



United Nations

# UN IN MOLDOVA



THE GLOBAL GOALS  
For Sustainable Development

# MOLDOVAN AND SWEDISH DADS

July 2018, #7

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Photo: Mihail Turculeț/Embassy of Sweden in Chisinau

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Photo: Igor Schimbator / UN Moldova

## Dear readers,

The United Nations in Moldova is currently implementing the United Nations Partnership Framework for Sustainable Development 2018-2022, an ambitious five-year agreement with the Government of the Republic of Moldova aimed at bringing significant positive change in the lives of all people in the country, especially the most vulnerable and disadvantaged. The agreement is fully aligned with the national priorities and the Sustainable Development Goals and focuses on four main areas: i) governance, human rights, and gender equality, ii) sustainable, inclusive, and equitable economic growth, iii) environmental sustainability and resilience, and iv) inclusive and equitable social development. Although only half a year has passed since the launch of this new phase in the United Nations work in Moldova, we are already delivering on our commitments and making progress towards achieving our goals by capitalizing on our previous efforts, building new partnerships and exploring innovative solutions to the many development challenges that the country is facing.

Over the recent months, we continued to support the Government in the process of elaboration of the new National Development Strategy “Moldova 2030” – the main strategic planning document of the country. We mobilized financial resources, harnessed top-level knowledge, and built partnerships to support the design of a strategy that is fully aligned with people’s aspirations, national priorities and the Agenda 2030, which means a strategy that promotes the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals for all segments of society, with a focus on the most vulnerable.

Participation of diverse groups has been encouraged throughout the entire process, using both online and offline means. For example, ten working groups, including representatives of the government, development partners, civil society, private sector, and academia have been established to work on the strategy, and all their meetings have been broadcast online. The process is now nearing completion, and the new National Development Strategy “Moldova 2030” is expected to be finalized soon.

As an organization, we have recently embarked on a comprehensive reform that will bring changes to the leadership structure, accountability mechanisms, and the capacities of the entire United Nations development system. More specifically, the reform will reshape and strengthen the role of Resident Coordinators, the highest-ranking United Nations development officials at the country level, allowing them to foster better collaboration between different United Nations entities working locally. The result will be an effective and efficient organization that is more responsive to the development needs of the country. At its core, the reform is about improving the lives of people, and the changes that it entails will enhance our capacity to deliver on our promise of advancing the Sustainable Development Goals for everyone, everywhere, leaving no one behind.

Ultimately, our success is the success of every child, woman, and man whose life is touched in a meaningful way by our efforts. I, therefore, invite you to discover some of their success stories as well as learn about a selection of our projects and initiatives in the pages of this issue of the United Nations Magazine.

**DAFINA GERCHEVA**

UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP  
Resident Representative in the Republic of Moldova



# Work-life balance can be achieved through investments in childcare services



Representatives of public and private sectors, civil society and development partners discussing about work - life balance.

In 2017, about 200 thousand women were kept away from the labour market by their family responsibilities, about 200 the number of men who gave up their career to do unpaid household work barely exceeded 5,000, official data reveal. Stereotypes, discriminatory social norms and practices lead to gender inequalities and bring about for Moldova losses of up to 10% of its potential achievements.

Proposals for strategies to reconcile work and family life, inspired from the positive experience of countries

that implemented successful social policies in this field were discussed and reviewed by MPs, representatives of the public and private sectors, civil society and development partners at a roundtable marking the International Family Day. The event was organized with the support of the United Nations and the Government of Sweden.

An efficient policy for the reconciliation of work and family life has three pillars: public authorities, fathers and employers, believes Natalia Covrig, Partnership for Development Centre.



Dafina Gercheva, UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative.

“To achieve this objective, we have to make the education and early child care services, as well as the preschool education, accessible to all the families,”

said DAFINA GERCHEVA, UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Permanent Representative for Moldova, during the event.



Natalia Covrig, Partnership for Development Centre.

“The public authorities are responsible for providing nurseries. The access to these services has a positive impact on the employment rate of mothers with small children, while more women on the labour market means more businesses and, last but not least, economic growth. Estimates show that GDP will increase by 6.37%-7.05% when the employment rates of men and women are equalized. Moldova is one of the most unequal countries in terms of childcare leave period, and the introduction of a “quota for fathers” will increase the number of fathers receiving parental leave. In Iceland, for instance, the childcare leave lasts 39 weeks, 13 of which are designated for fathers, 13 – for mothers, and the remaining 13 can be shared as parents decide.”

says NATALIA COVRIG, Partnership for Development Centre.

“ A noteworthy example is Turkey, which implemented gender-sensitive HR policies in the private sector. They delivered training for employees on gender equality, awarded the companies that employed most women compared to the previous year. While some of the companies sell franchises to women only in order to support the female entrepreneurs, others provide free of charge childcare services to improve work efficiency,”

says **MEHTAP TATAR**, Programme Specialist, UN Women, Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia.



Mehtap Tatar, Programme Specialist, UN Women.



Eduard Mihalas, Programme Analyst on Population and Development, UNFPA Moldova.

“ This is due to the sound investments in the development of the childcare sector and to a very flexible work schedule that is motivating for women and men. These policies have to be interrelated, because if you have a flexible work schedule, but no nursery for your child, these policies will be inefficient,”

claims **EDUARD MIHALAS**, Programme Analyst on Population and Development, UNFPA Moldova.



Exploring the positive experience of countries successfully implementing social work-life reconciliation policies.

Eduard Mihalas, Programme Analyst on Population and Development, UNFPA Moldova, gave the example of France and Sweden as having family-friendly policies and both a high fertility rate and a high employment rate of women.

Statistics show that women do 4 times more unpaid care work than men. Therefore, one of the priori-

ties of Agenda 2030 is to ensure a balance between work and family life.

Moldova has made progress in the implementation of social policies for reconciliation of family life with work by approving the Strategy for ensuring equality between women and men, granting the right to take care of children and to paternal leave to all the categories of employees, including the security ones.



Ian Feldman, President of Council for Prevention and Elimination of Discrimination and Ensuring Equality.

“ One of the main reasons is the cultural model, which is so hard to change and which is still perpetuated in the media that only mothers are responsible for taking care of their children, while men’s job is to earn a living. We need to try a different journalistic approach and promote equal opportunities instead of dividing roles in the society. We advocate for freedom of choice. If a woman wants to give birth to six or seven children and bring them up, this has to be her own choice. And if she decides to make a career she should be allowed to do it when she wants to do it, not when the society and gender stereotypes dictate to her,”

claims **IAN FELDMAN**, chairperson of the Council for Prevention and Elimination of Discrimination and Ensuring Equality.



## New initiative in Moldova: UNFPA promotes reproductive health and rights in vocational education

“Health Education - My Right, My Choice” is the message sent out by hundreds of young girls and boys enrolled in the Centre of Excellence in Light Industry in Chisinau, who in March-April 2018 were involved in an innovative project launched by UNFPA in partnership with Y-PEER Moldova and the Ministry of Education, Culture and Research.

Earlier this year, more than 400 students of this vocational school, mostly girls, participated in the “Girls tailor their healthy future” initiative, being informed about healthy lifestyle, prevention of adolescence risks, abuses and unwanted pregnancies.

The girls demonstrated their talent and creativity suggesting slogans and design ideas for promotional materials to be used in health education awareness raising and advocacy activities.

“The objectives and purpose of this initiative are in line with the educational policies of the Ministry of Education, Culture and Research. The right to health is a guaranteed right. This campaign will ensure the sustainability of the optional course “Decisions for a Healthy Lifestyle” taught in the VET system,”

declared ANGELA CUTASEVICI, State Secretary at the Ministry of Education, Culture and Research .

The Vocational Education Training system currently enrolls more than 46,000 young people, 15-19



Students of the Centre of Excellence in Light Industry show the bags they made to promote their right to health education.



The winners of the "Girls tailor their healthy future" project.

years of age. Many of them come from rural areas and from vulnerable families.

According to Alexandra Raetchi, Director of the Centre of Excellence in Light Industry, "in this way students saved resources to purchase the fabrics and accessories they needed for the internship and developed their professional skills."

As part of the "Girls tailor their healthy future" initiative, the students were involved in a competition for the best slogan and the best design of promo materials, T-shirts and handbags, which they later produced during the practical training in the school's workshops.

Emilia Caraus, the representative of the group that won in the best design category, thanked the organizers for the opportunity to express themselves in a different way. "I think these kinds of activities are necessary in vocation-

al education, because we get to know ourselves better."

Group no. 14 was awarded for the best slogan - "Health Education - My Right, My Choice".

The winners received diplomas and awards from UNFPA and a private company, which supported the initiative. The awards were handed by the representatives of UN in Moldova, the Embassy of Germany, the Austrian Development Agency and the Embassy of Sweden in the Republic of Moldova.

