



United Nations
MOLDOVA



2011 Progress Report

United Nations – Republic of Moldova
Development Assistance Framework
2007-2012

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Acronyms

API	Association of Independent Press
CBO	Community-Based Organization
CEC	Central Electoral Commission
CERD	Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination
CESCR	Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
CSO	Civil Society Organization
EU	European Union
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
LPA	Local Public Authority
MDG	Millennium Development Goal
MICS	Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey
NATO	North Atlantic Treaty Organization
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NRS	National Referral System
TB	Tuberculosis
UNDAF	UN Development Assistance Framework
UPR	Universal Periodic Review
USD	United States Dollars

Organizations of the UN System in Moldova

FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
ILO	International Labour Organization
IOM	International Organization for Migration
OHCHR	Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
UNAIDS	Joint United Nations Programme on HIV / AIDS
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFPA	United Nations Populations Fund
UNHCR	Office of UN High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UN Women	UN Organization for gender equality and women's empowerment
WHO	World Health Organization
IMF	International Monetary Fund
	World Bank

Non-Resident UN Agencies

IAEA	International Atomic Energy Agency
ITC	International Trade Centre
UNCITRAL	United Nations Commission on International Trade Law
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

Introduction

During 2011, there was limited change to the political situation in Moldova, as deep divisions remained between the Government and the opposition. Efforts to elect a president were unsuccessful for the third consecutive year, as were efforts to amend the legal framework for the election of the president. As a result, renewed parliamentary elections remain a distinct possibility for 2012. Local elections in June resulted in only minor shifts in party support. Most notably the share of votes shifted between the parties of the Alliance for European Integration, rather than between the Alliance and the Communists, the main opposition party. In December, internationally unrecognized elections in the break-away region of Transnistria resulted in the change of the long-standing "leader". The generational shift underway in the region's political elite may facilitate the negotiation process on the conflict's settlement.

2011 was a major year for Moldova's relationship with international processes. In October, Moldova went for the first time through the Universal Periodic Review (UPR), the centerpiece of the United Nations' reformed human rights machinery. The government and civil society were widely praised for their high quality engagement with the UPR process. Moldova was also reviewed in 2011 by the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) and the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR). As a result of these engagements, a number of areas of work for reform were further clarified.

Also during 2011, Moldova was visited for the first time by a United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. High Commissioner Navanethem Pillay praised the government for having accepted 105 of 122 recommendations made in the UPR, and urged the government to accept the remaining ones during the March 2012 Human Rights Council.

Moldova was also visited during 2011 by UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion or Belief Heiner Bielefeldt. Mr. Bielefeldt

emphasized the importance of a public culture of appreciating diversity.

Moldova managed to improve ease of doing business across several areas of regulation, coming second in a list of top ten global reformers in the World Bank's Doing Business 2012 report. The economy appeared modestly resilient in the face of the continuing global instability. To a large extent Moldova managed to overcome the economic downturn, as strong domestic demand and booming exports propelled real GDP well beyond its pre-crisis level. At 6.7 percent, GDP growth was the highest in the region in 2011. However, this growth has been jobless and based to a large extent on remittance-fuelled consumption.

The Government has developed a longer term national strategy for poverty reduction and economic growth. The seven priorities of the Government vision "Moldova 2020" are: (1) Studies relevant for the career; (2) Good roads; (3) Accessible and inexpensive finance; (4) Clear and appropriate rules for business; (5) Safely delivered and efficiently used energy; (6) Equitable and sustainable social insurance; and (7) Responsible and incorruptible justice.

Negotiations of an EU-Moldova Association Agreement have gone well, with 21 of 24 chapters of the Agreement provisionally closed. The Government is in the process of implementing a Visa Liberalization Action Plan. A major driver of reform, the Action Plan includes extensive areas of work involving UN expertise. Moldova is broadly on track to proceed to the second phase of the Action Plan, as a result of successful implementation most of the first phase, with the exception of the adoption of a comprehensive anti-discrimination law.

A Justice Sector Reform Strategy was approved in November. The Strategy foresees large-scale reforms for the period of 2012-2016 and is seen as a prerequisite for a major tranche of direct financial support from the EU. In December, negotiations on a Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Agreement between EU and Moldova were launched.

2011 was also an important year for the United Nations Team in Moldova: A large

team of evaluators consulted with over 200 partners to assess progress in the context of the current UN Development Assistance Framework 2007-2012. The evaluation report encourages the UN agencies and programmes to continue their successful work in the country, while increasingly unifying their operations through streamlined and strengthened inter-agency coordination, enhanced joint programming, and a proactive UN Country Team.

Based on the findings and recommendations of the evaluation and under close consultation with government, civil society and other stakeholders, a new UN – Moldova Partnership Framework 2013-2017 “Towards Unity in Action” was developed. The new partnership framework voices the collective determination of the UN to provide relevant support to Moldova’s national priorities where it can make the biggest difference, avoiding duplications and establishing synergies with ongoing interventions. It will also contribute to the achievement of Moldova’s objectives in line with its international commitments, including the Millennium Development Goals. The Partnership Framework foresees support of approximately USD 200 million over the five year period. It focuses on three thematic pillars that enhance and complement the national priorities: (1) Democratic Governance, Justice, Equality and Human Rights; (2) Human Development and Social Inclusion; and (3) Environment, Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management.

Through the new partnership framework, the UN will adjust to the rapidly changing global context of development cooperation by adopting a “Delivering as One” approach. In Moldova, this approach envisions an empowered UN Resident Coordinator and UN Country Team; greater programmatic coherence through a common UN action plan; one budgetary framework; complementary resource mobilization; common business practices; and increasingly speaking with a common voice. In 2012, the common action plan to implement the Partnership Framework will be developed.

The Paris Declaration Survey, which periodically monitors aid effectiveness, recorded a total of USD 448 million of Official Development Assistance for Moldova in 2010, more than tripling since 2005 and doubling since 2007, the two years previously measured by the survey. This was accompanied by an increase in use of national public financial management systems from 25 percent of Official Development Assistance in 2005 to 67 percent in 2010 and of public procurements systems from 25 percent to 71 percent in the same period. The survey showed that while providing around 7 percent of Official Development Assistance, the United Nations delivers over one quarter of all technical assistance in Moldova.

Informed by the data of the Paris Declaration Survey, in November, the fourth High-level Forum in Busan, South Korea reviewed progress on aid effectiveness principles. Bringing emerging donors such as India, China and Brazil on board for the first time, the outcome document foresees the establishment of a new Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation and the development of a new common set of monitoring standards and indicators.

Other highlights in 2011 included Moldova’s hosting of the 4th Session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Aarhus Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation and Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters. The meeting focused on the promotion of sustainable development through assuring environmental rights, in preparation of the Rio+20 UN Conference on Sustainable Development in 2012.

In August, William Lacy Swing, Director General of the International Organization for Migration, paid a visit to Moldova for the first time to mark the country’s 20th anniversary of independence.

This 2011 Progress Report of the UN in Moldova covers key development trends, and progress and results achieved within the three strategic areas of the UN Development Assistance Framework 2007-2012. It was drafted by the UN’s six thematic expert groups and with inputs from UN Agencies.

UNDAF Objective 1

“By 2011, public institutions with the support of Civil Society Organizations are better able to ensure good governance, rule of law and equal access to justice and promotion of human rights”



1.1 Key development trends

In 2011, the Government of Moldova continued to prioritize reforms towards alignment with EU standards and values, which is expected to eventually translate into more democratic governance with increasingly transparent and participatory decision-making processes. As a result of these priorities, human rights moved to the centre of the government’s agenda and vigorous reform efforts proceeded in a number of areas.

This reform agenda is reflected in the Government Programme 2011-2014 “European Integration: Freedom, Democracy, Welfare”. The Government also developed a new national strategy “Moldova 2020”, with the main objectives of promoting economic growth and reducing poverty. Economic growth is set out to be achieved through the shift from an economy based on consumption and remittances to more sustainable economic growth based on increased productivity and promotion of investments, which in turn would lead to poverty reduction.

At the close of 2011, the Government was in the process of implementing a Visa Liberalization Action Plan with the European Union. A major driver of reform, the Action Plan includes extensive areas of work involving UN expertise, including in the areas of anti-discrimination, data protection,

migration and border management, citizenship and in other areas. Moldova was broadly on track to proceed to the second phase of the Action Plan, as a result of successful implementation most of the first phase, with the exception of the adoption of a comprehensive anti-discrimination law. The latter item will likely be moved to the second phase of the action plan, and Moldova will likely be given the green light to proceed phase 2 of Action Plan implementation during 2012. Negotiations of an EU-Moldova Association Agreement have also gone well, with 21 of 24 chapters of the Agreement provisionally closed. In December, negotiations on a Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Agreement between EU and Moldova were launched.

