INTRODUCTION

1 118 SURVEYS CONDUCTED

2 BORDER CROSSING POINTS

609 INTERVIEWS IN PALANCA BCP

509 INTERVIEWS IN OTACI BCP

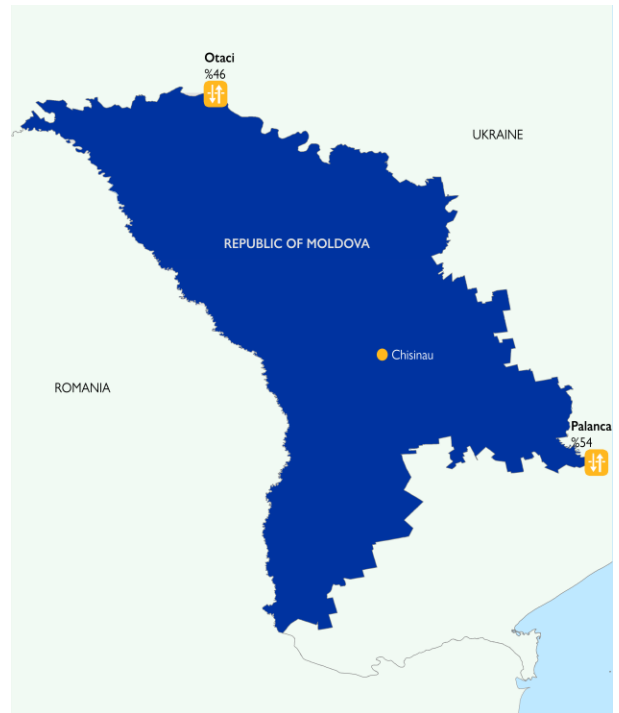**98%** UKRAINIANS
2% TCNs

80% FEMALE   **20%** MALE

Figure 1: Distribution of respondents by the location of data collection (%)

This map is for illustration purposes only. The boundaries and names shown, and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by IOM.

On 24 February 2022, the Russian Federation invaded Ukraine and triggered an unprecedented humanitarian crisis and forcibly displaced people within Ukraine and to neighboring countries. The Republic of Moldova is one of the main refugee-hosting countries and a transit country for those moving onward. Between 24 February and 13 November 2022, an estimated 810,836 Ukrainian citizens entered the Republic of Moldova (according to General Inspectorate of Border Police data). During this period, while a large number of people were displaced to other European countries, approximately 95,963 refugees from Ukraine sought refuge in the Republic of Moldova (source: UNHCR web site).

In response to the refugee influx in the Republic of Moldova, the Moldovan government, with the support of the United Nations (UN) agencies, international and national non-governmental partners, have been providing support, including but not limited to, access to food and shelter, access to health services, employment opportunities and access to education for children. To inform an evidence-based response, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) conducted a displacement survey to identify basic needs and intentions of refugees from Ukraine and third-country nationals (TCNs), entering the Republic of Moldova from Ukraine since March 2022. The first round of the Displacement Survey on Intentions was conducted between 9 March and 12 May 2022 (link to report), and the second round began on 6 September 2022 and data collection is ongoing. This is the first report presenting findings from the second round of data collection.

This report summarizes the key findings of the Displacement Survey on Intentions collected by IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) between 06 September and 06 October 2022, in two entry and exit Border Crossing Points (BCPs) between the Republic of Moldova (hereinafter at times referred to as Moldova) and Ukraine. The findings presented are based on 1,118 interviews with refugees from Ukraine and TCNs, entering Moldova, of which 609 were conducted in Palanca BCP, in the south of Moldova, and 509 in Otaci BCP, in the north.
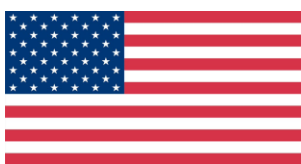
TABLE OF CONTENTS

KEY FINDINGS

63% intend to stay in the Republic of Moldova

41% with specific needs

26% travelling with at least one child in the group

16 % travelling with persons with serious health condition

18% travelling with at least one elderly person (60+)

MAIN NEEDS OF THOSE INTENDING TO STAY IN THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

11% Financial support

9% Health services

8% Personal hygiene and sanitary supplies

8% Medicines

SOCIODEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE

Among the 1,118 survey respondents, almost all, or 98 per cent, of respondents were Ukrainian nationals, and the remaining two per cent (26 persons) were either Moldovan nationals (8 persons) or other TCNs (18 persons). Among TCNs, the majority were either originally from Azerbaijan or Russian Federation (33% each), followed by Israel and Türkiye (11 % each), Armenia and China (6% each).

The average age of all respondents was 44 years, but the age profile by gender was different. On average, women were 42 years old, while men were 51 years old. The share of older persons was higher among men (40 %) compared to women (13 %). More than half of all women respondents (57%) were aged between 30 and 49 years, compared to 40 per cent of men respondents.

Figure 2: Distribution of respondents by country of origin (%)

98% Ukrainians   1% Moldovans   1% Third Country Nationals

Figure 3: Age distribution of all respondents by sex (%)

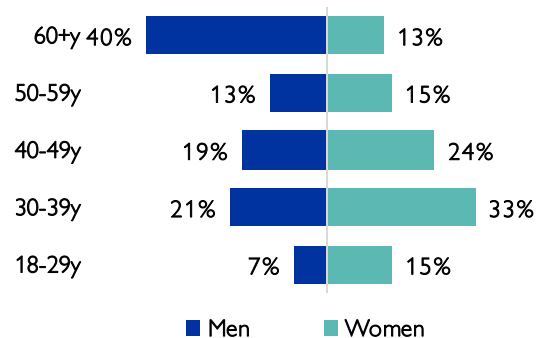| Age	Men	Women
60+y	40%	13%
50-59y	13%	15%
40-49y	19%	24%
30-39y	21%	33%
18-29y	7%	15%

■ Men ■ Women

Sex and age disaggregated data reveal that 80 per cent of respondents were females and 20 per cent males.* This is most likely because Ukrainian men between the age of 18 and 60 are prohibited from leaving Ukraine. Among those interviewed at Palanca BCP, 82 per cent were women, compared to 78 per cent among those interviewed at Otaci BCP.

* None of the respondents self-identified with neither male nor female gender.

Out of the total 1,118 respondents, 75 per cent reported being married and one per cent in a relationship. The remaining 24 per cent reported being single (11%), divorced or separated (8%) or widowed (5%). The share of married men (82%) was higher than the share of married women (72%) which may be related to the age characteristic of all respondents. About 72 per cent of all male respondents were 40 years old or above, while only 52 per cent of all women were of this age.

