

Protection Community Profiling Chişinău, Republic of Moldova¹

December 2025

Key Findings - Chişinău City Profile

- **Demographic Profile:** The respondent profile was predominantly female (79%) and largely concentrated among working-age groups (50% aged 35–59 years old). Respondents were mostly Ukrainian nationals, with only a small share reporting dual citizenship (2%).
- **Legal Status & Intentions:** Temporary Protection remained the dominant legal status (91%), indicating continued reliance on this framework. Future intentions were mixed: while some planned to remain in Moldova (33%), over a quarter intended to return to Ukraine (27%) and a share remained undecided (20%), reflecting sustained uncertainty.
- **Housing:** Housing arrangements were primarily market-based, with most respondents renting privately (58%). Despite this, financial strain was evident, as over half reported covering both rent and utilities (54%).
- **Income & Social Protection:** Economic self-reliance remained limited, with less than one-third employed or self-employed (30%). Financial assistance constituted the most reported income source across both primary (38%) and secondary income (56%), exceeding employment as a primary source (28%) and indicating continued reliance on external support.
- **Healthcare & Education:** Access to essential services appeared relatively stable. Most respondents reported no barriers to healthcare (74%), and school enrolment among children was high (76%). However, access to childcare was slightly lower (62%), suggesting remaining service gaps.
- **Community Participation:** Although a strong majority reported feeling accepted in their communities (93%), 67% of respondents reported that they participated in none of the community activities (67%) pointing to a gap between perceived social inclusion and active community engagement.

Methodology:

This assessment relied on a quantitative method approach, using non-probability sampling. Data collection was conducted, in the form of **structured household-level surveys, between 20 October and 5 November 2025 in Chişinău, Moldova.**

Overall, 532 **surveys were conducted** by phone, pand in person in public spaces, the UNHCR Cash Center, at a respondent's residence, and/or in a community service center/assistance or information point/Blue Dot. The sample size for refugee households in this factsheet is n=532, unless otherwise specified.

Limitations:

Representativeness: Due to the absence of an official record of the exact number and geographic distribution of Ukrainian refugees in Chişinău, the sampling framework relied on the contact list provided by UNHCR. Consequently, purposive, non-probability sampling was applied. As a result, the findings are not statistically representative of the entire population and should be considered indicative.

Data completeness: Data inconsistencies and missing values were reviewed with enumerators where feasible; however, some could not be verified. Adjustments during data cleaning resulted in certain follow-up questions being administered to a reduced subset of respondents. Minor revisions to aid-related variables were informed by qualitative interviews, while awareness indicators remain self-reported.

Context & Rationale

As of 1 December 2025, cumulatively a total of 85,051 individuals are Temporary Protection holders in Moldova².

To support more targeted planning, Community Profiling assessments were launched to collect localized, area-based data on living conditions, access to services, community participation, and specific needs.

Conducted in Comrat, Bălţi, and Chişinău, these profiles provide the analytical foundation for developing Local Action Plans (LAPs) under UNHCR's Cities of Solidarity initiative.

Cities of Solidarity is a localization framework that equips municipalities, civil society, and refugee communities to lead inclusion efforts. Each LAP transforms the community profile evidence base into a curated, cost-estimated portfolio of projects aligned with local development priorities and national strategies, including the National Development Plan and the Mechanism for the Phased Integration of Foreigners.

By spatializing needs and identifying service gaps, this approach helps channel investments where they are most impactful—strengthening local leadership, generating shared dividends for both refugees and host communities, and ensuring refugees are not left behind in Moldova's development path.

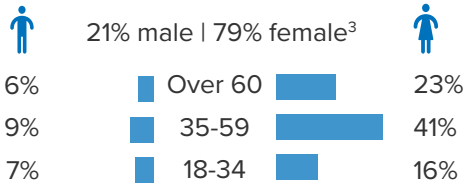
Disclaimer

The absence of specific indicators in this factsheet does not imply that their corresponding questions were excluded from the questionnaire. Rather, indicators with limited to no sample size were not included to allow for reliable analysis and representation within this publication.

¹ Henceforth referred to as "Moldova".

² UNHCR, [Temporary Protection Trends](#), accessed on 01 December 2025.

RESPONDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

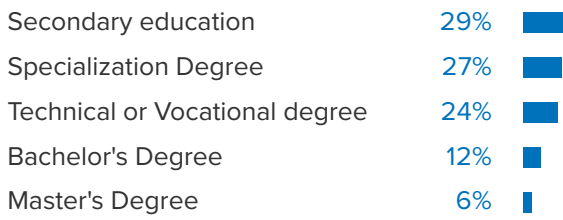


Respondents' citizenship⁴



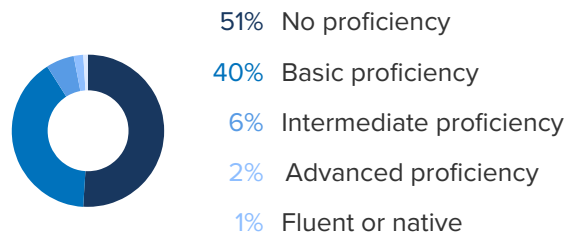
2% of respondents reported holding dual citizenship

% of respondents by highest level of education attained



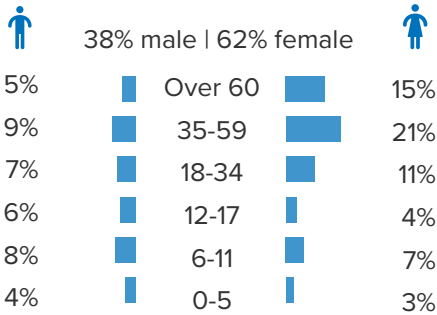
69% of respondents reported achieving higher education⁵

