



UNITED NATIONS
MOLDOVA



UNITED NATIONS COUNTRY ANNUAL RESULTS REPORT

Republic of Moldova



MARCH 2024



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ACRONYMS

AYAP	Youth Advisory Panel of the United Nations in Moldova	MSMEs	Micro, small, and medium Enterprises
CBO	Community Based Organization	NBS	National Bureau of Statistics
COVID-19	Coronavirus Disease 2019	NEA	National Employment Agency
CSO	Civil Society Organization	NGO	Non-governmental organization
EU	The European Union	OMT	United Nations Operations and Management Team
FDI	Foreign Direct Investment	PSEA	Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse
GBV	Gender-based violence	RECP	Resource Efficient and Cleaner Production
GE	Gender equality	RRRP	Regional Refugee Response Plan
GEWE	Gender equality and women empowerment	SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
HIV	Human immunodeficiency virus	SLI	State Labor Inspectorate
HRBA	Human Rights Based Approach	SPP	Sustainable Public Procurement
ICT	Information and communication technology	STEM	Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics
IE	Inclusive education	TVET	Technical and Vocational Education and Training
IT	Information technology	UN	United Nations
LPA	Local Public Authority	UNCG	United Nations Communication Group
MLSP	Ministry of Labor and Social Protection	UNCT	United Nations Country Team
MPTF	Multi-Partner Trust Fund	WEPS	Women Empowerment Principles

FOREWORD

Dear reader,

On behalf of the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) in the Republic of Moldova, I invite you to explore the results we achieved in meeting the needs and enhancing the lives of people in Moldova throughout 2023.

This year marked the launch of the new Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2023-2027, and this annual report highlights the progress made by the UN in collaboration with diverse partners towards its fulfilment. Our joint endeavours aim at assisting the Republic of Moldova in reaching its national development objectives, aligning with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and pursuing the aspiration of European Union integration in the coming years.

The ongoing war in Ukraine continued to shape our work in Moldova in 2023. The UNCT coordinated efforts and resources to handle humanitarian, development, and peace concerns, following the triple-nexus approach. This allowed to provide an effective response to multiple crises generated by the war, to offer support to refugees and Moldovan affected communities, and foster sustainable solutions.

The UN remains a strong and reliable partner to the Government of Moldova. In 2023, the UNCT supported the launch of several ambitious social reforms, including Moldova's social assistance system reform, labour market reforms, and early childcare reform, aimed at improving the quality of life for vulnerable populations. This supplemented the ongoing assistance in handling the consequences of the war in Ukraine on food, energy, and essential services, through the Development Emergency Response Offer initiated the previous year. Moldova's proactive initiatives in this regard earned commendation from numerous member states during the 2023 ECOSOC meeting.

The UNCT contributed to the National SDG Progress Report, instrumental in shaping global discussions during the 2023 SDG Summit. Despite numerous challenges, Moldova's global ranking for progress towards SDGs improved from 48th in 2021 to 25th in 2023.

Furthermore, the UNCT actively contributed to vital discussions on sustainability and SDGs through various regional and global events and platforms, including the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, Moldova Support Platform, COP 28 on Climate Change, SDG Summit, and the Global Refugee Forum.

Fresh collaborations were forged in 2023 with civil society, the private sector, academia, and development partners, aligned with the country's European ambitions.

Collective UN support contributed to important achievements in 2023, which saw progress on gender equality and human rights, social cohesion and peacebuilding, active ageing, health,

energy efficiency and climate change, resilient agriculture, and meaningful engagement of local communities.

At the heart of these efforts were the people of Moldova, particularly women, children and youth, persons with disabilities, refugees, migrants, old people, and others.

The UNCT reaffirmed its commitment to inclusivity, exemplified by the enrolment of 7 interns from underrepresented groups in the UN Diversity Internship Program in 2023.

We also have persistently advanced efforts to ensure our coherence, effectiveness and efficiency, while bolstering joint operations, consolidating partnerships, and furthering our advocacy and communication efforts.

Looking ahead, the approval of Moldova's National Development Plan (2024-2027) and the approved National Action Plan for Moldova's accession to EU for 2024-2027 by the government establish the framework guiding our endeavours to support Moldova's journey toward European integration, notably with the onset of EU accession negotiations in 2023.

All of the above and more are captured in this 2023 Country Results Report. In reading this report, I invite you to join us in celebrating our achievements, but also in reflecting on the many things that are still to be done to improve the lives of the people of Moldova.



Yours sincerely,

SIMON SPRINGETT,

United Nations Resident Coordinator in the Republic of Moldova

UNITED NATIONS COUNTRY TEAM IN MOLDOVA

The United Nations Country Team (UNCT) in the Republic of Moldova consists of members from various specialised UN agencies, funds, programs, and other entities. Together, they collaborate to assist the country in pursuing its national development goals and advancing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

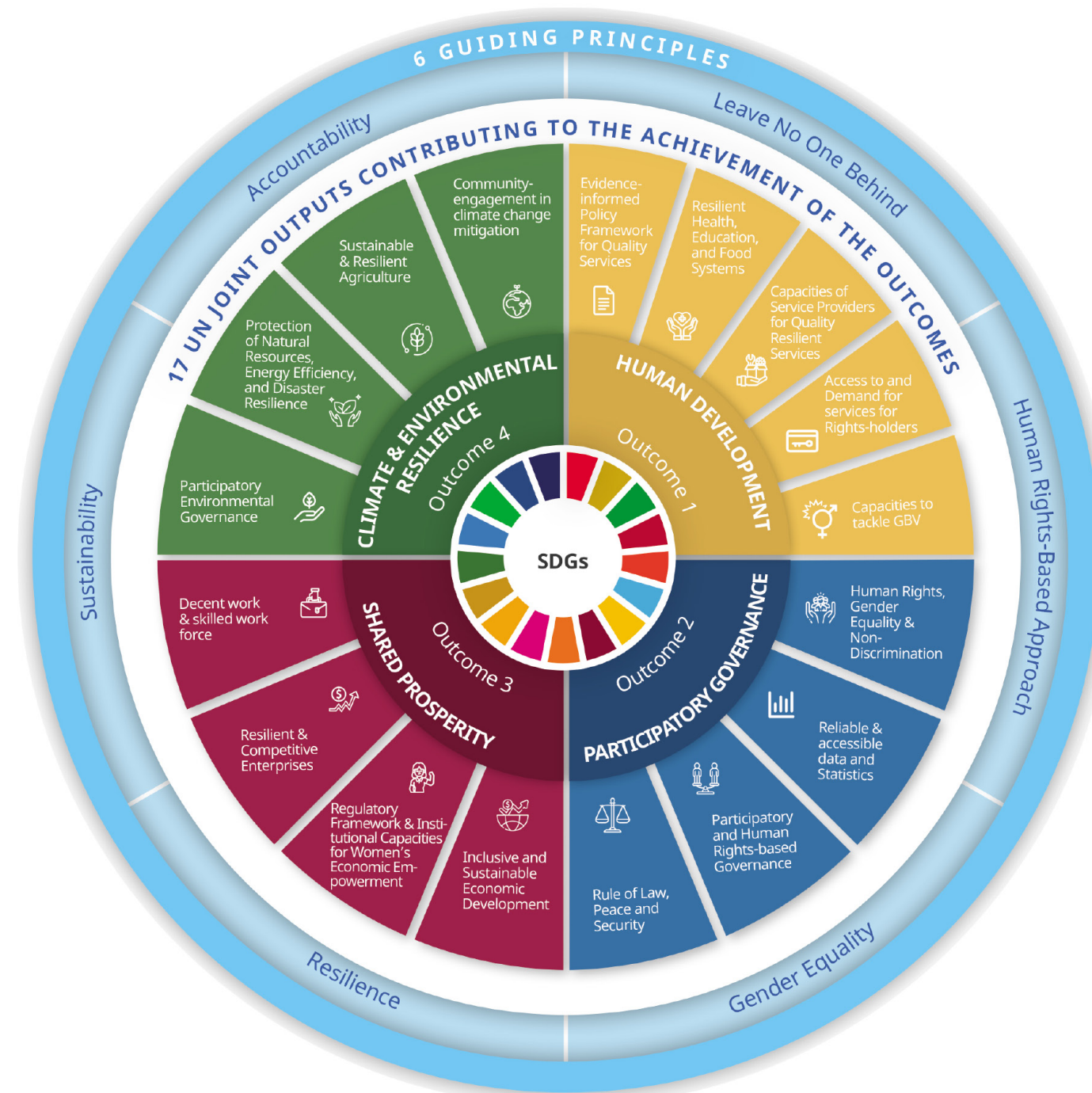
Led by the UN Resident Coordinator, who serves as the representative of the UN Secretary-General for development efforts in the country, the UNCT consists of 24 entities, 18 of which have a physical presence in Moldova. Each entity focuses on its specific area of expertise, operating in a synchronized and cohesive manner.

United Nations funds and programmes, specialized agencies and other United Nations entities working in Moldova



Resident Coordinator Office UN Moldova

The UNCT is guided in its work by [The Republic of Moldova - United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2023-2027](#) (Cooperation Framework), which outlines four strategic priority areas:



The fundamental principles of leaving no one behind, human rights, gender equality and women's empowerment, sustainability and resilience, and accountability are cross-cutting and are integrated in all priority areas, with a special emphasis on supporting and lifting the most vulnerable and disadvantaged groups.

To better address the needs of people in Moldova and promote sustainable peace, the triple-nexus principle is applied, by linking humanitarian, development, and peace efforts. The UNCT focused on supporting refugees and their integration into national systems, assisting host communities, and sustaining development initiatives.

The work of the UNCT is facilitated by several inter-agency working groups and task forces, which contribute to the effective implementation of the Cooperation Framework, as well as its associated joint work plan. Against the backdrop of the continuing war in Ukraine, separate inter-agency structures continued to coordinate the emergency response under the Refugee Response Plan (RRP) under UNHCR leadership.

KEY DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS OF THE UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM IN THE COUNTRY

The successful implementation of the UN programmes in Moldova, continued assistance with the EU accession agenda, and the sustained support to the people rely on our valued partners: government counterparts, civil society organizations, private sector, academia, media, and the international community.

In 2023, the UNCT maintained its programmatic support for the Government's SDG advancement, coupled with new initiatives: developing the [National SDG Progress Report](#), reviewing the roadmap for nationalized SDG indicators, identifying intersections between the SDG framework and Moldova's EU accession requirements for mutual progress, and launching the SDG Finance Assessment to address funding challenges vital for SDG success.

Due to solid relationship with key development partners, in 2023 the UN system in Moldova continued to support the country with the EU accession agenda.

The EU remains our largest partner, providing about 22% (\$34M) of the total UN funding in Moldova, covering all four Cooperation Framework priority areas. New partners like Norway, Croatia, and the Lego Foundation have joined in 2023, while existing partners such as the Government of Moldova, the UK, Japan and the private sector have increased their funding.

Furthermore, the UN remained an active partner within the Moldova Support Platform¹, which aims to generate multifaceted support for Moldova to alleviate the effects of the war in Ukraine, while also facilitating long-term European integration efforts. The latest meeting of the Platform was hosted by Moldova in October 2023.

The work of the UN in Moldova, including its collaborative efforts with various partners was showcased at international events and platforms, such as the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, Moldova Support Platform, COP 28 on Climate Change, SDG Summit, and Global Refugee Forum, enriching crucial dialogues on sustainability and SDGs at both global and regional levels.

//
UN Moldova was and is a reliable partner in supporting the Government and the citizens of the Republic of Moldova, to make progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, thus offering a better and sustainable future for all, without leaving anyone behind, even in these difficult times for the country.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Moldova **//**

¹More information on the Platform - <https://gov.md/en/moldova-support-platform>. The 4th edition of the Platform was held in Chisinau on October 17th, 2023 Sustainable Development Report 2023 (sdgindex.org)



* Additional resources donated by Core funding, Joint SDG Fund, Peacebuilding Fund – circa \$10.8 million (refugee response not included).



KEY DEVELOPMENTS IN THE COUNTRY AND THE REGIONAL CONTEXT

Photo credit: UNFPA Moldova

KEY POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

The situation in Moldova remained challenging in 2023. While the socio-economic situation has somewhat stabilized, the impact from the war in Ukraine continues to be felt. Chisinau's relations with both Comrat and Tiraspol remain difficult. Political tensions between the ruling party and certain opposition forces remain high, fuelled also by what the authorities say are unprecedented levels of external meddling in Moldova's internal affairs, which was particularly evident around the April elections in Gagauzia and the local elections in November.

The authorities took measures to counter such perceived threats, including banning the Shor party and closing Russian-language TV-channels and websites accused of spreading misinformation. Moldova's relationship with Russia remains tense. The Government pursued energy diversification and now only purchases gas from Europe for Moldovan consumption. Nevertheless, the gas delivered by Gazprom to the Transnistrian region remains the main source of electricity purchased by Chisinau, maintaining the mutual dependency between the two sides, despite little progress being made in the settlement talks.

The year however concluded positively as the EU decided to open accession negotiations with Moldova, acknowledging the completion of six out of nine necessary steps. The key focus for the Government on this path remained on the judicial reform, the fight against corruption and de-oligarchizing.

KEY HUMAN RIGHTS DEVELOPMENTS

The evaluation of the National Human Rights Action Plan (2018-2022) and the development of the new National Human Rights Programme (2024-2027) were conducted in an inclusive and participatory manner. The processes integrated recommendations from regional and international human rights mechanisms. The new Programme is set for approval in 2024.

The National Human Rights Council, led by the Prime Minister, set up a new monitoring structure with six specialized commissions overseen by various ministries to enforce regional and global human rights standards. The new Program on Social Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities (2024 - 2027) was developed with genuine involvement from individuals with disabilities and their representative groups.

Furthermore, the UN Independent Expert on human rights for older persons visited Moldova. One highlighted concern was the absence of a HRBA to ageing in Moldova's current legal, policy, and institutional frameworks. The expert's report, containing recommendations, will be released in 2024.

Moldova's parliament improved laws related to state security, following recommendations from the Venice Commission. A working group, inclusive of various national stakeholders, addressed human rights concerns, highlighted by the Commission. A subsequent review by the Commission in October 2023 recognized that most of these concerns were resolved.

In September 2023, the Office of the People's Advocate (Ombudsman) successfully secured reaccreditation and maintained its A status under the Paris Principles, demonstrating ongoing adherence to international standards.

KEY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS

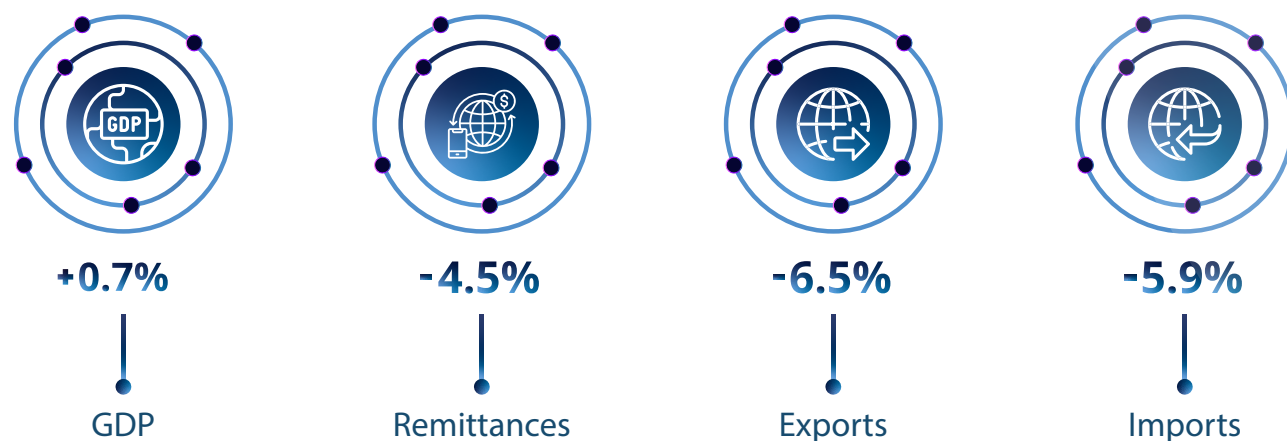
Moldova's economy grew very modestly in 2023. Both, exports and imports declined due to low external demand and weak domestic households' consumption. Nevertheless, EU market is increasingly important with exports growing by 4.3% in 2023. Although gradually diversifying, around one third of export still constitutes low-value agriculture. Favourable weather conditions significantly boosted agricultural output (+23.6%), with crop yields increased by over one third. However, industrial sector contracted by 3.6%. Challenges in exporting agricultural products, underinvestment in infrastructure and climate change pose risks to future growth. Tourism has fully recovered while the IT sector emerged as a promising economic driver, surpassing the traditional wine-making industry.

