UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

FACTSHEET

Protection Community Profiling
Comrat, Republic of Moldova[1]

June 2025

Key Findings - Comrat City Profile

- **Demographic Profile**: Comrat hosts 484 refugees (221 households), representing ~2.1% of the population. Households are predominantly female-headed (65%) and elderly (67%), with a high prevalence of medical conditions (46%) and disabilities (56%).
- **Vulnerability**: 37% of households fall into low-risk categories, but 29% are high-risk and 8% are critical, especially in peripheral neighborhoods like Geofizika and Tukanyaska, where infrastructure and services are limited.
- **Legal Status & Intentions**: 83% remain under Temporary Protection. While 37% wish to stay permanently, most are not pursuing more secure legal pathways. Lack of information and Romanian proficiency (63% have none) are key barriers.
- **Housing**: Only 42.5% of households have a formal rental contract. Nearly half are hosted. One-third have moved at least once, and 25% report serious housing issues, often in Tukanyaska and Geofizik
- **Income & Social Protection**: 53% rely on humanitarian aid, 14% on employment as the primary source of income. Despite 73% reporting cash assistance, access to state systems is limited. Coping strategies like debt and reduced consumption remain common.
- **Healthcare & Education**: 72% needed healthcare, but 46% faced access barriers. While 69% of children are enrolled in school, uptake of childcare remains low, especially in DSU and Tank.
- **Community Participation**: Despite high perceived acceptance (97%), only 38% engage in local activities, suggesting a gap between social cohesion and active inclusion.

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 7 April and 15 April 2025 in Comrat, Moldova**.

Overall, **103 surveys were conducted** in different locations, including at respondents' residences, community/assistance/information points, Blue Dots, UNHCR, partner offices and public spaces. The sample size for refugee households in this factsheet is n=103, unless otherwise specified.

Limitations:

Representativeness: All results are indicative.

Selection bias: While every effort was made to reach individuals within the city, in order to meet the data collection targets within the allotted timeframe, the geographic scope was expanded to include neighbouring villages. Surveys conducted in these villages were incorporated into the analysis under the originally targeted neighbourhoods of Comrat, which may affect the findings for specific areas. For more details on how respondents were distributed across neighborhoods, please refer to the map included in the factsheet.

Context & Rationale

As of 2 June 2025, cumulatively a total of 74,417 individuals are Temporary Protection holders in Moldova[2].

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, Bălți, and Chișinău, 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 02 June 2025.

RESPONDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

16% male | 85% female[3]

1%	Over 60	36%
11%	35-59	32%
3%	18-34	16%

Respondents' citizenship[4] (n=102)[5]

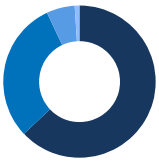
Ukrainian	97%
Moldovan	5%

2% of respondents reported holding multiple citizenships

% of respondents by highest level of education attained[3]

Secondary education	44%
Technical or vocational	28%
Specializaion degree	16%
Bachelor's Degree	8%
Primary education	2%
Master's Degree	1%
Doctoral Degree	1%
No education	1%

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



63%	No proficiency
30%	Basic proficiency
6%	Intermediate proficiency
1%	Advanced proficiency

53% of respondents reported achieving higher education[5]

HOUSEHOLD CHARACTERISTICS

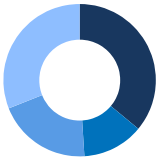
Household composition (247 individuals among the 103 households surveyed[3])

