

# UN Socio-economic Response and Recovery Plan

## Pillar 5. Social cohesion and community resilience

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**COVID-19  
RESPONSE**

Socio-Economic Taskforce Meeting  
Promotion of the UN Socio-Economic  
Response and Recovery Plan  
February 2021

## Social cohesion and community resilience

UN entities: **9** Partners: **24** Projects: **10**

Requirements: **\$14.2M** Recover Better Projects: **13.7M**

### Response

- Facilitate gender equitable, inclusive social dialogue, advocacy, and political engagement
- Empower community resilience, participation, and equitable service delivery
- Support for good and transparent governance, fundamental freedoms, access to justice, and the rule of law
- Develop community-level programming to improve the economic, social and psychosocial reintegration of the returning migrants
- Raise awareness and prevent stigmatization of various groups including of the returning population (stigma is prevalent also towards others - health care workers, those who had covid-19 etc)

### Recovery

- assessments to identify structural vulnerabilities and inequalities;

Initiatives to:

- reverse the trend of shrinking civic space,
- institutionalize community-led response systems,
- foster social dialogue, empower local governments for inclusive decision-making,
- scale up community and city-level resilience, and
- enhance legal and institutional frameworks.



## Impact of the pandemic



Context: diversity and fragmentation: multi-ethnic country, highly fragmented administrative territorial structure of 898 municipalities, 32 raions and two regions with special status (Transnistria, Gagauzia).

Trust in government: 67% of people (Edelman's survey 2020) those with less education, less money and fewer resources are bearing a disproportionate burden of the suffering, risk of illness and need to sacrifice in the pandemic

Migrants: High intent to return and remain – potential contributors to development. Main risks are difficulties accessing social assistance programmes, access to internal labour market, and the potential stigma and lack of acceptance in the communities.

Equality and non-discrimination: Most discriminated against: persons from the LGBT community, persons living with HIV, ex-detainees, and persons with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities. Response and recovery should address the principle of equality and non-discrimination and have a special focus on underrepresented groups or groups vulnerable to human rights violations.

Children and adolescents : discontinued education after the closure of schools and pre-schools, including the fact that they no longer receive school meals. an increase in violence and abuse. Youth employment and entrepreneurship are hampered.

Transnistria region: Government efforts to communicate and design a joint response to the outbreak have failed as contradictions deepened during the COVID-19 crisis.

## Human rights impact



The COVID-19 pandemic, among new groups, severely affected groups, who were vulnerable before the crisis. Several of these groups are:

- a. older persons;
- b. persons with disabilities;
- c. women having school and pre-school children;
- d. children and youth;
- e. Roma;
- f. persons in closed institutions;
- g. LGBTI;
- h. human rights activists,
- e. media professionals.

# Human rights impact

voices of NGOs



- The Active Ageing Platform, 30 NGOs, expressed multiple concerns regarding the particular vulnerability of **older persons**, particularly in the realization of their social and economic rights.
- The Alliance of Persons with Disabilities, over 50 NGOs, consistently stressed in its public statements the barriers faced by persons with **disabilities** in all spheres of life.
- The Roma Voice Coalition, over 20 NGOs, underlined in its monitoring reports the specific vulnerability of **Roma** in Moldova, urging the Government to meaningfully implement the Roma Action Plan.
- The Coalition for Inclusion and Non-Discrimination, 14 NGOs, flagged in its most recent public Manifesto the immediate obligation of national authorities to curb hate crimes and hate speech targeting LGBTI persons, Roma and persons with mental disabilities, migrants and other vulnerable groups.
- The Gender Equality Platform, 26 members, repeatedly emphasized endemic gender stereotypes in the Moldovan society, discrimination against women, inequalities in decision-making, remuneration, healthcare, social security.
- The Coalition “Life without Violence”, 23 member, has been actively demanding from duty bearers a better protection against domestic violence and gender based violence.
- The Alliance of Active NGOs in the field of Child and Family Social Protection (APSCF) continuously stressed the specific vulnerabilities of children, particularly regarding the right to family, violence against children, right to education, right to opinion and participation, as well as on the impact of the COVID-19 crisis on children.
- Media organizations issued multiple appeals calling on decision-makers to ensure pluralism of opinions and due protection of media professionals.