Despite efforts to increase renewables and diversify energy imports, Moldova remains heavily affected by energy imports and its high prices. In addition to that, proximity to the war in Ukraine has led to 50% decrease in FDI's during 2022-2023, while multiple uncertainties related to upcoming Presidential elections might further sustain the trend.

While inflation has moderated, the weak private household consumption still persists. Recent increases in real wages (+10.3%), lowered interest rates and anticipated global energy prices stabilization is expected to revive consumer demand and stimulate economic growth in 2024.

Low levels of labour force participation is the result of outward migration, high economic inactivity and extended informal employment. Although significance of remittances for Moldova (12% of GDP) is gradually diminishing, a part of the population still relies on money transfers.

In the aftermath of recent multiple crises, poverty and inequality increased especially in the southern region. Every one in three Moldovans became poor in 2022, while almost half of all poor are older people. The government is addressing these issues through social assistance reforms, focusing on social services regionalization and better targeting of cash benefits.



PROGRESS ON SDG IMPLEMENTATION²



Dashboards: ● SDG achieved ● Challenges remains ● Significant Challenges remains

● Major Challenges remains ● ChalInformation unavailable

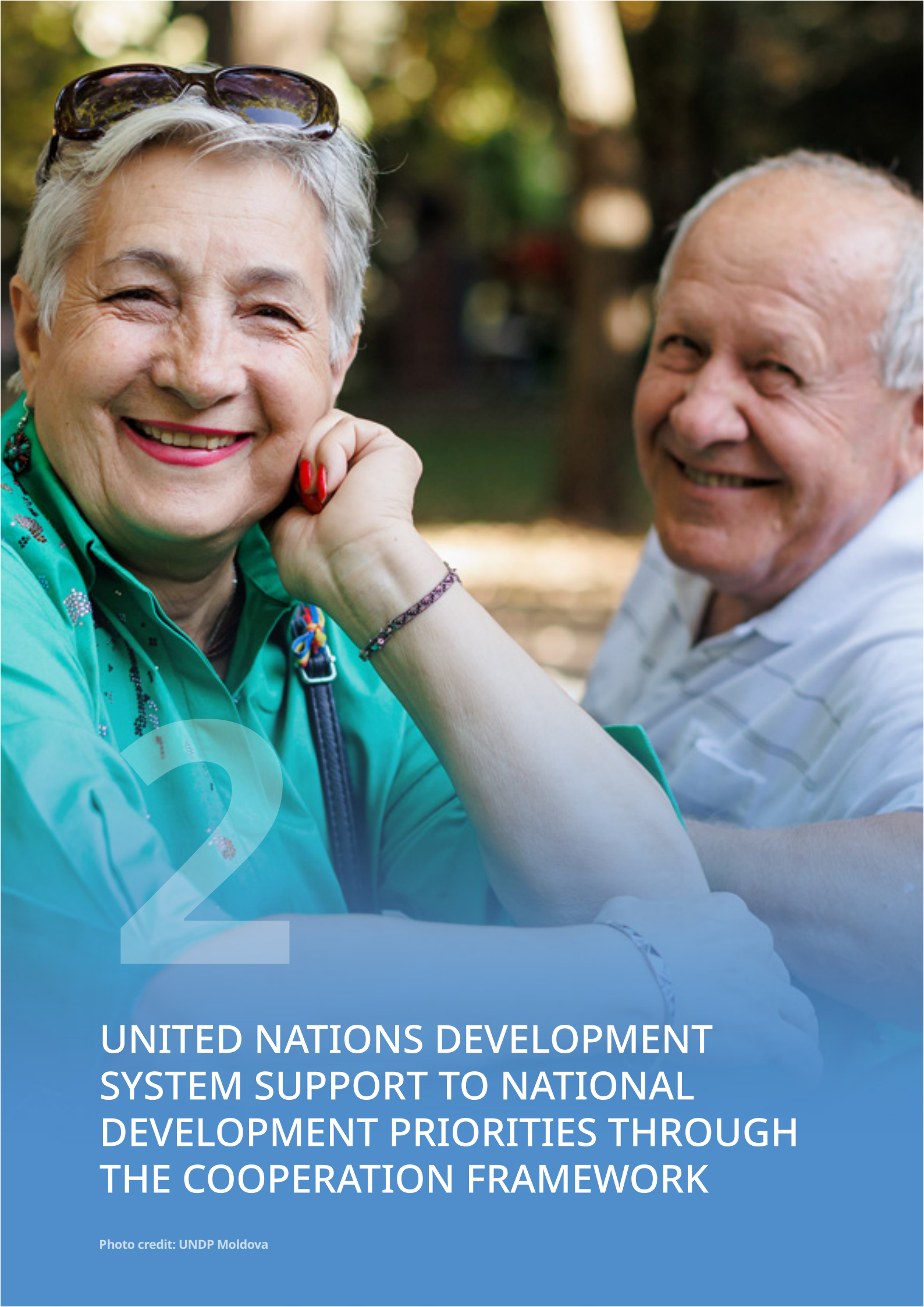
Trends: ↑ On track or maintaining SDG achievement SDG achieved

↗ Moderately improving

→ Stagnating

↓ Decreasing

●● Trend information unavailable



2.1.

OVERVIEW OF COOPERATION FRAMEWORK RESULTS

In 2023, our work was guided by the new Cooperation Framework, which entered into force and will shape the direction of UN activities in Moldova for the period 2023-2027. The UNCT continued to support the country in the implementation of its development priorities in line with the EU accession agenda and the achievement of the SDGs, consolidating progress in the four strategic directions of its work. This involved advancing human rights and gender equality, strengthening institutional and governance capacities, improving the quality of education, health services, and social assistance, and enhancing local services and infrastructure, improving access to decent work, and promoting climate change resilient development.

Moldova's progress in SDG implementation, notably supported by significant UN contributions, was recognized in the [2023 SDG progress report for the ECA region](#) also positioning the country as a model for neighbouring nations, providing valuable insights and effective solutions to shared SDG challenges.

To fortify Moldova's integration into the EU, the UNCT undertook several concerted efforts. This included high-level discussions with the EU Delegation, Team Europe, government officials, and international financial institutions, aiming to reinforce development coordination and cooperation in line with Moldova's EU accession process. Furthermore, UN agencies mapped their contributions to Moldova's National Action Plan for EU accession 2024-2027, fostering collaboration and resource allocation.

To bolster the national priority of improving the quality of life for vulnerable populations, the UNCT supported the initiation of several ambitious social reforms in 2023, including the social assistance system reform, labour market reforms, and early childcare reform. This supplemented the ongoing assistance in handling the consequences of the war in Ukraine on food, energy, and essential services, through the Development Emergency Response Offer initiated the previous year, along with the Regional Refugee Response Plan.



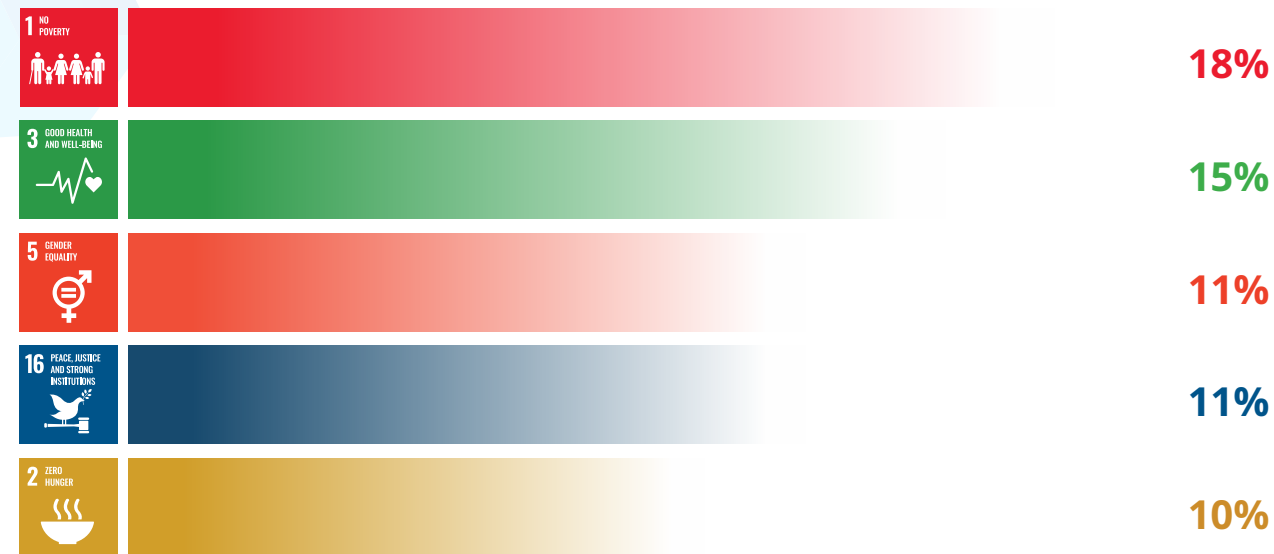
The UN in Moldova was able to secure approximately \$155 million in grant-based financing for the implementation of the 2023 joint work plan (this is complimented by an additional \$244 million in grant based financing for refugee support not covered in this report). Of this amount, \$122 million was programmed (79%) while the remainder was rolled over to 2024.

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM SUPPORT TO NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES THROUGH THE COOPERATION FRAMEWORK

TOP 5 SDGS EXPENDITURE

*35% of funds are distributed among the remaining 12 goals

The funds were directed towards programmes and projects that span across all SDGs, with the largest share of expenditures being directed towards SDGs 1, 2, 3, 5, and 16.



Efforts to improve coherence, effectiveness, efficiency in programme implementation, operations and communication remained a priority, underscoring the UNCT's dedication to optimizing support within the Cooperation Framework, aligning actions with national development priorities, and maximizing impact.

2.2.

COOPERATION FRAMEWORK PRIORITIES, OUTCOMES AND OUTPUTS

OUTCOME 1: JUST AND INCLUSIVE INSTITUTIONS AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR HUMAN DEVELOPMENT



13 UN Entities: FAO, IOM, OHCHR, UN Women, UNAIDS, UNDP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNODC, WFP, WHO

Expenditure 2023: \$ 79,814,424

Regulatory and policy framework that is evidence-informed considers demographic trends, promotes gender responsive and human rights based social protection and equal access to basic services (output 1.1)

The national policy framework systematically promotes gender equality, human rights, and equitable access to social protection and health services, including sexual and reproductive health. With assistance from the UN, significant primary and secondary legislation has been enacted across various sectors including **healthcare** ([National Health Strategy "Health 2030"](#); new [Law on Medicines](#); [National Immunization Programme 2023-2027](#); National Early Childhood intervention programme and action plan; the National Cancer Control Plan 2023-2025; Financial Protection Mechanisms to Ensure Equitable Access to Health Services for Ukrainian Refugees Moreover; health sector contingency plan ensuring refugees receive medical assistance at the border in

case of incidents; costing methodology for HIV services accessed by people who use drugs, sex workers, and men who have sex with men); **education** ([National Programme on Inclusive Education Development 2024-2027](#); revised school enrollment directive enabling all Ukrainian children to enroll in Moldovan schools); **migration** (new Migration and Asylum Programme 2022-2025; Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration; Global Compact on Refugees; [National Programme for \(re\)integrating citizens of Moldova involved in the migration 2023-2027](#)), **social services** (set of laws, defining the minimum package of social services and enhancing financing mechanisms; a new administration model for territorial assistance agencies); **human trafficking**



Studying digitalization, engagement, and communication at an advanced age is an exercise that promotes well-being, prevents mental illnesses, and exercises memory." Chiril Răcilă, 74 years old, joins 39 other seniors from Moldova and Ukraine at the University of the Third Age.
Photo credit: UNFPA Moldova

[\(National Counter-trafficking Programme 2024-2028\); disability](#) (roadmap for advancing HRBA mainstreaming into disability and care); **older people** ([National Programme on Healthy and Active Ageing 2023-2027](#)). Furthermore, the UNCT assistance prompted a governmental decision mandating public institutions to produce regular population projections and establish a national team for this purpose.

Health, education, and food systems are strengthened and become more resilient to ensure universal access and quality of services and respond to humanitarian needs (output 1.2)

About 32,700 individuals, including children and adolescents, pregnant women, lactating mothers, and refugees accessed various **healthcare** services and programs (such as gynaecological care, emergency assistance, maternity supplies, psycho-social support, HIV prevention, harm reduction, and daily and menstrual hygiene services, among others).

The health system's technical capabilities were strengthened through the acquisition of medical supplies and IT equipment, facilitating improved cancer care, dialysis, gynaecological and obstetric services, children's hearing screening, and immunization efforts.

Three revised training curricula for nursing,

emergency care, and infection prevention further enhance healthcare delivery.

500 healthcare professionals improved knowledge in operational and financial management, health infrastructure development, and hospital care quality.

The "Medsafety" e-tool, launched in 2023, enables rapid reporting of adverse drug reactions, potentially boosting healthcare quality and public trust regarding the safety and efficacy of medications.

Implementation of international standards and tools ensured the quality and resilience of services in 23 district hospitals and 2 national institutes (with a focus on surgical services and infection prevention) and in public health laboratories. Additionally, 10 public health laboratories and facilities benefited from equipment to increase their resilience in emergency situations.



We need a full range of tools for safe and accurate medical results. Patients often seek help in critical conditions, and doctors urgently require laboratory test results to intervene." Inna Cristian, doctor at the Microbiological Laboratory of the National Agency for Public Health.
Photo credit: WHO Moldova

Significant improvements were made in gynaecological and obstetric care, including for women and girls with disabilities, in detention, and refugees. This progress was supported by the provision of essential equipment, including ambulances, blood-tanks, disability-adapted gynaecological chairs, skill-building manikins, and medical supplies. Additionally, fully equipped colposcopy offices for cervical screening were established in 12 hospitals.



Ekaterina, a 37-week pregnant inmate, benefits of quality gynecological services in one of the two prisons equipped with UN support.
Photo credit: UNFPA Moldova

A universal hearing screening program was implemented, enabling new-borns in 28 maternity hospitals and five Ear, Nose, and Throat units to undergo assessments.

Extensive awareness campaigns regarding immunization reached over 120,000 individuals nationwide, including healthcare workers, children, parents/caregivers, teachers, LPA representatives, and refugees. Moreover, 300 health workers enhanced routine and catch-up vaccination efforts for children. Vaccination data collection was streamlined with the procurement of 877 computers, while 500 healthcare workers were trained in immunization data management.



Moldovan children learn about immune system and vaccine importance through a digital game.
Photo credit: WHO Moldova

Access to **education** was ensured through formal and non-formal initiatives, involving over 111,300 children, including refugees.

Among them, 23,328 children received learning materials, stationary kits, and cognitive toys, Lego/Duplo boxes.

Digital skills were enhanced for 33,369 children, including 445 Ukrainians, and 329 teachers through the establishment of 70 EduTech Labs (with three of them equipped with 72 laptops to facilitate online learning for Ukrainian children), and four EduLIFE classrooms.

4,750 early childhood professionals increased their knowledge in playful learning techniques.

The Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) system now provides institutionalized training for teachers on comprehensive sexuality education, meeting UN standards. Additionally, social worker students are educated on the HRBA through formalized curricula.

Dormitories of 12 TVET schools provide youth friendly spaces due to UN support.

The UN supported **active ageing** initiatives in 10 rayons, piloting the University of the 3rd Age at Moldova State University. Two recreational centers were established to help older people, including refugees, access activities and services, fostering intergenerational connections and digital skills.

Border management capacities were boosted for faster border crossings, with enhanced identity management, biometric documentation processing, registration equipment, and a joint video control system for customs.

In the realm of **food system** reinforcement, The National Food Safety Agency improved food safety control and risk communication. Likewise, national stakeholders enhanced preparedness to mitigate risks associated with transboundary animal diseases.

5,000 children, including refugees, benefitted from nutrition programs due to UN support.

Public institutions and CSOs/CBOs have enhanced capacities to ensure quality sustainable people-centred service delivery that is responsive to social, economic and environmental shocks and emergencies (output 1.3)

In 2023 the UN, public institutions, CSOs /CBOs have joined forces to improve services for marginalized groups and build their capacity, especially during emergencies. As a result, 60,732 children received psychological support, while other 10,807 assisted at the Blue Dots.

329 Roma living in five densely populated localities from the left bank now have increased access to health, education, social protection, and documentation through the Roma community mediator network.

12 TVET institutions provide sexuality education, and female students from four schools benefited from the pilot Menstrual Health Management programme.



Valeria, a 14-year-old teenager, lacks paternal care and a stable family environment caring for her ill sister and younger siblings. Her mother hasn't discussed puberty or emotional well-being with her. Attending a reproductive health training was eye-opening for Valeria. She learned about her body, health, and safety. Photo credit: UNFPA Moldova

50 police officers know how to support refugees from the LGBTQI+ community, sex workers, people living with HIV and people who use drugs.

77 Guardianship Authority professionals are now better equipped in child protection assessment.

Four CSO working with persons with disabilities provide gender-sensitive services.

50 experts boost Ukrainian refugees' health access with digital tools. Six software solutions now enable to monitor communicable diseases, including in the context of the refugee crisis.

3,510 government employees across 32 institutions enhanced capacities in data management for policy and budgetary frameworks, gender-based violence, and case management.

A total of 164,800 vulnerable Moldovans, including persons with disabilities and their families, pregnant / lactating women, vulnerable families with children 0-13 months and other received cash assistance via government vulnerability fund, as part of a shock-responsive social protection.



Alina is a mother of 4. Her family income is insufficient. Alina received financial aid for seven months to cope with the challenges of the cold period. Photo credit: UNICEF Moldova

To ensure that victims of GBV benefit from their right to access support services, five mobile teams were set up and provided services to 1,008 women and girls. A Safe Space opened in Ungheni to reduce the GBV services gap.

Rights holders, in particular from vulnerable groups, are empowered to access and claim for quality public services (output 1.4)

Over 11,000 young people from vulnerable groups are empowered to make informed decisions about their health, including sexual and reproductive, as a result of non-formal interventions.

500,000 people are informed about safe and healthy environments in schools.

41 women living with HIV and 200 sex workers nationwide are empowered to claim their rights to access GBV case management mechanisms and received mental health support, while 1,500 people understand better the mechanism of

GBV and the resources available for survivors as part of a campaign aiming to increase community engagement.

160,000 people are educated on HIV-related stigma and discrimination, contributing to a more inclusive environment.

The needs and rights of refugees, particularly the most vulnerable like ethnic minorities, persons with disabilities and older persons, are better protected thanks to a protection monitoring conducted around the country. 300 humanitarian stakeholders were trained to provide disability inclusive services.

100 Ukrainian parents received information on school enrolment, thus enabling their children to access education.

The UN emphasized parental skill development, including the involvement of fathers, while the Bebbio parenting app, downloaded 15,000 times in Moldova, offers guidance on child-rearing, nutrition, early learning, and health.

State institutions and CSOs ensure effective prevention and improved multisectoral response to address all forms of violence against women and girls, including harmful practices and discriminatory gender norms and stereotypes (output 1.5)

The approval of the [National Programme for Preventing and Combating Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence 2023-2027](#) led to the establishment of a [Governmental Agency overseeing relevant legislation and policies on GBV](#). Additionally, regulations were enacted for the specialist service for victims of sexual violence from Ungheni municipality and for stronger enforce of legal protections for assessing bodily injury severity.

With UN support to the MLSP, GBV resources in the country are now mapped.

Survivors of GBV benefit from higher quality health services, with 88% of Primary Healthcare facilities having at least one trained healthcare provider. Additionally, a network of GBV units in 11 hospitals was established, and the Forensic Medicine Center was renovated and equipped to meet survivors' needs.

Over 6,700 service providers from various sectors, including police, social and health sectors, prosecutors, and teachers, enhanced their skills to prevent, combat, and respond to GBV and domestic violence.

GBV coordinators stationed at the ten Territorial Social Assistance Agencies were provided with 10 cars to enhance coordination of GBV prevention and response services across 34 rayons.

57,000 individuals, encompassing youth, women, older persons, people with disabilities, and members of the Roma population, were empowered to build resilience against GBV. They received psycho-social support, legal counselling, and information on women's rights and sexual and reproductive health. Additionally, they were referred to both GBV-specialized and non-GBV specialized services, and provided with dignity kits and menstrual hygiene management vouchers. Through 33 safe spaces, they were able to socialize and rebuild social networks via recreational and life skills activities. 389 GBV survivors and those at risk, and 1,028 refugee women received case management support, psychological and social assistance, legal aid, health support, and cash assistance.

The UN and CSOs/CBOs partnership reached 26,232 children with violence prevention activities and informed 136,207 individuals about available GBV resources.

General awareness on GBV increased through information campaigns reaching over 970,000 people.

Over 40 institutions and CSOs are equipped to address discriminatory gender norms, and sexual and reproductive rights of young people, while 5 women-led organisations were supported with small grants to implement GBV prevention initiatives with a focus on strengthening social cohesion between women, youth and older persons from refugee and host communities.

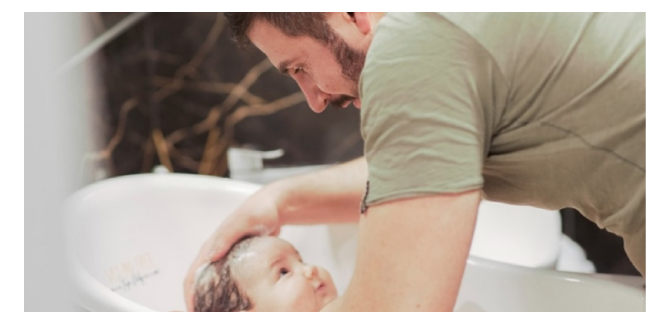


Photo credit: UNFPA Moldova

KEY RESULTS UNDER OUTCOME 1



32,700

individuals, including children & adolescents, pregnant women, lactating mothers, & refugees accessed various **healthcare services & programs**



33,369

children, including 445 Ukrainians, enhanced **digital skills** through the establishment of 70 EduTech Labs



111,300

children, including refugees, accessed formal and informal **education**



6,700

service providers from various sectors enhanced skills to prevent, combat, and respond to **GBV and domestic violence**



160,000

people are educated on **HIV-related stigma and discrimination**



970,000

people increased **awareness on GBV** through information campaigns



164,800

vulnerable Moldovans, received **cash assistance** via government vulnerability fund



1,008

women and girls, victims of GBV, accessed **support services** provided by 5 mobile teams



11,000

young people from vulnerable groups empowered to make informed **decisions about their health**, including sexual and reproductive

Sofronie is a retired volunteer passionate about chess. He spends his afternoons at the high school from Chetrosu village that is 200 km away from Chisinau dedicating his free time to teach young girls and boys to play chess. The main priority of Sofronie is to provide children with a tool to help them thrive.

He is convinced that "chess is the most interesting game in the world" and that children deserve to know and enjoy the benefits of this game. "Through chess, they develop their ability to concentrate, memorize, and become more self-confident. Children get enormous pleasure when they win," shares the teacher proudly. "For instance, two little girls who started in the second grade learned to play quite well within a year, reaching the same level as boys who had been playing longer."

Ionela, a nine-year old pupil, is one of the young boys and girls attending these courses. She thinks that playing chess not only helped her make new friends but also brought her better results in math.

Photo credit: UNICEF Moldova



OUTCOME 2: PARTICIPATORY GOVERNANCE AND SOCIAL COHESION



13 UN Entities: FAO, IFAD, IOM, ITU, OHCHR, UN Women, UNAIDS, UNDP, UNECE, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNICRI

Expenditure 2023: \$ 21,000,485

In 2023, the UN ramped up its support in the field of participatory governance and social cohesion, including with respect to gender equality, youth participation and the inclusion of refugees and other vulnerable groups.

Regulatory framework and capacities of government and non-government institutions are enhanced to promote human rights, gender equality, non-discrimination and accountability (output 2.1)

Gender equality (GE) was advanced in national and local policies, as evidenced by the adoption of several policy documents: [The Programme for Promoting and Ensuring Equality between Women and Men in the Republic of Moldova 2023-2027](#); [National Programme for the implementation of UNSCR 1325 on Women, Peace and Security](#) underscores government's commitment to enhancing women's participation in these areas.

[The Public Finance Management \(PFM\) Strategy for 2023-2030](#) introduced GE financing requirements, integrating gender perspectives in the Medium-term Budgetary Framework and establishing gender-responsive indicators in budgetary programs and internal audits, to ensure resource allocation for GE promotion.

54% of district-level LPAs developed and budgeted annual youth action plans using their own resources. In 2023, an expanded network of 60 Youth Centres reached approximately 50,000 young people across the country.



Ala Roșcovanu, devoted to youth development, heads the Youth Center in Ustia, Dubăsari district. With local youth, she converted a space at the Cultural House into an inviting hub. "I wanted teens to have a space for their ideas and feel good," Ala says. The Ustia Youth Center, welcoming over 250 young people in its inaugural year, serves as a hub for youth development and community inspiration. Photo credit: UNFPA Moldova

2,530 representatives of government and non-government institutions nationwide, including the left bank, are equipped with enhanced understanding and skills to promote and protect human rights, particularly that of vulnerable groups, such as children, people with disabilities, LGBTIQ+ and refugees. Additionally, civil

servants now have access to an institutionalised training on mainstreaming human rights in public authority work through the Public Administration Institute, enhancing their HRBA.



Our goal as teachers is to show students that despite differences in ethnicity, disability, religion, or social and economic status, we are all equal in rights, and every life matters. Embracing our uniqueness fosters appreciation for ourselves and others." Ludmila Rusnac, teacher participating in a workshop focused on inclusive schooling and social cohesion. Photo credit: OHCHR Moldova

With UNCT support, a review of health sector spending identified MDL 275.4 M (about USD 15.5 M) in inefficient expenditures, paving the way for more effective resource allocation.

Institutions at all levels have increased capacities to produce, share and utilize quality disaggregated data in line with national priorities and in accordance with international standards and methodologies (output 2.2)

The UNCT support for the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) resulted in the approval of the [Statistical System Development Program 2023-2026](#), aimed at enhancing data availability and accuracy for informed decision-making.

The [National SDG Progress Report supported by the UN](#), revealed deficiencies in data for 35% of nationalized indicators, prompting the development of a RoadMap by NBS to monitor SDGs, including child and gender-related indicators.

NBS also bolstered its digital capabilities for the Pilot Census, covering 22,000 households, and facilitating administrative data interoperability with various public and private institutions.

A set of health rights indicators was collaboratively developed by the People's

Advocate Office, the Equality Council, and the NBS, with support from UNCT. The aim is to inform policy-making processes and national and international reporting in this regard.

Technical assistance from UNCT improved data quality for vulnerable and marginalized groups. Specifically, NBS analysed child poverty, informing the major social assistance reform "Restart" in 2023. The data is now public.

Efforts for persons with disabilities included strengthening the informational system on disabilities, digitizing disability-related archives, and developing regulations for disability data collection.

UNCT's HIV data initiatives led to a country report informing the [Global AIDS Monitoring in 2023](#), guiding priorities within the National AIDS Programme and supporting the development of a grant proposal for HIV-affected individuals.

Moldova's 2024 Refugee Response Plan (RRP) used data from three 2023 assessments: one addressing the gender dimension of the refugee crisis, another focusing on sector-specific needs, and a third dedicated to the needs of Roma and older persons. UNCT has ensured the development of a gender-sensitive RRP, with progress in delivering gender-sensitive humanitarian assistance evident in the localized Gender Accountability Framework report, where 44% of criteria are fully met and 47% are partially met.

600 humanitarian actors gained knowledge in systematic disaggregated data collection.

People of Moldova, in particular most vulnerable and marginalized, are empowered to claim and exercise their human rights and meaningfully participate in public and civic life, governance and decision-making processes (output 2.3)

The 2023 General Local Elections marked a historic high in women's representation in local governance, with women securing 40.3% of local council seats (a nearly 4% increase from 2019) and 33.3% of district council seats (a 6.2% increase), surpassing Cooperation Framework targets. Additionally, 15% more women ran for local council positions compared to the

previous elections. The UN supported 301 women aspirants and candidates (incl. 11 with disabilities, 5 Roma, 55 young) to stand for 2023 local elections, of which 146 entered the electoral race and 81 got elected, including two women with disabilities.



Svetlana Racul, the mayor of Boscana village, leads by example, encouraging inclusive participation in decision-making regardless of profession.
Photo credit: UNDP Moldova

123,567 individuals gained a better understanding of electoral processes through mentoring programs, awareness campaigns, and voter education initiatives

Despite progress, women remained targets of [gendered political violence](#), with [216 instances of sexist remarks](#) documented during local elections. The UN and [partners](#) campaigned against political violence towards women.

UNCT continued to empower civil society and marginalised groups in particular, to advocate and claim their rights. This resulted in three new advocacy groups gathering 54 participants voicing the concerns of people with disabilities, while 22 women and girls with disabilities, advocated for the new national program on disability inclusion through a joint declaration

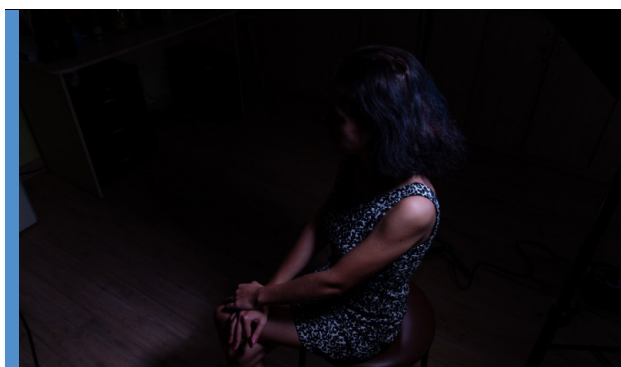


Eugen, born with a speech deficiency, finds confidence and motivation as a member of the UN Moldova team, defying societal stereotypes.
Photo credit: UNICEF Moldova

Youth participation in public life was boosted by 17 youth-led initiatives promoting civic engagement with a gender equality lens. 180 young individuals, including with disabilities, refugees and ethnic minority groups actively engaged in consultations for developing the first national SDG progress report.

40 individuals advocated for Roma inclusion, especially for Roma women, through a national dialogue.

3,317 women nationwide acquired knowledge about GBV prevention and available services through UNCT empowerment initiatives.



Anna, originally from Bălți, resorted to the sex industry amidst financial hardships, striving to provide for her children and mother. Like other women sex workers, Anna gained empowerment to confront self-stigma and acquired tools to access essential services such as HIV testing.*
Photo credit: UNAIDS Moldova

Overall, 77 CSOs were empowered to advance human rights and social justice. Of these, 40 focused on promotion of social cohesion, 17 increased knowledge on alternative reporting and how to engage with UN committees (e.g., Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Committee on Elimination of Racial Discrimination), and 20 promoted HIV rights-based messages on both banks of Nistru.