3   IOM Moldova – https://moldova.iom.int/
IOM DTM Moldova – https://displacement.iom.int/republic-of-moldova

Published on 29 Nov 2022

DTM
IOM DISPLACEMENT
TRACKING MATRIX

Figure 4: Marital status of respondents by sex (%)

Widowed 5%
Partnership/Union 2%
Divorced or Separated 9%
Single 12%
Married; 72%

Widowed 3%
Partnership/Union 2%
Divorced or Separated 4%
Single 9%
Married 82%
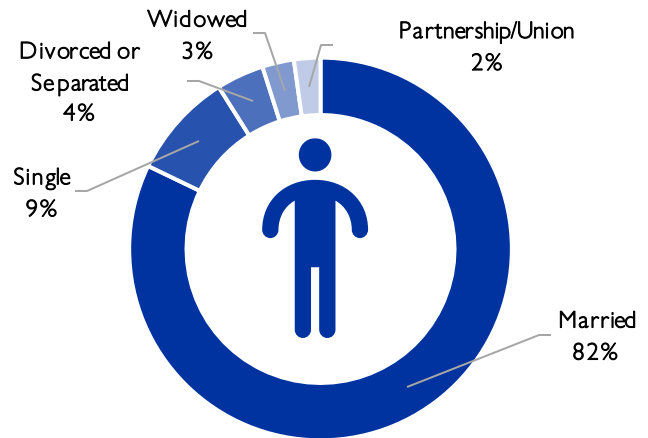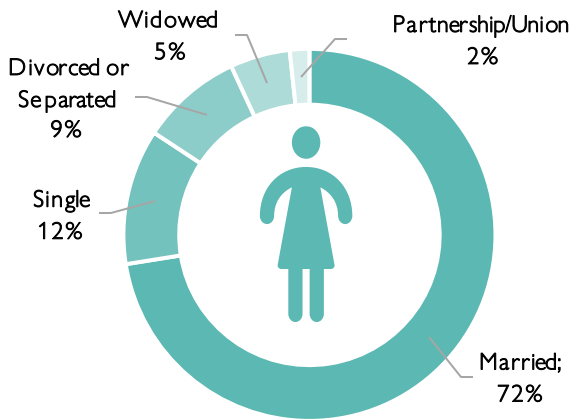
EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

The majority of respondents received formal education and earned higher-level education degrees. Out of 1,118 respondents, 59 per cent hold bachel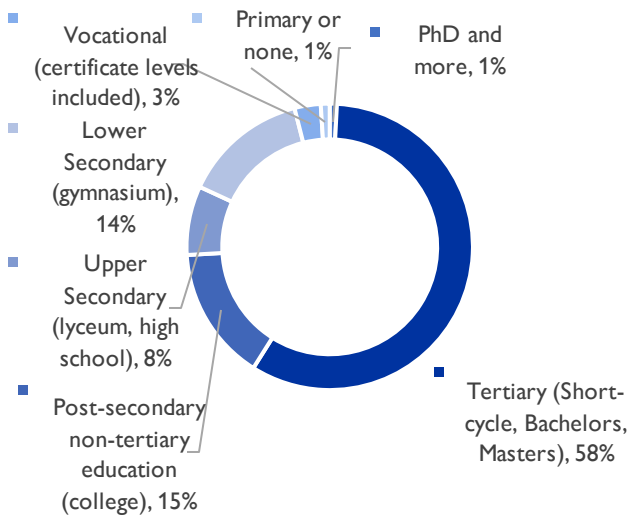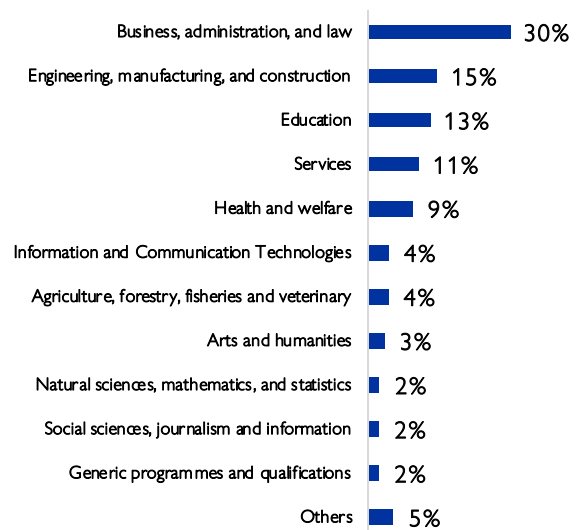or's, master's, or PhD degrees, and 15 per cent received college training. The remaining 26 per cent include those who hold upper secondary, post-secondary, lower secondary or primary degrees and vocational training. Around one per cent reported not having a diploma.

Figure 5: Distribution of respondents by reported level of education (%)

Vocational (certificate levels included), 3%
Primary or none, 1%
PhD and more, 1%
Lower Secondary (gymnasium), 14%
Upper Secondary (lyceum, high school), 8%
Post-secondary non-tertiary education (college), 15%
Tertiary (Short-cycle, Bachelors, Masters), 58%

Among individuals who reported to have academic qualifications (tertiary, secondary and higher education level), around 30 per cent were specialized in business, administration, and law, 15 per cent in engineering, manufacturing, and construction, 13 per cent in education, and 11 per cent in services. The remaining 33 per cent had a diversity of other sectoral diplomas.

Figure 6: Type of secondary and higher education of respondents (%)

Business, administration, and law	30%
Engineering, manufacturing, and construction	15%
Education	13%
Services	11%
Health and welfare	9%
Information and Communication Technologies	4%
Agriculture, forestry, fisheries and veterinary	4%
Arts and humanities	3%
Natural sciences, mathematics, and statistics	2%
Social sciences, journalism and information	2%
Generic programmes and qualifications	2%
Others	5%

When asked about the respondents' mother tongue, out of the total 1,118 respondents, 53 per cent reported Ukrainian as the main language they speak at home, 46 per cent reported that it was Russian and one per cent reported Romanian or other languages. When asked about the respondents' mother tongue, out of the total of 1,118 respondents, 53 per cent reported Ukrainian as the main language they speak at home, 46 per cent reported that it was Russian and one per cent reported Romanian or other languages.

Figure 7: Distribution of respondents by main language spoken (%)

1%
0% *
* 0% = <1
46%
53%

■ Ukrainian   ■ Russian
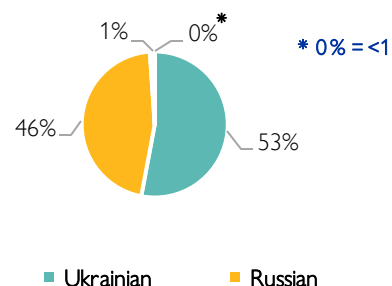
EMPLOYMENT

More than half of all respondents reported that they were employed (57%) or self-employed (7%) in Ukraine before the war started in February 2022. Additionally, 14 per cent reported being retired, 12 per cent were unemployed and not looking for a job and only 4 per cent were unemployed and looking for a job. The remaining six per cent included students (1%), apprentices (1%), prefer not to answer (3%) and do not know (1%).

Figure 8: Employment status of respondents before the war in Ukraine in February 2022 (%)
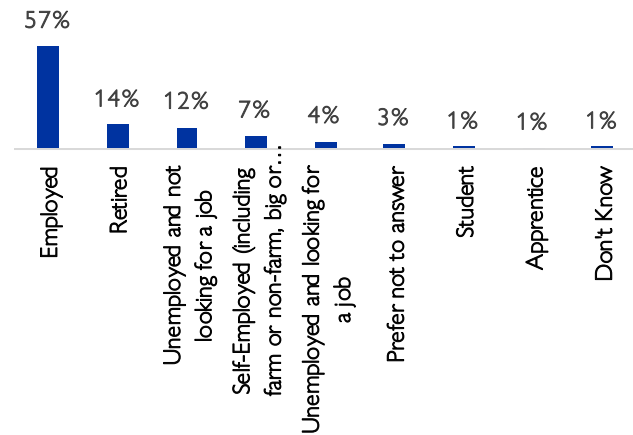
The top five most commonly cited recent professions by the respondents were in trade (15%), services (12%), finance and real estate (11%), education and academia (9%), and manufacturing and engineering (7%).

