)	98%	98%
No (dissatisfied)	2%	2%

Number of HHs per reason of dissatisfaction with the aid received (among those who were dissatisfied with the aid they received in the 3 months prior to data collection), by HHs with/without children*

Response	HHs with children (n=16)	HHs without children (n=8)
Insufficient	8	2
Did not receive aid	4	2
Poor quality	3	4
Not consulted on needs	3	2
Not useful	2	0
Not accessible	1	1

% of HHs by challenges faced in accessing needed information (including information on rights and entitlements, access to services), by HHs with/without children (n=887)*

Reported challenge	HHs with children	HHs without children
I don't know where to look for information	3%	5%
I don't know which information to trust	3%	3%
I don't have a device to access online information	1%	4%
Information is not available in the language(s) I speak	1%	1%
Information is not available in formats that are accessible for me	1%	1%
The available information is not what I need	1%	1%
Don't know	4%	2%
No challenges	89%	86%

[§] Due to HHs with a pregnant member.

EDUCATION

% of school-aged children and youth (3-24 y.o.) enrolled in formal education, during the current school year 2022/2023, by age group (school-ranges) (n=794)^{3,4}

3 - 6 years	50%	
7 - 10 years	81%	
11 - 15 years	89%	
16 - 18 years	80%	
19 - 24 years	55%	
Overall	73%	

% of school-aged children and youth (3-24 y.o.) by enrolment intentions in formal education for the next school year 2023/2024, by age group (school-ranges) (n=769)^{4,}**

Age range	Yes - enrolled in MDA	Yes - enrolled in MDA and UKR	No - enrolled in UKR	Not enrolled in any school
3 - 6 years	60%	1%	6%	22%
7 - 10 years	53%	7%	27%	9%
11 - 15 years	40%	4%	42%	6%
16 - 18 years	28%	6%	39%	17%
19 - 24 years	20%	2%	33%	38%
Overall	45%	4%	29%	14%

Most common reasons for school-aged children and youth (3-24 y.o.) not intending to enrol in formal education in MDA in 2023/2024 (among those enrolled in UKR or not enrolled in any school in 2023/2024) (n=311)^{4,*}

Ukrainian distance learning (parental decision)	50%
Ukrainian distance learning (child's preference)	46%
Intention to move to Ukraine/another country	9%
Child is too young	6%
Language barrier	6%
No particular reason	5%
Don't want to enrol in Moldova	4%
Burden on child to follow both curricula	1%
No available space	1%
Lack of documents	1%
Cannot afford	1%

³ Formal education refers to structured and organised learning provided by educational institutions, irrespective of the country of curriculum. During data collection, confusion was observed regarding the inclusion of pre-school and online education, likely leading to a slight underreporting of the enrolment rates.

HEALTH

% of HHs aware of Ukrainians' entitlement to public healthcare and public health care services in MDA if they were granted asylum or temporary protection status, by urban/rural and by HHs with/without children^{}**

	HHs with children, urban	HHs without children, urban	HHs with children, rural	HHs without children, rural
Yes	86%	80%	75%	63%
No	13%	18%	20%	31%

% of HHs aware of Ukrainians' entitlement to emergency care in MDA if they are transiting or have applied for asylum or temporary protection, by urban/rural and by HHs with/without children^{}**

	HHs with children, urban	HHs without children, urban	HHs with children, rural	HHs without children, rural
Yes	88%	86%	73%	68%
No	11%	13%	19%	27%

% of HH members who needed to access health care in the 30 days prior to data collection (or since arrival if less than 30 days since arrival), by age group (n=2130)

0 - 4 years	24%	
5 - 11 years	17%	
12 - 17 years	9%	
18 - 34 years	13%	
35 - 59 years	18%	
60+ years	46%	
Overall	21%	

% of HH members who were able to accessed needed healthcare, by age group (n=433)

0 - 4 years	82%	
5 - 11 years	86%	
12 - 17 years	88%	
18 - 34 years	92%	
35 - 59 years	90%	
60+ years	93%	
Overall	90%	

⁴ In this assessment, <school-aged children and youth> refers to HH members aged 3 to 24. This approach was taken to account for youth attending higher education in the analysis.

ACCOMMODATION AND SHELTER

% of HHs with or without children by type of accommodation:

Type of accommodation	HHs with children	HHs without children
Private accommodation	83%	83%
Shared Accommodation (room in an apartment, hosted, sharing with other refugees etc.)	9%	10%
Accredited RACs	8%	5%
Non-accredited RACs	1%	0%
Hotel/hostel	0%	1%

% of HHs by accommodation arrangement, by HHs with/without children (n=889)

Accommodation arrangement	HHs with children	HHs without children
Full payment covered by household	50%	38%
No payment covered by household – free, hosted by local person/family (unrelated) or similar	23%	33%
Partial payment (Hosted by relatives/close friends)	12%	15%
No payment covered by household - free accommodation (government scheme, NGO, etc...)	12%	12%
Partial payment covered by household (subsidized by government)	3%	2%

% of HHs by expected length of stay in current accommodation based on HH's current financial situation, by HHs with/without children (n=487)**

Length of time	HHs with children	HHs without children
6 months or longer	67%	60%
From 3 months up to 6 months	6%	5%
From 1 month up to 3 months	3%	5%
For up to 1 month	1%	1%
For the coming week	2%	0%
I am not sure	21%	28%