# Human rights impact

## Right to highest attainable standard of health





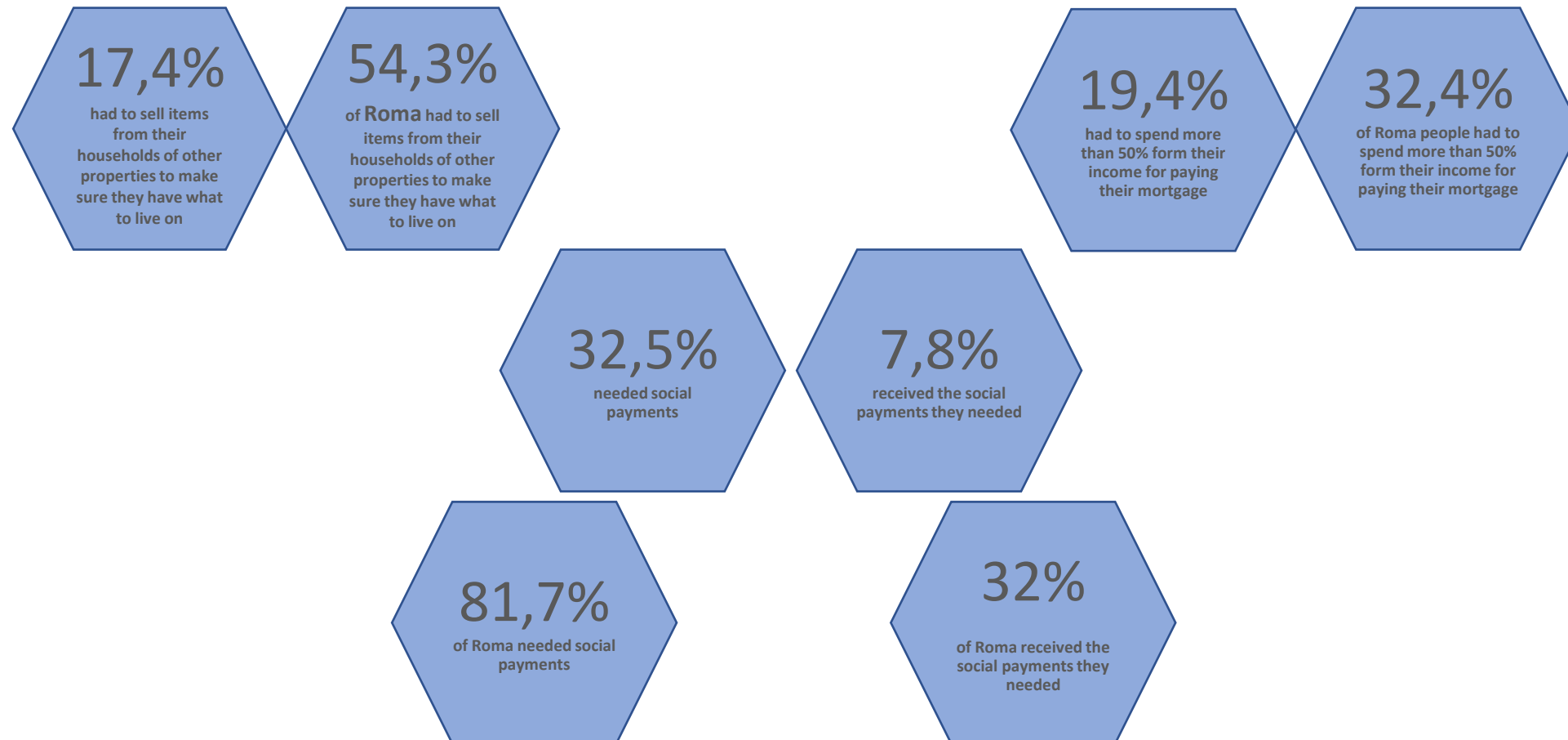