These twenty CSOs reached out to 150,000 individuals from both banks through awareness campaigns. Additionally, 3,000 people received HIV tests through these efforts. 41 women living with HIV improved knowledge about their rights and the mechanisms to assert them.

Government and non-government actors have strengthened capacities and resources to address the humanitarian crisis, sustain peace and security at the national and regional level and ensure access to justice for all (output 2.4)

In 2023, both state and non-state actors remained committed to addressing the humanitarian crisis and challenges stemming from the influx of refugees from Ukraine, receiving support from UNCT in this endeavour. A total of 42,327 individuals (28,195 women and girls, and 14,132 men and boys) were able to access vital information, goods, and resources through UN assistance. Among them, 17,206 were Ukrainian refugees (consisting of 11,157 women, 1,491 girls, 3,296 men, and 1,262 boys).

Access to legal services and remedies for refugees were reinforced. Over 65,000 refugees and stateless persons benefitted of legal counselling in 2023, including 1,500 refugees directly assisted in addressing grievances and concerns related to temporary protection. Eight protection desks operated at Cash Enrolment Centres to advise on legal rights.

245 government representatives, including legal professionals, border management authorities, and border police bolstered the capacities related to humanitarian law, refugee's rights, legal status and protection. UNCT contribution to improve access to justice for all strengthened probation programs, which notable benefitted child offenders, increasing their chance of avoiding imprisonment. Concurrently, behaviour change programs increased the likelihood of successful reintegration for these individuals. Furthermore, child victims and witnesses of crimes in the Southern Region and Tiraspol now enjoy improved Barnahus services.

Persons with disabilities receive better support in accessing their rights, thanks to the training of National Legal Aid Centre attorneys and the development of monitoring tools by the Ombudsman's Offices.

In 2023, UNCT prioritized social cohesion and peace building efforts. Over 90 civil society initiatives reinforced social cohesion and built community confidence, involving refugees and host communities, women, and youth from both banks of the Nistru River, ultimately benefiting over 25,000 individuals. Additionally, 42 young people from both banks co-created eight digital peacebuilding solutions.

The Women's Advisory Board for Sustainable Peacebuilding (WAB) established with UNCT support continued to deliver on its mandate in 2023, and progressively advanced towards identifying the challenges faced by the conflict affected women on both banks through a series of joint activities and initiative that led to the co-creation and endorsement of two non-papers, one each on economic and civil documentation, to be submitted to conflict negotiating parties in 2024.

Furthermore, 3,050 police staff received tailored training to improve their defensive tactics skills, communication with third-country nationals, and identification of individuals requiring international protection, enabling them to deliver better professional services and maintain public security, including at border checkpoints.

1,030 representatives of CSOs, central and local authorities increased their capacity on Gender in Humanitarian Action (including GBV and PSEA) and SADDD.

More than 90 media professionals are now able to report in a more human rights - compliant, gender and conflict-sensitive manner after receiving training.

In 2023, UNCT also addressed hate speech, empowering 41 law enforcement professionals, including police, the judiciary, and the general prosecution, to identify, combat, and investigate cases of hate speech. Some of them were also trained to deliver awareness-raising sessions on hate speech.

KEY RESULTS UNDER OUTCOME 2



>65 000
refugees and stateless
persons benefitted of
legal counselling



41
women with HIV improved
knowledge about their
rights & mechanisms to
assert them



123,567
individuals understand
better electoral processes
and are able to participate
in public life



77
CSOs empowered to
advance HR and social
justice, and promote
social cohesion



54%
of district-level LPAs
developed and budgeted
annual youth action plans



245
government representatives
boosted capacities related
to humanitarian law



90
media professionals can
report in a more gender &
conflict-sensitive manner



60
youth Centres reached
50,000 young people
expanded network across
the country



**1st National SDG
Progress Report**
development



>25,000
individuals benefitted of
initiatives reinforcing social
cohesion and community
confidence



The National Bureau
of Statistics and other
data producers and
users improved data
capabilities, including
through digitalization



>2 530
actors from government and
non-government institutions
have skills to promote
and protect human rights,
particularly of the most
vulnerable groups

"When I first came to one of the activities organized by the Youth Center, I understood that this is my place. It's about me". says Nicoleta Reaboi, a student in the 9th grade at the „Vasile Coroban” High School in the city of Glodeni and a volunteer at the Youth Center in the same locality. She is 15 years old and actively participates in various activities that are organized in the locality. From February 2023 until now, the young girl has managed to gather a wealth of experience and contribute to the development of her community.

"I wanted other young boys and girls to feel what I felt: courage, appreciation, loyalty, motivation, friendship, gratitude," said Nicoleta. She is firmly convinced that everyone can contribute to making their community better, which is why she invited several young people to the Center.

"Youth Centers, NGOs for young people, different projects and programs created for the young people contribute to making their voices heard" according to Nicoleta.



Photo credit: UNFPA Moldova

OUTCOME 3: ENHANCED SHARED PROSPERITY IN A SUSTAINABLE ECONOMY



Policy and institutional frameworks create an empowering environment for inclusive and sustainable economic development that promotes creation of productive and decent work (output 3.1)

In 2023, UNCT made significant strides through policy guidance, advocacy, and technical expertise to support Moldova in enhancing its policy and institutional frameworks for fostering inclusive and sustainable economic development. Key highlights include the ratification of the [ILO Convention 190 on violence and sexual harassment in the workplace](#), underscoring Moldova's commitment to fostering safe and equitable work environments.

In line with Moldova's EU candidacy, efforts to align national legislation with the EU Acquis have intensified. The UNCT was instrumental in prioritizing legal and policy harmonization, particularly focusing on economic justice and rights, employment and working conditions (new [Program supporting women's entrepreneurship](#) responding to the exacerbated gender gaps in entrepreneurship due to the COVID-19 pandemic; the [National Strategy on Agriculture and Rural Development \(2023-2030\)](#) signalling a commitment to fostering equitable and inclusive job creation in rural areas, [Law on official controls in the agri-food sector](#) etc.). A specific RoadMap for the adjustment of the Moldovan national legal and institutional framework concerning employment and working conditions, occupational safety and



UN assists Roma girls and women overcoming employment obstacles due to limited formal education and conservative family gender roles. This effort aims at integration into the labor market and mitigate ethnic-based discrimination and social exclusion. Ana and Anastasia Dohan, twin Roma sisters from Soroca, in their twenties, have increased their incomes through embroidery and crafting tablecloths and napkins with elaborate floral patterns. With scholarships and equipment support, they've built a small family business. Photo credit: ILO Moldova

work, protection of youth at work vis-à-vis EU Acquis was developed with UNCT support.

Despite the challenges posed by the economic, energy, and refugee crises resulting from the conflict in Ukraine, Moldova has implemented economic resilience initiatives. These include the establishment of a Business Monitoring Barometer, provisions for the de-regulation of entrepreneurial activities, while protecting workers' rights, and the formulation of investment portfolios in key economic growth areas.

With UNCT support, Moldova enhanced its institutional capacity to promote refugees'

social and economic integration, through implementation of 24 tailored measures such as facilitating access to labour market, supporting entrepreneurial activities, cash-for-work programs, childcare vouchers, Women in Online Work and career orientation programs, as well as conducting information campaigns on employment and organizing job fairs.

Key labour market institutions enhanced their capacities to prevent and address workforce exclusion and improve protection at work. The National Employment Agency has better capacities to assess its performance and improve operational processes, while the State Labour Inspectorate can apply modern inspection techniques to prevent and address undeclared and under-declared work.



Maria Caraman, a mother of five from Condrătești / Ungheni, turned her childhood passion for raising chickens into a business in 2021. Despite facing challenges with unproductive, costly-to-maintain second-hand incubators, Maria persevered. After participating in small business training, she crafted a business plan and secured a grant in 2023. With this support, Maria acquired a high-performance incubator, doubling her capacity from 350-400 chickens to 700. Photo credit: UNDP Moldova

Regulatory framework and institutions promote economic empowerment of women and their equal access to decent work (output 3.2)

In 2023, UNCT collaborated with the government to bolster women's job access and economic empowerment by enhancing institutionalized childcare availability through policy changes, institutional interventions, curriculum adjustments, and awareness campaigns.

A significant milestone was reached with the approval of the [National Programme for childcare services for children under 3](#)

years. This was followed by the endorsement of the [Regulation for alternative childcare services](#), a new national [sanitary regulation for early childcare institutions](#), and updates to Occupational standards for caregivers. Documents emerged from consultative processes and were supported by technical expertise from UNCT.

To bolster women's job retention, expand their labor market participation, and ease access to public services for parents, UNCT augmented its assistance with tangible investments aimed at enhancing services. As a result, seven creches in public kindergartens across diverse regions (Chisinau, Singerei, Riscani, Glodeni, Cahul, Ungheni, and Causeni) underwent renovation. Furthermore, an alternative childcare facility was established within the National Police Inspectorate, while eleven family/child-friendly spaces were set up within public institutions, including four municipalities and nine territorial offices of the National Agency for Employment.

UNCT facilitated the development and accreditation of professional development courses for child caregivers at a pedagogical college in Chisinau, with similar programs replicated in Soroca and Cahul, indicating the institutionalization of early childhood education within Moldova's education sector. This contributes to enhancing the skills and qualifications of child caregivers across the country, spanning the Central, Southern, and Northern regions.

Lastly, public awareness regarding the importance of institutionalized care and family-friendly policies in advancing women's economic empowerment was heightened through a comprehensive information campaign and advocacy efforts conducted by the UN in collaboration with the Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the National Employers Confederation.

Enterprises are more resilient to crises and have strengthened capacities to efficiently utilize resources, generate decent employment and integrate innovations to enhance productivity and competitiveness (output 3.3)

Our collective efforts in 2023 yielded tangible results, empowering entrepreneurs, fostering economic resilience, and promoting inclusive growth throughout Moldova.

Over 7,000 businesspersons, including 3,676 Moldovan women, 2,363 refugee women, and 217 young entrepreneurs, accessed employment and business development opportunities, through tailored training and mentoring, business development strategies, financing support, digitalization, marketing, legal advice, and cleaner production. Women entrepreneurs experienced enhanced self-confidence and communication skills.



My life is divided into two stages – before I participated in the projects and after – Olesea Placinta, underscoring the profound impact of empowerment initiatives on her personal and professional development. With UN and partner support, Olesea revamped her family's sheepfold business. Counselling and entrepreneurial courses enabled her to secure grants, which she invested in essential infrastructure and milk processing equipment. Collaborating with the Technical University of Moldova, she is now perfecting a yogurt recipe to broaden her business. **Photo credit: UN Women Moldova**

76 companies (including eight from the left bank and Gagauzia) expanded their productive capacities by adopting new technologies. As a result, 1/3 of them improved sales and export capabilities



Rassvet enterprise, a leader in hiring visually impaired individuals, now has new machines. These machines recycle syringes from local healthcare facilities into clothespins and hangers. With upcoming plans to produce plastic accessories for windows, the enterprise will create six new jobs and sustain existing employment. **Photo credit: UNDP Moldova**

UNCT prioritized enhancing Business Development Services (BDS) in 2023, fostering collaboration, knowledge-sharing, and innovation within the local business community. 29 BDS, including Business hubs and Resource Efficiency and Cleaner Production clubs, underwent improvements to become vital networking and capacity-building platforms for businesses on both riverbanks, supporting existing ventures and nurturing new ones.

11 economic clusters, established in Cahul, Ungheni, Nisporeni/Straseni, Dubasari, Criuleni, and Cimislia/Basarabeasca, through partnerships involving 97 economic agents and local stakeholders, promote economic specialization in Winemaking, Horticulture, Rural Tourism, Furniture, and Zootechnics via the value chain approach.

The establishment of 285 new businesses resulted in over 500 job opportunities, promoting economic stability in Moldovan communities. Notably, 140 businesses led by women received support in all stages—initiation, consolidation, and formalization—fostering gender-inclusive economic growth.

Through UN emergency support, 4,054 rural smallholders, including 1,274 women and 938 youth, bolstered their resilience against crises. Technical aid and distribution of agricultural inputs, notably animal feed and seeds, empowered rural communities to effectively address challenges, fostering sustainable agriculture and livelihoods.

People of Moldova, in particular those left behind, have improved access to adequate protection and safe working conditions, knowledge, in-demand skills and resources to foster employability, competitiveness and entrepreneurship culture (output 3.4)

In 2023, the UNCT remained dedicated to empowering the most vulnerable individuals with skills and knowledge for entering the labor market. Approximately 12,800 people (including 3,400 refugees and asylum seekers, 40 Roma individuals, and 170 people from the Transnistria region, with a majority being women and girls), enhanced their employability through vocational training, employment counselling, information sessions on job opportunities, and upskilling and reskilling courses. Efforts encouraged women's participation in non-traditional fields like STEM and ICT.



Galina, a Ukrainian refugee, completed leadership and business training and established "SmileKids," a children's center serving Russian-speaking families from Ukraine and Moldova. Galina secured funding to register the business, lease a building, and open a bank account. **Photo credit: UN Women Moldova**

To foster STEM careers, pupils in 6 localities benefited from well-equipped labs, including five Digital Labs nationwide and one physics laboratory in Chisinau.

Through UNCT's entrepreneurial programs, more than 1,000 individuals (including 705 women and 50 refugee women) have gained resources essential for initiating and expanding their businesses across various sectors.



Angela and Anastasia, two sisters who escaped the conflict in Ukraine, realized their dream of establishing a beauty salon in Comrat. Anastasia, with prior salon experience, conceived the idea, while Angela held onto her childhood aspiration of becoming a hairdresser. **Photo credit: IOM Moldova**

Additionally, through job placement programs, 555 individuals, including women, Roma, and refugees, secured job offers.

Access to early childcare facilities was recognized as essential for women's workforce participation and family well-being. UNCT facilitated the creation of multiple childcare facilities (refer to Output 3.2 for details), enabling 235 women to engage in income-generating activities.

KEY RESULTS UNDER OUTCOME 3



Employment opportunities of women increased due to **legislation** enacted on **alternative care services**



11 **economic clusters** promote economic specialization in Winemaking, Horticulture, Rural Tourism, Furniture, and Zootechnics



19 **family-friendly services / spaces** established / refurbished in public settings



4,054 **rural smallholders** (including 1,274 women and 938 youth) bolstered resilience against crises



7,000 **businesspersons** (including 3676 Moldovan women & 2363 refugee women) accessed employment & business opportunities



285 **new businesses** created, resulting in over 500 job opportunities



12,800 **people** (including refugees, Roma individuals, from Transnistria region, with a majority being women and girls), enhanced their employability through vocational training, employment counselling, upskilling and reskilling course



76 **companies** expanded productive capacities by adopting new technologies. 1/3 of them improved sales and export capabilities

Anna Rojelovscaia, once a philology teacher, transformed her career trajectory after assessing Moldova's labor market. Transitioning from teaching to human resources, she eventually ventured into the digital sector, founding X-GEBO Studio, specializing in 2D and 3D animations. In Moldova, women face underrepresentation in the digital realm due to uncertainties and stereotypes.

Her foray into the digital industry has brought stability, professional growth, financial rewards, and the flexibility to balance work with family life. Encouraging women to embrace the digital field, Anna emphasizes continuous learning and adaptability as key to success. Her journey includes collaborations with international clients and the creation of a 3D animated video featured in Times Square.

"In the Republic of Moldova, women are still outnumbered by men in terms of their involvement and activity in the digital field. Women are reluctant to embrace professions related to information technologies because they are either not sure of their skills or are influenced by stereotypes. Indeed, this field requires critical thinking and passion, but you don't need to be a man to have these skills. My creative nature and previous experience working in human resources, as well as my husband's desire to open an animation studio, encouraged me to take this step. The digital sector has offered me – and still offers me – new opportunities on a daily basis, such as stability and continuous professional development, decent financial remuneration and the possibility to work from home and spend more time with my family."
underlines Anna.

