



UNITED NATIONS
MOLDOVA



2022 UNITED NATIONS COUNTRY ANNUAL RESULTS REPORT

UNITED NATIONS MOLDOVA

March 2023



Photo: UNFPA

Flashmob to mark the reach of 8 billion persons in the world



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CCA	United Nations Common Country Analysis
COVID-19	Coronavirus Disease 2019
CSO	Civil society organization
EU	European Union
GBV	Gender-based violence
HIV	Human immunodeficiency virus
ICT	Information and communication technology
IE	Inclusive education
IT	Information technology
LPA	Local Public Authority
MPTF	Multi-partner Trust Fund
MSMEs	Micro, small, and medium Enterprises
NBS	National Bureau of Statistics
NGO	Non-governmental organization
OMT	United Nations Operations and Management Team
OSCE	Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe
PEFA	Public Accountability and Financing Framework
RRRP	Regional Refugee Response Plan
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
TB	Tuberculosis
UN	The United Nations
UNCG	United Nations Communication Group
UNCT	United Nations Country Team
UN PFSD	United Nations Partnership Framework for Sustainable Development
UN YAP	Youth Advisory Panel of the United Nations in Moldova
VAWG	Violence against women and girls
WEPs	Women Empowerment Principles

FOREWORD



Dear reader,

On behalf of the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) in the Republic of Moldova, it is my pleasure to invite you to review the results delivered by the United Nations in our 2022 Country Results Report.

The war in Ukraine required significant adjustments in how the United Nations worked in the Republic of Moldova in 2022. Given existing vulnerabilities, the UNCT in its immediate response to the war placed particular importance on ensuring that support was provided not only to refugees but also to host communities and host families, with a focus on all interventions having a system strengthening approach. This was to ensure that the refugee response was not a parallel process but rather a complementary response supporting both refugees and Moldovan communities, meeting humanitarian needs while addressing existing development challenges in a manner that also prevented tensions from developing between the refugee population and the receiving communities.

This report takes stock of the progress made in 2022 by the United Nations in the delivery of the Strategic Partnership Framework for Sustainable Development, together with our many partners, in supporting the Republic of Moldova to achieve its national development priorities and the goals set in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It further outlines lessons learnt and provides an overview of our priorities and ambitions for 2023.

Throughout all of this, the United Nations remains a strong and reliable partner to the Government of Moldova. Complementing the refugee response, the UN Country Team launched a Development Emergency Response Offer, aimed at supporting the Government of Moldova to address the impact of the war in Ukraine on the cost of food, energy and basic services.

Joint United Nations support contributed to important policy achievements in 2022, which saw progress on gender equality and human rights. New partnerships

were developed with academia, the private sector, civil society, young people, and development partners around the processes for the United Nations Common Country Analysis, our next strategic cooperation framework, and further European ambitions of the Republic of Moldova.

Furthermore, the United Nations has continued to take concrete steps to ensure our coherence, effectiveness and efficiency, and to strengthen our joint operations, consolidate our partnerships, and advance our advocacy and communication efforts.

The principle of leaving no one behind remained a priority in 2022. UNCT increased allocations to activities related to gender equality as a primary or significant objective (to 61%). The UNCT has also committed to take all necessary and appropriate steps to achieve inclusion and non-discrimination of persons with disabilities in their workforce, by endorsing a non-discrimination statement at work.

In terms of looking forward, the UNCT and the Government of Moldova finalised and signed the new UN Cooperation Framework for Sustainable Development 2023-2027, and the Parliament adopted the revised “European Moldova 2030” National Development Strategy. Those frameworks offer a strong basis to guide our work over the coming years to support the Government of Moldova on its path to European integration.

All of the above and more are captured in this 2022 Country Results Report. In reading this report, I invite you to join us in celebrating our achievements, but also in reflecting on the many things that are still to be done to improve the lives of the people of Moldova.

Yours sincerely,

SIMON SPRINGETT

United Nations Resident Coordinator in the Republic of Moldova

UNITED NATIONS COUNTRY TEAM IN MOLDOVA

The United Nations Country Team (UNCT) is composed of representatives of the United Nations specialized agencies, funds and programmes, and other United Nations entities working in the Republic of Moldova and jointly supporting the country in the achievement of its national development priorities and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The UNCT is chaired by the United Nations Resident Coordinator, who reports to, and is the designated

representative of, the United Nations Secretary-General for development operations in the country.

The UNCT membership has steadily increased over the years and currently stands at 26 entities (of which 17 have physical presence in the country), each having its own area of activity while all operating in a coordinated and unified fashion.

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



Resident Coordinator Office UN Moldova

The UNCT is guided in its work by the United Nations – Republic of Moldova Partnership Framework for Sustainable Development (UN PFSD) 2018–2022, which outlines four strategic priority areas:

-  **Governance, human rights, and gender equality**
-  **Sustainable, inclusive, and equitable economic growth**
-  **Environmental sustainability and resilience**
-  **Inclusive and equitable social development**

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

The work of the UNCT is facilitated by several inter-agency working groups and task forces, which contribute to the effective implementation of the UN PFSD 2018–2022, as well as their associated joint workplans. Due to the war in Ukraine, in 2022, separate inter-agency structures stood up to coordinate the emergency response under the Regional Refugee Response Plan (RRRP) and overall leadership of UNHCR.

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

The successful implementation of the UN programmes in Moldova and the delivery of support to people would not be possible without our valued development partners, i.e. international development and financing partners, and the Government among others. Several partnerships, particularly with the private sector and International Financial Institutions (IFIs), have been developed and have continuously been producing notable results in advancing the development agenda in the country.

As in previous years, the EU remains our largest partner with approximately 40% (\$23M) of total funding for the UN in Moldova, covering interventions in the four priority areas of the UNPFS. At the same time, the UN had two important new contributors in 2022: the Government of Moldova – \$1M and the EBRD – \$1M (support for

digitalization processes for Moldovan Customs Service) for programmes in areas of good governance, regional and local development.

In 2022, the UN worked closely with the Moldova Support Platform, which aims at helping the country deal with the impact of Russia's war against Ukraine in a short term, and at offering support with the European integration, in a long term.

Due to solid relationship with key development partners, the United Nations system in Moldova committed in 2022 to support the country with the EU accession agenda, by mapping potential support to be provided.

DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS THAT PROVIDED GENEROUS CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE UN MOLDOVA IN 2022* (based on available resources reported by UN agencies in 2022)



* Additional resources donated by Core funding, Joint SDG Fund, Peacebuilding Fund – circa \$8 million (refugee response not included).

¹ Moldova Support Platform aims at generating immediate political, financial, and material assistance, as well as in-depth expertise for the democratic reform process, from the institutions and member states of the European Union, G7 countries, international financial institutions and international organizations, as well as other development partners.

CHAPTER 1: KEY DEVELOPMENTS IN THE COUNTRY AND THE REGIONAL CONTEXT

Key political developments

Throughout 2022, the situation in Moldova was deeply impacted by Russia's war against Ukraine. The huge refugee influx into Moldova was an unprecedented challenge for the country, with an impressive response from the government though.

Concerns about the potentially direct security implications of the war prompted Moldova to speed up its efforts to apply for EU membership. Moldova was granted candidate status on 23 June 2022.

With its energy security under pressure, Moldova has sought to diversify gas and electricity supplies from alternative sources in Europe; however, this has come at a higher cost and Chisinau remains partly dependent on the Transnistrian region and the supply of gas from Russia.

The relationship between Chisinau and Tiraspol has also been impacted. Since March, the 5+2 format in the Transnistrian conflict settlement process has been on hold, with talks continuing only in the 1+1 format. With the energy crisis in the fall, relations further deteriorated. The Moldovan government continued to tackle corruption. A series of high-level arrests have taken place and several political figures have been charged with being involved in major corruption.

In the context of the war, there has also been an increase in misinformation and hate speech. In addition, long-awaited legislation on bias-motivated crimes has been passed, which provides legal norms to protect victims and prevent and punish such crimes.

Key economic developments

Despite solid economic growth during 2022, Moldova could not reap the benefits of post-Covid recovery due to energy crisis, skyrocketing inflation, trade disruptions, logistics/supply chain deterioration and influx of refugees, that revealed systemic challenges and led to an economic downturn of 5.9%. Agricultural drought, high input prices, shortage of fertilisers and deterioration of markets access due to the war in Ukraine also posed challenges on food systems and food security. Notably,

[agricultural output](#) has dropped to historically low levels, drastically affecting vulnerable farmers, specifically small farm holders.

Dependency on Russia for energy supply, as well as high prices for gas, fuel and electricity has contributed to a contraction of industrial production by 5.1%. The construction sector, which was dynamically developing, experienced a decline of almost 13.9% compared to 2021.

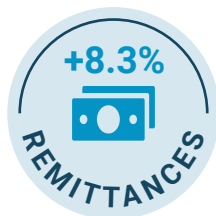
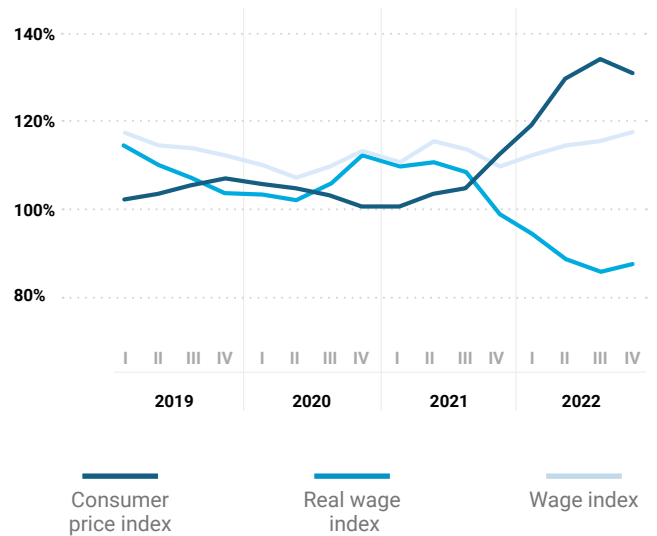
Moldova is among the countries with the highest annual inflation in the region (average of [28.7%](#) per year), surpassing Romania ([13.8%](#)) and Ukraine ([20.2%](#)). In 2022, there was almost a twofold increase in energy prices, including gas, electricity and fuel, while food prices and transportation costs grew by roughly one third. Furthermore, real wages decreased by over 10.5%. Although remittances have increased by roughly [one third since the pre-Covid year](#), their impact on sustaining internal consumption has been marginal due to being offset by consumer price growth. Therefore, households that depend on money transfers from abroad face a persistently high risk of being pushed into poverty.

To prevent the impoverishment of the population and mitigate the impact of energy crisis, the Government introduced on-bill gas and electricity compensation for vulnerable population groups, increased the amounts provided under the cash benefit program "Ajutor Social", raised pensions, adjusted and balanced the minimum wage in the private and public sectors. However, these measures were not enough to offset the effects of the multiple crisis on households.

