



UNITED NATIONS
MOLDOVA



2020

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2019 COUNTRY RESULTS REPORT



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ACRONYMS

ATU	Autonomous Territorial Unit
CSO	Civil society organization
EU	European Union
GDP	Gross domestic product
LPA	Local public authority
MP	Member of Parliament
MSM	Men having sex with men
NBS	National Bureau of Statistics
PFSD	Partnership Framework for Sustainable Development
PWID	People who inject drugs
SADI	Small Area Deprivation Index
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal

United Nations Moldova Country Team – Resident Agencies

FAO	United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization	www.fao.org
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development	www.ifad.org
ILO	International Labour Organization	www.ilo.org
IMF	International Monetary Fund	www.imf.org
IOM	International Organization for Migration	www.iom.int
OHCHR	Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights	www.ohchr.org
UN Women	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women	www.unwomen.org
UNAIDS	Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS	www.unaids.org
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme	www.undp.org
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund	www.unfpa.org
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund	www.unicef.org
WB	World Bank	www.worldbank.org
WHO	World Health Organization	www.who.int

United Nations Moldova Country Team – Non-Resident Agencies

IAEA	International Atomic Energy Agency	www.iaea.org
ITC	International Trade Centre	www.intracen.org
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development	www.unctad.org
UNECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe	www.unece.org
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme	www.unep.org
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization	www.unido.org
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees	www.unhcr.org
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime	www.unodc.org

The United Nations Country Team is composed of representatives of the United Nations funds and programmes, specialized agencies and other United Nations entities in Moldova, including non-resident agencies and representatives of the Bretton Woods institutions.

MOLDOVA IN 2019: KEY DEVELOPMENT TRENDS

KEY ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL CONDITIONS

2019 was a year of political crisis and uncertainty for Moldova. Following the inconclusive parliamentary elections at the beginning of the year, where no party was able to gain a clear majority, the situation escalated into an acute constitutional crisis following the formation of a surprise parliamentary coalition between the pro-Western ACUM Bloc and the pro-Russian Socialist Party in early June. Backed by a widely contested decision of the Constitutional Court, this coalition was not recognized by the Democratic Party that had formed the previous government, leading to an emergence of two competing governments. The situation stabilized after a peaceful transition of power from the Democratic Party to the ACUM Bloc and the Socialist Party.

Over a period of five months the new coalition government focused on efforts to reform the justice system and fight corruption, while also working on making advances in the economic and social spheres. However, the political situation remained fragile as the relations between the coalition partners were difficult. The first major test for the coalition came with the appointment of the new judges to the Constitutional Court after the *en masse* resignation of the previous members of the Court. The fairness and transparency of the selection process was questioned by members of the coalition, civil society and the broader public alike. However, following several setbacks and reversals in the process, the Parliament, Government and the Superior Council of Magistracy, the three entities responsible for the appointment of Constitutional Court judges, appointed all six new judges to the Court.

The local elections that took place at the end of October were a second test for the coalition. The elections were for the mayors as well as for the

local and district councils. The results of the local elections mirrored, in great part, the results of the parliamentary elections at the beginning of the year. Mayoral and local council candidates supported by the three major parliamentary political parties, including the Democratic Party, Socialist Party and ACUM Bloc, won the elections in most of the localities. In the capital Chisinau, the candidate supported by the Socialist Party won the second round of the mayoral election, beating the ACUM Bloc candidate, with 52.4 per cent of the vote compared to 47.6 per cent. The outcome was also reflected in the composition of the Chisinau Municipal Council following the election, which is almost evenly split between the representatives of the Socialist Party and those of the ACUM Bloc, while also including a few members of other parties.

In the aftermath of the local elections and in the face of anticorruption efforts, especially around the reform of the prosecutor's office, tensions between the coalition partners increased. Following a disagreement on the process for the selection of a Prosecutor General, the Socialist Party submitted a motion of no confidence in the Government to the Parliament. The motion passed, with 63 votes in favour cast by the Socialist and Democratic Members of Parliament (MPs). Following brief consultations with the parliamentary parties, President Dodon nominated a new Prime Minister, who, together with his Cabinet of Ministers, received within less than a day the nomination of the Parliament with the support of Socialist and Democratic MPs.

The Transnistrian settlement process facilitated by the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe under the 5+2 framework regained some previously stalled momentum early in the year, with renewed hope for implementation of additional confidence-building measures to reinvigorate the process. However, by year-end, following a 5+2 meeting in Bratislava and another meeting

of the sides in Bavaria, it was clear the process was not moving forward. The sides were still engaging with each other, but progress on some outstanding issues had not materialized.

Moldova's economy continued to grow, with real gross domestic product (GDP) increasing by 3.6 per cent in 2019. However, growth was uneven throughout the year. After a relatively strong performance during the first three quarters, the economy registered a sharp decline during the last quarter of the year. Annual growth was driven by an increase in private consumption and an accelerated capital formation. Exports of goods and services registered an increase during the year. However, imports increased as well, at a slightly slower but fairly similar pace, and continued to exceed export figures. Overall, net exports made a negative contribution to growth, albeit at a lower rate than in the previous year. On the production side, trade and construction made significant contributions to the increase in GDP. Agriculture, on the other hand, negatively contributed to growth.¹

The European Union (EU) continued to be Moldova's main trading partner during the year, with two-thirds of the country's exports and nearly half of its imports being to and from the EU. However, exports to the EU declined by 1.7 per cent compared to the previous year, and their share in overall exports also decreased by 2.9 percentage points. Imports from the EU, on the other hand, registered a 1.4 per cent increase compared to the same period, but their share in overall imports remained unchanged. Exports to the Commonwealth of Independent States increased by 4.6 per cent, but imports from the same region decreased by 2.2 per cent. However, the share of imports and exports from the region in the overall trade figures remained largely unchanged compared to the previous year. Exports and imports to

and from other countries continued to grow both in terms of their value and volume.²

The current account deficit decreased by 4.3 per cent compared to 2018 and stood at 9.7 per cent of GDP. The deficit was due to the negative balance of trade in goods. At the same time, although imports of goods continued to exceed exports, the latter registered a more accelerated growth compared to the former in 2019. Remittances increased in absolute terms but continued to represent 15.2 per cent of GDP as in the previous year.³ Compared to 2018, budget revenues and expenditures increased by 9.7 per cent and 11.3 per cent, respectively, with the fiscal deficit increasing slightly to 1.4 per cent of GDP. Public and publicly guaranteed debt, on the other hand, decreased in absolute terms compared to the previous year and accounted for 27.4 per cent of GDP, which represents a 2.6 percentage points decrease in comparison to the end of 2018.⁴ Annual inflation registered an ascending trend, reaching 7.5 per cent by the end of 2019, which was the highest since October 2017. Inflation rates advanced on account of high prices for both food and non-food products.

Despite the relatively stable economic conditions registered in 2019, Moldova's economy remains vulnerable to various shocks. The effects of adverse weather conditions on agriculture yields are a long-term concern, given the strong dependence of the country on agriculture. Remittances continue to fuel consumption and firms' productivity levels remain low, while the innovation shortfall is significant. Emigration trends are also a cause of concern, as is political uncertainty, which is unfavourable to growth. The global crisis related to the novel coronavirus pandemic, which unfolded at the beginning of 2020, will put further pressure on the country's already fragile economy.

1 GDP figures are preliminary and come from the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), Gross Domestic Product in 2019 and Quarter IV of 2019, <https://statistica.gov.md/newsview.php?l=ro&id=168&id=6605>.

2 Foreign trade figures come from the NBS, Foreign Trade of the Republic of Moldova in 2019, <https://statistica.gov.md/newsview.php?l=ro&id=168&id=6584>.

3 Current account balance figures come from the National Bank of Moldova, International Accounts of the Republic of Moldova: Preliminary Data, https://www.bnm.md/files/CI_2019_q4_new.pdf.

4 Budget revenue and expenditure figures as well as figures related to public debt come from the Ministry of Finance, Report on Public Debt, State Guarantees and State On-Lending, <https://mf.gov.md/sites/default/files/Raport%202019%20datoria%20publica.pdf>

THE ROLE OF THE UNITED NATIONS IN MOLDOVA IN 2019 AND THE WAY FORWARD

During the year, despite a challenging political situation, the United Nations successfully supported the Government in initiating preparations for the 2020 Voluntary National Review process. This will be the first time Moldova will participate in this exercise and report on its progress towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). At the request of the Government, the United Nations in Moldova drafted a concept note setting out the steps proposed for the preparation of the review and a timeline for the completion of each step. The document served as a basis for the development of the Government Decision on the Preparation of the Voluntary National Review, which identifies the United Nations as a key partner in the process. Furthermore, through collective efforts, a team of highly qualified experts was recruited, and the necessary resources were identified to support the Government in the successful completion of the exercise.

The effective monitoring of progress towards the achievement of the SDGs requires the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, disability, geography and other relevant characteristics. Such data is becoming increasingly available due the fruitful and ongoing collaboration between the United Nations and the NBS. More accurate population estimates, which are based on a new methodology and for the first time take into account international migration, have been produced with the support of the United Nations in 2019. The population number is now based on the definition of 'usual residents' recommended by the United Nations, and the NBS is able to count the outmigration by age and sex. Furthermore, within the framework of a joint United Nations project, the NBS developed a revised list of nationalized SDG indicators and assessed the existing data gaps in measuring progress towards SDGs. The completion of this comprehensive exercise will help guide all future data initiatives that aim to support the achievement of the goals set out in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Considerable advancements were also made during the year in joint resource mobilization. The United Nations Country Team managed to mobilize nearly \$37.5 million in resources for five joint programmes. The programmes focus on strengthening human rights in the Transnistria region; improving HIV testing, treatment and prevention; maximizing the positive impact of migration on socioeconomic development; consolidating the economic, territorial and social cohesion in Moldova; and consolidating and fortifying gender mainstreaming at the local level. The integrated responses to development issues brought by the joint programmes are expected to accelerate progress in the targeted fields. The development of joint programming efforts in cross-cutting areas of work will continue to be a priority for the United Nations in Moldova, and a model that will continue to be embraced and strengthened moving forward.

Several key partnerships were established by the United Nations in Moldova during the year, including with the European Space Agency, as well as with the largest cell phone provider and the largest electricity distributor in the country. The partnerships with the latter two reflect the success of efforts aimed at engaging the private sector – including large private companies – in the achievement of the SDGs. All three partnerships were established in the field of data for the SDGs. The combination of satellite imagery, mobility data and electricity consumption data obtained and analysed with the support of the three partners allowed for a better understanding of mobility behaviours and patterns of urban development in Chisinau – the capital and the largest city in the country. The analysis will inform interventions aimed at improving urban mobility and transportation.

Although, as described above and further in this report, important progress has been made by the United Nations in supporting the country on its path towards the realization of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, many development challenges remain to be tackled and multiple opportunities for development await to be explored. The results of the first Voluntary National Review process are expected to provide valuable insights regarding areas of work that require increased attention, commitment and

cooperation to improve the living conditions of all people in the country, especially the most vulnerable and disadvantaged. Hence, they will serve as an excellent opportunity for the United Nations to support national partners in adjusting policies and programmes to accelerate the achievement of the SDGs, particularly in priority areas established in the Republic of Moldova–United Nations Partnership Framework for Sustainable Development (PFSD) 2018–2022, including: 1) governance, human rights and gender equality; 2) sustainable, inclusive and equitable economic growth; 3) environmental sustainability and resilience; and 4) inclusive and equitable social development.