Photo credit: UN Women Moldova



OUTCOME 4: GREEN DEVELOPMENT, SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES AND DISASTER AND CLIMATE RESILIENCE



In 2023, the UN collectively made considerable progress on environmental governance, sustainable natural resource utilization, energy resilience, and green development.

Public authorities have enhanced environmental governance capacity to implement gender-responsive policy frameworks that promote climate resilient and green development and disaster risk reduction (output 4.1)

In 2023, Moldova implemented legislative reforms and policies to address climate change, with substantial support from UNCT. The adoption of the [National Climate Change Adaptation Program](#) along with its Action Plan signifies a strategic commitment towards sustainable environmental governance, particularly in agriculture, forestry, health, energy, water and transport. [The Low Emissions Development Programme](#) was approved, bringing Moldova one step closer towards a carbon-free economy. [The Law on F-Gases](#), developed with UN support and adopted by Parliament is yet another milestone for reducing the country's contribution to the global warming.

Climate resilience was prioritized in the newly adopted [National Strategy for Agricultural and Rural Development and the Migration and Asylum Program](#). These legislative frameworks promote an environmentally conscious, gender-sensitive, migration-responsive, and change nexus approach to national development.

The UN played a significant role in enhancing institutional capacity for climate adaptation by upgrading inter-sectoral coordination, led by the National Climate Change Commission. Additionally, it contributed to the institutionalization of key bodies dedicated to promoting land degradation neutrality, with 30% representation from women.

The Governmental Program "DAR 1+3" designed to engage and leverage diaspora resources for home country development, now includes a "green" sub-program focused on climate change adaptation.

In the energy sector, 44 regulatory acts were developed, with amendments focusing on a fair energy transition and infrastructure safety. Amendments to the [Water Law](#) align water governance with EU standards, improve water management practices, and enhance ecological conditions of water bodies.

The approval of the Law on Hydrometeorological activity strengthens governance in hydrological and meteorological systems, addressing regulatory enhancements for accessibility and effectiveness of services, with ongoing reforms in the State Hydro-meteorological Service.

In addition to legal advancements, the UN bolstered governance capacity by producing a guidance document on addressing human mobility challenges in the context of climate change, [a comprehensive analysis of disaster](#)

[risk reduction in the agriculture sector](#), and a study on migration's role in climate adaptation in Moldova.

In the field of infrastructure, UN supported development of Road Safety Performance Review (RSPR) designed to help beneficiary country to strengthen the road safety management capacities and effectively address and improve national road safety records.

Public and private institutions have increased capacities to ensure effective sustainable management, protection and use of natural resources, improved energy resources efficiency and climate, emergency and disaster resilience that benefit most vulnerable and poor (output 4.2)

In 2023, UN expertise supported public and private institutions in enhancing energy efficiency and sustainable natural resource management, positively impacting vulnerable populations.

Initiatives like the EchoVoucher and Green Home resulted in 600 kW capacity installed in five district hospitals.

Seven partnerships with local businesses focusing on renewable energy systems resulted in important reduction in carbon emissions and considerable savings in electricity costs.



Ocnîța's initiative to integrate climate change adaptation into local development priorities garnered unanimous support from council members. "Investing in renewable energy, energy efficiency, and climate-resilient infrastructure was seen as vital for enhancing the city's competitiveness and attracting long-term investments." Marcel Gîrtopan, Ocnîța's deputy mayor - a city that has made climate change adaptation a priority.

Photo credit: UNDP Moldova

30 localities implemented green solutions in waste management, afforestation, and landscaping, benefiting over 263,000 people. A guide for implementing energy efficiency measures and utilizing renewable energy sources in public sector buildings was also developed.

Policy makers, statistical data producers, national experts, technical staff from public institutions, and academia representatives in Moldova have enhanced their knowledge and skills for sustainable resource management, energy efficiency, and climate resilience within the agriculture sector through diverse capacity-building activities supported by UNCT.

These activities span areas such as environmental sustainability across borders, environmental statistics and data, air quality monitoring and emissions projections, green transformation in energy and transportation sectors, forest landscape restoration, and utilization of climate data and crop productivity models, among others.

Moldova now have access to the UN-supported [INFORM Risk Index](#). This comprehensive assessment of subnational risk facilitates the implementation of data-driven strategies for risk reduction, guiding decisions on prevention, preparedness, and response measures effectively.

The development of the "Report on Climate Impact Potential Assessment" facilitates the integration of climate resilience practices into Moldova's agricultural sector, providing valuable guidance for policymakers, technical experts, researchers, and academics.

Emergency response capabilities will be bolstered by the establishment by 2027 of an Early Warning System tailored to the requirements of the Moldova Inspectorate for Emergency Situations.

Agricultural producers have strengthened capacities to engage in sustainable and resilient agricultural practices, integrate renewable energy sources and access new markets (output 4.3)

In 2023, Moldovan farmers made significant progress in adopting sustainable and resilient agricultural practices, due to UN assistance. This was propelled by improved access to knowledge and technology, promotion of climate-smart agriculture, and heightened awareness.

26,913 individuals, including 13,726 females and 5,384 youth, benefited from land restoration efforts across 118 hectares in Moldova, including shelterbelts, grassland, and vegetation cover for agricultural purposes.

Moldovan farmers now have access to the [Community of Practices platform](#), promoting the adoption of climate-smart technologies. With over 100 members benefiting in 2023, the platform facilitated knowledge sharing and supported local producers in implementing innovative practices, notably in Conservation Agriculture.

Six Farmer Field Schools were successfully piloted in Orhei and Rezina districts, promoting climate-smart agriculture for land degradation neutrality. Through these initiatives, over 1,700 ha of demonstration plots were established, enabling 737 farmers to enhance their skills in sustainable agriculture practices. Subsequently, farmers applied this knowledge across 5,700 ha of land, resulting in improved soil health and increased productivity.

Through a joint UN emergency program promoting sustainable food systems, at least 1,000 smallholders increased their awareness and knowledge of sustainable agriculture practices and fertilizer utilization.

To support farmers' transition to a climate-resilient agri-food system, a portfolio of 60 innovative agricultural technologies, aimed at addressing climate change challenges, emerged from a comprehensive Technology Need Assessment across aquaculture, cereals, horticulture, and livestock sectors.



Victor Voina repurposed 40,000 empty bottles to build a 1000-square-meter greenhouse, utilizing solar energy for temperature regulation. He enriches the soil with waste from his family's restaurant, cultivating crops like blueberries and greens, and plans to expand into agrotourism, inviting visitors to harvest their own produce.
Photo credit: UNDP Moldova

Public institutions and civil society have increased capacities to promote meaningful engagement of local communities and other rightsholders in development and deployment of sustainable solutions to address environmental degradation, climate change and natural disasters and hazards (output 4.4)

Collectively, UN efforts in 2023 have bolstered awareness and engagement in sustainable solutions, enhancing resilience against environmental challenges and fostering a culture of sustainable development throughout Moldova. Through organizing a minimum of 5 awareness campaigns and various initiatives such as summer camps, school events, festivals, and expos, over 7,847 individuals, including 1,422 children and youth, 70 teachers, elderly individuals, and other community members in rural and urban areas, have gained awareness on climate change, green development, renewable energy, and energy efficiency. Online efforts have reached over 1 million visitors on social media platforms.

Additionally, 34 LPAs and 18 CSOs have enhanced their capacities to engage in climate resilience and green development areas. Notably, the Green City Lab CSO has achieved sustainability milestones, securing substantial financial agreements for green urban projects.

Moreover, 32 communities have developed Shelterbelt Management Plans and five community-based action plans for climate change adaptation, promising increased resilience against extreme weather, improved environmental sustainability, enhanced agricultural productivity, and community engagement. The inclusive development of these plans engaged local public authorities, land users, and landowners.

The establishment in 2023 of a Climate Change Information and Knowledge Management Portal provides a centralized platform for accessing critical climate services to a wide range of users.

Complementing these efforts, initiatives like **Rabla Electrocasnice** and **Ajutor la contor** target vulnerable households, incentivizing energy efficiency practices through strategic awareness campaigns and accessible compensation mechanisms. The Rabla Electrocasnice campaign, targeting 50,000 vulnerable households, encourages responsible appliance disposal and promotes energy-efficient models, offering eco-

vouchers to incentivize upgrades. The Ajutor la contor initiative assists vulnerable individuals in offsetting energy costs by encouraging registration for on-bill compensations from the Energy Vulnerability Reduction Fund (EVRF). A total of 895,000 households (75% of Moldovan households) were supported with \$16.6 million. This is a timely initiative, especially given Moldova's energy crisis since late 2022, which has resulted in 60% of households resorting to using savings to meet high energy expenses, highlighting substantial financial strain (according to a 2023 UN survey on 1300 respondents).

KEY RESULTS UNDER OUTCOME 4



895,700

households (75% of Moldovan households) supported with \$16.6 million under **Energy Vulnerability Reduction Fund**



30

localities adopted **green solutions** in waste management, afforestation, and landscaping, benefiting over 263,000 people.



5,316

public buildings benefited from the expanded **energy management information system** (up from 17 in 2022), enhancing consumer control, efficiency, and access to real-time consumption data



1,000

smallholders enhanced their awareness and understanding of **sustainable agriculture** practices and fertilizer utilization



600 kW

capacity installed in five district hospitals due to EchoVoucher and **Green Home** initiatives



34

LPAs and 18 CSOs enhanced capacities to engage in **climate resilience and green development**



7

partnerships with local businesses in **renewable energy** systems led to significant carbon emission reductions and electricity cost savings



7,847

individuals educated on **climate change, green development, renewable energy, and energy efficiency**, with online efforts reaching 1 M people



Land restoration efforts across 118 hectares in Moldova benefited 26,913 individuals, including 13,726 females and 5,384 youth

Located in Tomai village, Leova district, Cristina Capmaru manages her farmland employing conservation agriculture, being among the few entrepreneurs in the Republic of Moldova who practice this, meaning that she uses sensibly the natural resources of the land. Cristina modernized her practices, foreseeing the necessity for agricultural adaptation to climate change. Spanning 150 hectares, her cultivation of cereals prioritizes natural resource preservation. After the 2020 drought, she adopted mini-till technology, enabled by a grant, improving soil health and moisture retention.

She balances productivity with soil conservation, setting an example for other farmers from the region. Embracing environmentally friendly methods, Cristina's approach minimizes erosion and pollution while enhancing productivity.

"We depend on the climate and precipitation. Hence, when we decided to implement the mini-till technology, we realized it would have been impossible without acquiring a specialized seeder. The grant means a lot to us. The 2020 drought left us with huge debts and morale at rock bottom. However, thanks to the financial support received from Sweden and UNDP, we were able to continue our work in the field we chose. It was practically a lifesaver for our business. The results we achieved in 2023 delighted us, and we will continue with conservation agriculture." considers Cristina.

Photo credit: UNDP Moldova



REFUGEE SITUATION RESPONSE

The Refugee Response Plan (RRP) represents an integral component of Moldova's broader aid framework, conceived within the context of the 'Nexus approach.' As an inter-agency initiative, the RRP outlines the comprehensive response and activities to support Moldova's efforts to protect and assist refugees coming from Ukraine. RRP partners support government-led efforts through a multisectoral approach focusing on protection, shelter, material, as well as cash assistance for the most vulnerable groups and for individuals with specific needs.

139,716

Persons supported by UN Agencies under the RRP (88% out of total people reached under RRP)

48% women
18% men
18% girls
16% boys



132,481

Persons received Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance (MPCA)

46,262 hosts
86,219 refugees



60,105 persons

Persons received legal assistance



55,824

Children and caregivers accessed mental health and psychosocial support



39,971

Persons received GBV-related support (including through Orange Safe Spaces)



39,359

Persons received primary healthcare support



31,944
women

2,961
children

783
cancer patients

63
dialysis sessions

28,369

persons received the temporary protection status – including 8,515 children, providing refugees with legal status



2,900

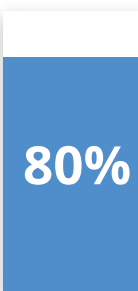
refugees received temporary accommodation and long-term housing solutions



\$305 mln

Total required funding by UN Agencies, with a 20% remaining gap

80%



120,693

Ukrainian refugees remained in Moldova

81%
women and children



2,320
refugee children



were enrolled in formal education

4,474
refugees



covered by national public health insurance scheme

1,743
refugees



accessing short-term and long-term employment

2.3.

UNITED NATIONS SUPPORT TO PARTNERSHIPS AND FINANCING THE 2030 AGENDA

In 2023, the UN in Moldova strengthened and broadened its network of partnerships to enhance support and expedite the attainment of SDGs, actively contributing to the national development agenda and emerging priorities. In response to escalating uncertainties and unfolding crises, previously established partnerships with both governmental and non-governmental entities were consistently maintained and reinforced.

Our embassy in Moldova has an excellent working relation with the Resident Coordinator. This sort of grassroots engagement & cooperation should be a model for other countries as well, and how the RC system can work." US Mission, 2023 ECOSOC

Cooperation with key partners such as Government, Private Sector, South-South and triangular partnerships were also advanced and expanded.

The UN engaged with more than 130 different implementing and cooperating partners in all areas of our work in 2023 (Annex 1).

Government partnerships

In 2023, around 80% of the UN's implementation budget went to central and local government institutions, representing the major share of its implementing partners.

Partnerships supporting the country's EU accession agenda are crucial. UNCT bolstered these ties through a joint high-level dialogue with the **EU Delegation in Moldova** and the State Chancellery. The aim was to enhance strategic coordination in promoting synergies between the **EU accession agenda and SDGs**.

PROFILE OF IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS

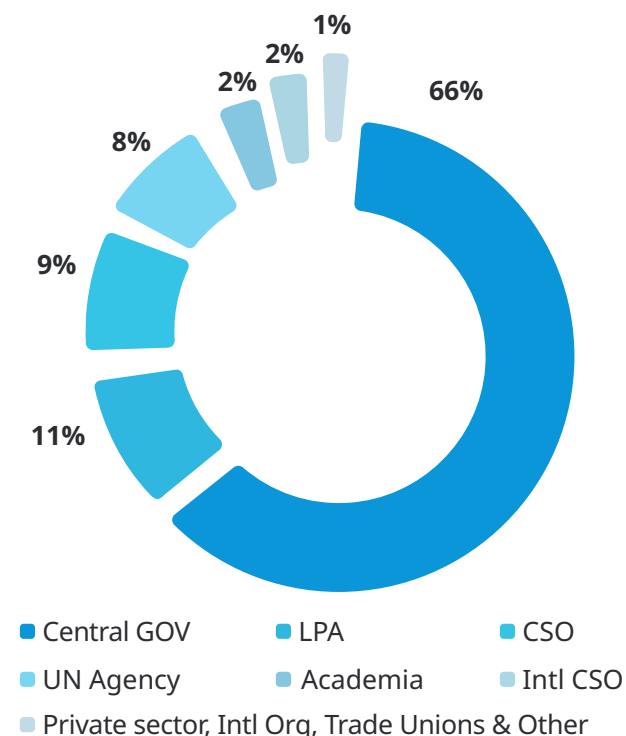


Photo credit: EU Delegation in Moldova

In response to the persistent compound crises generated by the war in Ukraine, the UN continued to engage with many partners and various Government counterparts, line ministries and other public institutions to further support the developed social protection schemes and [energy compensation mechanisms](#), aimed at ensuring social protection and inclusion of refugees and hosting families, and Moldovan vulnerable population.

Partnerships with **Ministry of Labour and Social Protection** (MLSP), the **National Employment Agency** (NEA), and the **State Labour Inspectorate** (SLI) played a crucial role in initiation of several ambitious social reforms in 2023, with the collaborative effort encompassing 10 UN agencies.

