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Country programme document

Republic of Moldova

Summary

The country programme document (CPD) for the Republic of Moldova is presented to the Executive Board for discussion and approval at the present session, on a no-objection basis. The CPD includes a proposed aggregate indicative budget of \$4,450,000 from regular resources, subject to the availability of funds, and \$13,000,000 in other resources, subject to the availability of specific-purpose contributions, for the period 2023 to 2027.

* [E/ICEF/2022/22](#).



Programme rationale

1. The Republic of Moldova transitioned from a lower to upper-middle-income country in 2021. However, the country's economic growth model continues to carry inherent vulnerabilities associated with poor domestic capacity to generate jobs, climatic risks to agriculture, a large informal economy, rapidly ageing population and continuing emigration. These were exacerbated by the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic, and combined to cause a contraction in gross domestic product (GDP) by 7 per cent in 2020.¹ Most recently, the country has been affected by the influx of more than 500,000 refugees, mainly women and children, fleeing the conflict in Ukraine. Immediate assistance is required for all, as well as support for integrating those who wish to stay for the longer term. The proposed cooperation programme re-emphasizes the commitment to upholding the rights of all children and leaving no one behind (about 600,000 girls and boys living in the country, plus between 100,000 and 300,000 children and their caregivers seeking refuge).

2. The country's dedication to the Sustainable Development Agenda is outlined in the National Development Strategy "Moldova 2030" and reflected in the 2020 Voluntary National Review. The forthcoming report on the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child is a valuable opportunity to galvanize public debate on the challenges of ensuring that all children enjoy their rights to survive, thrive, learn, develop and contribute meaningfully to a society that is equitable and inclusive. The Moldova–European Union Association Agreement, in force since 2016, defines the parameters of regional socioeconomic development.

3. Despite substantial progress in reducing poverty in the last decade, one in four children in 2020 was poor. Children in rural areas are particularly disadvantaged as absolute poverty rates are 36 per cent, compared to 13 per cent in cities. Among families with three or more children, 42 per cent live in poverty. The main social assistance programme, Ajutor Social, covers 7 per cent of the population, supporting merely one fifth of the poorest quintile. Old-age pensions and, until recently, remittances² from migrant workers abroad have had a more pronounced positive effect on family incomes.³ The socioeconomic consequences of the conflict in Ukraine are likely to strain the social protection system through high inflation and reduced fiscal space, further affecting the country's capacity to address poverty and social exclusion.

4. After nearly two decades of incremental progress in child survival, infant and under-5 mortality rates, at 12 and 14 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2020, respectively,⁴ have stagnated. They are three times higher than the European Union average. In 2020, coverage of the diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis (DTP3) vaccination fell to 86 per cent – due to interrupted immunization during the COVID-19 lockdown and growing anti-vaccination sentiments among parents.

5. A shortage of human resources has slowed the perinatal and primary health-care provision, especially in rural areas. Public investment in health, reported at 4.4 per cent of GDP in 2020,⁵ does not match the scope of the sector's reorganization and its need to improve its infrastructure. Up to 12 per cent of the country's population do

¹ World Bank, Moldova Economic Update, 2021.

² The mitigation role of remittances might be further eroded in the post-pandemic economy.

³ Unless otherwise specified, all data in the CPD originate from: United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), "Analysis of the situation of children and adolescents in Moldova", 2021; UNICEF, Country Office Annual Report 2021, Moldova, Update on the context and situation of children; and UNICEF, Republic of Moldova, Country Profile, <https://data.unicef.org/country/mda/>.

⁴ United Nations Inter-Agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation, "Levels and Trends in Child Mortality (UN IGME) Report 2021", December 2021.

⁵ Ministry of Finance, 2021, available at [Bugetul cetatenilor 2020_editable format 03.02.20 \(gov.md\)](https://www.gov.md/bugetul-cetatenilor-2020-editable-format-03.02.20).

not benefit from health insurance, most of them living in rural areas⁶; many are young, employed in the informal economy and/or Roma. The high number of refugees will place an additional burden on the health insurance system. The share of formal and informal out-of-pocket payments, particularly burdensome for the poorest quintile, is estimated at 45 per cent of the total health expenditure.