% of respondents by self-rated proficiency of Romanian at the time of data collection



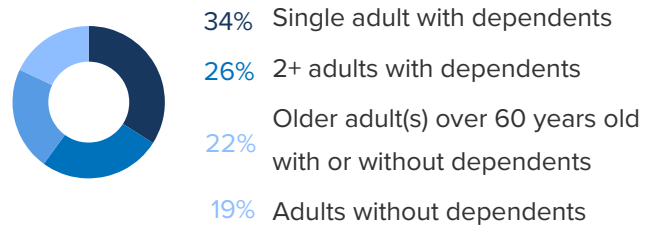
HOUSEHOLD CHARACTERISTICS

Household composition (1349 individuals among the 532 households surveyed)



Average household size: 2.5

Household composition³⁶

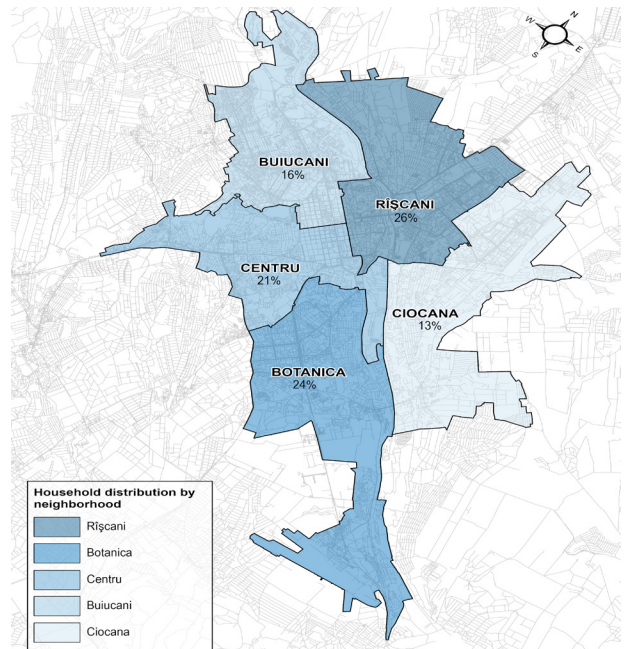
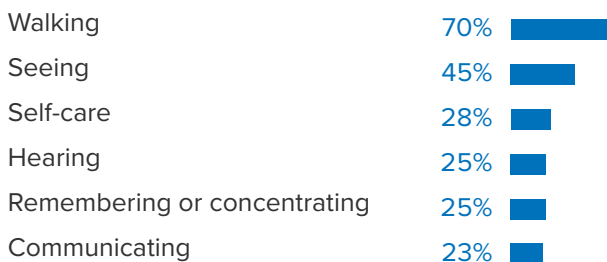


Specific needs

44% of households have at least one family member with serious medical conditions

20% of households have at least one family member with a disability⁷

% of households by areas of experienced difficulties (n=104)⁸



³ Results do not add up to 100% due to rounding up.

⁴ Multiple answers could be selected, therefore the sum of values may exceed 100%.

⁵ The higher education indicator includes respondents who reported having completed one of the following levels of education: Technical or Vocational education, Bachelor's degree, Specialization, Master's degree, Doctoral degree, or Senior doctoral degree.

⁶ Dependents refer to individuals who are either under 18 years old or over 60 years of age, and who rely on external support to sustain their daily activities and well-being.

⁷ Disability was not measured using the Washington Group questions, but was instead based on responses to the question: "Do you or any household member have difficulties walking, seeing, hearing, remembering, communicating, or with self-care (e.g., washing or dressing)?" Households reporting "a lot of difficulty" or "cannot do at all" were considered to include a person with a disability.

⁸ Among households with at least one person experiencing difficulties walking, seeing, hearing, remembering, communicating, or with self-care at the time of data collection

PROTECTION

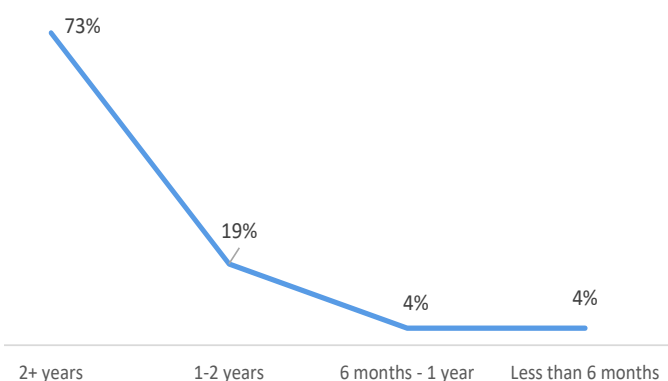
Top 4 legal statuses of respondents in Moldova at time of data collection

Temporary protection (TP) status	91%	<div style="width: 91%; height: 10px; background-color: #0070C0;"></div>
Citizen of host country	5%	<div style="width: 5%; height: 10px; background-color: #0070C0;"></div>
Long-term residence or visa	1%	<div style="width: 1%; height: 10px; background-color: #0070C0;"></div>
Applied for TP, awaiting decision	1%	<div style="width: 1%; height: 10px; background-color: #0070C0;"></div>

85% of respondents reported who did not hold or awaiting for temporary protection reported **ineligibility** as their reason for not applying. (n=40).