34% male | 66% female

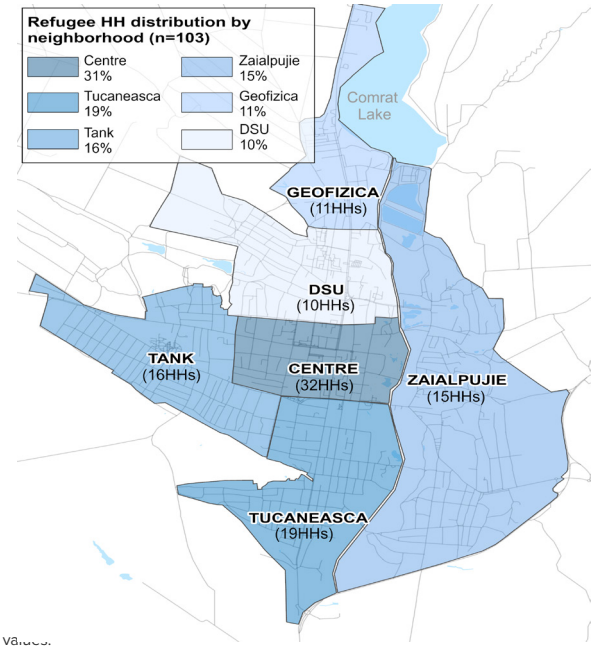
6%	Over 60	22%
9%	35-59	17%
5%	18-34	10%
7%	12-17	5%
6%	6-11	8%
2%	0-5	6%

Average household size: 2.4

Household type[6]



36%	Single adult with dependents
13%	2+ adults with dependents
20%	Adults without dependents
31%	Older adult(s) over 60 years old with or without dependents



Specific needs

46% of households have at least one family member with serious medical conditions

18% of households have at least one family member with a disability

Among households with at least one member with a disability (n=19)[7], the difficulties reported include: walking (12), seeing (11), self-care (6), and hearing (5). Fewer reported challenges with memory/concentration (2) or communication (1).

[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 sample size for this indicator is slightly reduced due to the exclusion of records containing inconsistent or incomplete values.
[6] 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.
[7] 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.
[8] 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)?" HHs reporting "a lot of difficulty" or "cannot do at all" were considered to include a person with a disability.
[9] As the subset for this indicator is below 30 households, figures are reported as numbers and should be considered as indicative.

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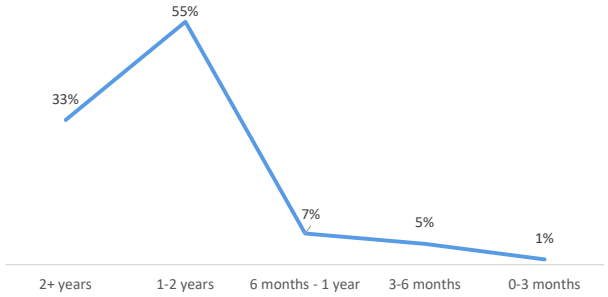
PROTECTION

Legal status of respondents in Moldova at time of data collection (n-=101)[10]

Temporary protection (TP) status	85%
Citizen of host country	5%
Long-term residence or visa	4%
Prefer not to answer	4%
Short-term residence permit or visa	2%

Timeline of applications for temporary protection, by month (n=86)[11]



Top 5 reasons respondents reported for not applying for asylum or more permanent legal status, among those lacking a more permanent legal status at the time of data collection (n=86)[12]

Prefer to keep TP	58%
Awaiting improvements in Ukraine	19%
Undecided about applying	17%
Do not plan to stay long-term	4%
Do not need protection or benefits	2%

Reported reasons for not applying for Temporary Protection (TP), among respondents who had not applied for TP (n=13)[12] in the host country:

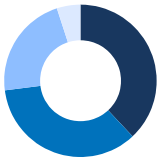
- Six said they had applied for a different type of residency instead
- Five reported they were not eligible for TP
- One felt they didn't need protection or related benefits
- One was still deciding whether to apply

SITUATION IN HOST COUNTRY

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

More than 2 years	75%
1-2 years	19%
6 months - 1 year	3%
3-6 months	2%
0-3 months	1%