6. The country has yet to fully adopt a social approach in disability assessment. The number of children with disabilities registered in the health system records – about 12,000 – has remained stable in recent years. Children aged 0 to 2 years account for only 27 per cent of first disability determinations, which signals systemic weaknesses in the early detection of disability or developmental delays. A high proportion of severe disabilities – about 40 per cent – indicates the system’s failure to capture and address milder/reversible conditions.⁷ Being relatively new, early intervention services are estimated to meet only one tenth of actual demand.⁸

7. The network of more than 40 youth-friendly health service clinics has proved effective in providing health care and counselling support to adolescents and young people, though the most at-risk and vulnerable adolescents should be better reached. Steady improvements in adolescent sexual and reproductive health are evidenced by a decrease in sexually transmitted infections and broader use of birth control methods. Despite a decrease from 26 to 22 cases per 1,000 women aged 15–19 between 2010 and 2020, the adolescent fertility rate remains three times higher than the European Union average.⁹ The burden of risks for adolescent mental health and psychosocial well-being has grown.

8. The state offers free primary, secondary and early childhood education (ECE). About 18 per cent of children aged 0 to 2 and 90 per cent of children aged 3 to 6 benefited from organized ECE in 2020.¹⁰ However, rates for preschool attendance among Roma and children with disabilities are 12 and 11 per cent, respectively. ECE facilities are more accessible in rural settings, which have a decreasing population, than in urban settings. The integration of refugee children from Ukraine will require additional investments.

9. The quality of teaching and learning outcomes remains a serious concern, especially in rural schools where more than half the students do not reach minimum levels of proficiency in science, reading and mathematics, according to the 2018 Programme for International Students Assessment (PISA).¹¹ Disparities in academic performance also correlate closely with the students’ socioeconomic status. Additionally, teaching styles remain mainly didactic, while the profession fails to attract a younger workforce.

10. The country’s commitment to inclusive education requires more capacity-building, school accessibility upgrades, and age-appropriate assistive technologies. Individualized support is required to help about 10,000 school-age children with disabilities in mainstream education, and an estimated 1,000 Ukrainian refugee

⁶ National Health Insurance Company, p. 28.

⁷ National Bureau of Statistics, Children of Moldova, Statistical Publication, 2020, United Nations Children’s Fund, November 2020; and National Bureau of Statistics, Infographics, “The situation of children in Moldova in 2020”, https://statistica.gov.md/public/files/publicatii_electronice/Copiii_Moldovei/Infografice/2020/Sanataate.pdf.

⁸ LUMOS_Situatia_copiilor.pdf (contentfiles.net), p. 47.

⁹ World Bank, Adolescent fertility rate, available at <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.ADO.TFRT?locations=MD>.

¹⁰ National Bureau of Statistics, Education in Moldova, 2021, p. 115.

¹¹ OECD, Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA), “Results from PISA 2018: Moldova”.

children. Children with special educational needs or with disabilities enrolled in regular schools registered significant progress over the last decade. Children with more complex needs remain segregated, and most parents still have to overcome negative attitudes towards children with special educational needs in general education, including preschools. Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) standards need to be raised, especially in rural areas where indoor bathroom facilities are lacking in 70 per cent of schools and 40 per cent of preschools.

11. Deprivations in employment and civic participation impact about 40 per cent of young people. In 2019, 27 per cent of young people aged 15 to 29 years were not in education, employment or training, meaning that every third young person in the country was in the category of ‘NEET’,¹² more than twice the European Union average (with overrepresentation of girls). Community networks for adolescents are scarce, often do not represent their particular needs or how they live and are poorly linked with the broader civil society initiatives.¹³

12. There are approximately 1,000 children in residential institutions, a tenfold decrease since de-institutionalization reforms began in the country about 15 years ago. Meanwhile, the number of children in family-based, kinship and foster care almost tripled, from around 6,500 to 18,000 children.¹⁴ There is a need to periodically review the situation of children – including children with disabilities – in all forms of care, with a focus on individual assistance plans, for accelerated integration into biological families. In 2020, about 34,000 children had the official status of being separated from their parents; 85 per cent were left to the care of extended families by those migrating abroad. More than one third of adolescents have at least one parent working abroad, and for about 10 per cent of adolescents, both parents are away.¹⁵ The goal of recent legislation on custodian measures is to ensure that all children separated from parents are being raised in a caring family environment, highlighting the need to increase investments in services for prevention of family separation. The pace of reforms related to specialized institutions (accommodating approximately 250 children with disabilities) has lagged. A wide range of specialized services for children with disabilities and families with children with disabilities will prevent family separation and, consequently, will reduce the institutionalization of children.

