



UNITED NATIONS
HUMAN RIGHTS
OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER



Funded by
European Union
Civil Protection and
Humanitarian Aid

KEY FINDINGS
based on OHCHR Protection Monitoring
March – May 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 DNIESTER/NISTRU RIVER RIVER”

Moldova – July 2024

Background and methodology:

In July 2023, OHCHR in Moldova started protection monitoring as part of a 18-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.

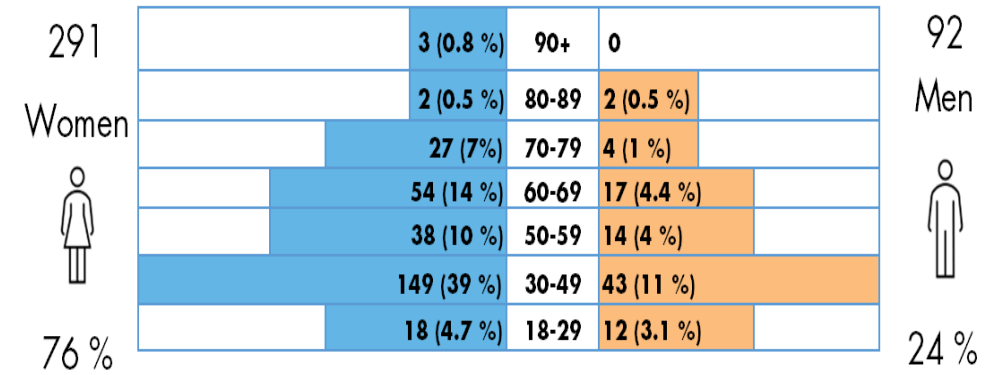
OHCHR's methodology consists of individual interviews with refugees from Ukraine and host community members. Respondents are reached through the facilitation of international and national NGOs and local CSOs that work with the refugees, including the most vulnerable groups, on both banks of the Dniester/Nistru River 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 March - May 2024, **OHCHR interviewed 383 refugees from Ukraine.**







- Gender:** 291 women and 92 men.
- Age:** The majority aged 30-49 (50%), followed by 60-69 (19 %).
- Geography:** 72 % reside on the Right bank and 18% on the Left bank of the Dniester/Nistru River river.
- Housing:** Refugees interviewed on both banks of the Dniester/Nistru River mainly rented housing at their own cost, with a higher percentage on the Left bank being hosted for free by locals than on the Right bank.



Among refugees with disabilities, 24 % pay for their accommodation, while 53 % rely on the support of friends or relatives for free housing. Additionally, 10 % are hosted by community members, and 13 % reside in RACs.

Identification of persons with disabilities

10 % (n=38) were identified as persons with disabilities based on the Washington Group Short Set of Questions*.

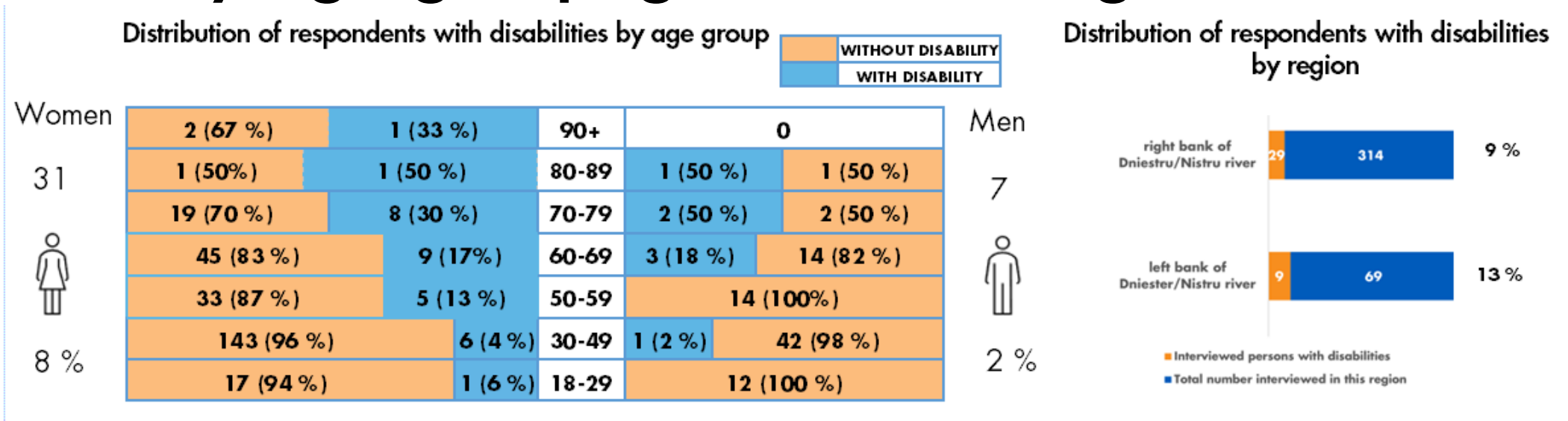
5 persons (1 %) Seeing	3 persons (1 %) Hearing	28 persons (7%) Mobility	5 persons (1%) Cognition**	2 persons (0.5%) Self-care	No one (0 %) Communication
					