WHAT THIS REPORT COVERS

This 2019 Country Results Report covers key development trends, as well as progress and results achieved by the United Nations and its partners under the four pillars of the Republic of Moldova–United Nations PFSD 2018–2022. The document further identifies the key constraints and lessons learned in the process of implementing the PFSD. It also takes stock of joint communications and operations results, and provides an overview of the One Budgetary Framework 2018–2022. The annex illustrates progress against the indicators in the One Programme, based on the latest data available as at May 2020.

HIGHLIGHTS OF JOINT EFFORTS



Preparations for the **2020 Voluntary National Review** effectively supported

Revised list of **nationalized SDG indicators** developed by NBS with the support of the United Nations



More **accurate population number estimates** produced by NBS with the support of the United Nations

Key partnerships with the European Space Agency, as well as with the largest cell phone provider and the largest electricity distributor in the country, **established** in the field of data for SDGs



Nearly **\$37.5 million** in resources for **5 joint programmes mobilized** by the United Nations Country Team

RESULTS OF THE ONE PROGRAMME

OUTCOME 1: GOVERNANCE, HUMAN RIGHTS AND GENDER EQUALITY



In 2019 national human rights institutions, civil society organizations (CSOs), as well as national and local authorities strengthened their capacity to protect and promote human rights in line with international norms. During the year the staff of the Permanent Human Rights Secretariat and representatives of the Ministry of Justice, Parliament and local authorities were trained in human rights-based policy analysis and familiarized with best practices in setting up and operating mechanisms for human rights implementation, coordination, monitoring and reporting. The strengthened capacity allowed national human rights institutions to advocate successfully with the authorities for the approval of four policy and regulatory documents that are contributing to the protection of social and economic rights in the country. The Civil Society Human Rights Monitoring Platform that helps track progress on the implementation of recommendations received from the United Nations Human Rights Mechanisms was also launched with the United Nations' support during the year.

The implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child was advanced through enhanced knowledge in the field among child rights professionals and the review by the National Council for Child Rights Protection of 25 draft legal documents with the support of the United Nations. The monitoring of progress towards the implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women was also strengthened, with the submission of four



Photo credit: UN Women

shadow reports to the respective human rights treaty body following capacity-building activities aimed at increasing the skills of 32 CSOs in relation to participating in the revision process. Furthermore, on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the Government and CSOs prepared a comprehensive national review on the implementation of the two landmark documents, organizing subregional consultations on the topic with the participation of women from diverse backgrounds.

Gender equality and the empowerment of women remained a key priority for the United Nations, with multiple positive outcomes being achieved in the field during the year. Over 1,000 civil servants from central and local public authorities acquired additional knowledge on and skills relating to the development and implementation of gender-responsive policies as a result of their participation in capacity-building activities supported by the United Nations. The National Action Plan on United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace

and Security was effectively implemented and contributed to an increased awareness about the values and principles of gender equality and gender non-discrimination among around 400 security and defence personnel from the central and local levels. The implementation of the action plan also resulted in the approval of a legal amendment that allows military personnel to take a 14-day paternity leave. The amendment entered into force at the beginning of 2019.

To combat gender-based violence, more than 70 specialists from 35 social assistance territorial units became fully equipped to collect administrative data on domestic violence following multiple consultations, round-table discussions and workshops. This result was possible due to the partnerships built with the Ministry of Health, Labour and Social Protection, the National Agency for Social Assistance, the NBS and local public authorities. The justice system also became better prepared to respond to gender-based and domestic violence cases, with approximately 100 representatives of law enforcement agencies and specialized services being supported in strengthening their intervention capacities in the field in line with national and international norms. Furthermore, more than 50 lawyers increased their capacities in protecting the rights of female victims of sexual crimes, and 50 judges, prosecutors and court staff increased their knowledges on matters linked to equality and non-discrimination.

Considerable advancements were also made in the representation of women in politics. Advocacy efforts supported by the United Nations resulted in the approval of an amendment to the electoral legislation that provides for the inclusion of at least four candidates of either gender for every 10 places on the party lists.⁵ More than 1,000 potential female candidates, including Roma women and women with disabilities, gained the necessary knowledge and skills to participate effectively in decision-making processes through their engagement in activities supported by the United Nations. As a result, six Roma women and six women with disabilities were elected to local offices. Overall, the representation of women

⁵ As an exception, the inclusion of at least three candidates of either gender for every 10 places on the party lists was required for the 2019 local elections.

increased at all levels of government at the local level, with more women becoming mayors, local councillors and district councillors following the local elections organized in 2019, compared to the previous electoral exercise. Although the results are encouraging, they remain below international standards. Therefore, more efforts in this direction will be required moving forward.

Democratic elections were supported through innovative tools, modernized IT systems, improved legislation and electoral education activities. To facilitate the monitoring of political party financing, a dedicated module, developed with the United Nations' support, was integrated into the information system of the Central Electoral Commission. To advance the inclusiveness of electoral processes, the Central Electoral Commission was helped to develop and disseminate electoral education materials adapted to the needs of people with disabilities and those from minority and vulnerable groups. Another step towards ensuring the inclusiveness of electoral processes was made through the implementation of an accessibility survey at more than 650 polling stations throughout the country. The survey results are expected to help improve access to voting polls for people with disabilities. Considering that polling stations are located in public institutions, the implementation of the survey recommendations will make other services more accessible.

To curb corruption and promote integrity, accountability and transparency, the United Nations worked with the National Anticorruption Centre on the development of methodological guidance on corruption risk management as part of the implementation of the National Integrity and Anticorruption Strategy 2017–2020. The guidance will be applied by public institutions starting in 2020. Over 100 civil servants responsible for monitoring the effective implementation of the strategy at the central and local levels strengthened their capacity on evidence-based monitoring and reporting. CSOs also strengthened their capacities in the field. Furthermore, several awareness-raising campaigns aimed at promoting integrity standards reached about 1 million people through social media, television and training activities.

The capacity of justice sector institutions was further consolidated in 2019. The National Centre for Judicial Expertise is now endowed with modern laboratory equipment, specialized software and hardware to perform chemical laboratory investigations and road accident analyses. The National Institute of Justice has improved its training capacities and modernized its training of judges, prosecutors and other justice professionals in line with international standards, with the trainees now enjoying versatile training rooms and a training environment close to real courtroom settings. The physical building housing the institute also became more accessible through the installation of ramps, tactile pavements and other adjustments. In addition, the police training programme was modernized, and the police bike patrol service was extended to four regions across the country, all with the support of the United Nations.

Efforts aimed at creating a more child-friendly justice system continued in 2019, with positive results. The Ministry of Justice is better prepared to improve the conditions for interviewing child victims and witnesses of crimes following an assessment of the legal framework conducted with the support of the United Nations. To improve the rehabilitation and social reintegration of child offenders, a mandatory probation programme for children in conflict with the law was successfully piloted in five districts. The required knowledge and skills on the implementation of the programme was transferred to several probation councillors through training of trainers interventions, allowing for the expansion of the programme using national capacities. An assessment of the modus operandi and compliance with international standards of the educational institution for children in conflict with the law in Tiraspol became an entry point for the further review of the justice system for children in the Transnistria region.

Youth sector development as well as the engagement of youth in decision-making and governance processes remained important areas of work for the United Nations in 2019. To facilitate the implementation of the National Strategy for Youth Sector Development 2020, the United Nations supported all districts in the country in the planning and development of local youth action plans for 2020, and in the evaluation of the budget expenditures for the youth sector as part of a capacity-building programme for local public authorities. To further enhance the youth contribution towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda, a youth-friendly web page dedicated to the SDGs was integrated into the U-Report platform⁶, helping youth to learn more about this important topic and related activities.

The United Nations also continued to make progress in strengthening the capacities of CSOs and individual rights-holders to advocate for the rights of vulnerable populations. In addition to the comprehensive capacity-building efforts among CSOs, which led to the submission of the four shadow reports to the Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, several additional results were achieved in the field in 2019. The first manual for Roma community mediators tackling human rights issues was developed by the National Association of Roma Community Mediators during the year. Several parents of children with disabilities combined their various efforts to advocate for the rights of their children with relevant authorities. The Platform for Sustainable Community Development in the Transnistria region, which advocates for the rights of people with disabilities, was also consolidated and became fully functional as a result of capacity-building activities implemented by the United Nations.

6 U-Report is a messaging tool that empowers young people around the world to engage with and speak out on issues that matter to them.

WOMEN FROM UNDER-REPRESENTED GROUPS EMPOWERED AND TAKING ON LEADERSHIP ROLES ACROSS THE COUNTRY



Photo credit: UN Women

Following the local elections organized in 2019 women leaders from under-represented groups who ran for office or were elected to leadership positions shared their experiences of participating in the process and celebrated their achievements within the framework of a conference focused on the representation of women in politics. During the event, Natalia Duminica, the Executive Director of the National Roma Centre, emphasized how gender roles, family responsibilities and ethnic discrimination limit the participation of Roma women in political life. Ludmila Iachim, the Executive Director of the MOTIVATIE Association discussed the

results of a programme implemented by the association to empower women with disabilities to participate in elections.

With the support of the United Nations, in 2019 both organizations carried out several political training activities aimed at increasing the number of Roma women and women with disabilities in decision-making processes. Following the results of the local elections, six women with disabilities and six Roma women who had participated in the training programmes became local councillors. As underlined by Eugenia Nenita, a local councillor from Ochiul Alb village, as well as by other participants at the event, these women will be able to put the issues faced by disadvantaged groups on the local agenda, while also contributing to the overall development of their communities. Eugenia explained: “I was the first Roma woman from my locality to become a local councillor. It was a difficult road, but with the support of other Roma women, I succeeded. Being in the local council, I will be able to put on the public agenda not only the problems of the Roma but of all citizens.”

BIKE PATROL BRINGS THE POLICE CLOSER TO THE COMMUNITY

Since 2017 a police bike patrol has been ensuring public safety on the streets of Chisinau. In 2019 bike patrol units were also launched in Balti, Cahul, Cantemir and Leova districts, with the help of the United Nations, as part of a project aimed at supporting the implementation of the community policing concept and increasing the level of trust in the police. Police officers who join bike patrol units undergo a rigorous training programme that provides them with the theoretical knowledge and practical skills required in the job. They learn how to master bicycles and how to execute various manoeuvres, such as cycling up and down stairs and through crowded places.



Photo credit: UNDP

Citizens have been pleasantly surprised by the presence of the bike patrols. “Even now we meet citizens who are amazed by the fact that we are patrolling. Their reaction is positive, they like it. Knowing that we are present in some areas, a lot of people want to take pictures with us”, explained Marina Iordachi, the commander of the bike patrol officers in Chisinau. Marina believes that bike

patrols bring police officers closer to the communities they serve. Marina explained: "I have personally noticed that the relationship between us and the citizens has changed, and citizens are more open to talking to us, to asking for our help. There were cases when we were on cycling tours or patrolling in parks when the temperature was very high, so they approached us, gave us a bottle of water and asked if we did not get tired working for so many hours. They were interested in our work as police bike officers". Bike patrols also help promote a healthy way of life and respect for the environment, which is an added benefit.



MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS



Civil Society Human Rights Monitoring Platform launched with the United Nations' support

Accessibility of more than **650 polling stations** assessed



25 draft legal documents reviewed by the **National Council for Child Rights Protection** with the support of the United Nations

Integrity standards promoted among approximately **1 million people** through social media, television and training activities



4 shadow reports submitted to CEDAW following capacity-building activities aimed at increasing the skills of **32 CSOs**

National Centre for Judicial Expertise endowed with modern laboratory **equipment, specialized software and hardware**



1,000 civil servants acquired additional knowledge on and skills relating to the development and implementation of **gender-responsive policies**

Mandatory probation programme for children in conflict with the law piloted in **5 districts**



More than **1,000 potential female candidates** gained the necessary knowledge and skills to **participate effectively** in decision-making processes

All districts supported in the planning and development of **local youth action plans** for 2020



OUTCOME 2: SUSTAINABLE, INCLUSIVE AND EQUITABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH



In 2019 several advances were made in the field of sustainable, inclusive and equitable growth. With the United Nations' support, the Ministry of Health, Labour and Social Protection and the National Employment Agency strengthened their capacities to develop, implement and monitor employment policies and programmes that cater to vulnerable groups, including people with disabilities. Two public employment programmes with a focus on subsidized employment and workplace adaptation were piloted in 2019 and have already enhanced employment and income prospects for over 100 people in need. The programmes support the implementation of the new Law on Employment Promotion and Unemployment Insurance and the National Employment Strategy 2017–2021.

Sectoral skills committees, established to enhance and streamline collaboration between employees and employers for the development of technical vocational education and lifelong learning of specialists according to labour-market demands, also became better prepared to address skill-mismatches and asymmetric labour market information. They now benefit from an e-learning platform that allows them to share knowledge and communication within and across sectors. In addition, as a result of their participation in capacity-building activities implemented by the United Nations, skills committee members gained valuable knowledge on drafting successful project proposals in different vocational training fields and obtaining financing for their implementation.

At the local level, the promotion of local employment partnerships, which bring together public, private and civil society actors to improve labour-market opportunities, allowed nearly 300 people not in employment, education or training to receive support to develop their skills and knowledge, as well as to gain access

Photo credit: UN WOMEN



to resources and employment opportunities during the year. The exposure of young people to entrepreneurship training, mentoring and small grant facilities resulted in the establishment of 50 start-ups in the apiculture and handicraft sectors. Furthermore, following the support provided by the United Nations in setting up collective business models, two cooperatives in the field of honey and cheese production were developed to enhance the productivity and income prospects of small farmers.

The delivery of a skills-building programme among youth was also successfully piloted during the year, with workers and specialists from a youth centre being trained in the efficient application of the UPSHIFT methodology, which is an approach aimed at empowering young people by providing them with the skills and resources they need to identify and address problems within their communities. The launch of the UPSHIFT programme, organized together with a social impact workshop, brought together about 70 participants. Following a one-month period of training, programme participants developed several social impact project proposals, out of which six were selected for continuing mentoring and seed-funding.

The economic empowerment of women was further advanced in 2019 through various programmatic interventions. The Women's Empowerment Principles were promoted within the private sector, with 30 companies being consulted on integrating these principles. As a result of a partnership with the Moldova Association of ICT Companies, approximately 500 girls and women improved their skills in software development by participating in the first National IT Training Programme. Several of them have already successfully started their own IT projects, obtained jobs or gained other opportunities in the field. Another nearly 400 girls, including 60 per cent from rural areas, increased their knowledge of IT career paths and received advice regarding the actions they can take to prepare for an IT career as part of an ICT career orientation and promotion campaign supported by the United Nations.

During the year progress was also made on improving labour conditions and services for migrants and returning migrants. The specific assistance provided to national authorities in the field focused on the enhancement of the policy, legal, coordination and institutional framework related to the functioning and monitoring of private recruitment agencies. The proposed legislative amendments pave the way for the implementation of a new model of labour migration management, which localizes international ethical recruitment standards, aligns labour migration policy with national and international labour-market needs, and enforces the protection of migrants' rights, particularly for those in vulnerable situations. Services were also developed for returning and potential migrants, who can now validate their informal and non-formal competences through a skills validation mechanism. This intervention will facilitate access to decent work in Moldova, enabling the social and professional reintegration of returning migrants and the transfer of knowledge and know-how from abroad to workplaces in Moldova.

In the food and agriculture sector, national stakeholders increased their capacity to advance policy options for the promotion of the export of agrifood products through comprehensive training on value chain development. Value

chain analysis for plums, berries and medicinal plants was applied in the development of new policies in the field. The opportunities available to smallholder farms were increased as a result of the implementation of the Strategic Recommendations on the Promotion of Agrifood Products. With the United Nations' support, the recommendations were developed, publicly consulted on, and integrated into the updated version of the National Agriculture and Rural Development Strategy 2014–2020. Advances were also made in the prevention of food loss and waste through capacity-building efforts among relevant public authorities and private sector representatives, policy advice and strengthening of intersectoral coordination in the field.

Multiple interventions implemented throughout the year, both at the national and local levels, contributed to considerable progress in promoting local development. At the national level, the capacity of the Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Development and Environment to manage rural development policies and programmes was strengthened through a range of training workshops, coaching activities and study visits. At the local level, public authorities and other key stakeholders from selected communities also benefited from capacity development activities, which enabled them to implement participatory approaches in local planning processes. As a result, community development plans have been developed in three selected rural communities. The plans include concrete activities aimed at local development and represent valuable resource mobilization tools.

The model of engaging migrants in local development through hometown associations was expanded and consolidated during the year. A total of 44 community development projects were implemented by hometown associations, in partnership with local governments and with the active participation of approximately 5,000 migrants. As part of measures aimed at increasing trust between people on both sides of the Nistru river, another 11 community infrastructure projects, comprising 14 infrastructure sites, have been selected for implementation and are currently under development.

Moreover, 10 CSOs were supported to implement activities that are contributing to enhanced livelihoods through cross-river collaboration.

Overall, the United Nations in Moldova has contributed to the improvement of socio-economic conditions in approximately 80 communities across the country through its local development interventions in 2019. About

85,000 people benefited from enhanced living conditions as a result of these interventions, including in regions with special status and across the conflict divide. Furthermore, over 6,000 people had the opportunity to take active part in local economic development, health-care, education and culture initiatives due to enhanced knowledge and skills gained with the support of the United Nations.



Photo credit: UNDP

LOCAL EMPLOYMENT PARTNERSHIP OFFERS PEOPLE NOT ONLY JOBS BUT ALSO SELF-ESTEEM

Photo credit: ILO



Viorica Anghel, from Andrușul de Jos village, has worked hard all her life. However, as a person with a locomotive disability, she has never been able to find employment to support her family. Employers usually turned her down because of her disability. Hence, she pursued one of the few options available to a woman in a village in her situation: she raised rabbits and chickens, and cultivated fruit in her garden. When she decided to become a beekeeper as a result of family circumstances, she gathered all the information she could on the topic and even reached out to beekeepers in the region for advice, but they turned her down, claiming that beekeeping is not for women.

Nevertheless, Viorica did not get discouraged. Luckily, she saw an announcement on social media about a free training course on beekeeping close to her home. She applied and to her surprise was accepted. This is how she became a beneficiary of the first Local Employment Partnership, implemented with the support of the United Nations, in Cahul district. The partnership brings together 20 public and private partners with the aim of improving local labour-market opportunities for disadvantaged groups.

Viorica completed the training course and was then helped to transform her dream of becoming a beekeeper into a business plan. With her plan, she participated in a competition and was one of the 20 winners awarded with a grant to start a small business in apiculture. Although her dream has now become a reality, Viorica has one more wish: to help other people with disabilities to follow her path. “If I succeeded, they will also succeed. The most valuable thing that I acquired participating in the Local Employment Partnerships [...] was the confidence that all those involved in this project offered to me, and now I am determined to pass this feeling on to other people”.

BUILDING BRIDGES ACROSS COMMUNITIES, IMPROVING LIVELIHOODS

Zinaida and Sergiu Stefanco gave up city life with all its conveniences 10 years ago when they decided to move to the countryside and start a sheep-breeding business. They are among 70 young people who have obtained a business development grant within a project implemented by the United Nations, which aims to build confidence among people on both banks of the Nistru river. The grant has allowed them to modernize their production process. They have also benefited from the services of a personal consultant for 14 months, to help them increase their business efficiency. Now they are managing one of the most modern sheep farms in their district, and the cheese they make is in high demand. During the joint project events, grant beneficiaries became convinced that, despite living on different banks of the Nistru river, they share the same concerns and interests. “We consult each other every time we encounter issues, especially bureaucratic ones,” said Zinaida.



Photo credit: UNDP

MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS



2 public employment programmes with a focus on subsidized employment and workplace adaptation piloted



Validation mechanism of informal and non-formal skills acquired by **returning migrants abroad** established



Nearly **300 people** not in employment, education or training **received support** to develop their skills and gain access to employment opportunities



Strategic Recommendations on the Promotion of Agrifood Products developed and integrated into the national policy framework



UPSHIFT Programme, a social innovation programme for young people, successfully launched



Community development plans developed in **3 rural communities**



500 girls and women improved their skills in software development



Nearly **400 girls**, including 60% from rural areas, increased their knowledge of **IT career paths**



About **85,000 people** from approximately **80 communities** benefited from enhanced living conditions and over **6,000 people engaged** in local development initiatives as a result of local development interventions supported by the United Nations

OUTCOME 3: ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND RESILIENCE



During the year the United Nations made considerable progress in supporting national authorities to improve environmental and climate change policies and regulations, including through the development and implementation of adequate inventory and monitoring systems. A two-year integrated action plan to ensure the implementation of SDG targets and indicators related to agriculture and food systems was prepared, consulted on and approved by the Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Development and Environment. The draft Disaster Risk Management Strategy was revised and is now better aligned with the Global Agenda 2030 and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. An analysis of legislative barriers to equitable access to water and sanitation was also initiated to facilitate the implementation of the Protocol on Water and Health. In addition, the first Forestry Inventory was developed in cooperation with the national agency for forestry, "Moldsilva", based on a methodology that has been adjusted to national needs.

The institutional capacities of national stakeholders in the implementation of international environmental agreements and effective achievement of environment-related SDG targets were further strengthened in 2019. More specifically, two regional workshops, organized within a project aimed at supporting the country in the implementation of the Paris Climate Agreement, allowed government officials from Moldova to enhance their capacities in the development of climate change adaptation and mitigation policies. Within the framework of the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters, the capacities of public authorities were improved to carry out public participation processes related to the environment. Furthermore, institutional coordination capacities on the implementation

Photo credit: UNDP



of SDGs related to agriculture food systems and the environment were also strengthened through the support provided to national authorities in the establishment of a sector coordination council in the field.

Water security and the sustainable use of the Nistru river were advanced through the completion of a unique transboundary diagnostic analysis, which identifies the main transboundary issues related to the river basin, and their causes. The document represents the first part of the Nistru River Basin Management Plan. The analysis will support the government in decision-making on the most important water source for the country. As part of the analysis, to ensure an adequate supply of water throughout the territory of the country, the United Nations supported the government in calculating the minimum acceptable water flow rates for the existing and planned hydropower installations on the Ukrainian side. This data and the knowledge gathered following four negotiation training events helped build the capacities of Moldovan authorities in water governance and diplomacy.

To increase the resilience and adaptive capacities of rural communities, the United Nations sup-

ported local farmers from five districts to put in place water management infrastructure and disaster risk reduction measures. The United Nations also helped introduce innovative and environmentally friendly technologies on berry production. Around 50 smallholding farmers have benefited from these technologies. At the same time, three communities were helped to develop local environment plans. The national plant pest surveillance and phytosanitary certification systems have also been strengthened through the delivery of training sessions to 50 National Food Safety Agency inspectors. As a result, the systems are better prepared to address pest risk challenges in agricultural production and to help preserve crop yields.

