



KEY FINDINGS
based on OHCHR Protection Monitoring
January – February 2024

WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE 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 - March 2024

Background and methodology:

In July 2023, OHCHR in Moldova started protection monitoring as part of a 12-month project funded by the European Union Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid. OHCHR focuses on systematically identifying those 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 refugees, including the most vulnerable groups, on both banks of the Nistru river. To ensure wide geographical coverage, interviews are conducted each month in the northern, center, and southern regions of Moldova, including the Transnistrian region.

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

Respondents' profile

In January and February 2024, **OHCHR interviewed 222 refugees from Ukraine.**

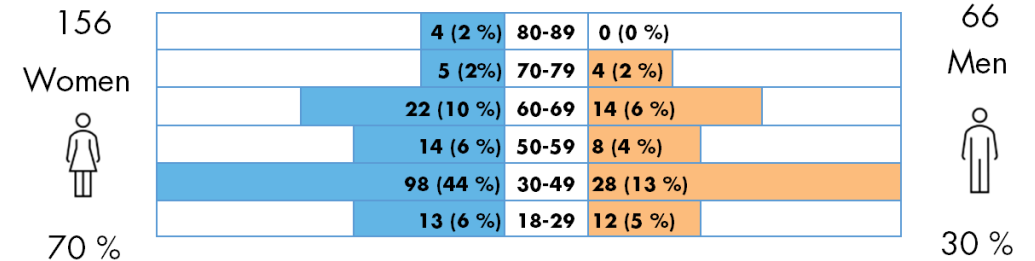
• **Gender:** 156 women and 66 men.

• **Age:** The majority aged 30-49 (57 %), followed by 60-69 (16 %).

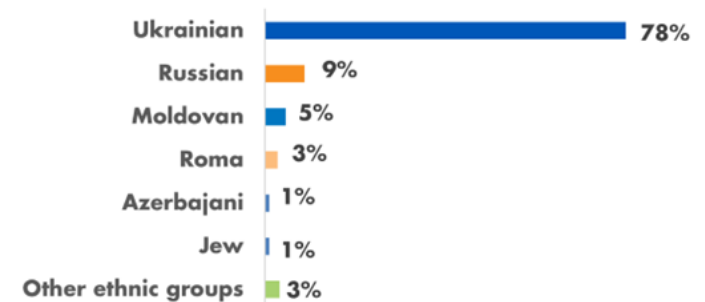
• **Geography:** 64% reside in the right bank and 36% in the left bank of the Nistru river.

• **Housing:** Most respondents primarily rent housing independently.

Distribution of respondents by age group and gender









Distribution of respondents by their self-identification of ethnicity



Identification persons with disabilities

9 % (n=21) were identified as persons with disabilities based on the Washington Group Short Set of Questions*.

					
3 % Visual	0.5 % Hearing	6 % Mobility	1 % Cognitive*	0.5 % Self-care	0 % Communication

1 % 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

Distribution of respondents with disabilities by age group

11
Women



7 %

1 (25 %)	3 (75 %)	80-89	0	
4 (80 %)	1 (20 %)	70-79	1 (75 %)	3 (25 %)
20 (91 %)	2 (9 %)	60-69	5 (36 %)	9 (64 %)
13 (93 %)	1 (7 %)	50-59	2 (25 %)	6 (75 %)
95 (97 %)	3 (3 %)	30-49	1 (4 %)	27 (96 %)
12 (92 %)	1 (8 %)	18-29	1 (8 %)	11 (92 %)

