UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

FACTSHEET

Protection Community Profiling
Balti, Republic of Moldova[1]

June 2025

Key Findings - Balti City Profile

- **Demographic Profile**: Comrat hosts 1093 refugees (453 households), representing ~1.2% of the population. *Households are predominantly female-headed (65%) and elderly (67%)*, with a high prevalence of medical conditions (46%) and disabilities (52%).
- *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**: 91% remain under Temporary Protection. While only 14% wish to stay permanently, many expressed intentions to either return to Ukraine (36%) or stay temporarily in Moldova (30%). Nevertheless, most are not pursuing more secure legal pathways.
- **Housing**: 74% of households have a formal rental contract. 22% are hosted. 40% moved at least once, *and 12% report serious housing issues, often in Tukanyaska and Geofizik*
- **Income & Social Protection**: 44% rely on humanitarian aid, 23% on-employment as the primary source of income. Despite 70% reporting cash assistance, access to state systems is limited. Coping strategies like debt and spending savings.
- **Healthcare & Education**: 90% needed healthcare, but 46% faced access barriers. While 69% of children are enrolled in school, uptake of childcare remains low, especially in Slobozia and Bălțiul Nou.
- **Community Participation**: Despite high perceived acceptance (95%), only 23% 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 16 April and 22 April 2025 in Balti, Moldova**.

Overall, **105 surveys were conducted** by phone and public spaces. The sample size for refugee households in this factsheet is n=105, unless otherwise specified.

Limitations:

Representativeness: Due to the absence of an official record of the exact number and geographic distribution of Ukrainian refugees in Bălți, 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.

Selection bias: While every effort was made to reach individuals, to meet data collection targets within the allotted timeframe, a larger share of interviews had to be conducted by phone using the contact list provided by UNHCR instead of face-to-face visits. Because of this, individuals not reachable by phone or not included in the contact list may be underrepresented in the survey results.

Context & Rationale

As of 1 September 2025, cumulatively a total of 79,628 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 01 September 2025.

RESPONDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

19% male | 81% female[3]

7%	Over 60	21%
10%	35-59	40%
3%	18-34	20%

Respondents' citizenship[4]

Ukrainian	98%
Moldovan	5%
Russian	1%

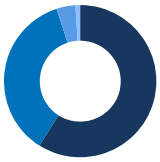
4% of respondents reported holding multiple citizenships

% of respondents by highest level of education attained

Technical or vocational	36%
Secondary education	29%
Bachelor's Degree	17%
Specialization degree	14%
Master's Degree	4%

71% of respondents reported achieving higher education[5]

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



59%	No proficiency
36%	Basic proficiency
4%	Intermediate proficiency
1%	Advanced proficiency

HOUSEHOLD CHARACTERISTICS

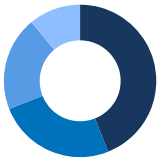
Household composition (258 individuals among the 105 households surveyed[3])

43% male | 57% female

7%	Over 60	11%
9%	35-59	19%
6%	18-34	11%
7%	12-17	5%
9%	6-11	6%
7%	0-5	4%

Average household size: 2.5

Household type[6]



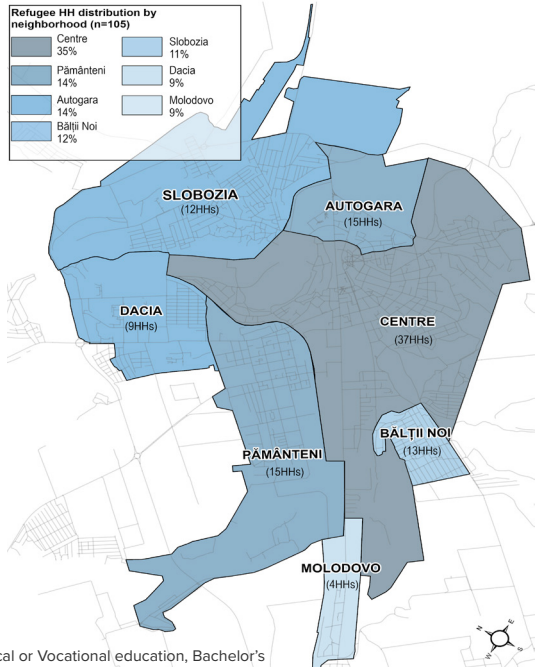
44%	Single adult with dependents
25%	2+ adults with dependents
20%	Older adult(s) over 60 years old with or without dependents
11%	Adults without dependents

