UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER

Moldova

Semiannual Monitoring Factsheet

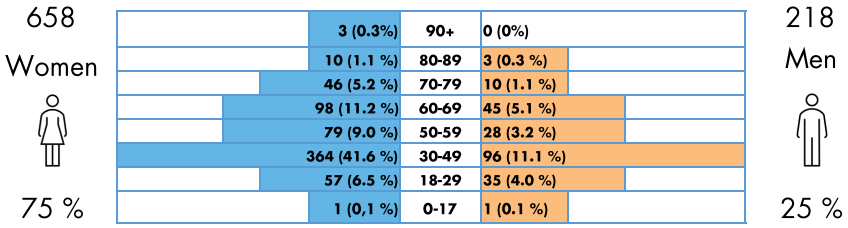
January-July 2024

Background and methodology: In July 2023, UN Human Rights in Moldova started protection monitoring as part of a project funded by the European Union Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid (DG-ECHO). UN Human Rights focuses on the systematic identification of those who are more at risk of protection concerns and human rights violations. UN Human Rights' methodology consists of individual interviews with refugees from Ukraine and host community members. Respondents are reached in communication with international and national NGOs and local CSOs that work with refugees from Ukraine, including the most marginalized groups, in both banks of Dniester/Nistru River. In order to ensure a wide geographical coverage, each month interviews are conducted in the northern, central, 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 this Factsheet refers to the respondents of data collection for six months. Therefore, data may not always be representative of the refugee population as a whole. In addition, data reflects the self-reporting by respondents. UN Human Rights analyses the data, taking into account the existing legal framework and contextual information.

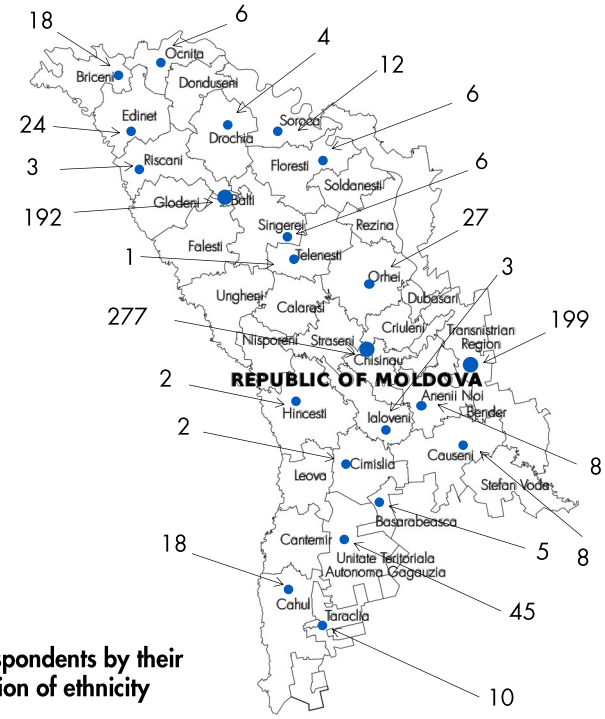
PROFILE OF RESPONDENTS

Between January and July 2024, **UN Human Rights conducted interviews with 876 refugees from Ukraine residing in Moldova**. Of these respondents, 75% were women and 25% were men. The majority (53%) were between 30 and 49 years old, with 16% aged 60-69. Most respondents were Ukrainian nationals, while a small number were third -country nationals from Russia, Azerbaijan, and Belarus. Regionally, 77% of respondents reside on the right bank of Dniester/Nistru River, while 23% reside on the Left Bank. The primary languages spoken are Ukrainian and Russian, with only 7% of people reporting knowledge of Romanian in addition to Ukrainian and Russian. Housing arrangements showed that 53% rented private accommodations, and 33% were hosted by relatives or friends, with others exploring alternative housing options. The influx of refugees has continued into 2024, with 11% (98 respondents) arriving this year (2024), though the majority initially arrived in 2022. Family dynamics indicated that 67% relocated with immediate family members, including children and partners, while 33% moved to Moldova alone.