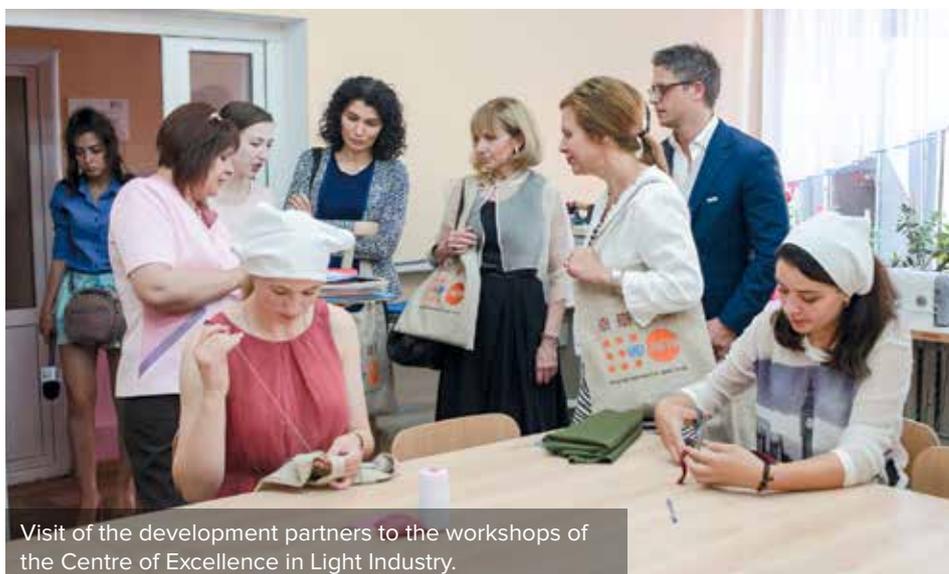
The initiative to promote reproductive health and rights is to be expanded in other vocational institutions, with UNFPA as the main partner advocating for this priority educational area for a healthy and harmonious development of all adolescent girls and boys in Moldova.



Rita Columbia, UNFPA Representative in Moldova.

“ We started this partnership with the aim to empower young people, girls and boys, to develop healthy life skills in addition to the professional skills they learn in the vocational training system. The healthy lifestyles that prevent abuse and violence, unintended pregnancies and risk behaviour, are not only necessary and critical for the development of a young person, but also for having productive lives in the future.”

said RITA COLUMBIA,  
UNFPA Representative in Moldova.



Visit of the development partners to the workshops of the Centre of Excellence in Light Industry.



The students of the "Mihai Moraru" Gymnasium from Branesti village, Orhei, are taking part in public discussions on the health risks in adolescence and their prevention through education.

## Why adolescents need “Health Education” in schools?

More than 600 pupils, parents, teachers, religious leaders, representatives of local governments, health institutions and youth specialists took part in a series of public discussions about the right of adolescents and youth to health education held in the period of April-June 2018. The discussions were organized by UNFPA in 22 communities in Orhei, Falesti, Rezina, Cahul and Chisinau districts, aiming to raise awareness about the health risks in adolescence and to increase the demand for the optional

school subject “Health Education”.

There are more than 330,000 adolescents aged between 10-19 years in Moldova today, which is 12% of the total population. Because of parents’ migration, lack of communication and quality and adequate information many of them are exposed to health risks. Every year, the number of unplanned pregnancies reaches around 3,600. Every tenth abortion is done by girls aged 15-19 years and the incidence of sexually transmitted infections is one of the highest in Eastern Europe.

“Adolescents are also exposed to challenges such as domestic violence, emotional abuses, unhealthy behaviours, which affect their health and well-being. The role of school is extremely important to educate girls and boys to become healthy and positive citizens, especially in the absence of parents,”

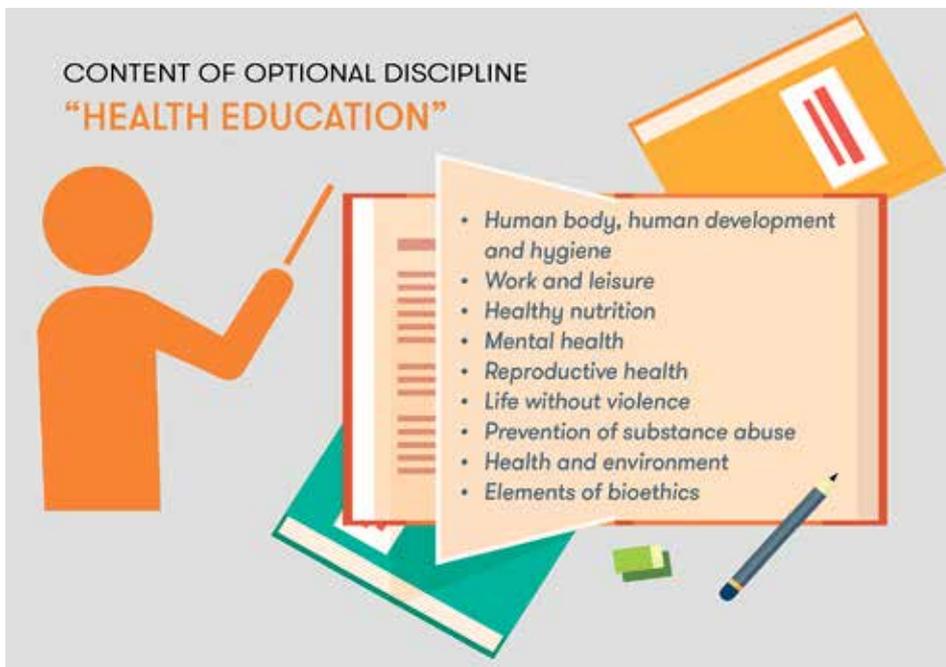
said Rita Columbia, UNFPA Moldova Representative.



UNFPA launched the public discussions in Alexandru Ioan Cuza village, Cahul district.

“Health Education” is an optional subject and is the only one addressing in detail the development and health of young people. In the 2017 – 2018 study year, more than 23,000 adolescents chose to study this subject, which is only 7% of the total number of adolescents who need this kind of information.

Madalina, a ninth-grade student at “Mihai Moraru” Gymnasium in Branesti



Pupils being asked about what means a healthy young person.

village, Orhei district, finds this subject very useful. "At these lessons I learned about my body, healthy nutrition, sleep regimen and other issues. My mother knows many things but feels embarrassed to talk to me about them. I tell her what I learned at school, what I think about it and she tells me her opinion. We have become much closer to each other," says the young girl.



The discussions about health education have reached Slobozia Mare village, Cahul district.

Parents say that family has huge responsibility in upbringing children and their own behaviour should be an example for them. However, the majority of parents do not talk to their children about sensitive issues.

During the public discussions, the importance of educating a healthy generation was also emphasized by church representatives, who expressed their support for health education with focus on both the current development needs of young people and promotion of family and moral-spiritual values.

The public discussions were held as part of "Promoting Youth Health Education" Project, implemented by UNFPA Moldova with the financial support of the Embassy of the Netherlands and in partnership with the Ministry of Education, Culture and Research (MECR), "Partnerships for Every Child" NGO, the Youth Network of Peer Educators "Y-PEER", and "Pro Didactica" Educational Center, and contribute to the implementation of the Memorandum of Collaboration signed between UNFPA and MECR in 2017.



Parents from Branesti exchanging views about the healthy future of their children.

Health education is very important nowadays. When there is nobody to offer quality information to a child, especially to the children whose parents are abroad, the school becomes the only place where they can get support. That is why it is imperative to focus on this subject at school starting with the first grade,"

considers VIRGINIA HIOARA, mother of two adolescent girls from Alexandru Ioan Cuza village, Cahul district.

Something needs to be done to prevent health risks in adolescence. The times are different now, children have unlimited access to internet, movies are not censored. Pupils need to have access to scientifically proven information to understand the harmful consequences of risky behaviours,"

says EUGENIA ZADIC, Director of "Mihai Moraru" Gymnasium in Branesti, Orhei district.



# A friendly football match together with and for the people living with HIV

People living with HIV, as well as public figures, athletes, representatives of the Government, state entities and international organizations, played a friendly football match dedicated to the World Remembrance Day of AIDS Victims, also called the International AIDS Candlelight Memorial Day at the "Zimbru" Stadium in Chisinau. The participants proved through their own example the importance of joining efforts in fighting the HIV/AIDS epidemic and promoting a healthy life style.

This action is part of the social - informative campaign "Undetectable = Untransmittable" (U=U), which took place throughout the country in the period of 10-31 May 2018. The purpose of the campaign was to extend the access to the full range of services (prevention, testing, treatment, care and support) for the people affected and living with HIV, to raise awareness on the importance of HIV testing and increase tolerance towards the people living with HIV/AIDS.