# Human rights impact

## Right to education



# Human rights impact

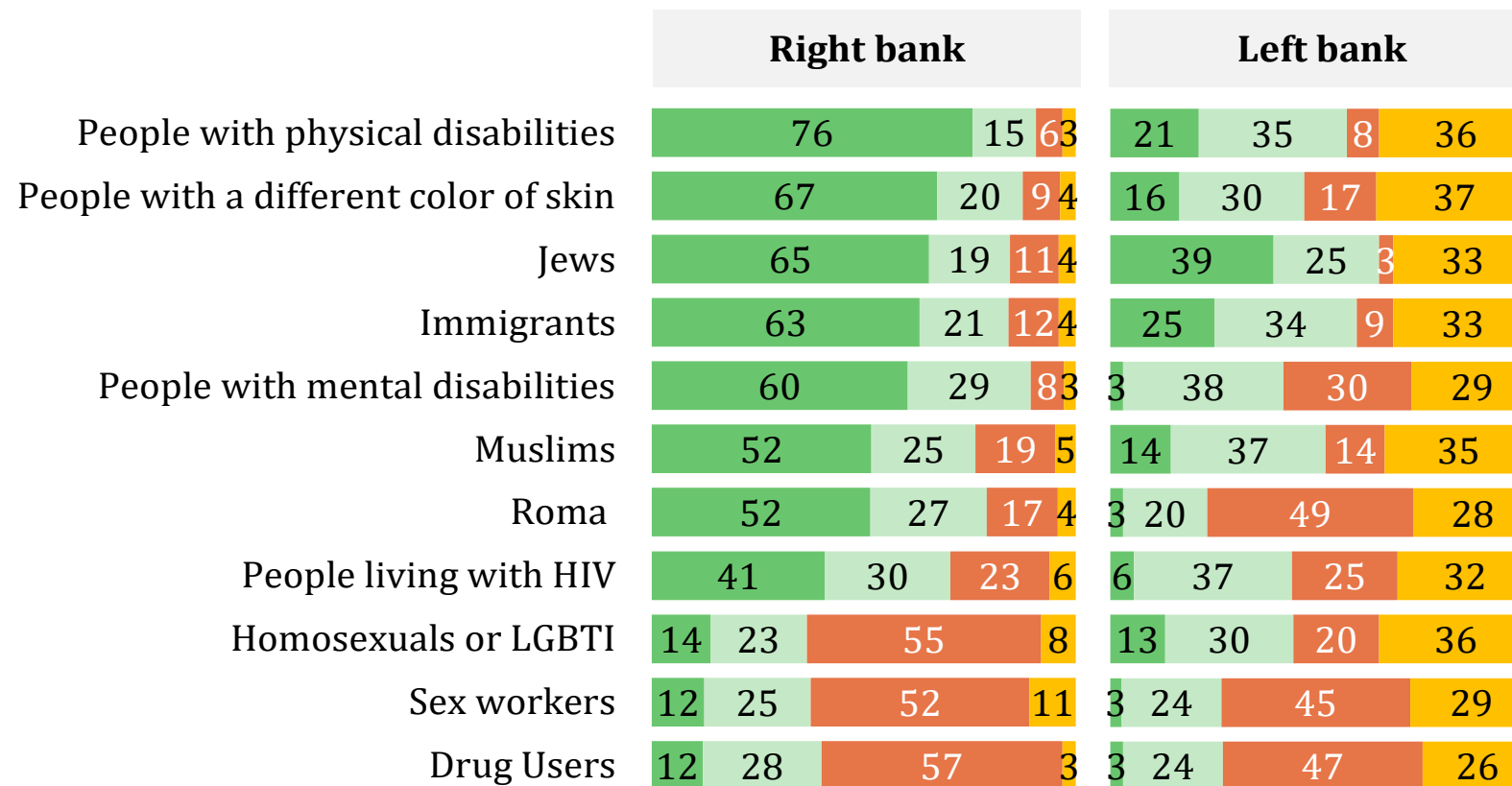
## Right to adequate standard