Specific needs

47% of households have at least one family member with serious medical conditions

11% of households have at least one family member with a disability[7]

Among households with at least one member with a disability (n=12)[8], the difficulties reported include: walking (6), communicating (5), seeing (4), self-care (4), and concentrating or remembering (4). Fewer reported hearing challenges (2).



[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)?" HHs reporting "a lot of difficulty" or "cannot do at all" were considered to include a person with a disability.
[8] 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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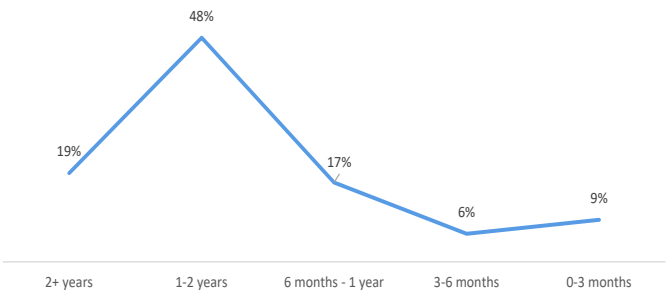
PROTECTION

Legal status of respondents in Moldova at time of data collection

Temporary protection (TP) status	91%
Citizen of host country	5%
Long-term residence or visa	2%
Applied for TP, awaiting decision	2%

Timeline of applications for temporary protection, by month (n=98)[9]



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=98)[10]

Prefer to keep TP	33%
Undecided about applying	31%
Awaiting improvements in Ukraine	27%
Do not plan to stay long-term	13%
Concerned about passport/travel limits	4%

Reported reasons for not applying for Temporary Protection (TP), among respondents who had not applied for TP (n=7)[11] in the host country:

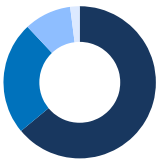
- Three were still deciding whether to apply
- Two felt they didn't need protection or related benefits
- One reported not being eligible for TP
- One reported applying for a different type of residency

SITUATION IN HOST COUNTRY

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

More than 2 years	60%
1-2 years	15%
6 months - 1 year	13%
3-6 months	7%
0-3 months	5%

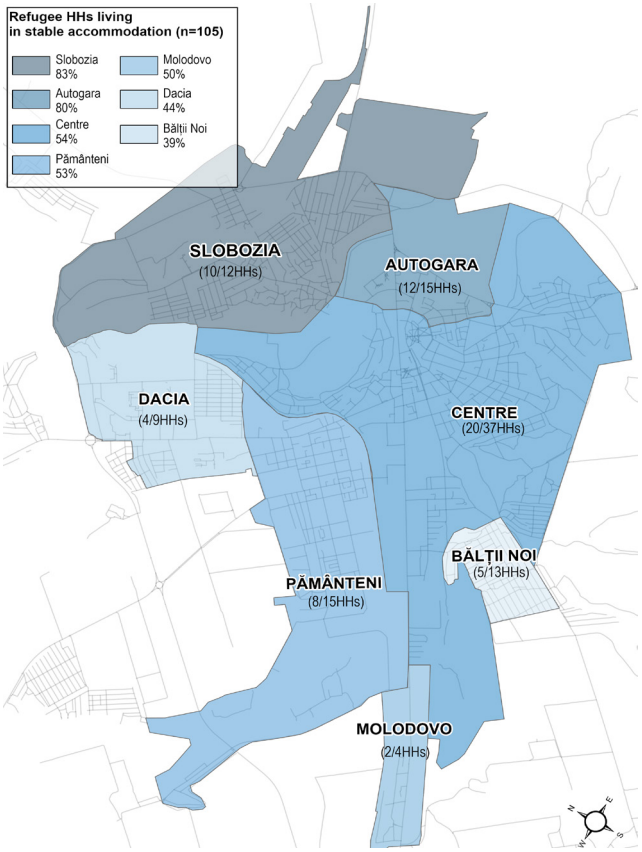
% of households[11] with any formal document guaranteeing their right to stay in their current accommodation at the time of data collection, among those renting accommodation (n=70)[9]