A Justice Sector Reform Strategy was approved in November, with all 80 members of Parliament present during the ballot voting in favor. The Strategy foresees large-scale reforms for 2012-2016 and is seen as key pre-requisite for a major segment of direct financial support by the European Union. Currently, the Ministry of Justice is developing an action plan to support the implementation of the Strategy, including a detailed financial plan and division of contributions between the Government and developmental partners. The Action Plan is pending, but slated for adoption by the end of January 2012. One of the main challenges regarding the implementation of the strategy remains the coordination between Justice and Social Protection sectors, especially in the area of protection of the rights of children in contact with the law.

Similarly, progress has been made through the drafting of a Road Map for Police Reform and a redefinition of the role of the Centre for Economic Crimes and Corruption. In December, negotiations on the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Agreement between EU and Moldova were launched.

Following local elections in June, women are still underrepresented at the local level, mirroring the share of women in decision making at the central level. Only 162 women out of 898 (18 percent) were elected as mayors. This is significantly below the modest Millennium Development Goal target of 25

percent by 2015. 3,033 out of 10,565 (28.7 percent) of local councilors are women, below the target of 40 percent, and 206 out of 1,120 (18.4 percent) members of rayon councils are women, compared to a target of 25 percent.

One of the factors contributing to the lack of representation is that women candidates were not adequately prepared for the elections. This was evidenced by the UN-Parliament Joint Initiative on supporting women candidates for local election. Additionally, exclusion and marginalization of some vulnerable groups within the electoral processes was observed through UN election monitoring. This exclusion directly led to severe underrepresentation of marginalized groups in local politics and decision-making.

In July, the Government approved a new Strategy on Migration and Asylum for 2011-2020, and in November its Plan of Action for 2011-2015. The Strategy is the most comprehensive document in this area since 2002, when the Concept on Migration Policy was approved and updates Moldova's vision on migration in the context of its European aspirations. In the same context, in May, the Government approved the Plan of Action on Integrated Border Management Strategy for 2011-2013, which was complemented by the newly agreed Plan on Development of Border Infrastructure 2012-2014. As a follow up of Integrated Border Management Strategy, in December the Parliament approved the new Laws on Border Police and on State Border these laws, together with the amendments in the Contravention Code, provide investigative competences to the new Moldovan Border Authority as part of the wider reform of the Ministry of Interior. They will enter in force in July 2012 to enable a smooth transition to the new institutional framework.

Further legislative progress in the area of refugee protection and assistance was made as the cabinet passed the draft Law on the Integration of Foreigners, which provides for targeted local integration programs for refugees and beneficiaries of humanitarian protection. The cabinet also approved draft legislation on accession to the 1954 Convention Relating to the Status of Stateless

Persons and 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness.

During 2011, Moldova continued negotiations on Readmission Protocols with a number of EU countries. Regarding "third-countries", Moldova signed a Readmission Agreement with Serbia. The negotiation of such Agreement started with Russia, Montenegro and Bosnia and Herzegovina. In March, two new buildings destined for accommodation of migrant women and families of the Migrant Accommodation Center were inaugurated.

Local public authorities and civil society participated in nation-wide consultations on the Decentralization Strategy, with human rights-based approach and gender mainstreaming as the key aspects for the implementation of the reform.

Human rights have remained a focus of the reform agenda, as Moldova was elected to the UN Human Rights Council in May 2010, for the first time taking up a seat in this new body. The country underwent its first Universal Periodic Review in October, and the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Navanethem Pillay, and the UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion or Belief, Heiner Bielefeldt visited Moldova during the second half of the year. Moldova was also reviewed by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

In May, the Parliament approved the National Human Rights Action Plan for the period of 2011-2014, which was developed in consultation with civil society and the development community.

Moldova for the first time registered a Muslim community, responding to long-term concerns about discrimination. However, a key legislative reform piece – the comprehensive anti-discrimination law – remained stalled at the Ministry of Justice. It was released once for public consultation in August, but was still not at that point in a form which would meet international law requirements. The bill was withdrawn from parliament as a result of conservative opposition and was pending as of end of 2011.

Impunity and lack of remedy remained the norm for acts of discrimination. There continued to be no known cases of sanctioning discrimination. Restrictive practices continued in relation to applications for citizenship. Authorities appeared unable to prosecute hate crime effectively, due to divergences between domestic jurisprudence and international requirements in this area. Influence on the judiciary remained evident. Chisinau courts for example postponed for most of the year ruling on several urgent but “sensitive” cases.

Limited progress was also made to end impunity for torture. New cases of degrading treatment were reported and the justice system was unable to bring final decisions on any human rights cases related to the April 2009 events. It did, however, manage a first conviction under Article 309 of the criminal code banning torture.

Following the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Moldova has approved the Strategy for Social Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities 2010-2013. A corresponding law was drafted and consulted. In October, the government initiated reform of the system of guardianship, currently in conflict with Article 12 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, a priority matter as concerns its implementation. With significant advocacy and support from UN, legal reform efforts were initiated in a number of areas, including as concerns the Law on HIV/AIDS, the regulatory framework concerning freedom of

religion and belief, and the legal framework surrounding civil society organizations. These remained pending as of November.

A new National Roma Action Plan for 2011-2015 has been approved. Thanks to UN and other development partners’ joint advocacy efforts, the approved Roma action plan will be updated and include activities related to introduction of community mediators, and increased communication for development.

Media freedom also remained problematic, with issues including a ban on a movie on sexual minorities, a heavily punitive fine against a key investigative journal, and problematic moves by Moldova 1 to limit Russian-language broadcasting. The Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion or Belief identified a range of issues related to problematic treatment of religious minorities, in particular Jews, Muslims, Jehovah’s Witnesses and other Protestant groups. Intolerance remained high. In November 2011, a media organ was found in violation by a domestic court for incitement to hatred of Lesbian Gay Bisexual and Transgender persons. A number of attacks on persons of African descent were reported.

The situation in Transnistria remained troubling, with cases of arbitrary detention and torture continuing. The UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion or Belief identified a number of key issues as concerns these areas, including practices barring religious communities from communicating publicly.

1.2 Assessment of progress towards Outcome indicators

Outcome Indicators	Baseline	Target	Status 12/2011
Voice and accountability indicator	-0.47	High level of public participation in elections	- 0.479 (2010) ¹ 2011 data not yet available
Corruption perception index	2.3 (2004)	Decrease of corruption in public institutions	2.9 (2011) ²

¹ A subjective governance indicator aggregated from a variety of sources and measuring perceptions of the following concepts: free and fair elections, freedom of the press, civil liberties, political rights, military in politics, change in government, transparency in laws and policies. Estimates range between -2.5 and 2.5; higher is better.

² According to Transparency International’s Corruption Perception Index for 2011, Moldova scored 2.9 on a scale between 0 (highly corrupt) and 10 (highly clean), the same score as registered in 2010.

1.3 Narrative analysis of progress

a. Pro-poor policies, addressing development and population issues, are formulated, implemented, and monitored in a more transparent manner

(i) Statistics

UN Agencies continued to support data collection, analysis and use for monitoring and evaluation of sector policies and of socio-economic trends from a human development and human rights perspective, facilitating the formulation and implementation of evidence-based policies.

In this context, the UN Joint Programme on Strengthening the National Statistical System continued to develop capacities of government staff and institutions. Trainings were also provided to journalists and civil society regarding the availability and meaning of statistical data, and interpretation and use of statistics. Equipped with such knowledge and statistical literacy, media and CSOs are better able to participate in the national consultations on different strategies developed by the Government.

Furthermore, usage of progressive statistical data on the basis of sample surveys and usage of administrative records were enhanced, to improve data relevant for the design and monitoring of policies. National definitions and calculation methods for five MDG indicators were updated, harmonized with international standards and disseminated for usage, for example by the line ministries' policy monitoring units.

In-depth assessment of two statistical areas, population and demographics, and income and living standards, towards their compliance with EU requirements were undertaken: Gaps, priority needs and follow-up activities to further approximate to EU statistical standards were identified and used as inputs for the next strategy on national statistics' development. In this context, the professional and management capacity of the national statistical staff was also enhanced to

facilitate the application of EU statistical standards and to continuously strengthen the Moldovan statistical system.