Progress has also been made in the modernization of urban transportation and the promotion of green mobility in the country. Several planning documents have been developed with the support of the United Nations to guide the transformation of the transportation system in the capital. The documents include, among others, an urban mobility plan and an action plan on bicycle infrastructure development. Green mobility has been promoted, both at the

national and city levels, through the expansion of the public network of electrical vehicle charging stations. The expansion initiative was underpinned by a feasibility study and the successful mobilization of investments for the installation of up to 50 charging stations in major cities and on the country's main roads. The first 20 charging stations have already been installed and are available for use by electric vehicle owners.

With the support of the United Nations, climate change education is becoming more relevant and inclusive for all youth. In this regard, the "Climate Box" education programme, which includes various targeted activities for pupils aged seven to 16 years old, was developed to be used in geography, biology, physics, science and ecology education classes. Over 170 teachers from 155 schools, along with 3,100 pupils, have tested the course. In addition, the youth potential to generate new solutions for improving urban mobility and reducing CO₂ emissions was explored during an urban mobility hackathon. The event brought together approximately 100 young people, who generated multiple solutions for the remodelling of the public transport network in the capital.



Photo credit: UNDP

YOUTH CELEBRATE THEIR RIGHTS BY HELPING TO TACKLE CLIMATE CHANGE

Photo credit: UNICEF



Children and youth participating in the country's most ambitious project for promoting social inclusion through music, La La Play Voices, planted 30 fir trees to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child by contributing to the reduction of the carbon footprint and promoting green initiatives, as an investment in their future and the future of the planet. The cost of the initiative was fully covered by revenues generated through the sale of the tickets for a concert held with the participation of the La La Play Voices choir. The choir, which was created with the support of the United Nations

in Moldova, brings together 130 children and youth from different ethnicities and backgrounds from across the country, demonstrating how children can contribute to a better, more inclusive society through music.

A NETWORK OF PUBLIC CHARGING STATIONS BRINGS ELECTRICAL MOBILITY TO A NEW LEVEL

In Moldova, the transportation sector is responsible for 14 per cent of all greenhouse gas emissions. Electric vehicles offer a great potential for reducing these harmful emissions. Although only approximately 250 electric vehicles have been registered in Moldova so far, they contribute to an estimated 500,000 kg reduction in CO₂ emissions annually.

The use of electric vehicles in the country is gradually increasing. However, the required infrastructure is still in its infancy: at the beginning of last year out of a total of 20 registered electric vehicle charging stations in the country, only five were public. As a response to the existing environmental and climate change challenges targeted in SDGs 3, 9, 11 and 13, the United Nations in Moldova, in partnership with national authorities, embarked on an initiative to create an enabling environment to accelerate the adoption of low-emissions vehicles. As a result, 20 new public charging stations were installed on the main urban routes of the country in 2019 and are now available for use by electric vehicle owners. The network, which contributes to increased electrical mobility in major cities and creates an electric corridor between Romania and Ukraine, will continue to be expanded in the future.



Photo credit: UNDP

In addition to helping shape public infrastructure, the United Nations in Moldova is raising awareness on zero-emissions transportation to further promote the clean transportation movement in the country. Hence, two marathons promoting eco-friendly mobility were organized in 2018 and 2019 with the support of the United Nations, in partnership with the private sector, to demonstrate the real capacity of electric cars and to present the achievements of the electromobility sector in Moldova. Furthermore, the United Nations has also been advocating for the implementation of policy incentives in the field, such as road tax exemptions and the use of green licence plate numbers.

MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS



A **two-year integrated action plan** to ensure the implementation of **SDG targets and indicators related to agriculture and food systems** prepared, consulted on and approved

Around **50 smallholding farmers** benefited from innovative and environmentally friendly technologies on berry production



Draft Disaster Risk Management Strategy revised and now better aligned with the Global Agenda 2030 and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.

50 National Food Safety Agency inspectors trained on plant pest surveillance and phytosanitary certification



A **Forestry Inventory**, the first document of this nature, developed in cooperation with the national agency for forestry

20 electrical vehicle charging stations installed and available for use



A **unique transboundary diagnostic analysis**, which identifies the main transboundary issues related to the **Nistru river basin**, completed

Over **170 teachers** from **155 schools**, along with **3,100 pupils**, tested an education programme on climate change



Local farmers from **5 districts** supported to put in place **water management infrastructure** and **disaster risk reduction measures**

Approximately **100 young people** generated solutions for **improving urban mobility and reducing CO2 emissions** as part of an urban mobility hackathon



OUTCOME 4: INCLUSIVE AND EQUITABLE SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT



In 2019 multiple advancements were made in the field of inclusive and equitable social development. The health system became better prepared to improve health outcomes and ensure the availability of, access to and quality of health services. At the policy level, a draft National Health Sector Development Strategy 2030 was developed based on a comprehensive and participatory assessment of the previous strategy in the field. The document, once approved, will set the direction for the health system for the years to come. The first Strategic Plan for the Agency for Medicines and Medical Devices was also developed, and the Development Strategy of the National Insurance Company was updated, both in line with international standards.

In addition to the assessment mentioned above, with support from the United Nations, ample additional evidence was generated during the year to inform policy and strategic planning efforts in the health sector. An assessment of the functionality of the newly created National Agency for Public Health was conducted. The assessment supported the further development of the agency's functionalities. Several technical assessments were also undertaken, focusing on the health information system, human resources, financial protection and resource generation. The assessments allowed for the updating of the policy framework and technical guidelines in the field. At the same time, continuing medical education programmes were strengthened and incentives for the retention of health professionals in remote and rural areas were designed and institutionalized.

Furthermore, a series of assessments, reviews and validation exercises were conducted on the quality of paediatric, antenatal and perinatal care, HIV allocation efficiency, elimination of mother-to-child transmission of HIV and the national immunization programme, among others. All

Photo credit: UNFPA



of these have served – or will serve – to revise standards of care and improve health services for the population. Additionally, several new clinical protocols and standards were developed for family doctors and gynaecologists, including six standardized clinical protocols on family planning and a standardized protocol on the clinical management of rape survivors in emergency situations, strengthening the provision of services in these fields. A new antenatal care standard and neonatal protocols for pregnant women and new-borns, aligned with the latest international guidelines, were also developed with the United Nations' support and approved for implementation in the Transnistria region.

The quality of medical education was enhanced through the development, adjustment and subsequent implementation of training modules on various topics, including cervical screening, contraceptive supply chain management and home visiting. The knowledge and skills of health-care workers were also considerably strengthened, with over 250 people being certified in family planning, 350 health-care providers and laboratory personnel building their capacities in cervical screening, about 350 health professionals and managerial staff from

perinatal centres enhancing their knowledge on the prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV, and nearly 470 nurses of family doctors acquiring additional skills and competences in delivering home-visiting services for children under three years of age and their families. These are just a few examples, among many others, that reflect the efforts made by the United Nations in increasing the capacity of health-care workers to provide quality care and meet patients' needs.

Additional notable results achieved in 2019 with the support of the United Nations in the health-care sector are related to emergency preparedness, immunization and HIV prevention. An assessment of public health risks, vulnerabilities and health system capacity was completed during the year as a first step in the emergency preparedness cycle. Approximately 150 professionals from the health sector participated in the mapping of the public health threats. The vaccine procurement programme administered by the Ministry of Health, Labour and Social Protection continued to be supported, with 1.5 million doses of vaccines being procured and distributed during the year. Approximately 100 persons from key populations were enrolled in HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis in only six months of 2019, compared to two enrolments in 2018, due to the implementation of an innovative, community-led approach to service delivery. In addition, several successful awareness-raising campaigns on health-related topics were organized during the year, including a campaign on the benefits of immunization and a campaign on the benefits of exclusive breastfeeding in the child's first six months.

In the education sector, a comprehensive education sector analysis was completed in 2019. The results of the analysis set the basis for the new education sector plan, informing priorities for the education sector. The analysis had specific implications for inclusive education as an evaluation of the implementation of the Programme for Development and Inclusive Education 2011–2020 was undertaken as part of the exercise. The findings of the evaluation, which were discussed at the Annual National Conference on Inclusive Education – attended by about 200 representatives of Parliament, central and local authorities, school managers, teachers,

parents, children and development partners – provide a way forward for the development of inclusive education in the country.

An assessment of the application of child-friendly school standards was also undertaken in several communities. The results, which were validated by the Ministry of Education, Culture and Research, will be used to inform the implementation of child-friendly school standards in all schools across the country. Inclusion is a key element of child-friendly schools and continued to be actively promoted by the United Nations in 2019. At least 170 Roma boys and girls were supported to attend school during the year. The inclusion of children with severe disabilities in education was also advanced, with nearly 150 education specialists being trained to apply newly developed guidelines in the field. In addition, 16 parents of children with disabilities were supported in creating a self-advocacy group that promotes the rights of children with disabilities.

To enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of resource allocation for preschool education, the United Nations supported the government in the development of funding schemes in this field. Seven funding schemes were developed as a result, out of which two were endorsed by a cross-sectoral working group and recommended to the Ministry of Education, Culture and Research and the Ministry of Finance for piloting. In addition to the funding schemes, a methodological note on the use of the funding formula for kindergartens, and financial management training for kindergarten staff, were developed. About 140 mayors, accountants, procurement specialists and preschool managers from seven districts enhanced their knowledge of and skills on public finance management in early childhood education, and on nurturing care, as part of the same initiative.

During the year the United Nations continued to make progress on strengthening both formal and non-formal youth education on life skills and health. The curriculum for the mandatory biology course was revised in line with recommended standards on comprehensive sexuality education and was approved by the Ministry of Education, Culture and Research. The revised curriculum of an optional health education course was also approved by the



line ministry for use in all schools, following its successful piloting. To facilitate the delivery of the course, teaching support materials were developed and training was provided on the revised curriculum to staff from 37 schools in five districts. Over 5,800 adolescents signed up for the course in 2019, which represents a 44 per cent increase compared to the previous year. Furthermore, around 8,000 young boys and girls increased their knowledge of sexual and reproductive health and rights through peer-to-peer education techniques following the training of 40 young people and teachers to become peer-to-peer educators.

The United Nations also continued to support the participatory platform for advocacy, which seeks to increase support for comprehensive sexual and reproductive health education and services for young people. During the year the platform was expanded to five districts and is currently active in 33 communities. The platform members organized 40 community activities to promote the right of youth to health education, reaching 3,152 parents, teachers, religious leaders, decision makers and young people. Support for comprehensive sexual and reproductive health education was further advanced through the organization of the first national conference on the topic. The event brought together over 130 people, including teachers, youth workers, representatives of public authorities and youth leaders, who collectively pledged to promote youth access to health education.

The support provided to the Ministry of Education, Culture and Research contributed to the strengthening of the capacity of youth centres, which were equipped with a set of materials that has improved their institutional operational capacity and has enabled them to provide better services to young people. Youth centres were also assessed from the perspective of accessibility for young people with disabilities. As a result, seven of them were pre-selected to be made accessible. In addition, the synergies between the work of youth centres and schools created opportunities for the development of 26 youth initiatives in different areas, including ecology, youth rights, youth civic engagement and vocational orientation, among others, which were implemented with the United Nations' support.