According to the director of the NGO "Positive Initiative", Ruslan Poverga, everyone who plays football to commemorate people who died from AIDS-related illness demonstrate by their own example that they can be united and have a common goal in making the country where they live safer for all of us and for our children.

During the event people had the possibility to be tested for HIV. The



The players in the friendly football match marking the International Candlelight Memorial Day.



Svetlana Cebotari, Minister of Health, Labour and Social Protection, getting tested for HIV.

first one tested was Svetlana Cebotari, Minister of Health, Labor and Social Protection, who later urged all citizens to test and to know their status.

The Ministry of Health, Labor and Social Protection has approved new treatment protocols. They are based on the latest WHO and UNAIDS recommendations and encourage enrollment in ARV treatment for all individuals as soon as the diagnosis has been confirmed. Moreover, the national testing guideline was also approved earlier this year. Thus, rapid tests for HIV/AIDS testing are available, free of charge, in all the health care facilities, and the result is just 30 minutes away. These innovative measures will enable early diagnosis and treatment of HIV-infected people,"

said SVETLANA CEBOTARI, Minister of Health, Labor and Social Protection.

UNAIDS' concern is that around 50% of those estimated to be living with HIV are unaware of their status. The evidence from the UNAIDS Global Strategy confirms that when 90% will know their status, 90% will be enrolled in treatment and 90% will have undetectable viral load, only then we can talk about controlling this infection and a secure path to reduce and stop the epidemic,"

underlined SVETLANA PLAMADEALA, UNAIDS country manager.

The World Remembrance Day of AIDS Victims has been marked every year on the third Sunday of May since 1983. In 2016 around 1 million people died of AIDS-related illness, over 100,000 of them being children. More than 3,000 people have died in the Republic of Moldova since the onset of the epidemic.

# The community of human rights journalists is expanding and becoming more influential

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) launched the first Human Rights Academy for Russian-speaking journalists in Comrat and Tiraspol last April. Last year, such an Academy was successfully held in the Romanian language in Chisinau. Thus, the community of human rights journalists is expanding and becoming more influential.

Ten journalists from Gagauzia, Chisinau, Transnistria region and the Taraclia district gathered together for the UN Human Rights Academy held in Comrat. For some of them, the HR Academy was not just an opportunity to acquire knowledge in the field of human rights, but also to learn about the culture of Gagauzia.

The Academy in Tiraspol brought together even more participants – 20 journalists and press officers from all across the region. They admitted that for most of them this was their first time to become familiar with human rights principles. That is why the media from the Transnistrian region seek not only to take active part in training sessions, but also to cover them on the pages of their publications and television.

The theoretical part of the Academy, which contained a number of innovations, was delivered to journalists from April to May. On the first day of the training, the trainees visited the ‘uninhabited island’ – this is the name of a training game, which allowed journalists to experience and understand the difficulties faced by the representatives of the vulnerable groups.

It should be noted that the training sessions in Comrat were conducted not only by OHCHR experts, but also by practicing journalists who were awarded by the UN or by other reputable international organizations for their contribution to the promotion of human rights through the media. For example, the session of a journalist of Roma origin, Elena Sirbu, inspired the participants so much that some journalists set themselves a goal to do a report on Roma issues in Moldova.

The training sessions were also useful for those who conducted them. Natalia Sergheev, a journalist from Radio Free



Group exercise, HR Academy in Transnistria region. Journalists developing a communication strategy on schooling of Roma children.

**In all my 30 years of practice, I haven't written any material about the Roma. But I have realized now that I know very little about their life. I will definitely write a report about the Roma in Gagauzia,"**

said **POLINA BARBOVA**, a journalist from Comrat.

Europe, shared her experience in Comrat on how to popularize human rights journalism. After getting acquainted with the participants, she invited some of them

to become authors of a regular radio programme, where journalists from other media speak about their work. "The issues raised by regional journalists are little known, and here I met active regional journalists," she said after the session.

The Academy, however, did not end up with the training sessions. They will be followed by a practical part. By the end of June, each journalist is expected to publish two materials on human rights. The journalists who attended the Academy sessions in Comrat are working on their materials under the guidance of journalists with experience and authority in the field of human rights, while the participants in the Tiraspol Academy – in consultation with the OHCHR experts.

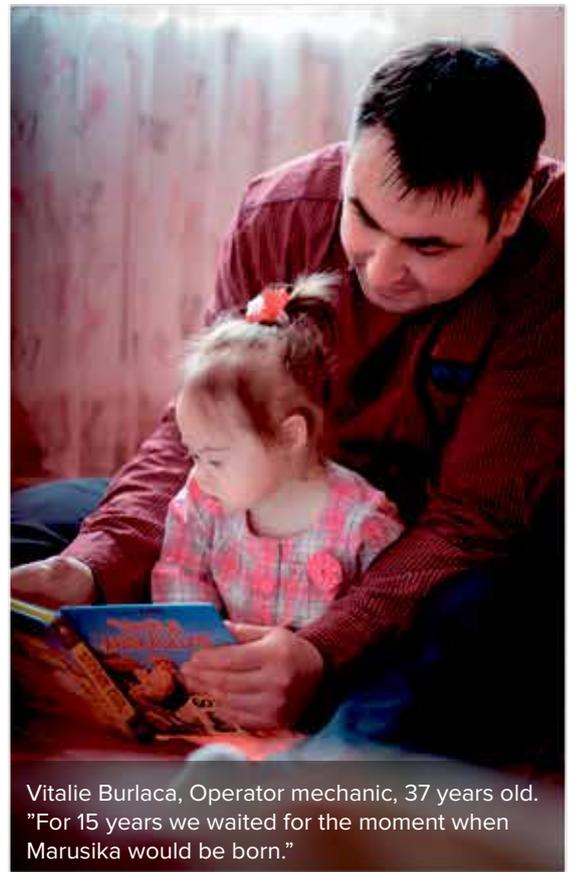


Learning from the experience of vulnerable people. Petr Garciu, a journalist from Gagauzia, using glasses that simulate the reality of the visually impaired to understand the importance of the access to information.

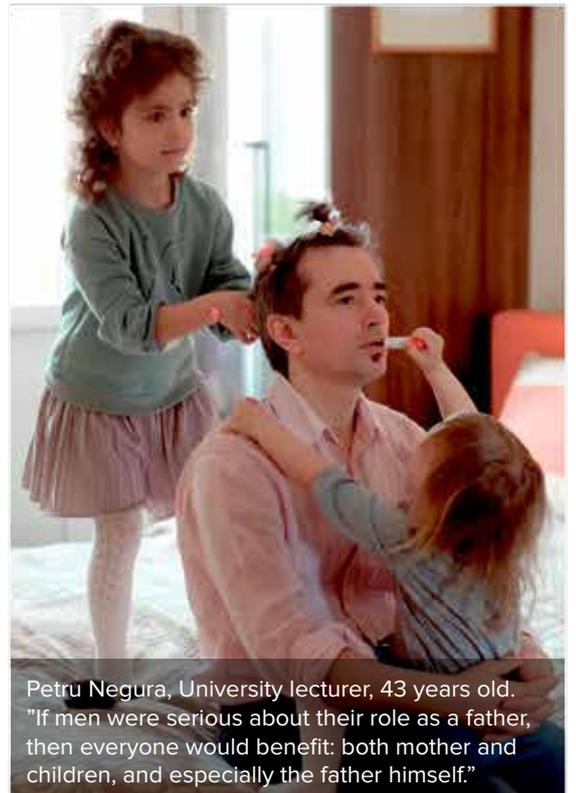
Follow the hashtag [#media4rights](#) and read the journalistic materials of our participants.



Eugen Smicov, Engineer, 30 years old. "My name is Eugen and I am the father of two daughters. With them, I returned to childhood, and I feel responsible for their spiritual development."



Vitalie Burlaca, Operator mechanic, 37 years old. "For 15 years we waited for the moment when Marusika would be born."



Petru Negura, University lecturer, 43 years old. "If men were serious about their role as a father, then everyone would benefit: both mother and children, and especially the father himself."

# Moldovan and Swedish Dads

Because we believe that fathers should be actively involved in raising and educating children and that it is natural to a man to take paternity and child care leave, the United Nations

in the Republic of Moldova supported the photo exhibition "Moldovan and Swedish Dads", which was opened in Chisinau at the initiative of the Swedish Embassy in the Republic of Moldova.

The exhibition aimed to stimulate discussions on equality in the family and its effects on society, as well on men's and women's options on family life and work.



Tudor Mereacre, Specialist in Public Relations and Project implementation, 32 years old. "Education, love, care and wisdom should be provided by both - mother and father!"



Andrei Dontu, Artist-instrumentalist, 35 years old. "Together with Andrei, Theodor and Sebastian, I learned half of all that I know now; I found new feelings and conditions of which I did not know before they were born."



Victor Turcan, Developer, 31 years old. "The father should offer to his family confidence, emotional and physical support, and, last but not least, all his love."