Nevertheless, major gaps remain. In May, the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights expressed concern "about the absence of disaggregated data on the effective realization of Covenant rights for disadvantaged and marginalized individuals and groups, in particular by the Roma, persons with disabilities, persons living with HIV/AIDS and non-citizens." The Committee recommended that Moldovan authorities "take urgent measures to establish a system for the collection and monitoring of annual data" on economic, social and cultural rights.

The Aid for Trade Needs Assessment, launched in April, provides an in-depth analysis of Moldova's foreign trade in close association with the country's human development and identifies possible interventions. The report underlines the strong and positive linkage between trade and human development and provides concrete policy recommendations on ways to improve trade performance, particularly in view of the upcoming negotiations on the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Agreement with the European Union.

The National Human Development Report "Republic of Moldova: from social exclusion towards inclusive human development" was launched in May. The report provides an in-depth analysis of the impact of social exclusion on human development and presents policy recommendations to address social exclusion risks and improve the existing legislative framework by making it more inclusive.

Several advisory services were provided for the implementation of the recommendations of the 2012 Global Assessment of the National Statistical System of Moldova. A follow-up assessment will be conducted latest in 2017. Moreover, statistical authorities were supported to programme and monitor the long-term development of statistics and to improve coordination of technical cooperation activities carried out by multilateral and bilateral donors.

The Ministry of Economy was supported in monitoring the impact of policies at sub-national and local level using the “Small Area Deprivation Index” methodology, available through DevInfo, a database system for monitoring human development. DevInfo has the potential to be further developed and used by both central and local public authorities, particularly in the context of decentralization.

The UN is also supporting the Government of Moldova in the elaboration and implementation of the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS). The preparatory stage of MICS has been finalized, including sampling work, and customization of tools and instruments to country context. With local staff trained and equipment procured, field work preparation and data collection has been scheduled for February - March 2012.

A number of ministries and agencies were involved in development of an Extended Migration Profile, providing important data for policy development and greater policy coherence in the area of migration.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry was supported in conducting the country’s first General Agricultural Census. This was a first effort to collect comprehensive data on temporary and permanent crop, livestock, agriculture machinery, processing of agriculture produce and soil degradation. The census built national capacities to undertake similar activities in the future. Besides supporting planning, policy formulation and management of the agricultural sector, the census data contributes to the monitoring of the Millennium Development Goals, especially those related to the reduction of poverty and hunger.

(ii) Institutional Development

UN Agencies continued to support the strengthening of the central public administration’s capacities to accelerate the reform process and promote the achievement of Moldova’s short- and medium term development goals, including implementation

of the Government’s European integration programme. The main principle for delivering assistance was the UN capacity development approach.

The European Union-UN High Level Policy Advice mission, consisting of 15 international advisors and supported by 9 national experts, has substantially contributed to further the Government’s reform agenda and the negotiations on the EU Association Agreement. This has been complemented by Transitional Capacity Support to the Public Administration and Support to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration projects, which mobilized international and local consultants as agents of change to advise and provide guidance to civil servants from a number of institutions. These also received support for the legal approximation to European standards.

Complementing support provided by World Bank and European Union, the UN offered assistance to government institutions in formulating their Strategic Development Plans, of which implementation is foreseen to start in 2012. In this context, the UN engaged in dialogue with its partners, including major bilateral donors such as SIDA and ADA, to identify the most appropriate mechanisms for providing further support to comprehensive institution building. Policy options were offered to the Government on ways of establishing transitional incentive schemes for civil servants, as well as on areas related to e-governance. An in-depth assessment was initiated for developing support to the Academy of Public Administration.

Parliament’s efficiency was enhanced in carrying out the functions related to its law-making, representation, and oversight roles. Furthermore, UN assisted in the drafting of the Parliament’s Strategic Development Plan, establishing its main mid- and long-term objectives; and the Information Management Strategy, providing a sound basis for the development of an e-Parliament, which will in the future enable more efficient functioning of the legislature.

Work continued to strengthen the institutional capacity of the Central Electoral Commission (CEC), with the aim to increase citizens' trust in the electoral system and in electoral outcomes. In this context, CEC received substantial support in the development of its first strategic plan, which was approved in December 2011. A pilot of the electronic voter register and of a display system for updated "real time" participation has been tested at polling stations in the Centru district of Chisinau during the local elections.

The current Government has shown a heightened attention towards the Moldovan diaspora and its increased inclusion in political, social and economic issues. The Government declaration, in 2010, that a specialized Government Agency for Diaspora relations should be created was reconfirmed at a Diaspora Conference in August 2011. As a result, an Action Plan on the creation of such an institution was drafted by the Bureau of Interethnic Relations and submitted to all relevant Government Authorities for endorsement. According to this Action Plan, the normative framework should be approved by the Government during the first trimester of 2012.

In the context of the proposed new law on Border Police, the UN strongly advocated for preserving an autonomous and civilian asylum authority in line with international standards. In light of Moldova's plans to accede to the UN Statelessness Conventions, the UN has been providing assistance and advice to the Bureau for Migration and Asylum in regard to the establishment of a separate entity responsible for statelessness issues and transfer. The UN has advocated for more involvement in the integration of refugees and beneficiaries of humanitarian protection on the part of the Ministry of Labor, Social Protection and Family, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health and Ministry of Culture.

In October, UN reviewed the draft innovation strategy of Moldova. This first advisory work in this area could lead to a full-fledged Innovation Performance Review in 2013.

With EU support, the UN provided technical assistance to the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry to upgrade the National System for Animal Traceability with three additional information systems, setting up a Marketing Information Center within the Ministry, and improving the methodology of Food and Balance Sheets calculation in line with European standards. The assessment of agri-food chain performance enabled the ministry to identify possible measures to improve the competitiveness of agri-food products in anticipation of further market liberalization.

(iii) Human Rights

With UN assistance, public consultations were carried out on the draft National Human Rights Action Plan for 2011-2014. In May, the Decision of the Parliament on the Adoption of the Plan foresees the possibility to amend the document at the end of each calendar year, thus providing opportunities to integrate emerging human rights issues into the Plan.

Also in May, the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR) brought a range of recommendations for further improvement of law, policy and practice in human rights-related areas, including treatment of persons with HIV/AIDS, persons with disabilities, Roma, and others. CESCR expressed concern that statistical data remained unavailable as related to major segments of groups evidently threatened with vulnerability, including Roma, stateless persons, irregular migrants, persons with disabilities and others. UN Moldova provided support for government reporting to the Committee, as well as for Moldovan civil society organizations and National Human Rights Institution to provide inputs to the process.

The Government of Moldova with support of UN submitted the fourth and fifth combined report to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women in July. The report was prepared in a participatory manner, involving international expertise, relevant Government institutions, and consultation meetings with CSOs and

international organizations. The report has extensively used improved statistics data from “Women and Men” publication from 2009 and 2010, which were supported by the UN Joint Statistics project.

A new Roma Inclusion Action Plan was adopted for 2011-2015. It was immediately opened for amendment, to increase its focus on social inclusion issues. Broad-based expertise was provided by the UN to amend the Action Plan – pending approval by the Government at the end of 2011.

b. The justice system functions in a more transparent, accountable and independent manner

Broad-based expertise and technical assistance was provided in the process of Justice Sector Reform Strategy adopted in November and the related Action Plan: Support included technical inputs into the Strategy, assistance to facilitate communication on this reform, facilitation of working group discussions, exposure of members of the working groups to international experience, and assistance in the preparation of the Action Plan and budgetary framework, which will be adopted in early 2012.

The Government has initiated several programs and campaigns with different partners to raise awareness on the phenomena and problems related to domestic violence, child abuse, neglect and exploitation. The main challenge remains the coordination of all actors involved and approaching the issue in systemic manner, ensuring an adequate legal framework and the provision of services. In this regard, the UN continued to support the initiative of the Ministry of Interior to harmonize relevant legislation in view of ratification of the 2007 Council of Europe Convention on Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse.

At the same time, the Ministry of Labor, Social Protection and Family was supported in developing the draft standard procedures and

inter-sectoral instructions for identification, referral, assistance and monitoring of cases of violence and abuse against children. The models of such services are expected to be tested in 2012.

With UN assistance, efforts continued to expand justice for children to ensure adequate protection of children who become victims and witnesses of crime. Coordination of line ministries’ efforts improved through the Justice for Children Working Group, chaired by the Ministry of Justice. The National Institute of Justice, Penitentiary Department and Police Academy now use a training curriculum for legal specialists on child friendly procedures. Specialized prosecutors dealing with cases involving children have acquired knowledge and skills for their work with children. In Leova, the UN supported Local Public Authorities in the development a cross-sectoral referral mechanism for a timely identification of children at risk of offending. Its adoption at the national level will be advocated in 2012.