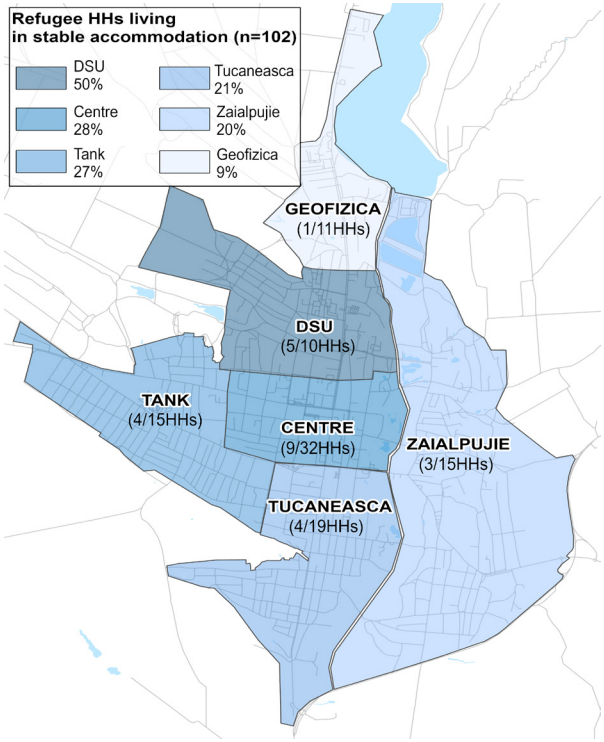
% of households renting accommodation (n=40)[13] that reported whether they have a formal document guaranteeing their right to stay in their current accommodation, at the time of data collection.[11]



38%	Yes, a written agreement with landlord
35%	No
23%	Prefer not to answer
5%	Yes, a written agreement with my host

Among HHs without a rental contract (n=14)[14]:

- 7 did not request a written contract from their host
- 5 said the landlord refused to provide one
- 5 said the host did not require or offer a formal contract



26% of respondents live in stable accommodation[15]

[10] The sample size for this indicator is slightly reduced due to the exclusion of records containing inconsistent or incomplete values.
[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] Henceforth referred to as "HHs"
[14] As the subset for this indicator is below 30 households, figures are reported as numbers and should be considered as indicative.
[15] Stable housing refers to HHs living in their own property, in shared or in privately rented housing with a formal rental contract or private housing provided for free by friends/relatives.

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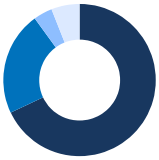
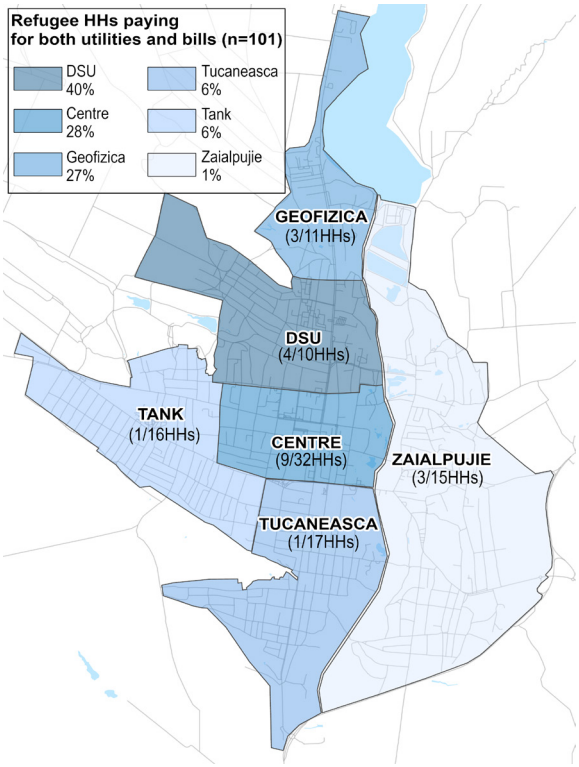
HHs who reported having to change their accommodation since their arrival in host country