13. Almost 30 per cent of young women experienced childhood physical violence, and about 40 per cent of young women and men report being subjected to some type of childhood violence.¹⁶ Although 14 per cent of females and 5 per cent of males experience sexual violence before turning 18, only half believe it must be reported and prosecuted. The social protection response does not match the level of violence caused by the pandemic. Sex trafficking has not been stopped and it disproportionately affects undocumented/stateless and Roma women and girls. Unaccompanied refugee children are at heightened risk of exploitation.

14. Although the number of child offences decreased from 941 in 2016 to 606 in 2020, the number of children sentenced to detention increased by two thirds (from 78 to 131 cases).¹⁷ Conditional sentencing and imprisonment remain key measures, each

¹² International Labour Organization, “Youth Employment, A systems analysis for Moldova’s Decent Country Work Programme, 2021–2024”, June 2021.

¹³ Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, “Youth Wellbeing Policy Review of Moldova”, 2018.

¹⁴ Hope and Homes for Children, “EU support for care reform for children in Moldova in the 2021–2027 period”, 2020, available at https://www.hopeandhomes.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/2020-11-Moldova-EU-funds-Recommendations_LONG.pdf.

¹⁵ United Nations, The United Nations Common Country Analysis for the Republic of Moldova 2020, March 2021.

¹⁶ Ministry of Health, Labour and Social Protection, Violence against Children and Youth Survey 2019, 2020.

¹⁷ National Bureau of Statistics, “Children of Moldova”, 2020.

applied in about 40 per cent of cases. Solitary confinement of children has been stopped, and all children in contact with the law are now entitled to free legal aid. Overall, there are limited avenues for preventive and rehabilitative care in the justice, child protection, social welfare and education systems.

15. The Government of the Republic of Moldova and the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) are monitoring progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals and regularly producing data on children. However, the availability and quality of data on the most disadvantaged and vulnerable populations need to be improved to make them more “visible” in public discourse and national development policy efforts.

16. The evaluation of the United Nations Partnership Framework for Sustainable Development 2018–2022, along with several country-led evaluations of the national child protection and inclusive education strategies, provide an assessment of UNICEF cooperation with the Government. The country programme document (CPD) encapsulates the reports’ recommendations, emphasizing the need to:

- a) address structural inefficiencies and weaknesses of institutions and professionals in implementing legislation and policies
- b) leverage additional resources for children, not necessarily financial, from public and private sources
- c) strengthen programming at subnational/local levels
- d) promote the integration of social welfare, health, education, child protection and justice interventions for those who are particularly vulnerable and excluded
- e) include mechanisms in programme design to channel public demand for human rights-based and gender-sensitive policies and keep duty-bearers accountable.

17. Consultations with Government, civil society, development partners and youth in early 2022 validated the programme’s priorities and reaffirmed the advantage of UNICEF having the lead role in setting the agenda on child rights with its experience in equity-focused data collection, policy design and service delivery. UNICEF Moldova is a partner of choice for the Government and other stakeholders, offering strategic policy advice, specific technical expertise and resources to develop and test locally adapted approaches.

Programme priorities and partnerships

18. The Government and UNICEF share a vision of change that, by 2027, all girls and boys in the country, including the most vulnerable, will grow up in a society that is firmly committed, more able, and better resourced to ensure each child develops to their full potential.

19. The proposed programme aligns with the National Development Strategy priorities to improve the quality of people’s lives and unlock their potential at every stage. It also reflects the crucial parts of the strategic frameworks defining national health, education, youth and child protection policies for the coming decade. The UNICEF Strategic Plan, 2022–2025 and Gender Action Plan, 2022–2025 provide global reference for setting programme objectives and formulating the theory of change. At the country level, the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) aligns contributions by UNICEF and other United Nations agencies to national development efforts while highlighting the role of UNICEF as custodian of the child rights agenda.

First decade: Survival, development, family care and protection

20. The vision is that, by 2027, every girl and boy will enjoy the right to grow in a caring and protective family environment, benefiting from good-quality health care and early childhood development and learning support.

21. In cooperation with the Ministry of Health, UNICEF will continue to support the development of health-care policies and standards that prioritize good-quality service delivery to pregnant women, mothers and young children in vulnerable situations, particularly those who are:

- a) in remote rural areas
- b) from Roma communities
- c) impoverished
- d) uninsured
- e) with developmental risks and disabilities
- f) refugees and asylum-seekers.