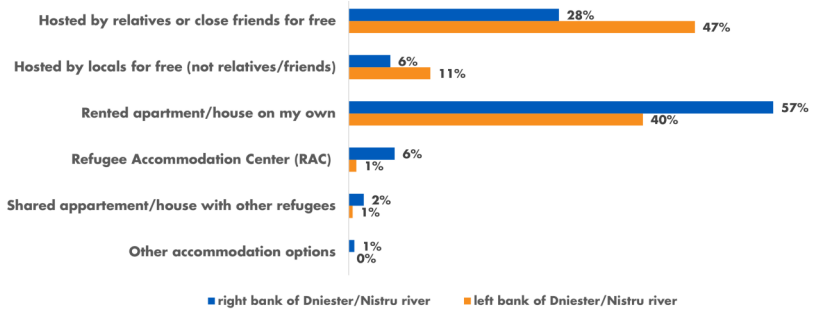
Distribution of respondents by age group and gender



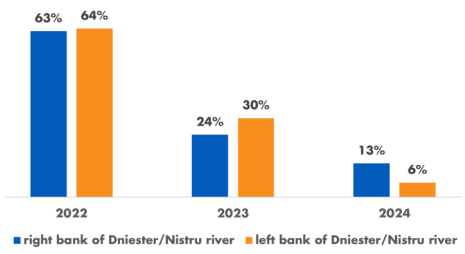
Distribution of respondents by region



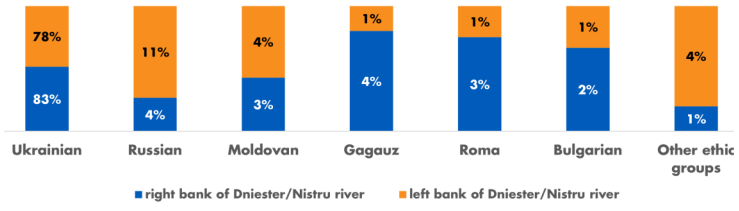
Distribution of respondents by accommodation type



Distribution of respondents by their arrival to Moldova



Distribution of respondents by their self-identification of ethnicity



IDENTIFICATION OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

UN Human Rights protection monitoring tool includes the Washington Group Short Set on Functioning, which obtains information on difficulties a person may have in undertaking basic functioning activities. The tool consists of one question per functional domain: seeing, hearing, mobility, cognition, self-care, and communication (expressive and receptive) impairments. The analysis applies the criterion that a person is considered to have a disability if they respond having 'a lot of difficulty' or 'cannot do at all' for any of the functional domains.

82 persons, or 9 % of all interviewed refugees reported a lot of difficulties or impossibility to perform actions under one (66 persons) **or several** (16 persons) **functional domains.**

Among interviewed refugees, 9% of women and 10% of men were identified as persons with disabilities. Interviewed older people, particularly those aged 70 and above, reported experiencing greater challenges compared to younger age groups (18-49). Mobility and vision impairments were common across all ages. Refugees on the left bank of Dniester/ Nistru River reported more functional difficulties than those on the Right Bank. Additionally, 45% of interviewed persons with disabilities who arrived in Moldova currently live alone. Half of respondents with disabilities relied on friends or relatives for free housing, while one-third paid for their own accommodations, with others exploring additional options. Notably, none of the identified persons with disabilities residing on the Left Bank reported living in Refugee Accommodation Centers.

Percentage of respondents with difficulties per functional domain*

20 persons (2 %) Seeing	10 persons (1 %) Hearing	57 persons (6%) Mobility	8 person (1%) Cognition**	6 persons (1%) Self-care	3 persons (0.5 %) Communication

Distribution of respondents with disabilities by age group

WITHOUT DISABILITY
WITH DISABILITY

60 **Women** out of 658

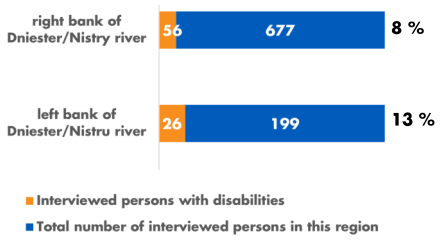
9 %

Women	Age group	Men
2 (67%)	90+	0 (0%)
2 (20%)	80-89	2 (67%) / 1 (33%)
31 (67%)	70-79	3 (30%) / 7 (70%)
83 (85%)	60-69	10 (22%) / 35 (78%)
72 (91%)	50-59	3 (11%) / 25 (89%)
352 (97%)	30-49	3 (3%) / 93 (97%)
55 (97%)	18-29	1 (3 %) / 34 (97%)
1 (100%)	0-17	1 (100%)