Mihail Pislaras, Border Service Officer, 32 years old. "I prefer not to help, but to be a partner in everything related to the life of a parent, home and family."



Tudor Ceban, Developer, blogger, 33 years old. "I am a lucky father, I work from home, respectively, I know very well what it means to stay home with a child."



Vladimir Bolocan, Pharmacist, 30 years old. "I want to be the father that I dreamed of being since a child, because I say every day to people that raising a child is a miracle, but we, I don't know why, we are looking for miracles somewhere else."



UN staff have a space with childcare set up for them.

## When work becomes home: child care room at the UN House

**T**he United Nations in Moldova set up a child care room on the ground floor of the UN House. Thus, UN employees and visitors have a comfortable and spacious room for child feeding and care.

The room is equipped with a comfortable breastfeeding chair, baby changing table, refrigerator to store pumped milk and a sink.

“I saw such a room for the first time at the UN Office for Human Rights in Geneva, then in Copenhagen, and I thought it would be good to have one in Chisinau as well,”

says **VIOLETA FETESCU**,  
Administration and Finance  
Associate at the Office of the United  
Nations High Commissioner for  
Human Rights (OHCHR) and mother  
of three children.

When she had her first child, Violeta had a 3-year full leave, with the second she came back to work after one year. With the third baby, she was already at the office when the baby was five months old.

“I’m sure that at least twice a week, me and my baby will enjoy this space and it will be easier for me to combine

work with child care and breastfeeding,” says Violeta.

Violeta Fetescu would want other public or private organizations to take over this practice of arranging child care facilities, as they bring benefits for both the mother and the child, and for the employer as well.

“Fathers will also be able to bring

“At UNICEF we know: breastfeeding is the best gift a mother can give to her child, as well as herself. To allow staff members with newborn children to breastfeed exclusively, UNICEF grants 6 months maternal leaves. In addition, UNICEF has put in place workplace breastfeeding policies, including paid breastfeeding breaks, so that mothers can breastfeed longer. We must support further efforts and give Moldovan mothers the backing they need to breastfeed, and also offer fathers the possibility to care for their young children. In our own case we continue to support child friendly practices at the workplace by also contributing to a nursing room in the UN House, jointly with other UN agencies,”

said **DESIREE JONGSMA**, UNICEF Country Representative in Moldova.

their babies here, change their diapers. It is a win-win situation for all, as it is shown that a child-friendly work place contributes to a higher productivity and to a relaxing atmosphere."

"Breastfeeding brings multiple benefits to the baby and the mother. Breast milk provides the ideal nutrition for infants. It has a nearly perfect mix of vitamins, protein, and fat - everything your baby needs to grow. And it's all provided in an adjusted form more easily to digest. Breast milk contains antibodies that help your baby fight off viruses and bacteria. Breastfeeding lowers baby's risk of having asthma or allergies. Plus, babies who are breastfed exclusively for the first 6 months have fewer ear infections, respiratory or digestive illnesses.

Breastfeeding saves time and money. It also gives moms regular time to relax quietly and communicate with their newborn babies. Against this background, the UN family in Moldova decided to equip one room in the UN House for breastfeeding purposes, which will enable mothers to enjoy motherhood and have a smooth transition to the work environment," says Dafina Gercheva, UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative in the Republic of Moldova.

Breastfeeding is an aspect of the human rights and it should be protected and promoted for the benefit of children and mothers. Paid maternity leave, safe workplaces for breastfeeding and/or milk storage are just a few practical steps to promote, support and protect the natural nutrition of babies. Therefore, it is a necessity to set up a child care room at work.

World Health Organization in Moldova (WHO) and UNICEF recommend exclusive breastfeeding for the first 6 months and to continue breastfeeding for the first two years to ensure a healthy and safe life for a child:

"In addition to being nutritional and a disease protection, breastfeeding is an essential way of communication and relationship building between mother and child for the whole life. That's why it is important to continue breastfeeding as much as possible to offer the child physical and mental health," says Larisa Boderscova, coordinator of health systems programs within the WHO Office in the Republic of Moldova.



Breastfeeding is not just the best source of nutrition for babies, it is good for mothers as well. It has been shown to protect against postpartum haemorrhage, postpartum depression, ovarian and breast cancer, heart disease and type 2 diabetes. It helps the healing of uterus and creates a special bond between mother and baby. In short, breastfeeding is among the most effective ways to protect the maternal and child health,"

said ANGELA CAPCELEA, UNICEF Moldova Health Officer.



The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the UNFPA and the Joint UN Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) funded the renovation works and provided the necessary equipment for the child-care room.





# 100 children and dads participated in a sports event on Father's Day

The children had the opportunity to put on their sports equipment in the locker rooms of the Moldovan national football team and enjoy sport games and play football on the main arena of the Zimbru stadium, where the national teams compete.

Father's Day is a good opportunity to recall that dads are not just a pair of extra hands, but rather one of the critical resources that support the physical and emotional development of the children.

“This year at UNICEF we have launched a special campaign in recognition of father's role in their children's early development. It is very important that fathers take their babies in their arms, just like mothers do, take care of them, spend time with them, especially in the first years of life, when their brain develops much more quickly,”

said **MARGARITA TILEVA, UNICEF Deputy Representative in Moldova.**

Stas Siica attended the event with his two children – an 8 year old boy and a 2 year old girl. “I am impressed by how the event was organised. I wish we had more opportunities to spend quality time with our children. The International Father's Day reminds us once again that we, the men, should participate daily in taking care and upbringing of our children,” he said.

Innes Graeme, a volunteer from Great Britain who has been in Moldova for one year, attended the event with his 4 year old daughter: “It is a beautiful holiday and I am very happy to be here. It is very important for fathers to be by their children's side and get involved in their education and development. The role of the father is very impor-



Participant in the sports event marking Father's Day.

tant for the whole family, especially for children.”

Alexei Chitoroaga, another participant in the event, says he spends all his free time with his two children - Daniel, 9, and Bianca, 3: “We walk and practice sport together, read, play and have fun together. I came with my whole family. These kinds of days are very useful because they remind us how important it is to

participate regularly in the lives of our children, who need us to be by their side every day to be able to grow and develop harmoniously.”

His wife, Diana Chitoroaga, thinks that Father's Day should be celebrated on a larger scale in our country. “I think this is a good opportunity to remind fathers how much their involvement means for the children. Our family will celebrate father's day every year, because our dad is the best and he partic-



Children celebrating Father's Day in an active and interesting way.



Children painting together with their fathers.



International Father's Day celebrated on Zimbru stadium.



Margarita Tileva, UNICEF Deputy Representative in Moldova, next to the participants in the event marking Father's Day.

participates in everything that has to do with our children.”

Fathers with children of various ages and backgrounds, boys and girls, children with special needs and children from the left bank of Nistru river participated in the sport activities organized on Father's Day. The Moldovan Football Federation donated, at the closing of the event, a lot of equipment to the kin-

dergarten "Sun Rise" in Chisinau, that runs an inclusive education programme.

The event was organized as part of the "Early Moments Matter" (#EarlyMomentsMatter) campaign, which is a UNICEF global campaign to raise awareness of the importance of the first 1,000 days of the child's life and the impact of early experiences on the developing brain.

! The Football Federation is honoured to partner with UNICEF in organising this event, since the role of dads is extremely important in the life of every child. We also hope that some of the children who came today here with their dads will one day become players in the national football team.”

said NICOLAE CEBOTARI, the Secretary General of the Moldovan Football Federation, in his opening speech.



Children played football and participated in sports competitions together with their fathers.



# EARLY MOMENTS MATTER: UNICEF photo exhibition featuring fathers and their newborns

A photo exhibition "Early Moments Matter" was inaugurated in Chisinau by UNICEF in partnership with the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova. The photographs portray 9 fathers interacting with their children in the first moments of their lives.

"More and more fathers choose to take paternity leave to join their families with the arrival of their children into the world. And more and more fathers - such as those who have participated in the photo project inaugurated - choose to attend the birth of their children and are aware of the father's importance in their development," said Andrian Candu, Speaker of the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova.

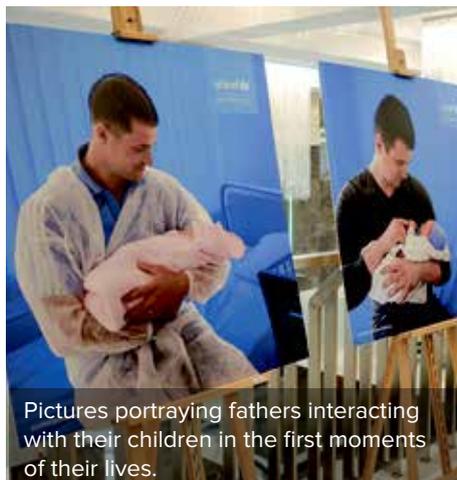
The photo exhibition is part of UNICEF's "Early Moments Matter" campaign, which focuses on the first 1,000 days of a child's life and the impact of early experiences on the developing brain. Father's Day is an opportunity to remember that fathers who have the possibility to bond with their babies from the earliest days of their lives further contribute to the harmonious development of their children.