Ending violence against women and children remained a priority for the United Nations and significant efforts were made to this end in 2019. An analysis of the compatibility of national legislation with the provisions of the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence was completed and the first steps towards the ratification of the document were taken. The procedures for addressing gender-based violence by social workers and health professionals were improved in line with international standards. Professionals from different sectors at central and local levels have enhanced capacities to help end violence against women and assist victims of domestic violence following their engagement in training activities in the field.

To further address gender-based violence, the capacities of centres for victims of domestic violence were strengthened and services to victims of violence were improved, including in regions with special status and across the conflict divide. For example, human-centred design techniques were used to engage survivors of violence and service providers in the development of a "safe space" for psychosocial support services, peer support and livelihoods training, which is the first service of this kind in the Gagauzia region. In addition, to increase awareness of gender-based and domestic violence and its consequences, over 3,300 women and girls, men and boys were reached with relevant information.

The capacities of stakeholders working in the field of counter-trafficking were also enhanced through various training activities. As a result, the staff of the National Agency for Social Assistance became better prepared to prevent child exploitation, 400 border police officers learned how to identify human trafficking victims at border crossings, and representatives of several law enforcement agencies improved their skills in planning, monitoring and reporting as regards combating trafficking in human beings. Moreover, 130 prosecutors and criminal investigation officers were trained on applying the guidelines on parallel financial investigations. The application of the guidelines resulted in a substantial increase in asset freezing compared to the previous year, including in cases related to human trafficking.

Services for victims of human trafficking and vulnerable migrants continued to be consolidated in 2019 on both sides of the Nistru river, with multiple service providers being supported and procedures in the field improved. A national awareness-raising campaign on the prevention of trafficking in human beings for labour exploitation, and the promotion of safe migration, was also implemented. Overall, the United Nations' support contributed to the rehabilitation and assistance of over 350 victims of human trafficking and their children, persons at risk of human trafficking, stranded migrants, unaccompanied minors and children left behind without parental care.

Advancements were also made in the field of child protection. An evaluation of the National Child Protection Strategy 2014–2020 and its Action Plan was completed in 2019 with the support of the United Nations and with the participation of local public authorities and CSOs. Its recommendations will help strengthen the child protection system in the country. An assessment focused on child protection at the level of the Chisinau Municipality was also conducted, leading to the development of a detailed road map that will guide local authorities in improving service delivery and developing a municipal child protection strategy. To address violence

and aggression in schools, around 1,500 pupils, 300 parents and 60 teachers from multiple communities acquired skills in preventing and reporting bullying and violence-related cases. In addition, a survey on violence against children was conducted to inform priorities for action and to guide future work on child protection.

In the broader field of social protection, the United Nations provided technical assistance to the Ministry of Health, Labour and Social Protection to advance the disability reform and address poverty through the provision of effective social assistance. A micro-simulation exercise on the national social assistance programme was completed to further improve coverage of vulnerable households with three and more children, with children with disabilities and with single parents. Continuous support was also provided to the reform of the disability assessment system for adults, with about 75 per cent of the staff of the disability assessment councils for adults and children being trained. Furthermore, the Ministry of Health, Labour and Social Protection started the implementation of a road map developed with the United Nations' support as a part of the reform of the disability determination system, including the application of a revised set of disability determination criteria for children.



Photo credit: UNFPA

TWO GIRLS: SAME AGE, DIFFERENT OPPORTUNITIES

Photo credit: UNFPA



Ana-Maria Odobescu is a 17-year-old from Cuizauca village, Rezina district. With the support of her family she is working on making her dreams come true. She takes part in many different activities. She has volunteered for the Children’s Advisory Board and is an active member of Y-PEER Moldova – a youth network supported by the United Nations. The network promotes a healthy lifestyle through peer education. Ana-Maria’s dream is to graduate from high school and to go on to university. She aims to marry and have children later: she believes education is the most important thing in adolescence. “Marriage must be planned, of course, as well as other things in life”, she says. She urges “all young women to trust themselves and to build their future without caring about stereotypes and other barriers”.

Iuliana’s activities and concerns are totally different. She was born into a vulnerable family and had to work from a very early age. She had no access to health education, either at home or at school, and at the age of 15 she became pregnant, partly because of the fear of saying “no” in a relationship. She is now dutifully bringing up a perfectly healthy boy, but she lives in an abusive environment because she has nowhere else to go. She says she really loves children and that she is happy, but if she could go back in time, she would do things differently. “This wasn’t my actual choice. I dreamed about something else. I dreamed about continuing my education, about being independent. [...] I often think that if my family or someone else supported me, I wouldn’t have ended up where I am now”, she said.

The life stories above prove that these girls share the same dreams and potential, but because of their circumstances their lives are going to be different. It is in this context that the United Nations in Moldova has been actively supporting programmes aimed at youth education, health and well-being.



Photo credit: UNFPA

PARENTS OF CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES FIGHT FOR INCLUSION AND CLAIM THEIR RIGHTS

Lilia Cebotari from Orhei district is one of the 16 members of a network of parents that advocates for the rights of persons with disabilities and their families. She has four children, including a girl with Down’s syndrome. Her little girl is in second grade and is benefiting from partial inclusion in a mainstream school. She also receives rehabilitation services at a community centre.

When Lilia joined the network, she was very concerned that her daughter had not been offered transportation to attend school, to support her inclusion. Her participation in an informative session on inclusive education conducted by the United Nations in cooperation with the Republican Centre for Psycho-Pedagogical Assistance provided her with the opportunity to raise her concerns with the school and with the local education department. As a result, the issue has been addressed and her daughter has started to benefit from a transportation service that takes her to and from school.

Lilia also received guidance and support on advocating for her rights with her employer and now is enjoying her right to one free paid day per month as a parent of a child with a disability, as provided by law. "Since I became a member of the group, my self-esteem and acceptance increased. I am highly motivated to gain more knowledge about the rights of children with disabilities and their families, as well as to engage in advocacy actions to promote a human rights-based approach to disability", she said.



MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS



Draft National Health Sector Development Strategy 2030 developed based on a comprehensive and participatory assessment

1.5 million doses of vaccines procured and distributed during the year



First Strategic Plan for the Agency for Medicines and Medical Devices developed with the United Nations' support

100 persons from key populations enrolled in HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis in 6 months



Several **new clinical protocols and standards developed** for family doctors and gynaecologists, including **6 standardized clinical protocols** on family planning

Over **1,400 health professionals** improved their knowledge and skills in such areas as family planning, cervical screening, prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV, and delivery of home-visiting services for children under 3 years of age



At least **170 Roma boys and girls** supported to attend school during the year

Nearly **150 education specialists** trained to apply newly developed guidelines on the **inclusion of children with severe disabilities in education**



MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS



About **140 mayors, accountants, procurement specialists and preschool managers** from 7 districts enhanced their knowledge of and skills on **public finance management in early childhood education**

Over **5,800 adolescents** signed up for a **health education** course developed with the support of the United Nations



8,000 boys and girls increased their knowledge of sexual and reproductive health and rights through **peer-to-peer education**

Over **350 victims** of human trafficking and their children, persons at risk of human trafficking, stranded migrants, unaccompanied minors and children left behind **received assistance**



Over **3,300 women and girls, men and boys** increased their awareness of gender-based and domestic violence and its consequences

Around **1,500 pupils, 300 parents and 60 teachers** from multiple communities acquired skills in preventing and reporting bullying and violence-related cases



400 border police officers learned how to identify human trafficking victims at border crossings

75% of the **staff of the disability assessment councils** for adults and children benefited from capacity building activities



KEY CONSTRAINTS AND LESSONS LEARNED

As outlined above, with the support of the United Nations in Moldova, during the year significant advancements were made by the country towards the implementation of Agenda 2030 and the achievement of the SDGs. However, the implementation of development initiatives has not been without constraints. At the same time, important lessons were learned in the implementation process. The most important constraints and lessons learned are outlined below. All of them will serve as opportunities to adjust the design and implementation of development programming, and to further improve development results.

KEY CONSTRAINTS

As in the previous year, political instability had a considerable effect on the implementation of development initiatives in 2019. The institutional uncertainty generated by the multiple changes on the political front demotivated many staff from the public sector as regards moving forward with the implementation of agreed interventions in a context of shifting priorities. Previously undertaken commitments had to be reviewed in light of the changing context and many of the planned activities experienced delays in implementation during the year. The approval of the National Development Strategy Moldova 2030 also continued to be delayed, leaving the country without a long-term national vision for sustainable development that is fully aligned with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SDGs. Initiatives in the field of governance, gender equality and human rights were especially affected by the changing political context. However, other areas were negatively impacted as well.

Institutional restructuring processes continued to affect the capacity of institutions to carry out their work at their full potential. The restructuring of the National Employment Agency in 2019 is one example. The reform resulted in a significant reduction of staff and the centralization of managerial powers, which

Photo credit: UNHCR



affected regular work processes, including some interventions implemented with the United Nations' support. The NBS also continued to perform its core functions with limited human capacity, constraining the number of initiatives that could be implemented during the year. In addition, many public authorities continued to face high turnover rates, disrupting the flow of activities and requiring considerable investments in the onboarding and training of new staff so that they could carry out their core roles and responsibilities effectively. Financial constraints faced by public institutions remained a key concern as well, limiting the number of activities that could be implemented and the magnitude of results that could be achieved.

Human rights institutions and human rights coordination, monitoring and reporting mechanisms require further strengthening to become fully effective in promoting and protecting the rights of all individuals, especially those of the most vulnerable. Low human resource capacity and a lack of complete clarity regarding the division of roles and responsibilities across institutions in the field, limits their effectiveness. Furthermore, the low awareness of human rights issues and treaty body recommendations, as well as insufficient understanding of the government's responsibility to address those

recommendations among public servants, challenges their implementation. Entrenched prejudices and persistent stereotypes in the society about women and minorities further hinder progress in the field of human rights. Conservative attitudes regarding the right of adolescents and youth to access age-appropriate, rights-based information on sexual and reproductive health also limit the effectiveness of interventions in the field.

Geographic disparities remain a key issue in development, with rural populations enjoying only limited access to services and opportunities. For example, the high cost of travel limits education opportunities for people from rural areas and those from vulnerable groups. Asymmetric access to information also diminishes the chances of the most vulnerable to benefit from available resources and public services, including resources and services that could connect them to the labour market or improve their employment outcomes. The issue is directly related to the low awareness at the local level of the importance and benefits of career orientation, as well as the low capacity of local authorities and local business incubators to reach out to vulnerable populations and engage them in social innovation and skills-building programmes. Local authorities also lack sufficient capacity to formulate and design local employment policies. Hence, employment promotion and job creation are missing from most local development strategies and policy responses.

The generally weak capacities of public institutions and service providers limit the results that can be achieved in multiple fields of development. The health system, for example, still lacks a comprehensive mechanism to facilitate the monitoring and evaluation of the quality of care, which would help improve health-care services. Education professionals have insufficient capacity to provide quality comprehensive sexuality education and to apply new edutainment and user-friendly tools. Interventions aimed at combating gender-based violence are less effective than they could be because relevant stakeholders often lack knowledge and skills to provide quality protection services. The capacities of central and local authorities in climate change adaptation and mitigation, as well as the sustainable management of pasture,

forest and water ecosystems, also need further strengthening. The scarcity of resources in these different fields often limits even further the results that can be achieved.

In addition, multiple data gaps still need to be addressed to facilitate the tracking of progress towards the implementation of the SDGs and to support the development of evidence-based policies and interventions. For example, recent poverty figures continue to be unavailable to the general public, hampering efforts aimed at making policies and programmes more responsive to the needs of the most vulnerable. The revision of the nationalized SDG indicators completed during the year showed that data is missing for a considerable number of indicators. Hence, concrete measures need to be taken to address the identified gaps.