22 **Men** out of 218

10 %

Distribution of respondents with disabilities



EXPERIENCE OF ANXIETY AND DEPRESSION

The protection monitoring tool used includes enhanced questions from the Washington Group, specifically targeting the **affect domain** of functioning. This domain relates to emotional aspects, such as experiences of depression and anxiety. The data shows that **47% of respondents experienced anxiety,** with 42% of these cases being high intensity. Similarly, **25% reported depression**, with 47% of them facing it at a high intensity. Interviewed **persons with disabilities were particularly vulnerable, with 73% reporting anxiety and 39% experiencing depression**. Women were more likely to experience anxiety (51%) and depression (27%) than men, who reported lower levels of both states (35% and 17%, respectively). Across both banks of Dniester/Nistru River, anxiety and depression levels were similar. **Older respondents (60+) had significantly higher rates of anxiety (64%) and depression (35%) compared to younger persons** (41% and 21%, respectively). Unemployment was also a key factor, with 54% of unemployed individuals reporting anxiety, compared to 46% of those employed and 41% of job seekers. Depression showed a similar trend, with 27% of the unemployed experiencing it compared to 18% of those employed.

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**	32%	40%	51%	58%	73%	69%	67%
% of total respondents by age group who reported **DEPRESSION**	20%	19%	31%	33%	38%	38%	33%

19 % Affect***

Data reveals that **19 %** of interviewed refugees from Ukraine have **difficulties with the affect domain**.

*16 respondents have difficulties in more than 1 functional domain
**In the Washington Group Short Set of Questions the cognition domain includes only remembering and concentrating functioning.
***The calculation of the affect domain aligns with Washington Group recommendations, entailing the counting of responses related to experiencing anxiety or depression on a 'Daily' or 'Weekly' basis, with a specific emphasis on instances marked as 'A lot', characterized by high intensity.

ACCESS TO MEDICAL SERVICES

Among interviewed 876 refugees from Ukraine, **28% (246 persons) reported suffering from serious medical conditions**. This included 28% women (187 persons) and 27% men (59 persons), indicating similar prevalence across genders. Health issues were slightly more common among those residing on the left bank of Dniester/Nistru River (32%) compared to the Right Bank (27%). The most frequently reported conditions were chronic and non-communicable diseases affecting the cardiovascular and musculoskeletal systems. Notably, **83% of interviewed persons with disabilities reported serious medical conditions.** Older persons were particularly affected, with 58% of respondents aged 60 and above experiencing serious health issues.

Age distribution of interviewed refugees reporting that they suffer from serious medical conditions

	0-17	18-29	30-49	50-59	60-69	70-79	80-89	90+
% of respondents by age group with serious medical conditions out of total respondents	0%	9%	16%	37%	53%	64%	69%	100%
% of interviewed women by age group with serious medical conditions	0%	7%	16%	35%	55%	70%	70%	100%
% of interviewed men by age group with serious medical conditions	0%	11%	16%	43%	49%	40%	69%	n/a

135 respondents (15%), including 115 women and 20 men, **reported difficulties accessing healthcare in Moldova,** with 47 of them managing serious medical conditions. **26% of interviewed persons with disabilities faced challenges in obtaining healthcare in Moldova.** Residents of the Right Bank reported these difficulties often compared with those residing on the Left Bank (17% vs 11%). Additionally, 158 respondents (18%) indicated they did not need healthcare services in Moldova, 30 of whom reported serious medical conditions.

A total of 135* interviewed refugees reported facing various challenges in accessing medical services, as outlined in the table below. The data reveals substantial barriers to healthcare, with **accessibility being the most significant issue.** Service refusals were particularly prevalent, affecting 42 respondents on the Right Bank and 3 on the Left Bank in primary care. Financial barriers, such as fees for medical services and transportation costs, were also notable, with up to 30 respondents on the Right Bank reporting these obstacles in primary care. This highlights a clear disparity in healthcare access between both banks of Dniester/Nistru River.