In the attempt to curb inflation, the National Bank of Moldova tightened its monetary policy, which has added pressure on MSMEs that are already affected by a lack of access to finance. However, in an effort to relieve the private sector from unnecessary regulatory burden and to improve the business environment, the Government has initiated the simplification of business procedures. Furthermore, the Government expanded its efforts to subsidize MSMEs, with the aim of facilitating exports, promoting technological upgrades, and improving energy efficiency.

To expand support to population, the Government of Moldova has increased its public spending. Most of the spending (33.9% of national public budget) was dedicated to social protection, followed by education (16.6%) and healthcare (12.1%). The public budget deficit reached 6% in 2022, while public debt is likely to increase to 40% by 2024.

Real Wage Index and Consumer Prices Index
Compared to the same period of previous year



PROGRESS ON SDG IMPLEMENTATION ²



² Sustainable Development Report 2022 (sdgindex.org)

CHAPTER 2: UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM SUPPORT TO NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES THROUGH THE COOPERATION FRAMEWORK

2.1. OVERVIEW OF COOPERATION FRAMEWORK RESULTS

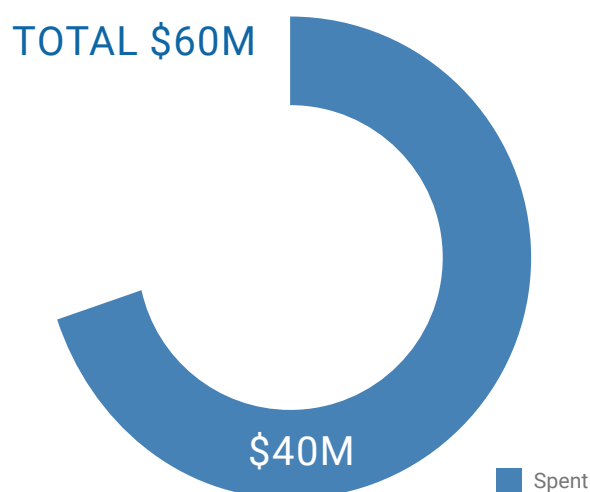
Our work in 2022 was impacted heavily by the war in Ukraine. In addition to the coordinated inter-agency refugee response under the RRRP, the United Nations in Moldova developed a Development Emergency Response Offer, highlighting targeted and scaled support under the Partnership Framework to the Government to respond to the socio-economic crises caused or exacerbated by the war in Ukraine. At the same time, the UNCT continued to support the country in the implementation of its development priorities and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), consolidating progress in the four strategic directions of its work, by advancing human rights and gender equality, and strengthening institutional and governance capacities, improving access to decent work and enhancing local services and infrastructure, improving the quality of education, health services, and social assistance, and promoting climate change resilient development.

Despite the unprecedented challenges posed by the war in Ukraine, the United Nations made good progress in meeting the results that it set to accomplish in 2022, including in the newly developed Development Emergency Response Offer.

At the output level, 79% of the 87 output-level indicators for which data was available in 2022 were fully achieved or achieved at a high level.

The United Nations in Moldova was able to secure approximately \$60 million in grant-based financing for the implementation of the joint development work plan covered by this report for UN PFSD in 2022. Of this amount, \$40 million was programmed (66%) while the remainder was rolled over to 2023. The programme implementation rate was curtailed in 2022 due to the expansion of the humanitarian dimension of the work of the UNCT. The funds were directed towards programmes and projects that span across all SDGs, with the largest share of expenditures being directed towards SDGs 1, 3, 5, 11, and 16.

Resources secured by the UN in 2022



Largest share of expenditures went to:



In 2022, the UNCT worked closely with the Government to finalize the next Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework, which will guide the United Nations work in the country for the period 2023-2027. In 2023, the United Nations will continue to provide support through the Development Emergency Response Offer and will also implement the Regional Refugee Response Plan.

Efforts to improve coherence, effectiveness, and efficiency in programme implementation, operations and communication will remain a priority.

2.2. COOPERATION FRAMEWORK PRIORITIES, OUTCOMES AND OUTPUTS

OUTCOME 1: GOVERNANCE, HUMAN RIGHTS AND GENDER EQUALITY



Alignment with Sustainable Development Goals

11 UN entities: FAO, IOM, OHCHR, UN Women, UNDP, UNECE, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, WHO
Expenditure 2022: \$ 6,740,225

The United Nations achieved several notable results in the field of governance, human rights, and gender equality, despite the challenging context of the war in Ukraine.

Consolidating data capacities for SDGs (output 1.1)

The year of 2022 culminated with important achievements in the field of official statistics, to which UN Moldova has contributed significantly under the UNPFSD 2018-2022. Several key policy documents were approved, such as the [National Statistical System Development Strategy 2023-2030 and the corresponding Action Plan](#), and the [National Framework for Monitoring the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Agenda 2030](#). Availability and quality of population and migration data at national and local level has also improved (with Population and Migration information system approved and recalculation of population data on national and subnational level, Demographic profiles of Chisinau, Balti, Ialoveni, ATU Gagauzia developed, Children in Moldova statistical publication issued, Crime and justice statistics reviewed, diaspora and agrometeorological statistics developed, etc.). Institutional capacities of the National Bureau of Statistics and other relevant government bodies in data collection and processing in line with European practices and standards have been strengthened due to UNCT joint efforts. The Resident Coordinator co-chairs the Sectoral Council for External Assistance for Statistics.

Strengthening the capacities of human rights institutions and civil society to protect human rights (output 1.2)

60 national and local CSOs evaluated over 300 human rights recommendations issued by international human rights monitoring bodies, after being capacitated by UNCT in holding duty bearers accountable for upholding human rights.

UN has supported the National Human Rights Institutions to further strengthen their role in the system of human rights protection. The Child Rights Ombudsperson can now generate evidence around emerging child rights

concerns and issue regular annual reports that are discussed in the Parliament, with the central and local authorities, children, and representatives of the CSOs to address existing barriers.

The system of Roma community mediators on both banks of Nistru River was consolidated, and 570 Roma people in the Transnistrian region benefited from mediators' support.

Consolidating the capacities of national institutions to advance integrity, gender equality and human rights (output 1.3)

Policy formulation support provided by the UNCT materialized in several key strategic national documents addressing digital transformation, public administration reform, public finance management, gender equality, migration and asylum, demographic and youth resilience, active and healthy ageing, etc., underpinning the country's efforts to meet the EU conditions, as well as to comply with the international commitments and development priorities.

The UN work paved the way for more resilient and evidence-based financing strategies. The Development Finance Assessment and sectoral Spending Reviews inform critical reforms to drive sustainable recovery and SDGs achievement.



Multi-disciplinary team in Chirsova developing the Action Plan to Reduce Violence

Equality and non-discrimination have been further advanced. Circa 2,100 public servants (including 1533 women) have capacities to mainstream gender equality and empowerment, ageing, prevention of discrimination and harassment and others in policies and budgets.

46 LPAs signed the European Charter for Equality of Women and Men in Local Life, while several central public authorities applied gender equality principles at institutional level (e.g., by performing gender audits, regulating prevention of sexual harassment, re-established Women Caucus of the new legislature).

The integrity and anticorruption framework at the sub-national level was changed due to UN contribution. Consequently, Ungheni and Cahul municipalities endorsed and initiated the implementation of Strategic Local Anti-Corruption Action Plans, aiming at strengthening the integrity in local public services, and reducing corruption in vulnerable areas. In addition, these are the first two municipalities in Moldova certified as complying with ISO 9001 (Quality Management) and ISO 37001 (Anti-bribery) standards.

8 additional youth centres enlarged the National Network of Youth Centres to 52 entities across the country, providing different opportunities for young people to develop and participate in civic life. 5 Youth Centres in Nisporeni, Balti, Soroca, Criuleni and Orhei were made fully accessible for young people with different disabilities.



Photo: UNFPA

Young people interacting and socializing during group activity at Susleni / Orhei Youth Centre

Digitalization was advanced across the entire work of UNCT, serving as a key enabler to support the modernization of the country. Thus, the cross-border security was enhanced due to modernization of the IT systems of the customs, digital literacy of civil servants was improved, multiple e-services were established, 25 schools across the country developed comprehensive digital transformation strategies, while 10 new Digital Labs were equipped with state-of-the-art computers – to mention just a few.

Strengthening civic engagement and participation in democratic governance (output 1.4)

The UNCT contributed to enabling the environment for equal participation in democratic processes in the country. Thus, digital solutions adopted by Central Electoral Commission allowed the institution to analyse and track data on parties' finances and strengthen the civic scrutiny of political parties' activity. 3,000 people learned and experienced democratic processes in action due to extensive age-tailored civic education program.



Photo: UNDP

“ By learning about democracy, we become free people and responsible citizens

Angelica Caraman, the president of Central Electoral Commission

Accessibility of polling stations across the country was assessed with UN support, revealing that 72% of these premises are not accessible. In partnership with CSO Motivatie, a practical guide was developed to advise LPAs on how to make the polling stations more accessible and inclusive.

More than 35 thousand young women and men aged between 14-35, both from urban (58%) and rural (42%) areas, increased knowledge on active citizenship and civic participation, personal development, gender equality and women empowerment. This enabled the youngsters to implement a series of local initiatives in their communities (at least 32), acting as agents of change.

“ **Through my podcast I dismantle stereotypes and prejudices about persons with disabilities**

Mariana Țibuleac-Ciobanu, a producer of a podcast focused on making an inclusive society a reality.

240 women and men, including from vulnerable groups (6 women with disabilities), improved their knowledge in leadership in public administration, harnessing the local economic potential, teamwork etc.



Photo: UNFPA

Mariana Tibulac-Ciobanu was engaged as UN Volunteer promoting inclusion, and equal rights and choices for persons with disabilities

The UNCT has been promoting child participation in decision-making in education. As part of this effort, the National Network of Students and Pupils’ Councils from Cahul and Ungheni districts implemented initiatives to engage children in decision-making processes in schools. Additionally, 60 teachers and school principals from 20 localities in those two districts improved their knowledge of child participation in education and school life.

The UN supported community networks in Chisinau, Ungheni, Cahul and Balti through U-report and UPSHIFT platforms that focus on representing adolescents in decision-making processes.

A Women’s Advisory Board consisting of 14 members equally representing both banks of Nistru River was established with the UN support to advance women’s meaningful participation in conflict negotiations and peace processes.

Improving the capacity of the justice system (output 1.5)

Over 2,000 vulnerable people received legal advice, while 500 young people improved their literacy in human rights and access to justice . Access to justice for persons with intellectual and psycho-social disabilities improved, due to approved specialized standards on legal assistance, developed with UN support.

UN continued to strengthen the child-friendly justice approaches. Children victims or witnesses of crime from the northern region of the Republic of Moldova have access to qualified assistance in the first Barnahus-type service inaugurated in 2022, covering Briceni, Ocnita, Soroca, Donduseni, Edinet, Drochia, Riscani, Glodeni, Falesti, Singerei, Floresti and Balti municipality. About 80 children in Balti benefitted of the services. In partnership with the National Institute of Justice, 10 interviewers were trained and certified to hear children who were victims or witnesses of crime. The legal framework has been amended, removing age limitations for providing child-friendly spaces and interviewing in cases involving children victims and witnesses of sexual abuse, domestic violence, or trafficking.

