



UNITED NATIONS  
**HUMAN RIGHTS**  
OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER



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European Union  
Civil Protection and  
Humanitarian Aid

# **KEY FINDINGS**

## ***based on OHCHR Protection Monitoring September - October 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 - November 2023

# 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.

# Respondents' profile

In September and October 2023, **OHCHR interviewed 376 refugees from Ukraine** (267 women; 109 men).

80 % of respondents residing in the right bank of Nistru river and 20% - on the left bank of Nistru river.

**16 % (n=60) of them are identified as persons with disabilities** based on Washington Group Short Set of Questions\*.

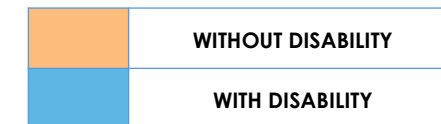
					
7 % Visual	1 % Hearing	9 % Mobility	2 % Cognition*	2 % Self-care	1 % Communication

**4 %** 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



45  
Women



17 %

		90+	2 (67 %)	1 (33 %)
4 (50 %)	4 (50 %)	80-89	1 (50 %)	1 (50 %)
10 (44 %)	13 (56 %)	70-79	2 (33 %)	4 (67 %)
31 (63 %)	18 (37 %)	60-69	4 (15 %)	23 (85 %)
37 (90 %)	4 (10 %)	50-59	1 (7 %)	13 (93 %)
109 (95 %)	6 (5 %)	30-49	3 (7 %)	38 (93 %)
29 (100 %)		18-29	2 (13 %)	14 (87 %)
2 (100 %)		0-17	0	

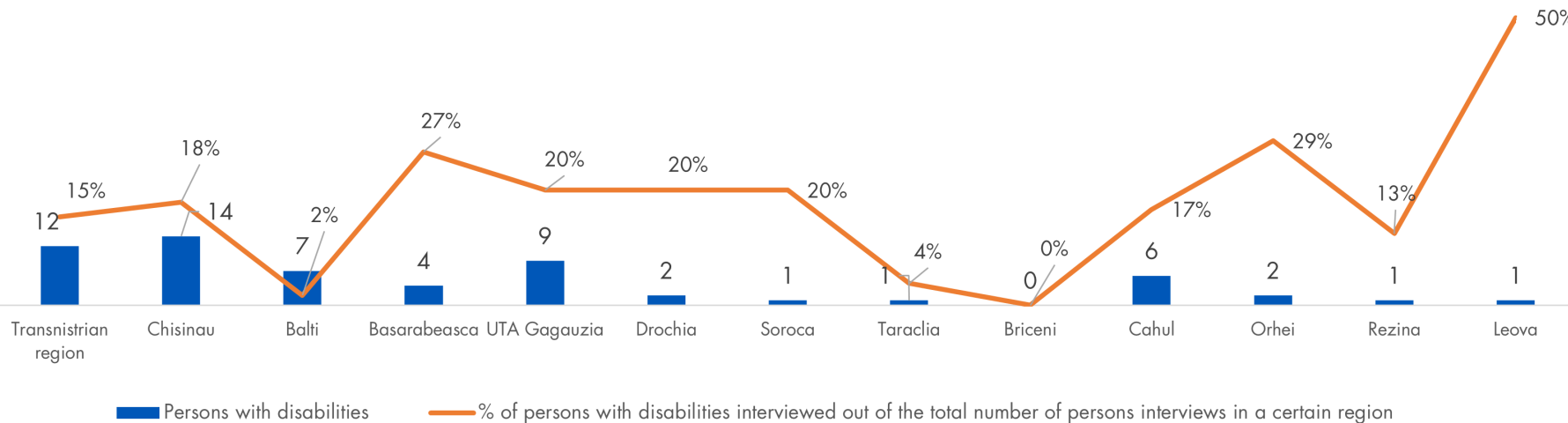
15 Men



14 %

- ⇒ 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 slight higher prevalence among interviewed women, specifically in October.
- ⇒ No correlation was found between ethnicity and disability.
- ⇒ The 60% of persons with disabilities are hosted for free by relatives or close friends, which can signify that they may receive more support in their daily activities and expenses.

# Distribution of respondents with disabilities by region

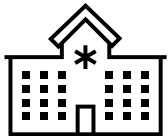


- The largest number of persons with disabilities were interviewed in Chisinau; and this makes up for the 18% of the respondents in the region.
- OHCHR interviewed 15% of persons with disabilities out of the respondents living on the both banks of Nistru river.