10 Men



15 %

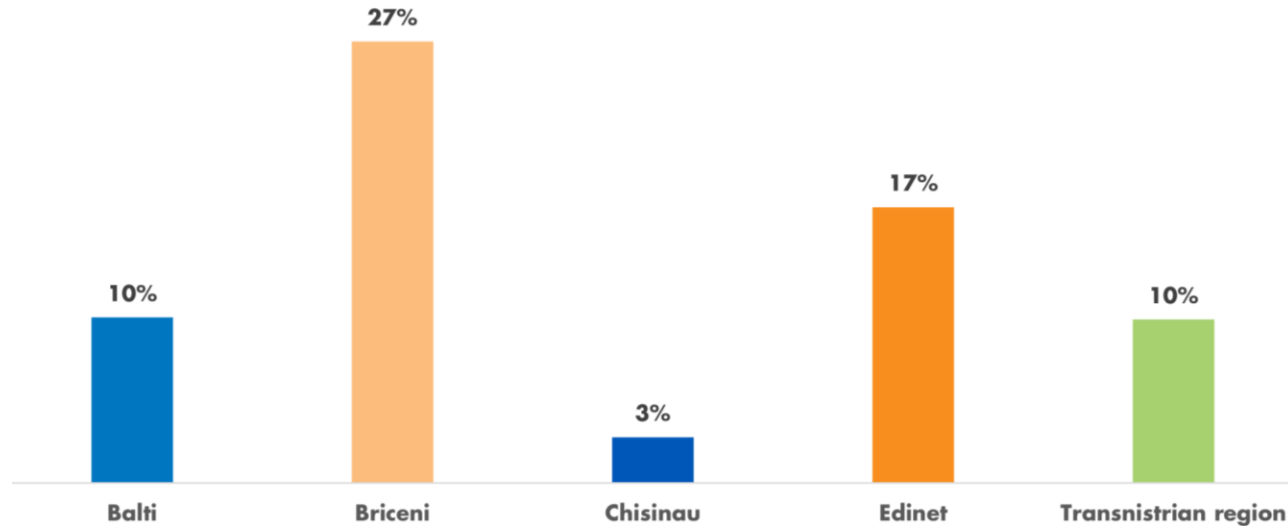
	WITHOUT DISABILITY
	WITH DISABILITY

- 7% of women and 15% of men among the 222 interviewed refugees reported having a disability, with a slightly higher prevalence among men.
- The 60-69 age group is the most represented among the 21 persons with disabilities, comprising 7 respondents, both men and women.
- Across all age groups, the most reported impairments among women and men were related to mobility and sight.

Distribution of respondents with disabilities by region



% of respondents with disabilities out of total respondents

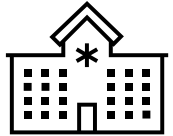


Data suggest that the rate of interviewed persons with disabilities is relatively the same in both the right (9 %) and left (10 %) banks of the Nistru river.

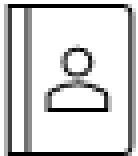
Needs / Experience with medical services in Moldova



- **Glasses are still needed** for 3 out of 6 interviewed persons with a visual impairment.
- 14 (7 women; 7 men) out of 21 (67 %) interviewed persons with disabilities **self-reported having serious medical conditions** such as chronic, non-communicable, and other diseases. Serious medical conditions are prevalent among 40 % of respondents aged 60 years and older.



- **6 persons with disabilities self-reported difficulties accessing medical services** (5 – primary healthcare in the right bank, 1 – secondary healthcare in the left bank).
- **10 out of 21 interviewed refugees with disabilities have a disability certificate issued in Ukraine** (4 women and 6 men), with 8 residing in the left bank of the Nistru river.



- 3 respondents from the left bank faced challenges with local medical facilities not consistently accepting their certificates, leading them to seek medical care in the right bank.
- 2 respondents from the left bank received free medicines due to their certificate.



Anxiety and Depression

Data reveal that **44 % of the respondents experienced feelings of anxiety, worry, and nervousness** (31 % of them experienced these feelings to a great extent), and **19 % felt depressed** on a daily or weekly basis (48 % of them in high intensity).