22. The expansion of universal home-visiting by primary health-care workers is expected to strengthen parenting skills. It is also expected to contribute to continuing care for young children, from a woman's pregnancy throughout the following first three years of a child's life. The ability of family doctors and nurses to communicate effectively will be vital in telling caregivers about child growth and development, including:

- a) addressing misconceptions about immunization
- b) encouraging breastfeeding
- c) preventing risks of childhood illnesses or injuries
- d) early detection of developmental delays.

23. Early identification services will be enhanced to reach more families of children with developmental risks or disabilities with professional counselling, gender-responsive health-care interventions and support. Planning for continuity of health-care services during crises or emergencies will be informed by lessons learned from dealing with COVID-19.

24. UNICEF and the Ministry of Education and Research will promote early childhood stimulation and learning through parenting education programmes – to be designed and delivered in a coordinated intersectoral effort. Using primary health care and preschools to educate parents on early childhood development, UNICEF will spread information about gender-responsive caregiving practices and expand the application of child-centred methods by preschool teachers. UNICEF will collaborate with the World Bank to model public finance management solutions for equitable ECE services, in order to reach the most disadvantaged children.

25. The programme will prioritize supporting all families in nurturing their children. Processes will be strengthened to prevent young children being placed in institutions, such as:

- a) those with disabilities
- b) those left behind by migrant parents
- c) unaccompanied refugee children.

26. For particularly vulnerable families, UNICEF, in line with the newly adopted National Child Protection Programme 2022–2026, will support increasing the number

of social workers, equipping them to identify, prevent and respond effectively to child protection concerns and ensuring they are well connected to local networks of counselling, referral and specialized social services. Parenting education and social and behaviour change (SBC) initiatives will promote non-violent methods of discipline as part of the effort to prevent and address all forms of violence against children. Multidisciplinary approaches will be applied in designing child protection programmes and interventions, while focusing on their financial sustainability and promoting scaling up.

27. UNICEF will work with the Ministry of Justice to protect children of any age in contact with the law, looking after their best interests. Professionals in law enforcement and the justice sector will be supported in conducting child-friendly investigations, trials and sentencing procedures. Professionals from health, education, social services and justice systems will work together on preventing and responding to threats to children's well-being.

Second decade: Health, empowerment and participation

28. By 2027, every adolescent girl and boy, especially the most disadvantaged, is also expected to be able to benefit from equitable access to good-quality education and expanded opportunities for civic engagement and participation.

29. The Ministry of Health and UNICEF will continue to support the country's youth-friendly health service network as an essential service. Equity will be strengthened by reaching those most at risk and vulnerable adolescents by encouraging the participation of adolescent girls, including those who are mothers. The growing challenge of young people's psychoemotional well-being will require a customized, age-appropriate response in line with the country's commitment to strengthening its mental health agenda. SBC initiatives will promote good practices in gender-responsive adolescent parenting.

30. The Ministry of Education and Research and UNICEF will continue to generate high-quality disaggregated data and research to inform implementation of the Education Strategy 2030. Focus will remain on the inclusivity of basic education, with the National Programme for Inclusive Education 2022–2027 expected to roll out successful models. UNICEF will support national planning for enhancing infrastructure and standards for WASH, accessibility, safety and digital connectivity; to make school environments more gender, disability and age-sensitive, free from bullying and more conducive to effective, safe and positive learning, including for children at risk of dropping out or absenteeism. Acquisition of transferable and job-related skills by all girls and boys through traditional and innovative learning pathways will be a joint programming priority for UNICEF and its partners; girls who are not in education, employment or training will be given particular attention. The risk of widening the digital divide, particularly from a gender perspective, will also be addressed.

31. The programme will enhance the ways adolescent girls and boys participate in shaping society. Under the National Youth Strategy 2030, steps will be taking to inform policy, identify gaps, and support the allocation of appropriate resources. UNICEF will prioritize working with national youth networks and councils to address structural barriers to civic participation and tackle harmful sociocultural norms. Peer-to-peer communication initiatives (including U-Report) will combat harmful behavioural clichés among adolescents, while promoting their right to contribute to society. Environmental, health-promoting, anti-bullying, intergenerational communication, and other initiatives will benefit communities and create a sense of citizenship and agency for change among boys and girls, and promote social cohesion with young refugees.

Cross-sectoral: Knowledge and resources

32. By 2027, it is expected that duty-bearers will ensure all child rights are realized. To this end, the programme will prioritize

- a) gathering good-quality evidence to inform policies
- b) leveraging resources and partnerships for children
- c) enhancing child-focused impact of monetary and service-based instruments of social protection
- d) fine-tuning overarching mechanisms and processes for child rights' monitoring and protection.

