

INTRODUCTION

1 191
SURVEYS CONDUCTED

4
BORDER CROSSING POINTS

394
INTERVIEWS IN PALANCA BCP

396
INTERVIEWS IN OTACI BCP

241
INTERVIEWS IN LEUSENI BCP

160
INTERVIEWS IN GIURGIULESTI BCP

98% UKRAINIANS
2% TCNs

69%
FEMALE

31%
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.

* Leuseni and Giurgiulesti BCPs are at Moldova-Romania border. Otaci and Palanca BCPs are at Moldovan-Ukrainian border.

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 2022 and 10 November 2022, an estimated 806,513 Ukrainian citizens entered the Republic of Moldova (based on General Inspectorate of Border Police data (GIBP)). During this period, while a large number of people were displaced to other European countries, approximately 95,718 Ukrainian citizens sought refuge in the Republic of Moldova (source: GIBP data).

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 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 to 12 May 2022 ([link to report](#)), and the second round began on 6 September 2022 and data collection is ongoing. This is the second report presenting findings from the second round of data collection. It summarizes the key findings of the displacement survey conducted by IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM), between 07 October and 09 November 2022, in four entry and exit Border Crossing Points (BCPs) between the Republic of Moldova and both Ukraine and Romania. The findings presented are based on 1,191 interviews with refugees from Ukraine and TCNs, entering the country, of which 396 were conducted in Otaci BCP (North-East), 394 in Palanca BCP (South-East), 241 in Leuseni BCP (West) and 160 in Giurgiulesti BCP (South).

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IOM is committed to the principle that humane and orderly migration benefits migrants and society. As an intergovernmental organization, IOM acts with its partners in the international community to assist in meeting the operational challenges of migration; advance understanding of migration issues; encourage social and economic development through migration; and uphold the human dignity and well-being of migrants.

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KEY FINDINGS



38% intend to stay in the Republic of Moldova



57% travelling with at least one child in the group



21% travelling with at least one elderly person (60+) in the group



14% travelling with persons with serious health condition



8% travelling with a person with a disability

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



40% Financial Support



29% Medicines



28% Access to General Information



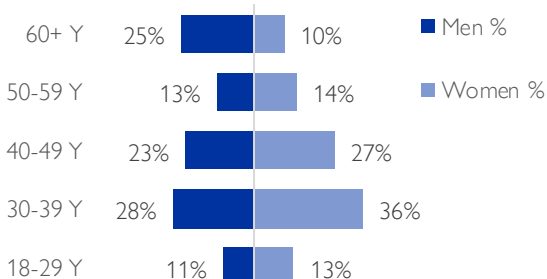
28% Health Services

SOCIODEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE

Among the 1,191 survey respondents, almost all, or 98 per cent, of respondents were Ukrainian nationals, and the remaining two per cent (25 persons) were either Moldovan nationals (9 persons) or other Third Country Nationals (TCNs) (16 persons). Among TCNs, the majority were either originally from Azerbaijan (31%), Russian Federation and Israel (13% each), followed by Armenia, Belarus, Belgium, Estonia, Georgia, Romania, Virgin Islands (6% each).

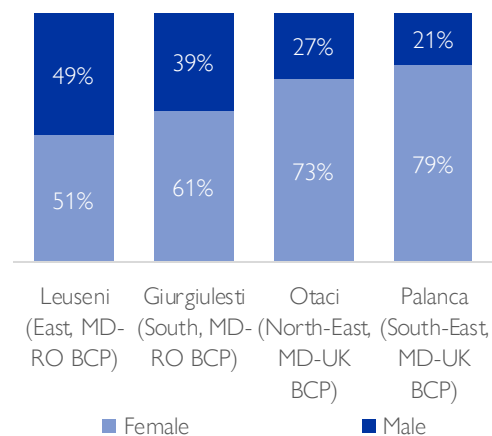
Gender and age disaggregated data revealed that 69 per cent of respondents are women and 31 per cent men.* This is most likely because Ukrainian men between the age of 18 and 60 are prohibited from leaving Ukraine. The reported gender ratio was different across BCPs. It was almost balanced at the BCPs between the Republic of Moldova and Romania (Leuseni and Giurgiulesti) and skewed at the BCPs between the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine (Otaci and Palanca).

Figure 2: Age distribution of all respondents by gender (%)



The average age of all respondents was 43 years, but the age profile by gender was different. On average, women were 42 years old, while men were 46 years old. The share of older persons was higher among men (25%) compared to women (10%). More than half of all women (63%) and men respondents (51%) were aged between 30 and 49 years.

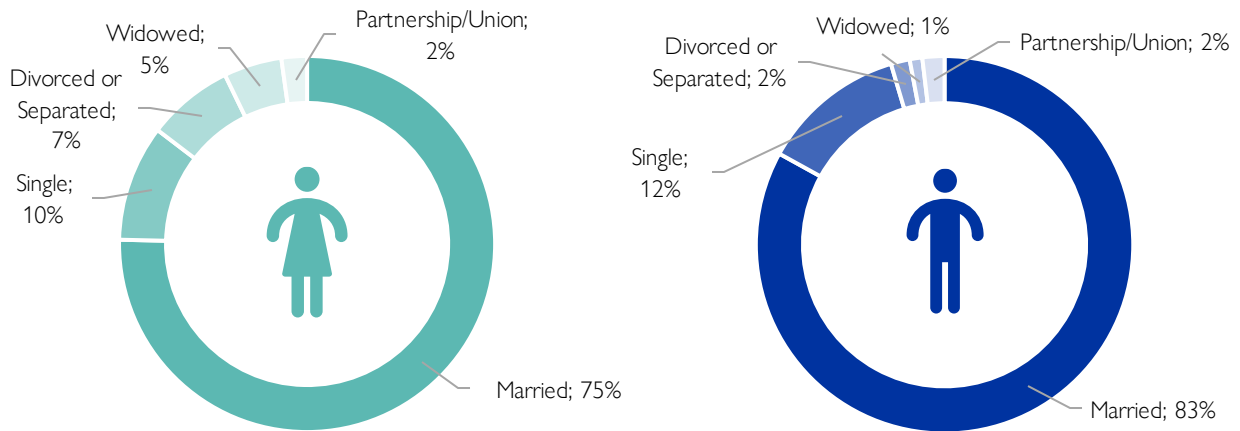
Figure 3: Distribution of respondents by gender ratio across the Border Crossing Points (%)



Out of the total 1,191 respondents, 75 per cent reported being married and two per cent in a relationship. The remaining 20 per cent reported being single (11%), divorced or separated (6%) or widowed (4%). The share of married men (83%) was superior to the share of married women (75%) which may be related to the age characteristic of all respondents. About 61 per cent of all male respondents were 40 years old or above while only 51 per cent of all women were of this age.