99% of respondents who held or awaiting for temporary protection (n=490) reported **not experiencing any difficulties during application or extension process.**

Timeline of applications for temporary protection, by month (n=490)

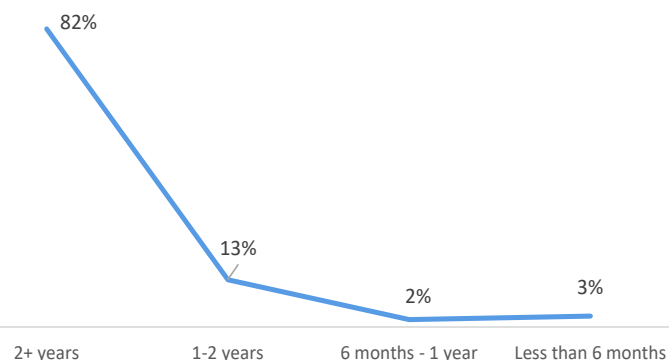


Top 5 reasons respondents reported for not applying for asylum or more permanent legal status, among those who held Temporary Protection or long-term residence permit at the time of data collection (n=493)⁹

Prefer to keep TP	30%	<div style="width: 30%; height: 10px; background-color: #0070C0;"></div>
Awaiting improvements in Ukraine	28%	<div style="width: 28%; height: 10px; background-color: #0070C0;"></div>
Undecided about applying	18%	<div style="width: 18%; height: 10px; background-color: #0070C0;"></div>
No additional support needed	11%	<div style="width: 11%; height: 10px; background-color: #0070C0;"></div>
Prefer not to answer	6%	<div style="width: 6%; height: 10px; background-color: #0070C0;"></div>

SITUATION IN HOST COUNTRY

Reported length of stay in host country at the time of data collection

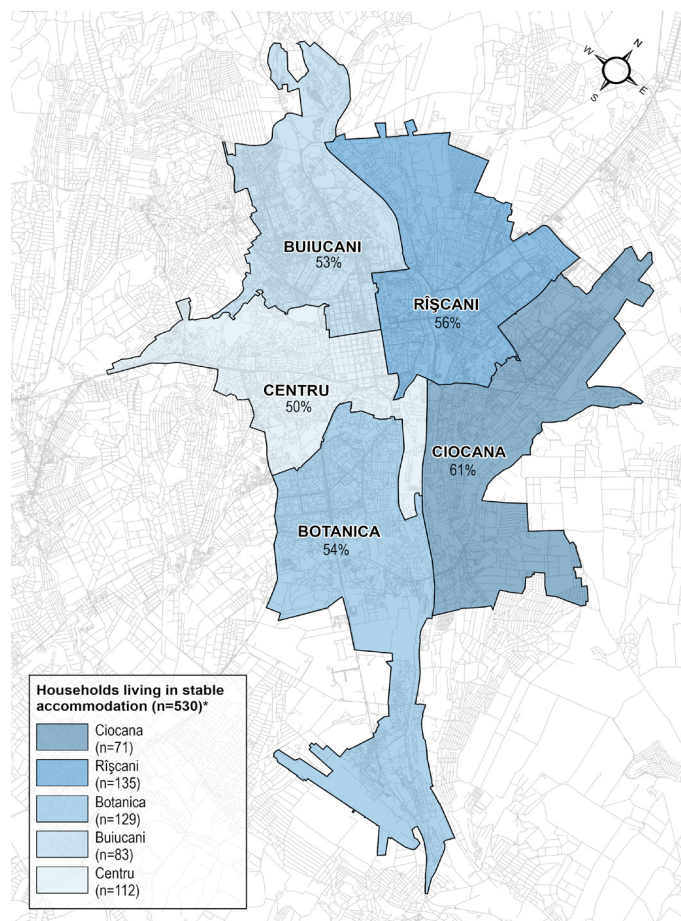


54% of respondents (n=530) live in **stable accommodation**¹⁰

Top 6 reported housing arrangements of households at the time of data collection

Private – rented apartment/house	56%	<div style="width: 56%; height: 10px; background-color: #0070C0;"></div>
Shared – hosted by relatives or friends	15%	<div style="width: 15%; height: 10px; background-color: #0070C0;"></div>
Shared – hosted by local family	8%	<div style="width: 8%; height: 10px; background-color: #0070C0;"></div>
Shared – rented with other households	8%	<div style="width: 8%; height: 10px; background-color: #0070C0;"></div>
Private – hosted free of charge	7%	<div style="width: 7%; height: 10px; background-color: #0070C0;"></div>
Collective accommodation	6%	<div style="width: 6%; height: 10px; background-color: #0070C0;"></div>

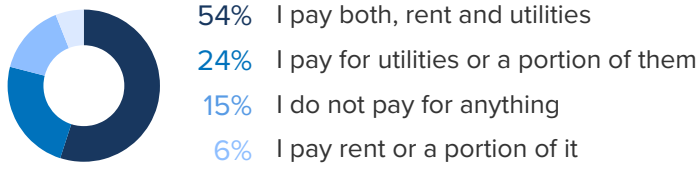
98% of respondents **did not have to leave their accommodation** in the 3 months prior to data collection