Figure 9: Reported last profession of respondents prior to the war in Ukraine (%, sector)
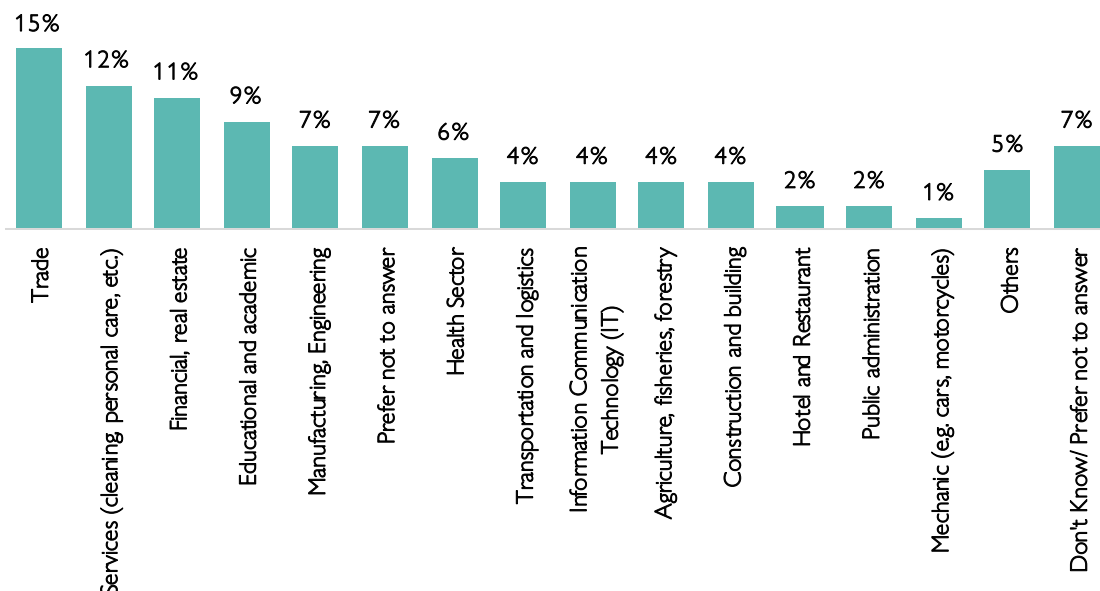
Regarding their intentions to participate in the labor market in the Republic of Moldova, 45 per cent reported that they were uncertain about the sector they would like to work in, 15 per cent preferred not to share their decision, 11 per cent reported that they had no intention to work in Moldova, and 4 per cent reported that they were in transit. About one quarter of respondents, or 26 per cent, expressed their intention to join the labor market in Moldova, mainly in services such as cleaning and personal care (17%), education and academia (14%), health sector and trade (12% each).

Figure 10: Distribution of respondents by intention to integrate into the labor market (%, sector)
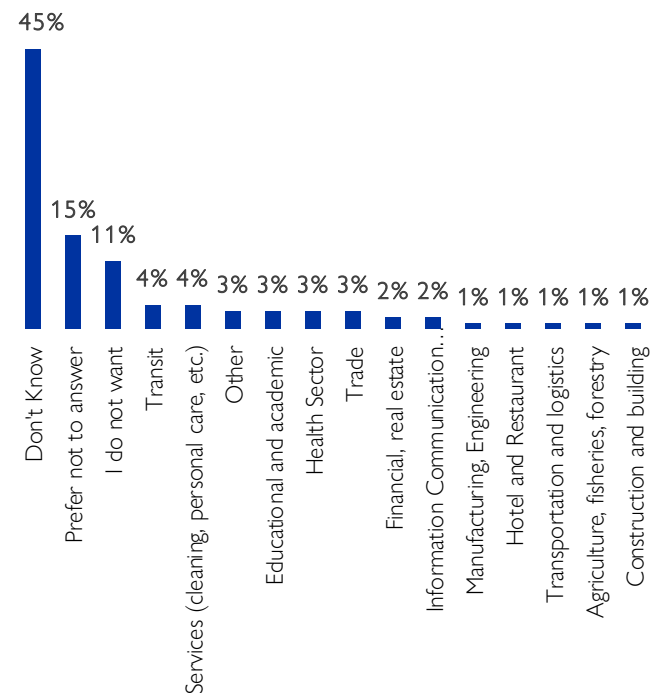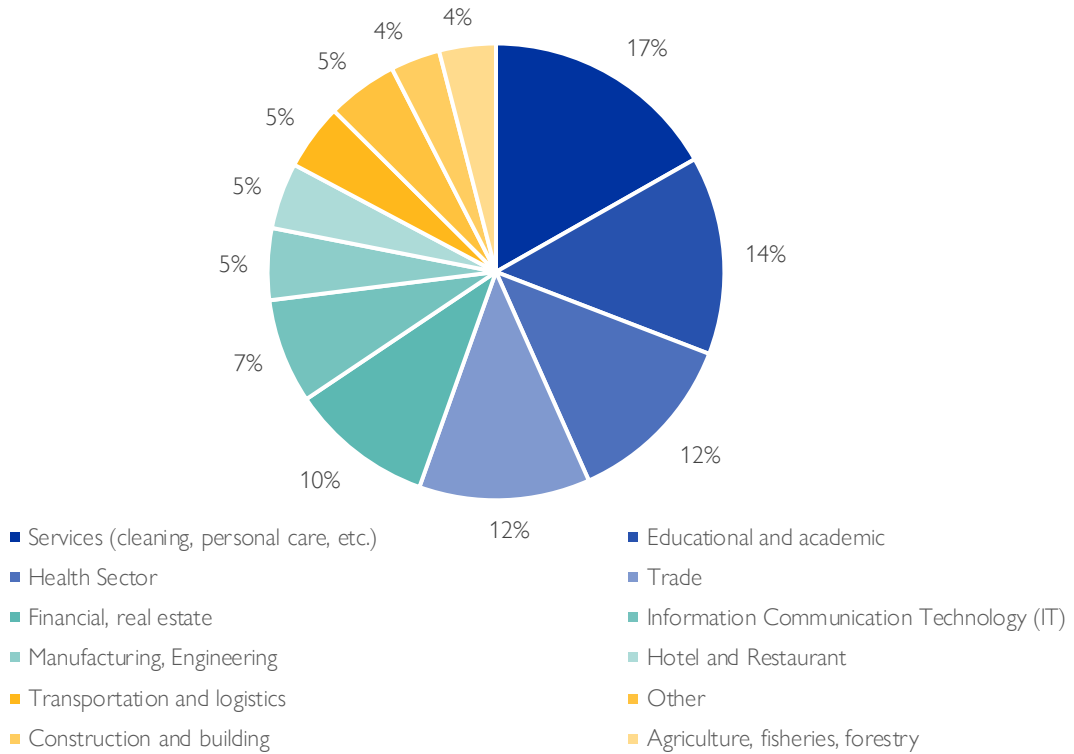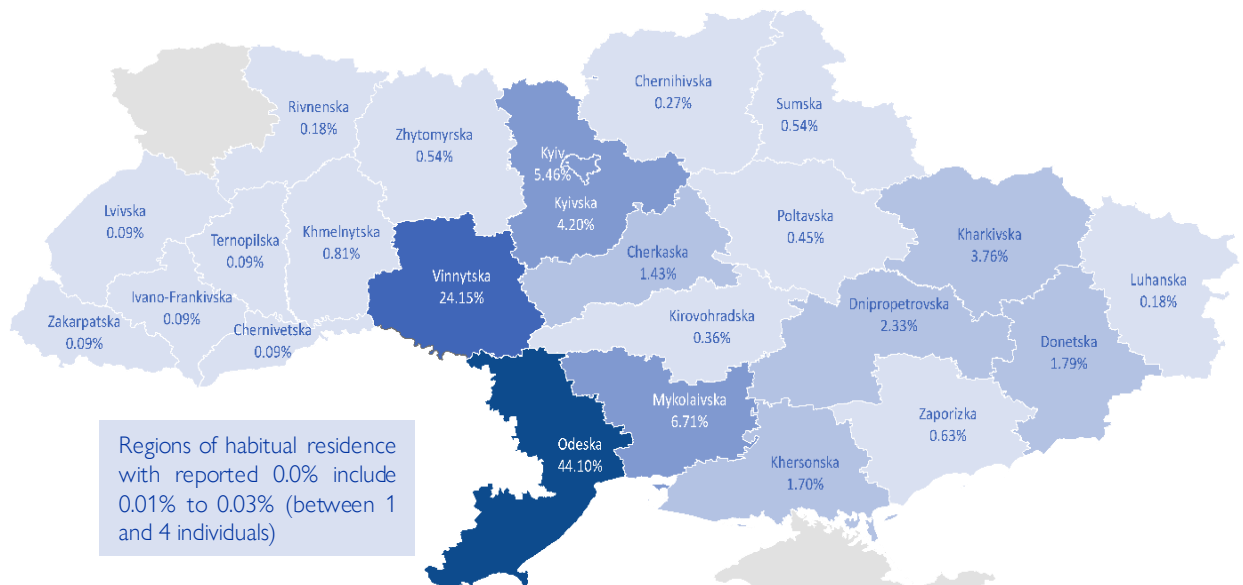
Figure 11: Sector of interest of those respondents (23% of the total) who intend to work in Republic of Moldova (%, sector)

