

DIASPORA ENGAGEMENT IN CLIMATE ACTION: OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES IN THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

ANALYTICAL REPORT

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- **BRD** – Bureau for Relations with Diaspora
- **EU** – European Union
- **IOM** – International Organisation for Migration
- **KII** – Key Informant Interviews
- **ODA** – Organisation for Development of Entrepreneurship
- **SDG** – Sustainable Development Goals
- **SME** – Small and Medium Enterprise
- **UK** – United Kingdom
- **UN** – United Nations

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The report aims to analyse existing migration and climate change frameworks, along with the Moldovan diaspora's challenges, barriers, and pathways for engagement. It uses a mixed-methods approach, combining desk research and 15 semi-structured key informant interviews conducted in March-April 2024, to address policy frameworks, financial mechanisms, diaspora perceptions, and engagement barriers and opportunities, ensuring methodological coherence and reliable findings.

The Republic of Moldova's agriculture-dependent economy is highly vulnerable to climate change, which threatens food security and rural livelihoods. Predicted temperature increases of 2–3°C by 2050, alongside changing precipitation patterns, are expected to intensify droughts, impacting agriculture and driving rural-to-urban and international migration. This migration exacerbates labor shortages in farming and highlights the importance of remittances in supporting climate adaptation.

To address these challenges, Moldova has established a robust legislative and strategic framework, including the National Climate Change Adaptation Programme until 2030 (PNACC) and the Action Plan for its implementation, the Development Program for Reduced Emissions until 2030, National Strategy for Agricultural and Rural Development for 2023-2030, and the National Development Plan for 2024-2026. These initiatives coordinated by the National Commission on Climate Change, and implemented by various line Ministries and subordinated Agencies align with the "European Moldova 2030" strategy to foster climate resilience and sustainability.

Moldova also engages its diaspora through programs like PARE 1+1 and its extension PARE 1+2, the SMEs Greening Program, and the DAR 1+3 Program, leveraging remittances to promote green economy

principles and sustainable practices. However, challenges such as limited awareness and accessibility, alongside unclear policies, necessitate improved communication and streamlined participation processes to enhance diaspora involvement.

However, the diaspora's potential is underutilized due to a limited understanding of local climate challenges, limited public programming framework and insufficient communication about their role in climate action. Enhancing information flow and establishing engaging, targeted communication are essential for activating the diaspora's contribution to climate resilience. The Moldovan diaspora, well-versed in sustainability from abroad, can significantly enhance climate resilience in Moldova by introducing advanced technologies and practices. Effective engagement requires improved communication channels, strategic involvement in policy-making, and addressing operational challenges.

Finally, overcoming barriers like bureaucratic inefficiencies and the misalignment of technologies with local conditions is crucial. Financial incentives, knowledge transfer, and regulatory adjustments are needed to ensure effective diaspora participation in key sectors such as energy, agriculture, and water management, where their impact can significantly drive socio-economic and environmental benefits in Moldova.

1

INTRODUCTION



I.1 Research background and justification

Climate change is a global challenge, requiring mobilization of the whole of society. Diaspora groups are already contributing to national development initiatives. However, their contributions remain underutilized in climate initiatives specifically. Preliminary outreach with UK-based diasporas from Bangladesh, Ghana, Jamaica, and Moldova shows they are willing and able to support their home countries' climate action plans. However, diasporas often lack key information on climate priorities and effective participation channels to enable these actions. National governments and stakeholders in native countries have not fully leveraged diaspora engagement in climate strategies. A better understanding of how diasporas can assist and improve communication could significantly enhance their contributions to climate action, which is the aim of this report.

To address these challenges and capitalize on the willingness of diaspora communities to engage in climate action, the IOM in the UK, in collaboration with IOM offices in Bangladesh, Ghana, Jamaica, and Moldova, has launched a 24-month project (January 2023 – December 2024) funded by the IOM Development Fund in 2023. The project, "Diaspora for Climate Action (DaC): Leveraging the Potential of Human Mobility in the Context of Climate Change," aims to bolster global climate action by integrating diaspora efforts into the national climate strategies of these countries, thereby supporting the Paris Agreement, specific SDGs and Objectives 2, 18, 19 and 20 from Global Compact for Migration (GCM). This initiative also includes a multi-country case study to assess the opportunities and challenges faced by these diaspora communities in actively participating in climate action in their countries of origin.

I.2 Objectives of the country case study

The objective of Moldova case study is to explore how to engage UK-based Moldovan diaspora in climate action initiatives in their country of origin. In Moldova, leveraging recently gathered MECC (Migration, Environment, and Climate Change) related data, this analytical report was developed. The report focuses on evaluating the

current institutional and policy frameworks related to migration and climate change, alongside analyzing the perceptions, experiences, and challenges faced by the Moldovan diaspora in participating in climate action, drawing on available research.

I.3 Research design (scope and methodological approach)

The research design employed a mixed-methods approach to address both qualitative and quantitative aspects, using a detailed Evaluation Framework. The key research questions focused on existing policy frameworks, financial mechanisms, diaspora perceptions, and barriers to effective engagement, alongside opportunities for leveraging diaspora networks and pathways for engagement. The approach ensured methodological coherence, soundness, and the capability to effectively address the research objectives.

For data collection, a combination of desk research and KII was used. Desk research encompassed a systematic

review of literature to capture global and local insights on climate change impacts and diaspora contributions, drawing from academic papers, policy documents, and case studies. Primary data was collected through 15 semi-structured, in-depth KIIs with stakeholders from various Moldovan institutions, experts, academia and diaspora members in the UK conducted in March-April 2024, focusing on their experiences and perceptions (*Appendix 1 - List of stakeholders interviewed as a part of KII*). This dual approach of data triangulation—employing various sources and methods—enhanced the reliability and validity of the findings. Data analysis integrated thematic analysis for qualitative data and

descriptive statistics for quantitative insights, aiming to uncover patterns, challenges, and opportunities in diaspora engagement in climate action.

The methodology recognizes limitations like resource constraints and access to key informants, suggesting strategies such as utilizing networks and rigorous data checks to mitigate these issues. The design aimed to

offer a detailed, evidence-based examination of how the Moldovan diaspora can support climate action, leading to practical recommendations for stakeholders. This robust framework intended to improve understanding of the diaspora's role in Moldova's climate strategy and enhance policy dialogue and engagement with their home country.

2

CLIMATE CHANGE IN MOLDOVA: IMPACTS, VULNERABILITIES AND CHALLENGES



2.1. Environmental vulnerability and climate change impact in the Republic of Moldova

The Republic of Moldova, one of the most climate-vulnerable regions in Europe and Central Asia, faces frequent natural hazards including droughts, floods, and severe storms. The country confronts significant socio-economic challenges and a heightened risk of climate-related issues. Notably, over 12% of its population is exposed to natural disasters, far surpassing the 2.1% average for Upper Middle-Income Countries.¹ This exposure to natural disasters has significant repercussions for both Moldova's environment and its economy. Between 1984 and 2006, the country's annual economic losses from natural disasters averaged 2.1% of its GDP. In 2008, Moldova faced severe torrential rains that led to extensive flooding, resulting in damages of US\$120 million.²

Recurrent droughts have significantly impacted Moldova, particularly from 2000 to 2012 when the country faced four severe droughts. The 2007 drought was the most devastating, affecting 80% of the territory, reducing agricultural output by 23%, and causing economic losses around US\$1.0 billion. In 2020, another drought led to a 26% drop in agricultural production and nearly a 20% decrease in agricultural employment, with severe socio-economic repercussions. The situation deteriorated further in 2022 due to another harsh drought and heightened fertilizer and fuel costs following Russia's invasion of Ukraine, resulting in a 46% decline in cereal production, the lowest in five years.³ These events highlight Moldova's acute vulnerability to climate change and underscore the urgent need for robust adaptation and resilience strategies to mitigate future socio-economic impacts.

According to analyses by the International Monetary Fund (IMF),⁴ Moldova's vulnerability to climate change arises from several critical factors:

- **HEIGHTENED SENSITIVITY TO CLIMATIC VARIATIONS:** Moldova's agricultural-based economy is highly susceptible to extreme weather, affecting food security and agricultural productivity, vital for the rural population where one-third are employed.⁵ The country's heavy reliance on energy imports and lack of diversification also increase its vulnerability to climate shocks.
- **LIMITED ADAPTIVE CAPACITY:** Moldova faces challenges in disaster preparedness and adaptive capabilities, including inadequate irrigation systems, limited fertilizer availability, and poor rural infrastructure. Water access and storage issues compound these problems, impacting crop yields and food security.
- **ECONOMIC CONSTRAINTS:** As one of Europe's poorest countries, Moldova struggles with economic challenges intensified by the need for climate adaptation. These challenges strain its budget and limit governmental ability to mitigate economic losses from climate events. The agri-food sector, crucial for over 45% of exports and linked to transportation and food processing, underscores rural communities' vulnerability.⁶
- **SOCIAL VULNERABILITY:** Socio-economic issues, amplified by Moldova's economic status, place rural populations at high risk due to their agricultural

¹ International Monetary Fund. (2023). Republic of Moldova: Staff Report for the 2023 Article IV Consultation, Fourth Reviews under the Extended Credit Facility and Extended Fund Facility Arrangements, Request for Extension and Rephrasing of the Arrangements, and Request for an Arrangement under the Resilience and Sustainability Facility. <https://www.elibrary.imf.org/view/journals/002/2023/428/article-A004-en.xml>

² Stratan A., Ceban A. and Lucasenco E. (2023). Greening Policies For The Agricultural Sector of The Republic of Moldova: Current Situation And Future Perspectives, Scientific Papers Series Management, Economic Engineering in Agriculture and Rural Development, Vol. 23, Issue 2. Available at: https://managementjournal.usamv.ro/pdf/vol.23_2/Art74.pdf

³ International Monetary Fund. (2023). Republic of Moldova: Staff Report for the 2023 Article IV Consultation, Fourth Reviews under the Extended Credit Facility and Extended Fund Facility Arrangements, Request for Extension and Rephrasing of the Arrangements, and Request for an Arrangement under the Resilience and Sustainability Facility. <https://www.elibrary.imf.org/view/journals/002/2023/428/article-A004-en.xml>

⁴ Fouejieu A. (2024): Opportunities and Challenges of Climate Adaptation Policies Republic of Moldova, SIP/2024/002, <https://www.elibrary.imf.org/view/journals/018/2024/002/article-A000-en.xml?rskey=Aga4T7&result=1>

⁵ Bevziuc V., Perspectives and Problems of Integration in the European Research and Education Area, Volume VII, Part 1. Cahul: USC, 2020. https://ibn.idsi.md/sites/default/files/imag_file/38-46_6.pdf

⁶ Stratan A., Ceban A. and Lucasenco E. (2023). Greening Policies For The Agricultural Sector of The Republic of Moldova: Current Situation And Future Perspectives, Scientific Papers Series Management, Economic Engineering in Agriculture and Rural Development, Vol. 23, Issue 2. Available at: https://managementjournal.usamv.ro/pdf/vol.23_2/Art74.pdf

dependency and limited resources. Climate-related disasters threaten food security, worsen inequality, and undermine poverty reduction efforts.

The public health impacts of climate change in Moldova include both direct effects from extreme weather on human health and indirect effects through urbanization, demographic shifts, and changes in disease transmission patterns. These factors underscore the urgent need for comprehensive climate adaptation and resilience strategies in Moldova to mitigate future socio-economic impacts.

Unfortunately, climate change is expected to intensify the frequency and severity of droughts and other natural hazards, posing significant threats to Moldova's vital agricultural sector.⁷ Over the past 127 years (1887-2014), Moldova has experienced a notable warming trend, with an average temperature increase of over 1.0°C. Precipitation increased by only 54.7 mm during this period.⁸ The rise in air temperature is most pronounced during the warm season, particularly in summer, with increases of 0.9-1.0°C. This temperature rise, coupled with reduced summer and autumn precipitation—not offset by slight increases in winter and spring—will likely lead to a significant humidity deficit and increased evaporation potential.⁹

The Republic of Moldova is expected to face a significant rise in average temperatures by 2–3°C by 2050, particularly in the southern regions, alongside shifts in precipitation patterns—increases in the north and decreases in the south. These changes will likely exacerbate multi-year droughts, severely threatening agriculture, which contributes 11% to GDP, employs 21% of the workforce, and accounts

for 45% of exports. Rain-fed and high-value export crops, making up 87% of agricultural production and requiring more water with rising temperatures, are especially at risk. The livestock sector could also see a 35% reduction in net revenue by 2040 due to climate impacts, with additional sectors like water resources, transport, energy, human health, and forestry facing similar challenges.¹⁰ Climate assessments show that Moldova is highly vulnerable to rising temperatures, shifting precipitation patterns, and increased aridification, leading to more frequent and severe extreme weather events such as heatwaves, frosts, droughts, floods, and storms.¹¹

Climate change could severely impact rural livelihoods due to their heavy reliance on agriculture, limited adaptive capacity, and the high proportion of income spent on food.¹² In Moldova, about 80% of the poor rely on agriculture for their livelihoods. In the same time, remittances originated from migration supported 23.1% of Moldovan households in 2021.¹³ Their limited ability to adapt and high food costs increase their vulnerability. Rising droughts threaten to worsen poverty and food insecurity. Changes in precipitation could also reduce rural access to clean water and sanitation, affecting water security and the health of vulnerable groups, especially marginalized populations like women, the disabled, the Roma, the elderly, youth, and refugees. Rural women, making up 36% of the farming population, are particularly at risk due to their limited adaptive capacity.¹⁴ Moreover, the poorest 20% of the population spends approximately 57% of their income on food, 17% on housing, water, electricity, and gas, and 2% on transportation. In contrast, the

⁷ International Monetary Fund. (2023). Republic of Moldova: Staff Report for the 2023 Article IV Consultation, Fourth Reviews under the Extended Credit Facility and Extended Fund Facility Arrangements, Request for Extension and Rephrasing of the Arrangements, and Request for an Arrangement under the Resilience and Sustainability Facility. <https://www.elibrary.imf.org/view/journals/002/2023/428/article-A004-en.xml>

⁸ Beviuc V., Perspectives and Problems of Integration in the European Research and Education Area, Volume VII, Part I. Cahul: USC, 2020. https://ibn.idsi.md/sites/default/files/imag_file/38-46_6.pdf

⁹ Capcelea A. (2022): Moldova's Key Environmental Challenges – The View of Development Partners, Conference "Science in the North of the Republic of Moldova: achievements, problems, perspectives", Balti, Moldova, 20-21 May 2022. Available at: https://ibn.idsi.md/vizualizare_articol/157671

¹⁰ International Monetary Fund. (2023). Republic of Moldova: Staff Report for the 2023 Article IV Consultation, Fourth Reviews under the Extended Credit Facility and Extended Fund Facility Arrangements, Request for Extension and Rephrasing of the Arrangements, and Request for an Arrangement under the Resilience and Sustainability Facility. <https://www.elibrary.imf.org/view/journals/002/2023/428/article-A004-en.xml>

¹¹ Government's Decision No. 624 of 30-08-2023 regarding the approval of the National Climate Change Adaptation Program until 2030. Available at: https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=140163&lang=ro

¹² Stratan A., Ceban A. and Lucasenco E. (2023). Greening Policies For The Agricultural Sector of The Republic of Moldova: Current Situation And Future Perspectives, Scientific Papers Series Management, Economic Engineering in Agriculture and Rural Development, Vol. 23, Issue 2. Available at: https://managementjournal.usamv.ro/pdf/vol.23_2/Art74.pdf

¹³ Sterly Harald, Vladicescu Natalia (2023). Case study on migration, environment, climate change and development nexus in the Republic of Moldova, IOM, Chişinău

¹⁴ International Monetary Fund. (2023). Republic of Moldova: Staff Report for the 2023 Article IV Consultation, Fourth Reviews under the Extended Credit Facility and Extended Fund Facility Arrangements, Request for Extension and Rephrasing of the Arrangements, and Request for an Arrangement under the Resilience and Sustainability Facility. <https://www.elibrary.imf.org/view/journals/002/2023/428/article-A004-en.xml>

richest 20% allocate only 31% of their income to food, 13% to housing, water, electricity, and gas, and 11% to transportation.¹⁵ The socio-economic costs of climate-related natural disasters like droughts, floods, and hail are significant, with both their intensity and frequency expected to increase due to climate change.

In Moldova, significant internal and international migration from low-income rural agricultural areas has created labor shortages, driven by both climatic and non-climatic factors. This includes wildfires affecting agriculture and residential

areas, declining soil fertility, salinization, and erosion reducing crop earnings, prompting villagers to migrate to urban areas for better opportunities. While this migration exacerbates labor and expertise shortages in agriculture, complicating climate adaptation, it also generates financial remittances. These remittances are crucial for supporting farmers' adaptive measures, highlighting a complex dynamic between migration, economic resilience, and climate adaptation in rural Moldova. Thus, migration presents challenges but also contributes to the sustainability of the agricultural sector.¹⁶

2.2. Challenges in environmental conservation

The Republic of Moldova faces severe environmental challenges from the depletion and overuse of natural resources, compounded by weak environmental advocacy. The country has low forest coverage at 12%, much less than the European average of 30%, and its small, fragmented protected areas cover only 8% of the land, leading to limited conservation effects. Moldova faces issues like declining biodiversity, air and water quality, and poor waste management, jeopardizing its ability to meet its 2030 environmental goals. Deforestation, historical forest mismanagement, and increased vulnerability to pests and diseases are key problems. Moreover, as Moldova's urban population is expected to rise from 47% in 2010 to 60% by 2030, urbanization is worsening air pollution, primarily from transport, and deteriorating

water quality due to untreated wastewater, illegal waste disposal, and poor farming practices. Inadequate waste disposal methods like mismanaged landfills and open burning further exacerbate these environmental issues.¹⁷

The Republic of Moldova is improving its waste management by enhancing recycling and treating hazardous waste more effectively. Despite this, accurate data on waste volumes is scarce, with estimates indicating 30-35 million tons of municipal waste in landfills. While Chisinau's system operates efficiently, most national landfills do not meet international standards. Many lack proper licensing from sanitary and environmental authorities, and only about 10% are officially authorized, yet even these fail to fully comply with environmental regulations.¹⁸

2.3. Integration of climate resilience into development strategies

Moldova's 2030 National Development Strategy targets enhanced climate resilience through risk mitigation and adaptation in six key sectors: health, transport,

agriculture, energy, water resources, and forests. As part of its commitment to the UN's Sustainable Development Goals Agenda 2030, Moldova specifically

¹⁵ Gerhalter J., External Just Transition An Assessment of the External Socio-Economic Effects of the EU Climate Policy in the Case of Moldova, Master Thesis, Utrecht University Student Theses Repository Home, 2023. <https://studenttheses.uu.nl/handle/20.500.12932/45168>

¹⁶ Government's Decision No. 624 of 30-08-2023 regarding the approval of the National Climate Change Adaptation Program until 2030. Available at: https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=140163&lang=ro

¹⁷ UNDP Moldova (2023), Annex I - Description of the Action Enabling an Inclusive Green Transition in the Republic of Moldova. Available at: <https://www.undp.org/moldova/projects/enabling-inclusive-green-transition-republic-moldova>

¹⁸ Capcelea A. (2022): Moldova's Key Environmental Challenges – The View of Development Partners, Conference "Science in the North of the Republic of Moldova: achievements, problems, perspectives", Balti, Moldova, 20-21 May 2022. Available at: https://ibn.idsi.md/vizualizare_articol/157671

supports SDG 13, aiming to boost climate adaptability and resilience.¹⁹ Furthermore, as a signatory to the Paris Climate Agreement, Moldova is updating its 2030 low-emission development strategy to align with its primary decarbonization framework, the National Energy and Climate Plan. In 2020, Moldova committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 64-67% by 2030 from 1990 levels, with a potential increase to 88% depending on international climate finance. However, Moldova has not yet submitted a long-term low-emission strategy or a national adaptation plan under the Agreement.²⁰

Overall, the Republic of Moldova Government has integrated climate change adaptation into its policy framework, addressing climate risks through strategic documents affecting key sectors like agriculture, water, and energy. Significant efforts include the Climate Change Adaptation Strategy launched in 2014 and Action Plan for its implementation for 2014-2020 and reinforced by the updated Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC2) in 2020. In August 2023, Moldova initiated the National Climate Change Adaptation Program, set to continue until 2030, with a corresponding Action Plan for its implementation for 2023-2030 to ensure these commitments are fulfilled.²¹

Overcoming barriers to adopting climate-resilient initiatives can enhance their implementation. The World Bank's 2021 Systematic Country Diagnostic Update identifies key priorities for increasing resilience to climate change. These include developing comprehensive disaster risk mitigation and climate resilience strategies across sectors like forestry, water, and green transport, strengthening competitive agriculture, and enhancing public and private climate mitigation and adaptation efforts.²²

Despite advances in agricultural resilience to climate change, Moldova faces persistent vulnerabilities due to the unpredictable nature of climate events and farmer scepticism towards climate-smart practices. This underscores the need for better public awareness and data-driven policy making that includes the needs of vulnerable communities.

Structural constraints, compounded by socio-political and economic risks from Russia's invasion of Ukraine, hinder Moldova's progress toward low-carbon, climate-resilient development. Challenges like low labor productivity, insufficient investment, and weak job creation contribute to outmigration and economic stagnation. Urgent structural reforms are essential to prevent a decline in living standards.²³

Challenges to effective reform in Moldova include limited administrative capacity, fragmented policies, and inadequate government oversight of climate policy. Additionally, issues persist with the monitoring and reliability of greenhouse gas emissions data. Despite governance improvements, Moldova still underperforms in political stability, corruption control, rule of law, and regulatory quality compared to EU averages. Moreover, Moldova lags behind regional peers in social readiness for adaptation.²⁴

Moldova's pressing infrastructure needs, intensified by climate challenges, necessitate significant fiscal support. Complications from left bank's unresolved status pose economic and energy security risks. Further, Russia's invasion of Ukraine has led to a refugee influx, increased energy prices, trade disruptions, and greater security concerns in Moldova. An urgent development of a competitive, diversified economic framework is essential to bolster climate resilience and economic transformation.²⁵

EU integration offers Moldova significant opportunities for economic growth and alignment with EU socio-economic and environmental standards. By joining Europe's green value chains, Moldova could boost its economy through increased private investment, improved productivity, competitiveness, and job

opportunities. However, these benefits depend on Moldova's commitment to key reforms in business practices, infrastructure, human capital, and fiscal policies. Additionally, closer EU ties could accelerate the adoption of standards essential for decarbonization and climate resilience.²⁶

¹⁹ Bevziuc V., Perspectives and Problems of Integration in the European Research and Education Area, Volume VII, Part I. Cahul: USC, 2020. https://ibn.idsi.md/sites/default/files/imag_file/38-46_6.pdf

²⁰ European Commission. (2023). Insights on Diaspora Engagement in Climate Resilience and Sustainable Agriculture in the Republic of Moldova. In *Republic of Moldova 2023 Report* (SWD(2023) 698 final). Commission Staff Working Document Accompanying the document Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions on EU Enlargement Policy. Brussels, 8.11.2023. Available at: https://neighbourhood-enlargement.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2023-11/SWD_2023_698%20Moldova%20report.pdf

²¹ International Monetary Fund. (2023). Republic of Moldova: Staff Report for the 2023 Article IV Consultation, Fourth Reviews under the Extended Credit Facility and Extended Fund Facility Arrangements, Request for Extension and Rephasing of the Arrangements, and Request for an Arrangement under the Resilience and Sustainability Facility. <https://www.elibrary.imf.org/view/journals/002/2023/428/article-A004-en.xml>

²² International Monetary Fund. (2023). Republic of Moldova: Staff Report for the 2023 Article IV Consultation, Fourth Reviews under the Extended Credit Facility and Extended Fund Facility Arrangements, Request for Extension and Rephasing of the Arrangements, and Request for an Arrangement under the Resilience and Sustainability Facility. <https://www.elibrary.imf.org/view/journals/002/2023/428/article-A004-en.xml>

²³ Ibid

²⁴ Government's Decision No. 624 of 30-08-2023 regarding the approval of the National Climate Change Adaptation Program until 2030. Available at: https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=140163&lang=ro

²⁵ International Monetary Fund. (2023). Republic of Moldova: Staff Report for the 2023 Article IV Consultation, Fourth Reviews under the Extended Credit Facility and Extended Fund Facility Arrangements, Request for Extension and Rephasing of the Arrangements, and Request for an Arrangement under the Resilience and Sustainability Facility. <https://www.elibrary.imf.org/view/journals/002/2023/428/article-A004-en.xml>

²⁶ International Monetary Fund. (2023). Republic of Moldova: Staff Report for the 2023 Article IV Consultation, Fourth Reviews under the Extended Credit Facility and Extended Fund Facility Arrangements, Request for Extension and Rephasing of the Arrangements, and Request for an Arrangement under the Resilience and Sustainability Facility. <https://www.elibrary.imf.org/view/journals/002/2023/428/article-A004-en.xml>

3

KEY RESEARCH FINDINGS



3.1 Major legislation, policies, strategies and national priorities from the environment, and climate change perspective

The Republic of Moldova's environmental and climate change framework is guided by a comprehensive set of legislation, policies, strategies, and national priorities designed to address the country's unique climate change challenges and commitments to sustainable development.

CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS, STRATEGIC PROGRAMS, AND DEVELOPMENT PLANS

The Republic of Moldova's Constitution enshrines fundamental rights that lay the groundwork for protecting human rights in the context of migration and environmental integrity. Article 27 guarantees the Right to Free Movement, allowing citizens to choose their residence, emigrate, and return freely. Article 37 asserts the Right to a Healthy Environment, requiring that everyone lives in health-supportive conditions. It obligates the state to provide accurate environmental information and hold accountable those who cause environmental damage affecting human health.

The Republic of Moldova has adopted several strategic initiatives to tackle the challenges of climate change while promoting sustainable development. The National Climate Change Adaptation Programme (PNACC)²⁷ until 2030 and its Action Plan adopted in August 2023 exemplifies this, targeting systemic transformations across critical sectors like agriculture, energy, and water to enhance resilience against climate impacts. This program is not just about adaptation but also integrates gender and migration considerations, recognizing the indirect effects of climate variations on human mobility. The Action Plan envisages enhancement of institutional capacities to address climate change from gender and migration perspectives, integration migration aspects

into training and university curricula, collection data on climate-induced migration, update urban plans to address displacement triggered by climate change and migration, and improve access to medical facilities for vulnerable populations affected by climate change taking into account gender, age and migration related aspects.

Parallel to PNACC, the Development Program for Reduced Emissions²⁸ aims to align with the "European Moldova 2030" strategy, focusing on substantial greenhouse gas emission reductions through green economy measures across various sectors. This is complemented by the National Plan for EU Accession for 2024-2027²⁹, which embeds climate change mitigation and adaptation within its framework to meet EU standards and facilitate Moldova's EU integration process.

The National Development Plan for 2024-2026³⁰ targets climate change mitigation and adaptation in agriculture by offering financial support, revising subsidy criteria for SMEs, and providing grants for sustainable technologies. These measures aim to enhance sector resilience and secure rural livelihoods, integrating economic and social development goals to improve the agricultural sector's adaptability to climate change and support the national development agenda.

The National Development Strategy "European Moldova 2030"³¹ aims for a resilient and sustainable Moldova, targeting carbon neutrality by mid-21st century and enhanced living standards. It engages the Moldovan diaspora by leveraging their skills through digital platforms and partnerships, focusing on environmental sustainability, socio-economic growth, governance, and human rights. It emphasizes the diaspora's contributions, promotes knowledge

²⁷ Government's Decision No. 624 of 30-08-2023 regarding the approval of the National Climate Change Adaptation Program until 2030. Available at: https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=140163&lang=ro

²⁸ Government's Decision No. 1470 of 12-30-2016 regarding the approval of the Low Emission Development Strategy of the Republic of Moldova until 2030 and the Action Plan for its implementation. Available at: https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=98493&lang=ro

²⁹ Government's Decision no. 829 as of 27-10-2023 on approval of the National Plan for EU Accession for 2024-2027. Available at: https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=139891&lang=ro

³⁰ National Development Plan for 2024-2026. Available at: <https://gov.md/sites/default/files/document/attachments/pnd-ro.pdf>

³¹ Law No. 758 as of 17-11-2022 regarding approval of the National Development Strategy "European Moldova 2030". Available at: <https://monitorul.gov.md/ro/monitorul/view/pdf/2579/part/1#page=1>

exchange, and includes digital initiatives to boost their civic participation. The strategy also prioritizes the effective reintegration of returnees, developing tools for entrepreneurship, benefit transferability, and recognition of overseas competencies to integrate diaspora talents into Moldova's development.

The Republic of Moldova's alignment with international environmental standards is evident in its commitment to the Paris Agreement.³² The Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) outlines detailed adaptation and mitigation strategies, reinforcing the country's dedication to enhancing adaptive capacities and reducing its carbon footprint.

Sector-specific strategies such as the Program for the Promotion of the Green Economy and the Low Emission Development Strategy until 2030 underscore efforts to transition to sustainable economic practices.³³ These programs aim to integrate green principles across

various sectors, reducing emissions and enhancing sectorial efficiencies.

Water management also receives significant attention through the National Program for the Implementation of the Protocol on Water and Sanitation for 2016-2025³⁴ and the Strategy for Water Supply and Sanitation 2014-2030³⁵, both of which focus on sustainable management of water resources and adaptation to climate impacts.

The Environmental Strategy for 2014-2023,³⁶ the Programme on Prevention and Management of Urgent and Emergency Situations for 2022-2025,³⁷ and the Energy Strategy until 2030³⁸ illustrate Moldova's comprehensive approach to environmental management, improved resilience to emergency situations and energy efficiency. These strategies aim to harmonize national laws with EU directives, improve environmental quality, and ensure sustainable management of natural resources.

Figure 1. Time line of Moldova's key Environmental and Climate Action Strategies and Programmes (2000-2023)

2000: Updated Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) of the Republic of Czechia - Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation
2011: National Programme for Energy Efficiency 2011-2013
2013: Waste Management Strategy for 2013-2020
2013: Energy Strategy until 2050
2014: Strategy for adaptation to climate change 2014
2014: Strategy for Water Supply and Sanitation 2014-2020
2014: The Environmental Strategy for 2014-2020 - Environmental Protection, EU Integration
2016: National Program for the Implementation of the Protocol on Water and Health 2016-2025, Water and Sanitation
2016: Low Emission Development Strategy until 2030 - GHG Emission Reduction
2018: Program for the Promotion of the Green Economy 2018-2030
2018: Paris Agreement/ Nationally Determined Contribution - Combating Climate Change and Reporting
2022: National Development Strategy Europe 2022-2040, Sustainable Growth
2023: National Plan for EU Accession for Climate Change 2023-2040, Mitigation & Adaptation
2023: Development Program for Reduced Emissions until 2025 - GHG Emission Reduction
2023: National Climate Change Adaptation Program 2023 - Climate Change Adaptation

³² Government's Decision No. 1277 as of 26-12-2018 on the establishment and operation of the System monitoring and reporting system and other relevant information for climate change. Available at: https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=112485&lang=ro

³³ Government's Decision No. 1470 of 12-30-2016 regarding the approval of the Low Emission Development Strategy of the Republic of Moldova until 2030 and the Action Plan for its implementation. Available at: https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=98493&lang=ro

³⁴ Government's Decision no. 1063 as of 16-09-2016 on approval of the National Program for the Implementation of the Protocol on Water and Sanitation for 2016 – 2025. Available at: https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=102596&lang=ro

³⁵ Ibid

³⁶ Government's Decision No. 199 as of 20-03-2014 regarding the approval of the Water Supply and Sanitation Strategy (2014 – 2028). Available at: <http://lex.justice.md/md/352311/>

³⁷ Government's Decision No. 301 as of 24-04-2014 on the approval of the Environmental Strategy for 2014-2023 and the Action Plan for its implementation. Available at: https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=48131&lang=ro

³⁸ Government's Decision No. 846 as of 07-12-2022 on approval of the Programme on Prevention and Management of Urgent and Emergency Situations for 2022-2025. Available at: https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=134815&lang=ro

³⁹ Government's Decision No. 102 as of 05-02-2013 on the Energy Strategy of the Republic of Moldova until 2030. Available at: lex.justice.md/viewdoc.php?action=view&view=doc&id=346670&lang=1

LAWS AND REGULATIONS

Moldova's legal framework on climate change, renewable energy, and environmental protection comprises several legislative acts that shape its approach to sustainable development and energy management (*Annex 2 – Table 1. The Republic of Moldova's Strategic, Programmatic and Legislative Framework for Environmental and Climate Resilience relevant for diaspora&climate change nexus*).

The *Renewable Energy Law*³⁹ (October 2022) serves as a cornerstone for the renewable energy sector by establishing a comprehensive legal framework that promotes the use of renewable resources to enhance national energy security. It appoints the Agency for Energy Efficiency as the governing body and includes measures to support renewable energy production and utilization, though it does not explicitly connect these measures to migration and climate change. The *Law on Energy Efficiency*⁴⁰ (2018) aims to boost energy efficiency nationwide by developing energy service markets and implementing action plans. Managed by the Ministry of Infrastructure and Regional Development, it aligns with EU Directive 2012/27/EU to improve energy production and usage efficiency and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. However, similar to the *Renewable Energy Law*, it does not directly address the migration-environment-climate nexus. The *Law on Waste No. 209*⁴¹ (2016) addresses the prevention and management of waste, targeting the reduction of waste's negative impacts on both environment and public health. The law emphasizes resource efficiency and sustainable management practices. The *Drought Management Planning Regulation*⁴² (2013) mandates that districts within river basins develop drought management plans, which include criteria for identifying drought conditions and establishing specific monitoring systems, underscoring the importance of water management in climate adaptation strategies. The *Law on Environmental Protection No. 1515*⁴³ (1993) forms the bedrock of Moldova's environmental policy, emphasizing the protection of natural resources,

conservation of biodiversity, and the sustainable use of natural assets.

The Republic of Moldova has made significant strides in **disaster risk management** and climate change adaptation, employing a structured approach that includes national, local, and sector-specific initiatives. The country's proactive efforts are highlighted by the development of the *Flood Risk Management Plans for 2022-2027* (Government Decision No. 562/2020),⁴⁴ Programme on Prevention and Management of Urgent and Emergency Situations for 2022-2025⁴⁵ and the National Drought Plan (2019), aimed at enhancing resilience in emergency situations, against floods and droughts respectively. Additionally, various districts have implemented sustainable energy and climate action plans, and sector-specific adaptation measures for forestry, health, energy, and transport are detailed in the NAP-I process, though many are yet to be formally adopted.

The **agricultural sector** in Moldova is guided by a robust regulatory framework focused on sustainable land management, conservation of water and soil, and the promotion of conservative and organic agricultural practices. This framework includes financial support mechanisms such as subsidies, detailed in legislative acts such as *Law no. 71/2023 for agriculture subsidies*, *Law no. 183/2020 for subsidized insurance*, and various *Government Decisions* (no. 864/2020, no. 985/2020, no. 455/2017, no. 977/2016, no. 409/2014, no. 1157/2008) that establish programs for land improvement, fund distribution, and ecological agri-food production. These directives collectively aim to enhance agricultural productivity and environmental sustainability.

The Republic of Moldova's regulatory framework for Adaptive Climate Change (ACC) strategies in the **energy sector** is supported by several legislative acts designed to promote sustainable energy practices. Key laws include *Law no. 139/2018 on energy efficiency*, *Law no. 10/2016 on renewable energy*, and *Law no. 128/2014*

³⁹ Law no. 160 as of 12-07-2007 on Renewable Energy. Available at: https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=23997&lang=ro

⁴⁰ Law no. 139 as of 19-07-2018 on Energy Efficiency. Available at: https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=105498&lang=ro

⁴¹ Law no. 209 as of 29-07-2016 on Waste. Available at: https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=130544&lang=ro

⁴² Government's Decision No. 779 as of 04-10-2013 on approving the Regulation on drought management planning. https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=11390&lang=ro

⁴³ Law no. 1515 as of 16-06-1993 on Environmental Protection. Available at: https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=130524&lang=ro

⁴⁴ Government's Decision No 548 as of 13-06-2018 on approval of Flood Risk Management Plans for 2022-2027. Available at: https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=122775&lang=ro

⁴⁵ Government's Decision No. 846 as of 07-12-2022 on approval of the Programme on Prevention and Management of Urgent and Emergency Situations for 2022-2025. Available at: https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=134815&lang=ro

on building energy performance, all aimed at reducing energy consumption and environmental impacts. Additionally, strategic documents like *Government Decision no. 102/2013 provide a roadmap for the country's energy policies up to 2030*, further supported by laws on product labeling and cogeneration to enhance public awareness and optimize energy use.

The implementation of **forestry policy** documents related to climate change in Moldova still shows insufficient progress so far, with sectorial adaptation plans, such as PNA-I, lacking formal government adoption and integration into budgeting processes. *The National Programme for the Extension and Rehabilitation of Forests (2023-2032)* and its accompanying Action Plan (2023-2027) aim to expand forest coverage to 15% by 2032, focusing on afforestation, biodiversity conservation, and increasing the sector's capacity through legal updates, including those potentially required in the Forestry Code (No. 887/1996) and the *Law on Local Public Administration* (No. 436/2006). However, these efforts are hindered by financial constraints, outdated legislative provisions, and insufficient integration of climate change adaptation at local levels, necessitating enhanced coordination and resources for local authorities to effectively manage forest resources and integrate forestry concerns into broader regional and national strategies.

In the area of **healthcare** medical care insurance in Moldova is constitutionally guaranteed and further

regulated by several laws, notably *Law no. 411/1995*⁴⁶, which sets the foundational healthcare principles ensuring equal access but does not address climate change. *Law no. 10/2009 on state supervision of public health*,⁴⁷ focusing on health protection and environmental monitoring (air quality, drinking water, and occupational environments) while also lacking direct clauses for climate change impacts. To fill this oversight, Government Decision no. 129/2023 launched the *National Program for the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases (2023-2027)*⁴⁸, which integrates strategies to tackle climate change's effects on health, promoting monitoring, mitigation, public education, and the development of clinical guidelines.

In the area of **water management** Moldova's water resources management strategy, detailed in the *National Policy Concept on Water Resources (Parliament Decision no. 325/2003)*⁴⁹, aligns with international standards and emphasizes an integrated, basin-based approach. This is supported by a robust legal framework including *Law on Waters no. 272/2011*,⁵⁰ which aligns with the EU Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC) and improves systematic water management and monitoring across major basins like the Dniester and the Danube-Prut and Black Sea Basins. It is supported by additional laws and government decisions that enhance water supply services, drinking water quality, and flood risk management for comprehensive water resource management.

Agriculture, Energy, Infrastructure, Health, Education, and Finance, the commission oversees the development and implementation of targeted policies ranging from environmental protection to healthcare resilience. This comprehensive approach is reinforced by specialized

3.2. National coordination mechanisms and institutional structures supporting climate initiatives

In the Republic of Moldova, the National Commission on Climate Change centralizes and coordinates climate adaptation and mitigation strategies across various sectors, including government, private, and civil society. Supported by key ministries such as Environment,

⁴⁶ Law no. 411 as of 28-03-1995 on health care. Available at: https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=119465&lang=ro

⁴⁷ Law no. 10/2009 as of 03-02-2009 on state supervision of public health. Available at: https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=106570&lang=ro

⁴⁸ Government's Decision no. 129 as of 15-03-2023 on approval of the National Program for the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases (2023-2027). Available at: https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=136642&lang=ro

⁴⁹ Parliament's Decision no. 325 as of 18-07-2003 on approval of the National Policy Concept on water resources. Available at: https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=21444&lang=ro

⁵⁰ Law no. 272 as of 23-12-2011 on Waters. Available at: https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=111963&lang=ro

agencies and institutions at national and local levels, which implement specific measures to boost the country's climate resilience and sustainability (*Annex 3 – Table 2. Mapping the Republic of Moldova's Institutional Framework relevant for the area of climate action and Diaspora Engagement Opportunities*).

INTER-MINISTERIAL LEVEL

The National Commission on Climate Change (NCCC), established by Government Decision no. 444/2020, centralizes and coordinates climate change efforts in Moldova, involving government, the private sector, and civil society. As an inter-sectorial body, it unifies contributions from ministries, NGOs, academia, and local authorities, enhancing the cohesion and effectiveness of national climate strategies.

MINISTRIES

The Ministry of the Environment oversees policies on environmental protection, climate change mitigation, and natural resource management. It develops sector-specific adaptation strategies and legal frameworks, and leverages financial and research resources. The Ministry coordinates national and international climate initiatives through the NCCC, enhancing environmental sustainability.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry addresses climate impacts on agriculture by developing resilience strategies and promoting sustainable practices, collaborating with academia, and securing funding for adaptation efforts to ensure sustainable agriculture and food security.

The Ministry of Energy promotes energy security through strategic policies for climate adaptation and a green transition, prioritizing renewable energy and efficiency to support market stability and contribute to global climate mitigation.

The Ministry of Infrastructure and Regional Development updates infrastructure policies to enhance resilience against climate challenges, focusing on risk assessments, funding for resilient projects, and cross-sector collaboration.

The Ministry of Health integrates climate change adaptation into healthcare policies, developing strategies to mitigate risks and manage climate-related emergencies, and ensures a coordinated response with other government bodies and NGOs.

The Ministry of Education and Research incorporates climate education into the curriculum, collaborates with the scientific community, and prepares youth with the knowledge and skills for climate resilience.

The Ministry of Finance leads climate adaptation strategies by integrating funding measures into the national budget, coordinating resource allocation across ministries to enhance climate resilience in infrastructure, agriculture, and water systems.

INSTITUTIONS SUBORDINATED TO THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT

In Moldova, the implementation of climate change policies is primarily executed through various public institutions under the purview of the Ministry of the Environment, alongside those where the Ministry is a co-founder. These include the *State Hydrometeorological Service*⁵¹, which monitors weather conditions and provides forecasts and warnings; the *Environment Agency*⁵², responsible for overseeing environmental quality and managing greenhouse gas reporting; *"Moldsilva" Agency*,⁵³ which guides forestry and hunting policies; and *"Apele Moldovei/Moldovan Waters" Agency*,⁵⁴ tasked with comprehensive water resource management. Additionally, the Inspectorate for *Environmental Protection*⁵⁵ enforces environmental

⁵¹ Regulation on the organization and operation of the State Hydrometeorological Service. Available at: https://www.meteo.md/images/uploads/oficial/reg_shs.pdf

⁵² Government's Decision no. 549 as of 13-06-2018 regarding creation, organization and functioning of the Environmental Agency. Available at: https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=108675&lang=ro

⁵³ Government's Decision No. 150 of 02-03-2010 for the approval of the Regulation on the organization and operation of the "Moldsilva" Agency, the structure and the limited staff of its central apparatus. Available at: https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=21826&lang=ro

⁵⁴ Government's Decision No. 882 of 22-10-2014 for the approval of the Regulation on the organization and operation of the "Apele Moldovei" Agency, its structure and limited staff. Available at: <https://www.apelemoldovei.gov.md/pageview.php?l=ro&idc=107>

⁵⁵ Decision No. 548 of 13-06-2018 regarding the organization and operation of the Environmental Protection Inspectorate. Available at: https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=119163&lang=ro

protection laws, and the *Agency for Geology and Mineral Resources*⁵⁶ oversees geological research and the rational use of mineral resources. Furthermore, the *National Environmental Projects Implementation Office (ONIPM)*⁵⁷, another key institution, supports the Ministry by managing environmental projects funded both domestically and internationally. It ensures legal and transparent management, focusing on crucial initiatives such as solid waste management and conservation of natural wetlands, which significantly advance Moldova's environmental and climate goals.

OTHER RELEVANT STATE INSTITUTIONS

In Moldova, the *Agency for Interventions and Payments in Agriculture (AIPA)*⁵⁸ and the *Agency for the Development and Modernization of Agriculture (ADMA)*⁵⁹ under the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry advance the country's agricultural resilience and competitiveness in the face of climate change. AIPA oversees the National Fund for the Development of Agriculture and the Rural Environment (FNDAMR), focusing on climate adaptation by managing funds, ensuring grant compliance, and aligning subsidies with EU standards. ADMA modernizes agriculture by offering advanced technologies, equipment, consultancy, and training to enhance soil conservation and irrigation techniques.

The *Organization for Entrepreneurship Development (ODA)*⁶⁰ under the Ministry of Economy and Digitalisation promotes diaspora investment and climate change adaptation through programs like PARE I+1 and PARE I+2. These initiatives use remittances for sustainable business investments, enhancing climate resilience. The ODA's SMEs Greening Program further supports environmental sustainability, promoting energy efficiency and circular economy practices, linking diaspora contributions to climate adaptation. The

*Bureau for Relations with Diaspora (BRD)*⁶¹ within the State Chancellery promotes climate adaptation through the DAR I+3 Program, funding sustainable agriculture and renewable energy projects. The *Diaspora Engagement Hub (DEH)* under BRD facilitates expertise transfer from diaspora professionals, supporting climate-smart initiatives and sustainable development through short-term collaborations and innovative projects.

The *Energy Efficiency Agency*⁶² and the *National Agency for Energy Regulation (ANRE)*,⁶³ under the Ministry of Infrastructure and Regional Development, enhance national energy efficiency and renewable energy use, align Moldova with global sustainability standards and mitigate climate change impacts, and regulate the energy sector, promoting the integration of renewable energy into Moldova's national grid to enhance energy efficiency, diversification, and environmental sustainability. The *State Administration of Roads*,⁶⁴ under the same Ministry, strengthens Moldova's road infrastructure against climate change by incorporating climate adaptation into road planning, design, construction, and maintenance. It employs advanced engineering and durable methods to withstand climate-induced events like floods and extreme temperatures, and maintains robust emergency response capabilities to ensure road safety in all conditions.

The *National Public Health Agency (ANSP)*,⁶⁵ under the Ministry of Health, and *Regional Public Health Centres* manage health risks exacerbated by climate change, including infectious and vector-borne diseases and effects from extreme weather. These entities implement comprehensive health strategies and readiness plans, aligning public health policies with climate change realities to bolster community resilience and adaptive responses. The *National Centre for Pre-hospital Emergency Medical Assistance (ANSP)*,⁶⁶ under the Ministry of Health, the agency addresses

⁵⁶ Government's Decision No. 485 as of 12-08-2009 regarding the approval of the Regulation of the Agency for Geology and Mineral Resources. Available at: https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=31943&lang=ro

⁵⁷ National Environmental Projects Implementation Office. Available at: <https://onipm.gov.md/about>

⁵⁸ Agency for Interventions and Payments in Agriculture. Available at: www.aipa.gov.md

⁵⁹ Agency for the Development and Modernization of Agriculture. Available at: www.adma.gov.md

⁶⁰ Organization for Entrepreneurship Development. Available at: <https://www.oda.md/en/>

⁶¹ Bureau for Relations with Diaspora. Available at: <https://brd.gov.md/>

⁶² Energy Efficiency Agency. Available at: <https://www.aee.md/ro>

⁶³ National Agency for Energy Regulation. Available at: <https://www.anre.md/>

⁶⁴ State Administration of Roads under the Ministry of Infrastructure and Regional Development. Available at: <https://www.asd.md/>

⁶⁵ National Public Health Agency. Available at: <https://ansp.md/>

⁶⁶ National Centre for Pre-hospital Emergency Medical Assistance. Available at: <https://ambulanta.md/>

climate-induced emergencies like heat waves, floods, and storms by developing emergency preparedness plans tailored to increased climate risks. This includes establishing early warning systems, conducting drills, training emergency medical teams, monitoring health impacts, and performing risk assessments to prioritize services for vulnerable populations. Further reinforcing the health sector's response to climate challenges, the *National Medical Insurance Company (CNAM)*⁶⁷ adjusts insurance policies to cover health risks associated with climate change, enhancing infrastructure and training to respond to health emergencies effectively. Primary healthcare institutions, like *family doctor's centres*, play an important role by providing public health information, disseminating knowledge on climate-related health risks, and implementing preventive measures and strategies at the community level for early intervention and education. Additionally, *hospitals* provide specialized care during climate-related emergencies, preparing for climate-induced health shocks, and enhancing the overall readiness of the healthcare system for climate impacts.

The *National Bureau of Statistics*⁶⁸ supports these efforts by delivering essential data on environmental indicators critical for developing strategies to mitigate and adapt to climate change effects.

ACADEMIA

The *Academy of Sciences*⁶⁹ and the *National Agency for Research and Development (ANCD)*⁷⁰ contribute to

Moldova's climate adaptation by evaluating and aligning scientific projects with adaptation goals. The ANCD coordinates with EU frameworks like Horizon Europe to enhance Moldova's scientific presence and collaborates across sectors such as agriculture, energy, and health to improve climate adaptation research.

Higher educational institutions significantly contribute to climate change mitigation in agriculture and energy through education, research, and training. They enhance educational and research frameworks to support the economy, conduct and apply research, and provide specialized training on climate impact mitigation. Additionally, they facilitate the integration of the national energy system into regional and European markets. For example, the "Nicolae Testemițanu" State University of Medicine and Pharmacy includes climate change impacts and health adaptations in its programs.