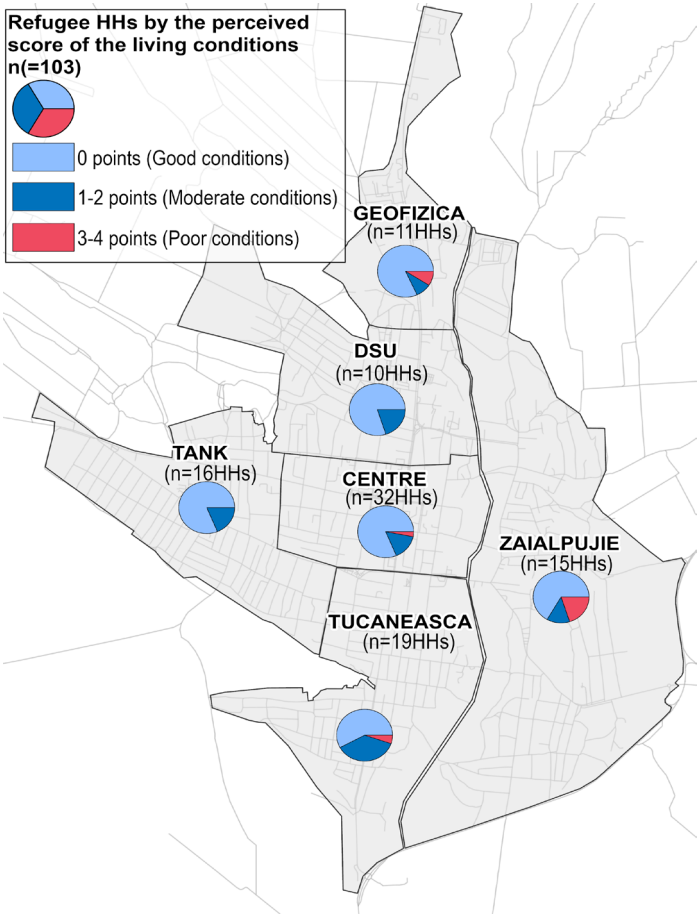


68% Never
22% Once
4% Twice
6% Three times



Refugee HHs reported their payment arrangement of their current accommodation (n=101)[16]

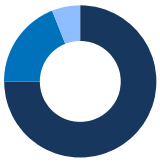
I pay for utilities or a portion of them	52%
I pay both, rent and utilities	19%
I pay rent or a portion of it	18%
I do not pay for anything	12%



Refugee HHs by the length of time they perceive they are able to stay in their accommodation[16]

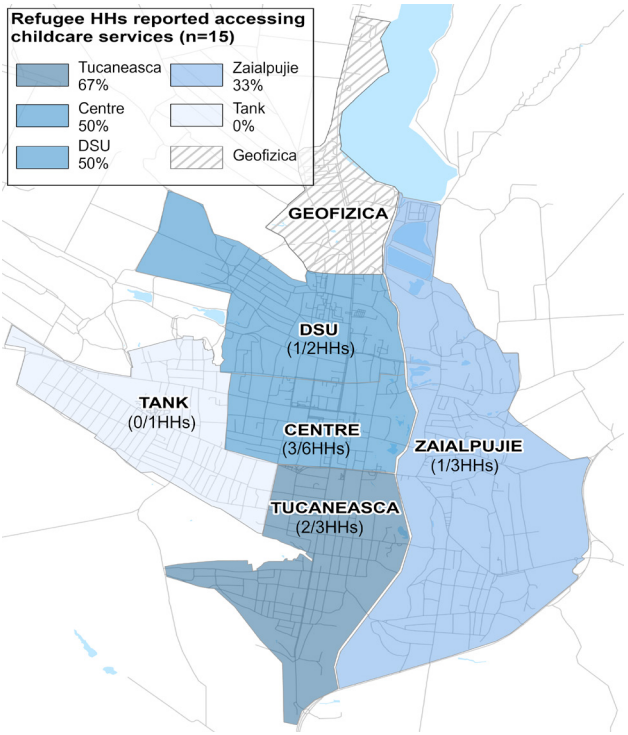
No specific time limit	81%
Do not know	13%
More than 12 months	3%
Between 1 and 3 months	2%
Between 3 and 6 months	1%
Until I secure a long-term accommodation	1%

Living conditions of refugee HHs' accommodation at the time of data collection (n=101)



75% Good conditions
19% Moderate conditions
6% Poor conditions

[16] Results do not add up to 100% due to rounding up.
[17] 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.