Category		Issue	Emergency		Primary		Secondary	
			Left Bank	Right Bank	Left Bank	Right Bank	Left Bank	Right Bank
Availability		**Unavailability of medical facility and/or medical services**	1 respondent	-	3 respondents	4 respondents	2 respondents	6 respondents
Accessibility		**Refusals to provide services by medical facilities or service providers**	1 respondent		3 respondents	42 respondents	3 respondents	19 respondents
		Fees associated with medical care, medications, or transportation	1 respondent	2 respondents	10 respondents	30 respondents	10 respondents	27 respondents
		Languages barriers	-	-	-	1 respondent	-	-
		Long waits for medical appointments	-	1 respondent	3 respondents	11 respondents	1 respondent	10 respondents
Quality		**Low quality of medical services**	-	-	-	2 respondents	-	3 respondents

Government institutions were the primary source of medical care for respondents, accessed by 37% of those on the Right Bank and 32% on the Left Bank. This reflects a slightly higher reliance on public healthcare on the Right Bank or potentially limited availability on the Left Bank. **NGO, UN, and volunteer support was more commonly accessed on the Right Bank** (8%) than the Left Bank (3%), suggesting **a gap in non-governmental aid outreach or availability on the Left Bank.** Additionally, a notable proportion of refugees on the Left Bank (21%) paid for their own care, compared to 16% on the Right Bank, highlighting a greater financial burden on the Left Bank. Minimal reliance on relatives (0.1% on the Right Bank and 1% on the Left Bank) suggests that family networks are not a major source of support, contrasting with data collected in 2023. A small number of respondents reported not receiving any care, raising concerns about barriers to accessing services specifically on the Left Bank. These findings underscore regional disparities in access to medical care, with the Left Bank facing more pronounced financial and service-related challenges.

*This question allows a multiple-choice answer.

ACCESS TO EMPLOYMENT

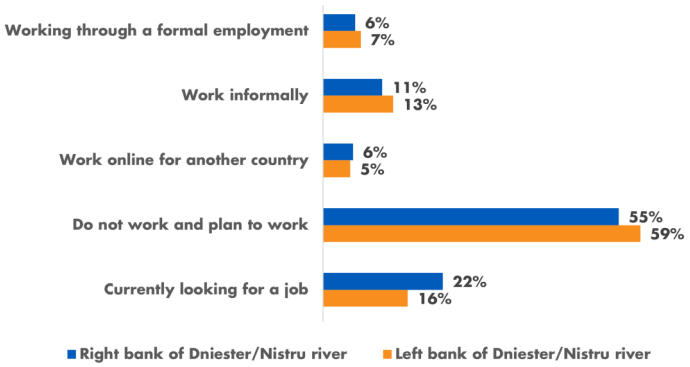
18% (158 out of 858*) of the interviewed refugees from Ukraine are currently employed in Moldova, with 6% (55) in formal employment and 12% (103) in informal employment. Employment rates are similar across both banks of Dniester/Nistru River, with 17% of respondents on the Right Bank and 22% on the Left Bank employed. Among those employed, 17% are women and 24% are men, indicating a higher employment rate for men. Additionally, 13% of interviewed persons with disabilities are employed, all on the Right Bank, with none employed on the Left Bank. Refugees are primarily employed in sectors such as seasonal fieldwork, cleaning services, sales, and construction. Employment among ethnic Roma is critically low, with only 2 out of 20 interviewed individuals reporting employment.

Out of the **700 unemployed respondents (82%), 475 (68%) do not plan to work, 178 (25%) are actively seeking work, and 47 (7%) work online for another country.**

The reasons for unemployment among respondents vary significantly, especially among those not planning to seek work. Key categories include:

- ⇒ **Child care responsibilities:** 71 respondents (10%) indicated that child care duties prevent them from seeking employment, with women making up 83% of this group. Many cited inflexible work schedules as a barrier, underscoring a strong need for accessible and flexible childcare solutions to facilitate workforce entry for parents, particularly mothers.
- ⇒ **Health difficulties:** Health issues were reported by 28 respondents (4%), primarily individuals over 50 years old (61%), who cited physical or medical challenges as major barriers to employment. These findings underscore the need for targeted healthcare services and disability accommodations to enhance employment accessibility for older adults and those with serious medical conditions.
- ⇒ **Temporary stay intentions:** Temporary residency plans in Moldova stopped 16 respondents (2%) from seeking employment. This group mainly comprised 18-35 (72%) younger adults, signaling that long-term residency prospects might impact job-seeking behaviors among refugees.
- ⇒ **Language barriers:** Lack of knowledge of Romanian language was cited by 24 respondents (2%) as a primary obstacle to employment. This underscores a demand for language training programs to support integration and job market participation.
- ⇒ **Limited job opportunities in specialized fields:** Frustration with job availability in specific fields was expressed by 18 respondents (3%), with 68% of young professionals aged 25-40 in this group. This indicates a possible skills-market mismatch, suggesting a need for either job creation in specialized sectors or retraining programs to bridge the gap.