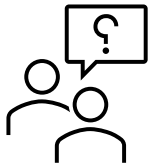
# Needs / Experience with medical services in Moldova



- **Glasses is the most common needs** (for 11 out of 28 persons with a visual impairment).
- 57 (42 women;15 men) out of 60 (95 %) persons with disabilities **self-reported having serious medical conditions** such as chronic, non-communicable and other diseases.



- Serious medical conditions are prevalent among 81% of respondents aged 60 years and older.
- In total **12 persons\* with disabilities self-reported difficulties with accessing medical services:** Emergency care – 2 claims, Primary care – 6 claims, Secondary – 10 claims.



- Out of 60 refugees who have difficulties in one or more functional domains, **17 (representing 28 %) have a disability certificate issued in Ukraine.** All of them indicated suffering from a serious medical condition. 8 respondents confirmed that this certificate allowed them to fully or partially access the needed medical services in Moldova. 5 respondents mentioned that their certificate did not grant them access to necessary medical services, without providing specific details. 4 respondents did not report any difficulties with accessing needed services.

*\*some respondents faced difficulties with more than one medical services*

# 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 %)**. 60 % of them reported experiencing high levels of these feelings. **87 % of persons with disabilities reported having such feelings**. Among the interviewed refugees from Ukraine, women experienced anxiety and nervousness 1.8 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.

**67 interviewed refugees from Ukraine (18 %) felt depressed on daily (9 %) and weekly (9 %) basis** whereas 40 respondents described such feelings as 'a lot'. Interviewed women more often felt depressed than men. 211 (56 %) 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+
Anxiety	16	77	34	51	19	6	3
Depression	3	28	7	23	5	1	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+
Anxiety	2	9	5	20	11	3	2
Depression	1	14	3	17	5	1	0

# Employment situation

- 85 % of respondents do not currently employed in Moldova.
- 4 out of 60 interviewed persons with disabilities have a job now (only 2 reported having an official employment).

Data analysis provides a broader perspective on the low employment rates among refugees. On the one hand, older people cannot work due to the fact that they do not feel empowered; on the other hand, there are a number of barriers that older people and persons with disabilities face.

- ⇒ **Aging and Disabilities:** 40% consists of individuals aged 60 and older, with a substantial portion of 43 individuals having disabilities. This highlights the unique challenges faced by older individuals, especially those with disabilities, in accessing job opportunities.
- ⇒ **Disabilities in the 18-59 Age Group:** 3% of working-age individuals (18-59) with disabilities encounter employment barriers, highlighting the urgency of implementing inclusive job strategies.

*“Who needs me at my age, I want to work, I do not have enough money.”*

- Man, 62 years old, Taraclia

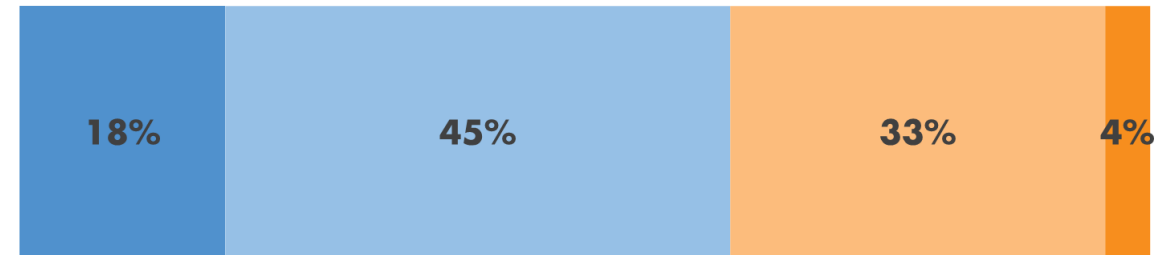
*“I was denied a cleaning position to avoid conflicts in the team.*

*This characterizes the attitude towards refugees from Ukraine. Additionally, the locals do not want us to take away their jobs.”*



## Social cohesion

Interestingly to note that all persons with disabilities reported quite good level of relationships between locals and refugees from Ukraine.



■ Very good ■ Good ■ Neutral ■ Prefer not to answer

*“Many pensioners in Moldova also live in poverty and they also need assistance.”*

- Woman, 72 years old, Chisinau

*“There are a good relations to us [refugees from Ukraine] at the library and pharmacy.”*

- Woman, 69 years old, Briceni

**THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR ATTENTION!**

For any questions please contact:

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