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HUMAN RIGHTS
OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER

Funded by
European Union
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KEY FINDINGS
based on OHCHR Protection Monitoring
July - December 2023

WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF PROJECT: "IMPROVING THE EQUAL ACCESS TO SERVICES AND ASSISTANCE FOR REFUGEES WITH SPECIFIC NEEDS AND THE MOST VULNERABLE HOST FAMILIES IN THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA ON THE BOTH BANKS OF NISTRU RIVER"

Moldova - February 2024

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Background and methodology:

In July 2023, OHCHR in Moldova started protection monitoring as part of a 12 months project funded by the European Union Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid. OHCHR focuses on the systematic identification of those who are more at risk of protection concerns and human rights violations.

OHCHR's methodology consists of individual interviews with refugees from Ukraine and host community members. Respondents are reached through the facilitation of international and national NGOs and local CSOs that work with the most vulnerable groups on both banks of Nistru river. In order to ensure a wide geographical coverage, each month interviews are done in the northern, centre and southern regions of Moldova, including the Transnistrian region.

OHCHR analyses the data taking into account the existing legal framework and contextual information.

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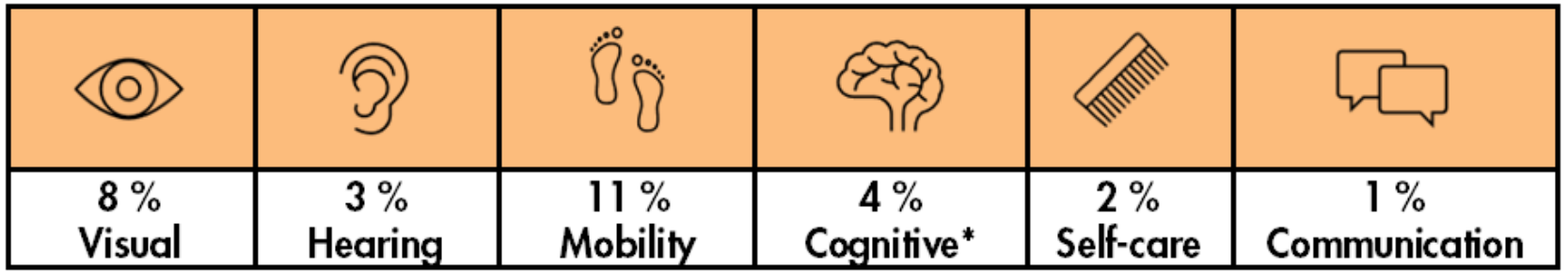
Respondents' profile

From July till December 2023, **OHCHR interviewed 913 refugees from Ukraine** (659 women; 254 men).

71 % of respondents residing in the right bank of Nistru river and 29% - on the left bank of Nistru river.

20 % (n=183) of them are **identified as persons with disabilities** based on Washington Group Short Set of Questions*.



5 % of respondents have a lot of difficulties with more than 1 functional domain.

**counted according to WG recommendations using cut-off for answers of 'a lot of difficulty or 'cannot do it all'*
*** In the Washington Short Set of Questions the cognitive domain include only remembering and concentrating functioning*

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Distribution of respondents with disabilities by age group

	WITHOUT DISABILITY
	WITH DISABILITY

139 Women

21 %

Women: WITHOUT DISABILITY	Women: WITH DISABILITY	Age group	Men: WITHOUT DISABILITY	Men: WITH DISABILITY
1 (100 %)		90+	2 (67 %)	1 (33%)
6 (25 %)	18 (75%)	80-89	3 (50%)	3 (50 %)
31 (48 %)	33 (52 %)	70-79	10 (37%)	17(63 %)
77 (59 %)	53 (41 %)	60-69	13 (24 %)	42 (76 %)
77 (86%)	13 (14%)	50-59	5 (15%)	29 (85%)
268 (93 %)	20 (7%)	30-49	7 (7%)	90 (93%)
59 (98%)	1 (2%)	18-29	4(13%)	28 (87%)
2 (100 %)		0-17	0	

44 Men

17 %

⇒ The highest concentration of women with a disability was found in the age groups 60-69 and 70-79, and they mostly have mobility and visual difficulties.

⇒ Data suggest that both interviewed women and men have functional disabilities at relatively equal rates with a slightly higher prevalence among interviewed women.

⇒ 73 % of interviewed refugees in the age groups 80-89 and 90+ have functional disabilities.