of living





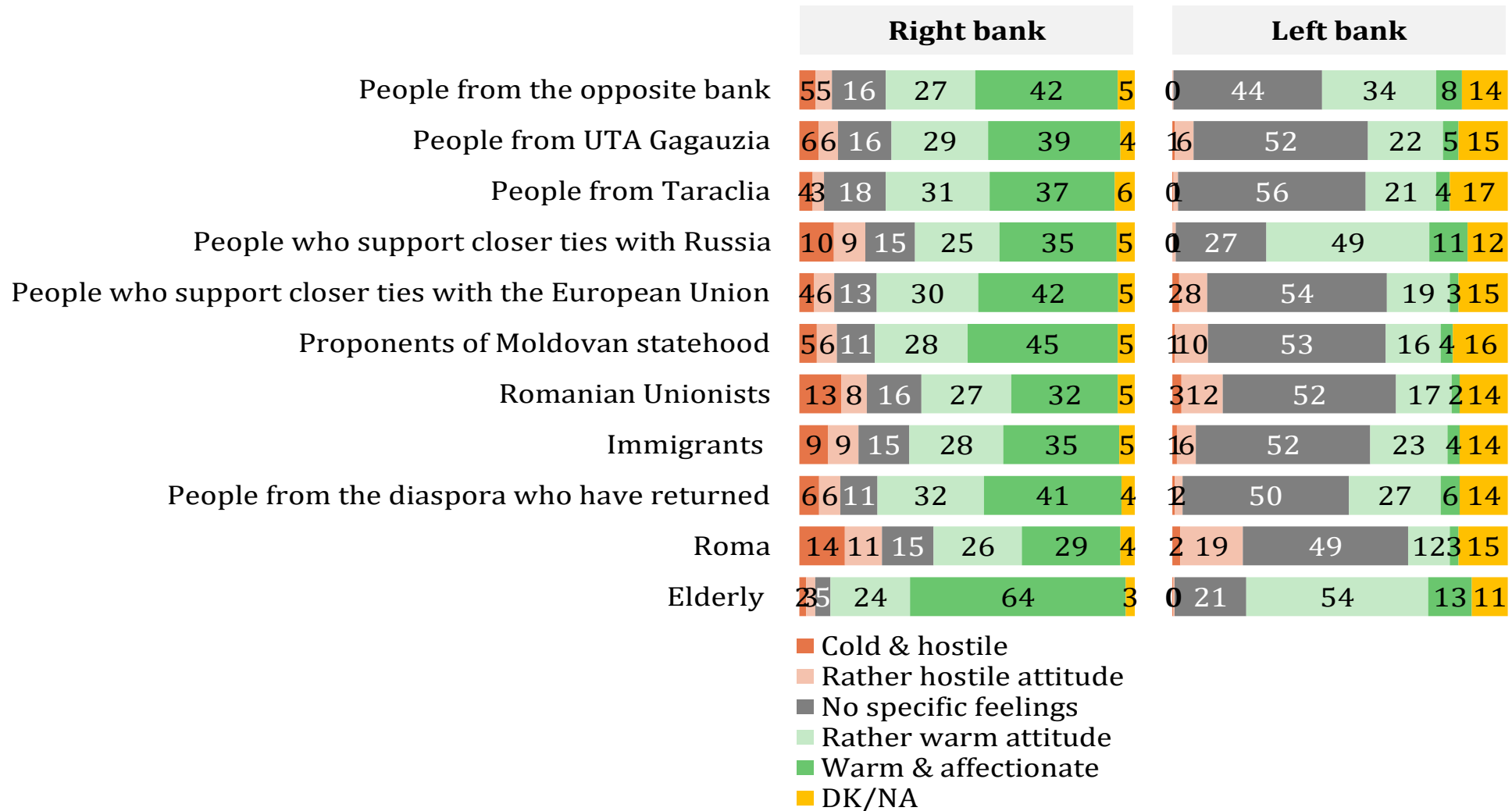
# Survey on the impact of Covid 19 on Social Cohesion in Moldova – 2020