33. The programme will continue to support the NBS, and other stakeholders, to:

- a) generate evidence on multidimensional child poverty
- b) collect equity-sensitive, sex-disaggregated data, while exploring innovative cost-efficient survey strategies
- c) design mechanisms to develop evidence-based recommendations and transform them into strategies, policies and actions
- d) increase interoperability of administrative data and systems
- e) align nationally adopted targets with the Sustainable Development Goals framework
- f) harmonize metadata components with international standards
- g) collect evidence on the cross-cutting issues increasingly affecting children, such as migration and those induced by climate change or conflicts.

34. UNICEF will work with the Ministry of Finance to enhance the management of child-sensitive public finance by increasing efficiency, transparency and equity, and improving the impact of public spending on children. Budget analyses and advice will reflect the country's changing demographics and, in particular, will identify any systemic bias which disadvantages women and girls. A key advocacy objective will be protecting social spending in the context of economic contraction and the Ukraine emergency. All interventions, including innovative financing partnerships with the private sector, will be designed and implemented in line with public finance reforms, in close coordination with national and international partners.

35. The programme will advocate for changes to the main social assistance programme to improve targeting, coverage and effectiveness in reducing child poverty. Opportunities for sustainable child grant schemes will be explored. It will be essential to ensure that any measures reduce the push factors for emigration and avoid damaging the country's fragile economic model, which has been strongly affected by the global economic recession and the Ukraine crisis. Well-defined social protection approaches will be needed to mitigate the effect on children from risks related to the environment and climate change. Adequate child and gender-responsive social service provision at local level will be promoted, through enhanced decentralized service planning, and improved budgeting, financing and delivering capacities of Government entities and other stakeholders.

36. The focus of the programme remains on enabling the National Council for Child Rights Protection, Child Rights Ombudsperson and other institutions to promote the national child rights agenda. Fine-tuned institutional solutions, adequate professional capacity and strong national leadership will be needed to ensure:

- a) continuous child rights monitoring

b) regular follow-ups on the country's commitments to the Convention on the Rights of the Child and child-related Sustainable Development Goals

c) building and maintaining mechanisms for rights-holders' feedback on duty-bearers' performance

d) coordinating the development and introduction of specific child protection provisions in sectoral normative and operational frameworks

e) facilitating a broad dialogue on child rights and protection

f) enhancing the capacities for a gender- and age-sensitive approach to protection.

37. Programming for gender-transformative results generally will be underpinned by:

a) collecting disaggregated data

b) consistently identifying and analysing gendered risks

c) targeting measures at girls and women in service delivery systems

d) amplifying the voices and influence of girls and women to demand change

e) addressing gender-biased behaviours and societal norms through SBC interventions

f) using digital solutions to empower girls and women economically and socially.

38. The country programme's strategy for mobilizing resources rests on the leadership and coordinating role of UNICEF in:

a) securing access for the Republic of Moldova to funds from the Global Partnership for Education

b) linking national programmes and initiatives with various European Union funding facilities, especially those aimed at youth empowerment, intraregional mobility and social cohesion

c) leveraging child-focused investments of development agencies from OECD countries

d) using emerging opportunities to form alliances with resource partners, within the frameworks of the UNSDCF and CPD.

39. The programme, informed by the business impact analysis, will engage with private sector partners in joint advocacy and high-profile initiatives to:

a) promote the uptake of child-friendly practices by companies and industries

b) co-create and scale up innovations

c) mobilize financial and in-kind contributions from allies among business owners, employees and customers.

Programme effectiveness

40. The country programme will be efficiently coordinated and managed to uphold the programme's quality and achieve results along the humanitarian-development nexus. Relevant expertise, tools, guidance and resources will be made available to partners and stakeholders to enable joint projects and activities to be well designed and efficiently implemented. The programme will use balanced, multi-pronged strategies to achieve tangible results for children. Policy advocacy and fundraising

will go hand-in-hand and will focus on the needs of the most vulnerable children, including refugees and their families.