UN also provided support throughout the year to the Child Rights Ombudsperson’s Office. As a result, she was able to raise important child rights issues at the local and national level, following up on hundreds of specific complaints. Plans were also initiated to pilot ombudspersons in the health care system, beginning with the Chisinau Psychiatric Hospital.

With further UN assistance, efforts to improve documentation of torture and ill-treatment were initiated. An audit of the Center of Forensic Medicine was carried out. Related recommendations were formulated, and will be translated into clear-cut legal amendments for subsequent adoption.

With UN support, the newly appointed members of the National Torture Preventive Mechanism as well as the members of Local Monitoring Commissions acquired knowledge and skills for better monitoring places where people are deprived of their liberty. The Center for Human Rights was equipped with an electronic case management system and means for reaching to most remote localities.

UN provided support to heighten the strategic actions of the Centre, and legal advice was provided on a routine basis.

c. There is increased engagement of CSOs and media to participate in the national development process

As a result of UN support and its sustainable partnership with media CSOs, a significant increase of ethical quality reporting on child rights was recorded. The Network of Child Friendly Journalists was expanded and its role in covering social issues strengthened. Through joint assistance by UN and Association of Independent Press (API), the press officers of line ministries have an increased capacity to communicate with the public and to provide assistance to journalists.

Awareness on bioethics and environmental ethics was raised through two trainings for journalists and youth, contributing to the International Decade on Education for Sustainable Development (2005-2014).

Following advocacy by UN, API and other media CSOs, the improvement of the audio-visual code was initiated, to strengthen quality ethical reporting of broadcasters. Two social campaigns on inclusive education and deinstitutionalization of children were initiated by the National Public Television Moldova 1.

Through further UN support, a business plan was developed for the public broadcaster “Teleradio-Moldova” and presented during an international conference. The newsrooms of the Radio Moldova and Moldova 1 TV news departments were endowed with modern equipment, improving the process of selection, editing and broadcasting of news items.

With support from the UN Joint Programme on Integrated Local Development, a group of more than 45 national and regional NGOs and community-based organizations and groups took part in the public consultations of the draft National Decentralization Strategy (see Chapter 3 for details).

UN also supported women's CSOs in Moldova in strategizing and formulating key messages to inform the discussions during the Fourth High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness in Busan and contribute to shaping the post-Busan aid framework. A Moldova representative took part in the CSO Forum and the related High-level Forum in Busan, and successfully contributed to the inclusion of key gender equality concerns into the High level Forum’s Outcome document.

With the aim to promote tolerance and understanding among cultures via the media, participation of media professionals was promoted in the annual media forum “Dialogue of Cultures”. Special attention was placed on developing individual capacities of journalists to use innovative technologies, promoting the role of the media as a platform for democratic discourse.

d. Management of environment and natural resources is improved in compliance with international/EU standards

Throughout the year, the UN team in Moldova continued to support efforts to improve and modernize the country’s environment management system and practices at central and local levels. This laid the basis for increased alignment with the EU environment acquis and improved compliance with commitments made under the main Multilateral Environment Agreements to which Moldova is a party.

Climate variability and change is increasingly recognized as an area of social, economic and environmental concern, making necessary effective, well-coordinated and forward looking adaptation efforts across all sectors. The draft National Adaptation Strategy, elaborated with UN support, responds to this need by outlining key steps in achieving improved management and dissemination of disaster and climate risk information. The strategy thus ensures that climate change adaptation is established as national and local priority with a strong institutional basis. It aims to build resilience through reducing risk

and facilitating adaptation in the identified priority sectors.

The draft national Low Emission Development Strategy - elaborated in tandem with the Adaptation Strategy and presented as a draft in November - translates Moldova's pledges under the Copenhagen Accord into quantified sectoral emission reduction targets, including the identification of Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions to achieve these targets in a cost-efficient manner.

In 2011, the United Nations celebrated the International Year of Forests: Further progress was made towards improved protection and management of Moldova's ecosystems and significant biodiversity values. The comprehensive on-site revalidation process of all 312 National Protected Areas is being finalized at the end of the year, including the development of digital maps. Together with the development of simplified General Norms for Protected Area Categories and Operational Guidelines, this will contribute to a consistent framework for Protected Area establishment and management and better alignment of Protected Area categories with their conservation objectives. With the aim of further strengthening the protected area governance in compliance with international and EU standards, an institutional and financing action plan for protected areas in Moldova was developed, complemented by a university curriculum for protected area management.

An involvement of key stakeholders such as local authorities and communities from the beginning of the establishment of, for example, a biosphere reserve, has proven important to ensure stakeholders' support and to identify their commitments to designation and management of such area. Recommendations provided to the Government catalyzed efforts to establish biosphere reserves and contribute to an enhancement of sustainable development of water and wetlands ecosystems.

Further important steps were taken towards the creation of Moldova's first National Park in Orhei region, including obtaining the formal

agreements from all Local Public Authorities located in the future Park, defining the Park zoning system, and designing the National Park budget and financing mechanisms.

A comprehensive National Environmental Strategy aimed at guiding the modernization of environmental policy in Moldova over the next decade (2012-2022) is under development with UN support. The priorities identified in the strategy underpin the country's efforts towards sustainable development, including via the promotion of green economic development, and are aligned with the provisions of the EU-Moldova Association Agreement. The strategy will guide reforms of environmental management in areas such as water, air, biodiversity and landscape, climate change and waste and will promote the integration of environmental concerns across all sectors. The approval and implementation of the draft Law on Environment Protection, including provisions for the implementation of Strategic Environmental Assessment as key environmental policy instrument, and the draft Law on Environmental Impact Assessment will be important next steps.

The 4th cycle of the Small Grants Scheme for NGOs and CBOs active in environment protection and sustainable development achieved tangible results at the community level in areas such as biodiversity conservation, elimination of persistent organic pollutants and climate change mitigation. Moldova's participation in the Global Environment Facility's Small Grants Scheme, which was approved in late 2011 and follows the 4th cycle of the previous small grants scheme, will offer further opportunities to upscale successful initiatives and community-based approaches to deliver environmental benefits at the local and national level.

In June, Moldova successfully hosted the fourth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Aarhus Convention, in partnership with resident and non-resident UN agencies. The meeting, which benefitted from a high level attendance from all over the region and a high degree of public participation, brought

high visibility to the country. It effectively facilitated communication between all important stakeholders and renewed the commitment for further incorporation of the requirements on access to information, public participation in decision-making and access to justice in environmental matters into national legislation and practices. The high-level segment of the event culminated in the adoption of the Chisinau Declaration “Rio Plus Aarhus – 20 Years on: Bearing Fruit and Looking Forward,” which includes sections on Aarhus and the green economy, Aarhus and environmental governance, and looking ahead. With UN support, national consultations were launched to prepare for the UN Conference on Sustainable Development, “Rio+20”, which will catalyze the integration of principles of sustainable development and green economy into all socio-economic sectors of Moldova.

The administrative structures, capacities and procedures to ensure strategic environmental planning and programming at central and sectoral levels, including within the multi-year expenditure framework, require further strengthening and initiation of a deeper reform process. In the framework of a recently approved project financed by the Global Environment Facility, Moldova initiated first steps towards an Environmental Fiscal Reform process, by reviewing and reforming environmental charges, environmentally harmful subsidies in areas such as energy and agriculture, and the management and programming cycle of the National Ecological Fund.

In 2011, the UN initiated step towards supporting the Ministry of Environment in achieving the objectives of the National Programme on Sound Management of Chemicals via the promotion of mainstreaming priorities in this area into national developments plans. This contributes to the minimization of the adverse effects on human health and the environment. Additionally, a joint UN initiative aims to better support internationally agreed environment and sustainable development goals related to International Chemicals

Management. The Hydrochlorofluorocarbons Phase-out Management Plan was approved and started its implementation this year with updating the regulatory framework and technical capacity development for refrigeration and air conditioning technicians, aiming at freezing consumption by 2013.