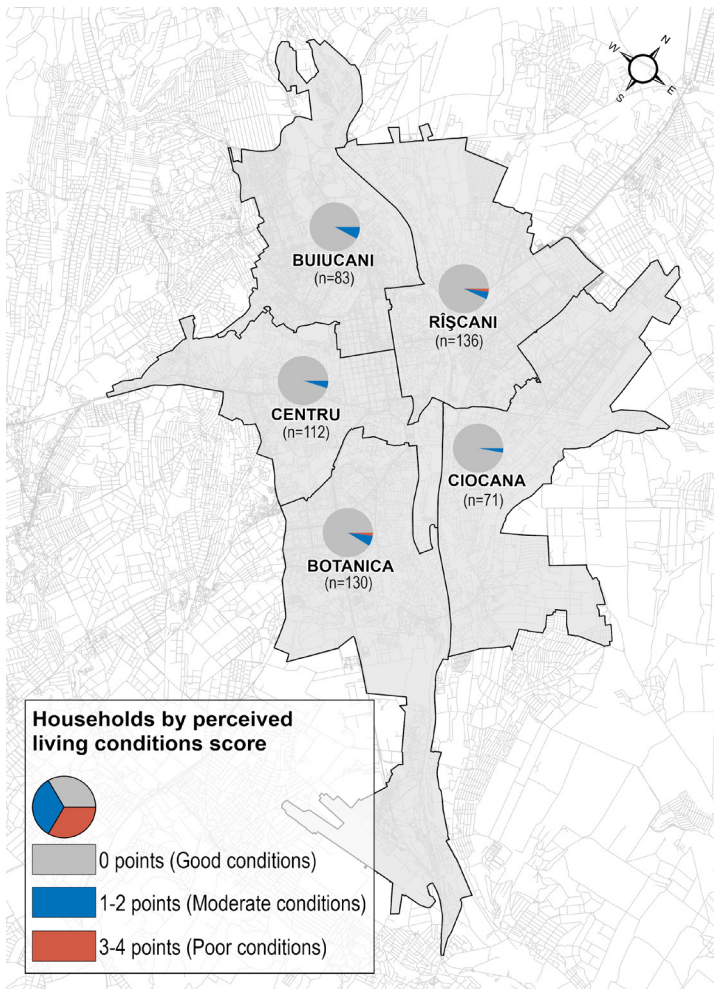
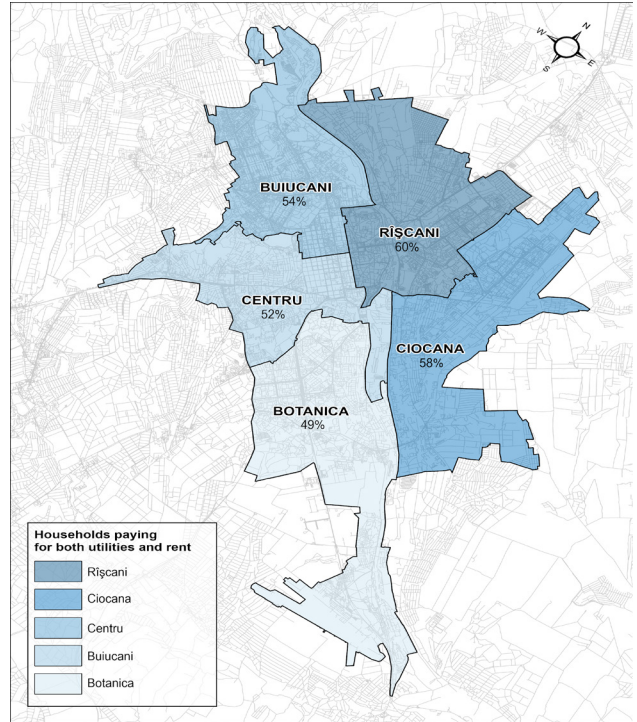
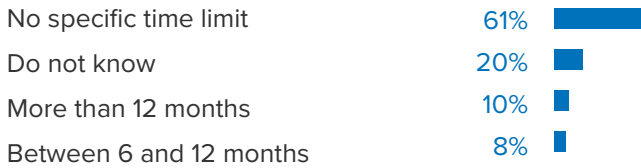
⁹ Multiple answers could be selected, therefore the sum of values may exceed 100%.

¹⁰ Stable housing refers to respondents living in their own property, in shared accommodation, or in privately rented housing with a formal rental contract.

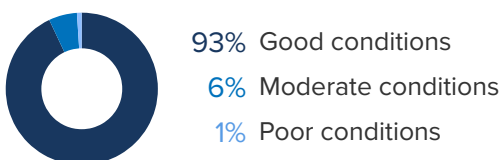
Households reported their financial arrangement of their current accommodation¹¹



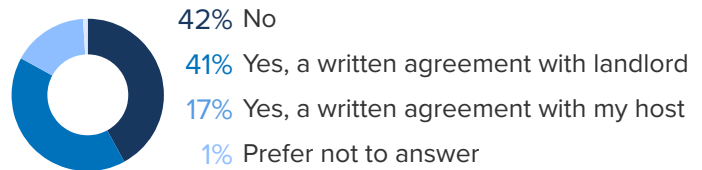
The length of time households can stay in their current accommodation



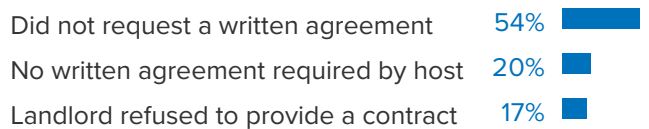
Living conditions of households' accommodation at the time of data collection¹³



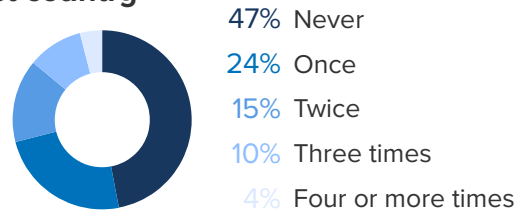
% of households with any formal document guaranteeing their right to stay in their accommodation at the time of data collection¹¹