"The first 1,000 days of life - the time spanning roughly between conception and a child's second birthday - is a unique golden opportunity period, when the foundations of optimum health, growth, and neurodevelopment across the lifespan are established," said Desiree Jongsma, UNICEF Representative in the Republic of Moldova. "This means that from the day a baby is conceived up to 2nd birthday, parents can bring about the sparking of 1,000 neuronal connections every second. Connections, that will eventually determine how their child will think and learn, their ability to deal with stress, and even influence how much they will earn as adults," she added.

Since the adoption of the law on childcare leave in 2016, more than 3,300 Moldovan fathers have taken the opportunity



The launch of the photo exhibition "Early Moments Matter".



Pictures portraying fathers interacting with their children in the first moments of their lives.

to be together with their families for the 14 days provided by law. The law allows parents to decide which one of them will take the leave until the child turns 3.

Almost two-thirds of the world's one-year old children live in countries where fathers are not entitled by law to even a single day of paid paternity leave and ninety-two countries do not have national policies in place that ensure new fathers get adequate paid time off with their newborn babies, including India and Nigeria - countries with high birth rates, according to a new UNICEF global analysis.

Since 2003, UNICEF has supported child-friendly hospitals and partnerships at birth in Moldova. Currently, all 38 state as well as three private maternity hospitals in Moldova support partnerships at birth so that fathers can be with their newborn babies. UNICEF supports the Government of the Republic of Moldova in developing the Action Plan of the Intersectoral Strategy on the Development of Parental Skills and Competencies for 2016-2022, which places a special focus on the role of fathers in children's upbringing.

“My children, nine-year-old Damian and three-month-old Tincuta, mean everything to me, much above my passion for music and art. I try to make our time together nourishing and beautiful, I try to be the best version of myself, because, in the end, children see, children do,”

said artist ALEX CALANCEA.

"Early Moments Matter" (#EarlyMomentsMatter) is a UNICEF global campaign to raise awareness of the importance of the first 1,000 days of the child's life and the impact of early experiences on the developing brain.



Roma children from Vulcanesti, Nisporeni going to school.

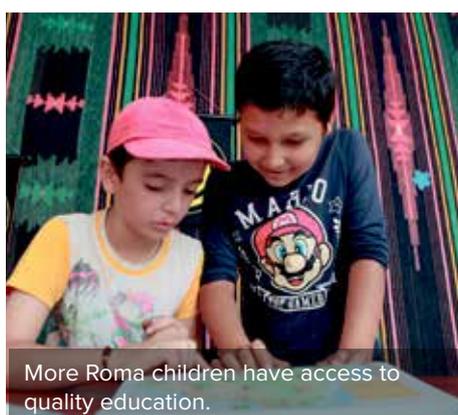
## The Roma children from Vulcanesti village, Nisporeni attend school due to a UNICEF project

In Vulcanesti village, Nisporeni 70 out of the 85 Roma children attend school and have good academic achievement, thanks to a project implemented by UNICEF Moldova in partnership with the Youth Resource Centre “Dacia”. The project started one year ago with the goal to bring change in Vulcanesti - a village in Nisporeni rayon mainly inhabited by Roma. By contrast, only 7 children attended school last year.

“I like going to school very much. I encourage other children to attend school and learn,”

says **RENATA CARACUIAN**,  
8th grade student.

For a year and a half, the project has offered the Roma children from Vulcanesti village, Nisporeni district, learning opportunities that allow them to take active part in education.



More Roma children have access to quality education.

“We think the project owes its success to the close cooperation with the parents of the Roma children, to their efforts to build new attitudes and their active involvement in ensuring quality education for their children,” said Ion Babici, the manager of the Youth Resource Centre “Dacia”.

The project results are in line with UNICEF Moldova’s priorities to improve the access to quality educa-

“Roma children are among the most marginalized and excluded all across the world. Moldova is not an exception, and the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child urges Moldova to ensure the right to free and compulsory education for all the children, both at primary and secondary level,”

said **DESIREE JONGSMA**, UNICEF  
Representative in Moldova

tion for all the children, as well as with the government’s objectives laid down in the National Inclusive Education Development Program for 2011-2020 and the 2016-2020 Action Plan for supporting the Roma population.



# Promoting women in defence sector is a proof of a mature democracy

**15** Government and civil society representatives from Moldova participated in a study visit to Georgia in May 2018, regarding the National Action Plan for the implementation of the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security. The mission, organised by UN Women with the financial support of the Government of Sweden, aimed to strengthen the dialogue and exchange of best practices between Moldova and Georgia in promoting women, peace and security agenda, through National Action Plans on Resolution 1325. To learn more about the conclusions of this visit and why women's presence in peace and security area is important, we discussed with Captain of Justice Alexandru Dragulean, Senior Specialist at Human Resources Development Policy and Military Education Directorate of the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Moldova, one of the participants in the study visit.

– **Mr. Dragulean, what are your impressions on the study visit to Georgia focused on the National Action Plan for the implementation of the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security?**

– The openness of both Georgian and Ukrainian colleagues, who participated in this study visit, the way they shared their experience in implementing the provisions at national level (positive practices, risks and challenges, failures, lessons learned, etc.) inspired me and made me confident that the Republic of Moldova is also likely to successfully implement this international document.

– **What can Moldova learn or adopt from the Georgian and Ukrainian colleagues regarding the National Action Plan for the implementation of the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security?**

– Based on the experience shared



Captain of Justice Alexandru Dragulean, Senior Specialist at HR development policy and military education directorate, Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Moldova.  
Photo Credit: Personal archive

What I found most fascinating was the enthusiasm of Georgian civil society representatives who are actively involved in monitoring and assessing the way public authorities implement the National Action Plan on the Resolution 1325 of the UN Security Council on Women, Peace and Security. I was also pleasantly surprised that absolutely all state institutions (Parliament, Government, line ministries, education institutions of the Ministry of Defense and of the Ministry of Internal Affairs) are involved in solving the issues reflected in the Resolution 1325.”

by the colleagues from Georgia and Ukraine, I believe that it would be appropriate to adopt such practices as: review the public policy documents and legislation from the perspective of gender mainstreaming; establish a ‘gender adviser’ position at all levels (strategic, operational, tactical) in the national defence entities, and consider creating a specialized unit responsible for gender issues in the institution; train gender trainers certified abroad for the Moldovan national defence entities; train the senior staff of the national defence entities on gender equality and build their skills to review the acts/decisions through gender lens; involve actively the civil society in the implementation of the Resolution 1325, including in the monitoring and assessment of the implementation of the National Action Plan; educate continuously the public on the culture of peace and promote women’s achievements in international peacekeeping missions/operations; include in the educational curricula such topics as preventing gender-based



Currently, 17% of the total number of soldiers and 61% of all civilian personnel are women. Photo credit: UN Women Moldova/ Ramin Mazur.

discrimination and preventing sexual and gender-based violence; increase women's representation in the formal and informal peace negotiations, mediation and peacekeeping missions; ensure conditions for the recovery, recreation, physical and mental rehabilitation of the military staff (men and women) who participated in peacekeeping operations.

**– What is the Republic of Moldova proud of regarding the implementation of the Resolution 1325 and the**

**promotion of gender equality in security and defence institutions?**

– The Ministry of Defence has taken actions to ensure the implementation of the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security. Currently, 17% of the total number of soldiers and 61% of all civilian personnel of the National Army are women. This percentage is much lower in other countries across the world. The enrollment of women, who opt for a military career as officers, at the Military Academy “Alexandru cel Bun”

is possible at all military specialties today. Previously, female students were trained only in one specialty within the Academy.

In addition, in 2018, 20% of the total number of military observer/major state officer jobs provided to the Republic of Moldova in UN peacekeeping missions were offered exclusively to women in the military service. For the remaining positions, both men and women, who are in the military service and meet the UN requirements, may apply. Currently, two women from the National Army of the Republic of Moldova – Major Elena Milcenco and Major Natalia Lefter – are on international missions in Africa as military observers.

I would also like to mention the launch of the “Gender Dimension in the Security and Defence Area” textbook, produced with the support of UN Women Moldova. This textbook is intended for the Military Academy teachers as well as for the trainers who deliver trainings to the contingents to be seconded in international peacekeeping missions and operations.

**– Why is women's presence in peace and security area important?**

– The issue of equal opportunities for men and women is a priority both at international level – for UN, EU, NATO, OSCE entities, and at the national level. Women's presence in peace and security contributes to effective missions and operations. Hence, it should be considered at all stages of mission planning, implementation and evaluation. Promoting women, especially in leadership positions, is a challenge and a proof of a mature democracy throughout the world.