Diversity in employment situation by the banks of Dniester/Nistru River



This chart reveals key differences in employment patterns between the right and left banks of Dniester/Nistru River. A notable portion of respondents on both banks are not currently employed but plan to seek work in the future (55% on the Right Bank and 59% on the Left Bank). Formal employment is slightly more prevalent on the Left Bank, as is informal work, suggesting a marginally higher reliance on unregulated employment. However, the Right Bank shows a stronger inclination toward active job-seeking, with 22% of respondents currently looking for a job compared to 16% on the Left bank. These insights point to the need for targeted employment initiatives, particularly addressing the prevalence of informal work on the Left Bank and increasing job opportunities on the Right Bank, where more individuals are actively seeking employment.

ACCESS TO EDUCATION

Among interviewed refugees with school-age children, grandchildren, or nephews (39%, or 331 out of 857**), **41% (135 respondents) reported that their children are enrolled in Moldovan schools.** Enrollment rates differ notably between both banks of Dniester/Nistru River, with 35% on the Right Bank and a significantly higher 73% on the Left Bank. Across both banks, interviewed refugees primarily chose schools based on the language of instruction, with a preference for Ukrainian and Russian over Romanian where available. Of those whose children are not attending school, 93% (183 out of 196 respondents) prefer online or remote learning using the Ukrainian curriculum. Only 2 out of 15 ethnic Roma respondents with school-age children enrolled their children in local schools.

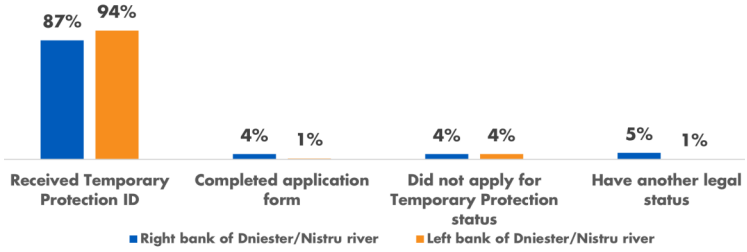
*18 respondents did not provide answers regarding their employment status.
**19 respondents did not provide answers regarding having school-aged children with them in Moldova.

LEGAL STATUS

92% of respondents (794 out of 860*, including 616 women and 178 men) applied for Temporary Protection in Moldova, with similar rates on both banks of Dniester/Nistru River.
Of those, **96 % (763 individuals, including 93% of persons with disabilities) have received the Temporary Protection ID,** while the remaining are awaiting appointments after completing the online registration.
8 % (66 respondents) did not apply for Temporary Protection. Among them, 35 were granted alternative legal status, while 31 did not provide details about their status; 15 of these were aware of the 90-day stay permission and the risk of fines for overstaying. Most Temporary Protection holders reported no issues accessing their rights, though 38 respondents faced difficulties with access to healthcare, 3 with access to employment, and 4 with access to social assistance.

Diversities in Temporary Protection patterns between both banks of Dniester/Nistru River

The graph shows high uptake of Temporary Protection IDs on both banks of Dniester/Nistru River, with the Left Bank slightly higher (94% vs. 87%). Only small portions of respondents completed only the application form (4% Right Bank, 1% Left Bank) or did not apply (4% both banks). Respondents from the Right Bank reported higher percentage with other legal statuses (5% vs. 1%), suggesting more diverse legal options there.



URGENT NEEDS

	Financial assistance	Food items	Medicines	Medical care	Hygiene items	Clothes	Winterization support	School items
Right Bank	**43%**	**36%**	**28%**	**18%**	**21%**	**11%**	**6%**	**3%**
Left Bank	**42%**	**28%**	**26%**	**18%**	**15%**	**10%**	**4%**	**4%**

Cash assistance emerges as a top priority for younger adults (ages 18-29) and urban residents, particularly in areas like Chisinau or Tiraspol, highlighting significant financial vulnerabilities within these demographic groups. **Food remains a fundamental necessity across various age groups**, with individuals aged 30-49 and 60-69 showing especially high demand. Women, in particular, express a strong need for food support, pointing to essential survival needs within their households. **Medical care and access to medicines are critical for all age groups, with heightened demand among older people and persons with disabilities**, reflecting pervasive health concerns. Hygiene items, often requested alongside food, underscore multifaceted needs that go beyond single categories. Additionally, winterization support, such as coal and wood, is a pressing concern among respondents in all regions, introducing a seasonal layer to these urgent needs. Notably, the data reveals no significant difference in urgent needs among refugees on both banks of Dniester/Nistru River.