Top 3 reasons for not having any formal documents, among those who do not have formal documents (n=89)¹²



Households who reported having to change their accommodation since their arrival in host country



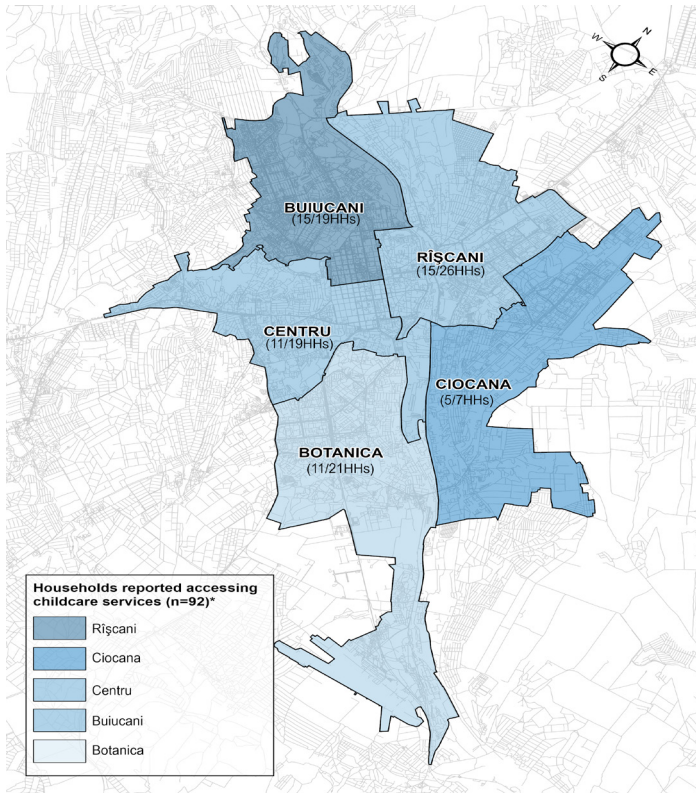
Among the 7% of households who reported encountering issues (n=36), following examples were reported:

- 3% reported poor ventilation
- 3% reported poor insulation
- 2% reported problems with plumbing, sewage, sanitation.

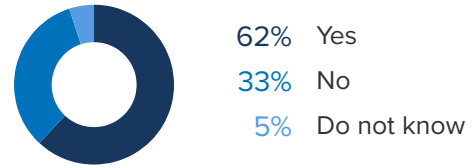
¹¹ Results do not add up to 100% due to rounding up.

¹² Multiple answers could be selected, therefore the sum of values may exceed 100%.

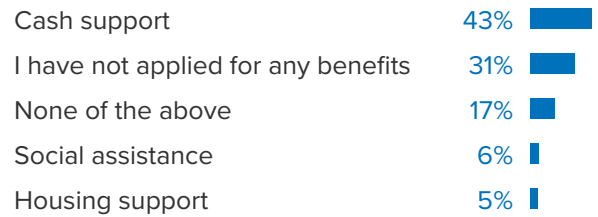
¹³ Living conditions were scored based on respondents' answers to the question: "Are there any issues with your current accommodation?" One point was assigned for each issue reported. Total scores were then classified as follows: 0 points – Good; 1–2 points – Moderate; 3–4 points – Poor; 5 or more points – Very Poor.



Households reporting being able to access childcare services, among households with children who have not reached the age of mandatory education (n=92)¹⁴

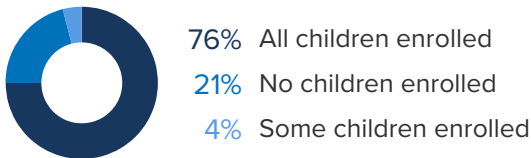


Top 5 social protection benefits households reported receiving from the host country government since arriving in Moldova¹⁵

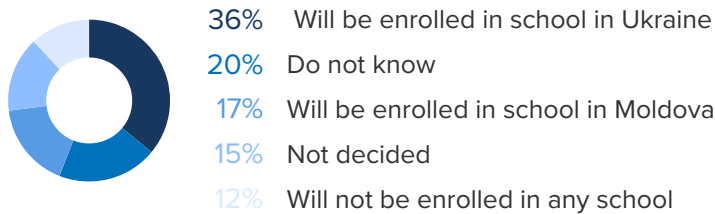


EDUCATION

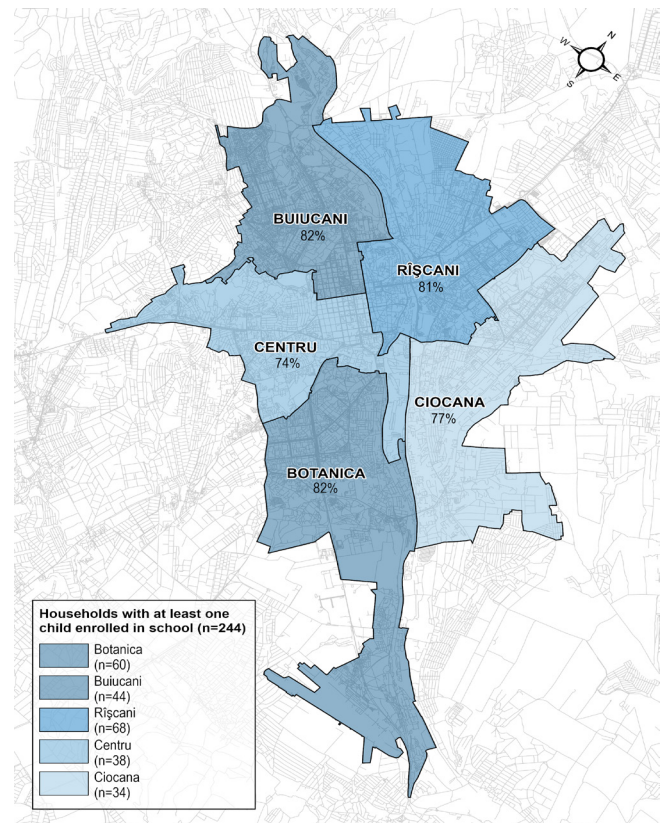
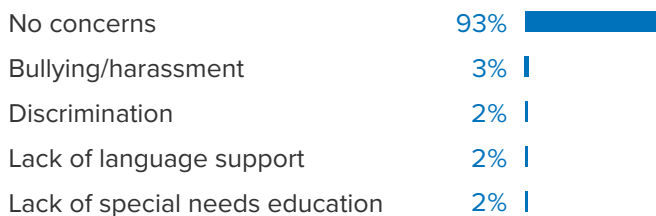
Households with school-aged children enrolled in a formal school in Moldova and attending it, among households with school-aged children (aged 7 - 19 y.o.)(n=244)¹⁶