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

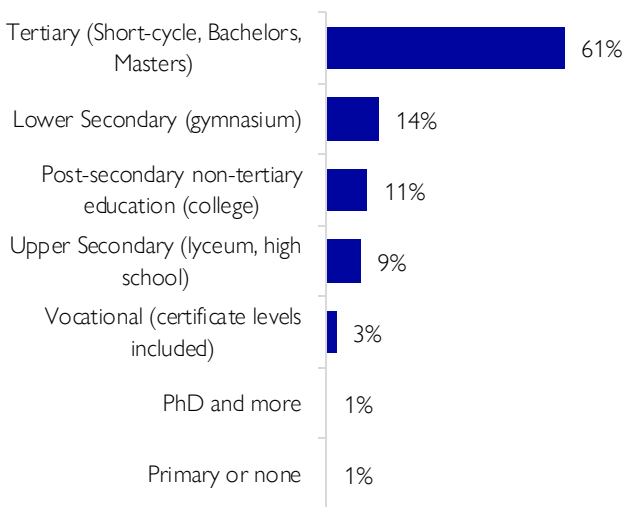
Figure 4: Marital status of respondents by gender (%)



EDUCATION BACKGROUND

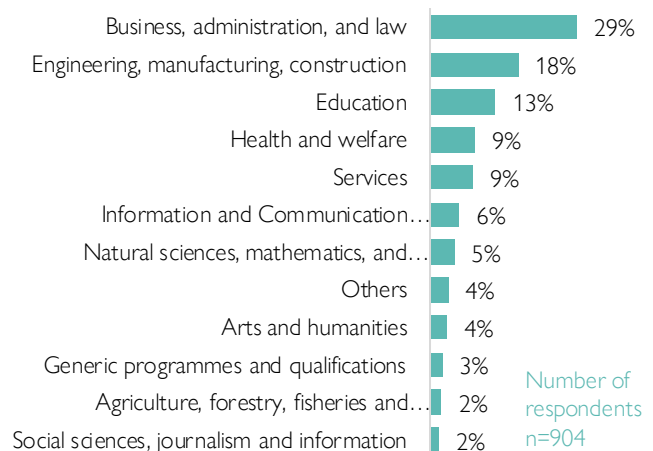
The majority of respondents received formal education and earned higher-level education degrees. Out of 1,191 respondents, 62 per cent hold bachelor's, master's, or PhD degrees, and 11 per cent received college training. The remaining 26 per cent include those who hold upper secondary, post-secondary, lower secondary or primary degrees and vocational training. Around one per cent reported having only a primary education or not having a diploma.

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



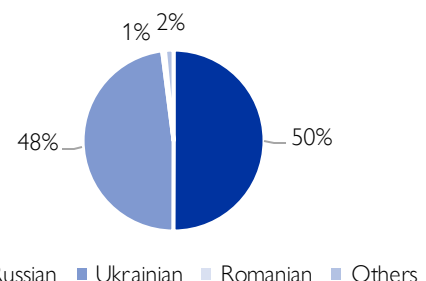
Among individuals who reported to have academic qualifications (tertiary, secondary and higher education level), 29 per cent were specialized in business, administration, and law, 18 per cent in engineering, manufacturing, and construction, 13 per cent in education, and 9 per cent in health and welfare and other 9 per cent in services. The remaining 26 per cent had a diversity of other sectoral diplomas.

Figure 6: Type of secondary and higher education of respondents (% , more than one option possible)



When asked about the respondents' mother tongue, out of the total of 1,191 respondents, 50 per cent reported Russian as the main language they speak at home, 48 per cent reported that it was Ukrainian and one per cent reported Romanian or other languages (1%). Other reported spoken languages of respondents were: Ukrainian (49%), English (47%), Russian (46%) and with smaller shares Romanian (6%), German (4%), French (2%) and Italian (1%).

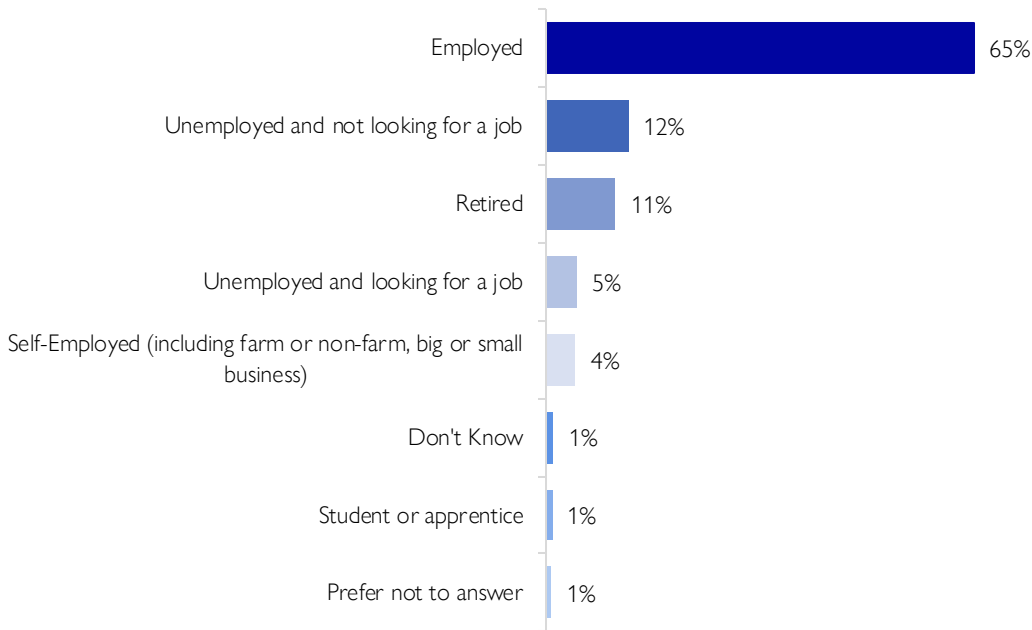
Figure 7: Distribution of respondents by main language spoken (%)