Policy-makers were advised on possible approaches to develop a regional agricultural biotechnology strategy for Moldova, Armenia and Georgia. Furthermore, support was provided to improve the skills of decision makers, university teachers and research managers, enabling them to use the latest agricultural biotechnology applications and to conduct risk assessments regarding genetically modified organisms.

e. There is improved readiness to prevent and mitigate natural and man-made disasters and crises

Following years characterized by increased attention to response and recovery to a number of disasters, no major natural calamities affected the country in 2011, except a relatively mild drought in autumn/winter, slightly impacting the agriculture sector. This allowed the government, as well as UN and other partners to concentrate on disaster risk reduction efforts, aimed at reducing vulnerabilities of individuals and systems at various levels.

UN and a number of key partners in the country, such as World Bank and EU started implementation of a number of disaster and climate risk reduction initiatives, covering various sectors of the economy and various government levels.

Through Country Situation Analyses, the UN supported the identification of key issues and challenges related to disaster risk management governance, early warning systems, risk assessment capacities, disaster risk management institutions, legal framework and coordination mechanisms, as well as strengths and weaknesses in the field of preparedness and response at the national and local levels. With the aim of

strengthening risk assessment capacities and improving information management the UN is supporting the creation of a National Disaster Observatory and development of national capacities for climate risk management.

The UN continued to place special emphasis on supporting risk reduction efforts at local level, reducing vulnerabilities and strengthening capacities of communities and local public administrations, which are most directly affected by disaster and climate risks. In this regard, a Local Level Disaster and Climate Risk Management Toolkit was developed for local public administrations to apply risk assessment methodologies specifically designed for use at local level. In 20 communities, risk assessments were undertaken and risk reduction measures identified. This further contributed to raising awareness on climate risk management options available through their integration into development plans at the local level.

Following a national training course, 140 health managers from across the country are now better able to deal with public health emergencies. In addition, the piloting of a series of resilience strengthening interventions has been initiated and complemented by the development of an action plan on improving hospital safety. This action plan foresees, inter alia, the strengthening of structural, non-structural

and functional safety through the use of low-cost and low-emission techniques.

In August/September, the Government hosted a week-long NATO-led International Search and Rescue Exercise, "CODRII 2011". The key focus was consequence management through the simulation of a major earthquake affecting capital city of Chisinau and its surrounding areas. The simulation was organized by the Euro-Atlantic Disaster Response Coordination Centre in cooperation with the Civil Protection and Emergency Situations Service of the Ministry of Internal Affairs. The participation of a United National Disaster Assessment and Coordination Team helped identify important next steps to further strengthen disaster preparedness and response at the national and local levels.

As part of its support to strengthen the capacity of the government at the central and local level, a model of providing psychosocial support to families affected by natural disasters was developed at the rayon level and is being reviewed by the Department of Civil Protection and Emergency for nationwide replication.

The alliance of environmental NGOs created a core group of civil society institutions, that - among other things - aims to ensure effective and active participation of civil society in the budgeting and policy-development processes in this field.

Millennium Development Goals in Moldova*

(Selected Indicators)

MDG 1: End Poverty and Hunger



2000



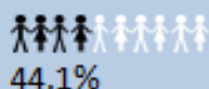
2010



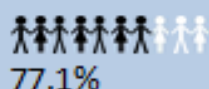
MDG 2: Universal Education



2000



2011



MDG 3: Gender Equality



2000



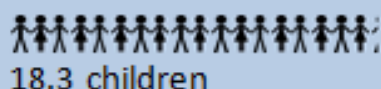
2011



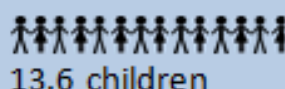
MDG 4: Child Health



2000



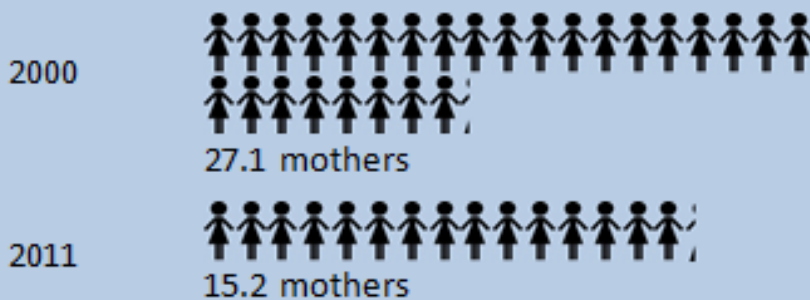
2010



MDG 5: Maternal Health



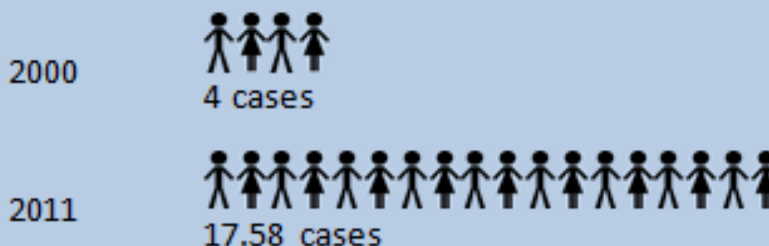
Maternal mortality (cases per 100,000 births)



MDG 6: Combat HIV/AIDS



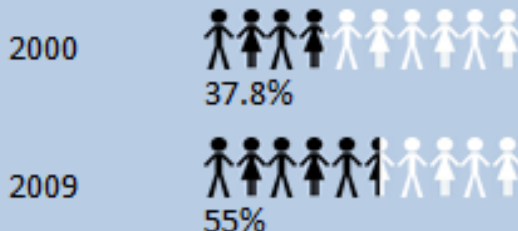
Cases of HIV/AIDS per 100,000 population



MDG 7: Environmental sustainability



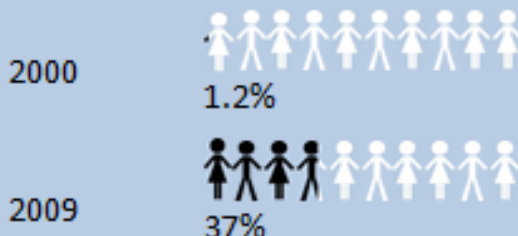
Share of people with access to improved water sources



MDG 8: Global Partnership for Development



Internet users per 100 inhabitants



* Source of Data for latest figures: **MDG 1:** Ministry of Economy; **MDG 2:** National Bureau of Statistics; **MDG 3:** Parliament; **MDG 4:** Ministry of Health; **MDG 5:** Ministry of Health (preliminary data); **MDG 6:** Ministry of Health (including Region of Transnistria); **MDG 7 and 8:** 2010 MDG Report; Source of Data for figures of 2000: MDG Report

UNDAF Objective 2

“By 2011, vulnerable groups enjoy increased equitable and guaranteed access to basic services of good quality provided by the state with the support of civil society”



2.1 Key development trends

(i) Education

After years of decline, the Gross Enrolment rate in primary education stabilized in 2008-2011, and the enrolment rate in pre-school education continued to increase to reach 77 percent. However, many children - particularly children with disabilities and Roma children - remain excluded from the education system. The preliminary results of a UN evaluation shows that the quality of education is improving where the child friendly school initiative, supported by the UN and adopted nationally by the Ministry of Education, is being implemented.

Due to budget cuts, public expenditure on education increased in real terms but slightly decreased in terms of total public expenditure and GDP, reaching 22.4 percent and 9.2 percent respectively in 2010. This rate is far above the average of Eastern European countries, despite similar results in coverage and completion, implying that significant gains in efficiency can be made in the education sector. For the next three years, the Mid-Term Budget Framework plans a real increase in funding of preschool and general

education programs but a decrease in terms of public expenditure and GDP.

The Moldovan Government, supported by the UN, World Bank and other development partners, has embarked on an ambitious reform, which focuses on increasing access, quality and efficiency of education services. The National Education Strategy is being revised to promote the quality of rights-based education programming and bring coherence, synergy and added value to sectorial management processes, using a results-based management approach to strategic planning and design, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation.

The Consolidated Action Plan on Education is also being revised to reflect the changes in the draft strategy. In addition, the new action plan will incorporate specific activities on scaling-up quality early education programmes in localities without kindergartens, mainstreaming special needs children into regular kindergartens and schools, increasing day-to-day school attendance and reducing absenteeism in primary and secondary education, promoting health education - including HIV/AIDS prevention - and countering discrimination and violence at school against vulnerable children, especially girls, Roma, children with disabilities and very poor children. The quality of education will be addressed through a shift to child-centered approaches and an on-going training and mentoring system for educators and teachers. This will directly impact the quality of students' learning outcomes. Child, parent and community participation in school governance will be strongly encouraged and supported through separate activities.