Among the 876 refugees interviewed, **the most urgent informational needs center on financial aid, cited by 177 respondents,** followed by access to medical care (60 respondents), job opportunities (26), and guidance on finding accommodation (30). Additionally, 25 individuals sought information regarding legal status and documentation, while 17 expressed the information about access to education. Notably, 424 respondents indicated that they did not require any additional information at this time.

INTENTIONS

73 % of interviewed refugees expressed a desire to return to Ukraine in the future, 7% stated they had no intention of returning, and 20% remained uncertain about their plans.

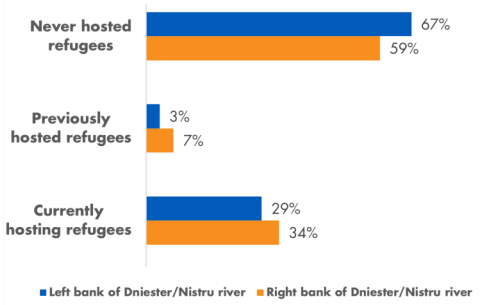
HOST COMMUNITIES

UN Human Rights conducted interviews with **317 members of Moldova's host community,** including 217 women and 100 men. This diverse group encompassed both Moldovan citizens who are hosting refugees and those who are not, covering multiple regions across Moldova. As shown on the map below, 19% of respondents reside on the left bank of Dniester/Nistru River. The analysis assessed the influence of refugees from Ukraine on various aspects of community life, including education, employment, healthcare, and social cohesion.

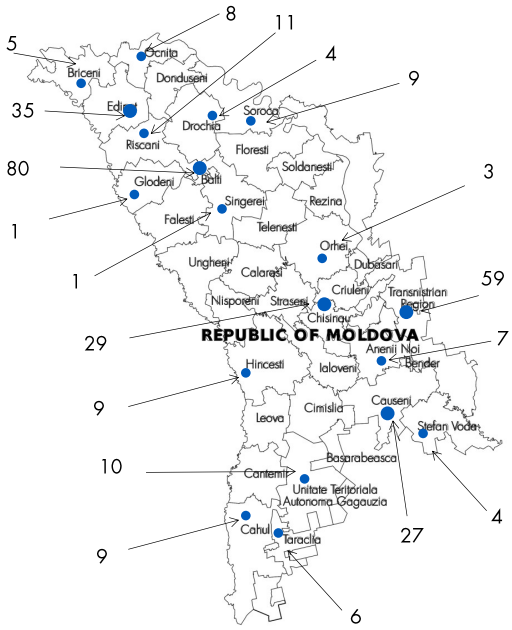
Local hosting experience

39 % of the interviewed locals (124 individuals), had experience hosting refugees from Ukraine. Of these 124 individuals, 97 hosted their relatives without charging them any fee, 24 hosted non-relatives for free, 2 provided housing to refugees in exchange for a rent fee and 1 hosted relatives in exchange for rent fee. 91 out of 124 (73 %), received various forms of assistance from humanitarian or government organizations for hosting refugees. This assistance included financial aid, food packages, gas compensation, and government assistance.

Diversities in hosting refugees patterns between both banks of Dniester/Nistru River



Distribution of respondents by region



HEALTHCARE

The analysis of host community feedback reveals that while most respondents (132) noticed no changes in healthcare following the arrival of refugees from Ukraine. Some respondents expressed concerns over ongoing issues such as low-quality services and limited specialist access. Although 267 respondents reported no problems with healthcare access, 44 noted minor to significant access issues, with 4 facing severe limitations. Some respondents perceived an **increased workload on healthcare professionals, resulting in longer queues and a sense that refugees receive preferential, free healthcare, while locals cover their own costs.** This reflects a varied community response, with both neutral and critical perceptions of the healthcare system's adaptation.

EMPLOYMENT

Among the community members interviewed, 181 are employed in various sectors, 90 are pensioners, and 46 are unemployed. Of the respondents, 281 reported no noticeable changes in the labor market following the arrival of refugees from Ukraine. However, **10 individuals perceived a decline in job availability, while 9 noted improvements, attributing these changes to the increased presence of skilled professionals, the establishment of new businesses, and expanded job opportunities in sectors such as healthcare, agriculture, and maintenance.** A few respondents expressed concerns that refugees might be occupying jobs that would otherwise go to local residents.