LOCAL PUBLIC AUTHORITIES OF I AND II LEVELS

Local public authorities in Moldova manage about 13.3% of the nation's forests, implementing sustainable practices to enhance climate resilience. They develop local programs for forest use, regeneration, and protection aligned with national environmental goals. Additionally, these authorities create urban mobility plans to address climate change, aiming to develop sustainable and resilient urban transport systems.

3.3. Financial products and mechanisms for diaspora engagement in climate action

Moldova's institutional approach to engaging with its diaspora is comprehensive and involves numerous national authorities and organizations. Central to this effort is the BRD within the State Chancellery, coordinating state policies and programs to maintain and

strengthen connections with Moldovans abroad. (Annex 4 – Table 3. The Republic of Moldova's institutional framework with mandates in the area of diaspora, migration and development). Coordination among these entities is achieved through mechanisms like the

⁶⁷ National Medical Insurance Company. Available at: <http://cnam.md/>

⁶⁸ National Bureau of Statistics. Available at: <https://statistica.gov.md/en>

⁶⁹ Academy of Sciences of Moldova. Available at: www.asm.md

⁷⁰ National Agency for Research and Development. Available at: <https://www.ncd.gov.md/>

Inter-ministerial Committee on Diaspora, Migration, and Development⁷¹, established in 2017 to create strategic visions and oversee program implementation. Chaired by the Secretary-General of the Government, it includes representatives from major ministries and central authorities and meets biannually and as needed.

Given the importance of migration, Moldova has developed a complex migration&diaspora **policy structure**. The National Strategy Diaspora-2025 and its Action Plan for 2016-2018, approved in 2016, which enhances transversal approach and cooperation between the Government, local authorities, civil society, and the diaspora are the cornerstones of diaspora policy framework.⁷² In February 2024, the Government approved the National Programme “Diaspora” for 2024-2028 to strengthen and intensify ties with the diaspora, making it a progress factor for Moldova.⁷³ In September 2017, the Government established a mechanism to coordinate state policy on Diaspora, Migration, and Development (DMD). This aims to improve communication and coordination between central and local authorities, leveraging migration’s positive impacts on socioeconomic development and minimizing its negative effects.⁷⁴ Moreover, in 2017, the reintegration of returning migrants became a government priority, reflected in national strategies and action plans. For example, the National Action Plan for the (re)integration of returning Moldovan citizens for 2017-2020 set three objectives: enhancing the institutional framework for information and promotion, ensuring social (re) integration, and supporting economic (re)integration.⁷⁵ In September 2023, the Government approved the National programme to stimulate returns and facilitate the (re)integration of Moldovan citizens involved in the

migration process for the years 2023-2027, developed, among others, with IOM’s assistance⁷⁶. The Programme supports returning citizens by addressing challenges, providing employment assistance, facilitating access to medical, social, and educational services, supporting start-ups, and leveraging diaspora experience for national modernization and economic development. A separate chapter dedicated to the diaspora, namely “Policies for Diaspora”, is included in the Government’s “Activity Programme, Moldova of Good Times”⁷⁷. Finally, migration and diaspora related issues are addressed transversally in the development objectives of the “National Development Strategy European Moldova 2030” (priority area 5.7 “Support and involvement of diaspora”), approved by the Parliament in October 2022,⁷⁸ and Government’s Activity Program “Prosperous, Safe, European Moldova”⁷⁹ (extension of qualitative services to diaspora and diaspora’s integration in economic life), approved in February 2023.

The Government relies on a **programmatic framework** to operationalize policy and harness the diaspora’s development potential. This framework includes diaspora participatory mechanisms, crucial for Government-Diaspora interaction and engagement in public, political, economic, social, and cultural processes. (*Annex 5 – Table 4. Diaspora participatory mechanisms*).

Moldova has introduced initiatives such as PARE I+I, its expansions (PARE I+2), the SMEs Greening Program, and DAR I+3 to engage its diaspora and drive sustainable economic growth. These programs merge remittances and diaspora involvement with green economic principles, leveraging migrant capital to promote eco-friendly practices among SMEs and stimulate local development through diaspora investments.

⁷¹ Government’s Decision no. 725 as of 8 September 2017 on the mechanism for coordinating state policy in the area of diaspora, migration and development. Available at: https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=101866&lang=ro

⁷² Government’s Decision no. 200 as of 26-02-2016 on the approval of the National Strategy “Diaspora-2025” and the Action Plan for 2016–2018 for its implementation. Available at: https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=91207&lang=ro

⁷³ Government’s Decision no. 122 as of 09-02-2024 on the approval of the National Program “Diaspora” for 2024-2028. Available at: https://brd.gov.md/sites/default/files/program_national_diaspora_2024-2028.pdf

⁷⁴ Government’s Decision no. 725 as of 08-09-2017 on the mechanism for coordinating state policy in the area of diaspora, migration and development. Available at: https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=101866&lang=ro

⁷⁵ Government’s Decision no. 724 as of 08-09-2017 on the approval of the National Action Plan for 2017–2020 for the (re-)integration of the citizens of the Republic of Moldova returned from abroad. Available at: https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=101865&lang=ro

⁷⁶ Government’s Decision no. 674 as of 13 September 2023 on the approval National programme to stimulate returns and facilitate the (re)integration of Moldovan citizens involved in the migration process for the years 2023-2027. Available at: <https://monitorul.gov.md/ro/monitor/2796>

⁷⁷ Government’s Moldova of Good Times programme, proposed on 3 August 2021. Available at: https://gov.md/sites/default/files/document/attachments/programul_de_activitate_al_guvernului_moldova_vremurilor_bune.pdf, pp. 39-40.

⁷⁸ National Development Strategy “European Moldova 2030”. Available at: <https://gov.md/ro/moldova2030>

⁷⁹ Parliament’s Decision no. 28 as of 16-02-23 on approval of the Government’s Activity Program “Prosperous, Safe, European Moldova”. Available at: https://gov.md/sites/default/files/document/attachments/program_de_guv-final_ro.pdf

PARE I+I (Program of Attracting Remittances in Economy)

In 2010 the Government launched the Programme of attracting remittances in economy „PARE I+I” for 2010-2021.⁸⁰ The PARE I+I Programme, managed by the Organization for Entrepreneurship Development under the Ministry of Economy and Digitalisation, matches funds from Moldovan migrants or their immediate relatives, doubling capital up to 250,000 MDL to incentivize diaspora investment in SMEs. Focused on financial literacy, business planning, and sustainable investment in energy-efficient technologies, the program also includes awareness campaigns, training, matching grants, and business sustainability monitoring for at least two years, promoting climate resilience and a green economy. In 2020, program participants came from 31 countries, with 61% from EU countries, 35% from other countries, and 3% from CIS countries. The majority were from Italy (23%), the UK (13.2%), Russia (11%), Germany (10%), France (8%), and Romania (7.5%).⁸¹ At the same time, in 2022 the largest share was held by participants investing remittances from Italy, Romania, the UK and Germany.⁸² (*Annex 6 – Table 5. PARE I+I Program’s results (2010-2021)*).

Out of the total number of applications for grant funding in 2021, 34 enterprises (53%) were active in the field of agriculture: cereal growing, greenhouse vegetable growing, processing of vineyards, nut plantations, plum plantations, but also in beekeeping and animal husbandry.⁸³

The implementation of the PARE I+I Programme has revealed key findings and challenges. Analysis shows a consistent rise in start-ups from 2010 to 2015, but a significant drop occurred in 2016 with only 25.7% of grant recipients being start-ups. From 2017 to 2019, the number of start-up grants further declined from 85 to 75, marking a decrease from 42.6% to 35.7%, indicating a broader macroeconomic downturn in start-up activity.⁸⁴ However, applications for expansion funds from development-phase enterprises have increased. In 2019, female-led businesses and young entrepreneurs significantly boosted their participation, accounting for 36.2% and over 40% of beneficiaries, respectively.⁸⁵ Moreover, discussions with “PARE I+I” entrepreneur beneficiaries highlighted multiple challenges including skilled labor shortages, financial constraints, import delays, and inadequate business management training. Additional issues included frequent legal changes, bureaucratic hurdles, and ineffective use of entrepreneurial networks for market access. Difficulty in preparing business plans, particularly in budgeting and financial forecasting, remains due to limited capacity.⁸⁶ Additionally, the preparation of business plans, particularly budgeting and financial forecasting, remains a challenge due to limited internal capacity among entrepreneurs.⁸⁷ Despite these challenges, the programme has successfully supported more than 2,000 enterprises, driving over 1 billion lei in economic investment, with each grant leu generating approximately 3 lei.⁸⁸

⁸⁰ Government’s Decision to modify Government’s Decision no. 972/2010 on Programme of attracting remittances in the economy „PARE I+I” for 2010-2021. Available at: https://gov.md/sites/default/files/document/attachments/subiect-05_-_nu_448_mei_2021_1.pdf

⁸¹ ODA (2020). Activity Report of the Organization for the Development of the Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises Sector in Moldova for 2019, ODIMM, Chişinău. Available at: <https://www.oda.md/files/ro/pdf/rapoarte/RAPORT%20ODIMM%202019.pdf>

⁸² ODA (2023). Activity Report of the Organization for the Development of the Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises Sector in Moldova for 2022, ODIMM, Chişinău. Available at: <https://www.oda.md/files/rapoarte/2022/Raport%20anual%20IP%20ODA,%20anul%202022.pdf>

⁸³ Bizlaw. The programme for attracting remittances to the economy, PARE I+I, has been extended for a further three years, 30 December 2021. Available at: <https://www.bizlaw.md/programul-de-atragere-a-remitentelor-in-economie-pare-i-i-a-fost-extins-pentru-inca-trei-ani>

⁸⁴ ODA (2021). Activity Report of the Organization for the Development of the Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises Sector in Moldova for 2020, ODIMM, Chişinău. Available at: https://www.oda.md/images/2020/Raport_de_activitate_ODIMM_2020.pdf

⁸⁵ ODA (2020). Activity Report of the Organization for the Development of the Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises Sector in Moldova for 2019, ODIMM, Chişinău. Available at: <https://www.oda.md/files/ro/pdf/rapoarte/RAPORT%20ODIMM%202019.pdf>

⁸⁶ ODA (2021). Activity Report of the Organization for the Development of the Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises Sector in Moldova for 2020, ODIMM, Chişinău. Available at: https://www.oda.md/images/2020/Raport_de_activitate_ODIMM_2020.pdf; ODA (2020). Activity Report of the Organization for the Development of the Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises Sector in Moldova for 2019, ODIMM, Chişinău. Available at: <https://www.oda.md/files/ro/pdf/rapoarte/RAPORT%20ODIMM%202019.pdf>

⁸⁷ ODA (2023). Activity Report of the Organization for the Development of the Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises Sector in Moldova for 2022, ODIMM, Chişinău. Available at: <https://www.oda.md/files/rapoarte/2022/Raport%20anual%20IP%20ODA,%20anul%202022.pdf>

⁸⁸ Vicol D., Pistrinciu V. (2021). The Diaspora is not “parallel”. Policy Brief. IPRE. Available at: https://ipre.md/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/PB_Diaspora_ENG_final.pdf

PARE 1+2 (Program of Attracting Remittances in Economy)

In 2022, the Moldovan Government introduced the "PARE 1+2" Program, designed by the Ministry of Economy and the Organization for Entrepreneurship Development (ODA). This initiative leverages diaspora remittances to foster socio-economic development by promoting investments in rural and eco-friendly businesses, encouraging migrants and their families to support sustainable practices and technologies.

"PARE 1+2" builds on the successful "PARE 1+1" program, with structured guidelines and clear eligibility criteria targeting Moldovan citizens working abroad and their first-degree relatives (*Annex 7 – Table 6. Overview of PARE 1+2 Program*). Applicants for the "PARE 1+2" Program must have spent at least twelve months outside Moldova and verify their remittance sources, focusing on productive and responsible ventures while excluding sectors like real estate and arms.

The program consists of several phases: training and entrepreneurial consultation to enhance business skills, matching financial support up to 250,000 MDL with a "Rule 1+2" providing two extra lei for every leu invested up to 500,000 MDL, and a final phase of monitoring and evaluation.

With a three-year, extendable 90 million MDL budget, supported by local and international donors, the program approved 136 investment projects in 2022, allocating 86 million MDL with grants totalling about 34 million MDL. These projects primarily involved Moldovan migrant workers and their relatives, with significant participation from women (34%) and young entrepreneurs (50%), drawing investors from 15 countries, predominantly Italy, Romania, the UK, and Germany.⁸⁹ In 2023, the total amount of approved grants exceeded 27 mln. MDL, and 97

Program's beneficiaries.⁹⁰ While traditionally focused on manufacturing, the PARE program could expand to include climate-related production initiatives. Innovations like smart metering systems and electricity storage technologies that enhance energy efficiency and climate resilience are potential candidates for support under this scheme.⁹¹

SMEs GREENING PROGRAM

In 2019, Moldovan Government approved the SMEs Greening Program⁹² to enhance environmental sustainability among SMEs. Managed by the ODA the program promotes eco-friendly business practices to reduce industrial pollution and aligns with the EU's DCFTA and the UN's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (*Annex 8 – Table 7. Overview of SMEs Greening Program*). The program promotes energy and resource efficiency, circular economy, and eco-innovation to boost productivity, attract investment, and enhance economic growth through sustainable practices. Open to all Moldovan citizens, including the diaspora, it supports projects such as solar panel installations and water optimization measures.⁹³

The Program accelerates SMEs' shift to sustainable practices with tools, capacity building, training, consultations, and grants for green business models, focusing on sectors like agro-food, industry, and services involved in organic farming and resource efficiency. It includes robust monitoring to evaluate fund use and project impacts.

The government has committed 60 million lei to the SME Greening Program from 2022 to 2025. This includes a 36-month pilot phase to measure its effectiveness in promoting a circular economy and job creation. The program also leverages diaspora investments and expertise to bolster Moldova's climate resilience and global sustainability goals.

DAR 1+3 PROGRAM (Diaspora Succeeds at Home)

The "DAR 1+3 Diaspora Succeeds at Home" Program,⁹⁴ initiated by the Moldovan Government for 2019-2025, aims to leverage the human and financial resources of the diaspora for local socio-economic development (*Annex 9 - Table 8. Overview of Program "DAR 1+3"*). It focuses on rural and urban development through investments and active participation from the Moldovan diaspora. The program, which receives matches funding from the diaspora contributions with input from the government, local authorities funding and international partners or private sector sources, targets diaspora associations, returnees, and local authorities for collaborative projects. Directed to infrastructure, environmental protection, economic and energy efficiency development, and social services, the program rigorously evaluates project proposals for relevance and feasibility. Success is tracked through investment volume, project completion rates, and job creation. Significant initiatives include climate adaptation projects such as water-conserving irrigation and sustainable agriculture, supported by 13 energy efficiency projects funded last year through German development aid (GIZ).

The program significantly enhances community well-being, providing essential services like kindergartens and medical centres, and offers training for local authorities to ensure project success. It also promotes the diaspora's involvement in renewable energy and sustainable practices across Moldova.⁹⁵

Furthermore, in 2024, IOM-Moldova leveraged diaspora resources for climate action in the "DAR 1+3" Program, offering two grants of 120,000 MDL each to enhance climate adaptation and resilience. This initiative taps into the support of the Moldovan diaspora and returning migrants for projects in biodiversity conservation, clean energy, circular economy, climate-smart agriculture, disaster risk reduction, and green

renovation. The matching grants aim to amplify financial and human capital to advance climate mitigation and adaptation efforts across Moldova.⁹⁶

DIASPORA ENGAGEMENT HUB (DEN)

Launched in 2016 with IOM Moldova and Swiss support, the DEH program, operated by the BRD offers thematic grants to Moldovan citizens abroad for projects that boost socio-economic development. DEH leverages Moldova's human and professional capital by facilitating expertise transfer from the diaspora. Additionally, the DEH sub-program established Educational Centres for the Diaspora in 2016, in partnership with the Ministry of Education and Research and IOM. These centres, now operating independently in France, Italy, Portugal, the UK, Ireland, Kazakhstan, and the Russian Federation, help diaspora families maintain their linguistic, cultural, and emotional ties to Moldova.⁹⁷

The DEH program leverages the Moldovan diaspora for national development through four main pillars:⁹⁸

- 1) **Diaspora Professional Return:** Engages diaspora professionals in short-term collaborations (two weeks to five months) to transfer skills, technologies, and contacts, enriching local expertise including climate action initiatives.
- 2) **Diaspora Innovative Projects:** Encourages diaspora members to initiate projects that drive development across various sectors.
- 3) **Youth Sub-program:** Targets young diaspora members (aged 18-35) to participate in Moldova's socio-economic and cultural development.
- 4) **Cultural and Educational Support Program:** Supports Diaspora Associations and Romanian language Educational Centres abroad to promote Moldova's identity, culture, and traditions globally.

⁸⁹ ODA (2023). Activity Report of the Organization for the Development of the Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises Sector in Moldova for 2022, ODIMM, Chişinău. Available at: <https://www.oda.md/files/rapoarte/2022/Raport%20anual%20IP%20ODA,%20anul%202022.pdf>

⁹⁰ ODA (2024). Activity Report of the Organization for the Development of the Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises Sector in Moldova for 2023, ODIMM, Chişinău. Available at: https://www.oda.md/files/rapoarte/2023/Planul%20IP%20ODA%202023_actualizat%2005.09.2023.pdf

⁹¹ KII with ODA representative

⁹² Government's Decision no. 592 as of 27-11-2019 on approval the Small and Medium Enterprises Greening Program. Available at: https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=135163&lang=ro

⁹³ KII with ODA representative

⁹⁴ Government's Decision no. 801 as of 01-08-2018 on approval and implementation of the Program Diaspora Succeeds at Home "DAR 1+3". Available at: https://brd.gov.md/sites/default/files/hg_dar_13_0.pdf

⁹⁵ Bureau for Relations with Diaspora. Annual report for 2021. Available at: <https://brd.gov.md/ro/advanced-page-type/rapoarte-de-activitate>; Bureau for Relations with Diaspora. Annual report for 2023. Available at: <https://brd.gov.md/ro/advanced-page-type/rapoarte-de-activitate>

⁹⁶ Casian Oleg. Valorizing diaspora resources for Social Cohesion and Climate Change Action under the DAR 1+3 program. IDiaspora: Connect, Learn, Contribute, 11 March 2024. Available at: <https://www.idiaspora.org/en/contribute/blog-entry/valorizing-diaspora-resources-social-cohesion-and-climate-change-action-under>

⁹⁷ Baltag D., Burdelnii E. (2023). Mid-term Evaluation Report of the National Strategy Diaspora-2025, Republic of Moldova. MIEUX+, ICMPPD, 2023. https://brd.gov.md/sites/default/files/document/attachments/raport-strategia-nationala_eng.pdf

⁹⁸ Bureau for Relations with Diaspora. Regulation of the Program Diaspora Engagement Hub. Available at: https://dev.brd.gov.md/sites/default/files/regulament_final_subprogram-in_cadrul-programului-deh-destinat-tinerilor-diaspora.pdf

The DEH Program allocates funding across multiple sectors⁹⁹ to bolster diaspora-driven projects, enhancing Moldova's development:

- **Education and Health:** Health trainings and wellness programs.
- **Culture and Arts:** Supports artistic areas relevant to cultural preservation and innovation.
- **Business and Agriculture:** Focuses on *organic farming, agro-processing, packaging, and agro-tourism, promoting sustainable agricultural practices and rural development.*
- **ICT and Communication:** Develops communication platforms and data tools, *supporting diaspora media and public relations campaigns to enhance awareness of climate action.*
- **Urban and Rural Development:** Includes projects in architecture and design, particularly those that integrate *sustainable practices and renewable energy systems.*
- **Scientific Research and Social Entrepreneurship:** New research methods and *environmentally sustainable business models.*

- **Public Administration and Civic Engagement:** Diaspora involvement in governance and *environmental policy activism.*

The implementation period for activities ranges from 2 weeks to 2 months, with state-funded grants: 40,000 MDL for "Professional Return of the Diaspora", 50,000 MDL for "Innovative Projects of the Diaspora" and "Sub-program for Young People", and 100,000 MDL for "Cultural and Educational Activities in the Diaspora".

Despite these efforts to engage the diaspora in Moldova's development, including climate initiatives, challenges in awareness and strategic connection to climate action persist. There is a need for clearer policies and more effective promotion to direct diaspora contributions toward key sectors like agriculture, energy, and forestry. Based on KII, diaspora representatives suggest clearer policies and simpler processes to improve engagement. Current programs targeting small entrepreneurs do not reach the broader diaspora effectively. Enhancing promotional strategies and establishing a supportive network could increase participation in climate action. Additionally, requirements for physical presence limit involvement; enabling virtual participation could widen engagement and bolster Moldova's climate goals.

3.4. Diaspora perceptions and awareness of national climate change priorities and challenges

AWARENESS AND PERCEPTIONS

The research allowed to reveal three distinct aspects of diaspora's awareness and perception of climate change priorities:

1) Enhanced awareness about climate issues in countries of residence

The awareness of climate change among the Moldovan diaspora is largely influenced by their experiences in countries like the UK, where climate change is a central topic in political and social discourse. In these countries, climate change is frequently discussed in politics, media, and daily conversations, enhancing their awareness

through continuous exposure to information and first-hand observation of sustainable practices. For example, diaspora members have noted their involvement in initiatives such as transitioning to clean energy, using energy-efficient appliances, and participating in community recycling programs, often supported by government initiatives.

This heightened awareness and practical engagement starkly contrast with the situation in Moldova, where climate change has yet to become a significant part of public discourse or policy. The insights and practices gained by the diaspora from countries leading in climate action could greatly enrich Moldova's climate strategies.

⁹⁹ Areas that could be relevant for diaspora&climate action nexus are in Italic

BOX I. Selective opinions of KII's respondents

- "In the UK you hear everywhere about decarbonisation. Zero emissions, lots of publicity"
- "In the UK there are a lot of photovoltaic panels, there is a higher level of awareness of climate issues. The state probably helps in this area".
- "One key determinant seems to be the level of awareness and governmental policies in the diaspora's country of residence. For instance, in Belgium, where sorting waste is mandatory, individuals are likely to have a heightened understanding of climate change implications. However, even in countries where such policies are not as stringent, differences in perception may stem from individual education levels and occupational backgrounds...Those with higher educational qualifications may display greater sensitivity to environmental issues. However, the level of sensitivity isn't solely dictated by formal education but also by the nature of one's profession. Those employed in industries with a focus on sustainability or environmental stewardship are more likely to prioritize climate action"
- "I think they are more aware here comparing to Moldovans...but it probably still influences the environment in which people live. And if Europeans are very, very aware of these things, Moldavians, probably, who live there, somehow wake up"
- "Personally, I studied Sustainable Energy Environment in Cardiff, Great Britain. And then I was already in a study, so passionate about the field. But there I changed a lot, I mean, the level of consciousness has increased a lot, the whole scale has increased, and I learned a lot from there"
- "The level of awareness is certainly much, much better, because in the countries where we are located, we talk about the West and so on, there is a lot of discussion about this, this is present in any sphere of life, in the organizations in which we work, there are politicians, and there are all kinds of mechanisms and so on. That's why, as they say, you don't escape from this, it's an omnipresent subject. That's why, regarding this global subject, there is a lot of information"
- "Regarding climate change, yes. First of all, because this is the political agenda, especially for the powerful industrialized states. I mean, you want it or not, you put yourself in the informational space, plus you see a lot of good practices happening there, business models, I don't know, even emigrants, to change the equipment in the house you live in and which affects you daily. The whole theme of climate change, the transition to clean energy, is somehow internalized on the public agenda of the developed states. And somehow, I don't know, being in this informational space, living day by day, this level of awareness affects you, I mean, you become more aware"
- „In Great Britain every school teacher, every, I don't know, worker, they all know the climate problems. In addition, the authorities implement policies to manage waste, to reduce pollution, which are, in fact, extremely widespread“

2) Limited awareness of climate change issues and action in the Republic of Moldova

The Moldovan diaspora's awareness of climate change issues within Moldova is lower and more fragmented compared to their awareness abroad. While knowledgeable about global climate issues due to international exposure, they lack understanding of

Moldova's unique environmental challenges. This gap stems from infrequent updates about local climate issues and policies, hindering their ability to grasp the urgency or feel personally connected to these issues.

Many diaspora members acknowledge Moldova's foundational climate policy framework, especially linked to EU accession, but remain unclear about the country's

specific climate adaptation and mitigation strategies. This uncertainty stems from vague communication from Moldovan authorities about ongoing or planned activities in energy security, climate adaptation, and agricultural and infrastructure resilience. Additionally, there is a lack of information on how the diaspora can contribute to these efforts, especially for those who infrequently or never return to Moldova.