People in Moldova, including most vulnerable and marginalized ones, now have better access to justice, due to enhanced capacities of forensic institutions to provide quality services (based on targeted trainings, modern laboratory equipment, digitalization of services, setting appropriate framework for forensic evidence etc.).

KEY RESULTS UNDER OUTCOME 1



National Framework for Monitoring the Implementation of the **SDG 2030** approved



60 national and local CSOs hold duty bearers accountable for upholding human rights



35,000 young people increased knowledge on active citizenship, with subsequently implemented local initiatives in at least 32 communities



2 municipalities in Moldova (Cahul and Ungheni) are compliant with **ISO 37001 Anti-bribery standards**.



2,000 people from vulnerable groups benefited from legal advice



First **Barnahus** service inaugurated in the northern region of the Republic of Moldova



46 LPAs signed the European Charter for Equality of Women and Men in Local Life



First **community mediators' institution** piloted in the Transnistrian region, with 570 Roma people benefited from services



Source: OHCHR

“ During these six months of mediation, the village witnessed some positive changes. More Roma children attend the school and kindergarten, the school's roof and sanitary facilities were repaired, and vulnerable families received necessary social assistance. The gradual decrease in the number of Roma who do not have identity and housing registration documents is a very important achievement in my work. At the same time, the number of conflict situations in the community has dropped.

Serghei Railean, the first Roma community mediator in Novaya Andriyashevka village

OUTCOME 2: SUSTAINABLE, INCLUSIVE AND EQUITABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH



Alignment with Sustainable Development Goals

13 UN Entities: FAO, IFAD, ILO, IOM, ITU, UN Women, UNCTAD, UNDP, UNECE, UNESCO, UNICEF, UNIDO, WFP
Expenditure 2022: \$ 13,948,273

In 2022 considerable progress was achieved in the field of sustainable, inclusive and equitable growth due to the United Nations support.

Improving policies and services relating to sustainable economic growth and productive employment (output 2.1)

In 2022, the UNCT contributed significantly to the promotion of gender sensitive legislation. The Labour Code was amended and included provisions on equal pay and salary transparency, aiming at reducing the persistent gender wage gap of 14.4%.

The UNCT further supported the promotion of work-life balance legislation. A new [Law on alternative childcare services](#) was approved, allowing solutions for children up to the age of three. In addition, legislation was amended to provide flexibility and opportunities for parents and caregivers to balance the work and family responsibilities, with provisions on flexible working arrangements and parental leave to be mentioned, among others. Since 2022, the calculation of [maternity indemnity](#) has been changed to be based on the highest income of one of the parents, which allows mothers to start working during their maternity leave and generate income.

The UN supported the approval of a [new minimum wage](#) by the Government (4000 MDL), which applies to both the real and budgetary sectors. This eliminates the long-standing discrimination between public and private sector workers, as the former previously received a minimum wage that was three times lower than the latter. Around 60.000 low-paid workers in the Republic of Moldova will benefit from this policy amendment, resulting in improved livelihoods. Through the partnership with the UNCT, 40 representatives (23 women) of the government, employers and workers' organizations gained capacities for setting minimum wages in a non-discriminatory manner.

A new human-centred and gender-transformative [National Employment Program \(2022-2026\)](#) was endorsed in 2022, addressing informality and inactivity, and creation of more and better jobs, including in the rural areas.

The UNCT provided policy advice in the development of the [Food Security Strategy \(2023-2030\)](#) initiated by the Government in response to multifaceted crisis that emerged in 2022. The Strategy aims to create an appropriate context for achieving SDGs 1, 2 and 12, and guarantee the implementation of the LNOB principle.

The new National Strategy on Agriculture and Rural Development (2023-2030) has been developed, with gender equality mainstreamed and digitalization concept included.

The Programme for Digitalization in Agriculture has been developed with UN support.

The Intervention and Payment Agency in Agriculture has introduced new subsidy measures to stimulate investments in environmentally friendly technologies and to prevent land degradation, with the support of UNCT.

Moldovan migrants will enjoy better protection of their rights due to specific collaboration agreements signed in 2022 by the Republic of Moldova and Italy, Germany, Bulgaria, and Israel. UNCT has also contributed to enhancing migrants' awareness of their rights following the implementation of a web-based info-module. 500 persons (65% women) validated their skills at the 11 skills validation centers, which were established through the implementation of a mechanism for informal skills validation and certification. Two new occupational standards were adopted (in child and elderly care), which are now available for the returning Moldovan migrants.



“ I plan to certify my skills and upgrade them. And I still hope I can set up a business that provides employment to women like me so that they can remain in Moldova and do not have to search for work abroad

Natalia Pruteanu, mother of five children, participant in trainings on entrepreneurship

Moldovan business has now access to the information on EaP/EU export opportunities for SMEs in EaP countries and on market conditions due to the regional trade intelligence platform “EaP Trade Helpdesk” launched in 2022. The platform links to EU’s Access2Market database and serves as a feedback mechanism for users through the Help Centre – a network of focal points in various institutions in Moldova.

Cahul and Ungheni can now promote green and sustainable growth and benefit from greater integration into the EU value chains due to four emerging economic clusters created with UN support. Two localities on the left bank of Nistru River learned best practices from the right bank of the river where, for the first time, diaspora engagement in local democratic participatory community development was successfully tested.

30 local public authorities and private sector have engaged in local public-private partnerships by developing two Territorial Economic Development Platforms and local economic roadmaps to promote local economic growth agenda.

70 Occupational Safety and Health Inspectors (OSH) have improved capacities to enforce the OSH legislation and tackle undeclared work.

To support the transition to a knowledge-based economy and harness innovation to drive sustainable development, the UNCT provided detailed policy recommendations to national authorities through the Innovation for Sustainable Development Review (I4SDR).

Improving access of vulnerable and disadvantaged groups to resources and sustainable jobs (output 2.2)

A total number of 155 businesses were created, expanded, or strengthened their economic resilience, leading to the preservation of app. 600 jobs. 21 women, including from most vulnerable groups, started their new business and 90 female small producers expanded their business, and 44 MSMEs strengthened their resilience to crisis due to different types of support provided by UNCT.

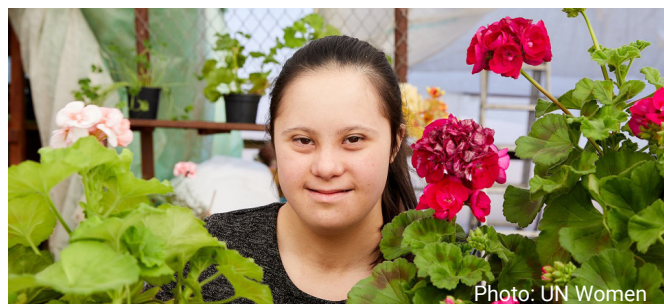


Photo: UN Women

Daniela owns a greenhouse with flowers and a gift shop nestled in the village of Vadul lui Isac.

Over 1,000 people, mostly women and girls, including from underrepresented groups, improved their digital skills that enhanced their employability. About 30 women were employed or passed an internship in an IT company, and 800 increased their engagement in the ICT sector, through community and support activities, Women in Online Work Programme, free access to newly created iHubs in Balti and Comrat.

650 people from the regions with special status improved their knowledge on how to generate additional income opportunities through tailored UNCT-led capacity building, focusing on starting and managing the business, and other 183 – improved their knowledge in area of tourism.



Photo: JNDP

Iana Valeeva, a young female entrepreneur in Tiraspol, owning a studio specialising in post-production.

621 pupils and 64 teachers in public schools in Orhei and Rezina enhanced their knowledge about soil and land degradation by means of 32 events organized in partnership with the local authorities.

Supporting adolescents and youth to transition from school to gainful employment (output 2.3)

A number of 1,400 UPSHIFT social innovation projects led by adolescents have been implemented in 32 localities, including two Refugee Accommodation Centres in Chisinau, due to UNCT full cycle training on local mobilization, business development, start-up management and implementation.

Around 6,000 young people (Moldovan and refugees) benefited from ICT trainings through the mobile STEM classroom. 3,600 adolescent girls were engaged in the GirlsGoIT summer camp to learn on life skills development and social engagement activities.

Improved local public services and access to income-generating opportunities and jobs (output 2.4)

Over 174,000 people (including 49.9% women) benefitted from improved local public services and upgraded resilient infrastructure, other 5556 people improved livelihoods opportunities, and 379 new jobs have been created due to UNCT support.

Over 130,000 people in Cahul and Ungheni regions will benefit from improved local infrastructure aiming to support local economic development deriving from 12 local/regional catalytic investments and public/private partnership fostered by UNCT. Public service providers in Cahul and Ungheni were consolidated institutionally to operate in an inter-municipal format, improve joint planning, delivery, and monitoring of local public services (waste management, water and sanitation, and administration of public properties), including through the use of SMART technologies.

UNCT contributed to enhancing resilience to the energy shortage crisis and ensured better accessibility and quality of administrative and social services to approximately 70,000 people, particularly the most vulnerable. Additionally, two backed-up community actions for migrants enhanced access to local recreational facilities for more than 7,100 people in the Transnistrian region.

Due to UNCT support, 31 representatives of public and private business development providers (out of which 22 are women) have the capacities to establish and run a full training system on starting and improving SME.

Over 270 local businesses improved their capacities to strengthen competitiveness and resilience, to diversify their products using eco technologies, and to access foreign markets. 56 MSMEs, out of which 38 led by women and 30 by youth, were selected and received financial assistance for green recovery projects.

KEY RESULTS UNDER OUTCOME 2



Policy and institutional framework in the field of sustainable, inclusive, and equitable growth **strengthened**

>12,000 people (including women and girls, youth and adolescents, refugees, and people from Transnistrian region) are now aware of employment opportunities, income generation, business development and expansion



425 MSMEs created, expanded, or strengthened their economic resilience, **including 101 women**



>380,000 people benefited from enhanced public infrastructure



>1000 jobs created or maintained, with more than half going to women



1,400 social **innovation projects** led by adolescents implemented in 32 localities



Moldovan **migrants** now benefit from better protection of their rights and have access to informal skills validation



Photo: UN Women

Ana Grama is a young entrepreneur who transformed her passion for growing lavender into an eco-cosmetics startup. Ana's professional path started with the Pre-accelerator program for women and girls implemented with support from the UN.

OUTCOME 3: ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND RESILIENCE



8 UN Entities: FAO, IFAD, IOM, UNDP, UNDRR, UNECE, UNESCO, UNIDO

Expenditure 2022: \$ 5,938,500

In 2022, the UN collectively made considerable progress on improving national and local capacities for increasing energy efficiency, applying sustainable natural resource management practices, and integrating climate change mitigation and adaptation priorities into Local Development Plans.

The achieved results increased the preparedness of the Government and the people to face energy transition and climate change challenges in a sustainable and smart way.

Boosting energy efficiency in rural and urban areas (Output 3.1)

1.6 million people benefitted from on-bill compensation due to the UN support in designing and operationalising the Energy Vulnerability Fund, as a response to the current energy crisis.