## Acceptance of Interaction with Different Groups

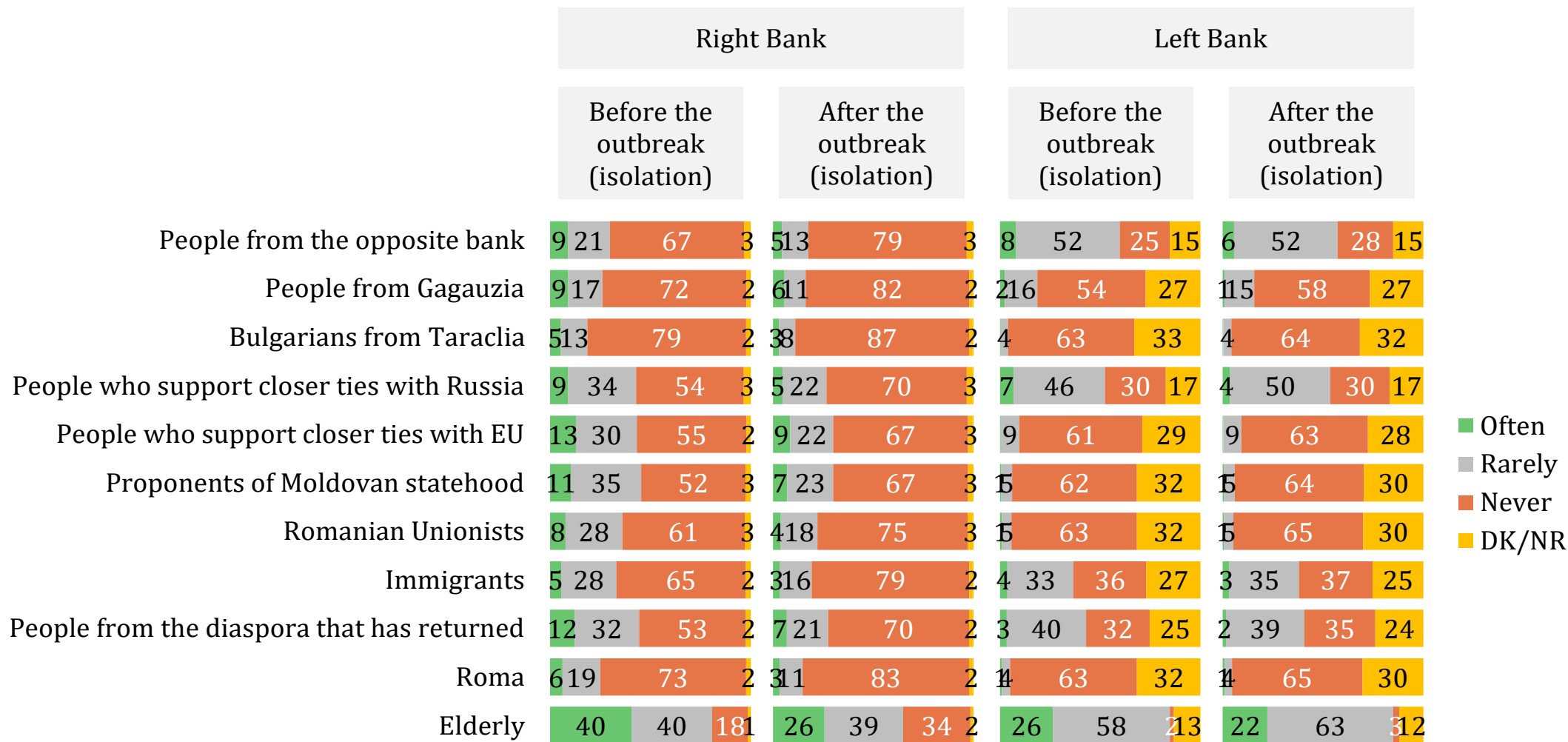


- I would accept to interact with them personally
- I would accept them in the community, but personally avoid communication
- I would prefer if they leave our community
- DK/NR