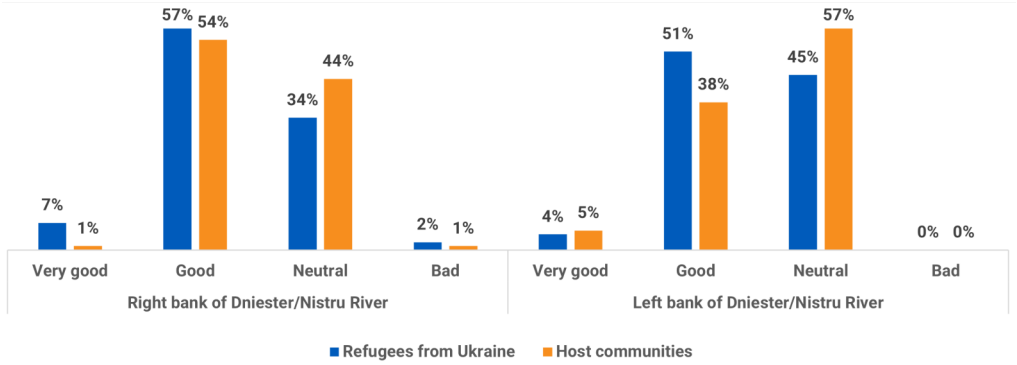
EDUCATION

Among respondents with school-age children, 156 observed no change in the quality and access to school following the arrival of refugees from Ukraine. A small number (8 respondents) reported improvements, mentioning benefits such as increased resources and enhanced educational programs because of support by different non-governmental organizations. In contrast, 1 respondent noticed a decline, while 3 were uncertain about any impact. Overall, feedback suggests **minimal disruption to the education system, with some positive adjustments noted.**

SOCIAL COHESION: HOST COMMUNITIES AND REFUGEES

UN Human Rights monitoring includes a component aimed at assessing the level of social cohesion between refugees from Ukraine and the local population through the perceptions that both groups have of their interactions and relationships. Data confirmed that activities organized by humanitarian and development actors in Moldova to promote refugees' integration into the host communities continue to be relevant to foster social cohesion between the two groups.

Respondents' perceptions of the quality of the relationship between refugees from Ukraine and local communities on both banks of Dniester/Nistru River



	Right bank of Dniester/Nistru River	Left bank of Dniester/Nistru River
Positive experience:	⇒ **Empathy and support:** Many locals, particularly older people, express empathy and view refugees with understanding and compassion. ⇒ **Community bonding:** Joint activities, such as language courses and social events, create shared experiences, fostering goodwill between locals and refugees. ⇒ **Work and contribution:** When refugees find work, locals tend to see them more positively, appreciating their contributions to the community.	⇒ **Shared cultural understanding:** Locals often report that cultural and linguistic similarities with refugees foster a sense of kinship and easy communication. ⇒ **Community integration**: Refugees who share Russian-speaking backgrounds or cultural ties with locals are generally well-received, with some locals considering them "like family." ⇒ **Reciprocal respect:** Many refugees express appreciation for the welcoming attitude of locals, who they describe as friendly and supportive.
Specific issues:	⇒ **Aid perception:** Some locals feel refugees receive more support than local residents, which occasionally leads to resentment. ⇒ **Language barrier:** Communication is challenging, especially for older refugees who struggle with the local language, limiting social interaction. ⇒ **Behavioral tensions:** Some locals perceive certain refugee behaviors, especially younger individuals, as entitled, causing social strain.	⇒ **Aid and entitlement perceptions:** Some locals believe refugees are receiving disproportionate aid, which occasionally leads to tension, especially regarding government resources. ⇒ **Behavioral misunderstandings**: Certain locals view the refugees as overly demanding or entitled, especially when young refugees or children act out in public settings. ⇒ **Economic concerns:** The presence of refugees is sometimes linked to rising costs and perceived competition for jobs, leading to subtle social divides.
Challenges:	⇒ **Resource pressure:** The influx of refugees places pressure on housing and services, impacting local communities, especially families. ⇒ **Cultural norms:** Variations in cultural practices occasionally create misunderstandings or friction, particularly between older locals and refugees. ⇒ **Acceptance levels:** While many locals are welcoming, there remains a segment that views refugees with reservation, primarily in areas experiencing greater resource constraints.	⇒ **Resource strain:** Locals express concern about limited resources, with many mentioning pressure on local healthcare, housing, and social services. ⇒ **Mixed reactions to long-term stay:** While some refugees view their stay as temporary, uncertainty about future plans leads to tension in relationships with locals who expect temporary hosting arrangements. ⇒ **Political tensions:** Occasionally, political differences, especially regarding Ukraine, create underlying friction, particularly among older residents.