LESSONS LEARNED

Building a culture of human rights and respect for human dignity, including a culture in which gender equality is embraced and the rights of people with disabilities and those of other vulnerable groups are promoted, is essential to increase the demand from rights-holders that their rights be respected, and to ensure that duty-bearers uphold their human rights obligations. In this regard, working with government officials of all levels, CSOs, academia and media organizations on promoting and protecting human rights, including through capacity-building interventions, can contribute to the development of a culture of human rights. Special attention needs to be given to empowering the most vulnerable with the necessary knowledge and tools to advocate for their rights, while also creating an environment that allows for their effective participation in public life.

The continuous and meaningful engagement of all relevant stakeholders in development processes can ensure the success of development interventions. More broadly, the active participation in development of all parts of the society, including decision makers, civil servants, CSOs, faith-based organizations, academia, mass-media, diaspora groups, individual activists and ordinary citizens, can contribute to societal transformation and accelerate progress towards the achievement of the SDGs. The greater

involvement of the private sector in development efforts, which has been given insufficient attention until now, holds tremendous potential. Hence, more focus is needed on working to empower entrepreneurs to meaningfully engage in development initiatives, while enabling the public sector to facilitate the process. In addition to the engagement of all relevant stakeholders in development processes, creating opportunities for their collaboration is also important and is an aspect that should not be overlooked.

Designing and implementing capacity-building opportunities that would target entire systems and all levels of decision-making, and ensuring the buy-in of all stakeholders in development interventions, is also key to the successful implementation of such interventions. The involvement of middle management in public institutions is especially important in situations of organizational restructuring. Their timely engagement in development processes can ensure that interventions move forward when organizational structures are in flux.

Furthermore, an integrated approach to development interventions is required in order for significant progress to be made. Hence, combining various modalities of support by complementing technical assistance, for example, with financial support can bring positive results. Integration across different areas also needs to be given consideration when

development interventions are designed and implemented. To illustrate, environmental considerations need to be taken into account when economic development opportunities are being explored, and vice versa, to ensure that all aspects of sustainable development are addressed and progress in one field does not hamper advancements in the other.

Finally, as mentioned previously in this report, the availability of high-quality data disaggregated by various attributes is essential for the development of responsive and inclusive policies, and the effective monitoring of progress towards the achievement of the SDGs. While some advancements have been made in strengthening the statistical system in the country, much more remains to be done. Hence, additional efforts need to be undertaken in the field. Such efforts require a coordinated approach and close collaboration with the NBS and other national data producers. Special attention needs to be given to building national capacities for the generation of new types of data and the incorporation of new methodologies in the data production process. Cooperation with other statistical offices in the region and beyond should also be considered in designing interventions in the field as it could provide additional opportunities for building the capacities of various institutions as regards producing data to inform policy and strengthening the statistical system, more broadly.



RESULTS OF OPERATING AS ONE

Guided by its Business Operations Strategy 2018–2022, during the year the United Nations in Moldova continued its efforts towards cost-efficiency and enhanced quality of services through the harmonization of business processes. Five new long-term agreements were established in 2019, bringing the total number of joint agreements with local companies for the procurement of goods and services to 17. The number of joint recruitment panels has also increased. A total of 12 joint recruitment processes were organized during the year, leading to higher administrative efficiency. The reduced procurement of ICT equipment and outsourcing of ICT services brought further efficiencies. Overall, effective cooperation in procurement, human resources and ICT service lines resulted in cost savings of \$126,450.

To increase and diversify the pool of United Nations vendors and suppliers, in 2019 five United Nations agencies joined efforts and organized an open-door event for local businesses. The objective of the workshop was to raise awareness among private sector companies about United Nations procurement principles and specific requirements that apply to suppliers and the offers they submit. The event, which was attended by representatives of over 60 local businesses, promoted the United Nations principles and values related to sustainable procurement, a human rights-based approach, gender equality and eco-efficiency.

As in previous years, in 2019 the United Nations in Moldova continued to promote diversity, equity and inclusion in the workplace. During

the year the fourth edition of the United Nations Diversity Internship Programme was successfully implemented. As a result, 12 interns from under-represented groups had the opportunity to enhance their knowledge and gain experience in areas related to United Nations activities, while contributing their skills to the organization and enriching the work environment with their diverse perspectives. To further increase the diversity of the workforce and the number of United Nations staff from under-represented groups, an optional screening question in the recruitment application was piloted within two United Nations agencies. Equity and inclusion in the workplace were also promoted through improvements to the accessibility of the United House, which now boasts a second fully accessible lavatory facility.

Environmental sustainability is a core value of the United Nations and is strongly embedded in organizational practices. The reduced procurement of ICT equipment, use of outsourced services and awareness-raising efforts on sustainable procurement and eco-efficiency targeting local businesses demonstrate the commitment of the organization to create a better planet for all. Furthermore, the United Nations fleet management system, which is based on blockchain technology, was fully rolled out in 2019, generating efficiencies from the use of a joint carpool. Solutions are currently being sought to upgrade the system and achieve higher cost savings, as well as to further reduce the carbon footprint through the streamlined use of transportation.

UNITED NATIONS DIVERSITY INTERNSHIP OPENS NEW OPPORTUNITIES

Photo credit: OHCHR



Roman Russu is one of the 12 interns who participated in the 4th edition of the United Nations Diversity Internship Programme. Each year the internship programme attracts people from under-represented groups to work with United Nations agencies. After finishing his internship Roman was hired as a consultant by the agency for which he had interned and contributed to the development of a comprehensive analysis of the rights of persons belonging to ethnolinguistic minorities, as well as a study of the educational needs of staff of temporary placement centres for adult people with disabilities. The internship and the subsequent assignments undertaken at the United Nations helped Roman qualify for the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) Minorities Fellowship Programme in Geneva. In Roman's own words, "the internship with the United Nations in Moldova was a life-changing experience, which brought opportunities and opened doors that were not open before."



Photo credit: OHCHR

RESULTS OF COMMUNICATING AS ONE

Guided by the United Nations Communication Strategy 2018–2022, during the year the United Nations agencies in Moldova further promoted the United Nations values and principles of gender equality, human rights and environmental sustainability through joint communication efforts. They also made advancements in raising awareness about the SDGs and advocated for their implementation through various channels. The United Nations Day and Week, United Nations Magazine, 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence campaign and the annual Human Rights Gala are just a few examples of joint communication and advocacy activities and initiatives implemented by the United Nations in Moldova during the year.

In line with the communicating as one approach, the United Nations agencies joined their efforts in the implementation of different activities during the United Nations Day and Week. The delivery of open lectures in schools and public libraries on various topics related to the work of the United Nations, as well as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development more broadly, serves as one example. This activity alone involved over 40 United Nations employees. The lectures helped deliver the knowledge and values of the United Nations to over 800 young people, contributing to the consolidation of human rights standards, gender equality principles and the leaving no one behind approach.

Another joint communication activity implemented by the United Nations agencies was the organization of the Human Rights Gala of Awards. The event celebrated not only the signing of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, but also the 30th anniversary of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and the 25th anniversary of the International Conference on Population and Development.

Photo credit: UN WOMEN



During the event the efforts and achievements of six individuals and organizations in promoting and protecting human rights were recognized.

During the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence campaign multiple events were organized by the United Nations agencies to raise awareness about gender stereotypes and gender-based violence, including a conference and a regional public forum. “LIBERĂ”, a play about gender stereotypes and prejudices, was relaunched during the campaign. Over 2,300 persons participated in the events. In addition, dozens of women victims of gender-based violence benefited from psychological counselling as part of the campaign. Numerous partners also joined the campaign, amplifying its reach. It is expected that this campaign and other similar awareness-raising initiatives implemented through various channels will contribute to increased knowledge among communities about the vulnerabilities faced by women and girls, and ultimately contribute to the elimination of gender-based violence in the society.

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

The table below provides an overview of the contributions made by the United Nations during the year towards its four strategic priorities in the country. In 2019 the United Nations agencies collectively spent \$17.2 million⁷, which is above the projected available resources but below the planned overall budget for the year as per the PFSD 2018–2022.

Agency	Indicative amount spent in 2018 in thousands of USD	Indicative budget for 2019 in thousands of USD		Indicative amount spent in 2019 in thousands of USD
		Available	Funding gap	
Outcome 1: Governance, Human Rights and Gender Equality				
IOM	28	0	4,329	61
OHCHR	97	100	10	119
UN Women	708	450	700	701
UNDP	13,859	2,000	2,500	4,500
UNFPA	183	80	100	860
UNHCR	264	300	0	282
UNICEF	394	250	450	308
UNODC	10	180	300	50
WHO	252	2	0	-
Total Outcome 1	15,794	3,362	8,479	6,881
Outcome 2: Sustainable, Inclusive and Equitable Economic Growth				
ILO	213	50	50	573
IOM	0	0	1,000	0
ITC	-	200	0	160
UN Women	580	120	200	502
UNCTAD	-	80	300	102
UNDP	9,191	4,250	2,000	4,147
UNECE	0	50	50	0
FAO	-	0	0	225
UNICEF	136	0	0	67
UNIDO	0	0	56	0
Total Outcome 2	10,120	4,750	3,656	5,776

⁷ Total amounts may not add up, due to rounding.

Agency	Indicative amount spent in 2018 in thousands of USD	Indicative budget for 2019 in thousands of USD		Indicative amount spent in 2019 in thousands of USD
		Available	Funding gap	
Outcome 3: Environmental Sustainability and Resilience				
FAO	368	600	1,000	378
IAEA	252	80	0	-
UNDP	1,930	4,772	1,548	616
UNECE	33	50	50	50
UNEP	-	50	0	-
UNIDO	0	0	0	0
Total outcome 3	2,583	5,552	2,598	1,044
Outcome 4: Inclusive and Equitable Social Development				
IAEA	775	44	0	-
ILO	53	10	0	0
IOM	1,365	0	1,735	1,140
OHCHR	116	100	100	81
UN Women	549	100	100	592
UNAIDS	90	40	50	54
UNDP	200	200	250	0
UNFPA	797	320	100	752
UNICEF	1,427	250	500	806
UNODC	110	0	300	90
WHO	208	200	0	-
Total outcome 4	5,690	1,264	3,135	3,515
TOTAL PFSD	34,187	14,958	17,948	17,216⁸

8 The figure may be larger given that data is missing for several agencies.

ANNEX: PROGRESS AGAINST ONE PROGRAMME RESULTS FRAMEWORK

OUTCOME 1: The people of Moldova, in particular the most vulnerable,⁹ demand and benefit from democratic, transparent and accountable governance, gender-sensitive, human rights- and evidence-based public policies, equitable services, and efficient, effective and responsive public institutions.