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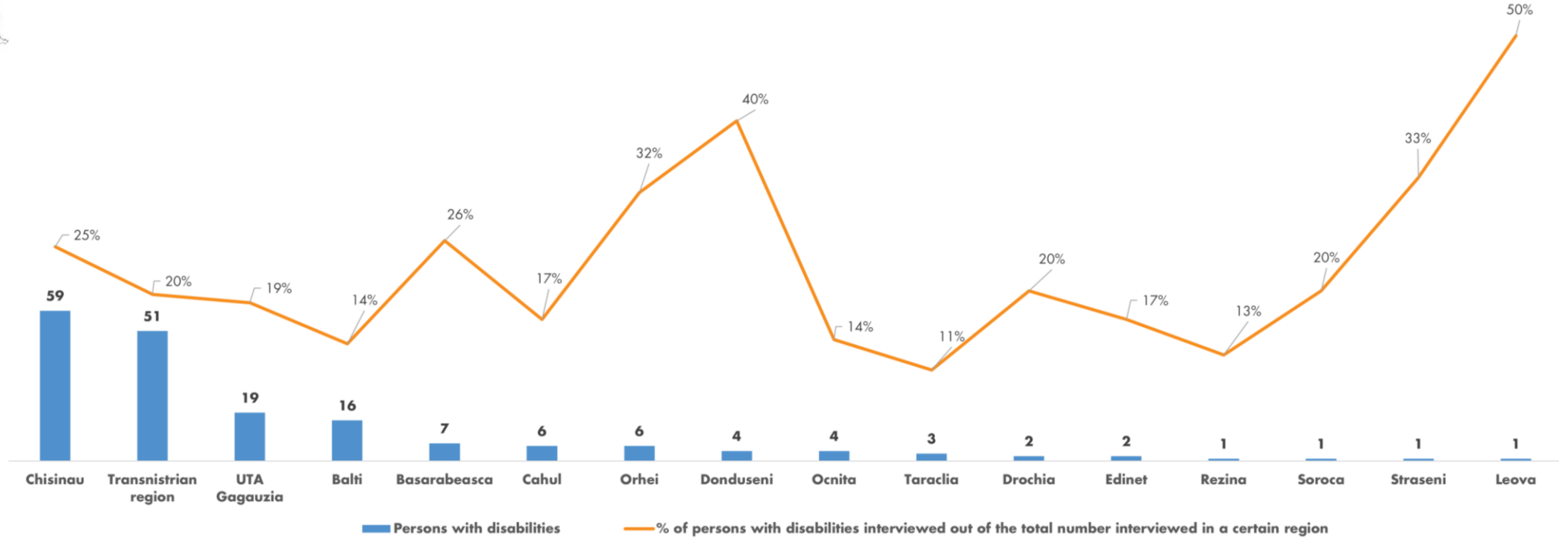
Distribution of respondents with disabilities by region



The largest number of persons with disabilities were interviewed in the Transnistrian region; and this makes up for the 20% of the respondents in the region.

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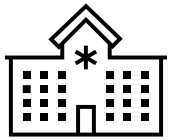
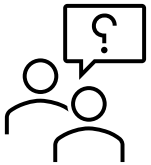
Needs / Experience with medical services in Moldova

- **Glasses is the most common needs** (for 28 out of 71 persons with a visual impairment).
- 159 (117 women; 42 men) out of 183 (87 %) persons with disabilities **self-reported having serous medical conditions** such as chronic, non-communicable and other diseases.



- Serious medical conditions are prevalent among 90 % of respondents aged 60 years and older.
- In total **38 persons with disabilities self-reported difficulties with accessing medical services.**



- Out of 183 refugees who have difficulties in one or more functional domains, **47 (representing 26 %) have a disability certificate issued in Ukraine**. All of them indicated suffering from a serious medical condition. 11 respondents claimed difficulties encountering accessing medical services having a disability certification.

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Anxiety and Depression

The findings of the enhanced questions of Washington Group related to psychosocial functioning indicate **that 55 % of the respondents experience feeling of anxiety, worry and nervousness either daily (33 %) or on a weekly basis (22 %).** 53 % of them reported experiencing high levels of these feelings. **73% of persons with disabilities reported having such feelings**. Among the interviewed refugees from Ukraine, women experienced anxiety and nervousness 4 times more frequently than men.

Such feelings are prevalent among individuals aged 60 and older, with 80% expressing having anxiety, worry and nervousness during the interviews.

190 interviewed refugees from Ukraine (21 %) felt depressed on daily (13 %) and weekly (8 %) basis whereas 105 respondents described such feelings as 'a lot'. Interviewed women more often felt depressed than men. 479 (52 %) respondents answered that they NEVER felt depressed.

Distribution of ALL respondents by reported anxiety, nervousness and depression on a constant basis

	18-29	30-49	50-59	60-69	70-79	80-89	90+
% of total respondents by age group who reported **ANXIETY**	33%	51%	65%	66%	57%	73%	75%
% of total respondents by age group who reported **DEPRESSION**	13%	18%	20%	32%	15%	37%	0%

Distribution of respondents with difficulties in functional domains by reported anxiety, nervousness and depression on a constant basis

	18-29	30-49	50-59	60-69	70-79	80-89	90+
% of total respondents by age group who reported **ANXIETY**	20%	81%	83%	77%	63%	76%	67%
% of total respondents by age group who reported **DEPRESSION**	0%	44%	28%	42%	23%	48%	0%

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Employment situation*

- 84 % of respondents do not currently employed in Moldova.
- 5 out of 90 interviewed persons with disabilities have a job now (only 2 reported having an official employment).

Data analysis offers a more comprehensive understanding of the low employment rates among refugees. While one aspect involves older individuals being unable to work due to a lack of empowerment, the other aspect involves a range of barriers that both older individuals and those with disabilities encounter.

⇒ **Aging, Disabilities and Health issues:** A significant number of respondents, particularly pensioners, citied age as a factor limiting their ability to work. Certain respondents highlighted disabilities or health concerns obstacles to employment.

⇒ **Disabilities in the 18-59 Age Group:** Working-age individuals (18-59) with disabilities encounter employment barriers, highlighting the urgency of implementing inclusive job strategies.

*610 respondents were interviewed regarding their employment status

'I have diabetes, I often go to Ukraine for insulin and examinations, it is difficult to find a job with such a schedule

- Woman, 40 years old, Ocnita

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THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

For any questions please contact:

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