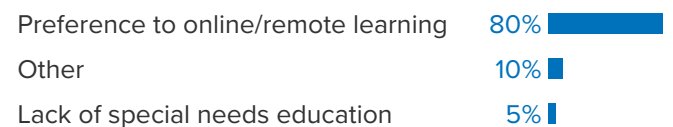
Households reported plans to enroll their children in the next academic year, among those who reported not having enrolled children (n=59)



Households reporting concerns related to children's access to or experience with education, among households with children (n=271)¹⁵



Top 3 barriers met enrolling children in formal education, among households who reported not having enrolled children (n=59)¹⁵



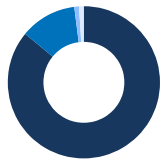
¹⁴ Inconsistencies identified in responses to these specific questions were addressed during data cleaning, resulting in reduced sample sizes.

¹⁵ Multiple answers could be selected, therefore the sum of values may exceed 100%.

¹⁶ Results do not add up to 100% due to rounding up.

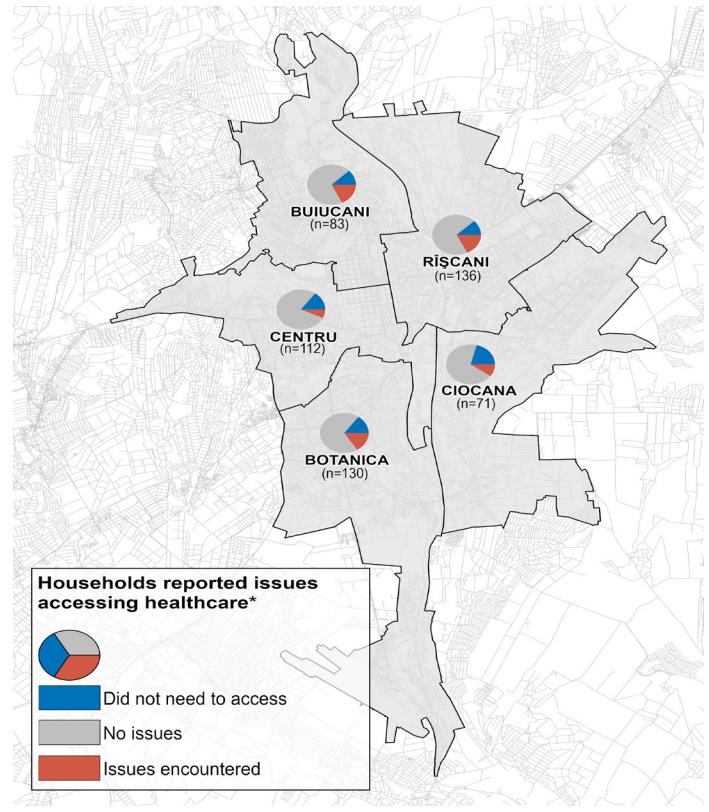
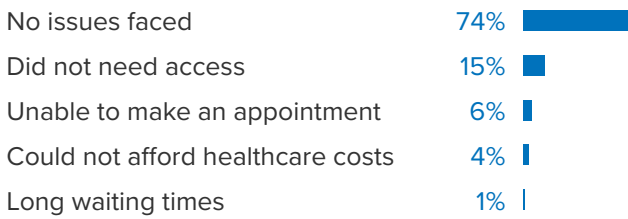
HEALTHCARE

% of respondents covered by public health insurance in Moldova



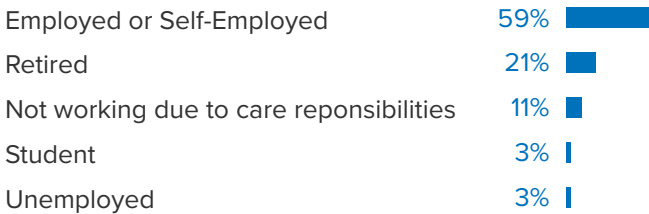
86% No, or I do not know if I am eligible
 12% Yes, covered by employer or state
 1% I do not know
 1% Yes, I pay my own contributions

% of respondents by issues faced when accessing healthcare services in Moldova at the time of data collection¹⁷