Notably, the ["Restart" reform](#) focusing on elevating Moldova's social assistance system and striving to ensure fair access to quality services for vulnerable populations. Two pivotal [labour market reforms](#) were introduced: the NEA reform, focused on enhancing overall employability, and the SLI reform, targeting the eradication of undeclared work. Additionally, an [early childcare reform](#) prioritized delivering high-quality services for children. The partnership with MLSP and National Agency for Social Insurance has also resulted in strengthening the child protection system, including specialized social services through upgrading and improving the national social protection and child protection system.

A strategic partnership was established with the **Ministry of Finance** to integrate [gender aspects into the public procurement](#) regulations and practices, following the development and consultation of the policy paper on gender-responsive public procurement and capacity-building events.

Continuing aid amid the Ukrainian war's challenges (including those related to food, energy, and essential services), the UNCT upheld its support to the Government, utilizing the Development Emergency Response Offer initiated last year. Moldova's

proactive efforts in this area received praise from several member states at the 2023 ECOSOC meeting.

The collaboration with the **National Bureau of Statistics** (NBS) was deepened. This involved the Resident Coordinator's continued co-chairing of the Sectoral Council for External Assistance in Official Statistics ([SCEA](#)) to optimize external aid for sustainable national statistics. Additionally, the UN Moldova – NBS Coordination mechanism was established, aligning UN support with official statistics and SDGs monitoring via ten UN agencies. Examples include reviewing the [roadmap for nationalized SDG indicators](#) and [piloting the 2024 Census](#).

A crucial partnership with **Moldova's Public Procurement Agency** aimed to drive [innovation and sustainability in domestic markets](#). By prioritizing sustainable goods, works, and services, the Moldovan Government aims to enhance the environment and quality of life. The collaboration involves strengthening Sustainable Public Procurement (SPP) legislation, identifying priority items for SPP pilot tenders, and developing sustainability criteria. Additionally, the initiative enhances the capacity of businesses and SMEs to meet public tender requirements with sustainability criteria.

Private sector partnerships

In 2023, UNCT forged new partnerships with companies and sustained involvement in existing initiatives. As a result, new companies implemented [family-friendly policies](#) and workplace childcare services.

Additionally, we continued to promote intergenerational connections and [mobile internet usage among older people](#) through collaboration with local **telecom companies**.

In 2023, **OTP Bank S.A.** became the first bank in the country to subscribe to the Women's Empowerment Principles (WEPs). This led to a special memorandum signed with the bank to enhance [financial literacy among](#)

[women](#) nationwide and foster their financial independence.

In 2023, a new partnership with the **IT private sector**, primarily at the international level, was initiated to develop e-health solutions for future deployment in Moldova.

New partnerships with business associations such as the **Moldova Chamber of Commerce, European Business Association, and Small Business Association** were formed for initiatives to influence state policies regarding employee protection (family-friendly and workplace childcare), as well as to support trade and exporting companies, including those from the Transnistria region.

A specific partnership was formed with **Burberry**, a global clothing brand, to strengthen its capacity in [ethical recruitment and fair labor practices](#) within its supply chains in Moldova. Through subcontractors, Burberry operates production facilities in Moldova, and the UN's efforts to promote these practices will benefit workers in the company's supply chains.

The UN forged significant partnerships with the private sector to encourage companies to adopt sustainable practices and contribute actively to the SDG agenda. Over 25 companies received support to implement [Resource Efficient and Cleaner Production \(RECP\)](#) practices, an approach that integrates preventive environmental strategies to enhance efficiency and reduce risks to humans and the environment. For SMEs, adopting the RECP methodology can reduce production costs, enhance competitiveness, and promote environmentally friendly practices. Additionally, RECP serves as an effective tool to introduce and promote Circular Economy principles among SMEs.

Cooperation with Academia

In 2023, UN agencies actively collaborated with **Moldovan universities** to harness academic expertise and resources for addressing challenges and promoting research towards SDGc. Partnerships with universities such as Moldova State University,

Moldova Medicine University, and the Institute for Public Administration supported the development of new curricula, including electoral education courses, University for the [Third Age programs](#), and Human Rights in Health principles. Notably, an initiative with the University of Vienna was established to conduct a study on migration's impact on climate change adaptation and resilience-building at the household level in Moldova, providing policy recommendations for climate-resilient development pathways and leveraging diaspora resources for climate change action.

Innovative Civil Society Partnerships

Civil Society Organizations remain pivotal partners in our activities and programs. In 2023, we collaborated with over 80 NGOs, civic associations, and grassroots organizations at national, regional, and local levels. Our engagements with these associations aimed to advocate for human-centric policies, foster societal trust and cohesion, and implement green initiatives. UNCT forged innovative partnerships with various associations, such as the Association of Women Entrepreneurs in Moldova, Center for Partnerships Development, and National Employers Union, to promote and pilot home- and work-based childcare services. These alternative childcare services offer flexibility, personalized attention, diverse options, cost-effectiveness, community engagement, and support women's economic empowerment and independence.

UN Agencies have also successfully partnered with international foundations. For instance, cooperation with **Lego Foundation and Estonian Centre for International Development**.

KEY RESULTS OF INNOVATIVE PARTNERSHIPS

- 

9 more private companies implemented **family-friendly spaces** (breastfeeding, joy places, childcare facilities) at the workplace
- 

29 companies supported to implement Resource Efficient and Cleaner Production (RECP) practices
- 

3 strategic partnerships developed with Moldovan Universities to leverage the expertise and resources of the academic community
- 

> 80 partnerships maintained and developed with CSOs at national, regional, and local levels
- 

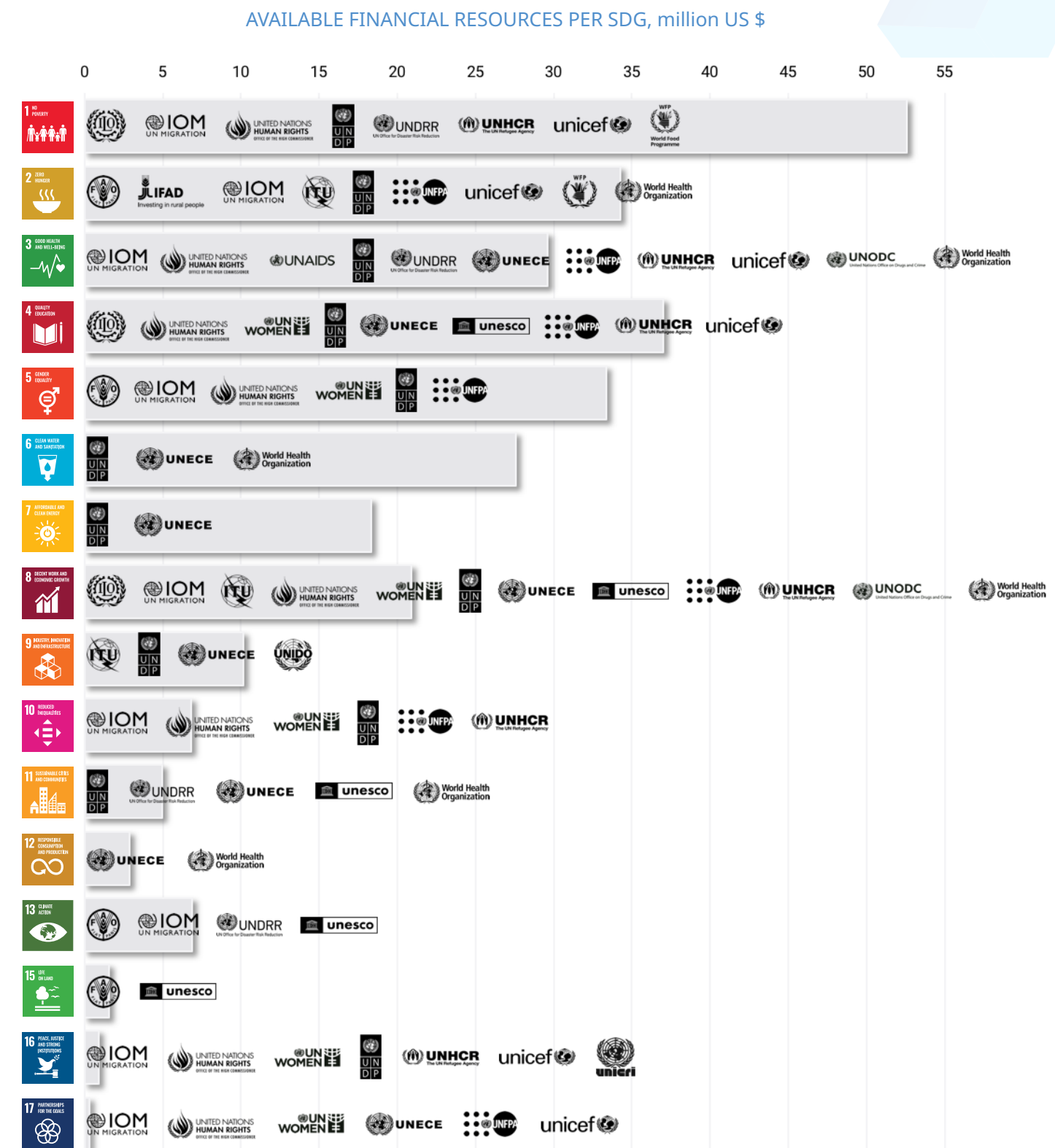
4 ambitious social reforms initiated: social assistance system "Restart" reform, labour market reforms, and early childcare reform
- 

1st UN - EU dialogue to enhance strategic coordination between the EU accession agenda and SDGs
- 

Continued and developed new partnerships avenues with most of the Central Public Authorities, line ministries and specialized agencies

SDG Financing

Top five SDGs that received funding in Moldova through UNCT support are SDG 1 (No Poverty), 2 (Zero Hunger), 3 (Good Health and Well-Being), 5 (Gender Equality) and 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institution).



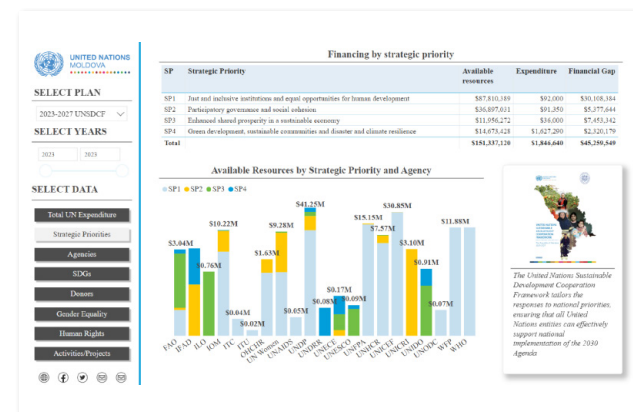
2.4.

RESULTS OF THE UNITED NATIONS WORKING MORE AND BETTER TOGETHER: UNITED NATIONS COHERENCE, EFFECTIVENESS AND EFFICIENCY

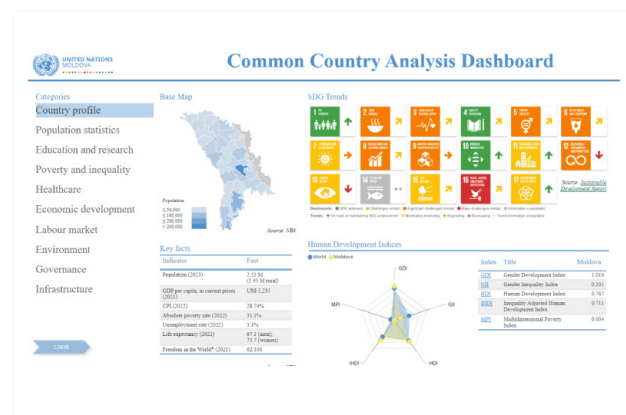
Results of the repositioning of the UN System

In 2023, the UN system in Moldova initiated a new Cooperation Framework with the Government, further reinforcing the alignment of UNCT interventions with national development priorities and aspirations.

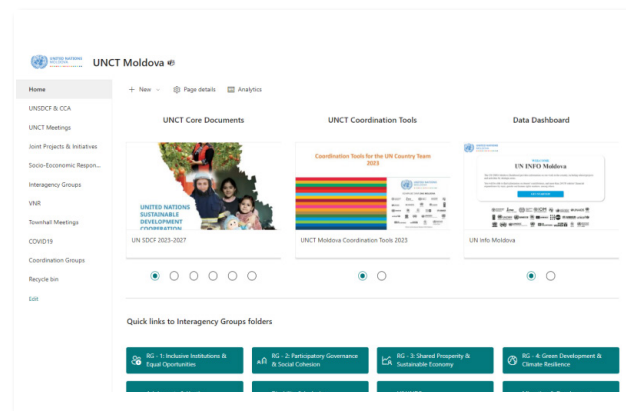
A new Joint Work Plan (JWP) was formulated with contributions from 21 out of 24 agencies that signed the Cooperation Framework. In 2023, the JWP remained accessible to public through the [JWP dashboard](#), which was established the previous year, reaffirming the UNCT's commitment to transparency and accountability.



We continued to regularly update the [Common Country Analysis dashboard](#), offering a comprehensive view of the country's development landscape and serving as a guide for planning and implementing UN interventions. A separate section of the dashboard is focused on LNOB groups.



UNCT persisted in innovating for enhanced coordination by establishing a dedicated page on SharePoint, a pivotal hub for the UN system in Moldova. This Intranet hosts various directories, including core documents, coordination tools, repositories for inter-agency groups, data dashboards etc. Accessible to all UN Moldova staff, this centralized resource improves information sharing, collaboration, and coordination among UN entities.



The new Cooperation Framework enhanced collaboration among UN agencies, optimizing coordination and synergy, thus streamlining resource allocation for more impactful interventions in sustainable development.

Moldova was brought as a good example of coordination and implementation of joint projects at the [ECOSOC plenary meeting](#).

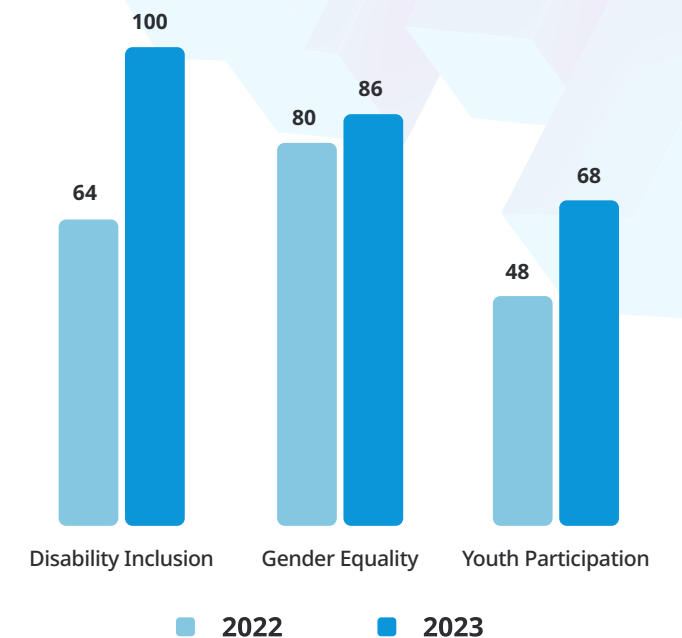
In 2023, 13 UN Agencies implemented **12 joint initiatives** (3 new and 9 ongoing), pooling technical expertise for enhanced coherence and effectiveness of results. Approximately \$5 million in new resources were mobilized (scheduled for implementation through 2025 and beyond) targeting agricultural emergency support, peacebuilding and social cohesion, aid for Ukrainian refugees, promotion of human rights in Transnistria region, and other areas.

Leaving no one behind remained a top priority. The UNCT continued to cooperate and strengthen inter-agency mechanisms to prevent sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA). [The Moldova Sexual Exploitation and Abuse \(SEA\) Risk Assessment](#) undertaken in 2023 reflects a collective effort of UN agencies, national and international NGOs, aid recipients, and aid workers. The assessment forms the basis for the 2024 PSEA Action Plan, guiding Moldova towards a more resilient, accountable, and protective humanitarian and development landscape.