The Nudging Programme on electricity consumption launched in 2022, which covers more than 700,000 households, has led to a reduction of national energy consumption by 1.3%.

Due to the UN program on green and low carbon urban solutions, 301 apartments in six residential buildings in two municipalities have improved their thermal energy distribution, which generated savings of 30% for households' electricity and heating bills.

The UN supported national authorities to adopt energy efficiency and renewable solutions. Two National Programmes ("Green Home" and "Replacement of old electrical appliances Voucher Programme") have been designed, targeting 50,000 people.

National institutions' capacities on fuel-saving standards and reduction of the carbon footprint have improved following the UN support in introducing and expanding the use of renewable energy in the Republic of Moldova.

Improving capacities to apply sustainable natural resource management practices (Output 3.2)

In 2022, the United Nations supported the adoption of resource-efficient and climate-resilient solutions by 30 Local Public Administrations (LPA) in 7 districts of Moldova, including the security zone (Transnistria region) and the Gagauzia region. A total number of 256,665 people, including 121,948 women have better capacities to apply sustainable natural resource management practices.



A photovoltaic system installed in Molovata, Dubasari district, with a capacity of 24 kW to pump water and transport it to the locality

Representatives of two pilot local governments Orhei and Rezina strengthened their capacities in assessing land degradation, in applying most effective measures to land and landscape management, and in piloting the new cost-effective methodology for soil quality monitoring. The increased capacities resulted in assessing 92,000 ha of land and over 800 ha of shelterbelts, which will provide a better knowledge on how to improve land use and achieve land degradation neutrality.

Improving capacities for climate change adaptation and mitigation (output 3.3)

In 2022, the UN contributed to advancing policy and normative support on climate change. This included drawing up new policy documents on environment sustainability and resilience (e.g. The 2050 Low Emission Development Programme, Law on F-Gases, National Climate Change Adaptation Programme), but also mainstreaming specific climate change adaptation measures into existing and new policy documents (namely agriculture, climate, migration, and other policies).

The UN supported the Government in assessing the impact of drought on the agricultural sector of Moldova, which severely affected families living in rural areas. The assessment resulted in a Crop and Food Supply Assessment Mission report, with specific recommendations to address the most urgent issues in the area.

Decision makers can now determine, evaluate, and anticipate potential environment impacts of various plans, programs and initiatives to be implemented. This was possible due to UN putting forward two guidelines on emission reduction for consideration by public authorities, i.e., Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA).

The National Policy Dialogue on Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) provided a platform for key stakeholders to identify, prepare, and implement reforms in the field of water policy and advance water and health agenda.

13 disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation plans were developed at the local level, helping 18,204 people (including 9,562 women) to reduce vulnerability towards climate change risks.

Climate resilience was advanced in two districts (Ungheni and Criuleni) by building two water collection and storage basins, each coupled with photovoltaic systems. The storage capacity of these basins can support irrigation and increase crop productivity of a total land area of 57 ha.

Two new firefighting posts were established in the two most vulnerable and high-risk districts of the country – Leova and Hancesti, with 177 volunteer firefighters trained and 18 new full-time jobs created.

About 500 professionals and representatives of LPAs, female farmers, journalists, academia and migrants increased their knowledge and awareness on climate change adaptation and mitigation issues. In addition, stakeholders from 7 local communities improved knowledge on climate vulnerability and were engaged in designing and developing the community-based action plans for adaptation to climate change.

Climate smart agriculture practices contributed to achieving land degradation neutrality for 100 ha.

Improving private sector capacities to apply Resource Efficient and Cleaner Production (RECP)

In 2022, the UN contributed to increasing the manufacturing efficiency of MSMEs by introducing and implementing the RECP principles. Assessment reports were developed for 13 enterprises and two RECP clubs were launched for 16 enterprises in Cahul and Gagauzia. Two industrial parks located in Vulcanesti and Chisinau benefited from UN expertise in developing assessment reports and action plans on eco-industrial transition. A strategy was developed to engage energy-intensive enterprises. Prefeasibility assessment reports for transition to eco-industrial parks were developed together with action plans for the industrial park Tracom and free economic zone Vulcanesti.

KEY RESULTS UNDER OUTCOME 3



Policy and institutional framework in the field of sustainable, inclusive, and equitable growth **strengthened**



700,000 households have reduced electricity consumption by 1.3%.



18,204 people can now reduce their vulnerability towards climate change risks.



16 enterprises can now apply Resource Efficient and Cleaner Production (RECP)



256,665 people (incl. 121,948 women) increased their capacities in applying sustainable natural resource management practices



100 ha have achieved land degradation neutrality



Agricultural drones sprinkle on average up to 40% less active substance (herbicides dissolved in water) allowing more uniform and more accurate spraying.

OUTCOME 4: INCLUSIVE AND EQUITABLE SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT



11 UN Entities: IOM, OHCHR, UN Women, UNAIDS, UNDP, UNFPA, UNHRC, UNICEF, UNODC, WFP, WHO
Expenditure 2022: \$ 13,264,032

Improving the capacity of the health system to provide quality health services (output 4.1)

In 2022, important national health programs on [HIV and sexually transmitted infections](#) and [Tuberculosis \(TB\) control](#) were approved by the government, the [Protocol to Eliminate Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products](#) has been ratified by the Republic of Moldova, and other important policies and procedures advanced (i.e. routine immunization, maternal and reproductive health, communicable and non-communicable diseases, consumption of new substances with psychoactive and stimulant properties, salt consumption), ensuring better access and higher quality to health services for Moldovans.

Approximately 15,000 births annually will take place in a safer environment and conditions due to seven upgraded perinatal centres and two specialized hospitals with lifesaving equipment, such as the delivery rooms, operating theatres, and intensive care units for women and new-borns.



Neonatal incubators and life-saving medical equipment at the Institute of Mother and Child in Chisinau

4,497 health staff and community health workers provide quality and high standard health services (e.g. COVID-19 and routine immunization, sexual and reproductive health; management of drug dependence; assertive communication with patients; mainstreaming human rights-based approach into the studying curricula, DRG management) due to capacities developed with UN support.



Photo: WHO

“ I came to get vaccinated against flu because I want to be healthy. Vaccination is very important, because it saves lives.
Says Fiodor Matriunciuc from Floresti

The health system at all levels (emergency, primary, hospital care, rehabilitation, cancer, palliative, and long-term care) has now better capacities to provide quality health services, due to gaps addressed in IT and equipment by UNCT, membership to the regional network for Central Asian and European Surveillance of Antimicrobial Resistance (CAESAR), health care facilities endowed with consumables and personal protective equipment, evidence provided through the 2022 nationwide STEPS survey on non-communicable diseases' risk factors, and other initiatives.

The LNOB principle guided UN work in improving capacities of national health system and CSOs to assure quality services provision. Approximately 700,000 people (including men who have sex with men, transgender persons, women and girls, migrant workers, Ukrainian refugees, TB caretakers and TB survivors, people who used drugs, sex workers and homeless people) benefitted from reproductive health supplies and medicines, family planning, cervical cancer prevention, HIV and TB prevention, testing for HIV, TB, sexual transmitted infections, and viral hepatitis etc., due to health workforce improved capacities in service delivery.

More than 500 mothers, families, and health workers across 6 districts and municipalities are now aware of the benefits of breastfeeding.



Photo: WHO Moldova

“ Breastfeeding is the best thing a mother can give her baby. It helps preventing diseases, strengthens immunity, and is beneficial for both the mother and the child.

stressed young mother *Alina Turuta* during the Breastfeeding Caravan 2022

Empowering vulnerable and disadvantaged groups to access and demand quality services (output 4.2)

Almost 29,261 adolescents and youth (girls/young women, boys/young men, non-binary individuals, refugees, Roma people) and 1,265 parents and teachers have improved knowledge and skills related to sexual and reproductive health and rights, harmonious relationships, gender equality, how to address GBV and refer to services.

5,887 women from vulnerable groups (victims and survivors of violence, with disabilities, living with HIV, elderly, single mothers, from Roma community, other women at risk) benefited from (legal, psycho-social, medical) essential services and were distributed essential kits.

A total number of 630 older people from 26 localities are able to access social and health services, through digital devices, due to the intergenerational dialogue initiative of the UN and its private partners Moldcell and Bayer.

Children with disabilities or developmental delays and their families can now access early detection and intervention services, due to legal and normative framework strengthened with UN support. In 2022, 191 children benefited from transdisciplinary Early Childhood Intervention services.

Children and youth with disabilities, and their families benefit from a more inclusive education (IE) system, due to the increased budget provided by the Government. Financial support to IE was doubled in 2022, after UNCT advocacy efforts.



Photo: UNICEF

Valentina was diagnosed with mixed cerebral palsy, and was benefitting from early intervention services for children

Increasing the capacity of the education system to deliver quality and inclusive education (output 4.3)

50% of the teachers in Moldova’s educational system have improved their knowledge in applying and monitoring quality teaching and learning, addressing violence, dropouts and absenteeism, adolescent health, developing digital skills and preventing infectious diseases. An additional 10%, including Ukrainian teachers, have increased their knowledge and skills on social cohesion, peace-building, mental health and psychosocial support. These efforts are expected to result in better education services delivery to approximately 474,000 Moldovan and about 30,000 Ukrainian children.



Photo: UN Women

18,600 children from Cahul and Ungheni are benefitting from improved educational services, due to the increased capacities of education personnel. About 2,700 preschool and primary school teachers from all institutions from Cahul and Ungheni have improved their abilities to apply a holistic, child-centered approach, due to UNCT support.

The UNCT placed an important focus on promoting education for health. More teachers became aware of comprehensive sexuality education (53% alignment of

the national curricula to the international standards in 2022 compared to 32% in 2017). This is due to equipping schools with interactive teaching materials, building capacities of teachers, institutionalising continuous training programs.

The UNCT, along with the education sector partners, continued to promote school enrolment of vulnerable and Ukrainian children in Moldovan schools. In 2022, a total number of 74,531 refugees and Moldovan children and adolescents were reached through formal and non-formal education (36,027 Moldovans (7,811 girls and 28,215 boys).and 38,504 refugees (25,459 girls, 13,045 boys).



The educational system in Moldova is now better prepared to respond to GBV and to advance favourable social norms that prevent VAWG, due to the „Harmonious relations in the family» course developed for 8-9 grade students and implemented in 24 educational institutions and “Education for health” course implemented in 471 educational institutions.

Addressing poverty through effective social assistance (output 4.4)

The national social protection in Moldova is now better prepared to respond to future shocks, due to the support provided by UNCT. In particular, 80,000 most vulnerable families with three or more children, single-parent households, households with a person with disabilities, and 11% of pregnant and lactating women have been prevented from falling into or deepening the poverty through cash assistance support for a period of six months, with UNCT contributing to this effort. Furthermore, older persons from over 5,300 households have received assistance in registering with the informational system, enabling them to benefit from compensation offered by the Government for energy bills during the winter.