64%	Yes, a written agreement with landlord
24%	No
10%	Yes, a written agreement with my host
1%	Prefer not to answer

Among HHs without a rental contract (n=17)[12]:

- 6 did not request a written contract from their host
- 5 said the host did not require or offer a formal contract
- 4 said the landlord refused to provide one
- 2 reported they were in the process of preparing one
- 2 did not know
- One reported being in the process of obtaining legal ownership documents



58% of respondents live in stable accommodation[13]

[9] Results do not add up to 100% due to rounding up.
[10] Multiple answers could be selected, therefore the sum of values may exceed 100%.
[11] Henceforth referred to as "HHs"
[12] As the subset for this indicator is below 30 households, figures are reported as numbers and should be considered as indicative.
[13] Stable housing refers to respondents living in their own property, in shared accommodation, or in privately rented housing with a formal rental contract.

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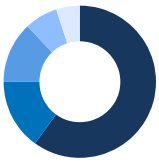
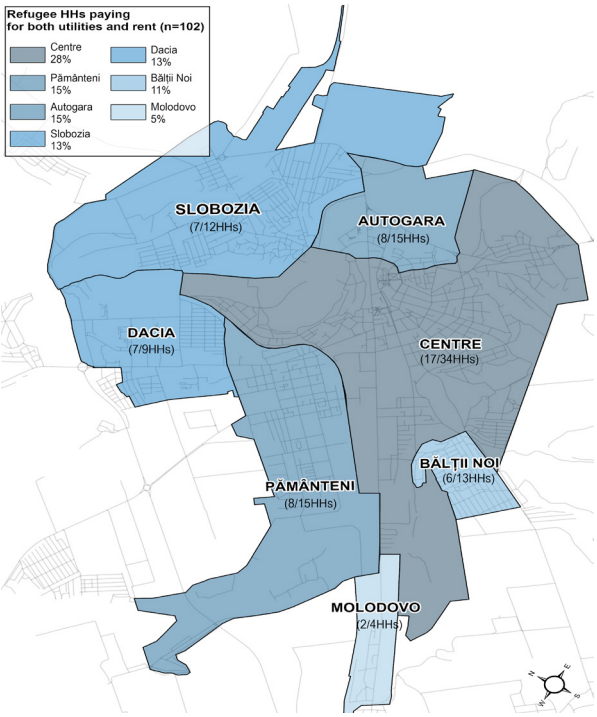
HHs who reported having to change their accommodation since their arrival in host country