Furthermore, the UNCT persevered in promoting gender equality, disability inclusion, and engaging youth. Corporate inclusion scorecards were advanced achieving significant milestones: 68% of Youth indicators, 86% of Gender and 100% of Disability indicators met or exceeded minimum requirements. This positive trend underscores the UNCT's effective commitment to fostering inclusion and equality.

The UN Adolescents and Youth Advisory Group (AYAP) helped mainstream youth priorities into core UNCT documents and promoted awareness of the SDGs among their peers.

PROPORTION OF INDICATORS MEETING OR EXCEEDING TARGETS



AYAP actively educated the younger generation on building a sustainable future within their communities.

Results of Communicating as One

In 2023, the launch of the UN Moldova Communication Strategy 2023-2027 set the tone for the joint Communication Plan, specifically targeting key development priorities: human rights, gender equality, combating hate speech, and expediting SDG achievement.

The UN Communication Group joined efforts to develop and implement six awareness campaigns and multiple communication and information initiatives, with several of them detailed below.

Over 22 years, the collaborative "16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence" campaign, conducted alongside civil society and public institutions, promoted women's rights and empowerment in the fight against gender-based violence (GBV).

Another joint campaign "Break the silence. We stand by you." successfully amplified the

message of zero tolerance toward all forms of GBV. This initiative enhanced awareness within Moldova's refugee and host communities about available prevention and response services.

Exceptional human rights achievements encompassing both banks of the Nistru river, were recognised at the 17th edition of the "UN Human Rights Awards" contest, a joint effort by UNCT.

Hate speech was another area targeted by UN communications. Our online campaign raised public awareness about prevalent hate speech targeting Roma people, refugees from Ukraine, and individuals living with HIV, empowering communities to recognize and address discriminatory behaviours.

The UN further aided the Government in informing citizens and communities about Moldova's progress towards SDGs. The online campaign, launched ahead of SDG Summit, reaffirmed Moldova's strong commitment to achieving these goals by 2030, and outlined actionable steps for individuals and entities to contribute to sustainable agenda realization.

Results of Operating as One

In 2023, the UNCT continued Business Operations Strategy 2.0 implementation to enhance efficiencies through effective collaboration.

Cooperation in procurement, administration, and ICT services yielded cost savings of \$130,499 from joint operational activities.

A joint approach in Human Resources practices has enhanced recruitment processes and promoted inclusivity in employment, including a UNCT agreement to use a common non-discrimination disclaimer in vacancy announcements. Additionally Inclusive Employment Self-Assessment Survey was undertaken and a joint training on mainstreaming on disability inclusion was held.

This was exemplified by the participation of six UN Agencies in the National Job Fair, advertisements on the UN webpage and newsletter, and Joint Recruitment Panels.

The 5th edition of the UN Diversity Internship Program inaugurated in 2023, resulted in enrolling seven interns from underrepresented groups. With this cohort, the total number of internships awarded through this flagship program has now reached 57 people.

Volunteers have been pivotal to the UN initiatives. The demand for volunteers in UN Moldova tripled after the Ukraine war escalation. In 2023, out of 49 UN Volunteers mobilized, 45 supported UN agencies, contributing to humanitarian responses and community development in Moldova.

UNCT strives for promoting environmental sustainability. Collaborative efforts were undertaken to develop and disseminate a unified message aimed at reducing plastic usage and promoting environmentally friendly procurement practices. Solar panels on the roof of UN House further support reducing our carbon footprint.

KEY RESULTS OF THE UNITED NATIONS WORKING MORE AND BETTER TOGETHER



24
entities form the UNCT



an inter-agency **Refugee Response Plan** in place to address refugees humanitarian needs



Triple-nexus
nexus applied, by linking humanitarian, development, and peace efforts



\$130,499
in cost-savings achieved due to joint operational activities.



12
joint initiatives implemented by 13 UN Agencies



7
interns from underrepresented groups enrolled under the UN



\$5
million mobilized for new joint programmes and projects



6
large joint communication campaigns implemented



corporate inclusion **scorecards** achieved significant milestones: 68% of Youth indicators, 86% of Gender and 100% of Disability indicators met or exceeded minimum requirements



transparency, communication and accountability of the UNCT improved due to **Joint Work plan dashboard** and a **Common Country Analysis Data dashboard**, and UNCT Moldova Intranet



Moldova Sexual Exploitation and Abuse Risk Assessment guides Moldova towards a more resilient, accountable, and protective humanitarian and development landscape

2.5.

LESSONS LEARNT

Improving UN family coordination can result in better alignment with national priorities. In 2023, UN interagency RGs meetings reached a new level by including the government in the conversations. This allowed for a single point of conversation and information sharing on different development issues. Reinvigorated RGs can bring together diverse expertise from UN entities to support the EU integration process in Moldova. An example of this is the agreement to develop a ToC for supporting inclusion of LGBTQ+ and the development of the regional economic analysis aimed at identifying disparities between development regions and propose strategies for economic convergence, particularly with growth pole cities like Chisinau – both to be finalized in 2024. Another good example – the internal coordination meetings focused on bolstering The Ministry of Labour and Social Protection’s efforts to advance social reforms, alongside supporting NBS in advancing the quality and availability of data pertaining to the SDGs.

Improving access to information on UN activities and projects can lead to more transparency and coordination among UN entities and with partners. In 2023, the UN made information from their internal reporting system UN Info available to all people. [The Joint Work Plan](#) dashboard allows access to funding, partners, activities and progress information for each agency present in the country. The dashboard has been improved compared to the 2022 version and includes now information for the new Cooperation Framework.

Building on existing partnerships with the private sector and consolidating joint efforts can lead to greater impact. Working with the private sector during current energy and economic crisis support

increased impact of UN work and enabled us to reach new beneficiaries in a more effective way. Examples include projects promoting family friendly policies, energy efficiency, environmentally friendly practices etc.

Flexibility in UN programs is instrumental in contributing to Moldova’s EU accession aspiration. UN programmes have shown great flexibility in adjusting to the changing context in Moldova and are already contributing to Moldova’s efforts to meet the steps required to progress towards EU integration. To harness the synergies of the SDGs and EU accession for Moldova, a specialized study was conducted. Its objective is to reveal the linkages between the SDGs, EU accession work and the UNSDCF targets. The Report will be endorsed by the EU Delegation, the State Chancellery and will be published in 2024.

The implementation of the Humanitarian, Development and Peace Nexus approach has been pivotal in ensuring the sustainability of all UN actions. Equally important was fostering a shared understanding of the Nexus with our partners. The RC, in collaboration with the EU Delegation, spearheaded a dialogue on this matter.

Continuous work to ensure interagency efficiencies on operations. The implementation of BOS allowed for increased savings due to common operations. In addition, new agencies arriving in the country for the refugee response and emergency were encouraged to access LTAs to mobilize support quickly. This experience created the basis for further agreements in long-term operations. Furthermore, inclusive internships and joint OMT participation in job fairs align our common actions.

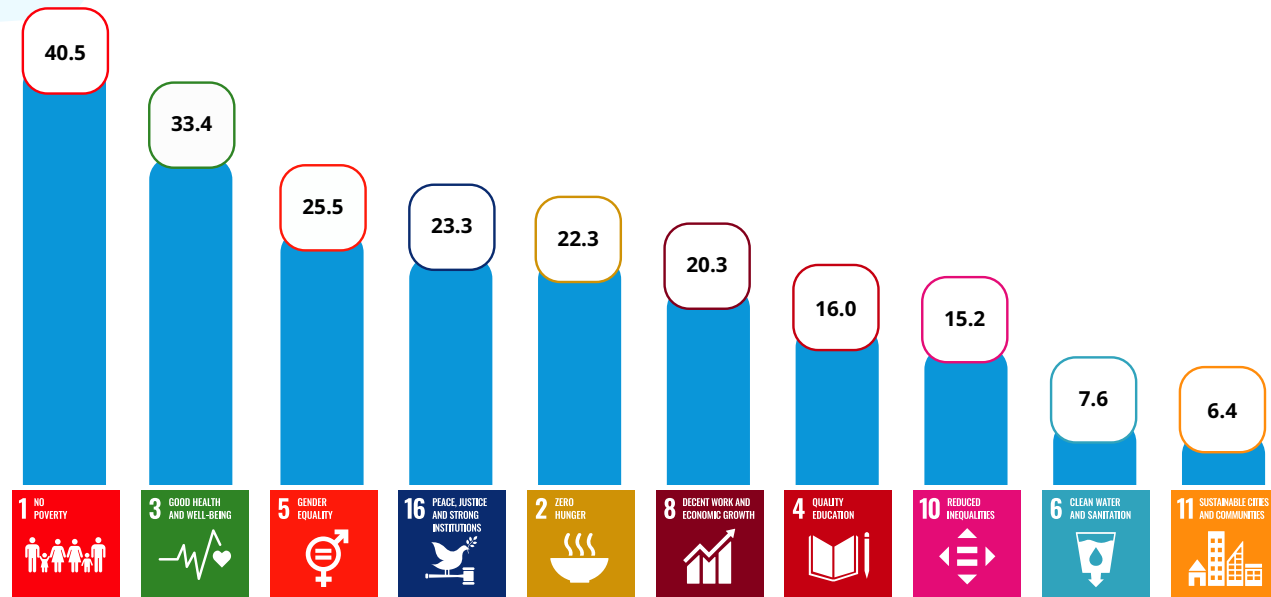
Involving youth (AYAP) in advocating for the SDGs among their peers has proved successful in educating the young generation on how to build a sustainable future at home. In 2024, the AYAP will receive greater support from UNCT to have a higher impact.

Increasing the joint programming and the use of the Moldova SDGs Partnerships Trust Fund. The UNCT is making commendable progress in joining efforts to reduce fragmentation and adopt a more holistic approach to deliver results through joint programming and pooled funds modalities. However, there remains untapped potential in utilising these instruments to enhance the efficiency of joint resource mobilization and coherence in our engagement with various development partners.

Joining efforts with partners in communication and advocacy area will elevate awareness about individual contribution to forging a sustainable future at home. In 2023, EU negotiation talks have been opened for Moldova, offering new opportunities for the EU partners and the UNCT to synchronize their communication efforts to better support the Government in its efforts to build a better future. In 2024, the UN Communication Group will join efforts to streamline the achievement of SDGs alongside the country’s priorities for EU accession.

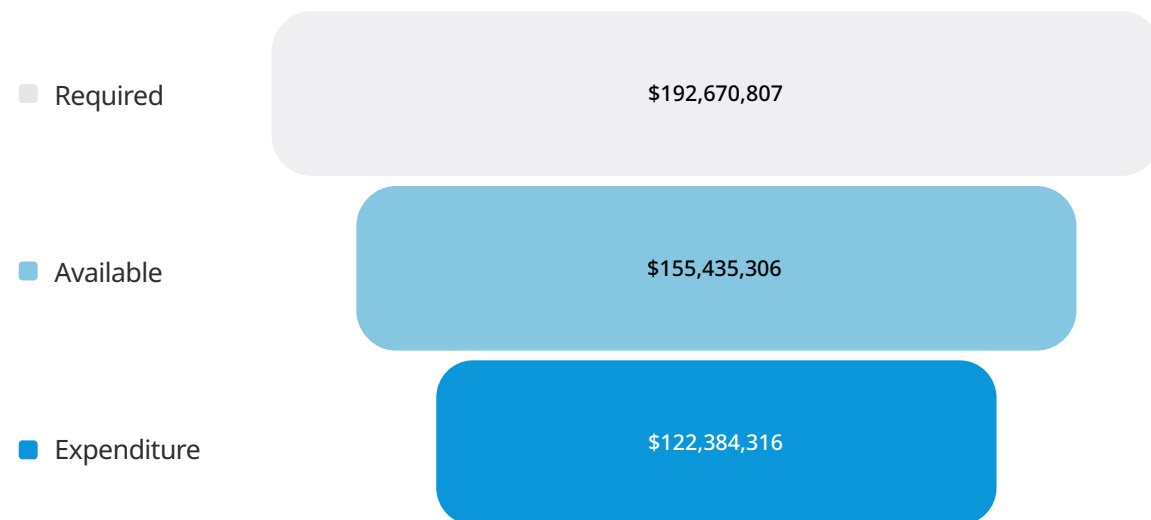
2.6. FINANCIAL OVERVIEW AND RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

2023 UNSDCF EXPENDITURE DISTRIBUTION BY TOP 10 SDGs, million US \$



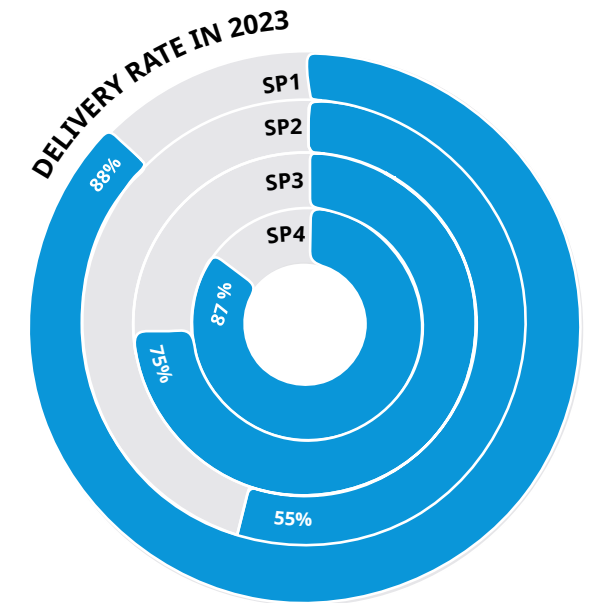
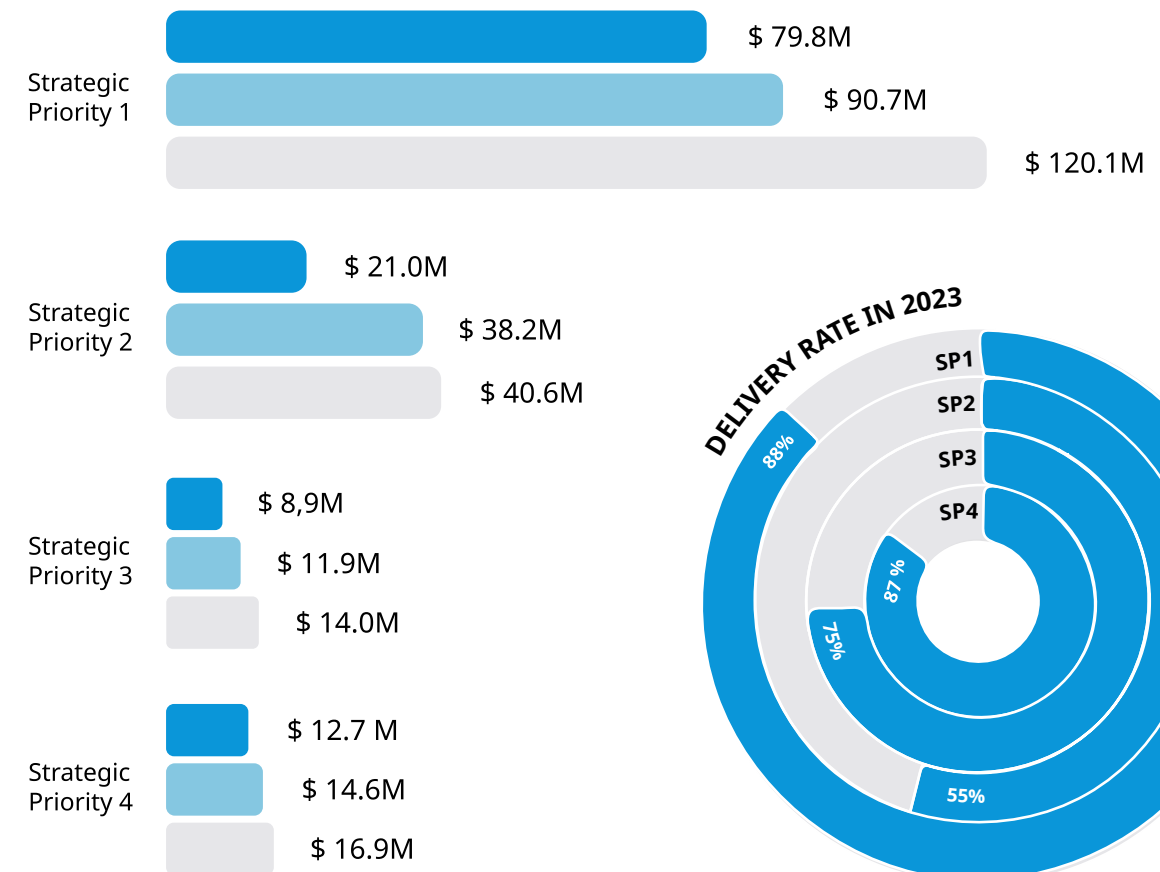
As outlined in the UNCT's annual joint work plan for 2023 under the Cooperation Framework 2023-2027, the total required budget for the UN in Moldova for the year was \$191.6 million, with available resources totalling \$155.4 million. The delivery rate reached 79%, amounting to \$122.4 million.