17%
14%
12%
12%
10%
7%
5%
5%
5%
5%
4%
4%

- Services (cleaning, personal care, etc.)
- Educational and academic
- Health Sector
- Trade
- Financial, real estate
- Information Communication Technology (IT)
- Manufacturing, Engineering
- Hotel and Restaurant
- Transportation and logistics
- Other
- Construction and building
- Agriculture, fisheries, forestry

ORIGIN AND TRAVEL CHARACTERISTICS

Almost all respondents (97%) arrived in the country during the period of this assessment, while the other three per cent reported to have arrived before September 2022. Respectively, three per cent of all respondents (33 individuals) reported a date of leaving Ukraine prior to the date of arrival in the Republic of Moldova, despite entering from BCPs between Ukraine and Moldova. This likely shows that some refugees fled Ukraine to other countries, then transited via Ukraine to enter Moldova. The vast majority (96%) declared that the main reason for displacement from Ukraine was due to the war, while four per cent cited other reasons for fleeing the country.

Figure 12: Distribution of respondents by region of habitual residence in Ukraine (%)

Rivnenska 0.18%
Zhytomyrska 0.54%
Chernihivska 0.27%
Sumska 0.54%
Lvivska 0.09%
Ternopilska 0.09%
Khmelnytska 0.81%
Kyiv 5.46%
Kyivska 4.20%
Cherkaska 1.43%
Poltavska 0.45%
Kharkivska 3.76%
Luhanska 0.18%
Ivano-Frankivska 0.09%
Vinnytska 24.15%
Dnipropetrovska 2.33%
Zakarpatska 0.09%
Chernivetska 0.09%
Kirovohradska 0.36%
Donetska 1.79%
Mykolaivska 6.71%
Zaporizka 0.63%
Odeska 44.10%
Khersonska 1.70%

Regions of habitual residence with reported 0.0% include 0.01% to 0.03% (between 1 and 4 individuals)

This map is for illustration purposes only. The boundaries and names shown, and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the International Organization for Migration.

6   IOM Moldova – https://moldova.iom.int/
     IOM DTM Moldova – https://displacement.iom.int/republic-of-moldova
                                    Published on 29 Nov 2022

DTM
IOM DISPLACEMENT
TRACKING MATRIX

Among all respondents, the top five reported regions of origin or usual residence in Ukraine were Odeska (44%), Vinnytska (24%), Mykolaivska (7%), Kyivska city (5%) and Kyivska oblast (4%), with the remaining 15 per cent reporting their habitual residence to have been in other regions of Ukraine. The majority of all respondents interviewed, or 85 per cent, reported that they were living in urban settlements in Ukraine, compared to 15 per cent in rural settlements. The share of those from urban settlements was higher among those interviewed at Palanca BCP (89%) in the south, than in Otaci BCP (80%) in the north.

Figure 13: Distribution of respondents, coming from urban vs rural areas in Ukraine (%)

85%
Urban Areas

15%
Rural Areas

Around 51 per cent of those surveyed left Ukraine alone, and the remaining 49 per cent left with in a group, whether comprising of the same or different group of people than those they exited Ukraine with. Since the onset of the war, there have been more people who report travelling on their own. This is telling of a shift in the travel mode, when compared to the first round of data collection for the Intention Survey, which was conducted between 9 March and 12 May 2022, when only 19 per cent of those surveyed left Ukraine alone, and 81 per cent travelled in a group.

Figure 14: Distribution of respondents by travel mode (%)

51%
Travelled alone

49%
Travelled with a group

Among the 49 per cent travelling in a group, around 78 per cent left Ukraine with immediate family members, 9 per cent travelled with friends and 7 per cent with other relatives. The other six per cent travelled in a group with family members, other relatives, and/or friends.

Among those travelling in a group, around 40 per cent of respondents were travelling with family members, of whom more than half (53%) reported travelling with one other family member, almost a quarter reported travelling with two other family members (24%), and 23 percent reported travelling with 4 or more family members (not including the respondent). The average group size of those travelling with family members consisted of three people.

Figure 15: Distribution of all respondents, travelling alone vs in a group, by sex (%)

49%
Travelled with a group
82% 18%

51%
Travelled alone
78% 22%
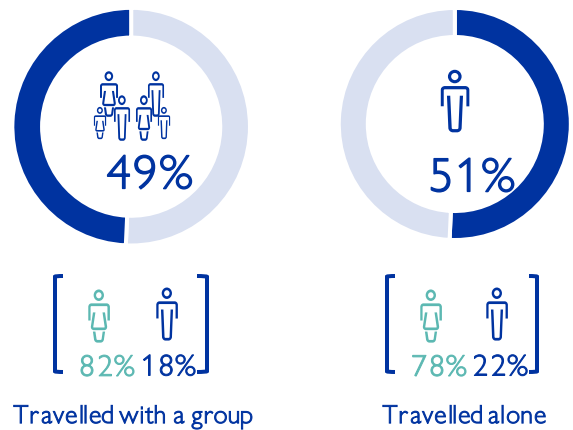
More than half of all respondents travelling in a group were travelling with children. Among the total respondents travelling in a group (551 people), 54 per cent were travelling with at least one child. Among those travelling with children, around 36 per cent were travelling with babies and 6 per cent reported travelling with a child to whom they were not a parent or a legal guardian. Women were shouldering a greater childcare responsibility. Around six in ten women travelling in a group were travelling with at least one child, in comparison to three in ten men.