**– How does the Ministry of Defence plan to promote women in peace and security area?**

– Currently the Ministry of Defence is developing an institutional action plan within the National Army to implement the provisions of the National Action Plan on the Resolution 1325 for 2018-2021.



The mission to Georgia was arranged by UN Women and supported financially by the Government of Sweden. Photo Credit: Personal archive



# Highly skilled Moldovan migrants help develop Moldovan society

Ten Moldovan emigrants who left the country 10 to 20 years ago returned home to present five public policy proposals to the Moldovan Government. The policy proposals aimed to advance Moldova's development agenda in justice, public health, research-based economy, environment protection and diaspora relations.

The policy proposals were developed under the Diaspora Excellence Groups programme, funded by IOM Development Fund and implemented by IOM and the Diaspora Relations Bureau. The mechanism of consulting highly skilled Moldovan emigrants was tested and is ready to be taken over and continued by the Moldovan Government.



Prime Minister's Cabinet supports cooperation with highly-qualified diaspora.



Ghenadie Cretu, Migration and Development Programme Coordinator, IOM Moldova.



Alexandra Nica, head of training and research department, National Institute of Justice, supported the Group of Excellence on Justice.



Laurentiu Hadirca, the leader of the Excellence Group on Justice.

After 23 years of working in the US, Dr. Ian Toma, Assistant Director for Genomic Clinical Research, George Washington University, suggested creating a Centre of Excellence in Biomedical Research in Moldova. The Centre

will enable Moldovan medical workers, computer science specialists and students to digitalize medical data so that it can be used for medical research to study such diseases as TB, HIV and stage 3 and 4 cancer.

“Moldovan scientists and students who left the country in the 1990s and built great careers abroad are an unexplored resource of development. They acquired an insight that can be used to respond to multiple challenges that Moldova faces,”

said Mr. GHENADIE CRETU, Migration and Development Programme Coordinator, IOM Moldova.



Dr. Ian Toma, the leader of the Excellence Group on Public Health.

“We reckon that by establishing the Biomedical Centre we will create job opportunities in a new field for Moldova such as bioinformatics and biomedical research, which will also prevent young medical workers from emigrating,”

added Dr. IAN TOMA, Assistant Director for Genomic Clinical Research, George Washington University.

# Acknowledging the valuable work of health professionals at the 2018 Health Gala in the Republic of Moldova



The most accomplished Moldovan health professionals received awards to acknowledge their performance and achievements during the fifth edition of the Health Gala marking the World Health Day 2018.

## Primary health care as the foundation of universal health coverage

Pavel Filip, Prime Minister of the Republic of Moldova, expressed his gratitude to the health workers, noting that every doctor has an important responsibility in performing this noble profession. “I admire your everyday commitment to provide high-quality health-care services to all Moldovan citizens,” he said at the event.

“The Health Gala Award is my first award during the 40 years I have worked as a family doctor,” said Dr Elena Caraus, winner in the category for best family doctor team. “I am very proud of my team and grateful for their support”, she added.

“I started working in the Chiscareni village when I was 23 years old. Together with my husband we are still working in this rural health centre, serving families, mothers and the most vulnerable. I strongly believe that primary health care is the gatekeeper of any health system and serves as a firm foundation for universal health coverage, providing community-based services, prevention and health promotion,” Dr Caraus explained.



Ludmila Birca, director of the Municipal Clinical Hospital for Contagious Diseases for Children, received the award for the best management of a healthcare institutions.



Elena Caraus, family doctor, Chiscareni Health Centre, received the award for the best family doctor team.

## Close collaboration with World Health Organization

The fifth edition of Health Gala was organized in partnership with the Ministry of Health, Labour and Social Protection, the National Health Insurance Company, the Centre for Health Information and Communication and WHO Moldova.

While on an official visit to the Republic of Moldova, Dr. Nedret Emiroglu, Director of Programme Management at WHO/Europe, attended the Health Gala and reconfirmed the Organization’s commitment to build on its existing collaboration with the country. “We will continue to support the Republic of Moldova to serve the public interests, particularly those of the most disadvan-

taged parts of the population, and make sure that every effort is made to leave no one behind,” said Dr. Emiroglu.

The winners were selected in 11 categories: best family doctor team; best nursing team; best emergency team; best hospital team; best health insurance team; best management of a health-care institution; best public health team; best non-governmental organization in health; best health journalist; best didactic activity; and best lifelong health career achievement.

The first Health Gala took place in 2012. The event is dedicated to the World Health Day, and one of the awards is given in a category related to the theme of the year’s World Health Day campaign. In 2018, the theme was universal health coverage.



The awarded persons at the Health Gala 2018.



Beneficiary clothing factory, Carpineni.

# Migration – an opportunity to develop Moldova through joint efforts

The number of migrants who get involved in the development of their home villages and towns has been increasing since 2015. The communication between the people and local authorities and the natives who migrated underpinned 50 local development projects.

## Innovative businesses, with support from natives, started in 14 Moldovan localities

Due to the cooperation between local public authorities, Moldovan migrants

and local businesses, economic projects are being implemented and innovative businesses have been started in 14 Moldovan localities, which have created around 1500 jobs. The total amount of the projects is 457.5 thousand USD. The Government of Switzerland provided six grants each amounting to 20 thousand USD and 8 grants each amounting to 25 thousand USD through the UNDP's Migration and Local Development Project. The local governments and natives have also contributed with money for the smooth progress of the projects.

For instance, to promote the local touristic potential, Chiscareni local public

“Localities have fewer opportunities for development without a viable economic environment. UNDP Moldova comes with a new approach for the development of the local business environment, infrastructure improvement, bringing together producers, creation of local brands and other, which will help make the localities more attractive for the existing businesses and for potential investors.”

said OLESEA CAZACU, Programme Analyst at UNDP Moldova.

authorities in partnership with local households will establish a network of guest-houses, an info point, and will include local attractions in national touristic route.

To perpetuate the traditional clothes and create jobs for local women, a centre for production of authentic folk costumes will be opened in Pelinia village, where its 40 craftspeople can practice various crafts.



Working process at the clothing factory in Carpineni.



Pelinia villagers and members of 13 local artistic bands organized a handicraft workshop to raise funds for the craft centre.

“The centre will host handicraft trainings for the young generations in order to pass on the art of creating folk costumes and handicraft, which, once taken out of anonymity, will become the village’s business card and a source of income for the local people,”

said **TITUS SARATEANU**, mayor of Pelinia village.

## Better services through cohesion

During 2016-2018, Migration and Local Development Project developed and successfully piloted an innovative model of involvement of migrants in the local social-economic development in Moldova. “Local public authorities in 13 communities have joined their efforts to implement 4 projects aimed to develop the services that their communities need. Therefore, the nostalgic tourist route “DOR DE CODRU” (Longing for Codru) will be arranged by Cioresti, Micleuseni and Dolna villages. Based on the same methodology, the inter-municipal Volunteer Fire Service will be established to serve Branza, Vadul lui Isac and Colibasi villages. Villagers from Carpineni, Mingir and Negrea will have a modern waste management system and a day care centre for people at risk built to serve the older people from Copceac, Cairaclia, Novosiolovca and Aluatu from Gagauzia region and Taraclia”, notes Gh-enadie Ivascenco, national consultant in local services.

Each of the 4 projects will receive grant assistance amounting to 50,000 USD.

## Common causes with municipalities around the world

Another goal of the Migration and Local Development Project is to value diaspora’s potential for the development of their native localities by establishing sustainable partnerships between local authorities in the native locality and in country of destination.

To this end, Telenesti, one of the 38 partner localities of MiDL project, has signed an economic and cultural cooperation agreement with Haifa and has thus become the first town in Moldova that has a twin town in Israel.

“Our natives suggested visiting this town in the north of Israel because most of the Jews from Telenesti have settled there. Together with the Moldovan delegation we had meetings with people who are from Telenesti and we agreed on the action plan of the Natives’ Association,”

says **VADIM LELIC**, mayor of Telenesti.

Similar initiatives were translated into life by the mayoralty and the Natives’ Association from Straseni, whose twin town became Oeiros (Portugal), and

from Edinet, whose twin town became Nazareth (Israel).

## Moldovans from all corners of the world invested 1.1 million MDL in the development of their native localities

The 25 communities included in stage I of MiDL project demonstrated the efficiency of the online crowdfunding tool. Other 13 localities followed suit in 2017-2018.

According to the available data, through crowdfunding campaigns, 3,400 Moldovans from these 13 localities invested 1.1 million MDL in creation of new local services.

While the transferred amounts ranged from 500 USD to 24 MDL (1.4 USD), there were also contributions from the mayoralties of the 13 localities (127,000 USD) and the grants offered by the Government of Switzerland amounting to 15,000 USD for each community project.