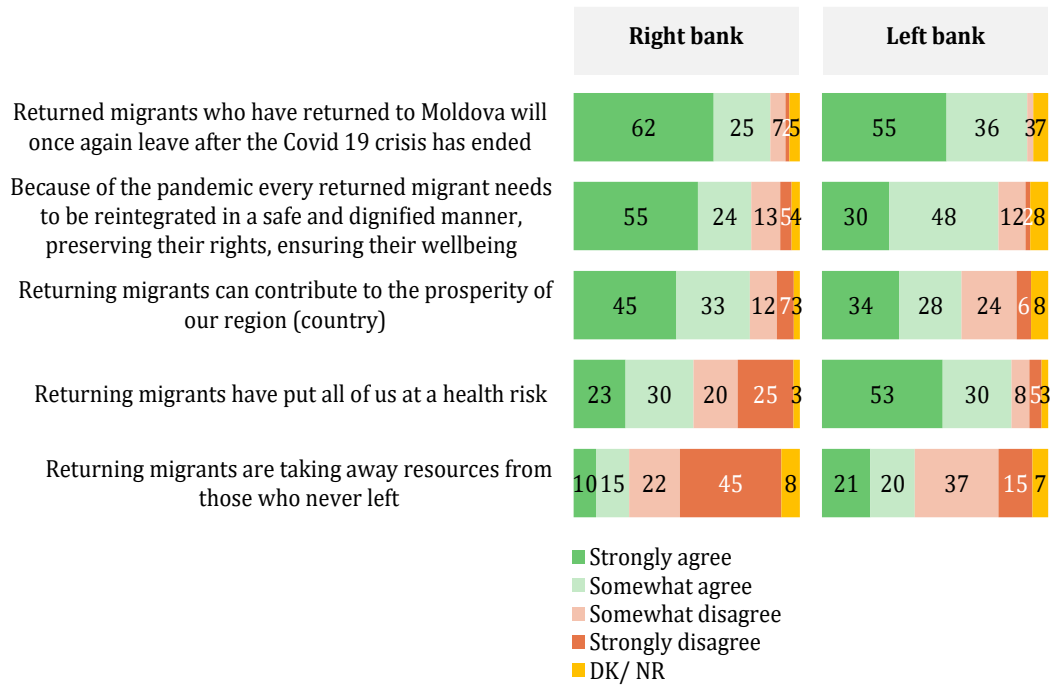
# Attitude Towards Representatives of Different Groups