According to the 2010 Millennium Development Goal (MDG) Report on Moldova, the country is not likely to achieve the nationalized MDG on Education by 2015. The General Enrolment Rate in primary schools and primary completion showed a slight downward trend, mainly due to the economic crisis of the past years and its impact on poverty. At the same time, the quality of education in the country has continued to decrease. Schools lack teachers

with appropriate training, libraries are small and outdated, and the level of instruction is poor.

(ii) Health

Moldova has one of the lowest life expectancies at birth in the European region. Over the last three years a sudden double-fold increase in the maternal mortality rate was observed, mainly caused by socially-determined non-medical conditions. Despite positive trends in infant mortality there are significant regional disparities. In 2011, trends towards an increase in the burden of both non-communicable and communicable disease were confirmed.

The main causes of death in Moldova continue to be diseases of the circulatory system, followed by cancer, diseases of the digestive system, and injury (including road traffic accidents) and poisoning. The prevalence of mental health problems remains high in the country. Pollution of the environment and natural and man-made disasters are also an increasing source of concern for public health. The disease burden from these non-communicable diseases, which is high and on the rise, can be largely attributed to preventable risk factors related to lifestyle, such as tobacco and alcohol use, unhealthy diet, obesity, physical inactivity and stress. The health system is insufficiently prepared to address the issues of lifestyle and prevention of non-communicable diseases, including through inter-sectoral approaches.

Among the key issues faced by the health sector are the management of human resources for health and the sustainability of adequate future health financing. Out-of-pocket payments directly to providers occur too frequently and the quality of services does not meet the population's expectations. Furthermore, there is no comprehensive approach involving prevention, treatment and logistics in addressing maternal mortality, HIV and tuberculosis (TB). Issues related to environmental health and other public health threats are also poorly addressed and

provision of basic occupational health services are insufficient in many parts of the country.

As concerns health insurance, the introduction in 2004 of a system of mandatory health insurance represented fundamental reform of the organization of the health system and led to significant improvements in health system performance. However, one negative consequence of the reforms was the creation of an explicitly uninsured segment of the population, estimated in 2009 to be 27.6 percent. Agriculture workers from rural areas are under-insured, with only 49 percent having health insurance. Roma experienced the highest level of exclusion, with only 23 percent of surveyed Roma covered by compulsory medical insurance. However, with the explicit aim to address the issue, starting in 2010, access to primary health care services became free to all citizens, irrespective of their status under the national health insurance programme. Compensated medicines and emergency care at the ambulatory level were also included under universal coverage. However, despite this significant improvement, access to high cost hospital emergency services remains a problem for those without health insurance

Among communicable diseases, TB continues to be a major public health concern as the country is among 18 high burden countries globally for multi-drug resistant TB. Particularly worrisome are the negative trends in TB treatment success rates (only half of patients currently complete treatment), and the growing incidence of multi-drug resistant TB (currently reported in one-quarter of all new TB patients and in two-thirds of retreatment TB patients). There has been some progress in the past year on HIV/AIDS. The National Strategic Framework has been amended to address the determinants of sexual transmission of HIV; there is increased coverage and sustainability of programmes aimed at intravenous drug users; the national strategic information and accountability system is now fully operational; and UN system support in this area is now coordinated and harmonized to capitalize on

the value added of each Agency, and to strengthen the common UN contribution to the national HIV response.

A number of discriminatory provisions for people living with, or affected by, HIV/AIDS are eliminated in the new amended HIV law, which is pending adoption by the government. These provisions include the elimination of all mandatory medical testing for HIV for foreigners, at employment, education or before marriage. The new law also enforces the institutional safeguards for ensuring confidentiality and data security of personal medical information. However, despite these legislative efforts, the country has not managed to stop or reverse the HIV/AIDS epidemic and the double epidemics of HIV and TB remain a concern. Moreover, following the November meeting of the board of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria Board in Accra, the 11th round of funding was replaced by a Transition Funding Mechanism with tighter eligibility criteria due to ongoing financial constraints. Moldova intends to participate through the National Strategy Application to the Global Fund and started the application process earlier in 2011, following a comprehensive Joint Assessment of the National HIV Strategy, which was completed in June and July 2011. Moldova relies heavily on funding from the Global Fund and is left no other choice than to consider alternative sources of external funding.

The National Health Policy 2007-2021 and the Healthcare System Development Strategy for the period 2008-2017 continue to be the key policy documents in the health area. However, 2011 presented important opportunities to debate the next stage of health reforms and priorities for the medium term. Towards the end of the year, the Ministry of Health consulted on the Policy Roadmap for Moldova, which sets out short and medium-term objectives and actions in health, and contributions were made from across the UN. Current reforms focus on public health service restructuring, further optimization of the hospital network,

increasing coverage of health insurance and improving access to medicines.

(iii) Social Protection

Vulnerable women and girls remain at risk of trafficking for sexual exploitation, while an increasing number of men are exposed to trafficking for labor exploitation purposes, particularly in the agricultural and construction sectors. Girls and young women are trafficked from rural areas in Moldova to the capital, Chisinau. They are frequently then moved abroad. Children are also trafficked, for forced labour and begging in neighbouring countries. Men are trafficked to work in construction, agriculture, and service sectors of Russia and other countries. In addition, the breakaway region of Transnistria, in eastern Moldova, is beyond the control of the central government and remains a significant source and transit area for trafficking in persons. The US Government removed Moldova from its Tier 2 Watch List in 2011, returning it to Tier 2. Key remains lack of prosecution of high-level officials implicated in trafficking.

Regarding the policy framework in this important area, the National Plan for Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Human Beings for 2010-2011 is complemented by an additional specific action plan as response to the recommendations of the US Department of State's 2010 Trafficking in Persons Report.

In 2011, a Draft Regulation on the identification and referral of victims and potential victims of trafficking in human beings was elaborated. The Government continued to support the functioning of the National Referral System for Protection and Assistance of Victims and Potential Victims of Trafficking in Human Beings (NRS). The system was further extended through complex trainings of multidisciplinary teams and currently covers 30 administrative units of Moldova. A monitoring Report on implementation of the NRS Strategy was approved by the Parliament, and served as the baseline for further capacity development. An initial draft Regulation on

the Functioning of Multidisciplinary Teams within the NRS has been developed and consulted with key actors within the National Social Protection System.

The first consolidated 2010 National Report on Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Persons has been issued by the National Committee for Combating Trafficking in Persons. Furthermore, as part of the monitoring of the implementation of the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings, Moldova submitted to the Council of Europe a report on the implementation of the convention. In this context, a group of experts on action against trafficking in human beings visited the country. After analysing the findings of the monitoring process, the first general report with recommendations for the Government was published in September.

The newly established Permanent Secretariat of the National Committee for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings as a coordination structure within and between the national committee and territorial commissions for combating trafficking has been reorganised and started its work in April.

Important progress was also made in improving system-responses to domestic violence as the National Referral System for victims and potential victims of trafficking was

extended to the entire territory of Moldova. In addition, 206 protection orders were issued to victims of domestic violence during 2010-2011 and first complaints to the European Court of Human Rights were filed as a result of non-implementation of protection orders. Furthermore, the first specialized center for perpetrators has been set up in Drochia district. However, additional training for multidisciplinary teams dealing with this issue is needed, especially for police officers and social assistants.

The Alliance of NGOs active in the area of social protection of family and children created a core group of experts, that will ensure effective and active participation of civil society in the budgeting and policy-development processes in this field.

In practice, high levels of denial of discrimination against Roma and persons living with HIV/AIDS persisted, despite firm empirical evidence of high levels of exclusion of these persons from basic goods and services, as well as other forms of negative treatment; there is also strong opposition in society and government for recognition of rights for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender persons and communities. Discrimination against Roma in education, employment, housing and health care takes place with evident impunity.

2.2 Assessment of progress towards Outcome indicators

UNDAF Outcome Indicators	Baseline	Target	Status 12/2011
Net enrolment rate for: primary and secondary schools by: sex, urban/rural, socio-economic status (SES);	Pre-primary <40%	Pre-primary over 80%	75,8%
	Primary education - > 90%	Primary education over 90%	87,8%
Infant Mortality rate	12 /1.000 live births	Decrease by 25%	11.7/1.000 live births (12/2010)

2.3 Narrative analysis of progress

a. All children, especially the most vulnerable, enjoy access to early childhood care and development programmes and quality basic education

Progress has been made by authorities in developing policy documents needed for the reform of the education sector to improve the quality of and access to education. In this context, UN technical assistance was provided to the Ministry of Education to revise the Consolidated Strategy on Education and adjust it to the National Development Strategy “Moldova 2020” and EU standards. Similarly, the UN provided technical support to the revision of the Action Plan on Education, to the adjustment of Simulation Models to the new Mid-Term Budget Framework and to the promotion of adjustments to the Labour Code, to improve human resources management in the education system. National capacities in education policy research and analysis were strengthened in several areas: Teacher Development, ICT-enhanced education, Technical–Vocational Education and Training and Higher Education.