*counted according to WG recommendations using cut-off for answers of lot of difficulties or 'cannot do it all' where there are 4 persons with several impairments.

** In the Washington Short Set of Questions the cognitive domain includes only remembering and concentrating on functioning

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

Distribution of respondents with disabilities by age group, gender and region

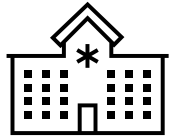


- 8 % of women and 2 % of men among the 383 interviewed refugees reported having a disability, with a slightly higher prevalence among women.
- The 60-69 and 70-79 age groups are the most represented among the 38 persons with disabilities, comprising 22 respondents, both men and women.
- Across all age groups, the most reported impairments among women and men were related to mobility and vision.

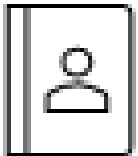
Experience with access to medical services in Moldova



- **32 %** (124 respondents out of 383, including 96 women and 28 men) **reported suffering from serious medical conditions.** These health issues affect 30 % of respondents residing on the Left bank of the Dniester/Nistru River and 43 % of those on the Right bank. The conditions primarily include chronic and non-communicable diseases, with a significant focus on cardiovascular and musculoskeletal systems. Among **interviewed persons with disabilities, 92 % reported suffering from serious medical conditions.** The prevalence of these conditions is consistent across gender, with similar rates reported by both women and men. However, the impact is particularly pronounced among older persons, with 65 % of respondents aged 60 years and older reporting serious medical conditions.



- Out of the 38 interviewed refugees with disabilities, **13 (10 women and 3 men) have a disability certificate issued in Ukraine.** Among these, 4 individuals reside on the Left bank of the Dniester/Nistru River and 9 are on the Right bank. All respondents from the Left bank faced significant challenges in accessing medical services using their disability certificate, indicating systemic issues in the recognition or facilitation of these certificates in the Transnistrian region. Conversely, respondents on the Right bank, particularly in ATU Gagauzia and Chisinau, reported better access to humanitarian assistance and medicines due to having a disability certificate.





Anxiety and Depression

Data reveal that **51 % of the respondents experienced feelings of anxiety, worry, and nervousness** (39 % of them experienced these feelings at high intensity), and **24 % felt depressed** on a daily or weekly basis (48 % of them in high intensity). **Refugees with disabilities reported significantly higher emotional distress, with 76% experiencing anxiety and 37 % feeling depressed.**

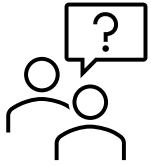
Additionally, **respondents aged 60 and over, especially women, showed a higher experience of anxiety and depression.**

Distribution of respondents with anxiety and depression by age group

	18-29	30-49	50-59	60-69	70-79	80-89	90+
% of total respondents by age group who reported ANXIETY	30%	43%	58%	62%	81%	50%	67%
% of total respondents by age group who reported DEPRESSION	7%	21%	27%	30%	32%	25%	33%