Notably, **interviewed refugees with disabilities reported significantly higher emotional distress, with 76% experiencing anxiety and 29 % feeling depressed.**

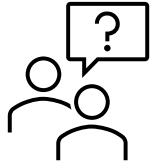
Additionally, **respondents aged 60 and over, especially women, showed a higher experience of anxiety and depression.**

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
% of total respondents by age group who reported ANXIETY	28%	40%	41%	56%	67%	100%
% of total respondents by age group who reported DEPRESSION	25%	11%	20%	28%	56%	25%

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
% of total respondents by age group who reported ANXIETY	100%	50%	75%	71%	100%	100%
% of total respondents by age group who reported DEPRESSION	50%	25%	33%	29%	50%	33%



Referrals received by OHCHR

- In January and February 2024, OHCHR received **18 referrals from refugees from Ukraine** interviewed, comprising 13 women and 5 men.
- Most referrals (**60%**) were from individuals **aged 60 and above**.
- 83 % of referrals were related to **health needs**, including requests for assistive devices like glasses and hearing aids, medical treatment, or specialist consultations.
- OHCHR greatly **appreciated the support** of Keystone, International Organization of Migration, Low Vision, CDPD, HelpAge, Zdoroviy Gorod, INTERSOS, and others in addressing the needs of the most vulnerable refugees from Ukraine.

OHCHR Monitoring Factsheet

Monitoring Factsheet issued monthly or bi-monthly, as well as on a semiannual basis.

Can be downloaded from the Operational Data Portal. Available in 3 languages – English, Romanian, and Russian.

[Document - Ukraine Situation - Moldova: OHCHR Monitoring Factsheet November-December 2023 \(EN\)](https://www.unhcr.org/document/ukraine-situation-moldova-ohchr-monitoring-factsheet-november-december-2023-en)
([unhcr.org](https://www.unhcr.org))

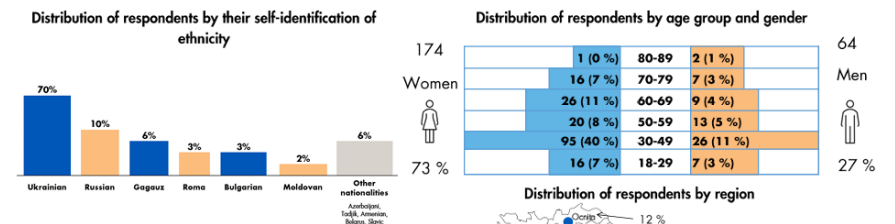
For downloading OHCHR Monitoring Factsheet for November-December 2023 (EN), please scan the QR code:



Background and methodology: In July 2023, UN Human Rights (OHCHR) in Moldova started protection monitoring as part of a 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. Since the distribution of localities changes from month to month, it may not always be possible to compare data between different rounds of data collection. The analysis presented in the Factsheet refers to the respondents of the month for which it is published, therefore data may not always be representative of the refugee population as a whole. In addition, data reflects the self-reporting by respondents. OHCHR analyses the data, taking into account the existing legal framework and contextual information.

PROFILE OF RESPONDENTS

In November and December 2023, OHCHR interviewed 238 refugees from Ukraine (73 % women; 27 % men). 236 of them were Ukrainian nationals and 2 respondents were Third-Country nationals (1 – Tajikistan, 1 – Azerbaijan). Respondents reside in various northern, southern, central regions of Moldova, including the Transnistrian region, as indicated in the map below. The largest age group among the interviewed refugees was 30-49 years old, comprising 51 % of the respondents. Respondents from the Transnistrian region stated that their primary reasons for choosing to stay there were the presence of family and friends and the proximity to Ukraine. It was found that those who self-identified as ethnic Russians predominantly live in the Transnistrian region, while ethnic Gagauz and Bulgarian live in UTA Gagauzia. Interviewed refugees on the left bank of Nistru River show a stronger reliance on support from relatives or close friends for free accommodation (54%). Moreover, a notable proportion of refugees on both banks opt for self-rented accommodation (39% on the right bank and 31% on the left bank), indicating a common preference for independent living arrangements. A significant majority of respondents (59 %) arrived to Moldova with children, while 21 % arrived alone.



THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

For any questions please contact:

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