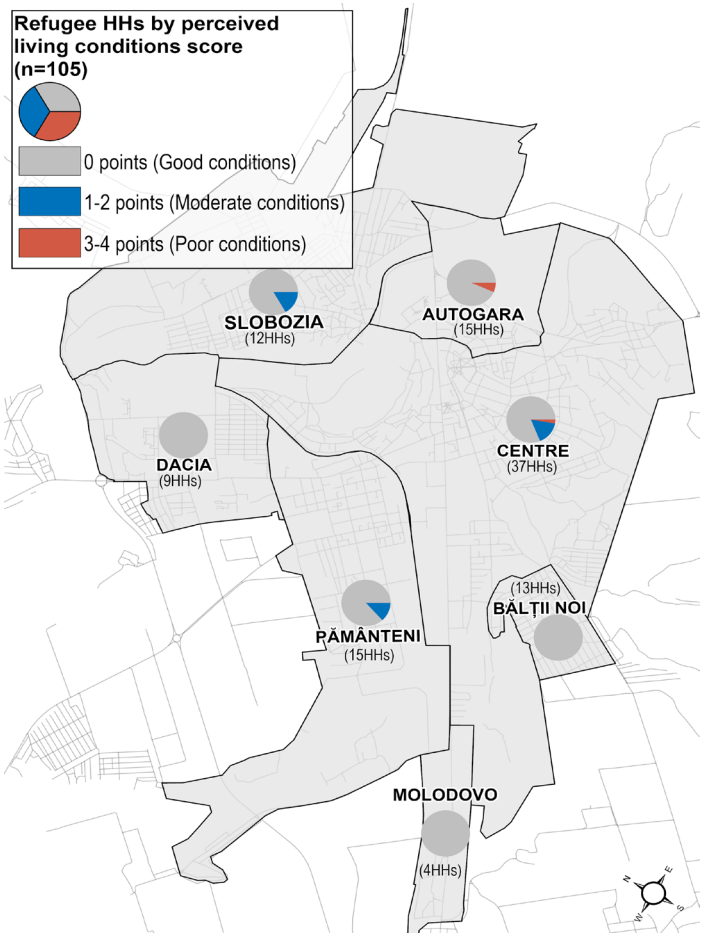


60% Never
15% Twice
13% Once
7% Three times
5% Four or more times



Refugee HHs reported their payment arrangement of their current accommodation (n=102)[14]

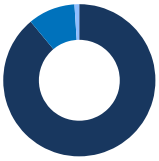
I pay both, rent and utilities	54%
I pay for utilities or a portion of them	26%
I pay rent or a portion of it	13%
I do not pay for anything	8%



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

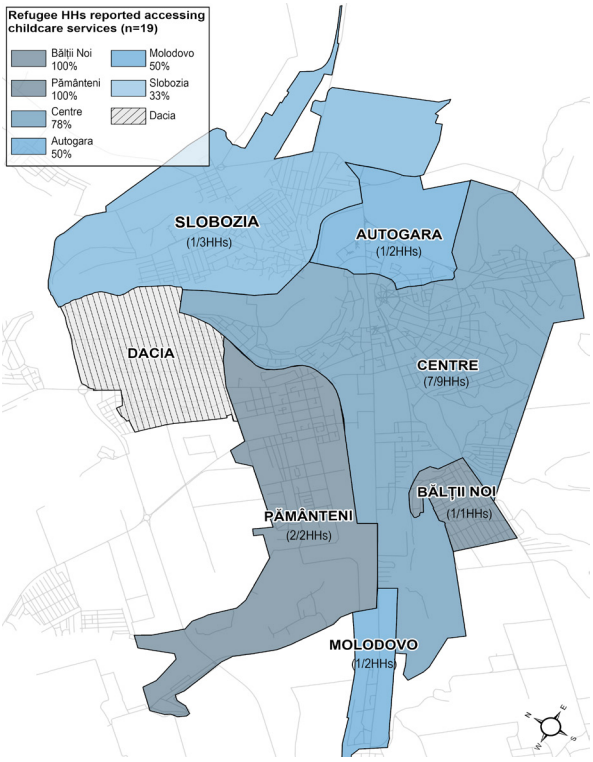
No specific time limit	74%
Do not know	19%
Between 6 and 12 months	3%
More than 12 months	2%
Between 3 and 6 months	1%
Less than 1 month	1%

Living conditions of refugee HHs' accommodation at the time of data collection[14]



89% Good conditions
10% Moderate conditions
2% Poor conditions

[14] Results do not add up to 100% due to rounding up.
[15] 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=19)[16]

13 out of 19 Yes

6 out of 19 No

Top 5 social protection benefits refugee HHs reported receiving from the host country government since arriving in Moldova[17]