Summary budget table

<i>Programme component</i>	<i>(In thousands of United States dollars)</i>		
	<i>Regular resources</i>	<i>Other resources</i>	<i>Total</i>
Outcome 1: First decade: Survival, development, family care and protection	2 500	8 500	11 000
Outcome 2: Second decade: Health, empowerment and participation	1 000	3 250	4 250
Outcome 3: Cross-sectoral: Knowledge and resources	700	750	1 450
Programme effectiveness	250	500	750
Total	4 450	13 000	17 450

Programme and risk management

41. This country programme outlines planned contributions by UNICEF to achieve national results for children and serves as the primary unit of accountability to the Executive Board. The accountability of managers at the country, regional and headquarter levels concerning country programmes and partnerships is prescribed in the organization's policies and procedures.

42. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration oversees coordination with the United Nations. The Prime Minister and the United Nations Resident Coordinator co-chair the UNSDCF Steering Committee, under which results groups will be established, to be chaired by the heads of United Nations agencies.

UNICEF assumes that:

a) the Government's commitment to child rights will be reinforced in harmony with the adopted Sustainable Development Goal targets corresponding to the latest recommendations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child

b) long-term political stability in the country results in consistent policy implementation

c) the UNSDCF will be effective in mainstreaming *leave no one behind*, human rights, gender equality, sustainability, resilience and accountability principles across all interventions and initiatives supported by the United Nations agencies

d) expanded engagement at a subnational level will open a new programme and resource partnership opportunities with public and private sector stakeholders

e) the COVID-19 crisis and the Ukraine conflict are successfully resolved in the short to medium term, giving way to a more predictable environment in which to plan.

43. Several risks have the potential to undermine successful programme implementation, such as:

a) limited public expenditure on children and families to support social sector reforms and bring innovations to scale

- b) high rotation of staff in leadership and technical functions in line ministries which may delay decision-making or implementation
- c) low appetite for multi-sectoral approaches weakening the quality, scope and sustainability of results
- d) focusing on children and adolescents who are easier to reach, rather than those left behind
- e) an increasing digital divide preventing most vulnerable populations from accessing information
- f) the Ukraine crisis and other shocks putting undue pressure on stretched social services, budgets and systems.

44. These risks will be mitigated through

- a) advocating for periodic child-centred budgetary reviews for more efficient spending on children and families
- b) prioritizing the development of institutional mechanisms and accountabilities
- c) using disaggregated data in UNICEF programme planning, monitoring, reporting and communication
- d) accumulating knowledge on digital discrimination and its prevention
- e) engaging with the Government and the United Nations, weaving emergency preparedness and response components into national systems.

45. UNICEF will work towards strengthening the capacity of the Government and non-governmental partners to implement programmes, and will continue to apply a harmonized approach to cash transfers. Annual joint programme reviews will monitor progress in delivering programmes and mobilizing resources to verify achievements, analyse constraints and act to improve programme effectiveness. Internal structures will be revised, and staff capacities reinforced to strengthen cross-sectoral approach to programming.

Monitoring, learning and evaluation

46. UNICEF will support efforts to strengthen the collection, accessibility and use of data on children and adolescents, disaggregated to pinpoint inequalities, and inform gender-transformative results. Lessons learned during COVID-19 on real-time monitoring will inform innovative approaches to data collection, including the increasingly active use of youth-led online knowledge generation platforms.

47. Programme performance will be monitored through:

- a) national and UNICEF standard indicators
- b) monitoring components built into partnership cooperation agreements
- c) joint programmatic visits and other established corporate mechanisms.

The essential role of management information systems in guiding health, education, social protection and justice policies will continue to be supported.

48. The country-led evaluations of the national child protection strategy and education sector plan will strengthen the national capacity for evidence-based policymaking. In close cooperation with key national and international stakeholders, UNICEF also intends to evaluate the EU4Moldova: Focal Regions programme, to guide further engagement at the decentralized level and document lessons learned for the potential scale-up of UNICEF-supported interventions.

Annex

Results and resources framework

Republic of Moldova – UNICEF country programme of cooperation, 2023–2027

Convention on the Rights of the Child: Articles 2–6, 9, 12–21, 23–37, 39–42
National priorities: National Development Strategy “Moldova 2030”; Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 1, 3–6, 10, 13, 16, 17
United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) outcomes involving UNICEF: 1–3
Related UNICEF Strategic Plan, 2022–2025 Goal Areas: 1–5