Figure 16: Distribution of respondents travelling in a group and with family members, by number of accompanied family members (%)

- 2 Family members
- 3 Family members
- 4 Family members
- 5 Family members
- 6+ Family members

7   IOM Moldova – https://moldova.iom.int/
     IOM DTM Moldova – https://displacement.iom.int/republic-of-moldova
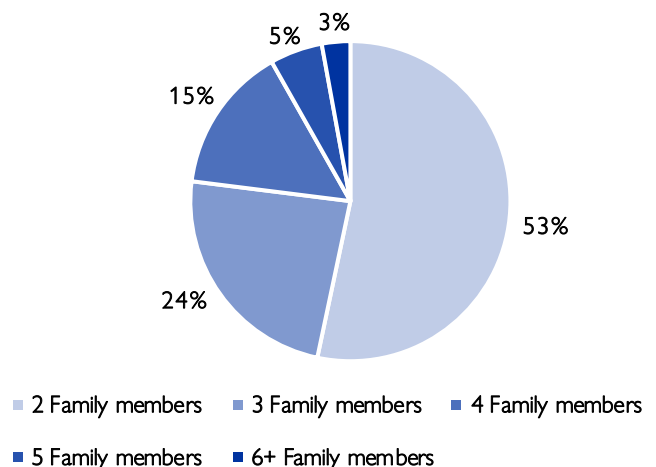
Published on 29 Nov 2022

DTM
IOM DISPLACEMENT
TRACKING MATRIX

Figure 17: Distribution of respondents travelling in a group and with children, by the number of accompanied children: 1, 2, 3+ (%)

- No children
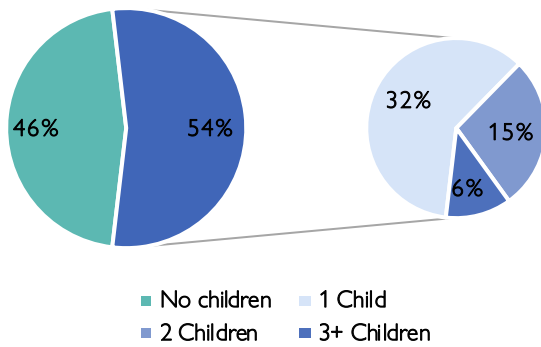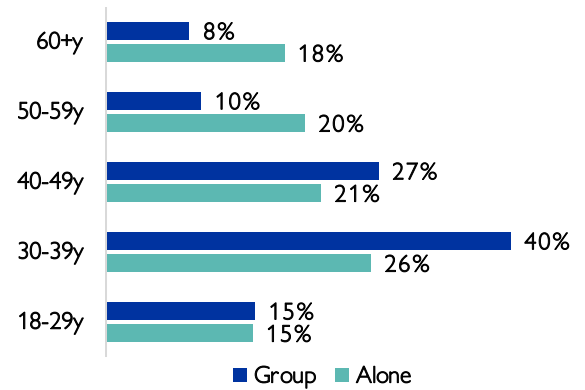- 1 Child
- 2 Children
- 3+ Children

Figure 18: Age distribution of women respondents, travelling alone vs in a group (%)


- Group
- Alone

Among all women respondents, half reported to be travelling alone and the other half to be travelling with a group of people. Around 40 per cent of women travelling with a group were between 30 to 39 years, whereas among women travelling alone, age categories were more equally distributed. Almost one in five of women travelling alone were 60 years or older (18%).

INTENDED DESTINATIONS

The main intended destination reported among all respondents was the Republic of Moldova, accounting for 63 per cent of the total (705 repondents). The top five main intended European countries of destination were Romania (10%), Germany and Bulgaria (4% each) and Italy (1%).

Among those who reported their intention to stay in Moldova, almost 42 per cent did not know the expected duration of their stay, 21 per cent shared their intention to stay for one month, 18 per cent predicted to stay between one to three months, 13 per cent expected a shorter stay of one or two weeks, and the remaining 6 per cent indicated they intend to stay for longer than three months.

Figure 19: Distribution of respondents by intended duration of stay in the Republic of Moldova (%)
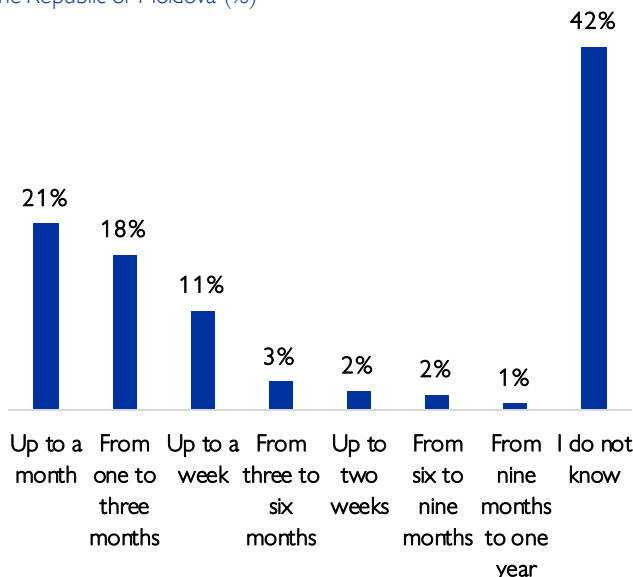
Among those who intended to stay in Moldova, 60 per cent were not considering applying for asylum, compared to 29 per cent who were considering it, and eleven per cent were still unsure.

Figure 20: Distribution of respondents that are considering to apply for asylum in the Republic of Moldova (%)

- No
- Yes
- Don't know yet
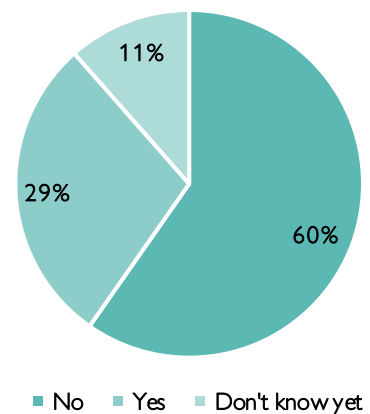
Around 14 per cent, among those who intended to stay in Moldova, reported that they need support to be relocated in European Union, United Kingdom, United States of America, Canada, or another country and 12 per cent did not know yet. Nevertheless, the majority (74%) of respondents reported not needing support at the time of the interview.