EMPLOYMENT

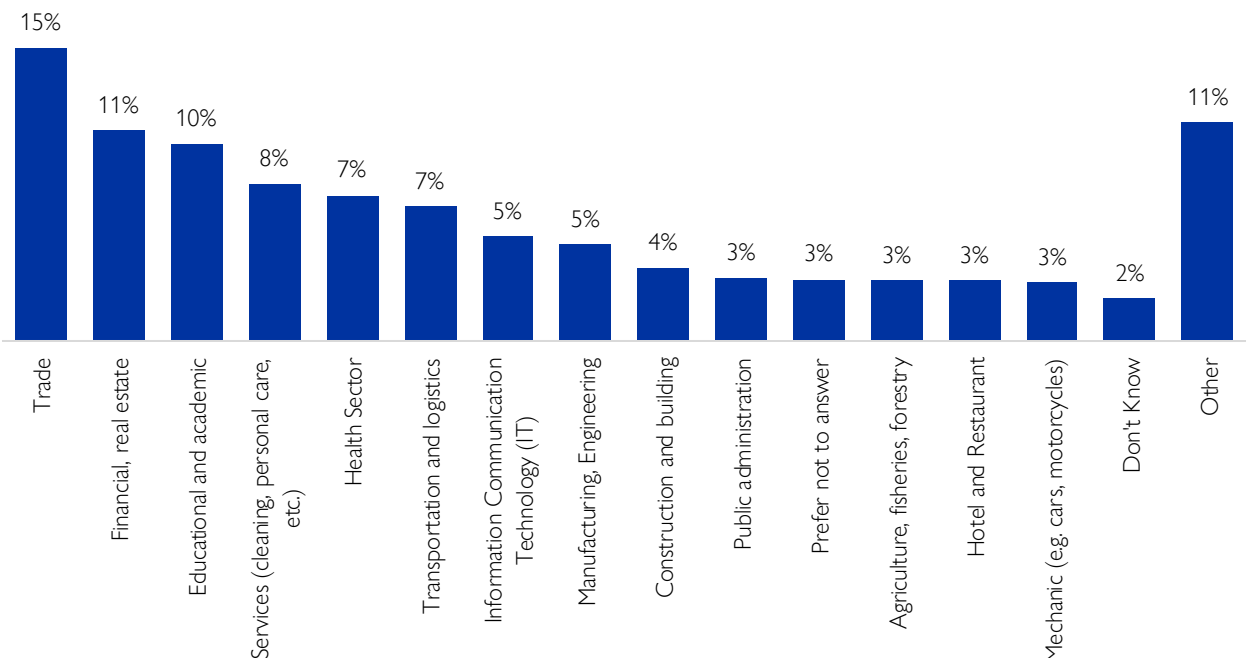
More than half of all respondents reported that they were employed (65%) or self-employed (4%) in Ukraine before the war started in February 2022. Additionally, 11 per cent reported being retired, 12 per cent were unemployed and not looking for a job and only 5 per cent were unemployed and looking for a job. The remaining six per cent included students or apprentices (1%), prefer not to answer (1%) and do not know (1%).

Figure 8: Employment status of respondents before the war in Ukraine in February 2022 (%)



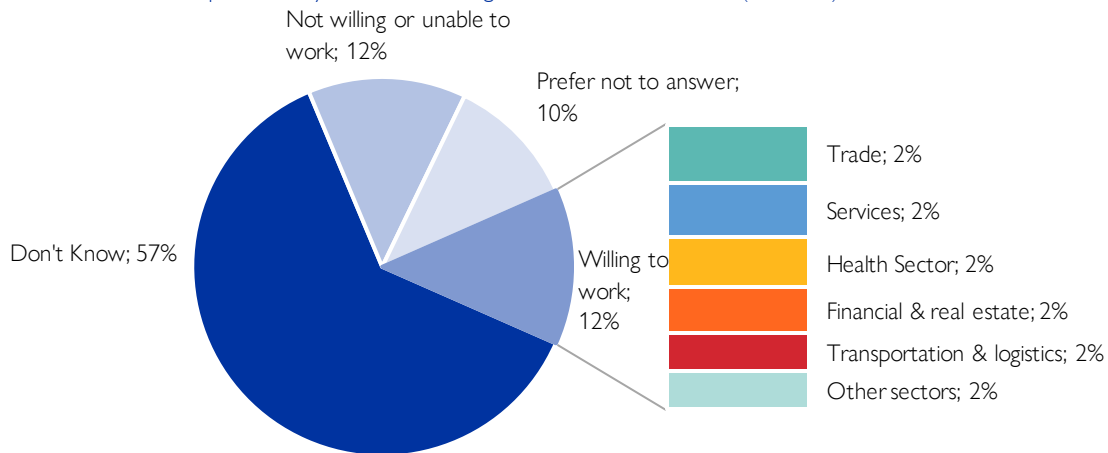
The top five most commonly cited recent professions by the respondents were in trade (15%), finance and real estate (11%), education and academia (10%), services (8%), health sector (7%).

Figure 9: Reported last profession of respondents prior to the war in Ukraine (% , sector)



Regarding the respondents' intentions to participate in the labor market in the Republic of Moldova, 57 per cent reported that they were uncertain about the sector they would like to work in, 12 per cent reported that they had no intention to work in Moldova or were unable to work, and 10 per cent preferred not to share their decision. Among those who were unwilling or unable to work, 41 per cent reported that they were in transit, 40 per cent did not intend to work, 6 per cent were retirees and 2 per cent were on maternity leave. Only 12 per cent, expressed their intention to join the labor market in Moldova, mainly in trade, services such as cleaning and personal care, health sector, financial and real estate, transportation and logistics (between 20 to 30 respondents for each position).

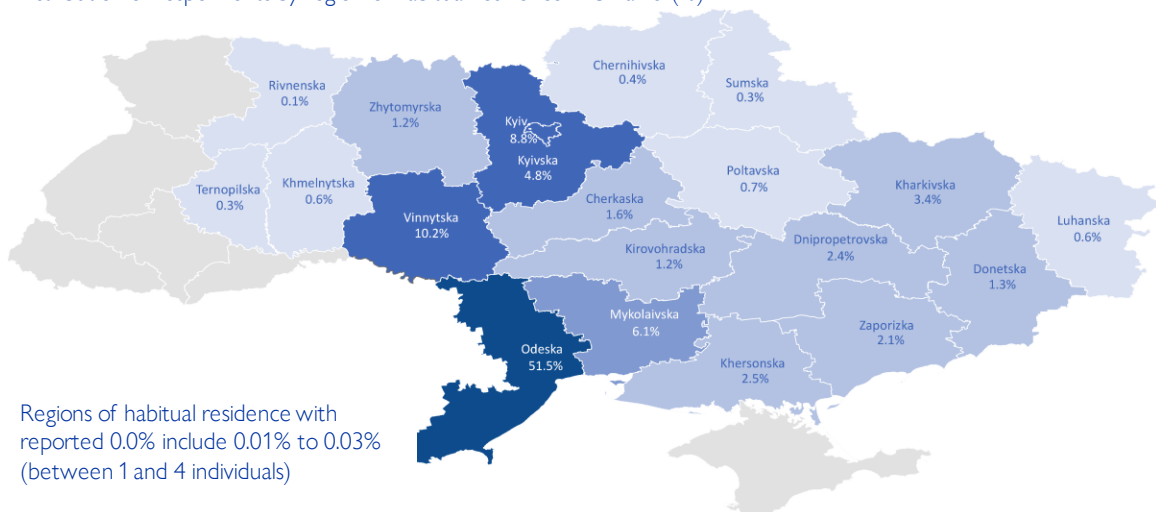
Figure 10: Distribution of respondents by intention to integrate into the labor market (% ,sector)



ORIGIN AND TRAVEL CHARACTERISTICS

The majority of respondents arrived in the Republic of Moldova (91%) during the period of this assessment, while the other nine per cent reported to have arrived before October 2022. Around one per cent of all respondents reported a date of leaving Ukraine prior to the date of arrival in Moldova. This likely shows that some refugees fled Ukraine to other countries before entering the Republic of Moldova. The vast majority (95%) declared that the main reason for displacement from Ukraine was due to the war, while five per cent cited other reasons for fleeing the country.