Personal experiences, like witnessing climate change effects during visits or hearing about significant agricultural yield losses from relatives, raise awareness among the diaspora. However, a disconnect between these observations and a broader understanding of the issues highlights the need for a more strategic approach to engage the diaspora effectively. Enhancing the relevance and flow of information could significantly

boost their involvement in Moldova's climate resilience efforts.

Despite challenges, diaspora members largely recognize the severe impact of climate change, especially on vulnerable populations like the rural community, which relies heavily on agriculture. Changes in climate directly disrupt their daily lives and economic stability, with poverty intensifying their susceptibility to climate disturbances. Vulnerable groups such as the elderly and women, who often shoulder major familial responsibilities in rural areas, face additional risks. The increasing labor demands of agriculture due to climate changes pose challenges for households, particularly those led by single mothers or where adults have migrated for work, leaving families to cope under difficult conditions and increasing their vulnerability to climate impacts.

BOX 2. Selective opinions of KII's respondents

- “From personal experience, sectors such as agriculture and commerce in Moldova do not seem to treat climate change adaptation and related strategies as urgent matters... There is some awareness, as evidenced by mentions of a Climate Adaptation Strategy, but this does not seem to be a focal point for government action or within the private sector”
- “For instance, the National Adaptation Plan for Climate Change, approved in August 2023, is known to some, but there's uncertainty regarding its integration of support from civil society and the diaspora. Despite involvement in various consultative groups, individuals report not being engaged on this specific topic, raising questions about the clarity and inclusivity of the government's approach”
- “Regarding this subject and how it affects Moldova, I believe that we are considerably, much, much less informed. We could have, I don't know, let's say some revelations like this, you haven't been home for a year, you come back, and you realize that in Chisinau the air is unbreathable, for example. Or you come to your village in the summer, and you go to live there, and you see that the ground has some cracks, the size of a man. Things like this, and you simply have fragments of information. But, if you are not necessarily very versed in the field, you won't be able to read these fragments of information and come to the conclusion that Moldova is really vulnerable. But, again, this information is not interesting for many people. Because it is presented as uninteresting, and because in the public agenda, in general, and in the public agenda of communication with the diaspora, this is not regarded as a priority”
- “I have heard a lot about them through occasional visits of politicians to diaspora, and through the newsletters from the BRD. But I don't know much about them. And, to be honest, after the launch of the Strategy, I haven't heard anything at all”
- “I haven't been notified about anything. So, unfortunately, I don't know”
- “For example, when you asked me to have a call, I was wondering what are Moldova's priorities in terms of climate change or adaptation. I don't know...In terms of energy security, in terms of agricultural projects, I didn't hear anything. I think it's also a matter of understanding what the

priorities for Moldova are. To be clearly communicated certain strategies. In terms of Chisinau and the involvement at the local level, there are a lot of things that can be done. Chisinau is flooded, the summer is hot, and there are a lot of things that could be done as local projects. To be involved in other areas”

- “Well, I collaborate with the Ministry of Agriculture. So I know more about their attempts to address climate change through agriculture policies. I also follow some materials from the Ministry of Environment, some from the Ministry of Health. I can't say that I have been involved in any project or other, in any set of politicians or others. But when something appears in the press, I try to read it, to follow it. Also, if I have the opportunity, I participate in working groups, meetings, events”
- “I have the impression that we are in denial. We do not recognize that these changes are real and that they are happening...The reaction in society is more reactive than proactive. But a proactive approach or a connection between cause and effect, to say that we all contribute to this crisis, it is not felt, it does not exist in society. Respectively, even in Moldova, to find people interested in this topic would be very difficult”

3) Poor awareness of diaspora&climate change nexus

Research has identified a significant gap in understanding the complex relationship between migration and climate change. While diaspora members recognize climate-induced changes in traditional farming practices, their understanding of how migration influences and

is influenced by climate conditions remains superficial. This lack of depth persists even among well-educated professionals, some of whom remain sceptical about climate change. This scepticism poses a challenge as it could dampen enthusiasm for participating in climate-related initiatives in Moldova. Addressing this awareness gap and scepticism is crucial to fostering more robust engagement with climate action efforts in the country.

BOX 3. Selective opinions of KII's respondents

- “I don't see a direct connection between diaspora and climate change. If there is anyone in the diaspora working in this area, it would be an opportunity for knowledge transfer”
- “I need a study, with concrete figures for me to understand the causation - effect in the nexus between migration and climate change. More evidence, produced, with statistical data”
- “If it exists, I think it is extremely limited. Possibly it is limited to some students who study at universities or colleges related to the environment. I have this interest and I am active in this field, but I have not found a colleague from the diaspora who is interested in climate issues”
- “I mean, if we had access to more data about how the situation compared to the previous year, how the farmers are doing, how the cities are affected, how the health of the people is affected, then we would have more fertile land to start the alarm”

PROPENSITY FOR ENGAGEMENT IN CLIMATE ACTION

The diaspora's exposure to climate action abroad shapes their perspective on climate change and enhances their potential to engage in similar initiatives in Moldova. Many, accustomed to environments where climate change is prioritized, are likely to advocate for and participate in climate-related initiatives in their home country. Research has shown that diaspora members have introduced best practices in agriculture to Moldova, such as efficient irrigation techniques, drought-resistant crops, greening initiatives, and renewable energy technologies like biogas. Moreover, In August 2023, the IOM, in cooperation with BRD, organized a Moldovan Diaspora policy consultation workshop and conducted a comprehensive survey during the 10th Diaspora Congress in Chisinau. The goal was to prioritize SDG accelerators for Moldova's sustainable development and formulate key commitments to

enhance the contribution of human mobility to national development. Participants from the diaspora highlighted "environmental protection, green economy, and waste management" as top priority areas for investment in Moldova.

Additionally, diaspora members are often motivated to bring effective practices observed abroad back to Moldova through direct investments, involvement in policymaking, or supporting local climate change initiatives. They may introduce advanced sustainable business models, promote renewable energy, or implement efficient agricultural practices. Both financial and social remittances are crucial for adopting climate adaptive actions in Moldova, highlighting the diaspora's key role in the country's climate resilience. This aligns with research that emphasizes the importance of combining financial and social remittances, including skills and aspirations.¹⁰⁰

BOX 4. Selective opinions of KII's respondents

- "A clearer link between the diaspora's capabilities and climate change initiatives must be established. Recognizing that individuals within the diaspora may possess specialized knowledge or expertise in climate-related fields presents an opportunity for knowledge transfer. Therefore, enhancing these policies could involve creating platforms or programs that enable the diaspora to contribute their skills and experience directly to Moldova's climate strategies"
- "And the diaspora is the one that can talk and promote, first of all, about the problems. There are those who have, especially those from the countries that meet standards and are pioneers in combating the negative effects of climate change"
- "Starting with the local example, there are those who can carry out such practices and bring them to the Republic of Moldova. Not being experts in climate change, not being theoreticians involved in this, but the power of example and civic engagement action can be carried out by the members of the diaspora. And it would be highly relevant if in the future there could be specific financing lines for such civic initiatives, which cover different areas, including the environment and climate change"
- "The diaspora in the UK is numerous and it is a voice that imposes itself. They are interested in all aspects of the socio-economic development of Moldova. They promote the national and cultural identity and the public image of Moldova across borders. This is Diaspora Connect, also the founding member of the Diaspora there. This is the Diaspora Co-Working Hub, co-founder or co-author of the idea, member of the Diaspora, also from the UK. Plus, the fact that many people there claim to be leaders of opinion and claim to be and hold, somehow, communities of Moldovans from there"
- "I think there is a desire to get involved, if there is an understanding of what the priorities are, which projects"

¹⁰⁰ Sterly Harald, Vladicescu Natalia (2023). Case study on migration, environment, climate change and development nexus in the Republic of Moldova, IOM, Chişinău

Some interviewees expressed a willingness to use their roles in diaspora associations to promote environmental awareness and actions in Moldova through their

networks. Their motivation is also driven by a desire to instil values of civic responsibility and environmental stewardship in future generations of Moldovans abroad.

Table 7. Climate Change Awareness and Engagement among the Moldovan Diaspora: Insights and Impacts

CATEGORY	DETAILS	POTENTIAL IMPACT
AWARENESS	Through exposure in countries like the UK, the Moldovan diaspora experiences high awareness and practical engagement with climate change, observing initiatives like clean energy transitions. In contrast, their awareness of Moldova's specific climate challenges is limited, primarily due to infrequent updates and unclear communication from Moldovan authorities.	Enhanced awareness can enable the diaspora to contribute valuable perspectives and practical insights, potentially enriching Moldova's climate strategies.
ENGAGEMENT	Diaspora members are exposed to and participate in sustainable practices abroad. Their readiness to transfer these practices to Moldova varies, influenced by personal connections and the programs available for involvement.	Active engagement by the diaspora can lead to the introduction of sustainable practices and technologies in Moldova, thus boosting climate resilience and sustainable development.
CHALLENGES	The diaspora faces scepticism about the effectiveness of climate actions in Moldova and experiences barriers such as bureaucratic complexities and a lack of mechanisms for remote contribution. These challenges stem from insufficient clarity on how they can contribute, especially for those not planning to return physically.	Addressing these challenges by improving information dissemination and creating clearer engagement pathways could enhance diaspora participation, accelerating climate adaptation efforts.

3.5. Leveraging diaspora networks communication channels for climate action

All interviewed stakeholders emphasized that diaspora networks are vital for spreading innovative ideas and technologies essential to climate action. Diaspora associations and influential leaders significantly

contribute by organizing and promoting climate initiatives through existing channels and cultural events. By leveraging the organizational skills and networks of these figures, climate action messages can be seamlessly

integrated into regular diaspora activities, ensuring they resonate within a culturally respectful context. Additionally, diaspora networks play a crucial role in disseminating information about grants and financial aids that support climate action. For example, Section 3.6 of the Report illustrates the transnational exchange's value, particularly in introducing new, environmentally sustainable agricultural techniques and technologies. However, these examples show the Moldovan diaspora primarily uses informal networks, personal initiatives, and family remittances to start climate-resilient projects. The lack of formal structures to utilize these networks restricts wider use and spread of innovative practices, representing a missed opportunity for greater impact and efficiency. Professional diaspora activists, or 'Champions for change,' play a crucial role. Engaging individuals to manage and lead climate actions could significantly boost the effectiveness and sustainability of these efforts.

Furthermore, interviewed diaspora members praised the Government's effective communication channels, particularly highlighting the BRD's regular engagement campaigns. Diaspora networks already have essential tools like groups on social networks, distribution lists, and discussion forums for disseminating information. However, effective climate action requires targeted communication to reach specific diaspora groups most likely to respond to and benefit from certain initiatives. Campaigns should be designed to resonate with these key demographics, ensuring messages are both widespread and tailored to their interests and capabilities. Incorporating community leaders as 'conversation starters' and timing campaigns around major environmental events like World Earth Day could increase urgency and impact. It's essential to distribute communication packages to the diaspora ahead of these events.

Interviewed diaspora members believe that showcasing success stories and testimonials from those actively involved in climate action in Moldova can inspire others to participate. Highlighting the environmental, economic, and social benefits of such involvement is crucial. Stories should demonstrate tangible benefits and practical insights for local communities, emphasizing incentives like community recognition and economic gains through sustainable practices. Additionally, sharing real-life experiences from those affected by climate change, especially in rural and agricultural areas, can make the issue more relatable and urgent.

Several respondents highlighted the importance of using both traditional and innovative media to enhance climate action awareness among diaspora members. This includes podcasts, thematic Facebook groups, and digital content based on personal experiences of environmental changes. Vividly illustrating the real-world impacts of climate change, and providing up-to-date, comparative data on how environmental changes affect both urban and rural areas in Moldova—such as changes in agricultural productivity and health impacts of pollution—can ground discussions in reality. Additionally, involving government representatives like state secretaries and ministers in tailored, interactive discussions, especially during official visits abroad, can provide specialized, high-level information. This direct interaction informs the diaspora about how they can contribute to Moldova's economic and environmental agendas. Furthermore, line ministries and state authorities involved with climate change, energy, agriculture, regional development, and the economy should actively manage their social media presence, focusing on concise, impactful messages that highlight ongoing climate initiatives, their impacts, and opportunities for diaspora participation or investment.

BOX 5. Selective opinions of KII's respondents

- “I have always opted for a continuous dialogue, and a broader dialogue with the private sector, with entrepreneurs, producers, with associations in the field, so that this thing is not so defined”
- “I consider that if the authorities would have a consistent dialogue with entrepreneurs, with the associative sector, not only in the elaboration of policies, but also in their adjustment, it is clear that this requires a lot of time and entrepreneurs and producers do not have it, especially if they insist that we meet in the cabinet of the minister”

- “It is a long process, a deep process, it needs specialists who would link the essence of the problem with a communication on everyone's level and on everyone's understanding”
- “Incremental changes, but over a very long period of time, and spread over the whole society, the whole diaspora. Yes, because through events with a group of businessmen, or with a group of students, or with a group of associations, these changes will not happen. They need awareness at the level of society”
- “I do not know the official channels. I know that there is this Bureau for Relations with Diaspora. For them, it is more difficult to get their attention in the eyes of the diaspora. I have the impression that they are covering a very small and narrow field. The embassies are, on the other hand, the point of reference for the majority of those who left and they have the possibility to become more dynamic sources of information”
- “And yes, the communication campaigns I receive for example I see in my feeds the messages about climate change. They don't come from Moldova. They come from global funds, from the media... And even the Moldovan mass media is a very good source because we, being over the borders of the country, we still look for these sources of information. And if we find something more detailed we look for it there, in the media, and we look at their feeds. And I think all possible channels should be included if these channels are interesting”
- “In Moldova, there is only politics. So, apart from political shows, we have only one show, if I'm not mistaken, in Moldova I, dedicated to the environment, something called ECO. But, apart from that, nobody is dedicated to these topics. We don't have personalities, we don't have bloggers, influencers, who would really talk about this topic and make a connection between the effects we see and, in fact, the causes that generate them”
- “Yes, communication is always not enough, no matter how strange it may seem. And that's why we... The power of example would be here, it would work as much as possible”
- “In addition to the communication channels, in addition to the posts that are made, probably some podcasts or reports on the topic of the involvement of the diaspora in climate change. That would be very interesting. And the development of a repository of good practices, each cooperation, each partnership, to be somehow felt”
- “If it is very targeted, then some informative bulletins especially focused on this, sometimes groups on Facebook, which are managed by the member of the diaspora and which have an objective right, namely climate change, so as not to mix it with other topics, because it is lost sometimes in the feed if it is mixed with other topics. That would be it. And, of course, the promotion within the framework of local public authorities, the distribution of informative materials in schools, open lectures, or thematic lectures with students, from the lowest grades and ending with high school students, it is very relevant for any age category”
- “There exists a valuable segment of the population that possesses first-hand, practical knowledge of how environmental changes impact everyday activities, such as agriculture. Unlike the often politicized discussions surrounding climate change, these individuals experience the direct effects of atmospheric instability, pollution, and temperature fluctuations on agricultural practices daily. To effectively communicate and educate about climate change without getting bogged down in politicized or overly conceptual terms, it is crucial to engage directly with these individuals. By gathering their insights and experiences—such as how unusual weather patterns have affected farming practices—we can develop relatable and practical communication tools”

- “Because, yes, ministers and, in general, bureaucrats have this ability to talk a lot on TV and many times they are inconsistent. But in informal media and with concrete questions, if they are not filmed, they can be very concrete, very efficient and very practical. So, this communication between officials and the diaspora should be not only at a high level, but presidents, prime ministers, when they usually go to other countries, but they should be specialists focused on the field”
- “I think it needs to be a concentrated campaign. So, first of all, it's not something ongoing, but it can be around certain days, like World Earth Day or other days. And there should be a transmission in advance of the communication packages, which are the actions, the projects, some assets that people can easily take and share with their relatives”

Diaspora members can enhance local climate education by organizing lectures in schools and training sessions through their networks, equipping local activists with essential skills. Leveraging their global experiences, they can also mentor communities in accessing international grants and funding for climate action.

Lastly, interviewed respondents emphasized the crucial role of the diaspora in influencing climate policies from abroad. They highlighted the need for guidance on engaging with policymakers and impacting legislation, ensuring that their financial and legislative contributions are recognized, valorised and effectively incorporated into draft legislation, policy and programming frameworks through a robust feedback mechanism.

3.6. Examples of Best Practices of Diaspora Engagement in Climate Action

Research shows that returning Moldovan migrants play a crucial role in boosting climate resilience, advancing agricultural innovation, and driving community development. Traditionally seen as primarily economic, migration also enables returnees to apply global experiences to local development, especially in agriculture. Exposed to advanced agricultural techniques and sustainability practices abroad, they bring innovative ideas and a strong commitment to environmental stewardship back home. For instance, exposure to advanced agricultural practices abroad has inspired returning Moldovan migrants to implement sustainable farming

despite challenges. For example, experiences in Israel led to sustainable farming in Radoaia village, while knowledge from France prompted the establishment of greenhouses and an irrigation system in Bălăşeşti village to address climate unpredictability. In Congaz village, a migrant funded greenhouse construction through savings from work in Lithuania and Estonia, showcasing how personal investments can enhance community resilience. Similarly, a returnee from Bravicea village, influenced by sustainable viticulture in New Zealand, not only improved yields and reduced environmental impacts but also spurred a local movement towards sustainable viticulture.

Vineyard Revival in Moldova: Integrating Global Insights for Sustainable Winemaking Amid Climate Change

Location: village Slobozia Mare, Cahul District, Moldova

Migration experience: New Zealand; Russian Federation

Background: Originating from Slobozia Mare, Cahul region of Moldova, a winemaker inspired by his international experiences, especially in New Zealand, returned to his village to innovate in viticulture amid climate challenges. After completing his studies in 2011 and finding no local employment, he ventured abroad, working seasonally in New Zealand for 3-4 months each year over three years, where he learned sustainable winemaking. This, combined with professional growth in a Moldovan winery and political changes in Moldova in 2019, motivated him to rejuvenate a dormant LLC and pursue winemaking and vineyard cultivation using both his academic and international experiences.

Motivation for Involvement: The lack of local job opportunities initially drove him abroad, where the skills and financial gains from seasonal work in New Zealand equipped him with the resources and perspective to start his own winemaking business back home. The entrepreneurial decision was further influenced by an optimistic political climate in 2019, suggesting a favourable business environment.

Challenges: Early agricultural innovations met challenges such as climate-induced drought and soil erosion, compounded by deforestation and limited access to resources in an outdated Moldovan viticulture technology landscape.

Impact: The winemaker successfully consolidated 6 hectares of land into a sustainable vineyard, adopting ecological practices observed in New Zealand, such as maintaining local flora and minimizing pesticide use. Despite severe droughts, his approach proved resilient, and he began processing grapes for local producers, promoting sustainable winemaking in the Cahul district and supporting the local community and industry.

The Scale of Initiative: The medium-scale initiative focuses on vineyard revitalization and winemaking, aligned with the winemaker's professional expertise. The business supports the local winemaking community by consolidating land for vine cultivation and processing grapes from local producers, contributing to economic development.

Institutionalization of Diaspora Contributions: This case exemplifies how diaspora experiences can contribute to local economic development in specialized areas like winemaking. It underscores the need for mechanisms to integrate returnee migrants' investments and expertise into local economies to foster sustainable development.

The Potential for Up-Scaling and Replicability: The business shows potential for expansion and replication in similar agricultural and climatic settings, adopting sustainable practices learned abroad. However, success depends on overcoming challenges like resource accessibility, climate risks, and the availability of supportive policies and infrastructure.

Resilient Returns: Harnessing Migration Insights for Sustainable Agriculture in Bravicea, Moldova

Location: Village Bravicea, Calarasi District, Republic of Moldova

Migration Experience: Russian Federation, France

Background: Before returning to his native village of Bravicea to pursue agriculture, the returnee sought better economic opportunities abroad. His journey included two stints in Moscow, earning \$700 and \$300 monthly, followed by a brief but lucrative 11-day construction job in France, earning €1,300 just as the COVID-19 pandemic was starting. Upon returning to Bravicea, he managed 40-50 hectares of leased land and invested in essential farming machinery like tractors and combines. This investment significantly enhanced his productivity amidst climate challenges, increased his autonomy, and reduced dependence on costly external services. Ambitiously, he plans to expand and diversify his crop production, demonstrating a strong commitment to sustainable farming growth.

Motivation for Involvement: The respondent's agricultural involvement was driven by personal and family connections to the land, and disappointing earnings from migration. Returning from France despite higher wages highlights a preference for independence and the intrinsic value of working one's own land. This choice exemplifies a wider trend of valuing not only financial but also emotional and lifestyle fulfillment through agriculture.

Challenges: The returnee faces multiple climate change challenges, including severe droughts, including severe droughts, water depletion, and labor shortages as younger generations turn away from farming. Economic barriers hinder investments in crucial irrigation like artesian wells, compounded by regulatory and financial uncertainties. Additionally, recurring droughts dry up major water bodies, impairing irrigation and causing crop failures. Furthermore, the diminishing labor force, driven by the youth's preference for quick earnings, worsens these challenges. New pests and diseases increase demands for fertilization and pest management, escalating operational costs alongside rising diesel fuel and labor prices.

Impact: After a brief period abroad, the migrant saved enough to invest in agriculture in his native Bravicea, managing 40-50 hectares of leased land with innovative techniques and machinery to tackle climate challenges and sustain his livelihood. Facing water scarcity, rising costs, and labor shortages, his dedication to introducing innovative solutions like efficient water management, effective pest control, and drought-resistant crops showcases vital grassroots strategies for rural survival. This effort highlights the diaspora's crucial role in promoting sustainable development and climate resilience in agriculture. The initiative benefits local communities by boosting the economy through leasing fees and creating jobs, despite facing broader systemic challenges like drought and labor shortages.

Scale of Initiative: The initiative is moderately extensive, involving around 40-50 hectares focused on grain production. The use of saved earnings from migration to finance machinery and technology indicates a strategic approach to enhancing agricultural productivity.

Institutionalization of Diaspora Contributions: The story hints at the potential for diaspora-led agricultural development, especially if policies and programs could better harness the knowledge, capital, and enthusiasm of returnees. Mention of the Pare 1+1 program by a returned migrant suggests awareness but also highlights barriers to accessing such support, underscoring a need for more inclusive and flexible development initiatives.

Potential for Up-scaling and Replicability: The agricultural practices adopted by the respondent show potential for up-scaling and replicability in similar migration-agriculture contexts. Key strategies include adapting to climate risks with drought-resistant crops and innovative technology use financed by migration earnings, offering lessons for others in similar situations.

From Migrant to Agricultural Innovator: Fostering Climate Resilience in Farming Practices

Location: Village Bravicea, Calarasi District, Republic of Moldova

Migration Experience: New Zealand, France

Background: Nicolae Miciu's project in Bravicea blends his advanced education in Viticulture and Enology with global best practices, particularly from New Zealand. After earning his Master's degree in 2015 and gaining valuable experience in France and New Zealand until 2020, Miciu returned to Bravicea to rejuvenate traditional winemaking by integrating sustainable methods. This initiative aims to modernize local viticulture and utilize Miciu's international insights to make Bravicea a leader in sustainable viticulture.

Motivation: Miciu was motivated to revive and modernize traditional winemaking in Bravicea, using the sustainable practices he learned in New Zealand to address climate change impacts and preserve local winemaking traditions.

Sustainable Practices and Innovations: Responding to increased droughts since 2021, Miciu implemented water-saving irrigation and introduced soil health initiatives like cover cropping in 2022. He also adopted native yeast fermentation and terracotta vessels for winemaking, reducing reliance on imported oak barrels and the winery's carbon footprint. These changes led to a 20% increase in yield in 2023, demonstrating the effectiveness of his sustainable practices.

Challenges: The project faces challenges from climate variability, including less snowy winters and extreme weather events like the 2022 drought. These conditions have tested the resilience of grapevines and emphasized the importance of natural adaptation and efficient water management. Additional challenges include maintaining soil health and managing invasive species, alongside a labor shortage and economic uncertainties affecting agricultural sustainability.

Impact: In 2023, Miciu's sustainable practices resulted in a 15% reduction in water use, a 10% increase in soil organic matter, and a 25% surge in winery revenue in output terms, reflecting a growing market demand for sustainably produced wines. His educational workshops have also fostered a 30% increase in local farmers adopting sustainable viticulture methods since 2021.

Scale and Institutionalization: Miciu's initiative showcases the successful application of diaspora knowledge and global best practices in local development. His efforts have significantly impacted local communities, enhancing both environmental sustainability and economic viability.