24 %
Affect***

Data reveals that **24 %** of interviewed refugees from Ukraine have **difficulties with the affect domain.**



Requests for referrals received by OHCHR

- In March - May 2024, OHCHR received **40 requests for referrals from refugees from Ukraine** (34 women and 6 men).
- Most requests for referrals (**75%**) were from individuals **aged 50 and above, with 17 requests from individuals 60 and above.**
- 63 % of referrals were related to **health needs**, including requests for medicine, assistive devices (walking sticks, glasses, and hearing aids, and medical treatment).
- OHCHR greatly **appreciated the support** of Keystone, IOM, WHO, Low Vision, CDPD, Zdoroviy Gorod, OSORC, 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.

It can be downloaded from the Operational Data Portal or Relief Web.

Available in 3 languages – English, Romanian, and Russian.

[Document - Ukraine Situation - Moldova : OHCHR Monitoring Factsheet January-February 2024 \(EN\)](https://www.unhcr.org/document/ukraine-situation-moldova-ohchr-monitoring-factsheet-january-february-2024-en)
[unhcr.org](https://www.unhcr.org)

For downloading OHCHR Monitoring Factsheet for January-February 2024 (EN), please scan the QR code:

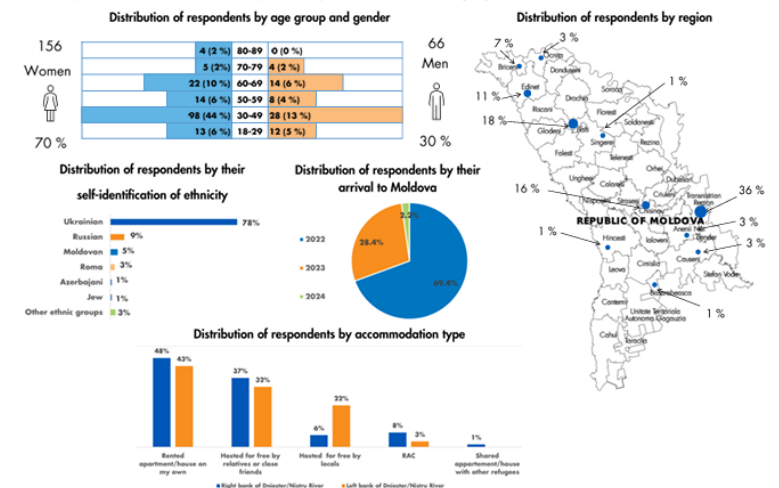


Moldova Monitoring Fact Sheet January–February 2024

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 refugees from Ukraine, including the most vulnerable groups, in both banks of Dniester/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 January and February 2024, OHCHR interviewed 222 refugees from Ukraine (70 % women and 30 % men). 220 of them were Ukrainian nationals, and 2 were third-country nationals (1 Russian and 1 Azerbaijani). Respondents reside in various northern, southern, and central regions of Moldova, including the Transnistrian region, as indicated in the map below. The predominant age group among the interviewed refugees was 30-49 years, representing 57 % of respondents, followed by the 60-69 age group, with the 16 % equally represented by women and men. 59 % of the interviewed refugees arrived to Moldova with their children, while 27 % came alone, with one-third of this group being individuals aged 60+. Data indicate no correlation between ethnicity and places of residence. Refugees interviewed in both banks of Dniester/Nistru River mainly rent housing at their own cost, with a higher percentage on the left bank being hosted for free by locals than the right bank. Most respondents (69 %) arrived to Moldova in 2022, while others have more recently chosen Moldova as host country, with 2 % new arrivals in the first two months of 2024. The findings indicate that 99 % of respondents speak Russian, 91 % speak Ukrainian, 10 % speak Romanian, and 3 % (all interviewed Roma) speak Romani. Thus, 69% of respondents speak more than one language.



THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

For any questions please contact:

Martina Gastaldello – Human Rights Officer

E-mail: martina.gastaldello@un.org

Mobile: +373 60393899