“The natives’ associations have built bridges connecting local authorities and the diaspora, which is critical for the local development,” believes Oxana Maciucă, Migration and Local Development Project Manager. The representatives of mayoralties claim that this first experience of implementing local projects with the help of natives has inspired them to start new projects. The Migration and Local Development Project is implemented in 38 localities (25 in the first stage and 13 in the second stage of the project) by UNDP Moldova with the financial support of the Government of Switzerland.



New border crossing point to be opened by the end of the year.

## Better conditions for the travellers and drivers crossing Palanca checkpoint

The border crossing point in Palanca built from scratch with European support will provide better conditions for the travellers and drivers crossing the state border. Expected to be opened by the end of this year, there will be a single joint control procedure conducted on the territory of the Republic of Moldova by the customs officers and border police from both countries. Due to the new infrastructure, the waiting time at the border will be reduced significantly, while the flows of passengers and goods will increase.

The project includes a modern administrative building with more than 30 offices for the staff of the Border Police and Customs Service of the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine, spaces specially designed for car and truck checks etc. All the rooms will be fitted out with state-of-the-art border control equipment, computers, scanners etc. The border checks of cars, buses and trucks will be done in a building especially designed for thorough checking. The truck control station will have the capacity to deal with 2 trucks at the same time, which will facilitate the flow of vehicles.

The design of the new building takes into account the needs of all the travellers, including for people with disabilities, who will have access ramps and

accessible toilets built for them. The building has special rooms for asylum seekers. A novelty for Moldova is the pedestrian checkpoint built in Palanca for the people who walk or cycle across the border. To make the state border crossing more enjoyable by car, a new platform was built stretching over an area of 16,000m<sup>2</sup>.

According to the Moldovan Customs Service's estimates once the new crossing point is opened, the flows of passengers and goods will increase significantly. Therefore, while the number of the people who crossed the border through Palanca checkpoint has been around 600,000 every year so far, due to the new facility the number passengers and vehicles crossing it, is expected to be doubled.

The border crossing point in Palanca is located in an old building today and its infrastructure does not cope anymore with the big number of passengers and vehicles that cross the border.

The budget estimated for the construction of the Palanca joint control checkpoint on the territory of the Republic of Moldova amounts to 5.56 million EUR, of which 4.5 million have been granted by the European Union and 1.06 million – by the Moldovan



The building will stretch on a 2.6-hectare area.



Palanca border crossing point at the beginning of the project in 2017.

Government. The project is implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

The Government of Moldova has recently signed a cost sharing agreement amounting to 600,000 EUR for the implementation of a new infrastructure project by UNDP provided for the construction of the access road connecting Palanca checkpoint and Odesa-Reni road, including street lighting.

Since the construction of the Palanca checkpoint is in progress, a temporary crossing point has been opened for border control, which is run jointly by the partner services from Moldova and Ukraine.

The Palanca crossing point is located at the south-eastern border of Moldova, about 150 km away from Chisinau.

# Moldova works to ensure all food is safe



National food control authorities are better equipped and more knowledgeable than ever before, thanks to a comprehensive project from FAO.



Entrance to Radiology Section.



Exterior of building housing the National Food Safety Agency laboratories - Republican Veterinary Diagnosis Center (RVDC).

## A young institution strives to improve

Moldova's food safety agency was established in 2013 as a single food safety control authority for the entire food chain. Along with the Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Development and Environment – the main policy maker – this young institution was the FAO project's main beneficiary.

## Getting serious about food safety

People everywhere want their food to be safe – free of harmful toxins, viruses, bacteria, veterinary drugs, or excess additives. For the past two years, Moldova has been working with FAO to modernize its national food safety system.



Hg measuring, atomic absorption method.



Seeding of products of animal origin on nutrient medium. National Food Safety Agency laboratories - Republican Veterinary Diagnosis Center (RVDC).



Measuring fat content with the Soxhlet method. National Food Safety Agency laboratories - Republican Veterinary Diagnosis Center (RVDC).

## Logical starting point

The effort began with a careful assessment of Moldova's food safety system. Using an approach developed by FAO and the World Health Organization (WHO), the assessment looked at Moldova's food safety laws and regulations, infrastructure and equipment, qualification of personnel, import and export controls, surveillance of food-borne diseases, relations with the private sector, and the capacity of the food control authority to collect and analyze data.



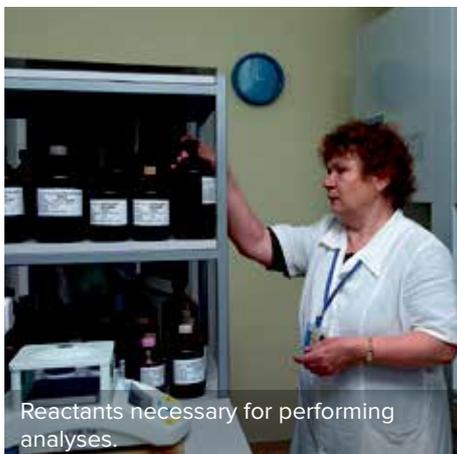
Diagnosing brucellosis.



Seeding on SVR medium for diagnosis of bacterial diseases (salmonellosis, colibacillosis, rujet, anthrax, etc.).

## Technical training and equipment

Veterinary and food safety control inspectors received specialized training in the use of state-of-the-art testing equipment, and how to analyze and interpret results.



Reactants necessary for performing analyses.



Detection of antibodies using ELISA Method. Virology Section, Viral serology lab.



Biochemical examination (API 20E) for diagnosis of bacterial diseases (salmonellosis, colibacillosis).

## Target groups

Food service operators such as restaurants, along with small-scale milk producers, were the two food sub-sectors targeted by the project. Guidelines published in Romanian as part of the project help to share food safety requirements and good practices with these groups.



Samples brought to the radiology department.



Detecting heavy metals such as Pb, Cd, using the AAS method.



Receiving samples of pathological material from Reception and Pathology Section.



Tudor Robu, FAO Assistant Representative in Moldova.

## Benefits for everyone

“The improvements achieved as a result of this project will benefit Moldovan consumers, producers, processors, food service business, food safety authorities, and policy makers.”

said TUDOR ROBU, FAO Assistant Representative in Moldova.

Safety and quality of food is an important area of work and expertise for FAO. It relates directly to nutrition, food security, responsible use of natural resources, and economic growth.



Traditional foods prepared by a pension in Lalova, Rezina, Moldova.

## Risk analysis, emergency preparedness

A national food safety emergency response plan and regulations to strengthen the food recall system were drawn up as part of the FAO project. Risk analysis and risk-based inspections, foresight and intelligence in the food chain, and early reaction to food safety threats are essential capacities for a national food safety system.

The food safety risk is reduced by applying good practices and the principles of HACCP (Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points) all along the food chain – from farm to consumer.

All photos: ©FAO/Dorin Goian.



Only together  
we can make our lives better



## Green City Lab: innovations and urban development opportunities for Chisinau

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in partnership with Chisinau Town Hall is launching Green City Lab – the first urban laboratory of innovations in the field of local services in Moldova, which will guide the transformation of Chisinau municipality and other urban centres into modern green and smart European towns.

To find out more about the lab's benefits for the people's lives and the opportunities it will create for sustainable economic growth, we talked to Alexandru Rotaru, project manager.

### — What outcomes do you expect the project to have?

— The project will support the design, launch and creation of Green City Lab, expected to become the primary knowledge management and networking platform, a documentation centre, a finance intermediary and a source of innovations and expertise aimed to transform Chisinau into a modern green and intelligent European town, offering its citizens a better life, while creating opportunities for sustainable economic growth.

### — Green City Lab is expected to become self-sustaining. How will this happen?

— Green City Lab will provide a multitude of income-generating services to the municipality, individuals and the private sector. For instance, among the services provided to the public sector could be development of feasibility studies, preparing public procurement packages, development of project proposals, implementation of projects, development and delivery of training for local governments and municipal service providers, opinion polls, events and information campaigns, project impact monitoring, reporting and verification. Consultancy services could be provided to the private sector, for instance, for generation of project/business ideas, development of business



Alexandru Rotaru, Project Manager.



The participants in the public debate on the future of Chisinau considering the options to turn it into a green city.

plans, project implementation (procurement, accounting, monitoring and other), partnerships in various projects. The laboratory could also become an investment partner on behalf of municipalities as part of a PPP.

**— The residential sector is the biggest producer of greenhouse gases. How do we address this issue?**

— One of the main goals of the project is to promote energy efficiency of the residential buildings and to renovate the cost-efficient buildings in order to achieve the long-term objective of decarbonisation of the existing real estate sector, which is very energy inefficient. Therefore, we will pilot a model of co-participation (municipality and lodger associations) in full renovation of a multi-storey residential building, which could be replicated across the town with the support of international financial institutions.