“**For some people, this aid can seem insignificant, but for me it is a huge support during difficult times.**

Maria Mircea, a roma pensioner from Mingir village

Human rights and Human Rights Based Approach (HRBA) is mainstreamed in the initial and continuous training program of social professionals. Thus, more than 160 staff in 6 social care institutions and 560 social workers have increased their knowledge on HRBA to disability, based on complex training programs and curricula developed with the UN support.

Addressing violence against women and children (output 4.5)

The legal framework to address VAWG/GBV has been strengthened and is in line with the Istanbul Convention, providing for high-quality essential services, better protection for victims of VAWG/GBV, and prevention of violence against women and girls. In addition, improvements in legislation now provide service providers with common guidance on how to coordinate a joint response and ensure the protection of survivors of violence.

Women victims and survivors of violence from Drochia and Transnistria region, as well as those from remote areas can now benefit from quality assistance, referral, and information provided in specialised services. Furthermore, the sustainability of the service for male victims of trafficking has been ensured by handing it over to the Government. Three crisis rooms for women who use drugs and are subject to violence have become operational in Balti, Anenii Noi and Ribnita and five small-scale programs on the economic empowerment of women survivors of violence have been co-created and piloted in selected districts.

Women victims and survivors of violence can now access better quality services, due to a range of measures. These include (i) improved capacities of relevant stakeholders (more than 1,500 representatives of public institutions, police, social workers, child protection specialists and other relevant actors in five districts) in prevention and response to cases of DV, VAW, VAC, human trafficking and related crimes, preventive and rehabilitation programmes for perpetrators, etc.; (ii) digitalization of thematic training courses on the learning platform of public institutions, (iii) 41 hospitals, youth-friendly health clinics and emergency units equipped with post-rape kits to respond to the needs of victims of sexual violence, (iv) enforced Child Protection Policy in educational institutions, (v) awareness-raising activities etc.

In addition, social media manoeuvres have increased awareness of violence prevention among people in Moldova, with over 2 million interactions recorded (views, shares, etc.) for materials promoting gender

equality, positive social norms, male engagement, prevention and combating domestic violence, violence against women and children, trafficking in human beings, available services and helplines for victims, and reporting mechanisms. Around 38,000 people (women, youth and older people, foster/parents, caregivers, church leaders and others) have also become more aware of violence and violence-related issues due to

various in-person information activities carried out countrywide (Safe Spaces, Fathers Clubs, dignity kits, and information sessions).

68 victims of trafficking benefited from tailored assistance within specialised services.

KEY RESULTS UNDER OUTCOME 4



~**700,000** people from vulnerable groups benefited from different health services



191 children with disabilities benefitted from Early Childhood Intervention Services



74,531 Moldovan vulnerable and refugee children and adolescents reached through formal and non-formal education.



~**50% of teachers** increased their knowledge in different fields



Budget for Inclusive Education doubled by the Government



Improved curricula on comprehensive **sexuality education** (alignment to international standards from 32% in 2017 to 53% in 2022)



Specialised **services** for women victims of violence diversified



80,000 most vulnerable households covered with **social assistance** to overcome multiple crises generated by the war



68 victims of human trafficking received assistance



> **2 million** persons reached with messages on negative gender stereotypes and GBV



Photo: UNFPA

“ **There is no such thing as men’s work and women’s work. There are no professions exclusively for men or women.**

Maxim Birsan 35 years old husband and father, and a strong promoter of responsible fatherhood

REFUGEE SITUATION RESPONSE

The publication of this annual development results report of the United Nations in the Republic of Moldova comes one year after the full-scale invasion of Ukraine by the Russian Federation.

Since 24 February 2022, 13 United Nations agencies, funds, and programs have mobilized support to assist refugees fleeing Ukraine, support hosting families and communities, and assist government coordination efforts. During the last year, over 750,000 refugees have fled from Ukraine into Moldova. The world watched with deep respect, as communities across Moldova opened their hearts and their homes to these refugees.

The refugees fleeing the war in Ukraine arrived at a time when Moldova was already facing substantial social and economic impacts related to a slow economic recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic, high energy costs, and high inflation. From the onset of the war in early 2022, these challenges were compounded by increasing energy cost and potential for complete disruption of it, supply chain disruptions, increased costs in agricultural inputs, and sharp increases in costs of basic commodities. A significant agricultural drought in 2022 has affected all related sectors and increased costs to consumers.

From the onset of the refugee influx into the Republic of Moldova, an inter-agency Refugee Coordination Forum (RCF), led by the Government of Moldova and UNHCR, has been established, comprising eight sectoral working groups and three cross-sectoral task forces. In line with the Refugee Coordination Model, the RCF has supported the Government's leadership of the response by ensuring a common strategy and vision among partners, aligned with Government priorities and the needs of refugees, and affected host communities. From an initial 40 partners participating, the RCF has grown to include over 90 partners reporting and coordinating activities.

The Refugee Coordination Forum partners provided protection services and humanitarian assistance to over 128,000 refugees, while supporting appropriately 22,000 Moldovan's hosting refugees. The full reports of this work in support of refugees in the Republic of Moldova are outside the scope of this report.

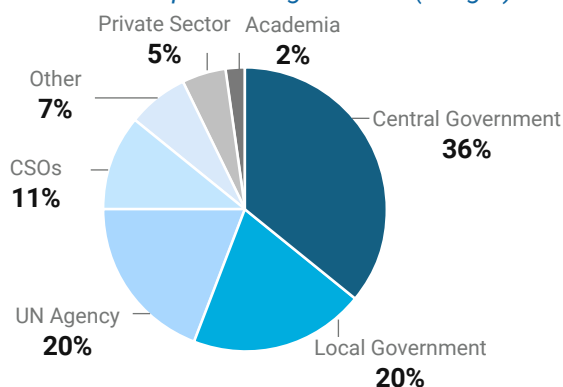
Given the existing vulnerabilities among Moldova's population, the UN in its immediate response to the crisis placed particular importance on ensuring that support was provided not only to refugees but also to host communities and host families, with a focus on all interventions having a system strengthening approach. This «whole-of-society» approach, aimed at reducing the burden on Moldova as a host society, further strengthening solidarity, and promoting sustainable support for refugees and affected host communities. This was also to ensure that the refugee response was not a parallel process but rather a complementary response supporting both refugees and Moldovan communities, meeting humanitarian needs while addressing existing development challenges in a manner that also prevented tensions from developing between the refugee population and the receiving communities.

Examples of this included many joint initiatives highlighting the complementarity between the humanitarian and development agendas. These initiatives included the integration of humanitarian cash assistance into national social protection systems, the establishment of a joint financing mechanism to support the government in providing healthcare to refugees, the improvement of school facilities to host refugees and to improve conditions for the local population, the inclusion of refugees in the labour market, among other interventions.

2.3. UNITED NATIONS SUPPORT TO PARTNERSHIPS AND FINANCING THE 2030 AGENDA

In 2022, the United Nations in Moldova consolidated and diversified its partnerships base to support and accelerate the achievement of SDG and contribute to the national development agenda. In the context of increased uncertainties and unfolding crises, partnerships developed previously with state and non-state institutions were continually engaged and further consolidated. South–South and triangular partnerships were also advanced, as were those focused on strengthening financing for SDGs. The UN engaged with more than 150 different implementing and cooperating partners in all areas of our work in 2022 (Annex 1).

Distribution of Implementing Partners (budget)



Government partnerships

In 2022, more than 50% of UN's total implementation budget was allocated to central and local government institutions, which represented the major share of its implementing partners.

In response to the compound crises generated by the war in Ukraine (refugees' influx, energy vulnerability and high inflation), the UN forged many new partnerships with various Government counterparts, line ministries and other public institutions in developing and implementing the social protection schemes and energy compensation mechanisms, aimed at ensuring social protection and inclusion of refugees and hosting families, and Moldovan vulnerable population.

The United Nations continued to partner with the National Bureau of Statistics. In 2022, the Sectoral Council for External Assistance in the field of Official Statistics ([SCEA](#)) has been established, and co-chaired by the UN Moldova Resident Coordinator. The purpose of the Council is to efficiently coordinate and capitalize on the external assistance in the field of official statistics, with the final aim of ensuring sustainable development of national statistics.



Photo: National Bureau of Statistics

Private sector partnerships

Several important initiatives, such as family friendly policies and spaces in the workplace, inclusion of persons with disabilities in the labour market, combating loneliness and exclusion among elderly citizens, as well as reducing buildings' energy consumption and associated pollution were continued and scaled up in 2022 through effective partnerships with private sector companies and business associations. Moldcell, Orange and Moldtelecom, Premier Energy, Asena Textil, Panilino, Apius and Ziphouse, Bayer Pharmaceuticals, CET Nord, Moldovan and American Chambers of Commerce and others (for full list of partners see Annex 1) are among the "champions" advancing the SDG agenda in collaboration with UN Moldova.

New joint initiatives started in 2022 through partnership with the Foreign Investors Association, Viorica Cosmetic, Crunchyroll, and Orange. Innovative initiatives, such as job matching and labour counselling, reduction of informal work, greening of enterprises, creation of childcare and breastfeeding spaces, support for healthy aging, economic inclusion of people in difficult situations and others have been implemented.

In response to the refugee crisis, the UN partnered with the private sector to support the integration of refugee into Moldovan society. Several IT MSMEs were engaged in co-designing digital solutions for sectorial opportunities (energy, health, education) and foundational catalysts (digital identity/signature), etc. For instance, a new digital platform has been created to help Ukrainian refugees receive training, find jobs and integrate into the Moldovan labour market. The platform uses proximity markers to alert potential candidates of job opportunities near their place of residence. This is important as many refugees live in remote regions and districts, while most of the advertised opportunities on similar websites are concentrated in the capital city.



Photo: UNDP Moldova

To support implementation of gender equality norms by the private sector, the UN facilitated the signature of the Women's Empowerment Principles (WEP) by 17 local companies³. The activity will continue in 2023 and beyond, to attract more companies to join this initiative.

In 2022, the UN conducted a [Business Impact Analysis on the realization of children's rights in the Republic of Moldova](#), which examined (i) the potential and actual impacts that business in Moldova have on children's rights, with a particular focus on the most vulnerable, and (ii) opportunities for further leveraging of existing initiatives to achieve responsible business conduct for children in Moldova.

The UN, in cooperation with the American Chamber of Commerce and PwC, supported the uptake and implementation of Environment, Social and Environment standards (ESG) by Moldovan companies. Under this initiative, Moldovan companies are taking the first steps to incorporate the requirements and standards for reporting environmental, social and governance indicators into their business strategies, and to ensure sustainable economic development in line with current trends towards a circular economy.

Cooperation with International Financing Institutions

UN partnered with the World Bank to conduct the first ever Gender Responsive Public Financial Management Assessment, as part of [Moldova's Public Expenditure and Accountability Assessment](#) (PEFA), released in 2022. The assessment examined how gender dimension is integrated into the public financial system at all levels, with recommendations to improve areas lacking gender balance and bias. This is part of a larger initiative where the Government of the Republic of Moldova committed to

strengthen gender equality efforts by building a tracking and reporting system on gender-related spending in public finance management under the Updates to the Memorandum of Economic and Financial Policies with the IMF.