Figure 11: Distribution of respondents by region of habitual residence in Ukraine (%)

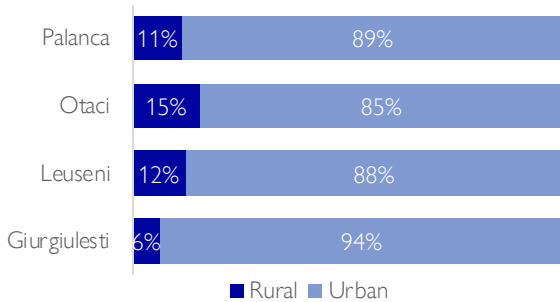


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Among all respondents, the top five reported regions of origin or usual residence in Ukraine were Odeska (51%), Vinnitska (10%), Kyivska city (9%), Mykolaivska (6%), Kyivska (5%), with the remaining 19 per cent reporting their habitual residence to have been in other regions of Ukraine.

The majority of all respondents interviewed, or 88 per cent, reported that they were living in urban settlements in Ukraine compared to 12 per cent in rural settlements. The share of those from urban settlements was higher among those interviewed at Giurgiulesti BCP (94%) in the south, and lower in Otaci BCP (85%) in the north.

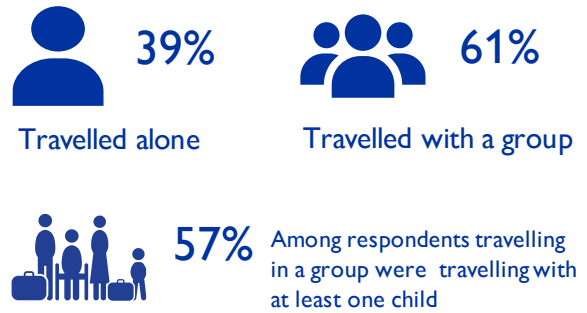
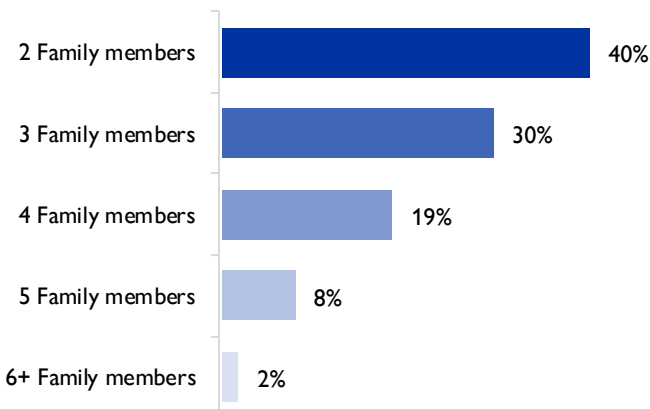
Figure 12: Distribution of respondents, coming from urban vs rural areas in Ukraine, by BCP (%)



Around 61 per cent of those surveyed left Ukraine with a group of people, and the remaining 39 per cent were travelling alone. The distribution of women and men respondents travelling in a group was similar (61% versus 59%, respectively).

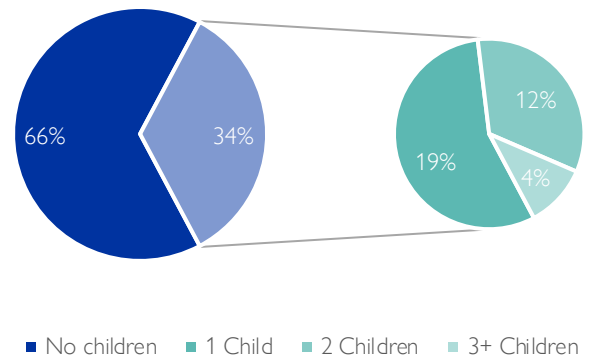
Among those travelling in a group, 84% were travelling with family and the other 14% with relatives and friends. Around 40 per cent reported travelling with one other family member, a third reported travelling with two other family members, and 29 per cent reported travelling with 4 or more family members (not including the respondent). The average group size of those travelling with family members consisted of three people.

Figure 13: Distribution of respondents travelling in a group and with family members, by number of accompanied family members (%)



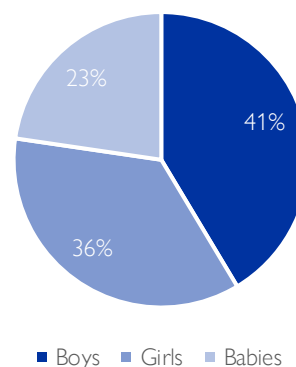
More than half of all respondents travelling in a group were travelling with at least one child (57%). Women were shouldering a greater childcare responsibility: 62 per cent of women travelling in a group were with at least one child compared to 45 per cent of men.

Figure 14: Distribution of respondents, by the number of accompanied children: no children, 1, 2, 3+ (%)



Among those travelling with children, 34 per cent were travelling with babies and three per cent reported travelling with a child to whom they were not a parent or a legal guardian. Less than a quarter of all reported children were babies (23%), 36 per cent girls aged 5-17 years old and 41 per cent boys aged 15-17 years old.

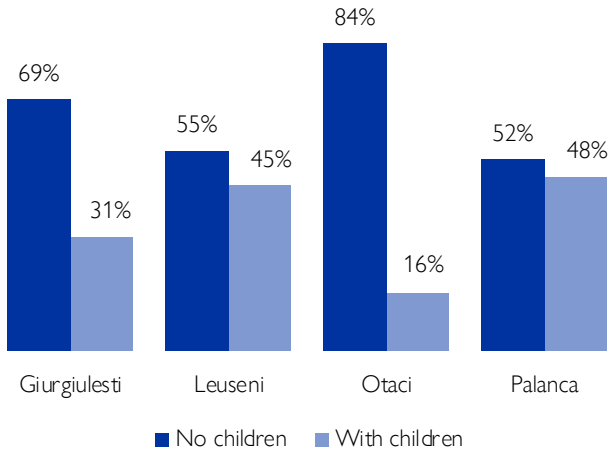
Figure 15: Distribution of reported children, travelling with respondents that are travelling in a group, by gender and age* (babies, boys and girls) (%)



* Babies (0-4 Y), Boys and Girls (5-17 Y)

Most respondents with children were reported at Moldovan-Romanian BCP Leuseni (45%) and Moldovan-Ukrainian BCP Palanca (48%).

Figure 16: Distribution of respondents travelling in a group, by the number of accompanied children: 1, 2, 3+ (%)

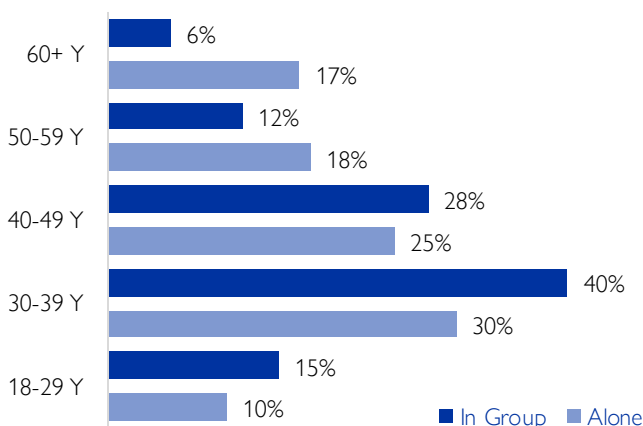


Among all women respondents, 39 per cent reported to be travelling alone and 61 per cent to be travelling with a group of people. Around 40 per cent of women travelling with a group were between 30-39 years, whereas among women travelling alone, age categories were more equally distributed. Almost one in five women travelling alone were 60 years or older (17%).