United Nations partners: IOM, OHCHR, UN Women, UNDP, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNODC, WHO

Other partners: Agency for Public Services, Border Police Department, Bureau for Migration and Asylum, Bureau of Interethnic Relations, Central Electoral Commission, Centre for Continuous Electoral Training, CSOs and community groups, Constitutional Court, development partners, Equality Council, local public authorities (LPAs), media, Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration, Ministry of Health, Labour and Social Protection, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ministry of Justice, National Anticorruption Centre, National Bank of Moldova, NBS, National Institute of Justice, National Legal Aid Council, Office of the Prime Minister, Parliament, People's Advocate, private sector, Public Prosecution Service, State Chancellery, State Enterprise Centre for State Information Resources ("Registru"), Superior Council of Magistracy

Outcome indicators	Baselines	Targets	SDG indicators	2019 results	Means of verification
1.1 Percentage of people who trust governance institutions (Parliament, Government, justice) by sex and urban/rural status	<p>(April 2016)</p> <p>Parliament Total: 5.9 per cent Men: 6.9 per cent Women: 5.2 per cent Urban: 4.8 per cent Rural: 7.0 per cent</p> <p>Government Total: 9.2 per cent; Men: 10.3 per cent Women: 8.3 per cent Urban: 7.8 per cent Rural: 10.3 per cent</p> <p>Justice Total: 7.8 per cent Men: 9.1 per cent Women: 6.7 per cent Urban: 7.5 per cent Rural: 8.0 per cent</p>	<p>(2022)</p> <p>Parliament Total: 20 per cent Men: 20 per cent Women: 20 per cent Urban: 20 per cent Rural: 20 per cent</p> <p>Government Total: 25 per cent Men: 25 per cent Women: 25 per cent Urban: 25 per cent Rural: 25 per cent</p> <p>Justice Total: 25 per cent Men: 25 per cent Women: 25 per cent Urban: 25 per cent Rural: 25 per cent</p>	Related to 16.6.2	<p>(December 2019)</p> <p>Parliament Total: 23.6 per cent Men: 23.9 per cent Women: 23.6 per cent Urban: 24.4 per cent Rural: 23.0 per cent</p> <p>Government Total: 27.8 per cent Men: 29.3 per cent Women: 26.4 per cent Urban: 27.2 per cent Rural: 28.3 per cent</p> <p>Justice Total: 26.1 per cent Men: 27.2 per cent Women: 25.2 per cent Urban: 26.1 per cent Rural: 26.2 per cent</p>	Barometer of Public Opinion, Institute for Public Policy

⁹ Children left behind by migrant parents, older persons, the unemployed, persons in the lowest income quintile, persons with disabilities, survivors of violence, victims of human trafficking, persons living with and affected by HIV and AIDS, religious minorities, ethnic and linguistic minorities, stateless persons and refugees, and LGBTI persons. This definition of most vulnerable groups is applicable to all PFSD outcomes.

<p>1.2 Households and businesses facing corruption in the last 12 months, per cent of those interviewed</p>	<p>(2015) Households: 24 per cent Businesses: 24 per cent</p>	<p>(2022) Households: 12 per cent Businesses: 14 per cent</p>	<p>16.5.1 and 16.5.2</p>	<p>(2019)¹⁰ Households: 17 per cent Businesses: 20 per cent</p>	<p>Survey on Corruption in the Republic of Moldova: Perceptions and Personal Experiences of Business People and Households, Transparency International; National Integrity and Anticorruption Strategy Impact Monitoring Survey, UNDP</p>
<p>1.3 Implementation rate of recommendations of human rights treaty bodies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNICEF, IOM, UNHCR, WHO) • Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (UNFPA, UN Women, UNDP, UNHCR, OHCHR, UNICEF) • Universal Periodic Review (OHCHR, UNDP, UNICEF, UN Women, UNFPA) • Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disability (OHCHR, WHO, UNICEF, UNDP) • International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (OHCHR, UNHCR) • International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (OHCHR, UNDP) • International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (OHCHR, UNDP) • Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (OHCHR, UNDP, UNODC) 	<p>(2019)¹¹ 27 per cent</p>	<p>(2018) 15 per cent (2019) 30 per cent (2020) 45 per cent (2021) 60 per cent (2022) 80 per cent</p>		<p>(2019) 27 per cent</p>	<p>Minutes of assessment sessions of CSO monitoring groups; Human Rights Monitoring Platform: monitor.drepturi.md</p>

¹⁰ Data is not directly comparable to previous years because of differences in the applied methodology.

¹¹ Baseline set following the establishment of the Human Rights Monitoring Platform.

1.4 Proportion of women and men elected or appointed to the Parliament, LPAs and Government Cabinet	(2016) MPs Women: 21.8 per cent Men: 77.2 per cent (2015) LPA mayors Women: 20.6 per cent Men: 79.4 per cent (2015) LPA local councillors Women: 30 per cent Men: 70 per cent (2015) LPA district councillors Women: 18.5 per cent Men: 81.5 per cent (2016) Government Cabinet Women: 21 per cent Men: 79 per cent	(2022) MPs Women: 40 per cent Men: 60 per cent (2022) LPA mayors Women: 30 per cent Men: 70 per cent (2022) LPA local councillors Women: 40 per cent Men: 60 per cent (2022) LPA district councillors Women: 40 per cent Men: 60 per cent (2022) Government Cabinet Women: 40 per cent Men: 60 per cent	5.5.1, 5.5.2 and 16.7.1	(2019) MPs Women: 24.8 per cent Men: 74.3 per cent (2019) LPA mayors Women: 21.8 per cent Men: 78.2 per cent (2019) LPA local councillors Women: 36.5 per cent Men: 63.5 per cent (2019) LPA district councillors Women: 27.1 per cent Men: 72.9 per cent (2019) Government Cabinet¹² Women: 16.7 per cent Men: 83.3 per cent	Parliament; Central Electoral Commission; Government of Moldova; NBS
1.5 Proportion of SDG indicators produced at the national level with full disaggregation relevant to the national target	(2017) Disaggregated data is available for 45 per cent of SDG indicators, partially available for 11 per cent and is lacking for 44 per cent	(2022) Disaggregated data is available for 50 per cent of SDG indicators and partially available for 30 per cent	17.18.1	(2019) Disaggregated data is available for 48 per cent of SDG indicators, partially available for 18 per cent and is lacking for 34 per cent	Report on the Nationalization of Indicators for Sustainable Development Goals, Government of Moldova and United Nations; UNDP project documents

¹² Data as at December 2019.

1.6 Social distance (non-acceptance) with regard to groups vulnerable to discrimination (value 0–6) ¹³	(2015) People with physical disabilities: 2.2 Jews: 2.3 Religious minorities, other than Muslims: 2.3 Roma people: 3.1 People of African descent: 3.1 Muslims: 3.3 People with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities: 3.6 Ex-inmates: 3.6 Persons living with and affected by HIV and AIDS: 4.3 LGBT people: 5.2	(2022) People with physical disabilities: 1.9 Jews: 2.0 Religious minorities, other than Muslims: 2.0 Roma people: 2.8 People of African descent: 2.8 Muslims: 3.0 People with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities: 3.2 Ex-inmates: 3.2 Persons living with and affected by HIV and AIDS: 3.8 LGBT people: 4.5	16.b.1	(2018) People with physical disabilities: 1.7 Jews: 2.2 Religious minorities, other than Muslims: 1.9 Roma people: 2.9 People of African descent: 2.8 Muslims: 2.9 People with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities: 2.6 Ex-inmates: 2.9 People living with HIV: 3.3 LGBT people: 4.4	Study on Equality Perceptions and Attitudes, Equality Council
1.7 The justice system comprises efficient child-friendly and gender-sensitive mechanisms ensuring that survivors of all forms of violence have de facto access to justice and perpetrators are held accountable (score 1-4) ¹⁴	(2016) 1	(2022) 4	5.2.1, 5.2.2, 16.2.2 and 16.2.3	(2019) 3	UNICEF Annual Reporting

13 The indicator takes values from 0 to 6, where: 0 – lowest social distance (acceptable as a member of family); 1 – acceptable as a personal friend; 2 – acceptable as a neighbour; 3 – acceptable as a workmate; 4 – acceptable as a citizen of Moldova; 5 – acceptable as a temporary visitor to Moldova; and 6 – highest social distance (to be expelled from the country).

14 The indicator takes values from 1 to 4, where: 1 - not all legislation and no regulatory framework are in place to implement legislation on child-friendly and gender-sensitive proceedings for victims and witnesses of crimes; pre- and in-service training for judiciary, legal enforcement psychologists and other professionals on child-friendly and gender-sensitive investigation and legal procedures are not in place; there are no fully standardized, equipped and functional child-friendly and gender-sensitive hearing rooms in place; 2 - draft legislation and a regulatory framework on child-friendly and gender-sensitive proceedings for victims and witnesses of crimes are developed; pre- and in-service training for judiciary, legal enforcement psychologists and other professionals on child-friendly and gender-sensitive investigation and legal procedures are developed and tested; child-friendly and gender-sensitive hearing rooms are standardized; 3 - legislation and a regulatory framework to implement legislation on child-friendly and gender-sensitive proceedings for victims and witnesses of crimes are in place; pre- and in-service training for judiciary, legal enforcement psychologists and other professionals on child-friendly and gender-sensitive investigation and legal procedures are institutionalized; standardized child-friendly and gender-sensitive hearing rooms are equipped; 4 - legislation and a regulatory framework on child-friendly and gender-sensitive proceedings for victims and witnesses of crimes are enforced; pre- and in-service training for judiciary, legal enforcement psychologists and other professionals on child-friendly and gender-sensitive investigation and legal procedures are applied; fully standardized, equipped and functional child-friendly and gender-sensitive hearing rooms are in place.

OUTCOME 2: The people of Moldova, in particular the most vulnerable, have access to enhanced livelihood opportunities, decent work and productive employment, generated by sustainable, inclusive and equitable economic growth.



United Nations partners: ILO, IOM, ITC, UN Women, UNDP, UNCTAD, UNECE, UNIDO

Other partners: Academia, Bureau for Reintegration, CSOs and community groups, Congress of Local Authorities, development partners, Labour Inspection, local and regional public authorities, Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Development and Environment, Ministry of Economy and Infrastructure, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Health, Labour and Social Protection, Ministry of Education, Culture and Research, Moldova Investment and Export Promotion Organization, National Bank of Moldova, NBS, National Employment Agency, Organization for Small and Medium-Sized Enterprise Development, private sector, State Chancellery

Outcome indicators	Baselines	Targets	SDG indicators	2019 results	Means of verification
2.1 Small Area Deprivation Index (SADI), as average of SADI ranks for communities from the first quintile, by regions and SADI components (economic, environment, infrastructure)	(2014) SADI total North: 85 Centre: 82 South: 105 Autonomous Territorial Unit (ATU) Gagauzia: 140 Chisinau mun.: n.a. Economic deprivation North: 105 Centre: 76 South: 103 ATU Gagauzia: 68 Chisinau mun.: 101 Environmental deprivation North: 102 Centre: 74 South: 81 ATU Gagauzia: 101 Chisinau mun.: n.a. Infrastructure deprivation North: 77 Centre: 91 South: 99 ATU Gagauzia: n.a. Chisinau mun.: n.a.	(2022) The average of the ranks of the poorest communities (first quintile), by region, should have a value in close proximity to 85 (= average of SADI ranks for the first quintile) for all components: SADI total, economic deprivation, environmental deprivation, infrastructure deprivation	Related to 10.2.1, 11.1.1.1, 11.2.1.1 and 11.6.1.1	No new data available ¹⁵	SADI database, Ministry of Economy and Infrastructure

¹⁵ SADI has not been updated since 2015, and there is no certainty that this index will be produced in the future.