2023 UNCT FUNDING OVERVIEW



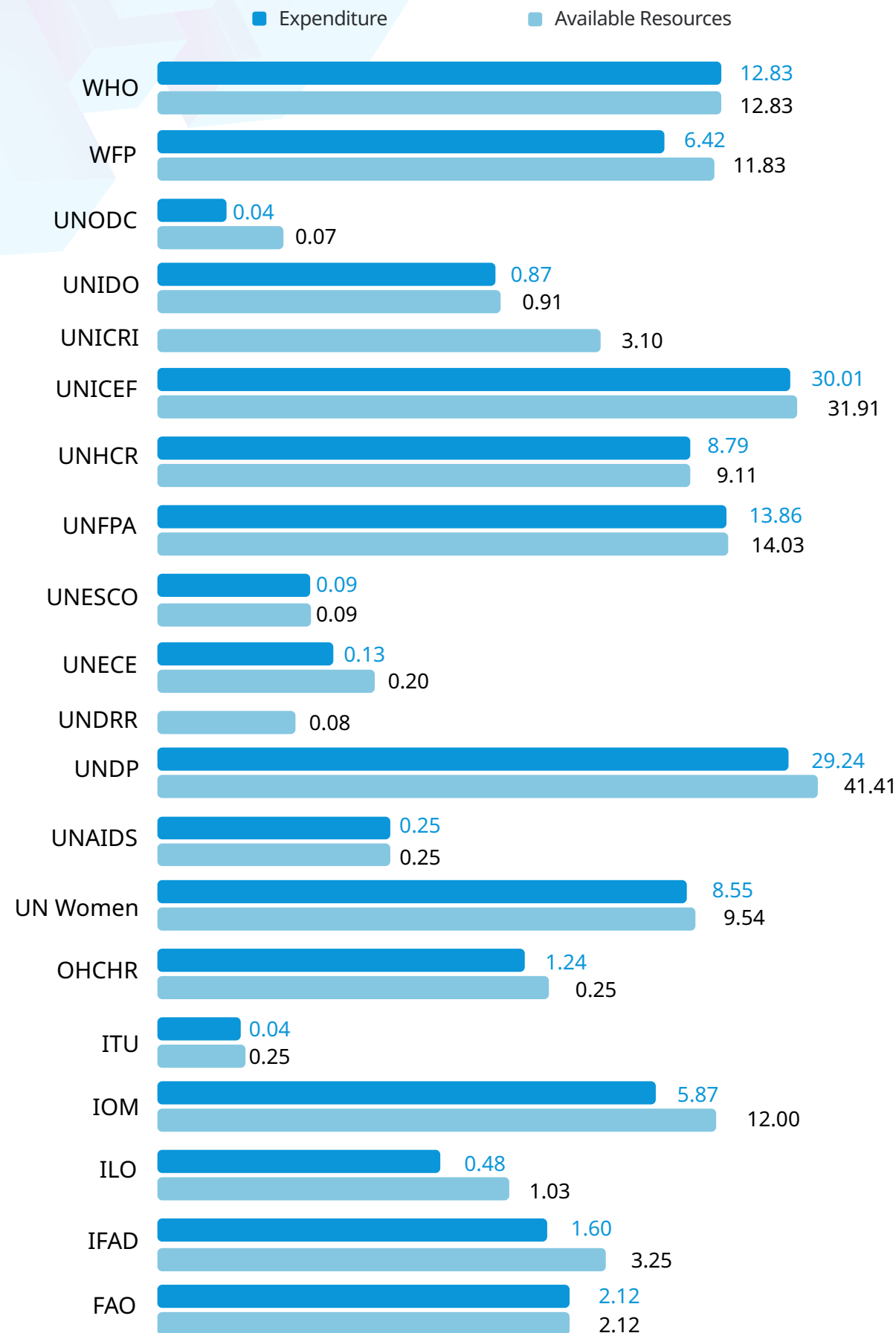
Just and inclusive institutions was the most resource-intensive priority areas (\$120.1M), followed by participatory governance (\$40.6M), climate and resilience (\$16.9M) and economic growth (\$14.0M)

UN FUNDING BY STRATEGIC PRIORITY

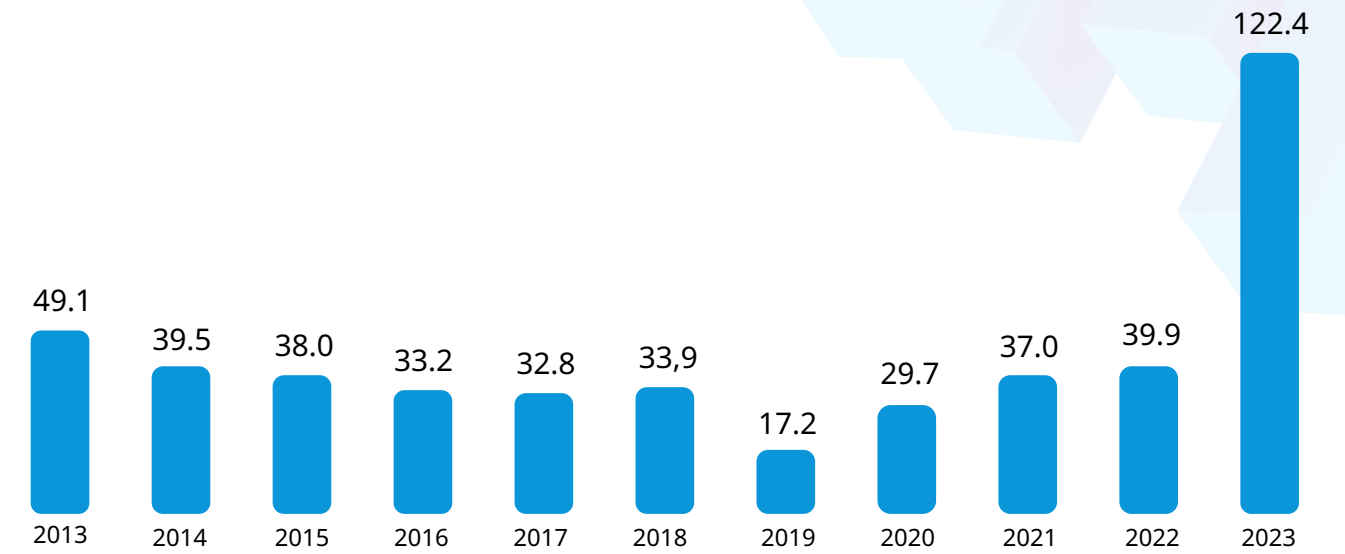


■ Expenditure ■ Available ■ Required

AGENCY FUNDING AVAILABILITY AND DELIVERY IN 2023, million US \$



UNCT DELIVERY BY YEARS, million US \$



In 2023, we continued to tap into pooled funding mechanism as important vehicles for channelling resources for joint projects. These were several Multi-Donor Trust Funds, from global to local- country level trust funds. [The Moldova 2030 SDGs Partnership Multi-Partner Trust Fund \(MPTF\)](#), co-chaired with government, the UNCT mobilized approx. \$2.5 million in 2023 (to be implemented by 2025). The main donors to the MPTF are the Governments of Sweden, Switzerland, Austria.

The UNCT also engaged with and successfully received support from global MPTF's, including the Migration Fund, Peace Building Fund, Disability Inclusion Fund, Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund . Contributions to UNCT budget from these funds reached \$2.02 million in 2023.

The UN Moldova continued its dedicated work on increasing joint (multi-agency) programming in line with its commitment under the Joint Resource Mobilization Strategy.



UNITED NATIONS COUNTRY TEAM KEY FOCUS FOR 2024

Photo credit: ILO Moldova

In 2024, the UNCT will continue implementing the Cooperation Framework 2023-2027, prioritizing the advancement of the SDGs and accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Moldova. The evolving context and socio-economic impacts stemming from the crisis in Ukraine will be considered, alongside the Humanitarian-Development-Peace nexus. This will ensure the alignment of common goals and the implementation of sustainable solutions.

Efforts to improve and coordinate business innovations that generate greater efficiencies, synergies, and coherence within the UN Moldova will continue. The UNCT will update its Business Operations Strategy to advance unified business practices, bolster youth engagement in the workforce, sustain gender balance in staffing, and promote disability inclusion. The UNCT will expedite the implementation of its plan to prevent sexual exploitation and abuse, with a specific focus on training agencies' designated focal points and implementing the newly endorsed PSEA SOP.

Ensure that we listen to and engage with the population, particularly those left furthest behind. By listening to the voices of different stakeholders, UNCT will ensure that the UN in Moldova remains responsive to the needs of the people it serves. Dialogue will be fostered through the new cohort of the Youth Advisory Panel, selected in the preceding year for the duration of the current Cooperation Framework. In addition, the UNCT will conduct joint discussions with representatives from vulnerable groups for the CCA update. The Theory of Change (ToC) regarding disability inclusion will undergo updating, while a new ToC will be developed specifically for LGBTQI+ people, aiming at exploring opportunities for their social inclusion.

Facilitate the country's EU integration process by identifying and mobilizing the optimal resources within the UN to aid the government in necessary reforms

and implementing recommendations. Coordination of the offer will be done by the RC to ensure unified support and communication.

Promote effective coordination to reduce the burden on the government. In addition to having the government participating in the RGs meetings, the UNCT will continue implementing new ways of joint coordination with the NBS.

Promote and advocate for the fundamental values, standards and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, including respect for and protection of human rights and gender equality, as well as leaving no one behind and reaching the furthest behind first. The UNCT will carry out communication and awareness-raising campaigns and activities to increase information and actions towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and SDGs. The UNCT plans to implement the following campaigns in 2024: "Stand for Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities", "16 days of Activism against GBV", "Human Rights Awards 2024" and "Climate Action".

The UNCT will also contribute to implementing the [United Nations Youth Strategy 2030 and United Nations Disability Inclusion Strategy](#), particularly in the areas where further work is required.

ANNEX I. LIST OF KEY IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS OF THE UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM IN THE COUNTRY IN 2023



Republic of Moldova State and Public Institutions

- Autonomous Territorial Unit Gagauzia
- General Inspectorate of Border Police
- Bureau for Diaspora Relations
- Bureau for Migration and Asylum
- Bureau for Reintegration Policies
- Center for Centralized Public Procurement in Health
- Center for Combating Trafficking in Persons
- Centre for Continuous Electoral Training
- Centre of Forensic Medicine
- Central Elections Commission
- Chisinau City Hall
- Council for Preventing and Eliminating Discrimination and Ensuring Equality (Equality Council)
- Custom Service
- Economic Council under the Prime Minister
- e-Governance Agency of Moldova
- Energy Efficiency Agency
- General Inspectorate for Emergency Situations
- General Police Inspectorate
- General Inspectorate for Migration
- General Prosecutor's Office
- Government of the Republic of Moldova
- Local Government Unit (LGU)
- Local Public Administration
- Medicines and Medical Devices Agency
- Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Development and Environment
- Ministry of Culture
- Ministry of Economic Development and Digitalization
- Ministry of Education and Research
- Ministry of Energy
- Ministry of Environment
- Ministry of External Affairs and European Integration
- Ministry of Finance
- Ministry of Health
- Ministry of Infrastructure and Regional Development
- Ministry of Internal Affairs
- Ministry of Justice
- Ministry of Labour and Social Protection
- Ministry of National Defense
- Moldova National Bureau of Statistics
- Municipal Authorities
- National Agency for Public Health
- National Agency for Social Assistance
- National Bureau of Statistics
- General Inspectorate of Carabineers
- National Center for Child Abuse Prevention
- National Employment Agency

Republic of Moldova State and Public Institutions

- National Food Safety Agency
- National Health Insurance Company
- National Institute of Justice
- National Legal Aid Council
- National Penitentiary Administration (ANP)
- National Regulatory Agency for Electronic Communications and Information Technology (ANRCETI)
- Ombudspersons Office
- Organization for Entrepreneurship Development (ODA)
- Parliament of the Republic of Moldova
- Peoples Advocate for Child's Right
- Permanent Secretariat of the National Committee on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings
- Police Forensic Centre
- Republican Center for Psychopedagogical Assistance (CRAPP)
- Specialized Prosecutors Office on Combating Organized Crime and Special Cases (PCCOCS)
- State Chancellery

Private Sector

- Chamber of Commerce
- Asena Textil
- Bayer Pharma
- CET Nord
- Crunchyroll
- European Business Association
- Foreign Investors Association
- Moldcell
- Moldtelecom
- Orange
- Panilino
- Premier Energy
- Price Waterhouse Coopers
- Responsible Business Association
- Seed Forum Moldvova
- Sweet Mary ltd
- Viorica Cosmetic
- Ziphouse

International Organizations

- Council of Europe
- Council of Europe Development Bank
- Catholic Relief Services
- European Bank for Reconstruction and Development
- HelpAge International
- International Center "LA STRADA"
- Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
- OSCE
- Terre des Hommes
- The World Bank
- Welfare Improvement Network

Civil Society Organizations

- Alliance of Active NGOs in the field of Child and Family Social Protection (APSCF)
- Alliance of Organizations for Persons with Disabilities in the Republic of Moldova (AOPD)
- Artcor Center for Creative Industries
- Artemida
- Association for Human Rights Lex XXI
- Asociatia pentru Abilitarea Copilului si Familiei
- Moldova Association of Roma Community Mediators
- Associations of Women from the security and defence sectors
- Association of Women Entrepreneurs from Moldova
- Center for Support and Development of Civic Initiatives "Resonance"
- Center of Early Intervention „Voinicel”
- Centre "Contact- Cahul"
- Centre "Partnership for Development"
- Centrul de Informare si Resurse "Pro Bono"
- Child Rights Information and Documentation Center
- Congress of Local Authorities from Moldova
- Gender Centru
- Gender Equality Platform
- Homecare Moldova
- Human Rights Resource Center
- Institutum Virtutes Civilis
- Moldova National Confederation of Employers
- Moldova National Confederation of Trade Unions
- Moldova National Youth Council
- Motivatie NGO
- National Association of ICT Companies (ATIC) Moldova
- National Coalition "Life without violence"
- National Society of Epidemiologists
- NGO IDIS Viitorul
- NGO TAKEDU
- Pas cu Pas Educational Program
- Public Association for Children and Youth "Facia"
- Rehabilitation Centre for Torture Victims
- Women's Law Center
- Youth Friendly Clinic
- Youth Friendly Health Centres
- Youth Media Center
- Youth Resource Centre (DACIA) Moldova

Academia

- National Center for Training, Assistance, Counseling and Education in Moldova (CNFACEM)
- Expert-Grup Think Tank
- Moldova State University
- Moldova State University of Medicine and Pharmacy
- National Academy for Public Administration