Potential for Up-scaling and Replicability: Miciu's model has significant potential for expansion and replication in Moldova and other regions facing similar climate challenges. Recommendations for broadening educational outreach and increasing sustainable practices provide a roadmap for enhancing the initiative's impact and demonstrating the benefits of sustainable agriculture.

Source: developed by author

The interviewed UK-based diaspora members described their experiences with climate-smart initiatives and sustainable urban development, including electric public transport, self-sustaining public transport waiting stations with integrated plant systems and rainwater irrigation in Oxford, widespread tree-planting campaigns, and allowing parts of parks in Glasgow to grow wild to form mini urban forests. These practices, common in the UK, could be adapted by the diaspora to enhance sustainability in Moldova's urban and rural areas. Interviewees also noted advanced climate education and waste management practices in the UK, where recycling is mandated, showcasing a strong policy framework for environmental sustainability. One cited example of diaspora influence is a State Secretary from the Ministry of Energy who, after returning from the diaspora, now plays a significant role in the government, directly impacting policy.

Returning migrants' interest in pursuing sustainable agriculture in Moldova is influenced by personal commitment, economic aspirations, and environmental awareness. Exposure to advanced agricultural practices abroad has motivated them to seek transformative changes upon returning. However, implementing sustainable agriculture and climate adaptation strategies in Moldova encounters challenges such as climatic uncertainties, labor shortages, water scarcity, bureaucratic barriers, and economic constraints. Despite these obstacles, the resilience and creativity of the diaspora have led to innovative adaptive strategies, including establishing greenhouses, investing in irrigation and organic fertilization, and selecting suitable crop varieties.

These collected impact stories presented in Annex II show that diaspora-led agricultural initiatives are demonstrating their capacity to generate impacts both at the individual and community levels. The adoption of sustainable agricultural practices has significantly enhanced productivity, soil health, and water efficiency, boosting both economic and environmental sustainability. Diaspora members have played a key role in promoting education and community involvement, equipping local farmers with essential tools and knowledge for climate change adaptation.

Nevertheless, there is a critical gap in formalizing diaspora contributions to local development, especially in using their experience and financial resources for climate action. Although individual efforts are impactful, structured programs and policies are needed to extend their reach and ensure sustainability. Establishing knowledge exchange platforms, offering incentives for sustainable investments, and improving access to financial and technical resources are essential for integrating diaspora contributions into sustainable agriculture and climate resilience. Scalability and replication of these practices depend on overcoming systemic challenges such as finance access, land availability, market access, bureaucratic transparency, and incentives for diaspora investment.

The scalability and replicability of diaspora-led agricultural initiatives in Moldova are clear from various successful examples of applying international skills and knowledge locally. To expand these initiatives, structured programs and policies are necessary to enhance the diaspora's impact. Mechanisms that channel diaspora resources and knowledge into local economies, especially in agriculture and business, are vital for wider and more effective impact. Addressing key challenges such as market access, bureaucratic transparency, and offering incentives for diaspora investments is crucial. For example, the success in Radoaia village illustrates how overcoming these challenges can allow sustainable agricultural practices to be replicated on a larger scale. Additionally, expanding community involvement and educational programs on sustainable practices could further enhance the scalability of these initiatives.

The initiatives such as greenhouses and irrigation systems in Bălășești and sustainable viticulture in Bravicea serve as replicable models for other regions with similar conditions. Successful replication requires adapting these initiatives to the specific local contexts, including climate, soil, resources, and cultural and economic factors. Diaspora members, with their insights and skills from abroad, can tailor these to meet local agricultural development needs.

4

ENGAGING THE DIASPORA IN CLIMATE ACTION: OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES



4.1 Barriers for Diaspora engagement

INFORMATION ACCESSIBILITY AND TRANSPARENCY ISSUES

Many diaspora members, geographically distant from Moldova, lack direct experience with the local impacts of climate change, leading to a feeling of emotional and psychological distance. This is compounded by limited access to detailed, reliable information on Moldova's climate issues, resulting in a superficial understanding of the urgency and reducing their willingness to engage meaningfully.

Research shows that while Moldova's policies do not restrict diaspora participation in decision-making, there is a lack of clear pathways for engagement. Additionally, interviewees highlighted deficiencies in communication regarding grants, subsidies, and financial incentives like the "PARE I+1", "PARE I+2", and "DAR I+3" programs that promote investment in climate action. The absence of clear, accessible information hinders many diaspora members from becoming active participants in Moldova's climate initiatives. Despite a potential openness among diaspora leaders and investors to access information through official and reliable channels, these channels are not perceived as effective.

Communication to the diaspora often lacks engagement and fails to sustain interest, with updates diminishing after initial outreach. This problem is worsened by infrequent updates on Moldova's energy and environmental policy changes, which fail to reach the diaspora effectively. Additionally, despite the diaspora's readiness to invest in economically viable projects like photovoltaic or heating systems, the lack of clear economic opportunities disincentivizes their involvement. This highlights the need for improved communication strategies that not only inform but also motivate active participation in Moldova's climate efforts through highlighting clear benefits (economic, financial, social etc.) resulting from this participation.

OPERATIONAL AND ENGAGEMENT CHALLENGES

Perceived operational challenges, such as cumbersome bureaucratic processes and strict regulations, often

deter diaspora members eager to engage in Moldova's climate action. Excessive paperwork and bureaucratic hurdles not only delay but can completely derail their contributions, leading to frustration and disengagement among those abroad willing to invest resources and expertise back in Moldova.

Moreover, there is a historical mistrust towards the government among Moldovans, including the diaspora, due to past experiences of inaccessible and overly bureaucratic government initiatives. Research shows that trust in a stable political system and efficient bureaucracy are crucial for encouraging investment in agriculture and climate action. This mistrust complicates efforts to engage the diaspora in meaningful climate action, as scepticism about governance and bureaucratic inefficiencies can deter investment in local agriculture and businesses. This underscores the need for more transparent and efficient policies.¹⁰¹ Therefore, to counteract historical mistrust, the government must ensure transparency, consistency, and real benefits in its programs. Highlighting success stories and streamlining administrative processes are crucial to reducing the typical bureaucracy of government initiatives. Additionally, integrating feedback mechanisms to involve the diaspora in policy creation and refinement is essential to align measures with their needs and perspectives. For example, some respondents reported not receiving any feedback from state authorities after providing detailed opinions on draft climate legislation in Moldova. Also, a climate change activist from the diaspora noted that activists from the UK were not invited to comment on Moldova's National Adaptation Plan for Climate Change, approved in August 2023, indicating a communication gap and a missed opportunity to leverage the diaspora's potential.

Moreover, the lack of well-defined and structured programs specifically tailored for the diaspora's contribution to climate action poses significant challenges. Here, there's a strong advocacy for comprehensive mentoring and training programs that accompany the grant process. Such initiatives would ensure that potential grantees are not only informed about the opportunities available but are also equipped with the necessary skills and knowledge to navigate the application process successfully and implement projects effectively.

¹⁰¹ Sterly Harald, Vladicescu Natalia (2023). Case study on migration, environment, climate change and development nexus in the Republic of Moldova, IOM, Chişinău

Access to funding is another major barrier for diaspora members interested in sustainable agriculture or green technologies, with significant hurdles in securing necessary capital. Financing conditions in Moldova are less favourable compared to the European Union, where agricultural interest rates for bank loans typically range between 1% and 3%. Additional challenges in the agricultural sector, such as navigating local regulations, understanding market dynamics, and accessing external markets, collectively create a risky and unappealing environment for formal investments by the diaspora.

Another significant barrier to effective climate action is the misalignment between government intentions and local interests. Many initiatives suffer from a top-down approach that neglects local needs and input, resulting in projects that are not demand-driven. This often leads to a lack of local engagement and support. Diaspora members are more likely to invest in projects that address specific needs of their hometowns or regions rather than those dictated by national agendas.

The legislative and legal framework, while providing a foundation for diaspora involvement, also has limitations, especially regarding legislative flexibility for remote participation in decision-making, remote payments, and crowd-funding options. This gap underscores the need for adjustments that could enable the diaspora to engage more effectively and dynamically, particularly in climate action initiatives.

Lastly, effective diaspora engagement in climate action hinges on strong leadership and vocal advocacy, which are often missing. While cultural events are popular, mobilizing the diaspora around climate action is challenging. Effective activism needs organized communities with leaders who can articulate challenges and mobilize support. The potential departure of charismatic leaders may create a leadership vacuum, reducing engagement and underscoring the need for sustained, effective leadership to mobilize diaspora resources and influence in climate action.

TECHNOLOGICAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL MISALIGNMENT

A significant challenge is the misalignment between new technologies and Moldova's local environmental conditions. Technologies successful elsewhere may not work in Moldova due to unique soil compositions, climates, and ecological factors, highlighting the need for localized research and development to adapt innovations to Moldova's specific challenges.

Furthermore, there is a gap in recognizing and understanding these technologies within Moldova's governance structures. Feedback indicates that local authorities and stakeholders often have less knowledge and awareness of climate issues than in countries where the diaspora resides, impeding effective implementation and action.

BOX 6. Selective opinions of KII's respondents

- “Primarily, corruption and entrenched vested interests pose significant barriers to the adoption of innovative and sustainable technologies. These issues not only slow down progress but also deter potential investments and innovation in the sector. Furthermore, bureaucratic processes often complicate the implementation of new technologies. The layers of red tape not only delay projects but also increase the costs associated with their execution, making it less appealing for both local and international stakeholders to initiate or continue their engagement. There is also a notable gap in the acknowledgment and understanding of new technologies among relevant stakeholders, including government bodies. This lack of awareness and expertise results in a hesitancy to adopt and invest in new solutions that are crucial for environmental sustainability”
- “Probably, the main barrier would be that some leaders who are more visible and who, based on their own enthusiasm, maintain this wave of involvement. And the danger of having a gap, when one of these leaders will no longer want to be so proactive, and when this gap will not be filled in his place. So, I see this as an impediment”

- “I think, first of all, if we create all these conditions or factors, we can make the process as easy, as acceptable, as attractive as possible. And this is generally what I mean about the deployment of the diaspora in all the processes at the level of Moldova. Because in Moldova it's very difficult to do something”
- “Because of our physical distance from Moldova, the information distance from Moldova. All this causes a lot of ignorance. And then, I think this stops people from, I don't know, getting involved more, to have some kind of activism on this topic. It's hard for us to organize ourselves around such issues... For this, there has to be more than two people talking about this topic, making noise. There has to be more leaders, opinions, a kind of voice for this. People who say, for example, I was at home and you can see what I noticed. There are problems in this field”
- “Again, the opening of the diaspora, because the majority of the diaspora won't be available when you want, so the majority of events, activities, you need to have a remote element. I think there are already payment mechanisms, or remote contributions, but I think I found out about them some time ago, but I don't know if they are still active”
- “First of all, access to funding... But access, let's say, is very complicated in terms of financing, from the point of view of very high In the European Union, for example, we talk to Lithuanians and they have a maximum of 1%, 2%, a maximum of 3% in the income rate”

Table 9. Barriers to Diaspora Engagement in Moldova's Climate Action Initiatives

CATEGORY	IDENTIFIED BARRIERS	IMPACT OF BARRIERS
INFORMATION ACCESSIBILITY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of detailed and evidence-based information on climate realities in Moldova. • Unclear communication of information about available grants, subsidies, and incentives. • Unengaging communication and lack of timely updates on policy and technical changes. 	Diminishes willingness to engage and prevents transition from passive observers to active participants.
OPERATIONAL CHALLENGES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cumbersome bureaucratic processes and excessive paperwork. • Historical perceptions of inaccessibility and bureaucracy of available programs and financial tools • Lack of structured programs tailored for diaspora contributions in the area of climate action 	Undermines quick and efficient engagement, leading to frustration and disengagement.

ENGAGEMENT CHALLENGES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Misalignment between government intentions and local community needs • Top-down approach in projects that fails to incorporate local input 	Leads to a lack of local engagement and support, deterring diaspora investment in community-specific initiatives
FUNDING AND FINANCIAL BARRIERS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Challenges in accessing finances for sustainable agricultural practices or green technologies • Unfavourable financing conditions in Moldova compared to the EU. 	Deters formal investments by the diaspora due to perceived risks and unappealing investment conditions.
TECHNOLOGICAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Misalignment between new technologies and local environmental conditions. • Low recognition and understanding of new technologies within Moldova's governance structures. 	Hinders effective implementation of potentially beneficial technologies due to ecological and administrative mismatches.
LEADERSHIP AND ADVOCACY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of vocal advocacy and leadership within the diaspora for climate action 	Diminishes the effectiveness of diaspora mobilization in climate action initiatives.

4.2 Pathways for Diaspora Engagement (motivators, priority areas, and mechanisms at the national and local levels)

MOTIVATORS

The collected data during the research revealed several motivational factors and incentives that could trigger participation of diaspora in climate action in Moldova:

- 1) Showcasing the economic benefits of diaspora involvement can significantly enhance interest and commitment to climate action initiatives. Highlighting how contributions can lead to direct financial gains or savings makes the decision both environmentally and financially advantageous. For instance, investing in high-performance, less polluting agricultural technology like advanced tractors can reduce carbon emissions and improve farm efficiency. This approach not only combats climate change but also boosts productivity and lowers long-term costs for farmers. By demonstrating these dual benefits, the diaspora may see a clear return on

investment, increasing their willingness to support such initiatives. This strategy aligns environmental stewardship with economic incentives, promoting greater engagement in climate action.

- 2) Public recognition is key in motivating diaspora engagement in climate change initiatives. By acknowledging diaspora contributions through media coverage, awards, or state honors, the Moldovan government can boost morale and inspire continued involvement. Such recognition underscores the value and impact of the diaspora's efforts across sectors, including climate action, demonstrating tangible appreciation for their contributions.
- 3) Providing opportunities for diaspora engagement in policymaking and decision-making processes related to climate change are essential. While Moldova's policies do not restrict diaspora contributions,

actively incorporating their voices into policymaking is crucial. For instance, earnestly considering and integrating diaspora recommendations for legislative changes or new initiatives shows that their opinions are valued in shaping climate strategies. Additionally, inviting diaspora members to participate in thematic sessions, international conferences, and forums positions them as key stakeholders and enhances trust in the policymaking process.

- 4) The emotional and regional connections diaspora members have with their homeland motivate engagement significantly. Projects impacting their hometowns or regions with familial ties often evoke strong desires to contribute. For example, a climate action initiative benefiting a community facility or local infrastructure cherished by a diaspora member can inspire substantial support. Aligning initiatives with diaspora members' emotional ties to their communities enhances their sense of belonging and commitment, fostering greater involvement and impact.
- 5) The visibility of contributions made by diaspora members greatly enhances their motivation to engage in community projects. Seeing the success and tangible outcomes of their involvement, such as improved local services or conservation efforts in areas personally significant to them, deeply motivates and reinforces their commitment. These visible impacts, often more compelling than financial incentives, appeal to their sense of duty and connection to their roots. Regular updates and

stories of successful interventions, coupled with clear guidelines on how to contribute, empower diaspora members, satisfying their desire for sustained improvements and fostering a deeper connection with the benefiting community.

- 6) Efficient and transparent resource management significantly incentivizes diaspora involvement. Diaspora members are more likely to contribute financially and in other ways when they are confident that their contributions are used wisely and transparently. Addressing resource mismanagement concerns and providing regular updates on project progress and impacts can sustain and even increase diaspora engagement. Transparent and consistent communication reassures contributors of the tangible impacts of their investments, fostering ongoing commitment. Additionally, diaspora members are more inclined to fund climate-related projects in Moldova when funding opportunities are accessible and terms are favourable.
- 7) Access to funding motivates diaspora involvement in climate initiatives. Diaspora members are likelier to invest when funding opportunities are accessible and terms are favorable. Improving financing conditions—like offering lower interest rates, longer loan durations, or financial grants—can boost investment. Additionally, clear communication about fiscal implications, such as potential tax benefits or liabilities, helps diaspora members make informed decisions.

members have the opportunity to express themselves in these events, it motivates them to get involved, because for the majority of them, those who are involved, those who are interested, it matters to be vocal and to be heard at the level of the institutions, at the level of the government”

- “And another very important thing, and not only for the diaspora, but for the rest of the citizens or activists who work in the field, is that their voice is heard. And not just to tick the box”
- “I think that, honestly, the biggest stimulant, in this case, is the knowledge of the problems, the gravity of the problems. Because people don't understand the big picture. They are quite detached from the subject because of the information and physical distance. I, apart from this motivation, honestly, I can't find I don't have to be motivated with money or I don't know. I need to understand what's going on, me and others. This pushes us to take action”
- “I think, first of all, these problems should be linked to other problems that are more personalized, to be an association between, I don't know, the needs of the parents and climate change, in such a way that people can associate and somehow personalize these problems to find a personal interest. This is not at all simple, but, I repeat, climate change cannot be presented as something separate”
- “Firstly, clearly showcasing the economic benefits of involvement can significantly boost interest and commitment, how contributions towards climate action can lead to direct financial gains or savings, making the initiative not just a moral or environmental decision, but also a financially savvy one. For instance, investing in high-performance technology such as advanced, less pollute tractors and other agricultural equipment can reduce carbon emissions while simultaneously improving efficiency on farms...By presenting these dual benefits, the diaspora may see a clear return on investment, increasing their willingness to fund or support such initiatives”
- “I mean, through some fiscal mechanisms, at a certain period, or at a certain percentage, which is normally applied to the public space when you bring this type of equipment”
- “I think that people would involve themselves mostly for the benefit at the level of impact, the social impact, not for a certain stimulus, financial, not for this”

BOX 7. Selective opinions of KII's respondents

- “Probably the recognition of the merit, the recognition from time to time, yes, the public recognition, granting some degrees of periodic recognition for the most active, not only in climate change, but also in any field, certainly”
- “At the community level, I think that the results could be some recognition at the level of media or communication about some major projects, who are involved...Even at the level of state honors, you know, honors, that the annual president or whatever, would be recognized...I think this would be nice, it would be an incentive”
- “The opportunity to participate in different working groups alongside the representatives of the institutions, is also an incentive for the diaspora, because it shows that their opinion matters. When there is an opening from the diaspora, when the diaspora members are invited to different working sessions and events and international conferences, and high-level events, forums, when the diaspora

PRIORITY AREAS

The conducted interviews made it possible to identify at least 5 priority areas deeply affected by climate change for potential diaspora involvement in climate action in Moldova. First, the **energy sector** is a priority area where the diaspora can significantly impact, particularly in energy efficiency and renewable energy production. Diaspora investors can introduce advanced technologies that reduce energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions. Specifically, enhancing energy efficiency in rural residential buildings through retrofitting offers immediate local benefits. Additionally, diaspora involvement in renewable energy projects like solar, wind, or bioenergy can reduce reliance on traditional energy sources and mitigate carbon emissions. A notable initiative involves a diaspora member from the UK who introduced the cultivation of Miscanthus, a plant suitable

for bioenergy due to its rapid growth, adaptability, and high biomass yield. Cultivating Miscanthus can also improve soil health and mitigate erosion, supporting sustainable land management practices.

Second, **agriculture** is identified as a priority area for diaspora engagement, offering opportunities to introduce sustainable farming practices and innovative technologies that minimize environmental impacts while boosting productivity and resilience to climate change. Drawing on experiences from abroad, such as those observed in the UK, diaspora members can help revolutionize Moldova's agricultural landscape with transformative techniques. This includes initiatives like soil conservation, crop diversification, and adopting Climate Smart Agricultural Practices (CSAP). Introducing crops like medicinal plants and organic produce, unfamiliar to Moldovan farmers, promises

higher returns and environmental benefits, leveraging diaspora's exposure to transfer crucial knowledge and resources to local farmers. Additionally, many returning migrants or diaspora members show a propensity for entrepreneurial ventures in agriculture, such as cooperative farming or agro-ecology. These initiatives can create a comprehensive value chain integrating production, processing, and distribution, potentially transforming local agriculture.

Third, **water access** is a critical area where the diaspora can address local needs, especially concerning water supply and agriculture. Initiatives such as improving irrigation systems, pipelines, or reservoirs, particularly in rural areas, could significantly benefit agricultural practices and village life, allowing the diaspora to see tangible impacts in their communities of origin and strengthen connections. Some diaspora members have suggested they could help upgrade irrigation and drainage systems in rural areas or enhance water availability in urban settings. Such interventions would help manage the effects of extreme temperatures and preserve water resources.

Fourth, beyond traditional sectors, there are opportunities in non-agricultural businesses that can also impact climate action like investment in **eco-tourism**. Diaspora involvement in eco-tourism can bring valuable expertise from host countries. Investment in such initiatives can raise awareness about environmental and biodiversity conservation among visitors and locals alike.

Fifth, engagement in **public health** is another area where the diaspora can contribute, particularly in addressing health challenges arising from climate change. Diaspora support could include resources, expertise, and awareness campaigns to combat climate-related diseases. Members can transfer valuable insights from countries with advanced public health systems, facilitating partnerships with local healthcare providers and international organizations.

MECHANISMS AT THE NATIONAL AND LOCAL LEVELS

Interviewed respondents suggested that **financial remittances** from the Moldovan diaspora could

facilitate engagement in climate action initiatives. These funds could support sustainable projects like introducing new agricultural technologies, developing irrigation systems, installing solar panels, and establishing greenhouses or renewable energy projects. Remittances are considered crucial for promoting small-scale, localized environmental initiatives, especially in rural areas, where they can significantly enhance agricultural productivity and sustainability.

Further research shows that the presence of remittances, rather than their proportion of household income, plays a crucial role in enhancing households' adaptive capacity. For many, remittances are a vital funding source, enabling agricultural modernization, diversification, land acquisition, or new business ventures. This financial support allows farmers to explore and implement innovative agricultural practices crucial for increasing productivity and environmental sustainability.¹⁰²

To maximize the impact of financial remittances, it's crucial to develop financial tools and incentives that encourage diaspora investment in climate resilience initiatives, such as crowdfunding platforms. Formalizing support for community-based lending ensures financial backing for small-scale projects. Additionally, promoting the creation of 'green businesses' and business accelerators focused on climate-friendly technologies is vital. Providing resources like seed funding, business mentorship, and development services can attract entrepreneurial diaspora members to implement sustainable solutions in Moldova.

A further incentive could involve expanding existing benefits for diaspora importing personal items and vehicles to include climate-friendly technologies and equipment, such as photovoltaic panels or energy storage solutions. Offering tax breaks or reduced import duties on these items could financially attract the diaspora, supporting Moldova's goals to enhance renewable energy capacity and reduce carbon emissions.

Social remittances, which include the transfer of knowledge, ideas, and practices by migrants, are intangible but essential, much like financial remittances. Diaspora members, with their broad experiences abroad, are well-placed to bring innovative ideas that can enhance Moldova's agricultural sector's sustainability and efficiency. Their contribution is critical, especially as

local agronomists and farmers often depend on outdated methods that don't align with current sustainability and climate resilience needs.

Interviews with diaspora members highlighted their potential to address the knowledge gap in Moldova's agriculture sector. They can contribute by establishing mentorship programs and facilitating access to modern agricultural technologies and knowledge. This transfer of knowledge can occur through practical training sessions, including hands-on activities, and collaborative programs sharing technological expertise. Additionally, the diaspora's professional skills in sectors like renewable energy, sustainable agriculture, and environmental engineering are invaluable. These can be leveraged through consulting projects or long-term engagements, with online and in-person workshops during visits to Moldova helping train local communities and professionals in the latest sustainable practices and technologies available abroad.

Often, the knowledge, innovations, and best practices brought by returning migrants often catalyse new innovations, changes, and business developments. Leveraging the diaspora's diverse experiences and expertise fills critical knowledge gaps and drives significant agricultural and environmental advancements in Moldova. For example, in countries like the UK and across Western Europe, agricultural policies such as the European Union's Common Agricultural Policy promote regenerative practices including crop rotation and leaving land fallow, which could be adapted to the Moldovan context. Additional examples of best practices shared by diaspora members are detailed in the report's section on 'Best Practices'.

Interviews suggested leveraging diaspora expertise through joint research initiatives on climate and environmental issues, involving collaboration between Moldovan institutions and diaspora academics at universities or research centres abroad. Additionally,

developing research facilities and efficient logistics for research and development (R&D) will create an environment that attracts diaspora involvement and encourages investment in these critical areas.

Adjusting the regulatory framework to better facilitate diaspora engagement in policymaking is crucial, especially by involving diaspora professionals with expertise in environmental policies. These individuals could help develop regulations that promote green technologies and sustainable practices. Diaspora members could serve on advisory boards or as consultants to ministries and other relevant authorities, leveraging their international experience to help shape effective and impactful climate policies.