Cash support	70%
I have not applied for any benefits	22%
None of the above	9%
Employment support services	6%
Housing support	1%

EDUCATION

Refugee children reported to be enrolled in Moldovan schools, among households that have school-aged children (6 to 18 y.o.) (n=56)

64% All children enrolled

36% No children enrolled

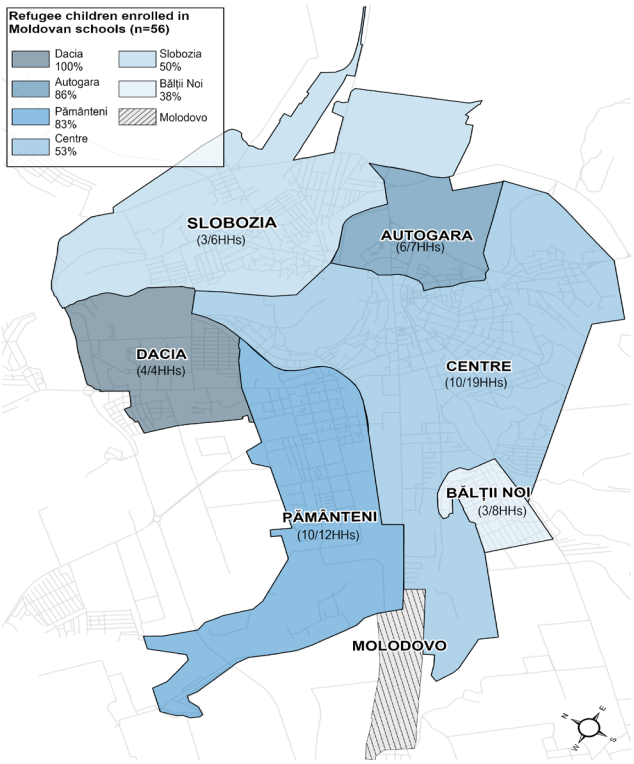
Among households that did not have any children enrolled in schools at the time of data collection, the following reasons were reported (n=20)[16]:

- Preference to continue with online learning in Ukrainian curriculum (18)
- Chose not to respond (1)
- Too young to attend school, attends kindergarten (1)

Number of HHs with none of their children enrolled by their reported plans to enroll their children in the next academic year (n=20)[16]

8 out of 20	Will be enrolled in Ukraine (remote)
6 out of 20	Do not know
4 out of 20	Will be enrolled in school in Moldova
2 out of 20	Will not be enrolled in any school

1 out of 56 HHs with school-aged children[16] reported that their children faced discrimination at school.



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

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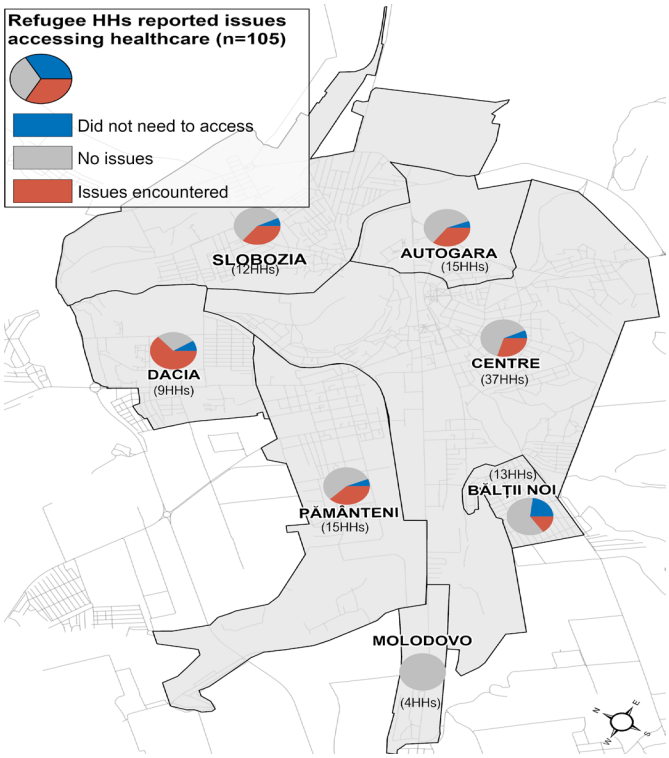
HEALTHCARE