Suggested measures for integration of refugees from Ukraine based on respondents' feedback

From Refugees:	**From Locals**:
♦ Increase social events to foster interaction. ♦ Expand job access for self-sufficiency. ♦ Create more Romanian language courses. ♦ Engage with locals through culture programs. ♦ Clearer communication for everyone including locals on aid policies.	♦ Encourage mutual respect initiatives. ♦ Support job opportunities for refugees. ♦ Prioritize language courses for smoother integration. ♦ Ensure balanced aid for both refugees and locals.

PATTERNS OF DISCRIMINATION/NEGATIVE ATTITUDE BASED ON PROTECTED GROUNDS

REFUGEE STATUS / LANGUAGE / ETHNICITY / CITIZENSHIP /GENDER/ DISABILITY

Discrimination *constitutes any distinction, exclusion, restriction or preference or other differential treatment that is directly or indirectly based on the prohibited grounds of discrimination and which has the intention or effect of nullifying or impairing the recognition, enjoyment, or exercise, on an equal footing, of human rights.*

Data reveals that 89% of respondents reported no discrimination or negative attitudes from local population in Moldova, reflecting an overall positive social reception.

11% of respondents (84 women and 15 men) reported experiencing negative attitude tied to their refugee status, highlighting ongoing protection and social integration challenges. Interviewed refugees on the right bank of Dniester/Nistru River reporting higher rates of negative attitudes (13%) compared to those on the Left Bank (6%). Gender disparities were also notable, as 13% of women reported negative attitudes versus 7% of men, suggesting that women may be more vulnerable to targeted discrimination and underscoring the importance of gender-sensitive protection measures.

Key protection issues linked to refugee status included:

- ⇒ **Negative attitudes from local communities (38%).**
- ⇒ **Discrimination by landlords when securing rental housing (29%).**
- ⇒ **Social tensions linked to perceptions of situation in Ukraine(16%).**
- ⇒ **Hostile interactions within healthcare services (12%).**
- ⇒ **Limited access to humanitarian aid (11%).**
- ⇒ **Challenges in securing adequate housing (11%).**
- ⇒ **Workplace discrimination (8%).**
- ⇒ **Incidents of verbal harassment in public settings (5%).**

"Moldovan neighbors said that I do not belong here and must go back to my country."
- woman, 43 years old, Chisinau

"People here do not like refugees and think we should not be here just because of the war in Ukraine."
- woman, 45 years old, Transnistrian region

"Hosts refused to rent me an apartment because they think refugees will just leave and would not pay rent."
- man, 29 years old, Chisinau

"Locals blame refugees are taking all their money and using up resources."
- woman, 63 years old, Orhei

"Moldovans ask why I am not working and say that refugees are taking resources from locals."
- man, 18 years old, Transnistrian region

"Locals say that Ukrainians ourselves are to blame for the war and for bringing problems in Moldova."
- man, 45 years old, Singerei

"At the bank, they questioned my intentions, as if refugees are just here to take advantage of Moldova."
- woman, 39 years old, Balti

Discrimination based on ethnicity:

Seven (5 women and 2 men) out of 20 interviewed Roma refugees, reported experiencing discrimination, particularly in **housing, social interactions, and access to services.** Many respondents shared that they were explicitly denied rental housing due to their ethnicity, with one stating, *"Roma were denied housing rentals."* Social interactions were also fraught with prejudice, as some reported facing harassment or dismissive behavior in public spaces, emphasizing the stigma attached to their Roma identity. Additionally, instances of biased treatment when accessing services further hindered their integration, with respondents noting that their ethnicity often influenced the quality of assistance and resources they received.

Discrimination based on language:

26 (24 women and 5 men) respondents reported **experiencing discrimination** based on language. The majority faced issues **accessing services, with language barriers affecting interactions in healthcare and public administration.** Additionally, 14 respondents encountered negative reactions in public spaces due to their language, while 1 respondent reported housing discrimination linked to language preference. This highlights the significant impact of language on refugees' daily lives, affecting essential services and social interactions.

For any questions, please reach out Olha Florynska, Information Management Officer, UN Human Rights in Moldova, olha.florynska@un.org

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