A socio-economic needs assessment was conducted in 230 localities without pre-school services to provide a detailed account of the access problems and estimates for the investments required to achieve full enrolment of the preschool population in the target localities. As follow-up, 1,350 representatives of district authorities, local public authorities and civil society were trained on the importance of Early Childhood Development and steps to be undertaken to set up alternative Early Childhood Development services in their localities. The 50 most deprived communities, including Roma communities, are currently applying the accumulated knowledge through setting up community centers. Due to fund-raising and public-private partnerships, including financial support by IKEA, these 50 community centers were endowed with appropriate furniture, technical equipment, books and toys.

A partnership with LEGO Foundation resulted in 24,000 young children from 400 poorest communities receiving cognitive toys. 35 national trainers of trainers were taught new techniques on how to use the LEGO and DUPLO toys with pre-school children and how to inspire the children and stimulate their play, learning and creativity. Next year these trainers of trainers will apply and share the acquired techniques with educators nationwide.

Through the Education for All – Fast Track Initiative, the World Bank together with UN Agencies supported the Government in scaling up quality Early Childhood Development services for all children, with a special focus on the most vulnerable ones, in line with the priorities of the Consolidated Strategy and Action Plan for the Education Sector of 2005. As a result of these joint efforts, preschool enrollment rate increased, reaching 77 percent, which corresponds to nationalized Education for All and MDG objectives. High quality technical assistance was provided to the Government in developing a grant application package for Fast Track Initiative 3. As a result of UN, WB and Government joint efforts, the Global Partnership for Education Board of Directors approved a USD 4.4 million grant for Moldova to expand its internationally-recognized pre-school and Early Childhood Development programs to include more children with special needs and help girls in rural areas gain more access to education.

As a result of coordinated support from a number of stakeholders, in July the Government approved the Inclusive Education Development Programme for 2011-2020. The programme aims to avoid exclusion and marginalization of children, young people and adults. In this context, 800 school teachers and kindergarten educators in Leova and Orhei districts were trained to apply the child-centered methodology and referral to services in the community. Due to UN support, representatives of central public administration became knowledgeable about best practices in the area of Roma inclusion in mainstream education.

The child friendly school initiative was launched at national level, and the first child friendly school models have been created at local level. The school curriculum has been revised and the training of teachers is now based on a child-centered methodology, bringing Moldovan schools closer to good practices in Europe. The training of 2,000 teachers and school managers and the development of learning achievements standards was supported to ensure the implementation of the new, competency-based curriculum.

Based on the results of a UN-supported assessment of school children's knowledge about child rights, guidelines for teachers of civic education were developed and distributed to all the schools.

A joint project with the Austrian Development Agency and HOPE'87 was launched, aiming at setting up an education centre for children treated for cancer. Annually, around 150 children will receive psychological and educational support in this center. Didactical materials for teachers dealing with sick children were developed and 10 education professionals were trained on specific methodologies for working with sick children.

Specific education programs for disabled persons were developed. Over 250 people from Chisinau and suburbs will benefit from the ARTICO – National Youth Center.

The UN also continued to provide assistance to ensure the enrollment of child refugees and beneficiaries of humanitarian protection in educational institutions and organized extra-curricular activities to children of concern through its NGO implementing partners and access to psychological counselling programmes through a civil society NGO.

Agencies of the UN Country Team supported Government efforts targeting the issue of children without parental care with special focus on children left behind due to migrating parents. 57 children left behind and members of their families received support in this context. In partnership with the Child Rights Information Center NGO, support was provided to children in four Moldovan

boarding schools, including trainings on career orientation. The negative effects of migration on minors and families left behind were also addressed in the framework of the EU mobility partnership and an inter-institutional technical committee was created and is operational. Moreover, a comprehensive person-centered information system on the vulnerable categories of population, including children and other family members left behind, was developed within the National Social Protection System.

In partnership with the Government the third edition of the PLURAL+ Moldova contest on migration and diversity was organized for youth aged between 9 and 25. This year the contest opened its doors to young film-makers and photographers to express their views on Migration and Diversity, and to provide a platform for public discourse on these topics.

b. People of reproductive age adopt safe behaviors and seek health commodities and information about HIV/AIDS/STIs and reproductive health

Adolescents and young people's access to comprehensive sexual and reproductive health education was increased through the promotion of "Pro Health" and "Informed and Protected" campaigns. More than 7,000 young people increased their knowledge and received a comprehensive information package on sexual and reproductive health and rights and HIV prevention through peer to peer methodology. Awareness on these critical issues was improved through a weekly radio program "Because Everyone Counts", a monthly newsletter "Without Taboo" and other informational materials. The visibility and the impact of Y-PEER youth network in Moldova was raised, by empowering young people to promote sexual and reproductive rights and by expansion of activities at rayonal and rural level. A communication, education and information campaign on HIV prevention for young people and decision makers was promoted by the Y-PEER network and a distance learning course on preventing HIV was introduced.

The UN Joint Team on HIV/AIDS supported the development and the review of the comprehensive prevention framework as part of the National AIDS Programme 2011-2015. Further technical expertise contributed to the development of amendments to the HIV/AIDS Law in accordance with international recommendations, resulting in better addressing of the needs of the most vulnerable groups the protection of their rights.

UN also supported the Ministry of Health in a mid-term review of the National Reproductive Health Strategy 2006-2015 and in the implementation of gender assessment recommendations as well as the finalization of an assessment on reproductive health as human right.

Support was provided for the implementation of the Beyond the Numbers approaches in Moldova, mainly through Confidential Enquires into Maternal Deaths (CEMD) and Near-Miss Case Reviews (NMCR). These initiatives aim to analyze and reduce maternal mortality and severe morbidity that may occur during pregnancy and delivery. The CEMD analyses are made at national level and the first Moldova CEMD report was developed in 2010. The NMCR is designed for the improvement of the quality of care at the facility level and, during 2010-2011 all second and third referral level institutions joined the NMCR procedure.

Moreover, UN supported the development of the report on Reproductive Health as Human Rights. The report was launched in May 2010 during a multi stakeholders meeting and activities continued during 2011. All UN agencies provided inputs to the report, which was based on a revision of the Reproductive Health framework through the human rights perspective. The report proposed amendments to Reproductive Health Law, Family Code, as well as to national protocols and guidelines.

In partnership with other development partners, UN provided support to the Ministry of Health's National Drug Observatory for data collection on HIV to enable evidence-based strategic planning and supported the

analysis of data about who becomes infected with HIV and how those populations have changed over the past few decades - "know your epidemic and know your response". UN also facilitated data triangulation in HIV/AIDS to support proper estimation of sizes of vulnerable population and adequate strategic planning. Jointly with the National Drug Agency, in November the UN facilitated the launch of a system for the spontaneous and cohort reporting of adverse reactions to ARV treatment in Moldova. In addition, studies were facilitated to determine the main factors and the role of migration and gender in spreading HIV/AIDS, and to advocate for data use in policy making and implementation.

150 family doctors and nurses were trained in counselling standards in reproductive health and technology of modern contraception, HIV/AIDS and domestic violence. Reproductive health services in Tiraspol were strengthened through the organization of two training courses on cervical cancer screening and cervical cytopathology. Knowledge and capacities of specialists in mother and child healthcare from all the primary healthcare centres were strengthened on reproductive health care in emergency situations, with particular focus on sexual reproductive health, HIV and gender-based violence. UN also contributed to the elaboration of post-graduate curricula for obstetricians, gynaecologists and family doctors on sexual and reproductive rights.

The State Medical University was supported in conducting a desk review of the national education system for doctors on drug addiction treatment services and HIV/AIDS prevention. Findings will enable amendments at the level of university, postgraduate and continuous education.

Through joint efforts of UN with the Ministry of Labour Social Protection and Family, gender focal points in all key Ministries and central public administration are knowledgeable on non-discrimination, human rights and HIV, and on the development of rights-based sectoral action plans.