Figure 17: Distribution of women respondents, travelling alone vs in a group (%)



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



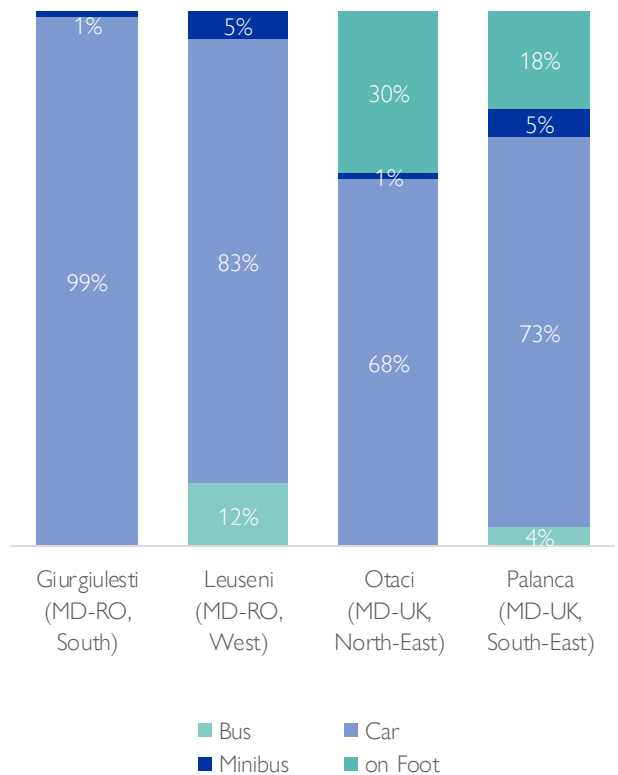
Of those travelling in a group, 21 per cent reported being accompanied by elderly (or 12% of all 1191 respondents). The highest number of respondents travelling with elderly were reported at Moldovan Ukrainian BCP (Around 39% of respondents reported travelling with elderly at Palanca BCP and 30% at Otaci BCP).



21%
travelled with at least one elderly person

Around 77 per cent of all respondents reported travelling by car, 7 per cent either by bus or minibus and 16 per cent by foot. The distribution of those travelling by foot was higher at BCPs between Moldova and Ukraine (at Otaci 30% and at Palanca 18%).

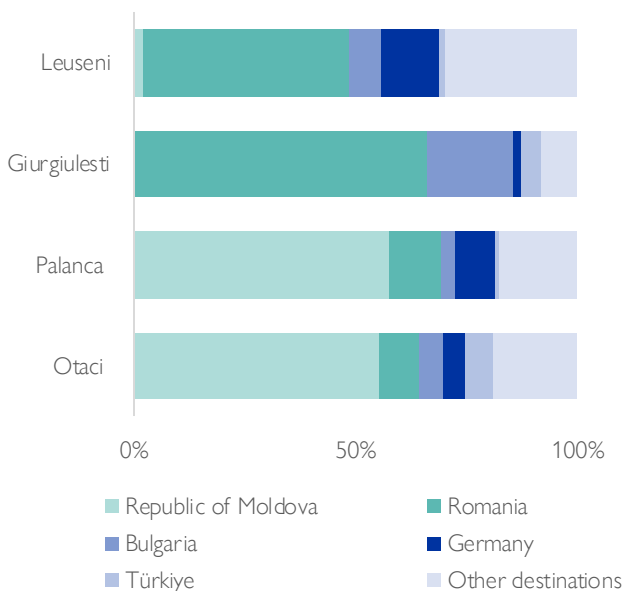
Figure 19: Distribution of respondents by means of transportation (%)



INTENDED DESTINATIONS

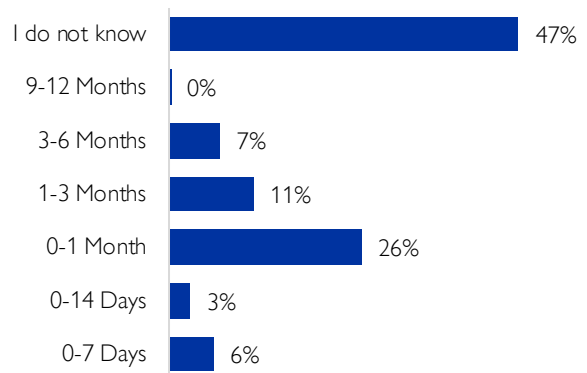
The main intended destination reported among all respondents was the Republic of Moldova, accounting for 38 per cent of the total. The top five main intended European countries of destination were Romania (25%), Germany and Bulgaria (7% each) and Italy (2%). The final intended destination was highly different regarding the BCP at which the survey was conducted. The share of those reporting to be intending to stay in the Republic of Moldova was higher among those interviewed at Moldovan-Ukrainian BCPs (Otaci and Palanca) (56%) compared to those interviewed at Moldovan-Romanian BCPs (Leuseni and Giurgiulesti) (only 1%). The reported intention of those entering the Republic of Moldova from Romania was to return to Romania indicating probably that they are in Moldova for a short stay.

Figure 20: Intended destination by location of data collection at BCPs, (%)



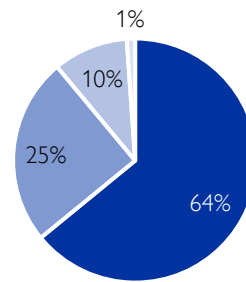
Among those who reported their intention to stay in the Republic of Moldova, almost 47 per cent did not know the expected duration of their stay, 26 per cent shared their intention to stay for one month, 11 per cent predicted to stay between one to three months and another 7 per cent between three and six months, and around 9 per cent expected a shorter stay of one or two weeks. Only one respondent indicated their intention to stay between 9 and 12 months.

Figure 21: Distribution of respondents by intended duration of stay in the Republic of Moldova (%)



Among those who intended to stay in the Republic of Moldova, 64 per cent were not considering applying for asylum, compared to 24 per cent who were considering it, 10 per cent were still unsure and 1 per cent preferred not to answer this question.

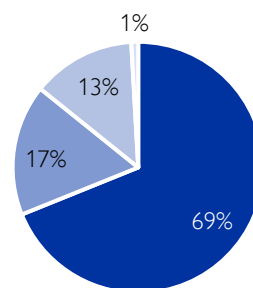
Figure 22: Distribution of respondents by their consideration to apply for asylum in the Republic of Moldova (%)



■ No ■ Yes ■ Don't know yet ■ Prefer not to Answer

Around 13 per cent reported that they need support to be relocated to the European Union, the United Kingdom, the United States of America, Canada, or another country and 17 per cent did not know yet. The majority (69%) of respondents reported not needing support at the time of the interview.