Figure 21: Distribution of respondents interested in receiving support to relocate to the European Union, United Kingdom, United States of America, Canada, or another country (%)

0%*

12%

14%

74%

■ No   ■ Yes   ■ Don't know yet   ■ Prefer not to Answer
* 0% = <1
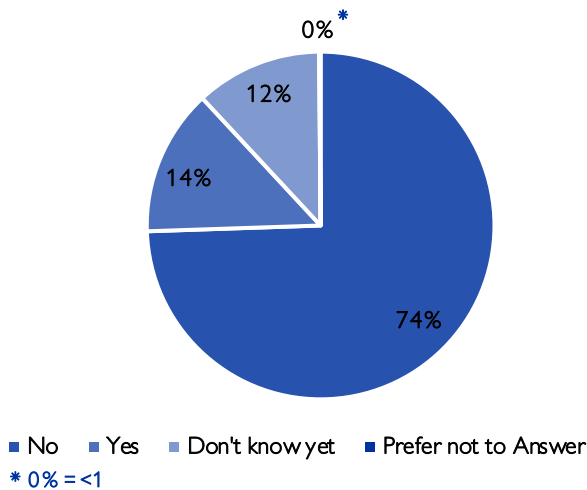
Among those who intended to stay in the Republic of Moldova, around 42 per cent reported that they will be staying with relatives, 22 per cent in rented private accommodations, 20 per cent with friends, 5 per cent in hotels or hostels, and 4 per cent will be staying in organized reception centers or private accommodations that are free of charge. The remaining share reported that they were unsure of their plans or preferred not to answer.
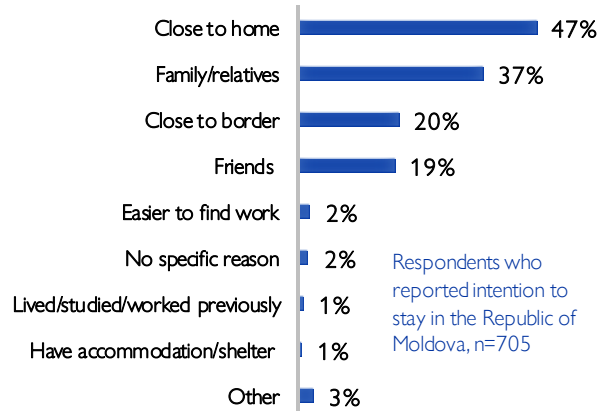
Figure 22: Intended places of stay in the Republic of Moldova (%, more than one option possible)

Relatives	42%
Private accommodation	22%
Friends	20%
Hotels/hostel	5%
Organized reception centre	4%
Private accommodation	4%
Doesn't know	3%
Prefer not to answer	1%

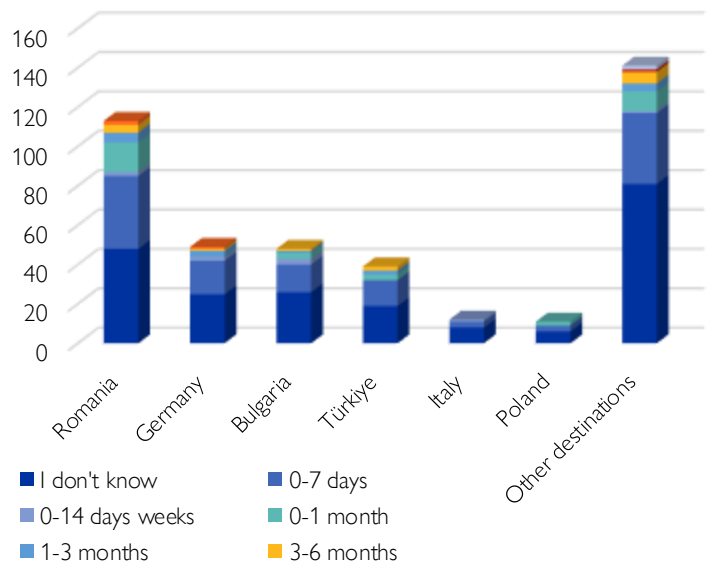Respondents who reported intention to stay in the Republic of Moldova, n=705

For most respondents, proximity to Ukraine (47%) and family or relatives (37%) were the main reasons in defining their intention to stay in Moldova. Further reasons included the proximity to the border (20%), having friends in Moldova (19%), employment opportunities (2%) among other reasons (6%).

Figure 23: Reasons to stay in the Republic of Moldova (%, more than one option possible)

Close to home	47%
Family/relatives	37%
Close to border	20%
Friends	19%
Easier to find work	2%
No specific reason	2%
Lived/studied/worked previously	1%
Have accommodation/shelter	1%
Other	3%

Respondents who reported intention to stay in the Republic of Moldova, n=705

As for those who reported their intention to stay in another country besides Moldova, namely Romania (10%), Germany and Bulgaria (4% each), Türkiye (3%), Italy and Poland (1% each), more than half (52%) reported being unsure of the length of their stay, around 32 per cent intended to stay for up to two weeks, 8 per cent up to one month, another 8 per cent from one month up to one year or more. The main reported reasons for staying in these countries were to be with family and relatives (36%) or friends (30%).

Figure 24: Intended duration of stay, in countries other than the Republic of Moldova (number of respondents)

■ I don't know   ■ 0-7 days
■ 0-14 days weeks   ■ 0-1 month
■ 1-3 months   ■ 3-6 months

9   IOM Moldova – https://moldova.iom.int/
IOM DTM Moldova – https://displacement.iom.int/republic-of-moldova

Published on 29 Nov 2022

DTM
IOM DISPLACEMENT
TRACKING MATRIX

HEALTH CONDITIONS AND SPECIFIC NEEDS

Among all respondents travelling in a group, 18 per cent reported travelling with a person with vulnerabilities (among whom, 93 per cent with a chronic disease and 9 per cent with a pregnant or lactating woman). No wounded persons were reported among the respondents.

Figure 25: Distribution of respondents travelling in a group who were travelling with people with vulnerabilities (%)

23% travelled with at least one elderly person

18% travelled with a person with a serious health condition

16% travelled with a person with a chronic disease

15% travelled with a person with specific needs

3% travelled with a pregnant/lactating woman

0 wounded persons were reported among the respondents
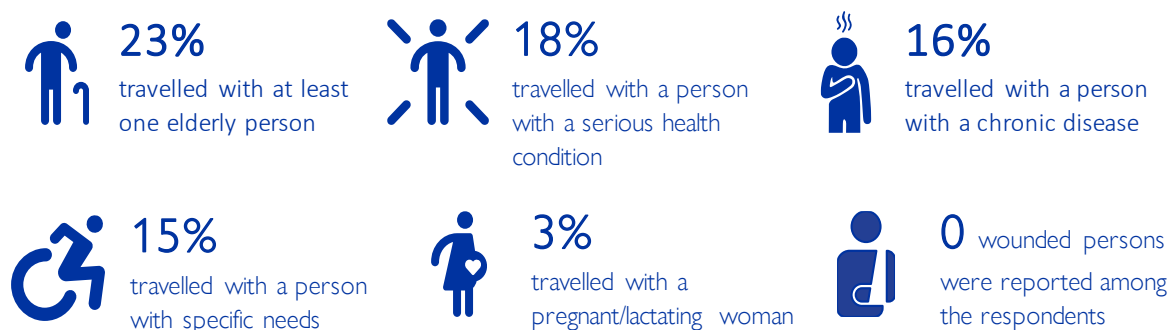
In this round of the survey, the questionnaire included the Washington Group Short Set on Functioning (WG-SS) questions (http://www.washingtongroup-disability.com/), which ask respondents about difficulties they may have while doing certain activities because of a health problem.

Around five per cent of respondents reported having or travelling with a family member who has a disability. Persons with disabilities include those who responded to the disability indicator questions with having either a lot of difficulty or no ability at all to perform any of six domains of functioning, namely, seeing, hearing, mobility, cognition, communication, or self-care.

Among those who reported a disability, most reported having difficulty in walking or climbing steps (67%), around 40 per cent reported having difficulty in seeing, around 13 per cent having a difficulty in hearing, and 9 per cent difficulty in remembering or concentration. Smaller shares reported having difficulty with self-care (7%). No respondents with difficulty in communicating were reported.