UNCT also successfully cooperated with the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development to implement a digital system for the Moldovan Customs Service that included a trader dashboard, customs decisions management system, implementation of paperless/mobile customs tools and other features. The cooperation aims to enhance the capacity of the Customs Service for improved trade and border crossing flows of goods and services.

Support for new funding instruments

The UN supported the Government of Moldova in establishing the State Energy Vulnerability Reduction Fund with the financial support of the European Union and the Government of Slovakia. The UN provided support for the creation of the fund, development of the information system, training of social workers, creation, and operation of the call center, as well as the information campaign dedicated to the fund. The fund is currently capitalized by the EU, Germany, Sweden, Switzerland, and other development partners, and represents a key instrument of the Government to address energy vulnerability and provide compensation to vulnerable population in Moldova.

South-South Cooperation

Cooperation between the Republic of Moldova and India in the field of data was shared in a side-event organized as part of the Global South-South Development Expo 2022 with the support of the India-UN Development Partnership Fund. During the event, the National Bureau of Statistics in the Republic of Moldova shared their experience in developing the statistical population register, and using administrative data sources to produce official statistics based on knowledge previously shared with Estonia, Slovenia, Finland, Spain, Netherlands, and India.

³ WEPs are a set of Principles offering guidance to business on how to promote gender equality and women's empowerment in the workplace, marketplace, and community. The WEPs foster equal pay for work of equal value, gender-responsive supply chain practices and zero tolerance against sexual harassment in the workplace.

KEY RESULTS OF INNOVATIVE PARTNERSHIPS



4 private companies created **family friendly spaces** (breastfeeding, joy places, childcare facilities) at the workplace



1.6 million people benefited from on-bill compensation through established **Energy Vulnerability Fund**



700,000 households reduced electricity consumption by 1.3% in a Nudging Programme



4 emerging economic clusters created to ensure greater integration into the EU value chains and to promote green and sustainable growth



The Development Finance Assessment and **sectoral Spending Reviews** inform critical reforms to drive sustainable recovery and SDGs achievement.



301 apartments in 6 residential buildings improved thermal energy distribution, generating savings of **30%** for households' electricity and heating bills



1 platform on Telemedicine developed and tested in two regional cities in Moldova

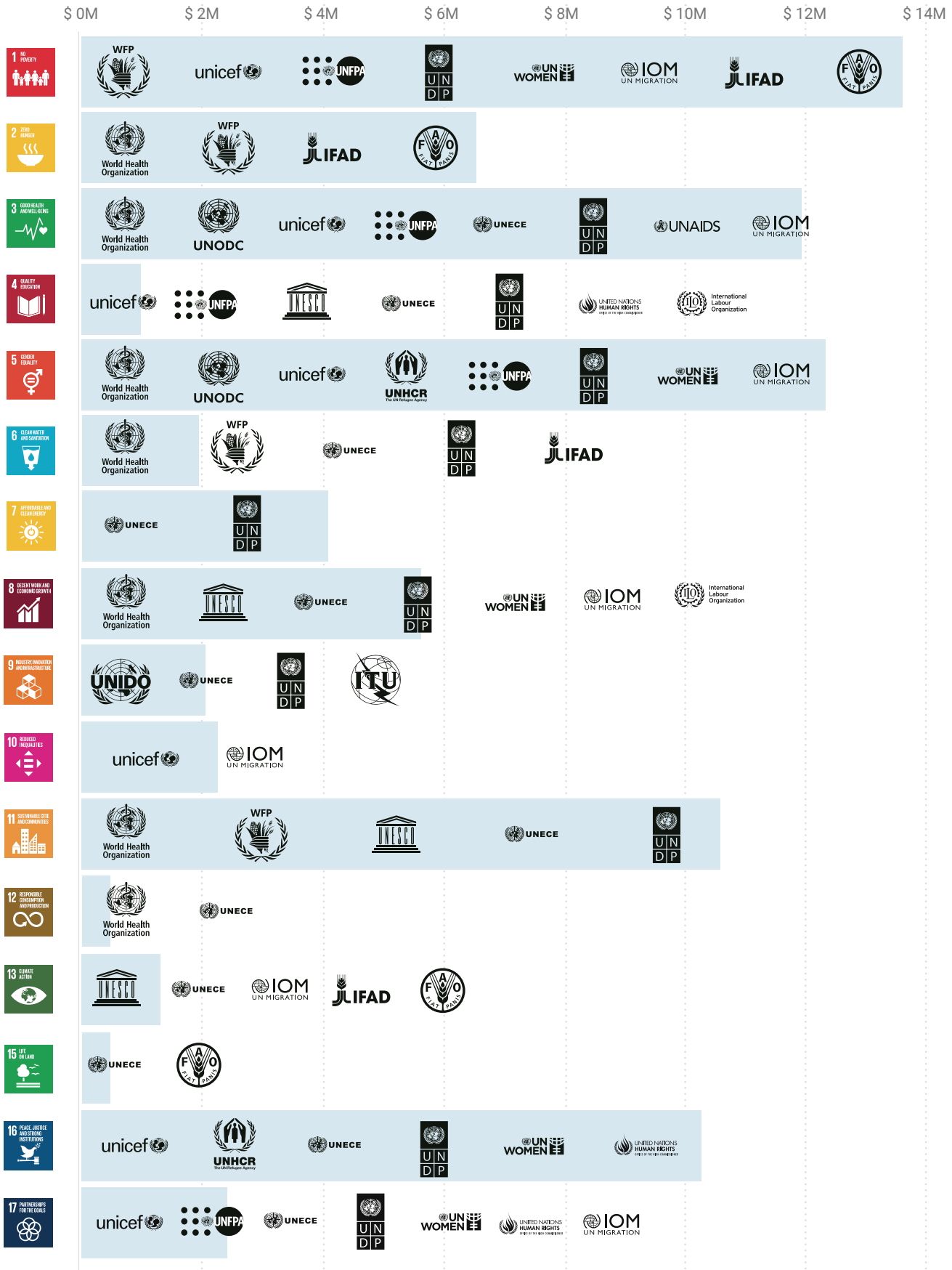


Photo: UN Women

Available financial resources per SDG

SDG Financing

Top five SDGs that received funding in Moldova through UNCT support are SDG 1, 3, 5, 11 and 16. The SDG Development Finance Analysis in Moldova in 2022 has been developed, providing an overview of public, private, international, and national financing flows and a set of recommendations on how to further strengthen focus on the financing of the 2030 Agenda.



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

Results of the repositioning of the United Nations Development System

In 2022, the implementation of the United Nations development system reform continued to make progress. The World Food Programme became the 26th agency to join the UNCT, contributing to the strengthening of the integrated support that the United Nations can provide to the country based on changing needs and context.

The UNCT enhanced collaboration across agencies by jointly developing the next UN-Moldova Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework, which was signed with the Government in November 2022. The Cooperation Framework was supported by strong data and analysis, and the insights are made widely accessible through the [Common Country Analysis](#) dashboard.

The UNCT demonstrated their commitment to transparency and accountability by making the annual [joint work plans](#) publicly accessible through an interactive dashboard. The dashboard highlights support of the UN to specific vulnerable groups, as well as overall commitments to human rights and gender equality.

Leaving no one behind remained a top priority in 2022, especially for refugee and socio-economic emergency responses. The UN and the World Bank jointly launched a comprehensive [gender assessment](#), and the UNCT coordinated the support for the Government roadmap to implement the ratification of the Istanbul Convention and strengthen joint work on gender equality and empowerment of women. Furthermore, the UNCT continued to cooperate and strengthen inter-agency mechanisms to prevent sexual exploitation and abuse, to promote gender equality, disability inclusion and engage youth. The UN Adolescents and Youth Advisory Group (AYAP) helped mainstream youth priorities into the core UNCT documents, including the UNSDCF 2023-2027 and contributed to achieving the SDGs in Moldova with a focus on quality education, climate actions, human rights, and gender equality.

In 2022, 16 UN Agencies implemented 14 joint initiatives (5 new and 9 ongoing). The expansion of joint programming highlights the effectiveness of this approach, which draws together the technical expertise of agencies for better coherence, leverage, and effectiveness of results. Approximately \$7 million in new resources were mobilized for joint programmes (to be implemented through 2025) aiming at emergency policy support, peacebuilding and social cohesion, support to Ukrainian refugees, support for human rights promotion in Transnistria region, strengthening the integrity and reliability of forensic expertise, addressing stigma and discrimination against women and girls with disabilities in Moldova and others.

Results of Communicating as One

In 2022 United Nations communication efforts were based on the four main objectives of the United Nations Moldova Communication Strategy 2018–2022 and the Communication Plan for 2022, aligned with the UN PFSD. In addition, because of the war in the neighbouring Ukraine, the United Nations Communication Group (UNCG) had to adjust its communication efforts. Considerable focus was put on jointly highlighting the support provided by the UNCT to Moldovan citizens, especially most vulnerable and marginalized ones, but also to refugees and host families, and the Government.

Throughout the year, the UNCG successfully implemented four awareness-raising campaigns, as well as a range of communication activities. This included well-established United Nations campaigns, such as “16 days of activism against GBV”.

A new campaign has been launched in 2022 - “Break the silence. We stand by you.” - aiming at spreading a zero-tolerance policy against all forms of gender-based violence and at raising the awareness of the refugees and host communities on the existing prevention and response services to gender-based violence in the Republic of Moldova.

In the context of the 30th anniversary of the Republic of Moldova membership in the United Nations, a joint information campaign was developed and implemented, underlining the results achieved by the country with UN support and promoting UN values and priorities at national and local levels. Over 500,000 persons have been reached by the campaign.

In 2022, the UNCG continued to work closely with the UN AYAP, actively engaging them in promoting key messages of UN's campaigns as well as UN values and priorities. One of the campaigns is the "SDGs in your school" within which over 750 pupils were taught how to contribute daily to achieving the SDGs and thus contribute to building a better future at home.

Results of Operating as One

In 2022, the UNCT continued to implement the Business Operations Strategy 2.0 to promote additional efficiencies by collaborating effectively in the areas of human resources, procurement, finance, administration, and ICT services.

Efficient collaboration in procurement, administration, and ICT service lines resulted in cost-savings of \$108,111 from joint operational activities. Thirteen Long-Term Arrangements were extended or established in 2022 with local companies and individual consultants for repeated procurement of goods and services.

The Macro assessment of the Public Financial Management (PFM) system of the Republic of Moldova for the new UNSDCF cycle (2023 – 2027) to ensure adequate awareness of the public financial management environment in which agencies make cash transfers to implementing partners. The results will enable UN agencies to make appropriate decisions on how to transfer funds. Efforts to mainstream human rights in procurement and operations were continued. For example, the non-discrimination employment clause was updated to encourage persons with disabilities to apply to UN jobs opportunities.

