

MAPPING OF ROMA REFUGEES

in the Republic of Moldova

INTRODUCTION

During June and July 2023, the **Roma Task Force** conducted a mapping exercise of the Roma refugee population in the Republic of Moldova[1]. Applying an Age, Gender, and Diversity (AGD) approach, the mapping aimed to gather comprehensive data on the location and numbers of Roma refugees throughout the country, as well as basic information regarding their intentions and needs. Given the general pattern of mobility within the Roma community, this type of periodic mapping is particularly important to understand population dynamics. Since the last mapping was undertaken in 2022, many Roma refugees have changed their locations and/or types of accommodation in Moldova, while others have departed the country.

This mapping exercise is intended to support interventions by humanitarian actors and Moldovan authorities in support of the Roma refugee population in the country, ensuring that their activities are tailored to the refugees' specific locations, profiles and needs.

METHODOLOGY

The data obtained in this survey was gathered using a Kobo form tool, collected through the collaborative efforts of the Roma Task Force members and assisted by Roma mediators. Surveys were conducted in accredited Refugee Accommodation Centers (RACs), as well as in private accommodations. They were conducted with RAC managers, host families, local authorities, Roma refugee families residing in private housing, and Roma mediators.

24

Districts were covered, including
UTA Gagauzia and the left bank of
the Dniester River

[1] This is the second mapping exercise conducted for the Roma refugee population. The first mapping exercise was conducted in 2022.

A total of **24 districts** in the Republic of Moldova were covered, including UTA Gagauzia and the left bank of the Dniester River. The selection of these locations was based on the list of accredited RACs provided by Agenția Națională Asistență Socială (ANAS), and information provided by local municipalities, as obtained by the Roma mediators, for private accommodations and host families. In total, **57 surveys were conducted**. In each location survey respondents were asked to provide the total number of Roma refugees residing there and their demographic profile.

SURVEY FINDINGS

Geography and accommodation arrangements

The majority of the 1,532 Roma refugees captured in this survey reside on the Right Bank of the Dniester River. Approximately one-third, live in the Transnistrian Region. Most of the Roma refugees live in urban areas, with only **28% residing in rural locations**. This is slightly higher than the overall trend among the refugee population in Moldova, where 20% live in rural areas. This observation should be interpreted against the background of the mobility characteristics that are unique to a portion of the Roma refugee population.

367

Roma refugees captured in this survey reside on the Left Bank of the Dniester River

139

Roma refugees captured in this survey reside in Bender Raion

Accommodation type

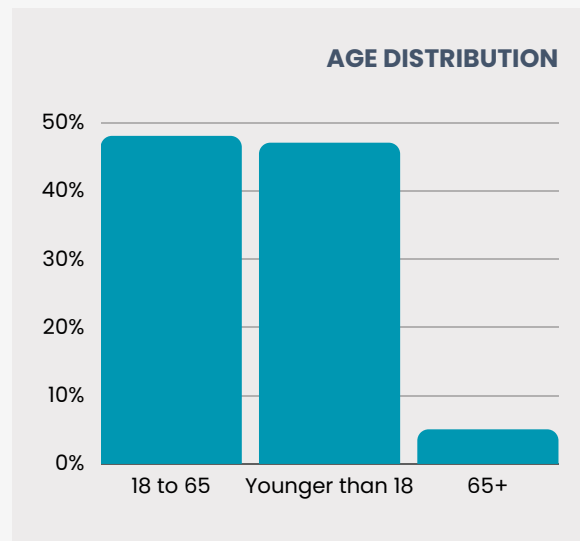
With regards to accommodation type, **51% of those surveyed reside in private accommodations**, while about **44% live in Refugees Accommodation Centers (RACs)**. Around 5%, reported residing with host families. Of those residing in RACs, about 60% have been accommodated in a RAC for more than a year, with the remaining 40% having only arrived in 2023. The percentage of Roma refugees in RACs is significantly higher than that of the overall refugee population. This highlights their increased vulnerability and underscores the need for tailored transition strategies out of RACs. These strategies should address specific challenges, such as discrimination and limited access to financial systems. It is important to further assess these issues is crucial to ensure an effective exit strategy.

Gender distribution

Among the total of 1,532 Roma refugees, **54% are females**, while the remaining **46% are males**. This distribution includes children, adults and 65+. The gender distribution remains consistent across all Moldovan districts.

Age distribution

In the context of age distribution, within the Moldovan Roma refugee population two notable segments emerge: adults aged 18 to 65, comprising 48% of those surveyed, and children below the age of 18, accounting for 47%. Only 5% of the registered Roma refugee population falls within the age group over 65. The proportions of both adults and individuals under 18 remain constant across Moldova. However, those over the age of 65 are predominantly concentrated in the central region of Moldova (including Chisinau, Anenii Noi, Calarasi, etc.) and in the Left Bank of the Dniester River. This age group constitutes a significant 86% of the total number of refugees in those regions.



Persons with Disabilities

Approximately 6% of the surveyed refugees were reported as having a disability or a serious medical condition. Of those, the majority (61) individuals were residing on the Left Bank of the Dniester River, as compared to 37 on the Right Bank of the river.

Intentions

The majority of the Roma refugees surveyed indicated that they plan to stay in Moldova until conditions in Ukraine are conducive for a safe return. Only a small number expressed a desire to relocate to the EU, usually due to family reunification.

Top-4 reported concerns

Roma refugees, regardless of their accommodation type or location, reported similar immediate needs. Financial assistance, basic needs (e.g., clothes, shoes, and hygiene products), access to healthcare services and education were the top needs identified. A significant concern expressed by the community was the lack of information about access to health care for those who had obtained Temporary Protection (TP) in Moldova.

The link for the dashboard is the following: [Mapping of Roma Refugees in the Republic of Moldova Dashboard](#)

ROMA TASK FORCE

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