Number of refugee HHs reporting being able to access childcare services, among refugee HHs with children who have not reached the age of mandatory education (n=15)[18]

8 out of 15 Yes

7 out of 15 No

Top 5 social protection benefits refugee HHs reported receiving from the host country government since arriving in Moldova[19]

Cash support[20]	73%
I have not applied for any benefits	18%
None of the above	9%
Housing support	2%
Employment support services	1%

EDUCATION

Refugee children reported to be enrolled in Moldovan schools, among households that have school-aged children (6 to 18 y.o.) (n=39)[21]

67% All children enrolled

8% Some children enrolled

26% No children enrolled

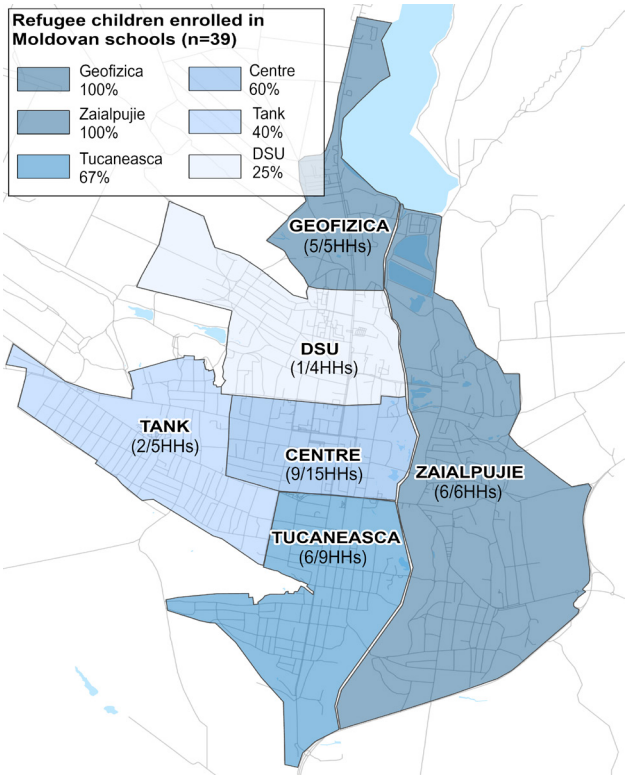
Among households that did not have any children enrolled in schools at the time of data collection, the following reasons were reported (n=13)[18]:

- Preference to continue with online learning in Ukrainian curriculum (11)
- Lack of required vaccinations (1)
- Too young for going to school, but attends kindergarten (1)

Number of HHs with some or none of their children enrolled by their reported plans to enroll their children in the next academic year (n=13)[18]

6 out of 13	Will be enrolled in school in Moldova
3 out of 13	Will be enrolled in Ukraine (remote)
2 out of 13	Not decided
2 out of 13	Do not know

4 out of 39 HHs with school-aged children[18] reported that their children faced concerns at school, including discrimination (3) and bullying/harassment (1).



[18] As the subset for this indicator is below 30 households, figures are reported as numbers and should be considered as indicative.
[19] Multiple answers could be selected, therefore the sum of values may exceed 100%.
[20] While 73% of households reported receiving cash assistance for basic needs, this likely reflects a misunderstanding of the question, with respondents including humanitarian assistance rather than state-provided social support, which remains limited for Temporary Protection holders.
[21] Results do not add up to 100% due to rounding up.

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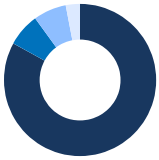
HEALTHCARE