% of respondents that reported having health insurance coverage in Moldova[18]

No, or I do not know if I am eligible	89%
Yes, covered by employer or state	7%
I do not know	2%
Yes, I pay my own contributions	1%
Own business, unsure how to enroll	1%
Prefer not to answer	1%

Among respondents who reported facing difficulties accessing healthcare services (n=20), the most commonly reported issues were[19]:

- Inability to afford healthcare costs (10)
- Inability to make an appointment (7)
- Medical staff refusal to provide care (7)
- Needed service/medication were unavailable (6)
- Long waiting times (5)



EMPLOYMENT & ECONOMIC ACTIVITY

Reported main activities of respondents before leaving Ukraine[18]

Employed or Self-Employed	67%
Retired	22%
Not working due to care reponsibilities	9%
Unable to work due to health conditions	2%
Not seeking work	1%

3 out of 18 respondents reported being employed[19] stated 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=52), the most common sectors of past work experience were:

Retail & Sales	25%
Personal Services & Beauty Industry	17%
Finance, Business & Administration	15%
Education & Teaching	12%
Hospitality & Tourism	10%

Reported main activities of respondents at the time of data collection

Not working due to care reponsibilities	23%
Retired	19%
Employed or Self-Employed	19%
Unemployed (actively seeking work)	16%
Unable to work due to health conditions	13%
Not currently seeking work	10%

Among respondents who were unemployed and actively seeking work at the time of data collection (n=17)[19], the main barriers reported included: limited decent job opportunities (6), lack of local language skills (4), not actively seeking work (4), difficulty finding flexible schedules (3), discrimination (2).

Top 5 sectors where respondents have relevant skills or experience[20]

Retail & Sales	24%
Finance, Business & Administration	16%
Personal Services & Beauty Industry	13%
Education & Teaching	10%
Hospitality & Tourism	9%

Among the respondents who reported being employed in host country as current main activity (n=12)[19], 6 reported feeling like their current position matches their formal qualifications.

[18] Results do not add up to 100% due to rounding up.
[19] As the subset for this indicator is below 30 households, figures are reported as numbers and should be considered as indicative.
[20] Multiple answers could be selected, therefore the sum of values may exceed 100%.

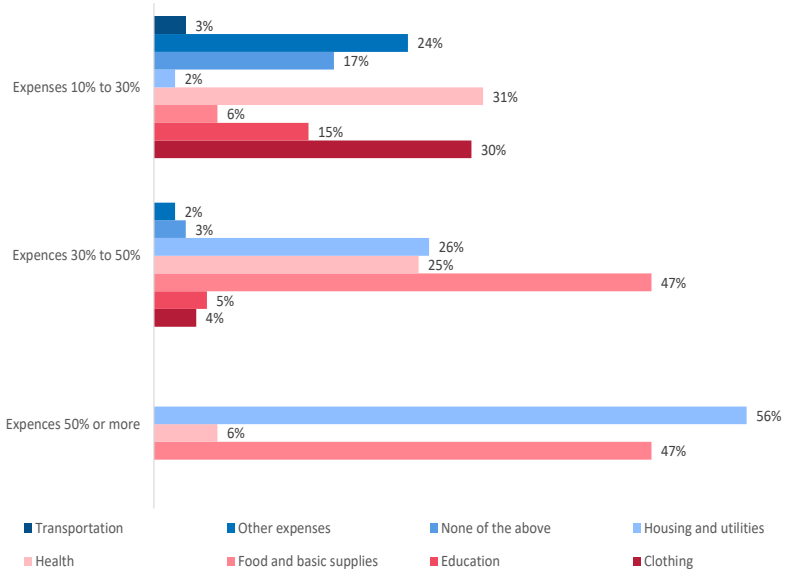
Reported main sources of income by respondents

