



UN WOMEN MOLDOVA — STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

In the Republic of Moldova, considerable progress has been made in the recent years to advance gender equality. In 2021, the World Economic Forum Global Gender Gap Index scored Moldova 0.77 points or 28th out of 156 countries, marking an increase of 0.55 points since 2006.

Women have gradually but steadily increased their representation in leadership and decision-making processes, including from the most marginalized and vulnerable groups. **In 2020, Moldova elected its first female President and, in 2021, registered the highest number of elected women MPs in the history of the country (40.6%). The representation of women in local government reached 22% in 2019.** The Republic of Moldova ratified the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence, while laws and policies are being progressively amended aiming at removing main barriers to women's labor force participation.

Despite this progress, gender inequalities persist, and gender norms and stereotypes still prevail in the society. Women politicians and female candidates in elections are subject to smear campaigns, hate, and sexist speeches during electoral campaigns. Women remain underrepresented in the labour market, due to persistence of patriarchal attitudes and deep-rooted stereotypes. Women from vulnerable groups (Roma women, women with disabilities, rural women) have even lower market employment rates, due to multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination and exclusion. **According to the National Bureau of Statistics, in 2021, labor force participation of women was 36.4% compared to 46.5% for men, while employment rate for women was just 34.4%, compared to 44.7% for men. The employment rate for women aged 25-49 with at least 1 child (16 years and under) was 47.3% in 2020, while for women without children, the employment rate reached 60.5%.**

Gender-based violence in Moldova is pervasive. In 2018, the OSCE led survey “Well-being and Safety of Women”, revealed that almost 40% of women in Moldova have experienced physical and/or sexual violence. Although progress is being detected in the past years, reporting of gender-based violence remains low compared to the overall prevalence, mostly due to stigma, but also due to lack of trust in existing legal and support institutions.

Pre-existing gender inequalities in Moldova have been exacerbated by the COVID-19 and ongoing triple crisis (economic, energy and refugee crisis) resulting from the war in Ukraine. Most refugee women, far from their family and social connections, face gender specific risks of gender-based violence, human trafficking, sexual exploitation and abuse.

In line with this context, UN Women Moldova has established strong partnerships with Parliament, Government, Civil society organizations, the private sector and is closely cooperating with UN Agencies in both development and humanitarian work.

UN WOMEN MOLDOVA — STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

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Gender-sensitive governance and women's participation in public life.

2

Women Economic Empowerment and Resilience.

3

Ending Violence Against Women and Girls.

4

Women, Peace and Security.

5

Leading, promoting and coordinating efforts to advance the full realization of women's rights and opportunities within the UN system.

6

Ensuring the humanitarian-development-peace nexus.



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UN Women Moldova

GENDER-SENSITIVE GOVERNANCE AND WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION IN PUBLIC LIFE

As a result of the 2021 parliamentary elections, 40% of Moldova's Members of the Parliament (MPs) are women. This progress is due to double quota provisions and the advocacy of civil society organisations, state institutions and development partners, including UN Women.

Over the past several years, UN Women has partnered with civil society organisations (CSOs) to design and implement capacity building programmes that support women candidates in running for local and parliamentary elections.

Over 2,000 women took part in these programmes in 2018-2019, out of which 4 were elected as MPs, 64 as mayors and 270 as local councillors (including 6 Roma women and 7 women with disabilities).

UN Women currently offers support to elected officials at national and local levels to develop and implement gender responsive policies, strategies and budgets.

OUR FUTURE PRIORITIES WILL FOCUS ON:

- Supporting women aspirants and candidates to run for the elections (2023 local elections and 2025 parliamentary elections).
- Continuing capacity development programmes for elected/appointed officials on advancing a gender equality agenda at all levels of government in cooperation with men.
- Scaling up efforts to prevent, combat, monitor and measure violence against women in elections and politics.
- Supporting national and local authorities in advancing gender-responsive governance.



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Since 2015, UN Women has carried out the GirlsGoIT initiative to support and encourage women and girls in STEM — Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics, including professional qualification and re-qualification digital programs. UN Women also supported the establishment of the first-ever Women Hubs, which offer co-working opportunities, networking and professional events.

UN Women provides financial and technical support for women small producers to help grow their businesses, export items and create jobs in rural regions.

UN Women works with Government, different institutional actors as well as the Economic Council to the Prime Minister to promote gender-sensitive programmes for women in the workplace and implement the **Road Map on Women's Economic Empowerment**. UN Women partners with the private sector for the implementation of the Women's Empowerment Principles (WEPs), established jointly with the UN Global Compact.

UN Women supported national institutions in developing the legal framework on women economic empowerment, including alternative childcare services.

OUR FUTURE PRIORITIES WILL FOCUS ON:

- Scaling up efforts to increase women and girls in STEM.
- Supporting women's entrepreneurship, including in green businesses.
- Increasing the financial literacy of women and girls through education, with focus on underrepresented groups.
- Advocating for recognition, reduction and redistribution of unpaid care work and support that childcare is available for children ages 0 — 3 and women have increased access to employment.
- Including women refugees in all the initiatives related to women economic empowerment.
- Continue supporting the private sector to endorse and implement WEPs.



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In 2016, UN Women supported the government in developing its first-ever **National Strategy on Preventing and Combating Violence Against Women and Violence in the Family 2018-2022**. The Parliament also approved amendments to 12 laws, including law No. 45 on Preventing and Combating Domestic Violence, which aligned Moldova's laws with international norms.

As a result of advocacy from CSOs, state institutions and development partners, including UN Women, the Republic of Moldova ratified the Council of Europe's Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence. Along with this progress, the government has also approved the intersectoral mechanism on ending violence against women and girls (VAWG), with UN Women's support. This mechanism will ensure a more holistic and coordinated response to various forms of VAWG.