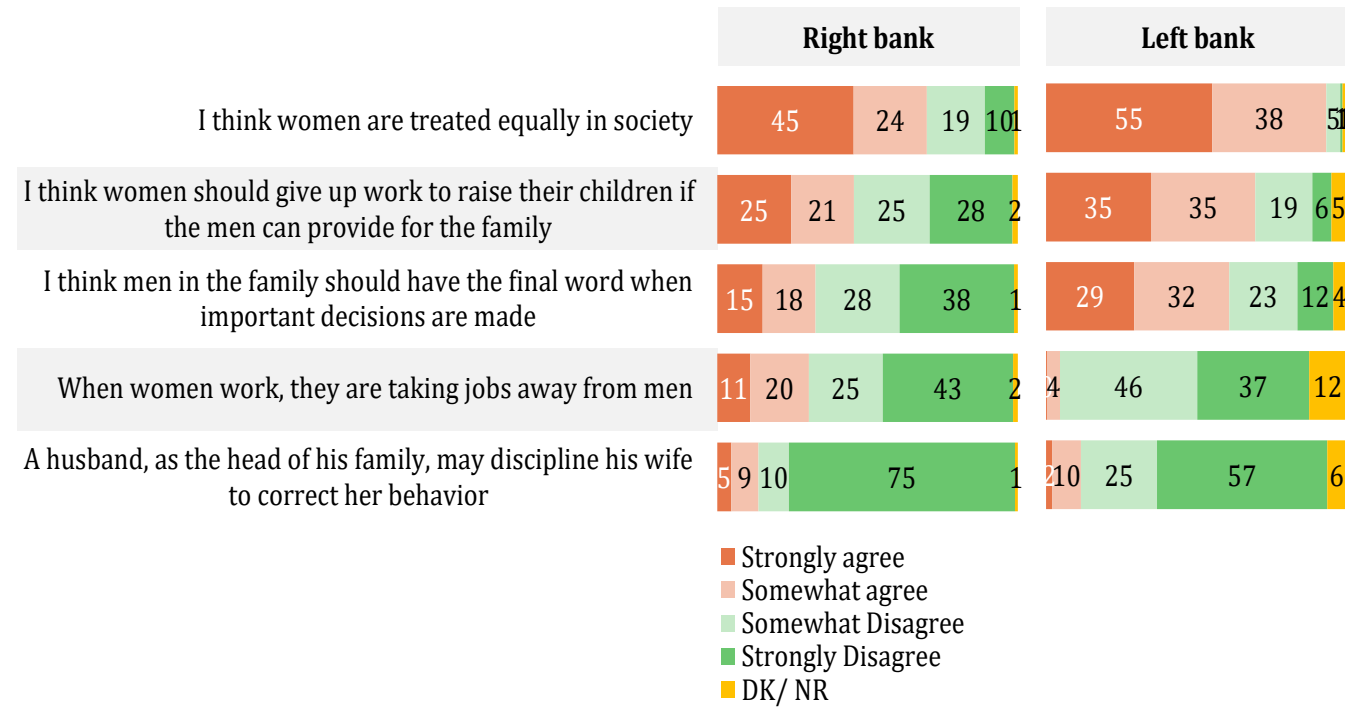
# Contact with Other Groups



# Migrants



# Gender Issues





**COVID-19  
RESPONSE**

# The Response

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# Social cohesion and community resilience



## On-going support & realigned work:

- Survey on the impact of COVID-19 on social cohesion in Moldova. **UNRCO**
- Support to immediate needs to 120 communities and public institutions from both banks of Nistru river. **UNDP (EU4Moldova: Focal Regions – 81 000 USD; Migration and Local Development Project – 40,968 USD)**
- Support for urgent needs of communities on left bank of Nistru river, information dissemination, online seminars, support for 500 people with disabilities. **UNDP (EU-funded Confidence Building Measures (CBM) programme through the Cross-river Health Platform – 122,085 USD)**
- Adaptation of activities to COVID-19 needs (local needs assessment, support for 100 MSMEs, support for National Employment agency, support for children treated for COVID19, etc. **UNDP (Joint Action to Strengthen Human Rights in the Transnistrian Region of the Republic of Moldova)**

# Social cohesion and community resilience



## On-going support & realigned work:

- Provision of community-based HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis to high-risk groups (200 people) and empowerment of women living with HIV through mentoring program on both banks (100 women). Information dissemination for Covid prevention **(UNAIDS) (Joint Action to Strengthen HR in Transnistria Reg.)**;
- Socio-economic impact assessment of COVID-19 on people living with HIV, including pregnant women and children, expected for Q 2, 2021 **(UNICEF in cooperation with UNAIDS)**
- Support to Chisinau Municipality to develop the Municipal Strategy and costed Action Plan on Youth (including COVID-19 impact) **UNICEF - 10,000 USD**
- Promote real-time participation through Viber and Facebook of about 15,000 young people registered on U-report Moldova, helping raise awareness and generate evidence about the impact of COVID-19 **UNICEF – 20,000 USD**