% of respondents that reported having health insurance coverage in Moldova



83% No, or I do not know if I am eligible

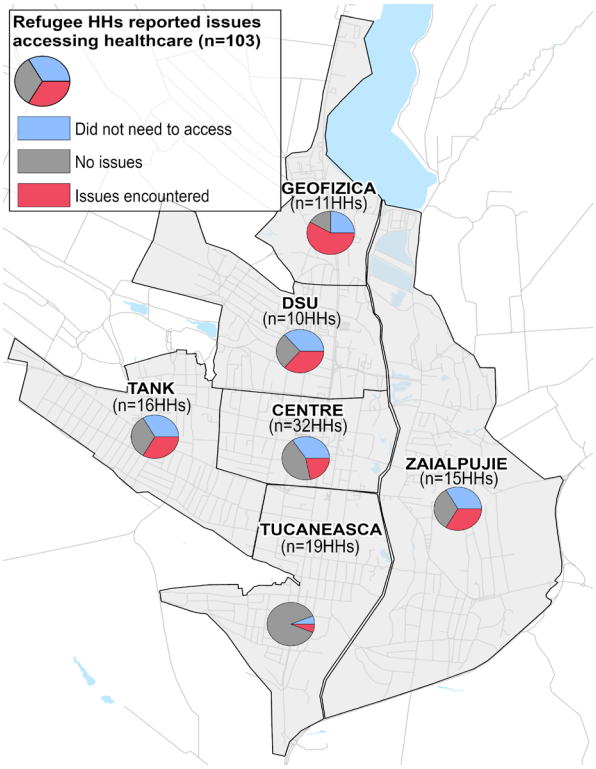
7% Yes, I pay my own contributions

7% Yes, through employer coontribution or state-subsidized insurance

3% I do not know

Among respondents who reported facing difficulties accessing healthcare services (n=24), the most commonly reported issues were[22]:

- Inability to afford healthcare costs (13)
- Long waiting times (4)
- Medical staff refusal to provide care (3)
- Inability to afford transportation (2)
- Lack of trust in the local healthcare provider (2).



EMPLOYMENT & ECONOMIC ACTIVITY

Top 6 reported main activities of respondents before leaving Ukraine

Employed	49%
Retired	25%
Not working due to care reponsibilities	9%
Student	7%
Self-employed / Own-business	5%
Unable to work due to health conditions	2%

4 out of 10 respondents who reported being employed[22] stated that they did not have a work contract with their employer

Among respondents previously employed in Ukraine and unemployed at the time of data collection (n=40), the most common sectors of past work experience were:

Education & Teaching	23%
Finance, Business & Administration	20%
Healthcare & Social Work	13%
Manufacturing & Industrial Work	13%
Retail & Sales	13%
Transport & Logistics	8%

Top 6 reported main activities of respondents at the time of data collection

Not working due to care reponsibilities	25%
Retired	18%
Unable to work due to health conditions	15%
Not currently seeking work	12%
Unemployed (actively seeking work)	11%
Employed (In person)	10%

Among respondents who were unemployed and actively seeking work at the time of data collection (n=11)[22], the main barriers reported included: lack of local language skills (4), limited decent job opportunities (3), difficulty finding flexible schedules (3), occasionally searching for work (2), jobs being too far or hard to reach (1).

Top 5 sectors where respondents have relevant skills or experience[23]

Finance, Business & Administration	15%
Education & Teaching	13%
Healthcare & Social Work	13%
Manufacturing & Industrial Work	12%
Retail & Sales	10%

Among the respondents who reported being employed as current main activity (n=10)[18], 7 reported feeling like their current position matches their formal qualifications.

[22] As the subset for this indicator is below 30 households, figures are reported as numbers and should be considered as indicative.
[23] Multiple answers could be selected, therefore the sum of values may exceed 100%.

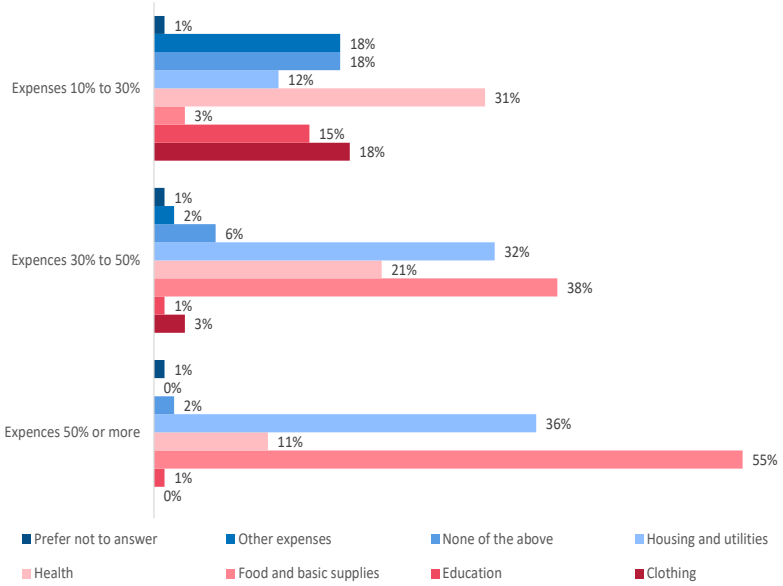
Top 5 reported main sources of income by respondents