KEY RESULTS OF THE UNITED NATIONS WORKING MORE AND BETTER TOGETHER



26 entities form the UNCT



New **UNSDCF 2023-2027** signed with Moldovan Government



14 joint initiatives implemented by 11 UN Agencies



\$7 million mobilized for new joint programmes and projects, to be implemented under the new CF



4 large joint communication campaigns implemented



Socio-economic crisis and refugees' crises caused by the war in Ukraine tackled through the joint **UN Development Emergency Response Offer** and inter-agency **Refugee Response Plan**



Cost-savings of **\$108,111** achieved due to joint operational activities



Transparency, communication and accountability of the UNCT improved due to **Joint Workplan dashboard** and a **Common Country Analysis Data dashboard**

2.5. LESSONS LEARNT

Building on existing partnerships with the private sector and consolidating joint efforts can lead to greater impact.

Working with the private sector during emergency response support increased impact of UN work and enabled the UN to reach new beneficiaries in a more effective way. For instance, during the implementation of the Energy Vulnerability Fund and the support to family friendly policies.

Improving UN family coordination can result in better alignment with national priorities.

In 2022, UN interagency coordination group meetings reached a new level by including the government in the conversations. This allowed for a single point of conversation and information sharing on different development issues. Reinvigorated results groups can bring together diverse expertise from UN entities to support the EU integration process in Moldova.

Improving access to information on UN activities and projects can lead to more transparency and coordination among UN entities and with partners.

In 2022, the UN made information from their internal reporting system UN Info available to all people. The [Joint Work Plan dashboard](#) allows access to funding, partners, activities and progress information for each agency present in the country.

Additional efforts are required to improve coordination in specific sectors

by the activation of sectoral councils and providing technical support to the ministries to coordinate with partners. The UN will assist the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Social Protection and Labour, and the State Chancellery in activating different coordination forums.

The Humanitarian, Development and Peace Nexus

demonstrated in 2022 that it is not only extremely necessary to ensure durable solutions in Moldova, but also showed that extremely relevant solutions can be designed ensuring sustainability and national capacity building. An example of this is the joint programme implemented by the UNCT to support vulnerable households with cash assistance, building on and enhancing existing national structures.

Continuous work to ensure interagency efficiencies on operations.

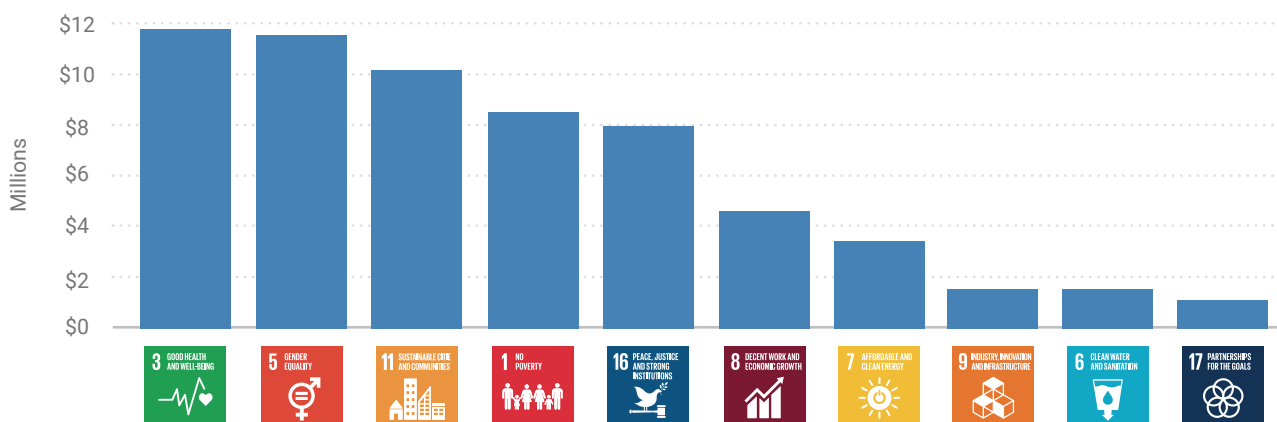
The implementation of BOS allowed for increased savings due to common operations. In addition, new agencies arriving in the country for the refugee response and emergency response were able to access LTAs to mobilize support quickly. This experience created the basis for further agreements in long-term operations.

Involving youth (AYAP) in advocating for the SDGs among their peers has proved successful

in educating the young generation on how to build a sustainable future at home. In 2023, the AYAP will receive greater support from UNCT to have a higher impact.

2.6. FINANCIAL OVERVIEW AND RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

Expenditures under UN PFSD 2018–2022 in 2022 by top 10 SDGs

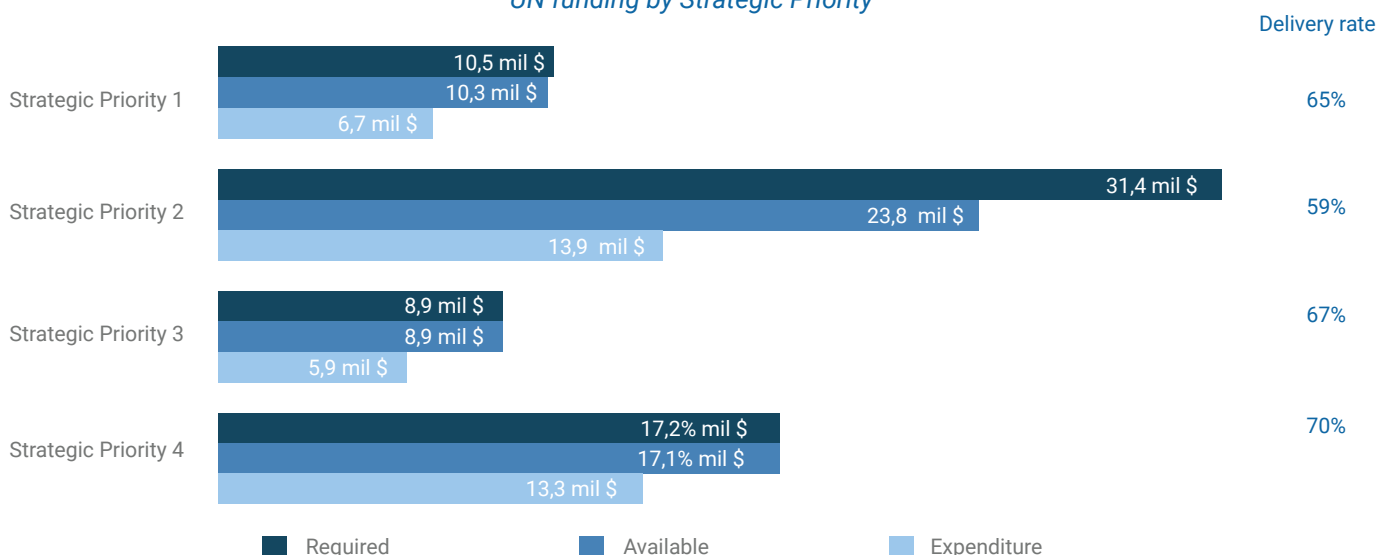


As reflected in the UNCT’s annual joint workplans for 2022 developed under the UN PFSD 2018–2022, the total planned required budget of the United Nations in Moldova for the year amounted to \$67.8 million, with \$60 million available resources. The delivery rate reached 66%, standing at \$39.8 million. The budget execution performance is explained by the programme and project implementation challenges posed by multiple crises Moldova had to face due to the war in Ukraine.

UNCT funding, total



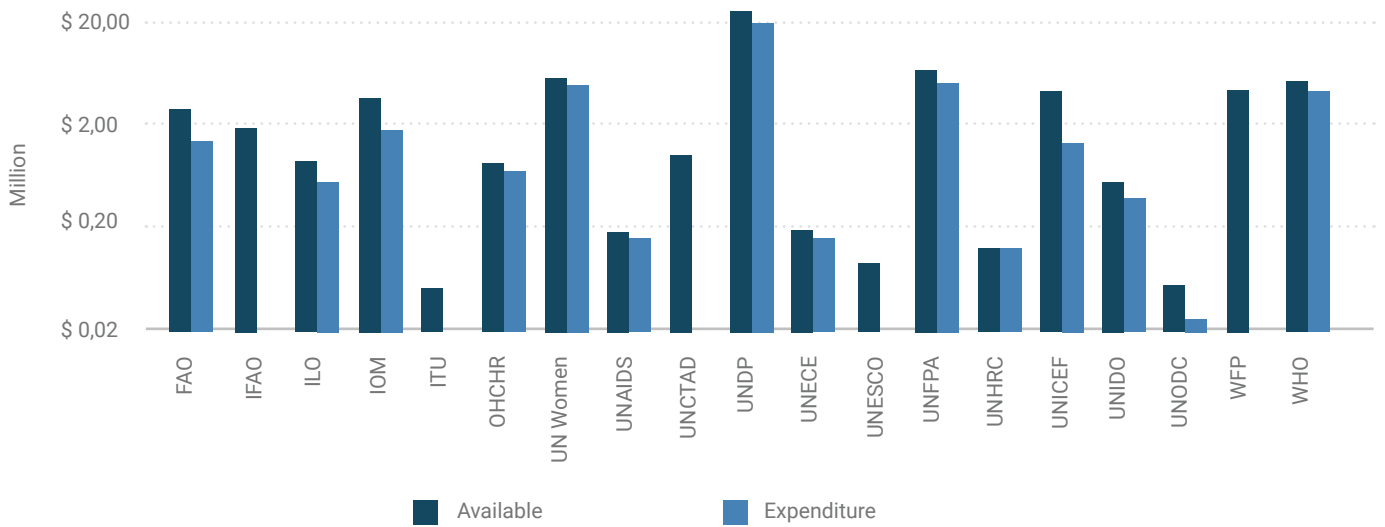
UN funding by Strategic Priority



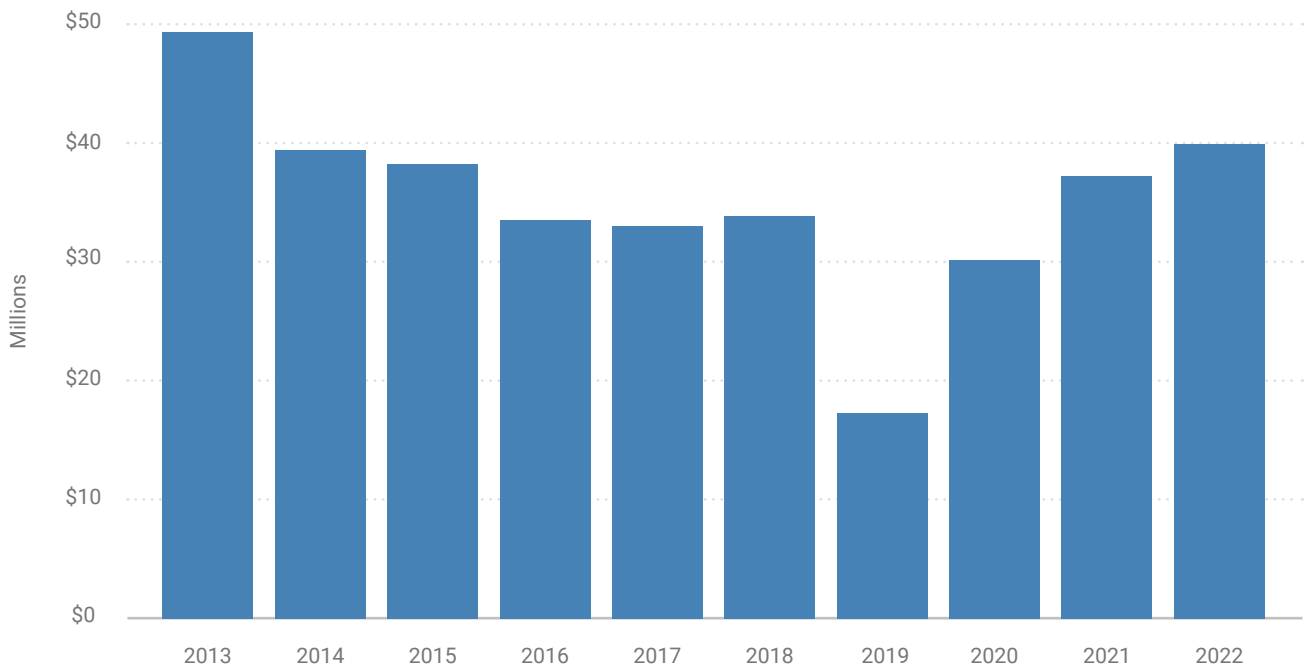
The original required budget for 2022 exceeded the end-of-the-year volume funding due to additional resources mobilized in the context of the war in Ukraine, as well as significant increased social support programs.