Similarly, an effective way to leverage the diaspora's potential involves developing targeted strategies and programs that integrate climate action with diaspora engagement initiatives. By broadening the scope of current programs to include more climate action sectors and offering incentives for diaspora-led innovations in climate-sensitive technologies, Moldova could greatly enhance its ability to address climate challenges. This approach would promote sustainable development and encourage greater diaspora involvement and investment in critical areas.

Lastly, Identifying key diaspora members involved in environmental sectors or related NGOs can link Moldova directly to expert knowledge and implementation strategies. Although few diaspora members may be directly engaged in these sectors, their potential as facilitators is significant. For example, they can connect local farmers with global experts, promoting a broad exchange of ideas and innovations. Establishing such networks can help introduce sustainable business models and advanced farming technologies to Moldova. (*Annex 12 – Table 10. Strategic Framework for Engaging Moldovan Diaspora in Climate Action: Motivators, Priority Areas, and Mechanisms*).

¹⁰² Sterly Harald, Vladicescu Natalia (2023). Case study on migration, environment, climate change and development nexus in the Republic of Moldova, IOM, Chişinău

5

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS



5.1 Summary of key conclusions of the research

1) MOLDOVA'S CLIMATE VULNERABILITY AND RESPONSE VIA MIGRATION LENSES:

The Republic of Moldova, with its economy heavily reliant on agriculture, is acutely vulnerable to climate change-induced environmental and socioeconomic challenges. Climate variability directly threatens food security and the livelihoods of rural communities, intensified by outdated infrastructure and limited economic resources. Projections indicate a rise in temperatures by 2–3°C by 2050, alongside changing precipitation patterns, likely to

worsen the frequency and severity of droughts. These conditions not only threaten the vital agricultural sector but also drive significant internal migration from rural areas lacking adaptive capacity. This migration, fueled by the search for better opportunities in urban centers, leads to labor shortages in agriculture and underscores the importance of remittances for supporting climate adaptation in rural Moldova.

2) LEGISLATIVE, STRATEGIC AND INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK RELEVANT TO CLIMATE ACTION:

The Republic of Moldova addresses its environmental and climate challenges with a robust framework of laws, policies, and strategic initiatives. Central to this framework is the National Climate Change Adaptation Programme (PNACC) and its Action Plan approved in 2023, which catalyze systemic transformations in agriculture, energy, and water management, incorporating considerations of gender and migration to bolster resilience. The Development Program for Reduced Emissions aims for significant greenhouse gas reductions by 2030 by promoting a green economy. Further, the National Development Plan for 2024-

2026 and the "European Moldova 2030" Strategy seek to create a resilient and sustainable future, actively involving the Moldovan diaspora in socio-economic and environmental development. Complementing these efforts, the National Commission on Climate Change leads the coordination of comprehensive adaptation and mitigation strategies across key sectors, supported by various ministries and specialized agencies that implement these policies, thereby reinforcing Moldova's commitment to international climate standards as evidenced by its adherence to the Paris Agreement.

3) ONGOING DIASPORA ENGAGEMENT THROUGH FINANCIAL PROGRAMS, INCLUDING ON CLIMATE ACTION:

The Republic of Moldova actively engages its diaspora through innovative financial programs like PARE 1+1, its extension PARE 1+2, the SMEs Greening Program, and the DAR 1+3 Program. These initiatives utilize diaspora remittances and engagement to promote green economy principles, enhancing local socioeconomic development and fostering eco-friendly practices. Programs like PARE 1+1 and PARE 1+2 offer financial matches and additional incentives for adopting eco-friendly technologies, while

the SMEs Greening Program and DAR 1+3 leverage diaspora resources to improve infrastructure and energy efficiency. However, despite the availability of grant programs designed to engage the Moldovan diaspora in climate action, issues with awareness, accessibility, and a lack of strategic focus on leveraging investments for climate-related sectors highlight the need for clearer policies, enhanced promotion, and simplified participation processes to improve diaspora involvement effectively.

4) DIASPORA PERCEPTION AND AWARENESS IN THE AREA OF CLIMATE ACTION:

The Moldovan diaspora, influenced by exposure to comprehensive climate discourse in countries like the UK, gains substantial knowledge and practical insights into sustainability initiatives. However, a significant gap remains in their understanding of Moldova's specific environmental challenges, largely due to ineffective communication

and unclear policies on diaspora involvement in climate action at home. Research reveals a significant gap in the Moldovan diaspora's understanding of the relationship between migration and climate change, compounded by skepticism that may deter their participation in climate initiatives. Despite these barriers, their exposure to

advanced practices abroad positions them to significantly enhance climate resilience in Moldova by introducing sustainable technologies in key sectors such as agriculture, energy, and forestry. To maximize the diaspora's potential in climate resilience, it is essential to enhance information

flow and establish engaging, strategic communication that actively involves them in Moldova's climate efforts. Clear policies and effective communication are crucial to harness their capabilities and address Moldova's climate challenges effectively.

5) LEVERAGING DIASPORA NETWORKS COMMUNICATION CHANNELS FOR CLIMATE ACTION:

Diaspora networks are instrumental in spreading innovative ideas and technologies for climate action, managed through diaspora associations and influential leaders, organizing and promoting climate initiatives effectively within cultural contexts to maintain engagement. However, their primary reliance on informal channels such as personal projects and family remittances limits broader effectiveness and suggests an opportunity for formalization to enhance impact and scalability. Effective engagement requires not only

improved communication channels, which leverage existing diaspora infrastructure, but also targeted strategies that ensure messages reach and resonate with specific groups, potentially aligning with significant environmental events for greater impact. These efforts should be supported by showcasing diaspora success stories in climate action, employing both traditional and innovative media to highlight the tangible benefits of such initiatives, thereby encouraging broader participation and influencing local and national climate policies.

6) BARRIERS TO DIASPORA'S ENGAGEMENT IN CLIMATE ACTION:

Moldova's diaspora engagement in climate action is hindered by physical distance and inadequate access to local, evidence-based information, resulting in a lack of direct experience and a superficial understanding of Moldova's urgent climate challenges, which diminishes their willingness to participate effectively. Operational challenges, including cumbersome bureaucratic processes, strict regulations, and historical mistrust towards the government, hinder diaspora engagement in Moldova. Additionally, the misalignment of new technologies with local conditions and a gap in

governance's understanding of these technologies compared to diaspora-residing countries impede effective adoption and participation.

The legislative and legal frameworks in Moldova, though foundational for diaspora involvement, lack flexibility for remote decision-making and financial contributions, failing to meet the needs of globally committed diaspora members. Additionally, Moldova's top-down climate action strategy often overlooks local community input and regional needs, resulting in limited local engagement and support.

7) PATHWAYS FOR DIASPORA'S ENGAGEMENT IN CLIMATE ACTION:

Effective engagement of Moldova's diaspora in climate action hinges on leveraging both financial and social remittances to enhance agricultural modernization and environmental sustainability. Financial incentives such as lower interest rates and detailed communication about investment benefits are crucial to encourage diaspora investment in climate-related projects. Social remittances (transfer of knowledge and expertise) play

a key role in bridging the knowledge gap in modern agriculture among local farmers through mentorship programs and access to advanced technologies. Additionally, involving diaspora professionals in policymaking and adjusting regulations can promote the adoption of sustainable practices and ensure a more dynamic engagement in Moldova's climate strategies.

8) KEY SECTORS FOR DIASPORA'S ENGAGEMENT IN CLIMATE ACTION:

The research has identified five key areas where Moldova's diaspora can significantly impact climate

action: energy, agriculture, water management, eco-tourism, and public health. In energy, the diaspora can

advance energy efficiency and renewable energy projects to reduce emissions and dependency on traditional sources. In agriculture, they can introduce sustainable practices and technologies that enhance productivity and resilience, potentially transforming the sector with new

crops and advanced farming methods. These sectors, along with initiatives in water management, eco-tourism, and health, offer profound opportunities for diaspora engagement to address climate change impacts while driving socioeconomic benefits in Moldova.

5.2 Actionable recommendations for policymakers, diaspora communities, and other stakeholders to enhance diaspora engagement in climate action

For policymakers, diaspora communities, and other stakeholders, a multifaceted approach is essential to maximize the impact of diaspora engagement in climate action.

FOR POLICYMAKERS:

I. Enhanced Communication Channels and Streamlined Information Handling:

- **Professionalize Climate Activism**

- Support the transition from volunteer-based to professional climate activism. This can be achieved by allocating resources and funding to create dedicated positions within the diaspora community. These positions would be responsible for managing and driving climate action efforts in a more organized and impactful manner.

- **Enhanced Digital Communication**

- Utilize digital platforms and social media to broaden audience engagement, developing interactive tools like mobile apps and specialized web portals that allow diaspora members to access information, participate in discussions, and initiate or invest in projects in the area of climate action.
- Create content for innovative media platforms, such as podcasts and thematic social media groups, to raise awareness about climate issues and share impactful personal stories and learning experiences related to climate change.

- **Targeted Communication Strategy**

- Tailor communication to specific diaspora segments, considering their professional backgrounds and interests in areas like sustainability, SMART agriculture, climate adaptation, renewable energy etc. to maximize engagement and relevance.
- Design specialized communication and outreach programs, including webinars and targeted social media campaigns that cater to the unique interests and capabilities of these diaspora groups.
- Align communication campaigns with significant environmental events (i.e., World Earth Day) to heighten urgency and boost participation in climate action initiatives.
- Focus on highlighting the direct economic benefits—like cost savings and increased property values—of environmental investments to appeal to the diaspora's practical and financial interests, thereby supporting Moldova's climate action while also providing financial returns to the diaspora, fostering robust engagement in sustainability initiatives.
- To address negative perceptions and scepticism about participating in climate action and development projects, it is crucial to promote a positive narrative. Emphasize the benefits these initiatives bring to the environment, community

development, and personal fulfilment. This approach will help encourage more people to get involved and support these efforts.

• Regular and Structured Interactions

- Establish regular, structured interactions between government representatives and the diaspora to effectively communicate local climate action needs and opportunities.
- Ensure the participation of high-level officials in diaspora events and official visits abroad, facilitating a robust two-way exchange of ideas and strategies.
- Emphasize the importance of these interactions to strengthen diaspora engagement and enhance the effectiveness of climate action initiatives.

• Success Stories and Testimonials

- Develop a communication strategy that actively collects and shares success stories and testimonials from diaspora members engaged in climate action.
- Highlight the environmental, economic, and social benefits derived from these activities to motivate and inspire further involvement among the diaspora.
- Use these narratives to demonstrate the tangible impacts of diaspora contributions on sustainable development, reinforcing the value of their continued engagement.

• Informed Discussions and Advocacy

- Provide up-to-date and comparative statistical data and evidence on environmental changes affecting Moldova.
- Use this data as a factual basis for advocacy and involvement in climate-related policies.

• Public Recognition

- Establish a robust mechanism to publicly recognize and appreciate the contributions of the diaspora in climate action, enhancing their visibility and encouraging further involvement.

- Introduce awards or public acknowledgments, tailored to climate action and sustainable development that align with Moldova's national honors system, to honor significant contributions from the diaspora.

• Networking and Community Building

- Organize regular networking events themed around key environmental dates to foster a sense of community and shared purpose among the diaspora engaged in climate action.
- Collaborate with Moldovan embassies abroad to host these events, thereby strengthening the diaspora's connection and commitment to sustainable development initiatives.

2. Streamlining Institutional Processes and Policies:

• Streamline Bureaucratic Processes for diaspora participation in policy-making process

- Revise regulatory frameworks to facilitate remote contributions by the diaspora, ensuring transparency in how funds are allocated and simplifying participation procedures.
- Develop comprehensive guidelines that enable diaspora members to effectively contribute to climate action platform abroad, accommodating those who cannot travel frequently.
- Offer “hybrid formats” in public consultations for participation to accommodate the diverse locations and availability of diaspora members, enabling them to engage without the need to travel frequently.

• Improving Formal Feedback Mechanisms

- Transform the diaspora from passive recipients to active partners by providing platforms for feedback, integrating their input into policymaking, and publicly acknowledging their contributions to foster a sense of ownership and commitment.
- Establish robust systems to integrate feedback and suggestions from the diaspora directly into the

legislative process, enhancing the adaptability and responsiveness of laws and policies to new ideas and technologies.

- Systematically update legislative frameworks based on the informed contributions of diaspora members, ensuring that these frameworks are flexible and aligned with advancements in technology and industry best practices.

• Leadership and Advocacy

- Identify and support community leaders within the diaspora who can serve as “champions for change”, spearheading discussions and initiatives focused on climate action.
- Invest in enhancing the organizational skills of diaspora groups to enable effective advocacy, project management, and climate action implementation.

• Participatory Approach and Co-creation

- Include diaspora representatives in all stages of policymaking, from strategic planning to monitoring and evaluation, and co-organize activities with them.
- Develop continuous and interactive participation tools such as advisory committees, citizens' panels, and regular stakeholder consultations to ensure active and ongoing input from the diaspora.
- Initiate policies that involve the diaspora in setting agendas and shaping discussions, facilitating co-creation of policy instruments and promoting broader engagement through joint working groups and strategic dialogue events.
- Develop generic Terms of Reference (ToR) that specify the unique skills and expertise required from the diaspora that could be used by respective state authorities to engage diaspora in the policymaking process. The BRD should coordinate these efforts to match the diaspora's capabilities with Moldova's specific needs.
- Provide clear information about the relevant Moldovan agencies and their roles in environmental issues to facilitate collaboration and information sharing between diaspora members and governmental bodies.

- Encourage the creation of diaspora-led initiative groups that act as intermediaries between individual members and governmental bodies, helping translate diaspora contributions into actionable projects on the ground.

3. Enhancing Financial Mechanisms and Tools:

• Streamline Grant Processes

- Simplify the grant application process to increase accessibility for the diaspora.
- Provide comprehensive mentoring and training to diaspora members for all stages of grant applications and project implementation, including proposal writing, funding criteria, budget management, and project execution.

• Develop Targeted Financial Instruments

- Consider opportunity of issuing diaspora bonds targeted specifically at funding climate resilience projects. These bonds could offer competitive returns to attract investments from the diaspora, strengthening ties and facilitating significant contributions to Moldova's environmental goals.
- Create crowdfunding platforms that allow the diaspora to directly finance specific climate action initiatives or startups in Moldova, enhancing their engagement by providing direct visibility of the projects' impact.
- In partnership with banks, consider developing special “climate-focused” remittance programs that allow the diaspora to allocate a portion of their remittances directly to accredited climate action projects, potentially with reduced transaction fees, thereby streamlining contributions to targeted environmental efforts.
- Encourage the diaspora to engage in impact investing by financing Moldovan startups and enterprises that are developing innovative solutions to climate challenges. These investments should aim to generate both social and environmental impacts along with financial returns, supporting sustainable development initiatives across the country.

- Consider opportunity to establish a Climate Change Innovation Investment Fund (CIIF) to attract diaspora and migrant investments by leveraging remittances and providing targeted financial instruments, such as municipal green bonds and corporate bonds, supported by government incentives, financial literacy programs, and transparent governance to foster trust and facilitate climate-resilient projects.

• Develop Financial Incentives

- Formulate policies that create financial incentives for the diaspora to invest in Moldova's climate action efforts, including tax breaks, subsidies, or favourable loan terms tailored for investments in renewable energy and sustainable agriculture.

4. Development of Programs targeted on Climate Action:

- **Develop additional programs** aimed at enhancing diaspora investment in strategic areas that are crucial for Moldova's sustainable development. Additionally, **expand the scope of existing programs** such as, for example, PARE I+2 and DAR I+3 to include a broader range of eligible areas for investment by the diaspora and returning migrants. The key areas identified for focused investment include:

o **Renewable Energy:** Initiatives targeting solar, wind, and bioenergy to diminish the dependency on fossil fuels and decrease greenhouse gas emissions.

o **Energy Efficiency:** Promote investment by the diaspora in retrofitting and upgrading residential buildings, especially in rural areas, to improve energy efficiency and yield immediate economic benefits for local communities.

o **Sustainable Agricultural Practices:** Foster the adoption of climate-resilient farming techniques, such as soil conservation and crop diversification, reforestation, through initiatives that leverage the international experiences of the diaspora to improve local agricultural methods.

o **Market Connectivity:** Establish digital platforms and networks that connect local producers with national and international markets, enhancing the competitiveness of Moldovan agricultural

products through the diaspora's understanding of foreign markets.

o **Water Resource Management:** Support improvements in water infrastructure, particularly irrigation and drainage systems in rural areas, backed by the technical and financial resources of the diaspora.

o **Eco-Tourism:** Encourage the diaspora to utilize their expertise and connections to develop eco-tourism projects that increase environmental awareness and conservation efforts among tourists and local populations.

o **Public Health:** Mobilize the diaspora's resources and expertise to address health challenges exacerbated by climate change, thereby enhancing local healthcare capacities through international collaborations.

• Leverage Diaspora Engagement for Program Visibility and Impact:

- Engage diaspora leaders and returned migrants as "ambassadors" for promoting and enhancing the visibility of climate action initiatives, thus driving greater diaspora involvement and support.

5. Knowledge Exchange Platforms:

• Develop Collaboration Platforms

- Create centralized web platforms that offer databases of diaspora expertise, promote direct communication between the diaspora and local institutions, and showcase successful partnerships.
- Develop digital portals for diaspora members to submit proposals, engage in consultations, and participate in funding mechanisms, streamlining the involvement process and removing participation barriers.

• Promote Knowledge Exchange and Capacity Building

- Establish platforms and networks to connect local producers with international markets, utilizing the diaspora's knowledge to enhance the competitiveness of Moldovan products.

- Organize workshops and training sessions to transfer advanced agricultural techniques and sustainable practices from the diaspora.

• Establish Expert Databases

- Develop a comprehensive database/roster of diaspora experts, especially in crucial areas like climate action and sustainable agriculture, to quickly connect local projects with needed expertise.
- Collaborate with government agencies and the Office of Relations with the Diaspora to maintain and utilize this expert roster effectively.

• Provide Focused Training and Resources

- Facilitate training on advanced techniques tailored to local conditions, such as, for example, drought-

resistant crops and organic farming, enhancing resilience and productivity in agriculture.

- Implement specialized training programs for migrants and their families in areas like irrigation and climate-smart farming, increasing their capability to engage in improved agricultural practices at the local level.

- Support the creation of energetic platforms focusing on projects that can greatly benefit from the technical knowledge of the diaspora, such as renewable energy initiatives.

• Facilitation of Project Implementation

- Provide project writing support and mentorship programs to assist diaspora members in translating their ideas into actionable projects in the area of climate change

FOR DIASPORA COMMUNITIES

1. Active Participation and Investment:

• Formation of Interest-Based Subgroups

- Encourage the formation of diaspora subgroups concentrated on distinct climate action fields like renewable energy, conservation, reforestation and green technology. These subgroups enable tailored discussions and projects, significantly increasing the relevance and impact of diaspora involvement in addressing specific environmental challenges.

• Showcase Success Stories

- Actively showcase the successes and tangible results of climate action initiatives. Highlighting these success stories can motivate further involvement by demonstrating the impact of collective efforts.

• Foster Active Participation and Knowledge Enhancement

- Encourage diaspora communities to stay informed about Moldova's climate needs and the available

mechanisms for engagement via social networks and online or personal meetings with Moldovan officials and experts visiting UK. Participation in webinars, workshops, and forums can significantly enhance their understanding and commitment to climate issues.

• Promote collaboration and networking

- Foster robust networks among diaspora members who are keen on contributing to climate action. These networks can facilitate the pooling of resources, sharing of knowledge, and collaboration on projects, thereby amplifying the impact and addressing climate challenges more effectively.

2. Knowledge and Resource Sharing

• Establish Knowledge Exchange Networks

- Encourage the establishment of digital platforms and networks to enable effective sharing of expertise and best practices between the diaspora

and local communities, enhancing collaboration in the adoption of sustainable practices in the realm of climate change.

• Bridging Local and Global Expertise

- Utilize online platforms to facilitate the exchange between the diaspora and local experts, allowing for the transfer and adaptation of innovative practices and technologies tailored to local

**FOR OTHER STAKEHOLDERS
(NGOS, LOCAL GOVERNMENTS, BUSINESSES)**

I. Collaboration and Partnership Development:

• Strengthen Collaboration Across Sectors

- Foster partnerships between local communities, local CSOs, local public authorities, Hometown Associations, diaspora groups, and government agencies to enhance climate resilience.
- Support the development of programs at local level that facilitate investments of diaspora's financial and social remittances in climate action initiatives aligned with Moldova's broader climate action strategies.

• Develop Support Frameworks and Alliances

- Create structured support systems that include platforms for diaspora members to share experiences, provide mentorship, and collaborate on projects and initiatives at local level.
- Develop local alliances to leverage the diaspora's skills in advancing community-led climate adaptation measures

• Develop Support Systems for Effective Integration

- Encourage local CSOs and local communities to develop logistical support systems that help integrate diaspora initiatives with local efforts.

conditions, thereby enhancing environmental sustainability and agricultural productivity.

• Consolidation of Diaspora Efforts

- Encourage diaspora associations to collaborate and form joint initiatives, aligning their agendas within the environmental and climate action sectors to significantly amplify the impact of their collective efforts

These systems should facilitate the alignment of diaspora contributions with local climate action needs, including community-based programs and local partnerships.

2. Promotion of Diaspora Engagement:

• Develop Market Connectivity Platforms

- Advocate for the creation of platforms that link local producers with national and international markets, facilitating broader market access and promoting global competitiveness.

• Foster Knowledge Exchange Forums

- Set up forums and other platforms at local levels where diaspora members can share their insights and experiences with local communities

• Communication and Support

- Clearly communicate specific local needs to effectively engage the diaspora.
- Establish localized support structures to provide technical advice, legal assistance, and financial incentives, which will help diaspora members make informed investments and contribute to sustainable community projects.

3. Educational and Support Initiatives:

• Knowledge Exchange Platforms

- Organize thematic lectures, trainings and workshops featuring diaspora representatives to share their knowledge and experience with their local communities or localities of origin.
- Regularly highlight success stories through newsletters, community meetings, and social media to showcase the impact of diaspora-led projects at local level in Moldova.
- Provide resources and specialized training for local farmers on climate-resilient agriculture and modern farming technologies, promoting sustainable and ecological farming practices through educational campaigns and workshops.

• Tailored Training for Returned Migrants

- Offer specialized training programs that adapt international agricultural strategies to fit local ecosystems, with a focus on sustainability and climate adaptability, helping returned migrants apply their international knowledge and experience locally.

• Promotion and Advocacy of Diaspora's engagement in climate action at local level

- Encourage local businesses, CSOs, and educational institutions to actively promote and support increased diaspora engagement in local climate action initiatives.
- Highlight success stories that showcase the tangible benefits and positive impacts of diaspora involvement in local climate projects.
- Host networking events to connect diaspora investors with local entrepreneurs and innovators in climate action, fostering productive partnerships and meaningful investments.
- Organize showcase events where diaspora members can present their successful projects and share their experiences, thereby recognizing their contributions and inspiring further community involvement in similar initiatives.

• Educational Collaboration

- Promote collaboration with Moldovan educational institutions to incorporate climate issues into the curriculum.
- Leverage the expertise and experiences of diaspora members through guest lectures and interactive sessions, enhancing the educational impact.