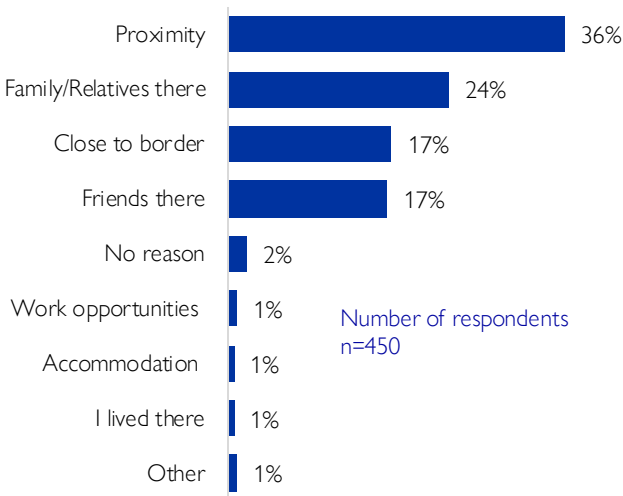
Figure 23: Distribution of respondents interested in receiving support to relocate to the European Union, United Kingdom, United States of America, Canada, or another country (%)



■ No ■ Don't know yet ■ Yes ■ Prefer not to Answer

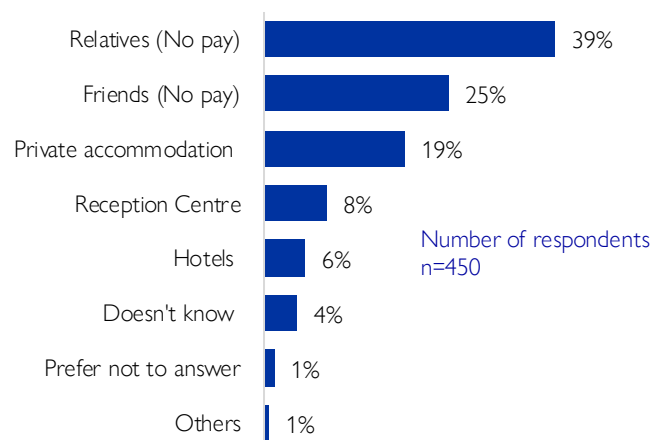
For most respondents, proximity to Ukraine (36%) and family or relatives (24%) were the main reasons in defining their intention to stay in the Republic of Moldova. Other reasons included the proximity to the border (17%), having friends in the country (17%), employment opportunities (1%), and other reasons (6%).

Figure 24: Reported reasons to stay in the Republic of Moldova (% more than one option possible)



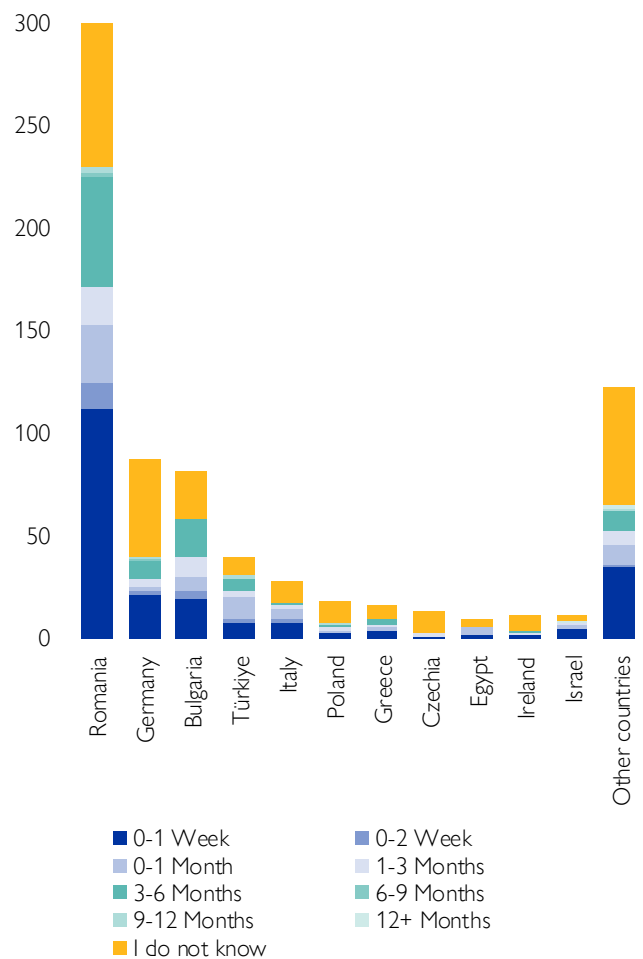
Among those who intended to stay in the Republic of Moldova, 39 per cent reported that they will be staying with relatives, 25 per cent with friends, 19 per cent in rented private accommodations, 8 per cent will be staying in organized reception centers or private accommodations that are free of charge and 6 per cent in hotels or hostels. The remaining share reported that they were unsure of their plans or preferred not to answer.

Figure 25: Intended places of stay in Republic of Moldova (% more than one option possible)



As for those who reported their intention to stay in another country besides the Republic of Moldova, more than a third (36%) reported being unsure of the length of their stay, around 33 per cent intended to stay for up to two weeks, nine per cent up to one month, seven per cent from one month up to three months and another 14 per cent between three and six months, the remaining one per cent reported their intention to stay between six months and one year. The main reported reasons for staying in these countries were to be with family and relatives (35%) or friends (34%).

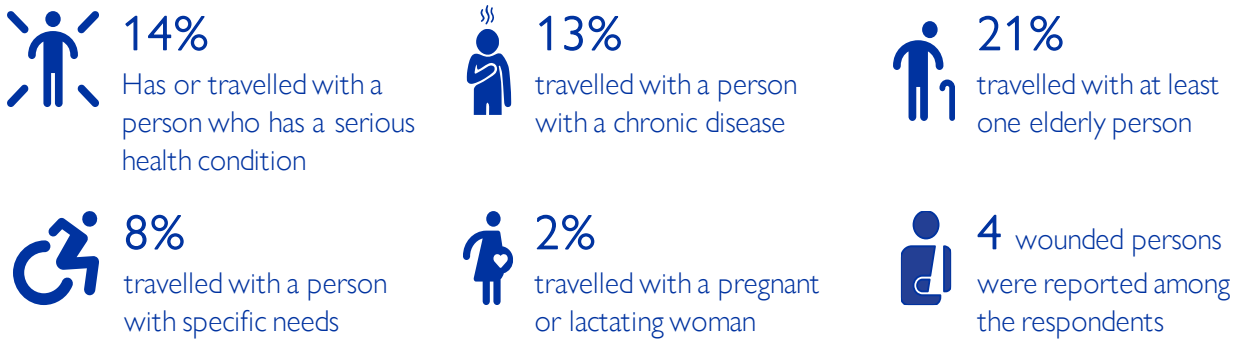
Figure 26: Intended duration of stay, in countries other than the Republic of Moldova (number of respondents)



HEALTH CONDITION AND SPECIFIC NEEDS

Among 1,191 respondents, 14 per cent reported travelling with or being a person with vulnerabilities (among whom, 91 per cent with a chronic disease and 12 per cent with a pregnant or lactating woman). Four wounded persons were reported among the respondents.