# Social cohesion and community resilience

## UNFPA



### On-going support & realigned work:

- Rayonal Youth Strategies and result-oriented, data-driven and budgeted Action Plans on Youth – most vulnerable youth , by involving different youth organizations and other local stakeholders, including vulnerable youth;
- Engagement of marginalized youth groups through partnerships between schools, youth centers and local authorities; community / civic initiatives implemented by young people;
- Refurbishment of 5 youth centres in order to ensure a youth-friendly environment and accessible infrastructure for young people with disabilities;
- Study on knowledge, attitudes, and practices related to life skills and healthy/risky behaviors of students in Vocational Education & Training, including boys and girls with disabilities, minorities, girls from rural areas, and other vulnerable groups;
- Increase capacity of educational staff and students from VET institutions on GE and VAW and facilitate the development of a reporting mechanism for VAW cases and sexual harassment (UNFPA & UN Women);
- Supporting private sector companies part of dual VET in addressing GBV at the workplace and creating a safe environment for students and staff;
- Empower communities in Orhei, Rezina, Cahul, Ungheni, and Falesti to support most vulnerable young people for sexual and reproductive health and rights;
- Demographic Survey "Generations and Gender“ - people with disabilities, minorities, other vulnerable groups;
- UNFPA and Moldovan Diaspora –healthcare facilities from Chisinau, Cahul, Edinet, Hincesti and Ungheni were equipped with gynecological chairs adapted for women with disabilities;
- Community Fathers Clubs – EU-UNW, LPA .

# Social cohesion and community resilience



## New projects - funded:

- Protecting workers and ensuring decent and safe working conditions in times of COVID-19 crisis and recovery **ILO funded – 365.000 USD.**
- Reactivating social dialogue for an effective Covid-19 response and applying it to local job creation (LEPs) **ILO funded – 600.000 USD.**
- Capacity building of healthcare providers on disability-sensitive SRH service provision & of Organizations of Persons with Disabilities to be able to advocate for equal sexual and reproductive health and rights. **UNFPA**
- Train social workers to empower them to work with aggressors (using international as well as national (Drochia) experience. **UNFPA**

# Social cohesion and community resilience— gender, human rights



## New projects - to be funded:

- Supporting and empowering most vulnerable and marginalized women and girls to act as agents of change during the COVID-19 pandemic. **UN Women, \$500,000**
- Sustainable and resilient communities through women's empowerment. **UNDP \$2,400,000**
- Strengthening the correction system's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. **UNDP, UNODC, \$3,000,000**
- Strengthening the crisis prevention and recovery framework and enhancing emergency management capacities. **UNDP, \$2,000,000**
- Strengthening the Parliament's role in enhancing gender equality in the context of the SDGs and post-COVID-19 recovery. **UNDP, UN Women, UNFPA, UNICEF. \$200,000**
- Strengthening the justice sector's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. **UNDP, OHCHR, UNICEF, \$1,000,000**
- Capacity building for upholding human rights in the aftermath of the crisis. **UNDP, OHCHR, \$800,000**
- Women with disabilities – Sexual and Reproductive Health and GBV - **UNFPA**
- Strengthening GBV data collection system through multi-sectoral approach and enhanced coordination - Improving data collection on GBV in the health system, to ensure adequate, data-driven and people-centred support to survivors of GBV. **UNFPA**

# Social cohesion and community resilience – local impact



## New projects - to be funded:

- Increasing social cohesion through combating stigma and discrimination and applying a human rights-based and conflict-sensitive approach at local level when developing strategic plans, local budgets and other local policy documents. **OHCHR, UNRCO, \$550,000**
- Enhancing the capacities of LPAs to develop plans and budgets from a gender equality perspective in the context of COVID-19. **UN Women. \$75,000**
- Fostering social cohesion and resilience of communities impacted by COVID-19 by engaging local communities, social partners and the diaspora in early economic recovery and public healthcare response, valorizing skills and promoting civic participation and community engagement of returning migrants. **ILO, IOM, UNDP, WHO, UNFPA. \$3,050,000**
- Improved and accessible SMART local public service delivery in Moldova. **UNDP, \$3,000,000**
- Strengthening Social Cohesion through Constructive Citizenship. **UNDP \$2,000,000**