ANNEXES

List of stakeholders interviewed as a part of Key Informant Interviews

No.	Name, surname	Organisation and Position held
State Institutions		
1.	Violina Donu	Diaspora Relations Bureau, Head
2.	Marina Bunduchi	Diaspora Relations Bureau, Senior Consultant
3.	Oxana Otgon	Organisation for Development of Entrepreneurship, Head of the Program Implementation Unit - PARE I+2
4.	Galina Norocea	Ministry of Environment, Main Consultant, Climate Change Policy Section
5.	Liliana Martin	Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry, Head of Public Policy Coordination and European Integration Department
Representatives from diaspora community		
6.	Dumitru Vicol	Economic Analyst, EM Strategists at Abu Dhabi Investment Authority (ADIA), member of Moldovan Diaspora in the UK
7.	Tamara Schiopu	Eco-activist, member of Moldovan Diaspora in UK, owner of the eco-farm in Oxfordshire, UK and 'Eco Local' NGO in Moldova
8.	Victoria Căpățici	Founder 'Diaspora Connect' Diaspora Association, member of Moldovan Diaspora in the UK
9.	Adrian Cojocaru	Entrepreneur, ex-Director of Marketing Department of the Association of Fruit Producers and Exporters of Moldova, member of Moldovan Diaspora in the UK
10.	Cristina Lisii	UK Royal Academy of Engineering, Senior Programme Manager – Scale Up Accelerator, member of Moldovan diaspora in the UK
11.	Cristian Ciobanu	Policy Officer at Department for Business and Trade (DBT), UK; member of Moldovan diaspora in the UK
Academia		
12.	Natalia Vlădicescu	Sociologist, Head of Qualitative Research, CBS-AXA Sociological Company
Non-state actors, independent experts		
13.	Evgheni Camenscic	MSc Sustainable Energy and Environment, Cardiff University, UK; Climate and Sustainable Energy consultant
14.	Anatolii Sandu	Team member of the Miscanthus breeding research program IBERS Aberystwyth University UK, R&D representative of the British company Terravesta in South-Eastern Europe and CIS countries and part of the expert group of the international BioEnergy consortium
15.	Ion Efros	MSc Global Energy Management, Strathclyde Business School, UK; Energy, environment & climate risks analyst

ANNEX 2

Table 1. The Republic of Moldova's Strategic, Programmatic and Legislative Framework for Environmental and Climate Resilience relevant for diaspora&climate change nexus

CATEGORY	KEY DOCUMENTS	DESCRIPTION/GOALS
CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS	Constitution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Article 27 (Right to Free Movement): Emphasizes citizens' rights to choose residence, move freely, and emigrate, alluding to internal and international migration aspects. - Article 37 (Right to a Healthy Environment): Connects environmental health directly with quality of life, indirectly affecting migration decisions due to environmental degradation or hazards.
CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION	National Climate Change Adaptation Programme (PNACC) until 2030	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Explicitly mentions that climate change can trigger shifts in human behavior and forced migration due to adverse climate conditions. - Focuses on adaptation measures across critical sectors to reduce vulnerabilities that may drive migration. - Recognizes migration as a significant indirect effect of climate change, particularly through the impact on water resources and agricultural productivity.
STRATEGIC NATIONAL PLANNING	National Development Strategy "European Moldova 2030"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Outlines a multifaceted approach to engage the diaspora in Moldova's development, utilizing their skills and investments. - Anticipates the use of digital platforms to enhance diaspora citizens' involvement in public and civic activities and effective reintegration of returnees, thus fostering socioeconomic resilience against climate impacts.
EU INTEGRATION AND GREEN AGENDA	National Plan for EU Accession for 2024-2027	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Addresses climate change mitigation and adaptation within its "Green Agenda and Sustainable Connectivity" cluster. - Incorporates strategic measures to align Moldova's environmental governance with EU standards, which can influence migration patterns by creating a more resilient and sustainable living environment, potentially attracting Moldovan diaspora back to the country.

SECTOR-SPECIFIC IMPACTS AND PLANS	Various sectorial strategies (forestry, water resources, agriculture development, waste management, health)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Each strategy indirectly relates to migration by addressing the sustainability of resources (like water and forests) and health impacts from climate change, which can exacerbate migration pressures. - Health strategies specifically look at environmental health impacts, which are crucial for addressing both migration health concerns and the effects of climate change on public health.
LEGISLATION AND POLICIES	Laws on Renewable Energy, Energy Efficiency, Waste, Water, and Environmental Protection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - These laws contribute to creating a sustainable environment that may influence migration decisions by improving living conditions and economic opportunities. - Environmental Protection Law aims to safeguard natural resources and ensure public health, indirectly affecting migration through improved environmental quality. - Renewable Energy Law promotes energy security, potentially reducing emigration by creating jobs.

Source: developed by author

ANNEX 3

Table 2. Mapping the Republic of Moldova's Institutional Framework relevant for the area of climate action and Diaspora Engagement Opportunities

Entity	Role / Function	Key Responsibilities	Collaborations	Relevancy to Diaspora & Climate Action Nexus
National Commission on Climate Change (NCCC)	Coordination body for climate initiatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Coordinate climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies - Facilitate inter-sectorial collaboration 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Government Ministries - CSOs - Academia - Private Sector 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Potential platform for diaspora involvement in policy advocacy and international collaboration.
Ministry of Environment	Environmental protection and climate policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Develop environmental protection policies - Climate change mitigation and adaptation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Subordinate agencies - International partners 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Opportunities for diaspora to contribute to international cooperation efforts and knowledge exchange. - Diaspora contributions to policy making processes
State Hydro-meteorological Service	Monitor hydro-meteorological conditions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Forecast and issue warnings for hazardous weather - Manage the National Hydrometeorological Data Fund 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - EUMETNET Metealarm 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - N/A
Environmental Agency	Implement national environmental policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Monitor air, water, and soil quality - Manage greenhouse gas emissions reporting system 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - EU for compliance with the Association Agreement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - N/A
"Moldsilva" Agency	Forestry and hunting policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Develop forestry and hunting regulations - Oversee policy implementation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Market stakeholders for forestry and hunting products 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - N/A
"Apele Moldovei"/"Moldova Waters" Agency	Water resource management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Manage state-owned water bodies - Implement flood and drought management plans 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Local authorities for water infrastructure projects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - N/A

Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry (MAFI)	Resilient agricultural practices development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Develop policies for agricultural sector resilience - Promote sustainable land management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Local and international stakeholders 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Potential for diaspora investment in sustainable agriculture and rural development projects. - Diaspora contributions to policy making processes
Agency for Interventions and Payments in Agriculture (AIPA)	Manage agricultural fund resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support agricultural producers with funds management - Monitor and control fund usage among beneficiaries 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - EU to align with agricultural subsidy practices 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Opportunities for farmers with diaspora experience or returning migrants to access resources and contribute to resilience-building.
Agency for the Development and Modernization of Agriculture (ADMA)	Enhance agriculture sector competitiveness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Promote access to modern agricultural technologies - Support sustainable and ecological agriculture practices 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Farmers and agricultural enterprises for innovation adoption 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Engagement of diaspora in promoting and adopting innovative agricultural practices.
Ministry of Energy	Energy policy development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Advocate for renewable energy and efficiency - Manage energy supply and distribution 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Energy sector stakeholders 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Opportunities for diaspora engagement in renewable energy projects and investments - Diaspora contributions to policy making processes
Energy Efficiency Agency	Enhance energy efficiency and renewable energy use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Implement national programs for energy efficiency - Promote investments in energy-saving projects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Public and private sector involvement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Potential for diaspora-led initiatives in energy efficiency and renewable energy adoption.
National Agency for Energy Regulation (ANRE)	Regulate the energy sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ensure efficient, reliable, and safe energy supply - Promote renewable energy sources and practices 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Various energy markets and consumer protection 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - N/A

Ministry of Economy and Digitalization	Economic policy development and implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Promote economic growth and digitalisation - Support SME development and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ODA - International partners 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Opportunities for diaspora investment in economic development initiatives - Diaspora contributions to digitalisation and sustainable business practices
Organization for Entrepreneurship Development (ODA)	Promote entrepreneurship and SME development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Implement PARE I+1 and PARE I+2 programs to promote diaspora diaspora investment in sustainable businesses, enhancing climate resilience - SMEs Greening Program supports environmental sustainability through energy efficiency and circular economy practices 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ministry of Economy and Digitalisation - Local and international partners 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Encourages diaspora investment in sustainable business and climate adaptation through matching grants and support programs
Ministry of Infrastructure and Regional Development	Infrastructure adaptation to climate change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Develop legal frameworks for climate-resilient infrastructure - Enhance regional development sustainability 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Local authorities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Diaspora's role in funding and supporting resilient infrastructure projects - Diaspora contributions to policy making processes
State Administration of Roads	Road infrastructure management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Maintain and rehabilitate public roads - Develop strategies for climate-resilient road infrastructure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Emergency services for disaster response 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - N/A
Ministry of Health	Healthcare system adaptation to climate change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mainstream climate change adaptation into health policies - Develop strategies for climate-related health emergencies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Other governmental bodies - CSOs - Private sector 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Involvement of diaspora healthcare professionals in capacity building and emergency preparedness. - Diaspora contributions to policy making processes

National Public Health Agency (ANSP)	Public health surveillance and response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Monitor and track health threats exacerbated by climate change - Develop strategies for disease prevention and control 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Regional Public Health Centres - Emergency services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - N/A
Hospitals	Provide specialized care during health emergencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Offer care during climate-related health emergencies - Participate in emergency responses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Primary healthcare institutions - Emergency medical assistance centres 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - N/A
Ministry of Finance	Fiscal governance for climate initiatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Integrate adaptation to climate change into the national budgeting process 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Various governmental entities for coordinated effort 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Potential for diaspora contributions to climate finance and investment in resilience projects. - Diaspora contributions to policy making processes
Bureau for Relations with Diaspora (BRD)	Promote diaspora engagement and support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Implement DAR I+3 program - Facilitate expertise transfer from diaspora professionals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - State Chancellery - Line Ministries - Diaspora associations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - DAR I+3 program funds sustainable agriculture and renewable energy projects - DEH supports climate-smart initiatives through short-term collaborations and innovative projects
National Bureau of Statistics	Data collection and dissemination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provide data on environmental indicators critical to climate change adaptation - Supply yearly updates relevant to climate change adaptation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Research institutions for data sharing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Data relevance for diaspora researchers and policy advocates focusing on climate change.

Academy of Sciences of Moldova	Scientific research and innovation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Assess scientific research projects related to climate change adaptation - Offer expert advice on future research directions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - National and international scientific cooperation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Opportunities for diaspora scientists to collaborate on climate change research.
Higher Educational Institutions	Education and research on climate change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Advance sectors like agriculture and energy through education and research - Support the national economy's needs with research outcomes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ministries and departments for support and collaboration 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Potential for diaspora academics to engage in collaborative research and educational exchanges.
Local Public Authorities (I and II levels)	Local forest management and urban transport planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Implement strategies for the climate resilience of local forest resources - Develop urban mobility plans with climate change adaptation measures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - National authorities for alignment with environmental goals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Local development projects could benefit from diaspora expertise and investment.

Source: developed by author

Table 3: The Republic of Moldova's institutional framework with mandates in the area of diaspora, migration and development

Institution	Role of the institution
Bureau for Relations with Diaspora (BRD)	The Bureau coordinates state policy and cooperation with the diaspora and diaspora organizations, initiating and participating in relevant programs and activities. The BRD also maintains and updates the database on diaspora associations.
Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA)	Responsible for promoting state policies in foreign affairs, including migration and diaspora relations, through oversight of Moldova's diplomatic missions and consulates that guarantee the rights of Moldovan citizens abroad.
State Chancellery	Responsible for organizing and coordinating government activities, presenting analytical materials and draft decisions, and verifying their execution, including oversight of diaspora-related policies.
Bureau for Migration and Asylum (BMA) within the Ministry of Internal Affairs	Responsible for the promotion and implementation of public policies related to immigration processes. The BMA also produces Extended Migration Profile reports in cooperation with IOM.
Ministry of Labour and Social Protection (MLSP)	The MLSP's mission is to analyse employment, social protection, and demographics, developing effective public policies. It engages in bilateral dialogue to protect Moldovan migrants' labour rights and social guarantees.
Ministry of Education and Research (MER)	The primary public body for developing and overseeing education and research policies, catering to diaspora needs. The Ministry regulates and negotiates bilateral agreements on academic mobility, recognition of foreign credentials, authentication of Moldovan credentials, and certification of non-formal education.
Local public authorities (LPA)	Local public administration representatives implement state policy coordination for diaspora, migration, and development at the local level.
Presidency of the Republic of Moldova, Advisor on Relations with the Diaspora	To advise the President of Moldova on diaspora and migration issues, including providing organizational support and preparing informational materials.
National Employment Agency (NEA), subordinated to the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection	Implements MLSP policies on employment and vocational training. Informs the diaspora about social security accords, employment services, labour market conditions, and vacancies. Supports returning migrants' labour market reintegration. Collects and publishes labour migration data, maintaining databases on legally emigrated Moldovans, returning migrants, and foreigners using NEA services. Established in 2018, the Labour Market Observatory Directorate generates and analyses statistical data, producing forecasts and identifying trends, including migration.

Organization for Entrepreneurship Development (ODE), subordinated to the Ministry of Economic Development and Digitalisation

Public institution developing the local entrepreneurial environment, including SMEs, by promoting entrepreneurial culture and providing financial and technical assistance, including diaspora participation.

National Bureau of Statistics (NBS)

The NBS publishes annual migration data on emigrants and immigrants by sex and age. Since 2019, it collects administrative data from state border crossings to estimate international migration and resident population, enhancing data quality and accuracy.

Diaspora representatives

Individual diaspora representatives and leaders of associations, initiative groups, and communities both receive and co-implement diaspora-related activities

Hometown associations

Local authorities have advanced an innovative partnership model, leveraging migrant potential through hometown associations for community development. These associations strengthen cooperation between LPAs, the diaspora, and local citizens. Currently, hometown associations in circa 100 localities are implementing community projects with LPAs and active diaspora participation. Established in September 2022, the Alliance of Hometown Associations aims to consolidate 160 initiative groups and associations, enhancing cooperation for local development.¹⁰³

Source: developed by author

¹⁰³ UNDP-Moldova. Migration and Local Development (Phase 2). Available at: <https://www.undp.org/moldova/projects/migration-and-local-development-phase-2>

Table 4: Diaspora participatory mechanisms

Mechanism	Description
Diaspora Excellence Groups (DEG)	The DEG programme, launched in 2017, created five Excellence Groups led by highly qualified diaspora experts in priority sectors for the Moldovan government. These experts shared their knowledge with the government on specific policy areas. The programme was part of the IOM-funded project “Consolidation of Moldova’s Development Capacities through Partnerships between the Diaspora and Country of Origin,” implemented by IOM-Moldova in partnership with the Ministry of Education.
Diaspora Council	The council served as a representative body with a consultative function to advise the Prime Minister and the Government on relevant policy matters. It was dissolved in 2012; there was discussion about establishing a new consultative body, though this has not yet occurred.
Diaspora Congress	Held biennially in Chişinău since 2004, the Diaspora Congress aims to strengthen communication between the Government and the diaspora. It brings together representatives of diaspora associations and independent members to discuss diaspora policies and the impact of migration on economic, social, academic, and political processes in Moldova.
Coordinating Council of Persons Originating from Moldova – Moldovan Diaspora	Established in 2005 under the aegis of the Prime Minister of Moldova, the Council included Moldova officials and leaders (or representatives) of public associations of the Moldovan diaspora; this body is not in place anymore.

Source: UNDP – IOM Multi-Year Roadmap for Cooperation on Migration and Sustainable Development in Moldova, June 2021¹⁰⁴

¹⁰⁴ UNDP – IOM Multi-Year Roadmap for Cooperation on Migration and Sustainable Development in Moldova, June 2021. Available at: https://www.md.undp.org/content/moldova/ro/home/presscenter/pressreleases/2021/pnud_-i-oim-promoveaz-oportuniti-egale-pentru-migranii-moldoveni.html

ANNEX 6

Table 5. PARE I+I Program's results (2010-2021)

Indicator	Result
Total Trained Individuals	2,649
Investment Projects Approved for Funding	1,815
New Businesses Launched	739
Percentage of Total Beneficiaries (New Businesses)	41.6%
Migrant Workers Returned and Started Business	564
Percentage of Young Entrepreneurs Under 35	48.70%
Beneficiaries Working in Villages and Towns	84%
Enterprises Registered in Chisinau and Balti	16%
Percentage of Program's women beneficiaries	32%

Source: Program of attraction of remittances in economy, PARE I+I was extended for further three years¹⁰⁵

¹⁰⁵ ODA. Program of attraction of remittances in economy, PARE I+I was extended for further three years, Press-release, 29 November 2022. Available at: <https://www.oda.md/files/rapoarte/2022/Raport%20anual%20IP%20ODA,%20anul%202022.pdf>

ANNEX 7

Table 6. Overview of PARE I+2 Program

No.	OBJECTIVE	COMPONENT
1.	Increase awareness about business launch and development possibilities for migrants and their first-degree relatives.	Information, training, and entrepreneurial consultancy.
2.	Stimulate investment of remittances in business creation and development in rural areas.	Non-reimbursable financial support, based on the I+I Rule, up to 250,000 MDL with a 50%/50% funding scheme.
3.	Increase the competitiveness of businesses developed by migrant workers.	Non-reimbursable financial support for developing businesses, based on the I+2 Rule, up to 500,000 MDL with a 30%/70% funding scheme.
4.	Facilitate reintegration and enhance economic opportunities for returnees.	Monitoring and evaluation of projects.

Source: developed by author

ANNEX 8

Table 7. Overview of SMEs Greening Program

Mechanism	Description
Program Name	SMEs Greening Program
Approval	Government’s Decision No. 592/2019
Implemented by	ODA
Purpose	Support the transition to an environment friendly economic model integrating 'green' economy measures into national economy production processes.
Entrepreneur Assessment	Self-assessment for 'greening' of production and service provision processes.
Assessment Outcome	Entrepreneurs receive a 'greening' score and recommendations for resource efficiency, potential growth, competitiveness, and cost optimization.
Financial Support	Non-reimbursable financial grants up to 500,000 MDL.
Project Stages	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Informational and consultative support (continuous training registration). 2. Financial support for SMEs (continuous submission of investment projects, grants up to 500,000 MDL). 3. Post-funding monitoring (24 months from the complete transfer of funds).
Key Focus Areas	Management System, Water Reuse, Waste Recycling.

Source: developed by author

ANNEX 9

Table 8: Overview of Program “DAR I+3”

Mechanism	Description
Program Name	DAR I+3 ('Diaspora Succeeds at Home')
Government Decision	Government’s Decision no. 801/2018
Effective Date	1 January 2019
Program Objective	Mobilizing diaspora's human and financial potential for local socio-economic development in Moldova.
Specific Objectives	Stimulate rural and urban development by attracting human and financial capital from diaspora capital; maintain connections between citizens who left the country and those remained; increase diaspora involvement in socio-economic development at the local level.
Target Groups	Diaspora associations, home town associations, initiative groups of returned or settled abroad citizens, local public authorities
Implementation Partners	Government of Moldova, local authorities, development partners/donors, diaspora-related associations
Financial Support	Funds from the diaspora, state budget, own financial resources of the administrative-territorial units, assistance from development partners/donors
Implementation, Monitoring, and Promotion	State Chancellery (Diaspora Relations Bureau) responsible for implementation, monitoring and Program’s promotion
Evaluation and Approval of Projects	Two-stage process involving pre-selection and selection/approval by the Evaluation and Supervision Committee
Eligible Areas for Funding	Infrastructure, environmental protection, economy, energy efficiency, culture, education, social protection
Impact Evaluation	Based on investment volume, number of funded projects, investments from the diaspora, new jobs created, other relevant indicators

Source: developed by author

ANNEX 10

Examples of Best Practices of Diaspora Engagement in Climate Action

EXAMPLE 1 – village Radoaia, Sângerei District, Republic of Moldova

Migration experience: Russian Federation; Israel

Background: This narrative centres on a Moldovan individual with a poignant story of migration, land ownership, and the aspiration for sustainable development in the village of Radoaia, Sângerei district – a commune confronted with the harsh realities of climate change and economic hardships. Owning 2 hectares of land leased out due to financial constraints, the individual’s journey abroad to countries like Russia and Israel since 2016 was primarily motivated by the desire to build a better future back home. Despite the challenges, the engagement with foreign agricultural practices and the stark contrast in economic opportunities abroad shed light on the potential paths for climate resilience back in Moldova.

Motivation for Involvement: The driving force behind the engagement in this story stems from the complex economic and agricultural challenges faced by Moldova, as highlighted by a farmer with migration experience. Despite land ownership, the migrant abstains from farming activities due to prohibitive costs and the perceived inefficiency of agriculture as a viable source of livelihood. This scenario prompts a quest for improved living conditions through migration, coupled with an enduring aspiration to contribute positively to their homeland. However, this ambition is often hindered by pervasive bureaucratic hurdles and market inefficiencies. The migrant’s motivation to invest and engage in transformative actions reflects a broader narrative of diaspora potential to influence positive change, despite systemic obstacles.

Challenges: Despite the migrant’s contributions through remittances that improved their family’s living conditions, the high costs of agricultural inputs, the absence of essential machinery, and a bureaucracy riddled with corruption have stifled their aspirations to apply learned sustainable practices at home, exacerbating the difficulty of transforming remittance funds and overseas experiences into tangible, sustainable growth and climate resilience in their homeland.

Impact: The diaspora’s contribution, through remittances, played a significant role in improving the living conditions of their family in Radoaia, illustrating a direct link between migration and local development. Although not directly invested in agriculture, the funds enabled the reconstruction of a family home, indirectly supporting the local economy. The insights gained from working in Israel, where agriculture thrives despite arid conditions, highlighted the untapped potential of sustainable farming practices that could be adopted in Moldova. The local and vulnerable communities are impacted by the limited economic opportunities, compelling individuals to migrate for better prospects. This migration has a dual effect: it provides a temporary solution through remittances but also highlights the dire need for sustainable local development. The lack of infrastructure, bureaucratic hurdles, and market access significantly hamper the ability of these communities to thrive independently.

The Scale of Initiative: The scale of this case is personal and reflective of broader systemic challenges, including climate risk management, agricultural productivity, and economic stability in the context of migration.

Institutionalization of Diaspora Contributions: The respondent’s experiences and observations reveal a lack of structured programs to leverage migrant remittances or experiences for local development. This gap indicates the potential for creating mechanisms to channel diaspora resources and knowledge back into local economies, particularly in agriculture and business.

The Potential for Up-Scaling and Replicability: The potential for up-scaling and replicability is evident in the desire for agricultural engagement and investment in the local economy, contingent upon overcoming systemic challenges. The respondent’s experience suggests that with the right support and infrastructure, similar initiatives could be replicated. However, this requires addressing core issues such as market access, bureaucratic transparency, and providing incentives for diaspora investment in local development.

EXAMPLE 2 – village Bălăşeşti, Sângerei District, Republic of Moldova

Migration experience: France, Russian Federation

Background: In Bălăşeşti, a village faced with the harsh realities of climate change, a Moldovan migrant leveraged their experiences from Russia and France to innovate in agriculture. Returning in the spring, after a stay in France since the previous autumn, the migrant initiated the establishment of greenhouses in 2020 and invested in an irrigation system to combat unpredictable weather patterns, specifically addressing the warm temperatures and lack of rain typical in the region.

Motivation for Involvement: The migrant’s involvement in agriculture, specifically in greenhouse farming within their community, is driven by the aspiration to improve their household’s economic status and self-sufficiency. Having worked abroad for several years, the individual returned with savings and a desire to invest in their homeland. The motivation stems from the personal experience of financial and livelihood challenges faced while living abroad and the realization of the potential for agricultural development at home.

Challenges: Despite the positive outcomes, the journey was fraught with challenges, including the high costs of agricultural inputs, the absence of necessary machinery, and the labour-intensive nature of sustainable practices. Initially, the venture required significant financial investment in greenhouses, irrigation, and other infrastructure, with all available funds being directed towards these initiatives.

Impact: The introduction of greenhouses and an irrigation system, covering areas of 10 meters by 50 meters and 10 meters by 40 meters respectively, has allowed for the cultivation of cucumbers, tomatoes, eggplants, and peppers. This has not only increased agricultural productivity by enabling year-round cultivation but also mitigated the risks associated with climate variability. As a result, agriculture’s contribution to the household’s income rose from 50% to an anticipated 80%. While primarily benefiting the household, this initiative also indirectly impacts the local community by contributing to local food production and potentially providing employment opportunities. As the business grows, it could offer more local produce in the market, reducing the dependency on imports and supporting the local economy. However, the immediate impact remains limited to the household’s economic well-being and self-sustainability.

The Scale of Initiative: This initiative is relatively small-scale, focusing on the personal agricultural endeavours of one household in the village. The household owns two greenhouses and has invested in irrigation systems and other agricultural infrastructures, marking a significant personal investment towards establishing a viable agricultural business. The operation currently focuses on the cultivation of tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers, and eggplants.

Institutionalization of Diaspora Contributions: The remittances sent home by the migrant’s wife and the knowledge gained abroad indicate an informal channel through which diaspora contributions improve the household’s agricultural practices. This scenario highlights the potential for more structured support mechanisms that could leverage diaspora resources and expertise for local development.

The Potential for Up-Scaling and Replicability: The agricultural initiative demonstrated by this household has potential for up-scaling and replicability, particularly in communities with similar climatic and economic conditions. The investment in greenhouses and irrigation systems could serve as a model for other migrants or local farmers looking to diversify their agricultural practices and improve resilience to climate variability. However, up-scaling would require addressing challenges such as access to finance, land availability, and market access.