Economic growth was the most resource-intensive priority areas (\$31,4 M), followed by social services (\$17.1M), good governance (\$10,5m) and climate and resilience (\$8,9M).

Available funding and delivery by Agency



UNCT delivery, by years



In 2022, important vehicles for channelling resources for joint projects were several Multi-Donor Trust Funds. They include the [Moldova 2030 SDGs Partnership Multi-Partner Trust Fund \(MPTF\)](#), the [Peace Building Fund](#), the [Human Security Trust Fund](#) and the [Joint SDG Fund](#). By means of these MPTFs, the UNCT mobilized \$7.1 million in 2022 (to be implemented by 2025). The main donors to the MPTFs are the Governments of Sweden, Switzerland, Austria and other capitalizing partners.

The UN Moldova continued its dedicated work on increasing joint (multi-agency) programming in line with its commitment under the Joint Resource Mobilization. In 2022, 6 new joint programmes were developed. They addressed the support for integration of refugees, urgent support for agricultural inputs, peacebuilding and cohesion actions and policy support initiatives.

CHAPTER 3: UNITED NATIONS COUNTRY TEAM KEY FOCUS FOR 2023

In 2023, the UNCT will start implementing the new UN Sustainable Development Framework 2023-2027. The focus will be on advancing the achievement of the SDGs and accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Moldova. The new plan will fully consider the changing context and socio-economic impacts due to the crisis in Ukraine, as well as the Humanitarian-Development-Peace nexus, to ensure that common goals are agreed upon and durable solutions are implemented.

Efforts to improve and coordinate business innovations that generate greater efficiencies, synergies, and coherence within the United Nations Moldova will continue: During 2023, the UNCT is expected to update its Business Operations Strategy to promote common business operations, youth participation in the work force, continue ensuring gender balance in staffing, and disability inclusion.

The UNCT will also accelerate the implementation of its 2023 plan on the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse, with a particular focus on training agencies' nominated focal points and implementing the recently approved PSEA SOP.

Ensure that we listen to and engage with the population, particularly those left furthest behind: By listening to the voices of different stakeholders, UNCT will ensure that the United Nations in Moldova remains responsive to the needs of the people it serves. To promote this communication, a new cohort of Youth Advisory Panel has been selected. In addition, the UNCT will conduct joint conversations with representatives from vulnerable groups through the RGs.

Support the country in the EU integration process by identifying and ensuring the best resources from the UN are ready to assist the government in required reforms and implementation of recommendations. Coordination of the offer will be done by the RC to ensure cohesive support and communication.

The UNCT will continue to implement the Development Emergency Offer to support risk reduction, resilience, and capacity building for those most affected by the crisis. In this line, the UNCT will promote the mainstreaming of energy efficiency across all programmes.

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

Promote and advocate for the fundamental values, standards and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, including respect for and protection of human rights and gender equality, as well as leaving no one behind and reaching the furthest behind first: The UNCT will carry out communication and awareness-raising campaigns and activities to increase information and actions towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and SDGs. The UNCT plans to implement the following campaigns in 2023: "We Stand for Inclusion", "16 days of Activism against GBV", "Human Rights Awards 2023" and "Climate Action".

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

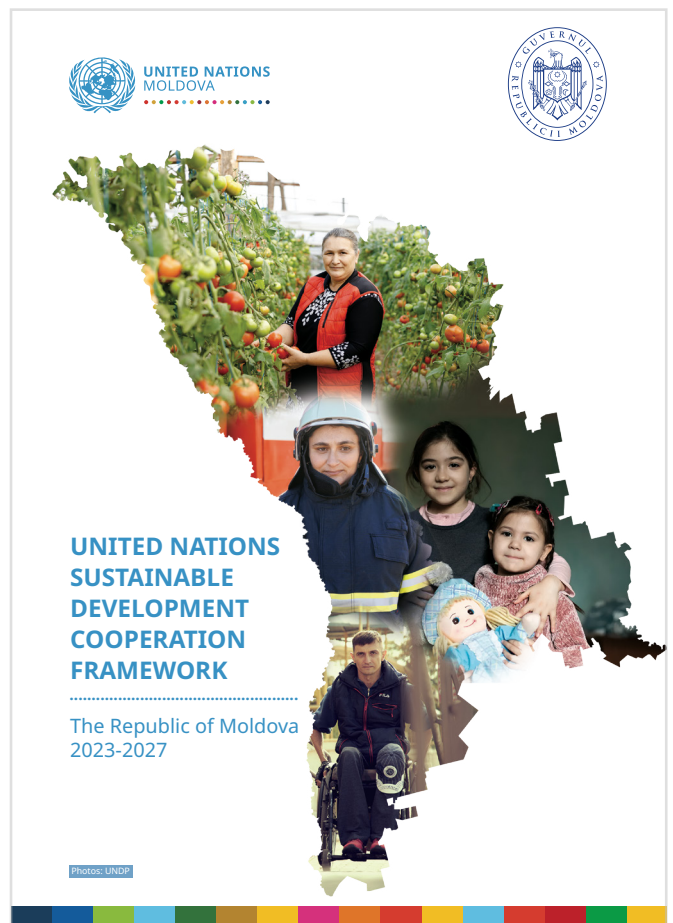


Photo: UNSDCF

ANNEX I: LIST OF KEY FINANCING PARTNERS OF THE UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM IN THE COUNTRY IN 2022

- ❖ Australia
- ❖ Austria
- ❖ Denmark
- ❖ Endava
- ❖ Estonia
- ❖ European Union/European Commission
- ❖ European Bank for Reconstruction and Development
- ❖ Czech Republic
- ❖ Germany
- ❖ Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization (GAVI)
- ❖ Global Environment Facility
- ❖ Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria
- ❖ Global Partnership for Education
- ❖ Green Climate Fund
- ❖ India–UN Development Partnership Fund
- ❖ International Atomic Energy Agency
- ❖ Japan
- ❖ Moldova
- ❖ Netherlands
- ❖ Norway
- ❖ Republic of Korea
- ❖ Romania
- ❖ Slovakia
- ❖ Soros Foundation
- ❖ Sweden
- ❖ Switzerland
- ❖ UNAIDS Unified Budget, Results and Accountability Framework
- ❖ UNICEF Thematic Child Protection Fund
- ❖ UNICEF Thematic Education Fund
- ❖ United Kingdom
- ❖ UN Joint SDG Fund
- ❖ UN Peacebuilding Trust Fund
- ❖ UN Human Security Trust Fund
- ❖ United States
- ❖ Universal Health Coverage Partnership

ANNEX II. LIST OF KEY IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS OF THE UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM IN THE COUNTRY IN 2022

Republic of Moldova State and Public Institutions

Autonomous Territorial Unit Gagauzia
Border Police Department
Bureau for Diaspora Relations
Bureau for Reintegration Policies
Center for Centralized Public Procurement in Health
Center for Combating Trafficking in Persons
Centre for Continuous Electoral Training
Chisinau City Hall
Council for Preventing and Eliminating Discrimination and Ensuring Equality (Equality Council)
Custom Service
Economic Council under the Prime Minister
e-Governance Agency of Moldova
Energy Efficiency Agency
General Inspectorate for Emergency Situations
General Police Inspectorate
Local Government Unit (LGU)
Local Public Administration
Medicines and Medical Devices Agency
Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry
Ministry of Culture
Ministry of Economy
Ministry of Education and Research
Ministry of Environment
Ministry of External Affairs and European Integration
Ministry of Finance
Ministry of Health
Ministry of Infrastructure and Regional Development
Ministry of Interior
Ministry of Labour and Social Protection
Ministry of National Defense
Moldova National Bureau of Statistics
Municipal Authorities
National Agency for Public Health
National Agency for Social Assistance
National Bureau of Statistics
National Center for Child Abuse Prevention
National Employment Agency
National Food Safety Agency
National Health Insurance Company
National Institute of Justice
National Penitentiary Administration (ANP)
National Regulatory Agency for Electronic Communications and Information Technology (ANRCETI)
Ombudspersons Office
Organization for Entrepreneurship Development (ODA)
Parliament of the Republic of Moldova
Peoples Advocate for Child's Right
Specialized Prosecutors Office on Combating Organized Crime and Special Cases (PCCOCS)
State Chancellery

Private Sector

American Chamber of Commerce
Asena Textil
Bayer Pharma
CET Nord
Crunchyroll
European
Business Association

Foreign Investors Association
Moldcell
Moldtelecom
Orange
Panilino
Premier Energy
Price Waterhouse Coopers
Seed Forum Moldova
Sweet Mary ltd
Viorica Cosmetic
Ziphouse

International Organizations

Bank of the Council of Europe
European Bank for Reconstruction and Development
International Center «LA STRADA»
Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
Terre des Hommes
The World Bank
Welfare Improvement Network

Civil Society Organizations

Alliance of Active NGOs in the field of Child and Family Social Protection (APSCF)
Artcor Center for Creative Industries
Artemida
Associations of women from the security and defence sectors
Center for Support and Development of Civic Initiatives
"Resonance"
Center of Early Intervention „Voinicel”
Centre «Contact- Cahul»
Centre «Partnership for Development»
Women's Law Center
Congress of Local Authorities from Moldova
Gender Centru
Institutum Virtutes Civilis
Moldova National Confederation of Employers
Moldova National Confederation of Trade Unions
Moldova National Youth Council
Motivatie NGO
National Coalition «Life without violence»
National Society of Epidemiologists
NGO IDIS Viitorul
NGO TAKEDU
North Macedonia Employment Service Agency
Pas cu Pas Educational Program
Public Association for Children and Youth «Faclia»
Rehabilitation Centre for Torture Victims
Youth Friendly Clinic
Youth Friendly Health Centres
Youth Media Center

Academia

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