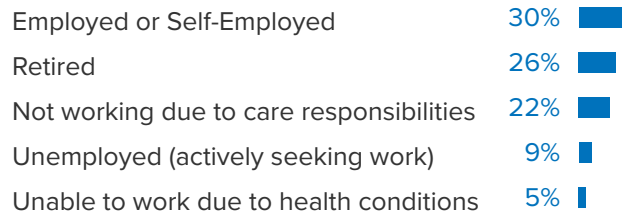


EMPLOYMENT & ECONOMIC ACTIVITY

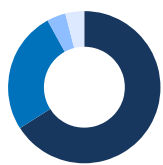
Top 5 main activities of respondents before leaving Ukraine



Top 5 main activities of respondents at the time of data collection



Employed respondents reporting a match between their job and formal qualifications (n=151)

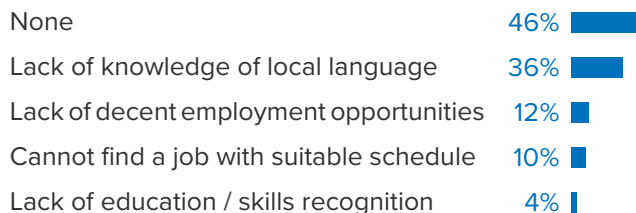


66% Yes, it matches
 26% No, my qualifications are higher
 4% No, my qualifications are lower
 4% Prefer not to answer

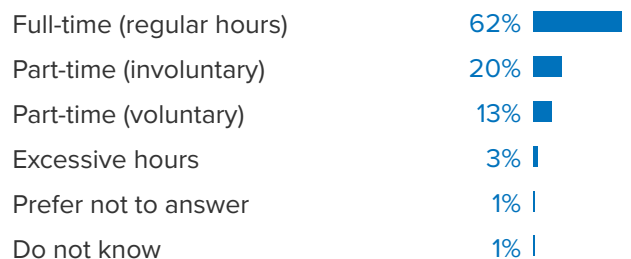
66% of respondents had a work contract with their employer, among those who reported being employed at the time of data collection (n=151)

94% of respondents have access to their earnings from employment, among those who reported being employed at the time of data collection (n=151)

Top 5 reported barriers to accessing employment, among those who reported being unemployed at the time of data collection (n=50)¹⁷

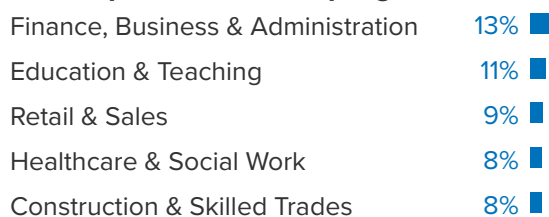


The working hours or workload of employed respondents at the time of data collection (n=151)

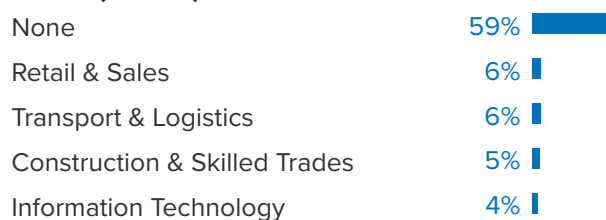


¹⁷ Multiple answers could be selected, therefore the sum of values may exceed 100%.

Top 5 sectors where respondents have relevant skills or experience that made them qualified for employment¹⁸

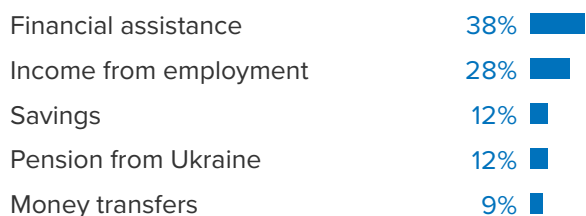


Top 5 fields or sectors household members are currently working in Moldova (n=531)^{18,19}



Among respondents who are currently unemployed in Moldova but reported previous employment in Ukraine (n=172), the most common fields of experience were Finance, Business and Administration and Healthcare and Social Work (both 13%), followed by Education and Teaching (13%). Experience in Retail and Sales (9%) and Personal Services and the Beauty Industry (8%) was also frequently reported.