**— It is expected that in 2030 over 50% of the country's urban population will live in Chisinau. Is it a good thing or not? What are the risks and how can we mitigate them? What can be done to develop the small towns?**

— In Moldova, where agriculture was the main occupation in the rural areas, due to technology development it no longer needs much workforce and migration of the rural population either

to urban areas inside the country or abroad is something natural. Obviously, this migration to towns puts a huge pressure on their infrastructure, what we can already see in Chisinau. These risks can be mitigated by revitalizing and implementing the town's General Urban Plan, by redesigning the streets for the benefit of pedestrians, car and bike drivers, as well as by upgrading the public services provided by the municipality. I think that the only solution for the small towns is to attract investments. From the point of view of urban development, the small towns are much more flexible than Chisinau and it is much easier to have any initiative (e.g. street lighting, waste sorting) tested and accepted by residents.

**— Green City Lab will serve as a platform for innovative pilot projects, which will reduce greenhouse gas emissions through measures aimed to efficient waste management, energy efficiency of residential buildings, use of renewable energy and smart urban planning. What activities will be carried out in each of these areas?**

— Green City Lab will host demo projects aimed to reduce carbon emissions and will support the development of the Street Design Guide in line with the sustainable urban planning principles, develop a zonal plan for the proposed/planned recovery of the Bac

River Basin etc. The energy efficiency issues include street lighting, energy audits, thermal insulation of residential buildings and others. An important activity is the development of a mobility plan for Chisinau and piloting of transport monitoring, facilitation of cycling and walking and various applications for the trip planning and ensuring increased mobility through the municipality. As for waste management, we will support Chisinau Town Hall's efforts to improve the management of the town's organic non-domestic waste by transforming it in biomass energy (design and putting into operation of the briquetting unit of the town's composting polygon).

**— What is the urban mobility component about? Is it about the development of suburbs and public transport?**

— The aim of the sustainable urban mobility plan is to implement an efficient, integrated, sustainable and reliable transport system that will support development and ensure a good quality of life.

It addresses:

- the public transport (including creation of routes for public transport);
- non-motorised transport (e.g. cycling);
- inter-modality (connection between various types of transport);
- urban road safety;
- road transport (in motion or stationary, including the parking system);
- urban logistics (including the traffic light system);
- street design;
- mobility management;
- smart transport systems.

According to the international practices there must be interconnection nodes with parking lots for the private transport in the town's peripheral sectors, which would enable the town guests and commuters who work in Chisinau to give up their personal cars and use the public transport.



# Moldovan students challenge stereotypes and gender roles

Over 100 students and professors took part in discussions organised by UN Women (United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women) on gender equality and ending violence against women.

“The discussions were very useful. I learned about rights and responsibilities, and that we have to overcome our fears and have the courage to challenge stereotypes like, for instance, that women must be housewives. I would tell girls and boys to trust themselves and not allow anyone to hurt or humiliate them,”

said **SNEJANA HAVRATIUC**, a first-year student at the Philology Faculty, Balti University.

The events organized by UN Women Moldova with the support of the Government of Sweden were hosted by the College of Medicine in Cahul, and “Alecu Russo” University in Balti. Students discussed issues such as the pay gap between men and women, ways that household and childcare responsibilities can be split between partners, ways to prevent various forms of violence, and existing inequalities that must be overcome.

Guest speakers were two of the 10 women awarded during the “You know you can” campaign by UN Women Moldova for being pioneers in male-dominat-



Over 100 students and teachers took part in the discussions organized by UN Women on gender equality and prevention of violence against women.

Photo: UN Women Moldova/ Katerina Shorsheva

ed areas: Mariana Grama, the first woman colonel in the Moldovan Ministry of Defence, and Catinca Mardarovici, gender equality activist and founder of 50/50 - Moldova’s first women’s political club, and Member of Parliament in 1994-1998.

“Sometimes we have a wrong understanding of gender equality. Gender equality does not mean justice for women only, gender equality is about justice and equal rights for women and men,”

said **CATINCA MARDAROVICI**, gender equality activist.

The discussions had an impact on both female and male participants. “We shouldn’t feel superior to others, we are all equal, men and women. I will talk to my colleagues, family, friends from my home village about what I have learned today,” said Mihai Buruiana, a first-year student at the College of Medicine Cahul.

“I felt discriminated when I had to do things that my brothers didn’t,” said Nel-

ea, 18, another student. “I learned that in healthy relationships, women and men share equally the household responsibilities and should have equal opportunities in their professional lives.”

Women in Moldova are underrepresented in decision-making at all levels: Women make up only 22 per cent of Moldova’s Members of Parliament, 38 per cent of ministers, 21 per cent of mayors, and 19 per cent of district councillors (2018).

The employment rates of women are lower than in the case of men, and women do the bulk of the work at home.

Moreover, 63 per cent of women aged 15-65 experienced at least one form of violence from their husbands or partners during their lifetime. (2011, National Bureau of Statistics).

To address these inequalities, the Moldovan Government has adopted a National Strategy on Ensuring Equality between Women and Men for 2017-2021, and a National Strategy on Prevention and Combating of Violence against Women and Domestic Violence for 2018-2023.



The discussions had impact on both women and men.

Photo: UN Women Moldova/ Katerina Shorsheva



Youth discussed about gender pay gap, equal rights, and preventing violence against women.

Photo: UN Women Moldova/ Katerina Shorsheva

# SUN Da-I Fest brought together green technology and good music in the heart of Chisinau



**G**reen technologies and good music were the stars of SUN Da-I Fest Festival. The good mood was fuelled by tens of competitions and exhibitions for children and adults. Having reached its sixth edition this year, Sun Da-I Fest was organized by Moldova Energy and Biomass Project, a project funded by the European Union and implemented by the United Nations Development Programme, in partnership with Energy Efficiency Agency and Ministry of Economy and Infrastructure. The festival culminated the EU Sustainable Energy Week in Moldova.

“I am happy to be attending for the first time SUN Da-I Fest in my position of EU Ambassador to the Republic of Moldova. The EU is supporting the 6th edition of this event, which is a fun day out for the family and offers the possibility to learn about renewable and sustainable energy. With the events offered for the public, we would like to raise awareness on the positive impact that clean energy can have on people's day to day lives,”

mentioned Ambassador PETER MICHALKO, Head of EU Delegation to the Republic of Moldova.



Young people displaying their eco inventions at Sun Da-i Fest.

**T**he festival brought together visitors from Chisinau and from all across Moldova this year. Adults participated in interactive contests and practical workshops on green energy generation and waste processing, while children had fun and learned the secrets of renewable energy.

“Sun, wind, water, and biomass are safe energy sources that help us keep the Planet clean. It helps us to produce own energy in our country,”

said INGA PODOROGHIN, Programme Specialist at UNDP Moldova.

The event was also attended by producers of clean energy-based technology, who showed how photovoltaic panels, solar collectors, biomass boilers, geothermal pumps, etc. work in real time.

“I can say it with confidence that Sun Da-I Fest is one of the most innovative and successful instruments to talk to people about smart energy consumption,”

said ALEXANDRU CIUDIN, director of the Energy Efficiency Agency.

Youngsters from schools and universities organized an exhibition of eco inventions based on solar, wind, biomass



Exhibition of eco inventions.



Wind turbine built from recycled materials.



“ We used photovoltaic panels that follow the sun, wind turbines that produce electricity, energy-saving sources that allow us to store, and then to sell the excess energy. At the same time, we have a smart lighting system, which shines brighter the darker it gets outside. This is a solution that allows us not only to save energy, but also to generate income from selling energy,”

said VADIM GRICIUC, master student at the Technical University of Moldova, who presented a model of a city housing district, equipped with intelligent power distribution solutions.



Parabolic antenna lined with mirrors – an alternative to stove.

or hydro energy. A wind turbine built from recycled materials that generates electricity, parabolic antennas lined with mirrors that can be an alternative to stoves, automated smart homes, a low energy consumption elevator, equipment to produce methane gas from organic substances, a bus station powered by photovoltaic panels are only a few of the inventions displayed by pupils and students at SUN Da-I Fest.

There was a special place arranged for the youngest visitors of the festival, where they learned how to

make masks and toys from recyclable materials, participated in painting and drawing contests, and sports activities, including the straw bales maze race. Both children and adults took part in several fun scientific experiments and learned how to save energy at home and in public places. Car lovers could enjoy a ride in the park in a solar energy powered vehicle.

SUN Da-I Fest ended with a live concert powered by solar energy, which hosted such bands as Alex Calancea Band & RUPT, The Glimpse, Flash Blood, Dandies, Delta pe Obraz, and Tamala.



The festival culminated with a live music concert powered by solar energy.



Visitors admiring the model of a resident district equipped with green solutions.

For more information about Energy and Biomass Project, please visit [www.biomasa.md](http://www.biomasa.md) and the Facebook page [Energie din Biomasa](#).





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