UNSDCF outcomes	UNICEF outcomes	Key progress indicators, baselines (B) and targets (T)	Means of verification	Indicative country programme outputs	Major partners, partnership frameworks	Indicative resources by country programme outcome: regular resources (RR), other resources (OR) (In thousands of United States dollars)		
						RR	OR	Total
Outcome 1. By 2027, institutions deliver human rights-based, evidence-informed and gender-responsive services for all with the focus on those who are left behind.	1. By 2027, every young girl and boy, especially the most vulnerable, will enjoy the right to grow in a caring and protective family environment, benefiting from good-quality health care, early childhood development and learning support for the best start in life.	Percentage of children 0–11 months vaccinated with three doses of DTP-containing/Penta vaccine nationally B: 86% (2020) T: 95% (2027)	UNICEF-World Health Organization (WHO) joint report form	1.1 Capacities of the primary health-care system, parents and communities strengthened to ensure continuing equitable nurturing care for all young children, including those facing risks to their survival and development.	MoH, Ministry of Labour and Social Protection (MoLSP), Ministry of Education and Research (MoER), Ministry of Finance (MoF), Ministry of Internal Affairs (MoIA), local public authorities (LPAs) National Agency for Public Health, Intermunicipal Cooperation,	2 500	8 500	11 000
		Percentage of districts with health-care facilities providing standard early intervention services B: 10% (2020) T: 25% (2027)	Ministry of Health (MoH) administrative data	1.2 The education system, national and local authorities, will have improved capacities to increase equitable access for young children, boys and girls, especially the most vulnerable, to good-quality inclusive early learning, pre-primary and primary schooling opportunities.				
		Gross enrolment ratio in pre-primary education B: 90.3% (2020/2021) T: 95% (2027)	National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), MoER					

UNSDCF outcomes	UNICEF outcomes	Key progress indicators, baselines (B) and targets (T)	Means of verification	Indicative country programme outputs	Major partners, partnership frameworks	Indicative resources by country programme outcome: regular resources (RR), other resources (OR) (In thousands of United States dollars)		
						RR	OR	Total
		<p>Number of children victims of any form of violence, neglect, exploitation and trafficking – VNET* (national SDG proxy indicator 16.2.1.1)</p> <p>B (2020): Total 10 283 subjected to VNET; Girls 4 936; Boys 5 347 T (2027): Total 9 000; Girls 4 320; Boys 4 680</p>	MoLSP	<p>1.3 National authorities and families will have strengthened mechanisms and capacities to identify and deliver prompt, integrated and gender and age-responsive child protection services to address violence against children, prevent child-family separation and safeguard all children’s chances to grow up in a caring family environment.</p> <p>1.4 Justice system will have the capacity and functional mechanisms to protect the rights of all children in contact with the law, shaping age-appropriate intersectoral mechanisms for prevention, response and rehabilitation.</p>	<p>Nicolae Testemitanu State University of Medicine and Pharmacy, Voinicel NGO</p> <p>Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), UN-Women, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), WHO</p>			
		<p>Percentage of girls and boys in conflict with the law who are subject to a diversion order or alternative measure as opposed to a custodial sentence</p> <p>B: 20% (2020) T: 35% (2027)</p>	General Prosecutor’s Office and Ministry of Justice (subordinated agencies)					
Outcome 1. Outcome 3. By 2027, all people of Moldova, especially the most vulnerable, benefit from	2. By 2027, every adolescent girl and boy, especially the most disadvantaged, will benefit from equitable access to good-quality health care, education and	<p>Percentage of adolescents and young people aged 11–24 years who accessed youth-friendly health service clinics</p> <p>B: 25% (2021) T: 35% (2027)</p>	MoH administrative data	2.1 Adolescents and young people (boys and girls), especially from rural areas and the most vulnerable, will benefit from expanded access to good-quality health services and information, including on mental	MoH, Health for Youth Association, MoER, National Agency for curricula	1 000	3 250	4 250