EXAMPLE 3 – village Congaz, Gagauzia, Republic of Moldova

Migration experience: Lithuania, Estonia

Background: In Congaz, a village in Gagauzia (Southern Moldova), Mihai's journey exemplifies a dynamic interplay of migration, climate adaptation, and agricultural innovation, displaying a best practice of diaspora engagement in climate action. Mihai's migration to Lithuania and Estonia over six months each in 2021 and again in the following year marked a turning point for his household's approach to agriculture in Congaz. Witnessing first-hand the impacts of erratic weather patterns, including excessive heat and less frequent rains, motivated him to rethink agricultural practices. This led to the construction of a greenhouse, funded by the savings from his time abroad, aiming to secure a sustainable food source amidst rising costs and climate challenges.

Motivation for Involvement: The respondent's motivation for involvement in migration and subsequent investment in agriculture stems from a desire to improve their financial situation and adapt to changing climatic conditions. Initially not engaged in agriculture due to climate challenges and a lack of interest, the introduction of a greenhouse represents a shift towards self-sufficiency and control over food sources, driven by financial gains from migration.

Challenges: The primary challenge lies in balancing the demands of agricultural innovation with the constraints of time and initial financial outlay. Additionally, the broader societal trend of leasing land due to the allure of overseas work complicates efforts to revitalize local agriculture directly.

Impact: The establishment of the greenhouse signifies a tangible shift towards resilience against climate variability. By securing a controlled environment for vegetable cultivation, Mihai directly addresses the vulnerabilities exposed by erratic weather, ensuring a steady production of cucumbers, tomatoes, and other vegetables. This move not only promises food security for his family but also presents a model of adaptation that combines traditional knowledge with modern techniques. While the direct impact on the broader community might be limited at this stage, the initiative sets a positive example of using migration earnings for sustainable development at home. If successful, it could inspire similar actions by others, potentially leading to a collective improvement in local resilience to climate change and economic instability.

The Scale of Initiative: The initiative is of a personal scale, focusing on the respondent's household within their local community. It involves the construction of a greenhouse for vegetable cultivation, funded by earnings from migration. This investment signifies an initial step towards greater agricultural engagement, contrasting with the prevalent trend of leasing land for income.

Institutionalization of Diaspora Contributions: The case illustrates an informal yet significant contribution of the diaspora to local development. It highlights the potential for more formalized structures to facilitate diaspora investment in agriculture, enhancing the sector's resilience and sustainability.

The Potential for Up-Scaling and Replicability: The project exhibits potential for up-scaling and replicability, especially in communities facing similar climatic and economic challenges. The success of the greenhouse initiative could serve as a model for leveraging migration earnings for agricultural investment. Expanding such practices could strengthen local food security and provide a buffer against climate variability.

EXAMPLE 4 – village Congaz, Gagauzia, Republic of Moldova

Migration experience: Russian Federation

Background: In Congaz, a commune in Gagauzia (Southern Moldova), faced with the escalating challenges of climate change, such as severe droughts and the consequential weakening of water pressure that hampers agricultural activities and day-by-day activities, the family found themselves at a crossroads. Only those with access to resources such as artesian wells stand a chance against these adversities, underscoring a dire need for sustainable solutions amidst rising hardships and costs. The story unfolds with the family's experiences of migration, notably the husband's work stints in Russia during 2011 and 2013, juxtaposed against a backdrop of changing climate conditions that increasingly challenge their traditional way of life. Despite these adversities, migration presented an opportunity to adapt and persevere. The remittances from the husband's work abroad became a lifeline, not just for immediate needs but also as a potential investment in combating the very climate risks that threatened their livelihood.

Motivation for Involvement: The primary motivation for involvement in migration was the challenge of finding employment within the local community and the desire for improved financial stability. The respondent and his spouse sought opportunities abroad to support their family and invest in their future, reflecting a common narrative among rural households facing limited local employment options.

Challenges: Financial limitations, exacerbated by the rural locality's weak defence against climate extremes, underscored the harsh reality of their situation. Moreover, the socio-economic fabric of Congaz, characterized by a mix of middle-class families and those with overseas businesses, painted a picture of disparity in the face of environmental challenges.

Impact: The family's decision to leverage the financial gains from migration to invest in climate resilience reflects a broader trend among Moldovan diaspora. Although the direct engagement in agriculture waned due to climatic and economic constraints, the aspiration to improve their situation led to a strategic shift. The establishment of a water tank, although modest, symbolizes a crucial step towards self-sufficiency and climate adaptability, offering a buffer against the unpredictability of weather patterns. The impact on the local community is indirect, primarily influencing the respondent's immediate family's economic status and ability to cope with climate-related challenges. The migration experiences did not lead to significant community-wide initiatives or projects but did contribute to the household's resilience to environmental stresses, such as drought and limited water availability.

The Scale of Initiative: The initiative is focused on the individual and family level, with migration serving as a means to secure financial stability and meet immediate household needs. The respondent's family engaged in temporary migration for employment, particularly to Russia, with the intention of returning and investing in their local community.

Institutionalization of Diaspora Contributions: The story underscores the potential for leveraging individual and familial migration experiences to enhance local livelihood strategies, particularly in adapting to climate risks and improving agricultural practices.

The Potential for Up-scaling and Replicability: While the specific migration and investment activities described are highly individualized, they highlight a broader opportunity for up-scaling and replicability in similar rural settings. Community-wide programs that facilitate access to resources for climate adaptation and support returning migrants in investing in local agriculture could extend the benefits beyond individual households.

EXAMPLE 5 – village Bahmut, Călărași District, Republic of Moldova

Migration experience: Russian Federation

Background: After a stint in the police force and confronting financial difficulties, the entrepreneur migrated to Russia in 2007, aiming to settle debts and seek better opportunities. Despite the allure of his successful ventures abroad in transport and car service in Russia, leading to investments back in Bahmut, including an ambitious 11-hectare walnut orchard project.

Motivation for Involvement: The individual's primary motivation for migration was financial necessity, spurred by a loan that could not be repaid on a local salary. The initial plan was short-term migration, but it evolved into a longer-term stay abroad due to successful business ventures in transport and car service in Russia. The desire to invest back home in Moldova, particularly in an orchard, reflects a hope to return and settle with a sustainable income source, despite current better living conditions and business success abroad.

Challenges: The environmental degradation in the village of Bahmut, Călărași region, including arid weather, presented a formidable challenge to the sustainability of his agricultural investments. The introduction of the walnut orchard near the woods brought about unforeseen expenses due to pests and the proximity to the forest (additional significant investment to protect the crop), indicating a struggle with the local ecosystem's balance. The changing climate, marked by drier conditions, underscored the need for efficient water management practices. Despite seeing the benefits of drip irrigation systems in improving tree growth, the returned migrant hesitated to invest further due to high initial costs and uncertain returns. Moreover, the agricultural sector faced a labor shortage, with the cost of hiring day labourers for essential tasks like hoeing significantly increasing, further straining the feasibility of expanding the agricultural venture.

The endeavour was further complicated by the legal and bureaucratic landscape in Moldova, where despite laws suggesting tax exemptions for new agricultural projects until fruition, the local council's pressure for tax payment posed additional burdens. Furthermore, the narrative sheds light on the broader issue of investment in Moldova, where excessive regulation and scrutiny by governmental bodies discourage entrepreneurial spirit.

Impact: The establishment of a large-scale walnut orchard marked a significant shift towards sustainable agricultural practices in village of Bahmut. This investment not only aimed to boost local production but also to inspire a movement towards more climate-resilient farming practices within the community. By focusing on a crop that requires less intensive water use, the entrepreneur indirectly addressed the pressing issues of drought and soil erosion exacerbated by climate change and deforestation. The orchard can provide local employment and contribute to the agricultural diversity and sustainability of the area. The individual's experience and success abroad could serve as an inspiring example for other community members considering similar investments.

The Scale of Initiative: The initiative is personal, focusing on the individual's and their immediate family's livelihood. It includes investment in an 11-hectare orchard of nuts in Moldova, financed by earnings from business activities abroad. This investment represents a significant personal financial commitment to agricultural development in their home community.

Institutionalization of Diaspora Contributions: There is an evident attempt to leverage diaspora contributions for local development through the orchard investment. However, the story highlights challenges, including local governance and tax issues that hinder further investment. This situation underscores the need for structured support and possibly reforms to encourage and maximize diaspora investments in local economies.

The Potential for Up-scaling and Replicability: The initiative shows potential for up-scaling and replicability, especially if challenges related to local governance, taxation, and support for agricultural investments are addressed. Encouraging diaspora members to invest in their home communities through agricultural projects or other ventures could drive local development, provided there is adequate institutional and policy support.

EXAMPLE 6 – village Andrusul de Jos, Cahul District, Republic of Moldova

Migration experience: Russian Federation

Background: In the small commune of Andrusul de Jos, Cahul region, Moldova, the story of Maria, a resilient matriarch who dedicated a decade to working in Russia for her family's sustenance. During her years abroad, Maria engaged in various jobs, primarily to support her family back home, amidst facing her own health challenges. Despite facing personal health issues, Maria's efforts abroad and the subsequent impact on her household spotlight the critical role of diaspora contributions in local development and resilience against environmental changes.

Motivation for Involvement: The interviewee's involvement in migration was primarily motivated by economic hardship and family responsibilities, including the need to provide for children and address health issues. Migration was seen as a means to ensure survival and support the family back home, rather than as a strategic choice for personal or professional development.

Challenges: Maria's village is grappling with severe climate-related adversities, including unpredictable weather, extended droughts, soil erosion, and escalated pest and disease outbreaks, which critically undermine agricultural output and food security. These challenges necessitate innovative adaptive strategies to foster sustainability and resilience. Furthermore, the community contends with the demographic shift caused by economic migration, which depletes the local workforce, intensifying the challenges in maintaining agricultural productivity and community vitality.

Impact: Maria's migration provided crucial financial support to her family, enabling them to invest in sustainable agricultural practices despite the harsh climatic conditions. Her remittances were not just monetary; they included knowledge transfer and the introduction of innovative farming techniques learned during her time abroad. This dual contribution of funds and knowledge helped her household to adapt to climate variability, particularly in managing water resources more efficiently for their orchard and agricultural plots. This blend of financial aid and knowledge transfer fortified her family's resilience, optimally leveraging resources to adapt their farming techniques to the increasingly unpredictable climate. The interviewee's migration and remittances have had a direct impact on their household's ability to cope with economic and climate-related challenges. The challenges faced in agriculture, including climate risks and labor shortages, are shared by the community but addressed individually.

The Scale of Initiative: The individual's efforts were focused on immediate family support and survival, with no large-scale initiatives or investments mentioned.

Institutionalization of Diaspora Contributions: There is no indication of the institutionalization of diaspora contributions or engagement with private sector partnerships.

The Potential for Up-scaling and Replicability: Given the focus on survival and immediate family needs, there's limited potential for up-scaling or replicability of the individual's efforts in a broader development context.

EXAMPLE 7 – village Bravicea, Calarasi District, Republic of Moldova

Migration experience: France, Netherlands, Russian Federation

Background: The protagonist’s migration experience began at 17, leading him to Moscow where diverse job opportunities laid the groundwork for his strong work ethic and savings discipline, essentials for his later agricultural works in Moldova. A pivotal year in the Netherlands transformed his perspective through exposure to advanced agricultural management, including high-tech greenhouses that cultivated tomatoes and vegetables—a sharp contrast to Moldovan practices. Further experiences in Leon, France, introduced him to meticulous vineyard management and the significance of organic farming, underscoring the vast differences in agricultural methods from those in his homeland. These experiences abroad not only enriched his understanding of sustainable farming but also triggered his determination to implement similar techniques in Moldova.

Motivation for Involvement: The interviewee’s involvement in agriculture, alongside working abroad in construction, stems from a personal interest in farming, influenced by family traditions and observations made while working in the Netherlands and France. The desire to secure a sustainable and enjoyable livelihood back home, utilizing the skills and financial resources gained from migration, drives the engagement in agricultural practices, particularly nut cultivation and vineyard management.

Challenges: Adapting the advanced agricultural techniques witnessed in the Netherlands and France to the Moldovan context presented a series of challenges, from overcoming initial financial constraints to adjusting new crops to local climate conditions and securing land suitable for specific cultivations like walnuts. The process of translating cutting-edge European agricultural practices to Moldova’s resource-limited setting demanded creativity and determination. These initial hurdles encompassed not only the financial burden of acquiring high-quality agricultural inputs but also the complexity of integrating European farming methods into the unique climatic and soil conditions of Moldova. Securing appropriate land for walnut cultivation and addressing the specific climatic challenges of the region necessitated innovative strategies and significant investment, areas in which his international experiences offered both motivation and practical solutions.

Impact: The transformative impact of his migration journey is evident through the adoption of agricultural innovations and sustainable practices inspired by his experiences abroad. Having witnessed the efficiencies of greenhouse operations in the Netherlands and a comprehensive approach to agriculture in France—where even challenging terrains are cultivated—he invested in modern agricultural tools upon returning to Moldova. This included acquiring a Japanese small tractor and implementing an advanced irrigation system. Particularly influenced by the sustainable practices in France, he embraced the use of organic fertilizers, a move away from increasingly costly and less accessible chemical alternatives. His initiative to utilize organic manure, sourced from local farms and chicken manure-based products, underscores a commitment to sustainable agriculture, aiming to enhance soil health and boost crop yields in Moldova. Covering young walnut trees with straw manure to regulate soil conditions illustrates the practical application of these eco-friendly techniques, boosting tree growth and drought resilience. These strategic investments significantly uplifted the productivity of his farm, where he not only cultivates walnuts and manages a vineyard but also experiments with new crops, reflecting the innovative spirit seen in his European sojourns. The synthesis of knowledge acquired in Europe with financial investments made from his work abroad has markedly improved his family’s livelihood and contributed to advancing local climate resilience efforts. The initiative contributes to local agriculture and potentially serves as a model for sustainable farming practices. The interviewee’s efforts to consult with neighbours and share knowledge about innovative agricultural techniques hint at a positive influence on local farming practices and community resilience.

The Scale of Initiative: The scale of the initiative is modest but significant for the individual, covering approximately a hectare of nut trees and 70 acres of vineyards. The strategic approach to land use, including leasing additional land and diversifying crops, illustrates a thoughtful expansion of agricultural activities, leveraging both personal interest and observed best practices abroad.

Institutionalization of Diaspora Contributions: The interviewee’s experience embodies the potential for diaspora members to contribute to local development through knowledge transfer and investment in agriculture, inspired by global perspectives. The lack of engagement with programs like Pare I+I, due to eligibility constraints, points to areas where policy adjustments could facilitate broader diaspora involvement in local development.

The Potential for Up-scaling and Replicability: The interviewee’s agricultural activities demonstrate considerable potential for up-scaling and replicability, particularly in leveraging migrant experiences and financial resources for sustainable agriculture. Challenges such as land acquisition and the need for modern farming equipment are addressed through strategic investments, suggesting that similar initiatives could be replicated by other migrants with support from policy and community engagement.

EXAMPLE 8 – village Bravicea, Calarasi District, Republic of Moldova

Migration experience: Ireland

Background: Veaceslav, a native of the village of Bravicea, Orhei region, Moldova, embarked on a significant journey abroad, spending a total of 8 years working in Ireland, from 2004 to 2008 and then from 2012 to 2016. During his time in Ireland, Veaceslav observed advanced agricultural practices that focused on the growth of potatoes and corn without the use of herbicides and the application of natural fertilizers, practices that deeply impressed him. Inspired by these observations and determined to secure a sustainable future, he returned to his home village with the aim of applying these innovative agricultural techniques.

Motivation for Involvement: The individual’s motivation for getting involved in agriculture and specifically in planting a walnut orchard stems from a combination of necessity and aspiration. Initially driven abroad by economic hardship and the dismantling of the collective farm system, the respondent sought better opportunities in Ireland. Upon return, the vision to establish a sustainable income source for later life, coupled with the perceived financial stability from abroad, spurred the decision to invest in agriculture, particularly in walnut orchards as a long-term investment strategy.

Challenges: Veaceslav’s agricultural endeavors in Moldova were met with several challenges, exacerbated by climate change. The region experienced severe droughts, floods, frosts, and pest invasions, each posing significant threats to his walnut orchard and corn cultivation. Specifically, frosts in spring recurrently jeopardized the walnut harvest, while the summer’s torrid heat compromised the corn yield. Moreover, the fluctuating market prices for walnut kernels presented economic uncertainties, affecting the profitability of his investment.

Impact: Upon returning to Moldova, Veaceslav invested his remittances in establishing a walnut orchard over 2.70 hectares of land, a venture he considered as a long-term investment for income generation in later life. Additionally, he diversified his agricultural activities by growing corn within the walnut orchard, applying the agricultural insights gained from his time in Ireland. The decision to cultivate corn alongside walnuts not only optimized land use but also contributed to soil health, demonstrating a sustainable approach to farming. In Ireland, Veaceslav was particularly struck by the eco-friendly and technologically advanced agricultural practices. He noted how potatoes were grown with minimal disturbance to the soil, ensuring long-term soil health, and how corn cultivation utilized biodegradable films to suppress weeds, eliminating the need for chemical herbicides. Inspired by these practices, he aimed to replicate similar methods in Moldova, albeit constrained by local conditions and resources.

The establishment of the walnut orchard has the potential to impact the local community positively, albeit in a longer-term perspective given the nature of walnut cultivation. While immediate job creation may be limited, the orchard contributes to the diversification and resilience of local agriculture. However, the challenging economic environment, fluctuating walnut kernel prices, and climatic adversities like drought and frost pose risks to both the initiative and the broader agricultural community’s sustainability.

The Scale of Initiative: The initiative is moderately large, covering 2.70 hectares of walnut orchards developed in collaboration with a brother-in-law. This endeavour represents a significant investment in both time and resources, utilizing savings from abroad to purchase high-quality saplings and manage the cultivation process. The scale reflects a tangible commitment to agriculture as a means of livelihood enhancement.

Institutionalization of Diaspora Contributions: The individual’s effort to bring back knowledge and techniques observed abroad, such as the innovative cultivation methods seen in Ireland, hints at the informal transfer of diaspora knowledge. This transfer could potentially be formalized or expanded, suggesting room for structured diaspora engagement or partnerships that could support agricultural innovation and sustainability.

The Potential for Up-scaling and Replicability: The initiative’s potential for up-scaling and replicability hinges on addressing several critical factors, including securing additional land under favorable conditions, overcoming climatic challenges, and navigating the economic landscape of agricultural production. While the personal drive and innovation present a replicable model for diaspora members or local farmers interested in diversified agriculture, systemic support in terms of access to finance, technology, and market integration is crucial for broader applicability and success.

Table 9: Diaspora Engagement in Climate Resilience and Sustainable Agriculture: Selective examples of Best Practices

Location	Migration Experience	Type of Initiative	Challenges	Impact	Scale	Institutional & Implementing Entities	Potential for Up-scaling & Replicability
Radoaia, Sângerei District	Russian Federation, Israel	Sustainable farming practices	High costs, bureaucracy, lack of infrastructure	Improved family living conditions, highlighted sustainable practices’ potential	Personal	None specified	High, with supportive infrastructure and policy changes
Bălăşeşti, Sângerei District	France, Russian Federation	Greenhouse farming and irrigation	Initial investment costs, labor intensity	Increased agricultural productivity, economic self-sufficiency	Small-scale, one household	Individual initiative	High, needs financial and land access solutions
Congaz, Gagauzia	Lithuania, Estonia	Greenhouse for climate resilience	Financial and time constraints, societal trends	Directly addressed climate variability, inspired community	Personal	Individual initiative	Considerable, with community-wide support and investment
Congaz, Gagauzia	Russian Federation	Water tank for climate resilience	Climate extremes, socioeconomic disparity	Improved family resilience to climate challenges	Individual and family level	Individual initiative	Limited to individual efforts but illustrates broader opportunities
Slobozia Mare, Cahul Region	New Zealand, Russian Federation	Sustainable winemaking and vineyard cultivation	Climate change, resource access, technological landscape	Boosted local winemaking industry, sustainable practice adoption	Medium-scale	Previously registered LLC revitalized by individual	High, with support for sustainable practices and policies
Bahmut, Călăraşi Region	Russian Federation	Large-scale walnut orchard	Environmental degradation, water management, labor shortage	Inspired climate-resilient farming practices, provided local employment	Personal	Individual investment	High, contingent on overcoming bureaucratic and financial barriers
Andrusul de Jos, Cahul Region	Russian Federation	Sustainable agricultural practices through remittances	Climate-related adversities, workforce depletion	Enhanced household resilience, innovative farming techniques	Focused on immediate family support	None	Limited, focused on survival and immediate family needs
Bravicea, Orhei Region	France, Netherlands, Russian Federation	Adoption of advanced agricultural techniques	Financial constraints, climate and soil adaptation	Improved farm productivity, community resilience	Modest but significant	None specified	Considerable, with policy support and community engagement
Bravicea, Orhei Region	France, Russian Federation,	Large-scale agriculture with farming machinery	Drought, labor shortage, investment in irrigation	Sustained livelihood amidst climate challenges, innovative solutions	Moderately extensive	None specified	Significant, with strategic adaptation to climate risks
Bravicea, Orhei Region	Ireland	Sustainable walnut orchard and corn cultivation	Climate-induced droughts, economic uncertainties	Long-term income generation, soil health improvement	Moderately large	Individual initiative with family collaboration	Contingent on overcoming climatic and economic challenges
Bravicea, Orhei Region)	New Zealand, France	Sustainable viticulture	Climate change, water scarcity, labor shortage	Increased yield, revenue, and community engagement in sustainable practices	Impactful across winery operations	Individual initiative	Significant, with educational outreach and sustainable practice promotion

ANNEX 12

Table 10. Strategic Framework for Engaging Moldovan Diaspora in Climate Action: Motivators, Priority Areas, and Mechanisms

CATEGORY	SPECIFIC ITEM	OBJECTIVE	EXPECTED OUTCOME	DETAILS & EXAMPLES
MOTIVATORS	Economic Benefits	To highlight financial gains from climate-related investments	Increased investment in sustainable projects	Investments in high-performance agricultural equipment leading to increased productivity and reduced emissions
	Public Recognition	To honour contributions and motivate continued involvement	Enhanced morale and ongoing participation	Recognition through media coverage, awards, and state honours highlighting significant contributions
	Policy Involvement	To involve diaspora in legislative and policy frameworks	Greater inclusivity and enhanced trust	Integration of diaspora suggestions in climate policies, enhancing the legitimacy of the policymaking process
	Emotional/Regional/Community Ties	To connect projects with personal and regional interests	Strengthened personal commitment to projects	Initiatives that affect areas of personal significance, like hometowns or community facilities.
	Visibility of Contributions	To showcase the impact of diaspora contributions	Motivation for continued support	Regular updates and stories about successful interventions in areas important to diaspora members
	Resource Management	To ensure efficient and transparent use of resources	Sustained and increased engagement	Implementation of transparent practices in managing resources, ensuring contributions are used effectively
	Access to Funding	To facilitate easier access to funding for projects, start-ups or SMEs	Increased financial contributions	Offering favorable terms like lower interest rates and providing financial grants for initial investments

PRIORITY AREAS	Energy Sector	To promote energy efficiency and renewable energy	Reduced carbon emissions and energy use	Projects focusing on solar, wind, and bioenergy
	Agriculture	To adopt sustainable and innovative agricultural practices	Enhanced productivity and sustainability	Climate Smart Agricultural Practices, introducing organic and medicinal crops for higher returns
	Water Management	To improve water infrastructure and management	Better management of water resources	Development of new irrigation and water systems, particularly in rural areas facing water scarcity
	Eco-tourism	To invest in environmentally friendly tourism	Increased environmental awareness and local economic growth	Initiatives to enhance biodiversity conservation and sustainable tourism practices.
	Public Health	To address health challenges linked to climate change	Improved public health and preparedness	Supporting healthcare initiatives and disease prevention campaigns related to climate impacts
MECHANISMS	Financial Remittances	To use diaspora remittances to fund sustainable projects	Localized environmental and economic impacts	Support for agricultural modernization and renewable energy installations through remittances
	Social Remittances	To transfer knowledge and skills from abroad	Improved agricultural and environmental practices	Mentoring and training programs, sharing advanced agricultural and sustainability practices
	Regulatory Adjustments	To streamline policies that facilitate diaspora engagement	More effective and inclusive climate policies	Engaging diaspora professionals in crafting and advising on environmental policies.
	Targeted Programs	To develop programs that integrate climate action and diaspora engagement	Enhanced diaspora investment in climate initiatives	Expanding the scope of programs to include more sectors and scale up numerically, offering incentives for diaspora-led innovations.
	Diaspora Networks	To leverage diaspora expertise in environmental sectors	Practical implementation of advanced technologies and practices	Mapping key individuals within the diaspora for direct access to expertise and collaboration.

ANNEX 13

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