Top 5 reported main sources of income by respondents

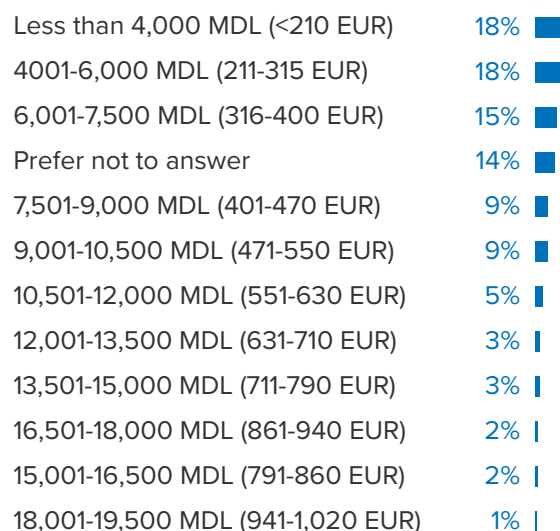


Top 5 reported secondary sources of income by respondents¹⁸

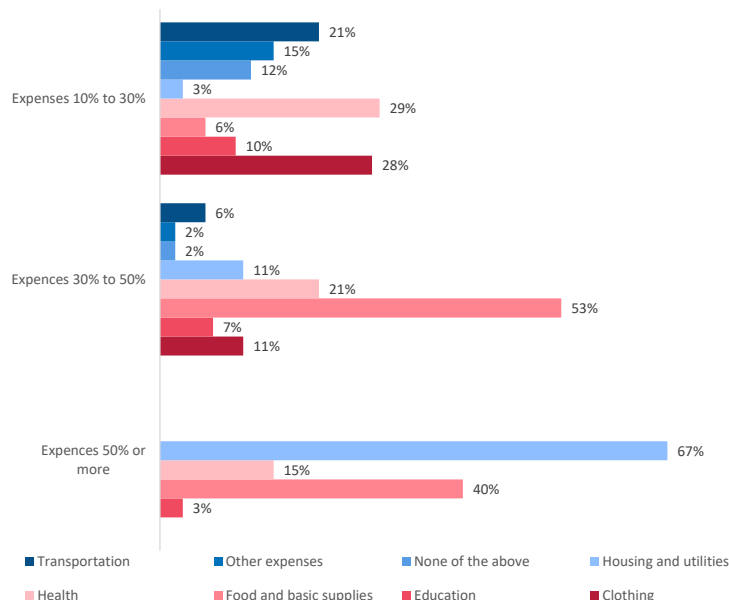


87% of households had 2-3 income sources at the time of data collection

Reported average monthly household income



Reported categories of household expenditure¹⁸

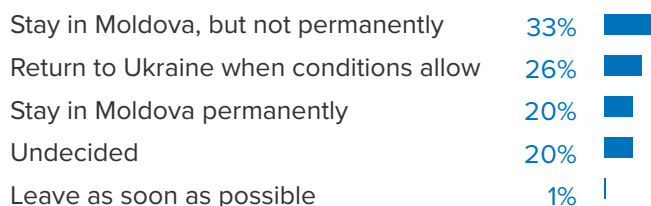


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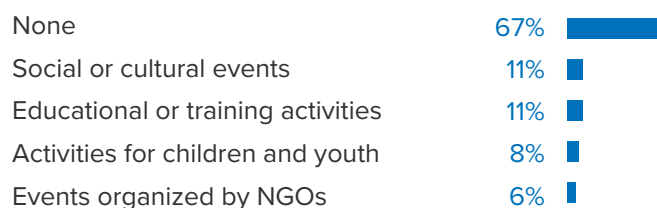
INTENTIONS & INTEGRATION

Reported intentions regarding respondents' stay in Moldova at the time of data collection

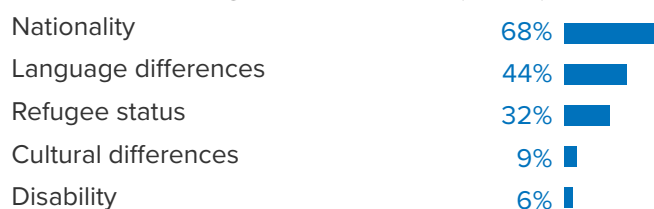


93% of respondents reported feeling welcomed and had never experienced any discrimination or hostility at the time of data collection

Top 5 events of the local community households participated in the 3 month prior to data collection²⁰

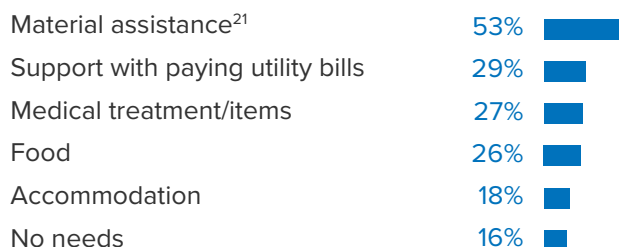


Top 5 reported reasons for experiencing discrimination or hostility, among those who reported feeling discriminated (n=34)²⁰



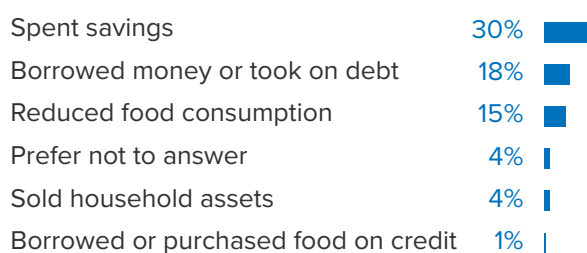
NEEDS AND COPING STRATEGIES

Top 6 most reported urgent needs at the time of data collection²⁰

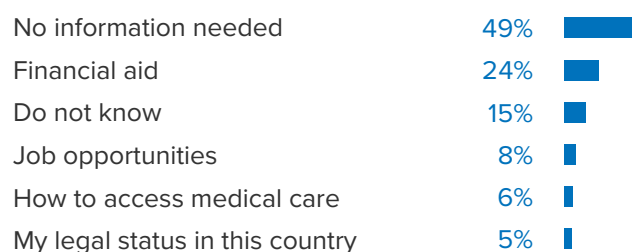


48% of respondents reported none of the coping strategies below

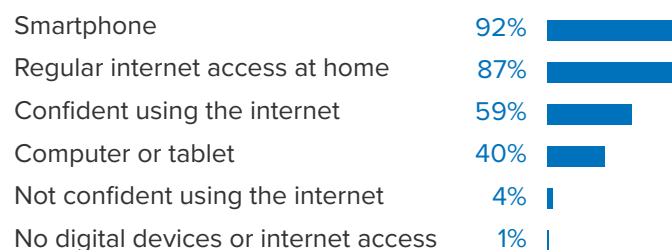
Top 6 selected coping strategies at the time of data collection²⁰



Top 6 most required type of information by respondents at the time of data collection²⁰



Access to digital tools and services at the time of data collection²⁰



²⁰ Multiple answers could be selected, therefore the sum of values may exceed 100%.

²¹ Material assistance includes clothes, hygiene products, and other household items.