

PROTECTION MONITORING OVERVIEW: PRIVATELY MANAGED ACCOMMODATION CENTRES

Prepared by the Protection Working Group

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To strengthen and promote an evidence-based protection response, UNHCR and its partners in Moldova have been implementing a Protection Profiling and Monitoring exercise to regularly collect and analyze data about profiles, protection risks and needs of refugees from Ukraine. In September 2023, the Protection Working Group (PWG) and the Basic Needs Working Group (BNWG) commenced monitoring activities in privately managed accommodation centers in Moldova (also known as “informal RACs”). These are independent centers operated by different Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and faith-based groups. Through inputs from partners, 14 of these centres were initially identified, with visits taking place at 10 of the locations.⁽¹⁾ An initial phase of light monitoring occurred from September to October 2023, which involved informal discussions with managers and residents of the centres conducted by UNHCR and partners of both the PWG and the BNWG. After the first round of visits, UNHCR protection partners began household protection monitoring at each of the visited locations.

METHODOLOGY

This factsheet presents the main findings of the household protection monitoring at privately managed accommodation centres based on 68 households interviews, comprising 264 individuals. Monitoring was carried out in eight (8) locations between November 2023 and February 2024. Comparisons are made with protection monitoring interviews (155 households/348 individuals) carried out during the same time period in accredited Refugee Accommodation Centres (RACs) managed by the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection (MLSP) throughout the country. Overall, the findings indicate certain needs that appear to be higher for those residing in privately managed accommodation centres than RACs. These include higher rates of family members with medical conditions and disabilities, increased unemployment and urgent employment needs, and a larger percentage of children not registered for education in Moldova.

It is important to note, however, that due to the difference in sample sizes between these two data sets caution should be exercised when directly comparing specific figures or percentages. While every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy and reliability of the data presented, variations in sample sizes can impact the statistical significance of the results. Interpretations and conclusions drawn from comparisons between these two data sets should be made with consideration of these potential limitations.

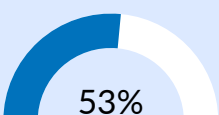
(1) Not all locations were visited due to various factors, including unwillingness of managers to accommodate the visits and unavailability of residents to engage in the visits. It should also be noted that some of the centres that were initially identified have since closed, while others may have potentially opened which have not been covered by this assessment.



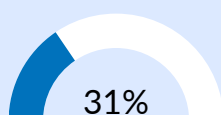
2.4

Average size of household

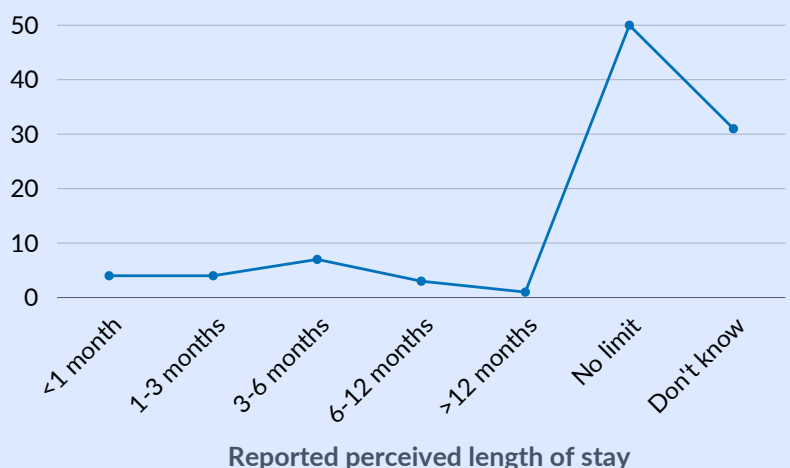
% of households that have at least one household member with a serious medical condition



Privately Managed Centres




RACs




Reported perceived length of stay


KEY FINDINGS




96% of respondents surveyed in privately managed accommodation centres were Ukrainian nationals. Similar to the overall demographic profile of Ukrainian refugees residing in Moldova, 76% were female, with an average age of 50. Household composition was relatively equal between single adults with dependents (29%), 2+ adults with dependents (26%), and 1+ older persons with or without dependents (22%).




53% of respondents indicated that they had at least one family member with a serious medical condition, while 15% mentioned having at least one family member with a disability. These numbers were higher than among those residing in RACs who were surveyed during the same period, where 31% reported having a family member with a serious medical condition and 12% reported having a family member with a disability.




Unemployment rates among the refugee population residing in privately managed accommodation centres were considerably higher (49%) than for respondents residing in RACs (20%). Moreover, employment was listed as an urgent need by 28% of respondents residing in privately managed accommodation centres, compared to 18% residing in RACs.




78% of respondents visited Ukraine at least once since their initial departure, 87% of whom returned to their former place of residence. This was much higher than for respondents residing in RACs (48%). The main purpose of temporary visits to Ukraine was similar among both groups, primarily to obtain documents (27% and 24%, respectively). However, residents in privately managed accommodation centres equally returned to access healthcare (24%), a purpose reported by significantly fewer respondents residing in RACs (14%).



The percentage of respondents indicating that they had at least one child not registered for education in Moldova was significantly higher amongst those residing in privately managed accommodation centres than those in RACs (82% compared to 56%). A preference for online learning was similarly reported amongst both surveyed groups (86% and 77%). Lack of access to childcare for households with children who have not reached the age of mandatory education was equal between both groups (64% and 69%).



The percentage of those who had obtained temporary protection was slightly higher in privately managed accommodation centres (87%) than in RACs (84%). The percentage of those reporting not having any legal status was the same between the two groups (3%). There was no significant difference between those residing in privately managed accommodation centres and those in RACs with regards to family members missing documentation or having expired documents (18% and 12%).



Respondents who indicated having at least one urgent need were fewer in privately managed accommodation centres than in RACs (78% compared to 92%). While material assistance was noted as the most urgent need by those residing in RACs (as reported by 72% of respondents), healthcare was indicated as the most urgent need by those residing in privately managed accommodation centres. This distinction was also reflected in the information needs of residents in privately managed accommodation centres, with 38% of respondents indicating it as their top priority.

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