Financial assistance	53%
Income from employment	14%
Money transfers	10%
Pension from Ukraine	10%
Savings	10%

Top 5 reported secondary sources of income by respondents[24]

None	40%
Pension from Ukraine	24%
Financial assistance	17%
Money transfers	15%
Savings	6%

Reported categories of HH expenditure by respondents[24]



Reported average monthly HH income by respondents[25]

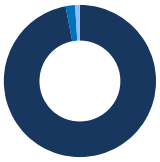
4001-6,000 MDL (211-315 EUR)	28%
<4,000 MDL (<210 EUR)	19%
6,001-7,500 MDL (316-400 EUR)	18%
Prefer not to answer	18%
10,501-12,000 MDL (551-630 EUR)	7%
7,501-9,000 MDL (401-470 EUR)	7%
9,001-10,500 MDL (471-550 EUR)	1%
12,001-13,500 MDL (631-710 EUR)	1%

INTENTIONS & INTEGRATION

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

Stay in Moldova permanently	37%
Return to Ukraine when conditions allow	23%
Undecided	19%
Stay in Moldova, but not permanently	18%
Leave as soon as possible	2%
Move to another country	1%

% of respondents by how welcome they felt in their host community



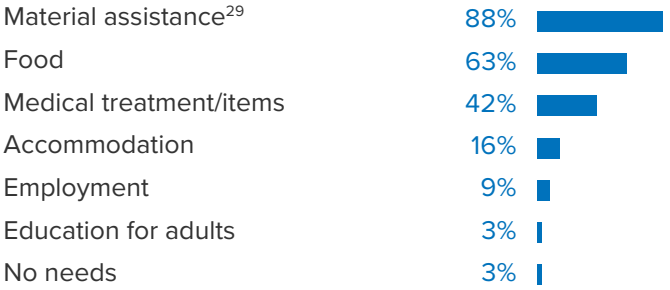
97%	Felt welcomed and never experienced any discrimination
2%	Felt welcomed but experienced rare discrimination
1%	Did not feel welcomed and experienced frequent discrimination

Of the 3% respondents who reported experiencing discrimination[26] or hostility (n=3), one attributed it to their refugee status, one cited other reasons[27], and one preferred not to answer.

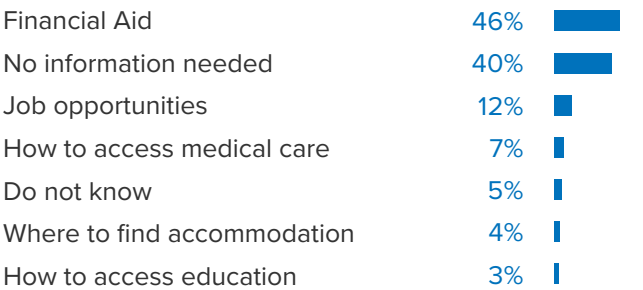
[24] Multiple answers could be selected, therefore the sum of values may exceed 100%.
[25] Results do not add up to 100% due to rounding up.
[26] As the subset for this indicator is below 30 households, figures are reported as numbers and should be considered as indicative.
[27] The response marked as "other reason" was not further specified or recorded in the dataset.

NEEDS AND COPING STRATEGIES

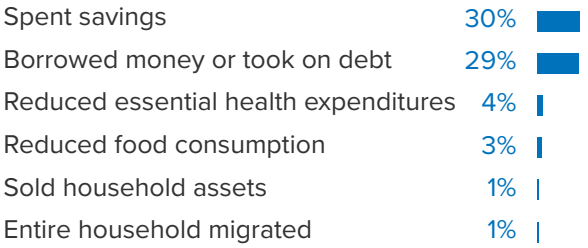
Most reported urgent needs at time of data collection[28]



% of respondents by the type of information they required at the time of data collection[28]



% of respondents by coping strategies selected at the time of data collection[28]



48% of respondents reported none of the above coping strategies

[28] Multiple answers could be selected, therefore the sum of values may exceed 100%.
[29] Material assistance includes clothes, hygiene products, and other household items.