LIVELIHOODS AND SOCIOECONOMIC INCLUSION

% of HHs with or without children by reported source of income (as many choices as appropriate)*

Reported sources of income	HHs with children	HHs without children
Other sources (UN/INGOs, investments/property, loans, relatives)	86%	72%
Employment in Moldova	42%	30%
Pension from Ukrainian government	8%	39%
Social protection benefits from Moldovan government	7%	11%
Social protection benefits from Ukrainian government	1%	3%
No income	2%	3%
No response	2%	3%

Livelihood Coping Strategies Index (LCSI), by HHs with/without children^{§**}

Index Category	HHs with children	HHs without children
None	21%	26%
Stress	58%	60%
Crisis	9%	8%
Emergency	12%	7%

FOOD SECURITY

Food Consumption Score (FCS) by HHs with/without children^{§§}

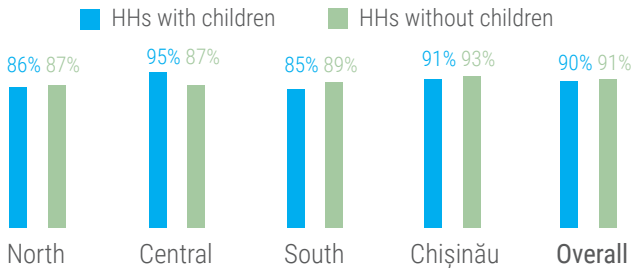
	HHs with children	HHs without children
Acceptable	99%	96%
Borderline	1%	4%
Poor	0%	0%

[§] Livelihood coping strategy index (LCSI) classifies 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.

^{§§} Food Consumption Score (FCS) is 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. Ranges are from 0 to 112, where Poor is a score of 21 or under, Borderline is 21,5 to 35, and above 35 is Acceptable.

PROTECTION

% of HHs with at least one member who has applied for Temporary Protection (TP), by region and by HHs with/without children[§]



[§] 95% of HHs reported no difficulties in the process of applying for temporary protection, with no significant difference between HHs with and without children

% of HHs by reason for not applying to TP (among HHs with at least one member who had not applied yet), by HHs with/without children (n=112)*

Reason	HHs with children	HHs without children
Want to return to UKR before 1 Mar. 2024	24%	30%
Did not have time to register	12%	12%
Want TP elsewhere	12%	12%
Concerns about 45-day travel limit outside of Moldova	9%	6%
All HH members have Moldovan citizenship	6%	6%
Uncertain of benefits of TP	5%	3%
Do not know how to register	4%	21%
Did not have required documents	3%	3%

% of HHs having experienced hostile behaviour or attitudes from the host community since arrival in MDA, by HHs with/without children

HHs with children	12%
HHs without children	6%

% of HHs with or without children who knew where to direct report of violence against children, by institution*

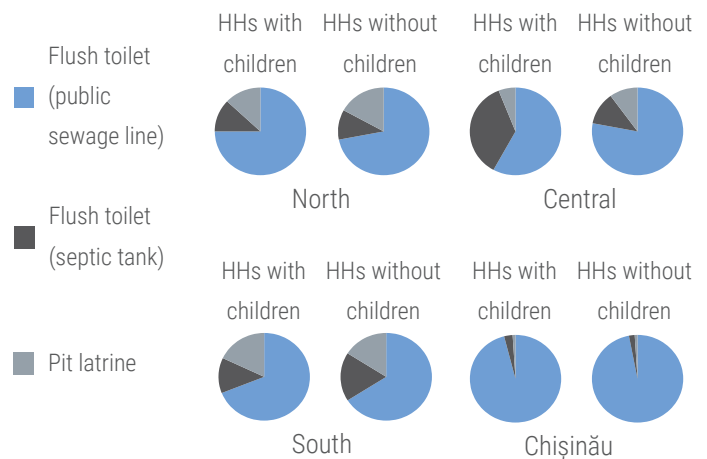
Institution	HHs with children	HHs without children
Police	96%	97%
Helpline	46%	35%
Government services	40%	35%
NGO services	31%	19%
Not sure/No available services	1%	0%

WASH AND FOOD SECURITY

% of HHs by main sources of drinking water since arrival in MDA, by urban/rural and by HHs with/without children (n=889)*:

Source of drinking water	HHs with children (urban)	HHs with children (rural)	HHs without children (urban)	HHs without children (rural)
Public water supply	64%	49%	76%	47%
Private well	4%	26%	2%	29%
Public well	3%	24%	2%	25%
Water trucking (CSO)	1%	1%	1%	0%
Bottled water	54%	21%	35%	19%

% of HHs by main type of sanitation facility used in accommodation, by region and by HHs with children (left) and HHs without children (right)



% of HHs by source of access to hygiene materials (soap, toilet paper, diapers, sanitary pads), by HHs with/without children**[§]

Response	HHs with children	HHs without children
HH purchases	14%	14%
HH receives them from a CSO or governmental entity*	41%	55%
Both	45%	28%

[§] 75% of HHs reported «Very satisfied» and 23% of HHs reported «Somewhat satisfied» with received hygiene material, with no significant difference between HHs with and without children