Financial assistance	44%
Income from employment	23%
Savings	13%
Pension from Ukraine	12%
Money transfers	8%

Top 5 reported secondary sources of income by respondents[21]

Financial assistance	33%
None	31%
Money transfers	19%
Savings	13%
Pension from Ukraine	11%

Reported categories of HH expenditure by respondents[21]



Reported average monthly HH income by respondents

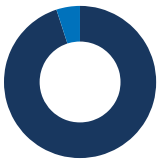
Prefer not to answer	21%
6,001-7,500 MDL (316-400 EUR)	20%
<4,000 MDL (<210 EUR)	16%
4001-6,000 MDL (211-315 EUR)	15%
9,001-10,500 MDL (471-550 EUR)	11%
7,501-9,000 MDL (401-470 EUR)	7%
13,501-15,000 MDL (711-790 EUR)	4%
12,001-13,500 MDL (631-710 EUR)	2%
16,501-18,000 MDL (861-940 EUR)	2%
10,501-12,000 MDL (551-630 EUR)	1%
15,001-16,500 MDL (791-860 EUR)	1%

INTENTIONS & INTEGRATION

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

Return to Ukraine when conditions allow	36%
Stay in Moldova, but not permanently	30%
Undecided	17%
Stay in Moldova permanently	14%
Move to another country	2%
Leave as soon as possible	1%

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



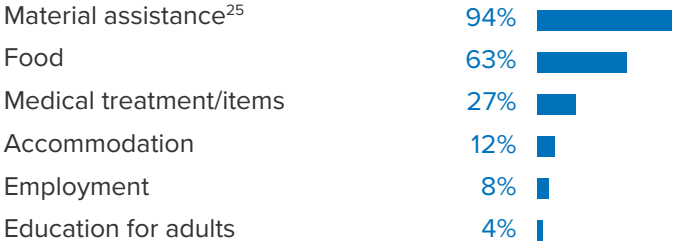
95%	Felt welcomed and never experienced any discrimination
5%	Felt welcomed but experienced rare discrimination

Among the 5% of respondents who experienced discrimination or hostility (n=5), reported reasons included ethnicity (2), refugee status (1), competition for resources (1), language barriers (1), and other factors[23] (1).

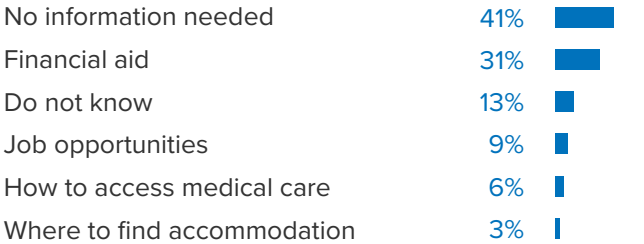
[21] Multiple answers could be selected, therefore the sum of values may exceed 100%.
[22] As the subset for this indicator is below 30 households, figures are reported as numbers and should be considered as indicative.
[23] The response marked as "other reason" was not further specified or recorded in the dataset.

NEEDS AND COPING STRATEGIES

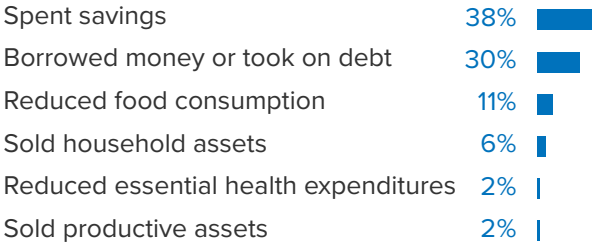
Most reported urgent needs at time of data collection[24]



% of respondents by the type of information they required at the time of data collection[24]



% of respondents by coping strategies selected at the time of data collection[24]



33% of respondents reported none of these coping strategies

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