2.2 Employment rate, by urban/rural, sex, age, disability	(2015) Total: 40.3 per cent Urban: 42 per cent Rural: 38.9 per cent Women: 38.4 per cent (urban 39.5 per cent; rural 37.5 per cent) Men: 42.3 per cent (urban 44.9 per cent; rural 40.4 per cent) Age: 15–24 years: 18.2 per cent; 25–34 years: 45 per cent; 35–44 years: 58.6 per cent; 45–54 years: 60.6 per cent; 55–64 years: 41.4 per cent (2017) Disability: 19.1 per cent	(2022) Total: 44.1 per cent Urban: 46.0 per cent Rural: 42.6 per cent Women: 42.6 per cent (urban 43.8 per cent; rural 41.6 per cent) Men: 45.6 per cent (urban 48.4 per cent; rural 43.6 per cent) Age: 15–24 years: 19.9 per cent; 25–34 years: 49.2 per cent; 35–44 years: 64.1 per cent; 45–54 years: 66.3 per cent; 55–64 years: 45.3 per cent	8.3.1 and related to 8.5.2	(2019) ¹⁶ Total: 40.1 per cent Urban: 47.0 per cent Rural: 35.6 per cent Women: 36.5 per cent (urban 41.2 per cent; rural 32.8 per cent) Men: 44.2 per cent (urban 53.4 per cent; rural 38.6 per cent) Age: 15–24 years: 19.0 per cent; 25–34 years: 52.1 per cent; 35–44 years: 58.0 per cent; 45–54 years: 59.7 per cent; 55–64 years: 40.5 per cent Disability: 16.5 per cent	Labour Force Survey, NBS
2.3 Gender pay gap	(2015) 13.2 per cent	(2022) 10 per cent	8.5.1	(2018) ¹⁷ 14.4 per cent	Labour Force Survey, NBS
2.4 Proportion of young people, aged 15–29, not in employment, education or training by sex, urban/rural	(2015) Total: 29.3 per cent Men: 23.6 per cent Women: 35.2 per cent Urban: 26.6 per cent Rural: 31.4 per cent	(2022) Total: 26.8 per cent Men: 21.5 per cent Women: 32 per cent Urban: 24.5 per cent Rural: 29 per cent	8.6.1	(2019) Total: 27.4 per cent Men: 19.4 per cent Women: 35.5 per cent Urban: 24.6 per cent Rural: 29.4 per cent	Labour Force Survey, NBS
2.5 Rank of Moldova in the World Bank's Doing Business Report	(2016) 44	(2022) 40	8.3.1	(2019) 48	Doing Business, World Bank
2.6 Global Competitiveness Index	(2015) ¹⁸ Score: 4.0 Rank: 84 (out of 140)	(2022) 4.04	8.2.1	(2019) ¹⁹ Score: 56.7 Rank: 86 (out of 141)	Global Competitiveness Report, World Economic Forum

¹⁶ Data is not directly comparable to previous years because of differences in the applied methodology.

¹⁷ Data for 2019 will be available in October 2020.

¹⁸ A new methodology has been implemented since 2018 to produce Global Competitiveness Index figures. The earliest figure available based on the new methodology is from 2017 and stands at 54.6, with the country ranking 87th out of 135.

¹⁹ Data is not comparable to the baseline because of changes on the applied methodology.

OUTCOME 3: The people of Moldova, in particular the most vulnerable, benefit from enhanced environmental governance, energy security, sustainable management of natural resources, and climate- and disaster-resilient development



United Nations partners: FAO, IAEA, UNDP, UNECE, UNEP, UNIDO

Other partners: Academia, Civil Protection and Emergency Situations Service, CSOs and community groups, development partners, Energy Efficiency Agency, Energy Efficiency Fund, Hydro-Meteorological Agency, international financial institutions, Institute for Forest Research and Management, LPAs, Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Development and Environment, Ministry of Economy and Infrastructure, Ministry of Education, Culture and Research, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Moldova Forest Agency, Moldova Water Agency, National Agency for Food Safety, National Agency for Regulation of Nuclear and Radiological Activities, NBS, National Agency for Public Health, private sector, State Chancellery, Tourism Agency

Outcome indicators	Baselines	Targets	SDG indicators	2019 results	Means of verification
3.1 Share of renewables in the gross final energy consumption	(2016) 14.2 per cent ²⁰	(2022) 17 per cent	7.2.1	(2017) ²¹ 27.8 per cent	Energy Balance, NBS; Renewable Readiness Assessment: Republic of Moldova, International Renewable Energy Agency
3.2 Percentage decrease in emissions of greenhouse gases ²²	(2013) 8.4 ²³ Mt/year CO ₂ equivalent	(2022) 20 p.p.	9.4.1	(2016) 9.93 Mt/year CO ₂ equivalent or 9.97 p.p. increase ²⁴	First/Second Biennial Update Report of the Republic of Moldova under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Development and Environment, and UNEP
3.3 Number of centralized collection and processing centres for hazardous waste created as environment-enabling public institutions to meet the international standards on hazardous waste disposal	(2016) There is no centralized collection and processing centre for hazardous waste	(2022) At least one collection and processing centre for hazardous waste created and operationalized	12.4.2 and related to 3.9.1	(2019) Hazardous Waste Management Centre being established	Annual Report of the Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Development and Environment
3.4 Number of people in rural areas benefiting from sustainable land, pasture and forest management practices, by sex	(2015) Total: 23,559 Men: 11,350 Women: 12,209	(2022) Total: 30,000 Men: 14,430 Women: 15,570	Related to 15.2.1 and 2.4.1	No new data available	Report on the Implementation of the National Environment Strategy, Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Development and Environment; district-level annual reports, LPAs
3.5 Proportion of districts applying climate-resilient practices	(2016) 18 per cent (out of 33 districts)	(2022) 27 per cent	11.b.1 and related to 4.3.1 and 13.3.2	No new data available	United Nations Moldova internal reports

²⁰ Following the revision of the biomass consumption data the value stands at 26.9 per cent.

²¹ Data is not comparable to the baseline specified in the table because of the recent revision of the biomass consumption data. The value is comparable to the revised baseline figure specified in the footnote above.

²² The indicator covers only the energy sector.

²³ The value was updated to 9.03 Mt CO₂ equivalent in the Second Biennial Update Report of the Republic of Moldova under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Development and Environment of the Republic of Moldova, and UNEP.

²⁴ Compared to the updated value for the 2013 baseline.

OUTCOME 4: The people of Moldova, in particular the most vulnerable, demand and benefit from gender-sensitive and human rights-based, inclusive, effective and equitable equality education, health and social policies and services

United Nations partners: IAEA, ILO, IOM, OHCHR, UN Women, UNAIDS, UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNODC, WHO

Other partners: Academia, CSOs and community groups, development partners, Equality Council, LPAs, Ministry of Health, Labour and Social Protection, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ministry of Education, Culture and Research, Ministry of Justice, National Agency for Curriculum and Evaluation, National Agency for Medicines and Medical Devices, NBS, National Agency for Public Health, National Health Insurance Company, National School Inspectorate, Office of the Prime Minister, People's Advocate, private sector, Republican Centre for Psycho-Pedagogical Assistance, State Chancellery

Outcome indicators	Baselines	Targets	SDG Indicators	2019 results	Means of verification
4.1 Ratio between children with disabilities in regular schools and children with disabilities in special schools	(2015/2016) 1.8 (1,829/1,033)	(2022) 2.0		(2018/2019) 2.2 (1,570/709)	Education data, NBS
4.2 Reduction in selected non-communicable disease risk factors					WHO Health for All database; STEPS survey; Dietary Salt Intake Survey in the Republic of Moldova, 2016, WHO
a. Recorded adult (15+ years) per capita consumption of pure alcohol	(2014) 9.99 L per capita	(2022) 8.99 L per capita	a. 3.5.2	No new data available	
b. Prevalence of current tobacco use among adults 18–69 years old, by sex	(2013) Total: 25.3 per cent Men: 43.6 per cent Women: 5.6 per cent	(2022) Total: 22 per cent Men: 40.6 per cent Women: 5.0 per cent	b. 3.a.1	No new data available	
c. Prevalence of raised blood pressure (systolic blood pressure \geq 140 and/or diastolic blood pressure \geq 90 mmHg or currently taking medication for raised blood pressure) among adults 18–69 years old, by sex	(2013) Total: 39.8 per cent Men: 40.3 per cent Women: 39.3 per cent	(2022) Total: 37.8 per cent Men: 38.3 per cent Women: 36.9 per cent	c. 3.4.1	(2016) ²⁵ Total: 45.5 per cent Men: 45.8 per cent Women: 45.2 per cent	
4.3 Vaccination coverage rate for the third dose of diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis, for the worst performing district and as difference between the worst and best performing district	(2015) National: 89.7 per cent Worst performing district: 71 per cent Difference between the worst and best performing districts: 28.5 p.p.	(2022) National: 95 per cent Worst performing district: 85 per cent Difference between the worst and best performing districts: 10 p.p.	3.2.1 and 3.8.1	(2019) National: 92 per cent Worst performing district: 67 per cent Difference between the worst and best performing districts: 25 p.p.	WHO/UNICEF Joint Reporting Forms

²⁵ Data may not be directly comparable to the baseline. Comparable data to be released in 2020.

4.4 Percentage of individuals belonging to key populations (people who inject drugs (PWID), sex workers, men having sex with men (MSM)) who are covered by HIV prevention services	(2015) PWID: 22.9 per cent Sex workers: 55 per cent MSM: 27.7 per cent	(2022) PWID: 60 per cent Sex workers: 60 per cent MSM: 60 per cent	3.3.1	(2019) ²⁶ PWID: 42.3 per cent Sex workers: 34.4 per cent MSM: 25 per cent	Global AIDS Monitoring
4.5 Adolescent birth rate per 1,000 women in the age group 15–19 years old, urban/rural	(2015) Total: 27.91 Urban: 13.64 Rural: 35.14	(2022) Total: 19.0 Urban: 11.0 Rural: 25.0	3.7.2	(2018) ²⁷ Total: 24.14 Urban: 11.81 Rural: 31.22	National Centre for Health Management data
4.6 Proportion of households receiving social aid benefits, by consumption quintile	(2015) Q1: 11.9 per cent Q2: 5.3 per cent	(2022) Q1: 30 per cent Q2: 12 per cent	1.3.1	(2019) ²⁸ Q1: 8.8 per cent Q2: 4.0 per cent	Social statistics, NBS
4.7 Proportion of women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to physical, sexual or psychological violence by an intimate partner in the previous 12 months, by form of violence	(2010) Physical: 8.9 per cent Sexual: 4.1 per cent Psychological: 25.7 per cent	(2022) Physical: 6 per cent Sexual: 3 per cent Psychological: 18 per cent	5.2.1	No new data available	Study on Violence Against Women in the Family in the Republic of Moldova, NBS
4.8 Monetary poverty rate, disaggregated by urban/rural and households with children	(2015) Discrepancy between urban and rural households: 11.4 p.p. (Urban: 3.1 per cent; rural: 14.5 per cent) Discrepancy between general poverty rate and poverty rate of households with three or more children: 13.6 p.p. (All households: 9.6 per cent; households with three or more children: 23.2 per cent)	(2022) Discrepancy urban/rural (of p.p. difference) in poverty reduced by 30 per cent Discrepancy (of p.p. difference) between the general poverty rate and the poverty rate of households with three or more children reduced by 15 per cent	1.2.1	No new data available ²⁹	Annual Informative Note on Poverty in the Republic of Moldova, Ministry of Economy and Infrastructure

²⁶ The data comes from programmatic sources and is not comparable to the baseline. Comparable data is expected to be available when the results of the next Integrated Bio-Behavioural Study are released.

²⁷ Data for this indicator is being revised following the revision of the population number and is not yet available for 2019.

²⁸ Data is not comparable to the baseline because of the adjustments made to the Household Budget Survey methodology.

²⁹ Updated data on monetary poverty is not available. The latest government report is based on 2015 data.



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