Figure 27: Distribution of respondents who were travelling with or were people with vulnerabilities (% , more than one possible option)

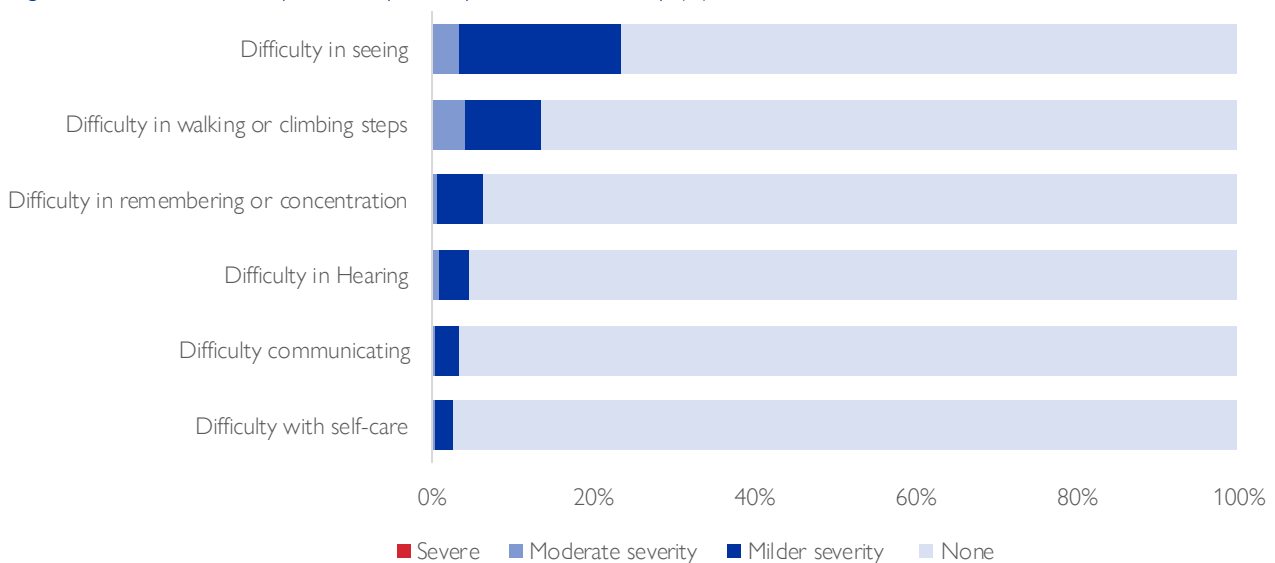


In this round of the survey, the questionnaire included the Washington Group Short Set on Functioning (WVG-SS) questions (<http://www.washingtongroup-disability.com/>), which ask respondents about difficulties they may have while doing certain activities because of a health problem.

Around ten per cent of respondents reported having a difficulty in performing certain functions and could be considered to possibly have 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: seeing, hearing, mobility, cognition, communication, or self-care.

Among those who reported a disability, around 53 per cent reported having difficulty in walking or climbing steps, 45 per cent reported having difficulty in seeing, 12 per cent having a difficulty in hearing, and 8 per cent difficulty in remembering or concentration. Smaller shares reported having difficulty with self-care (4%) and difficulty communicating (4%).

Figure 28: Distribution of respondents by severity indicator of disability (%)



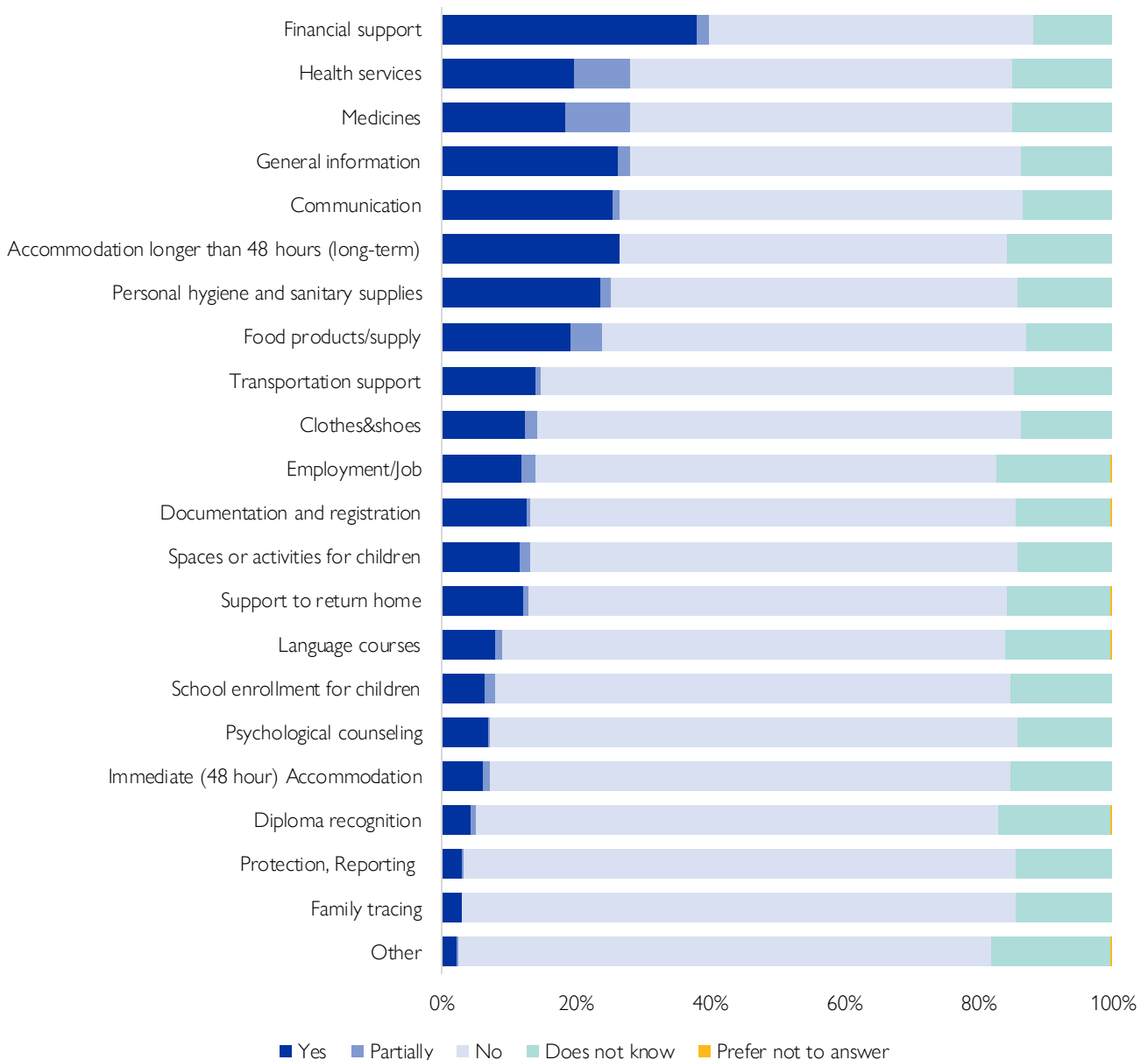
Note: Respondents without disability are classified into the none category (all of those with no difficulty at all over the six domains of functioning) or into a milder category (those with only some difficulty on one or more domains of functioning). All respondents with disabilities are reported into 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 more than a third of respondents (38%), *financial support* was reported as the greatest need, accounting for 40 per cent of the total. Following financial support, the top six reported main needs were *health services and medicines* (28% each), *general information* (28%), *communication* (27%), *long term accommodation* (26%), *personal hygiene and sanitary supplies* (25%) and *food products and supplies* (24%).