Figure 26: Distribution of respondents by severity indicator of disability (%)
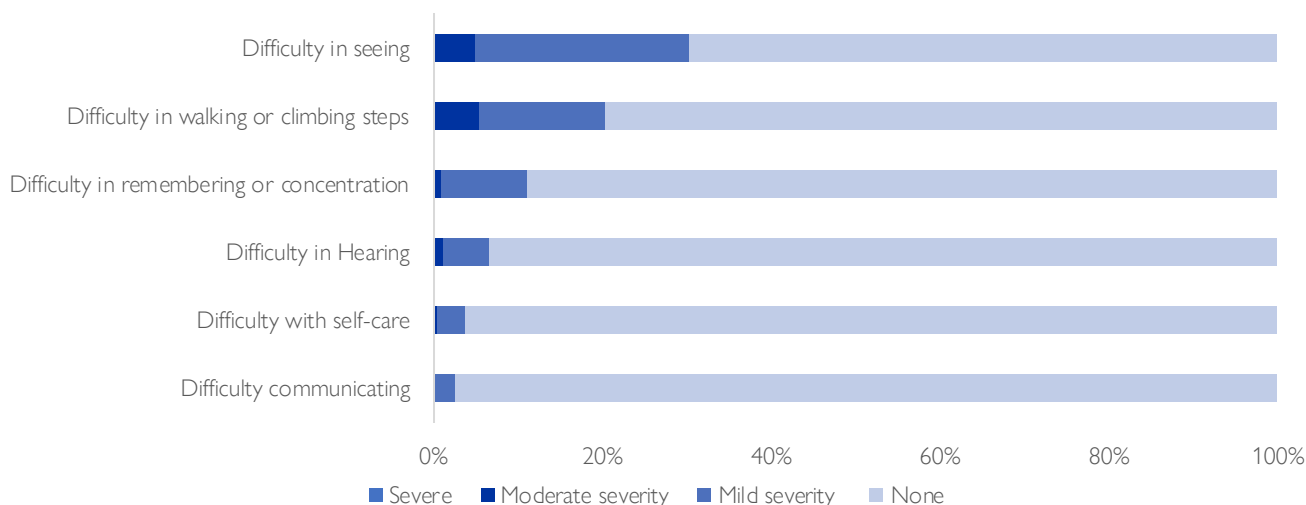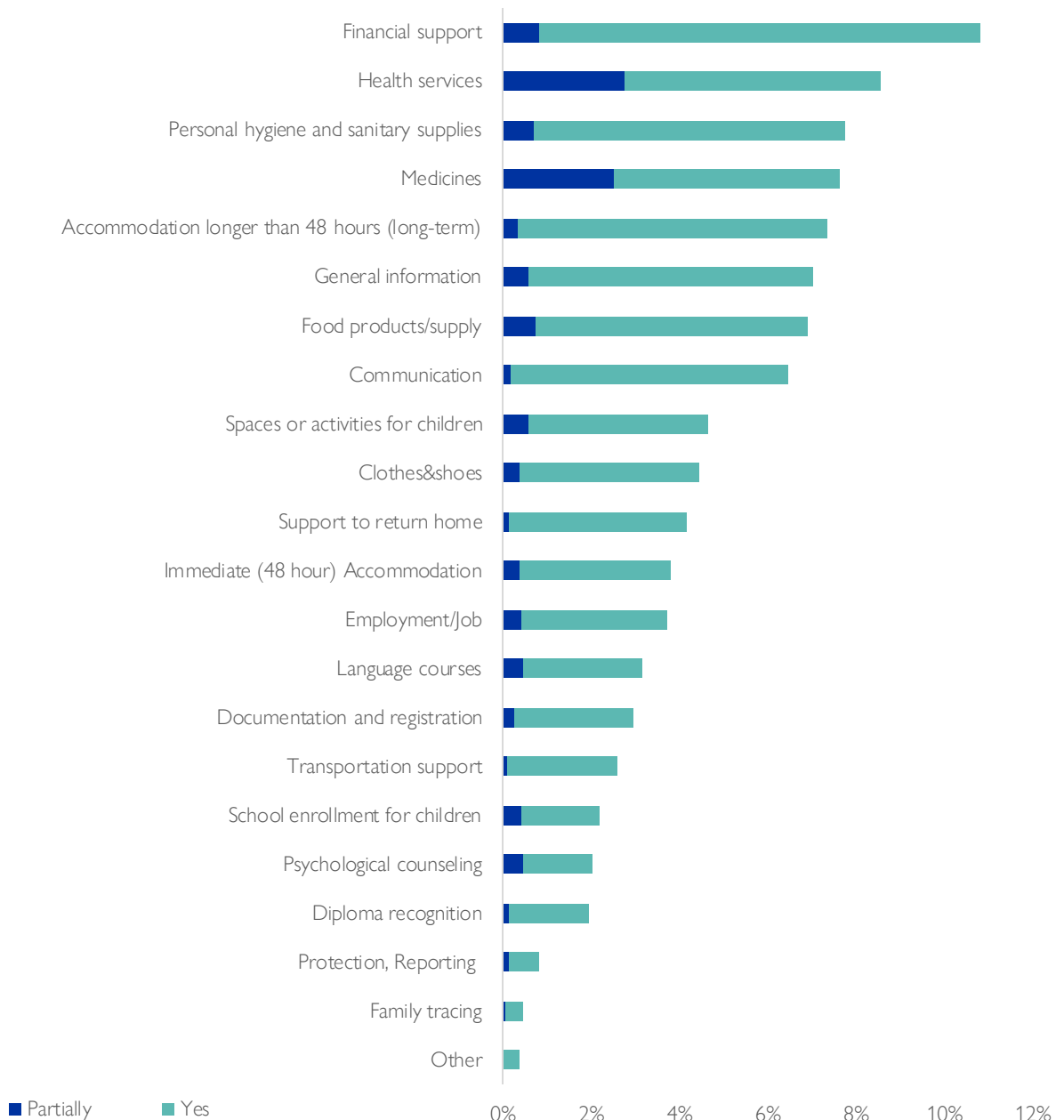

Note: Respondents without disability are classified into the none category (all of those with no difficulty at all over the six domains of functioning) or into a milder category (those with only some difficulty on one or more domains of functioning). All respondents with disabilities are reported into a moderate category (those with only a lot of difficulty on one or more domains of functioning) and a more severe category (those with cannot do at all on one or more domains of functioning).

MAIN REPORTED NEEDS

Among those who intended to stay in the Republic of Moldova, who comprised the majority of respondents (63%), the most pressing reported need, at the time of the interview, was financial support, accounting for 11 per cent of the total. Following financial support, the top six reported main needs were health services (9%), personal hygiene and sanitary supplies (8%), medicine (8%), long term accommodation (7%), access to general information (7%), and food products and supplies (7%).

Figure 27: Main reported needs of all respondents who intend to stay in Republic of Moldova (%, more than one option possible)

11
IOM Moldova – https://moldova.iom.int/
IOM DTM Moldova – https://displacement.iom.int/republic-of-moldova

Published on 29 Nov 2022

DTM
IOM DISPLACEMENT
TRACKING MATRIX

However, among those who intended to reach other countries, the most pressing reported needs, at the time of the interview, reflected the essentials they were lacking as they were transiting through the Republic of Moldova. The priority needs included communication means (14%), short-term accommodation (13%), transportation support (12%), access to general information (11), support to return home (10%), financial support (8%), and food products (7%).