<i>UNSDCF outcomes</i>	<i>UNICEF outcomes</i>	<i>Key progress indicators, baselines (B) and targets (T)</i>	<i>Means of verification</i>	<i>Indicative country programme outputs</i>	<i>Major partners, partnership frameworks</i>	<i>Indicative resources by country programme outcome: regular resources (RR), other resources (OR) (In thousands of United States dollars)</i>		
						<i>RR</i>	<i>OR</i>	<i>Total</i>
inclusive, competitive and sustainable economic development and equal access to decent work and productive employment.	expanded opportunities for civic engagement and participation.	Percentage of pupils in the final grade of secondary schools with minimum literacy skills and minimum knowledge of mathematics (National SDG indicators 4.1.1.1 and 4.1.1.2) B (2018): Literacy: 57% (urban 70%/rural 42%) Math: 50% (urban 60%/rural 37%) T (2025): Literacy: 60% (urban 75%/rural /45%) Math: 54% (urban 63%/rural 39%)	National Agency for curricula assessment/PI SA study	health, nutrition and HIV/sexually transmitted infections prevention. 2.2 The education system, national and local authorities, will have improved capacities to increase equitable access of adolescent girls and boys, especially the most vulnerable, to good-quality and inclusive education, including life-skills and competencies. 2.3 Policies and gender-responsive mechanisms and social investments will be in place for adolescent empowerment, meaningful engagement and effective participation in relevant decision-making processes.	assessment, MoF, LPAs UNAIDS, UNDP, UNFPA, UNHCR, UN-Women, WHO			
		Share of students with special educational needs and disabilities in general education institutions (% out of total students with SEN and disabilities enrolled) B: (2020/2021 school year) 94.5% T: (2026/2027 school year) 97%	NBS, MoER, Education Management Information System					
		Proportion of local public authorities with evidence-based, human rights-based annual	LPAs, UNICEF reports					

UNSDCF outcomes	UNICEF outcomes	Key progress indicators, baselines (B) and targets (T)	Means of verification	Indicative country programme outputs	Major partners, partnership frameworks	Indicative resources by country programme outcome: regular resources (RR), other resources (OR) (In thousands of United States dollars)		
						RR	OR	Total
		youth action plans that are budgeted B: 45.7% (2021) T: 60% (2027)						
Outcome 2. By 2027, more accountable and transparent, human rights-based and gender-responsive governance empowers all people of Moldova to participate in and to contribute to development processes.	3. By 2027, duty-bearers ensure the realization of the rights of every child through improved evidence-based, transparent and inclusive policymaking that effectively aligns national targets for children with appropriate resources and incorporates child rights monitoring and protection mechanisms across all sectors.	Percentage of nationalized child-related SDG indicators available /partially available B: 36% available/47% partially available (respectively, 19/25 out of 53 indicators) (2021) T: 45% available/ 53% partially available (24/28 out of 53) (2027)	NBS	3.1 Duty-bearers and rights-holders will be equipped with stronger evidence to plan, deliver, monitor and demand equity-sensitive social, economic and environmental policies explicitly targeting the most vulnerable children and families, in line with the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC).	NBS, MoF, MoLSP, line ministries, LPAs, private sector, Child Rights Ombudsperson UNDP, UNFPA, UNHCR, World Food Programme (WFP)	700	750	1 450
		Number of children living in poverty according to national monetary poverty line, percentage B: 26% (2020) T: 22% (2027)	NBS	3.2 Sustainable, effective, efficient, and transparent financing for social sectors at national and subnational level will be ensured through interventions, including private sector engagement.				
		Level of implementation of international human rights recommendations (Convention on the Rights of the Child) B: Recommendations received prior to 2021: 4.0 (2022) T: 4.5 (2027)	National Human Rights Monitoring mechanism	3.3 An equitable, responsive, and adequately funded social protection system will address socioeconomic vulnerabilities and includes the most vulnerable families with children, including refugees.				

<i>UNSDCF outcomes</i>	<i>UNICEF outcomes</i>	<i>Key progress indicators, baselines (B) and targets (T)</i>	<i>Means of verification</i>	<i>Indicative country programme outputs</i>	<i>Major partners, partnership frameworks</i>	<i>Indicative resources by country programme outcome: regular resources (RR), other resources (OR) (In thousands of United States dollars)</i>		
						<i>RR</i>	<i>OR</i>	<i>Total</i>
	<p>4. Programme effectiveness</p> <p>The country programme is efficiently designed, coordinated, managed and supported to meet quality standards in supporting children.</p>	<p>Percentage of management and programme priorities indicators meeting the scorecard benchmarks</p> <p>B: end-2021 data (key performance indicators) T: 100%</p>		<p>4.1 UNICEF partners and staff will be given the guidance, tools and resources to effectively design and manage programmes.</p> <p>4.2 UNICEF partners and staff will have effective tools, guidance and resources for better communication on child rights with key stakeholders.</p> <p>4.3 UNICEF partners and staff will be equipped for effective advocacy and partnerships on child rights issues with key stakeholders.</p>		250	500	750
Total resources^a						4 450	13 000	17 450

^a The total amount of expected emergency fund is estimated at \$22 million, against the Ukraine emergency Humanitarian Action for Children appeal and the COVID-19 emergency response.