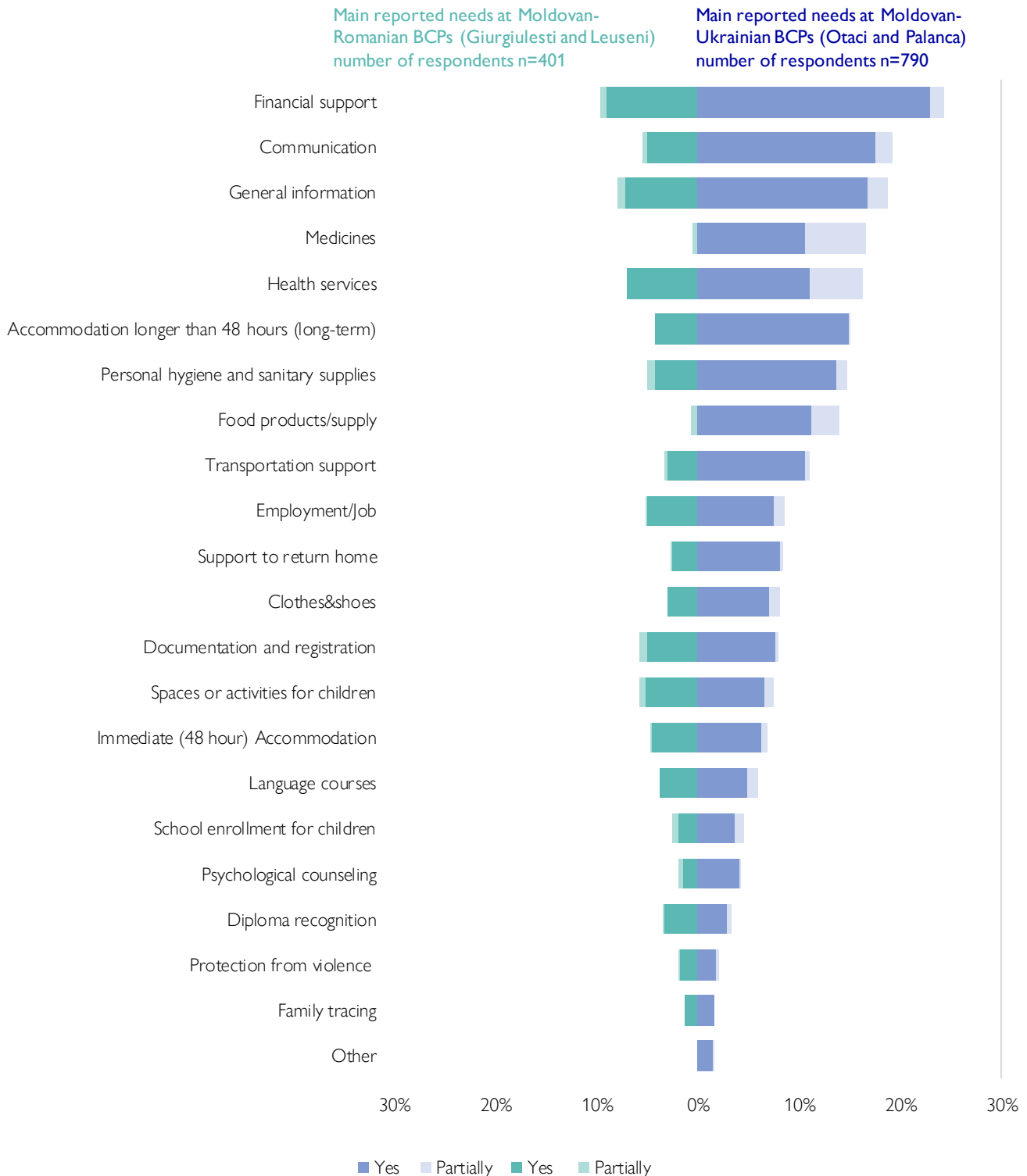
The respondents' profile of needs was different across Moldovan-Romanian and Moldovan-Ukrainian BCPs. Almost a quarter of all respondents interviewed at Moldovan-Ukrainian BCPs need financial support and almost every fifth person need communication and general information. At Moldovan-Romanian BCPs, about ten per cent were in need of financial support, five per cent were in need of communication and eight per cent of general information. Also, the share of those who reported basic needs for survival, notably medicines, food products, personal hygiene and sanitary supplies, dothing and shelter, was much higher among those who were entering Republic of Moldova at Otaci and Palanca BCPs.

Figure 29: Main reported needs of all respondents who intend to stay in Republic of Moldova (% , more than one option possible)



However, among those who intended to reach countries other than the Republic of Moldova, the most pressing reported needs, at the time of the interview, reflected the essentials they were lacking as they were transiting the Republic of Moldova. The priority needs included financial support, communication and general information (7% each), short-term accommodation (5%), transportation support (4%), health services (4%), employment (3%), documentation and registration (3%), food products (3%) and medicines (3%).

Figure 30: Main reported needs of all respondents who intend to stay in Republic of Moldova, by Moldovan-Romanian and Moldovan-Ukrainian BCPs (% , more than one option possible)



PROTECTION & COUNTER-TRAFFICKING

For questions regarding protection concerns, 41 out of 1,191 respondents stated that they have experienced situations amounting to discrimination based on their legal status, nationality, ethnicity and/or gender. Of these 41 respondents, 15 reported that such incidents took place in the Republic of Moldova, 3 in Ukraine, 7 in Bulgaria, 6 in Romania and 3 in Italy. The remaining incidents took place in Austria, France (1), Lithuania (1), Montenegro (1), Poland (1), Serbia (1) and Spain (1).

The survey respondents were also asked questions pertaining to informal work opportunities, forced labour and (on-line and in-person) requests from strangers for services. The majority or 1,183 respondents reported not receiving such offers and two respondents did not wish to answer. Six respondents (out of which 3 identified as female and 3 identified as male) stated that since the onset of the war in February 2022, they and/or family members had received offers for informal work abroad. The type of work they were offered included the following sectors: domestic work (2); construction (2); hospitality (1); retail (1). The intended countries of destination were Poland (2), Greece (1), Slovakia (1), Ukraine (1), United States of America (1). Ten respondents (8 identified as male and 2 identified as female) reported being targeted by strangers with offers related to illicit activities, transactional sexual activities and giving blood or organs for payment.

On the question regarding disappearances, five respondents reported that family members had disappeared abroad since the beginning of the war.

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 7 October and 9 November 2022. The enumerators interviewed 1,191 individuals at two Border Crossing Points (BCPs) between the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine and two additional BCPs between the Republic of Moldova and Romania. A total of 396 interviews were conducted in Otaci BCP (North-East), 394 in Palanca BCP (South-East), 241 in Leuseni BCP (West) and 160 in Giurgiulesti BCP (South).

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/moldova>

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