Figure 28: Main reported needs of all respondents who intend to reach other countries besides the Republic of Moldova (%, more than one option possible)
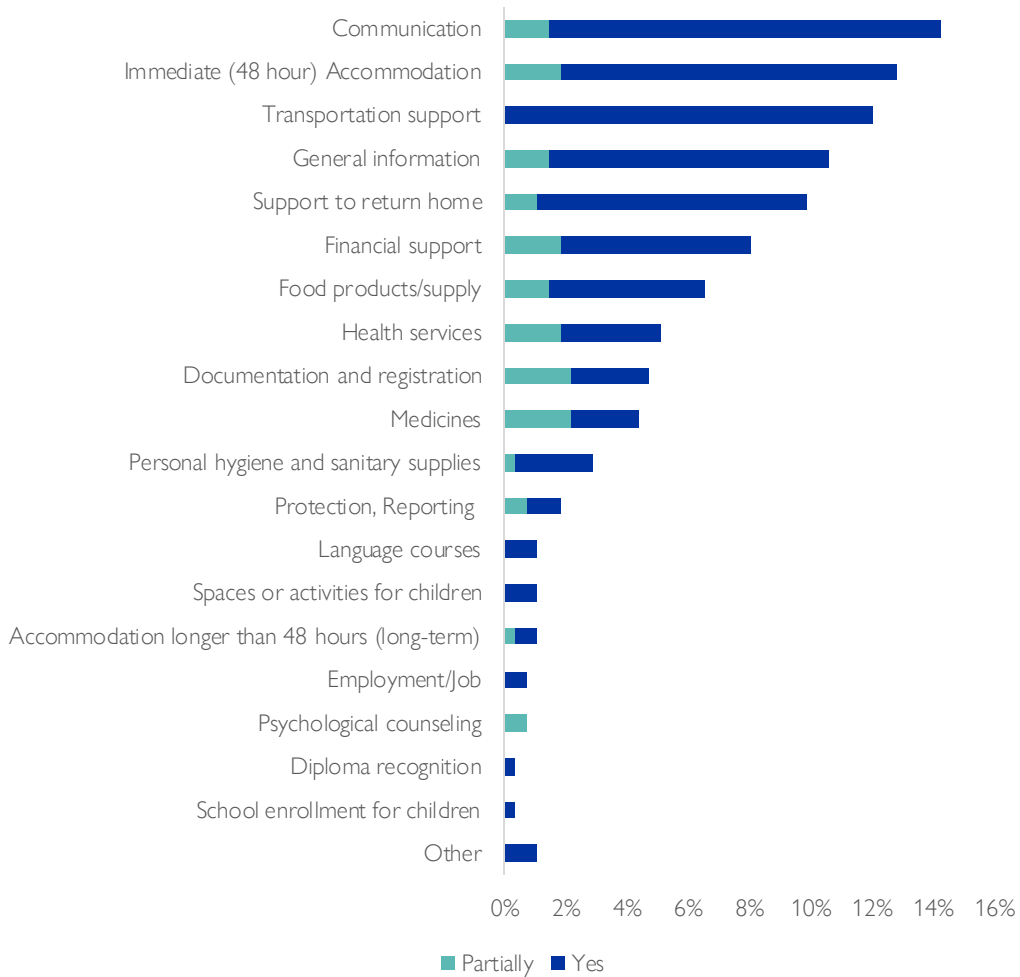
COUNTER TRAFFICKING SECTOR AND PROTECTION

The survey respondents were asked about their experience in protection related matters while fleeing their homes, including informal work opportunities. Among all 1,118 respondents, the majority reported not encountering such offers and four respondents did not wish to answer. However, nine respondents shared that since the onset of the war in February 2022, that either themselves and/or family members received offers to do informal work abroad. This might be concerning because informal work implies working without the protection of employment laws, i.e., without a contract and/or with an unregistered business.

The majority indicated that the type of work they were offered was domestic work (5 respondents), followed by construction work (1 respondent), seaport labor (1 respondent) and in hospitality (2 respondents). All nine respondents indicated that it was paid services. The gender disaggregation of the persons concerned was six females and four males. Their intended countries of destination were Italy (3 persons), Spain, Israel, United Kingdom, Türkiye, France, Republic of Moldova (1 person each).

One person reported that since the beginning of the full-scale war in February 2022, members of his/her family disappeared abroad without trace. Three individuals (2 men and 1 women) reported being involved in situations where they were targeted by strangers (in person or online) with uncomfortable or disturbing offers (illicit activities, transactional sexual activities, giving blood or organs for payment) and one person preferred not to answer to this question. Thirty respondents indicated cases of unfair or unequal treatment related to aspects such as nationality, ethnicity, gender or related to current status of the respondent: 19 while being in Republic of Moldova, eight while being in Ukraine, two while being in Romania and one in Türkiye.

METHODOLOGY

The International Organization for Migration (IOM)'s Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) is a system to track and monitor displacement and population mobility, that contributes to better understanding the population flows, needs of affected populations, sociodemographic characterization and provides critical information to decision-makers during crises.

The findings presented in this report draw on a survey of displacement patterns, needs and intentions, conducted by IOM in coordination with the Information Management Working Group (IMWG) active in the Republic of Moldova since late February 2022. The purpose of the survey is to capture the displacement trends and identify the immediate humanitarian needs and intentions, demographic profiles and means of travel of refugees from Ukraine and other TCNs fleeing Ukraine due to the war. The exercise aims to provide more in-depth information to enable IOM and relevant stakeholders to identify programmatic, policy and humanitarian response in an evidence-based approach.

The data collection tool was developed by IOM. The survey questionnaire was developed using DTM indicators, based on the identified gaps and the target population. The level of analysis of the displacement survey is at the individual level and the population of interest was limited to adults (18 years and above) who are refugees of any nationality including Ukrainian refugees, Moldovan citizens and TCNs, who had arrived in the Republic of Moldova after 24 February 2022.

The first round of data collection under this exercise was between 9 March and 12 May 2022. The second round began on 6 September and is ongoing. The second round is a continuation of the first, however, compared to the previous report published on 23 June 2022, the questionnaire administered during the second round has been updated to include questions that correspond to additional socio-demographic indicators, such as educational and employment backgrounds, labor market integration intentions, and languages and skills.

The survey is conducted by trained enumerators from CBS-AXA Research, an implementing partner of IOM in the Republic of Moldova, using a mobile application. The geographical coverage is limited to a select number of locations. The findings presented in this report are based on face-to-face interviews, conducted between 6 September and 6 October 2022. The enumerators interviewed 1,118 individuals at two Border Crossing Points (BCPs) between the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine. A total of 509 interviews were conducted at Otaci BCP and 609 at Palanca BCP.

Please note that the findings presented in this report are indicative and should not be deemed representative. The data collection exercise was conducted in a select number of locations, not covering all of the BCPs across the country. Language barriers may have been a major constraint while conducting the interviews.

No personal information was collected during the data collection exercise. All respondents were informed of the voluntary nature and anonymity of the information collected. Respondents were verbally asked to give their consent to IOM's use of information.

For more information on IOM DTM's work in the Republic of Moldova, please visit:
https://displacement.iom.int/republic-of-moldova

SUPPORTED BY: **USA Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration.**