Over the years, UN Women has targeted women and girls through community based initiatives to inform them of their rights and available support services as well as men and boys to challenge patriarchal masculinity. UN Women is supporting the establishment of a specialised service for victims of sexual violence in Ungheni district, the first of its kind in Moldova.

OUR FUTURE PRIORITIES WILL FOCUS ON:

- Providing technical assistance and policy advice to the government in order to implement the commitments arising out of the Council of Europe's Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence.
- Supporting the government in strengthening the prevention of VAWG by addressing its root causes.
- Supporting the expansion and strengthening of specialised services for survivors of VAWG.
- Targeting men and youth to prevent VAWG through initiatives that challenge patriarchal masculinities.
- Ensuring gender sensitive curricula and transformative capacity building programmes for teachers to increase their knowledge on preventing VAWG.
- Strengthening the capacity of feminist movements, activist groups and women's rights organisations.
- Conducting awareness-raising campaigns on eliminating VAWG.



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The first National Action Plan (2018-2021) for the implementation of the UN Security Council Resolutions (UNSCR) on Women, Peace and Security (WPS) was developed and implemented with the support of UN Women. The Country Office is now assisting the Government in developing the second generation National Action Plan for the period 2023-2027.

UN Women has strengthened the capacities of over over 1,400 representatives of state authorities responsible for advancing the WPS agenda and UNSCR 1325. Since 2018, UN Women has engaged 528 staff members from security and law enforcement institutions in capacity building programmes on combating sexual harassment and gender-based discrimination at the workplace. In 2021-2022, UN Women provided comprehensive support to the Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Interior and National Penitentiary Administration of the Republic of Moldova to develop and operationalize internal mechanisms to prevent, combat and address cases of sexual harassment and workplace discrimination. It also supported the establishment of the women's associations in defense and law enforcement, including their capacity strengthening and internal advocacy for advancing gender equality in these sectors.

To strengthen women's participation in conflict resolution, UN Women has facilitated consultations with grassroots organisations and gender equality advocates on both banks of the Nistru River and established three Women's Discussion Platforms that include confidence-building elements.

OUR FUTURE PRIORITIES WILL FOCUS ON:

- Providing comprehensive support to the government and other stakeholders in implementing the second-generation NAP.
- Scaling up women's leadership development programmes, peer-to-peer support and mentoring to address the under-representation of women in peacekeeping missions and the security and defence sectors.
- Advocating for women's meaningful participation and contribution to conflict negotiation.
- Supporting the Women's Advisory Board (WAB) and other local women's platforms to strengthen women's leadership in peacebuilding. The WAB consists of representatives from CSOs and expert communities from both banks of the Nistru River and will work to advance gender-sensitive peacebuilding efforts supported by UN Women.



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LEADING, PROMOTING AND COORDINATING EFFORTS TO ADVANCE THE FULL REALIZATION OF WOMEN'S RIGHTS AND OPPORTUNITIES WITHIN THE UN SYSTEM

When different parts of the multilateral system act together, they can deliver greater results — and maximize the use of scarce resources. Within the UN system, UN Women is mandated to lead, promote and coordinate efforts to advance the full realization of women's rights and opportunities.

The UN General Assembly has called on all parts of the UN system to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women within their mandates, and ensure that commitments on paper lead to progress on the ground.

Towards these ends, UN Women helps strengthen effective UN action on the global, regional and national levels. We help bolster capacities to make achieving gender equality central to programmes and policies, advocate for greater resources, and guide and implement joint development programmes. We support measures upholding accountability for commitments to women, and have a key role in increasing knowledge about women's status in the United Nations.

OUR FUTURE PRIORITIES WILL FOCUS ON:

- Ensure that UN sustainable development cooperation framework is gender transformative through targeted or mainstreamed actions.
- Chairing and coordinating the UN Gender Theme Group on integrating gender equality goals into UN work across sectors.
- Promoting and ensuring UN accountability at the country level through UNCT SWAP Gender Equality Scorecard implementation.
- Supporting the government in the coordination and implementation of the interventions in the field of gender equality.
- Ensure Sex, Age, and Disability Disaggregated Data (SADD) in analysis, project development and accountability.



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In response to the refugee crisis in Moldova caused by the war in Ukraine, UN Women is co-chairing the Gender Task Force (GTF) jointly with the Platform for Gender Equality to ensure that gender perspective is integrated into the humanitarian action and that the different needs, priorities and capacities of women, girls, men and boys are addressed.

It participates in different sector working groups and supports the Refugee Coordination Forum with technical expertise and gender mainstreaming tools; provides capacity building on gender in humanitarian action; advocates for the collection of SSex, Age, and Disability Disaggregated Data (SADD) and conducts gender analyses to inform humanitarian planning, programming and monitoring.

UN Women works to strengthen the participation of local women organisations in the refugee response. It administers the partnership agreements signed between the Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund and women's organisations to boost the participation and leadership of women in humanitarian planning and response, enhance the security and mental health of women and girls and contribute towards the economic recovery and participation of women in peacebuilding.

OUR FUTURE PRIORITIES WILL FOCUS ON:

- Continue leading on Gender Equality in Humanitarian Action (GIHA), and enable participation of Moldovan women organisations, as well as refugee women in refugee response.
- Ensure SADD in analysis, project development and accountability in humanitarian context.
- Expand programming along humanitarian-development-peace nexus to enhance women's leadership in humanitarian response and in fostering dialogue, social cohesion and conflict prevention in communities.
- Strengthen refugee women economic resilience and prevent gender based violence in humanitarian context.



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