All refugees, beneficiaries of humanitarian protection and asylum-seekers, including at

the Temporary Accommodation Center for Asylum-seekers, are offered annual information sessions on reproductive health, maternity, HIV/AIDS, TB, sexually transmitted diseases, family relationship and the society, working with persons infected with serious illnesses HIV/AIDS, gender balance, and diversity and are provided with education materials.

To further promote healthy lifestyles among the population, the Ministry of Health was assisted in developing a National Tobacco Control Action Plan, which is submitted to Government for approval, and to produce a cost-effectiveness analysis of interventions in tobacco and alcohol control. A first National Program on Eradication of Iron deficiency anemia is developed and submitted to Government for approval.

c. All individuals, especially the vulnerable ones, enjoy improved access to essential health care of good quality

Throughout the year, UN agencies have facilitated constructive dialogue and contributed to the strengthening of mechanisms for coordination of priorities and actions between health sector development partners and the Government.

Technical assistance to the Government in reforming the public health system continued, with increasing attention to treatment and prevention of non-communicable diseases. First preparatory work was undertaken for the development of the new public health strategy, a review of public health legislation and a framework for performance monitoring, and the Ministry of Health was supported in developing national tobacco and alcohol control action plans and cost-effectiveness analyses of tobacco and alcohol control strategies. UN, together with other development partners, also supported the drafting of a Health Policy Roadmap, a short and medium term document for health reforms, which was close to finalization as of December.

To generate evidence for policies, the UN facilitated an analysis of public health services

and functions and initiated a series of policy studies and analysis. The first of these, "Improving the hospital system in the Republic of Moldova", is now published and will support government efforts to implement the Hospital Master Plan. Studies of equity in access to primary health care and medicines, particularly for vulnerable groups, were initiated in 2011 and will report in 2012.

Children's access to health care was improved through the development of a regulation framework document for school health services, as well as the development of a school health nurses' job profile. UN also supported the Ministry of Health in the development of the standards of care for school health services and competencies for the School Health Nurses. The Republican Medical College was supported in conducting a needs assessment for a future curriculum and training package for School Health Nurses.

UN continued to work to strengthen Youth Friendly Health Services, scaling up process in Moldova through the revision of a legal and regulatory framework, adjusting pre-service and in-service medical university curricula in order to apply the youth friendly approach at all levels of health care and remove barriers of the most vulnerable and at risk adolescents to access health services. UN work also supported the Government to reach a child immunization level of over 90 percent, and to expand to new antigens such as haemophilus influenza type B. Furthermore, a parents' guide to improve knowledge of child and adolescents care was published.

In this regard, UN also supported the capacity development of primary health care professionals, social assistances and workers, representatives from Local Public Authorities (LPAs) and community police in two rayons, Orhei and Leova, in applying the medico-social collaboration mechanism, in developing individual interventions plan and the supervision of vulnerable families with children.

WHO issued new guidelines for the management of TB in children to adjust the pediatric therapy regimens. Adequate

management of first-line and second-line TB drugs was ensured and specific recommendations shared with the Ministry of Health regarding TB-related governance, human resources, financing, M&E, service delivery, and health products.

As a result of the introduction of High Energy Beam Radiotherapy for Oncology Patients, the radiotherapy department of the National Institute of Oncology has been upgraded, thus improving and expanding the radiotherapy services provided to cancer patients. Enhancement of quality assurance and control, and safety in external beam therapy administration was supported by expert missions and training of staff to reach Centre of Competence standards. Capacities of local doctors, medical physicists and technicians were developed, inter alia through international study visits. Furthermore, the capacity of local staff at the Nuclear Medicine Laboratory in the Institute of Oncology was developed. New nuclear diagnostic facilities were provided, such as a Gamma Camera, and modern procedures and approaches in radiation protection were introduced. This increased the quality of nuclear diagnostic services and reduced the collective effective dose to the population from nuclear medicine examinations. Due to training, 6 doctors and 16 medical nurses at the Institute of Oncology are now more knowledgeable on bone marrow transplants for children and young people.

The capacities of health care workers in custodial settings were further developed, in order to improve services for inmates vulnerable to HIV infection, drug addiction, and mental health problems. As a result, Moldova prison employees providing drug addiction treatment services to inmates have specialized knowledge on opiate substitution treatment in combination with other factors such as antiretroviral therapy, Hepatitis C and alcohol abuse and they are better able to provide qualitative opium substitution treatment services in prison settings. UN

works closely with the prison authorities through advocacy, technical support and sharing international guidelines and best practices in addressing HIV/AIDS issues in prisons.

In March 2010, the Human Rights and Health Working Group was created within the Ministry of Health, comprising representatives from the UN Country Team and key line ministries. During 2011, the competence of the group was transferred to a new deputy minister, and work improved significantly. A wide range of human rights issues was recognized regarding people with psychosocial and intellectual disabilities. Consequently, the new national plan on mental health foresaw concrete steps to ensure the rights of people psychosocial and intellectual disabilities.

In Mental health, the Ministry of Health took steps to establish an ombudsman for psychiatric institutions following advocacy by the UN. The ombudsman will report directly to the Parliamentary Commission on Social Protection and Health, the Ministry of Health and the National Center for Human Rights. UN also supported the Ministry of Health in the development of the concept for the integration of Mental Health into primary health care services and the strategy on provision of the mental health services at community level. Furthermore, the development of a National Mental Health Program 2012-2016 was supported.

UN together with the National Personal Data Protection Center supported the Ministry of Health in training the heads of medical institutions in establishing measures for providing confidentiality and data security. A total of over 50 specialists in major institutions were trained.

All refugees, beneficiaries of humanitarian protection and asylum-seekers enjoy free medical assistance under a UN funded programme. The assistance includes initial medical consultation and medical care.

d. Vulnerable groups enjoy improved access to quality social protection services, including systems to prevent and protect from violence, abuse, exploitation and discrimination

Activities continued to prevent human trafficking, as well as protect, reintegrate and rehabilitate victims of trafficking. Pro-active prevention measures continued for vulnerable persons who, because of their difficult situation, are at risk of being trafficked, and to raise awareness of issues related to irregular migration and trafficking.

The National Referral System (NRS) for victims and potential victims of trafficking was geographically and thematically extended and now covers the whole territory of Moldova on district level to include the same assistance for victims and potential victims of domestic violence. This multidisciplinary comprehensive approach for assistance of vulnerable persons is recognized as one of the best practices in the region. For this purpose, capacities of district and community level specialists were developed in 12 districts of the country during 2009 - 2010 and in another 7 districts in 2011, enabling better identification of victims and potential victims of trafficking, domestic violence cases, children left behind, unaccompanied minors and stranded migrants their multidisciplinary assistance and monitoring. During the first 9 months of 2011, 612 persons were assisted through the National Referral System. These include 77 victims of trafficking, 23 children of victims of trafficking, 184 prevention cases, 56 stranded migrants, 169 victims of domestic violence, 35 unaccompanied minors and 68 children left behind. Also, direct assistance services - for example psychological, social, legal, and vocational counseling – were provided to 98 victims of trafficking, 218 potential victims of trafficking, 97 stranded migrants, 243 victims of domestic violence, 104 children left behind, unaccompanied minors and children of victims of trafficking.

UN with its partners continued its efforts to improve the quality of investigations, prosecutions, and convictions in human trafficking and related cases. These efforts

were concentrated on identifying the systemic problems at the level of investigation, prosecution and trial of human trafficking and related cases to be further systematically addressed. An on-site advisor with extensive experience in investigation and prosecution of human trafficking and related crimes supported the Center for Combating Trafficking in Persons

Transnational cooperation, one of the key objectives of the Referral System, was strengthened through intensive follow up with both Ukrainian and Russian Federation Authorities as well as during the International conference on National Referral Mechanisms held in Chisinau in June. It allowed for exchange of best practices between international partners from ten countries.

At the same time, UN continued to support actions to foster and develop protection systems for victims of domestic violence. This is an important measure to prevent trafficking proactively before it happens, as 90 percent of all victims of trafficking report to have previously been victims of domestic violence. In the past year, courts for the first time began to take the issue of domestic violence seriously, and began issuing protection orders for victims. During the first 9 months of 2011, 169 victims of domestic violence have been assisted by UN. Out of this number, 96 victims of domestic violence received legal assistance, including counseling and court representation on civil, administrative and penal cases. About 7 protection orders have been issued up until now.

The UN also continued to support the Government in on-going social protection reforms. The legal framework was strengthened through the reform of child protection services aiming to ensure quality of services and pluralism of service providers. As a result, the Law on Accreditation of Service Providers is in the Parliament for adoption. The Ministry of Labour, Social Protection and Family has developed a set of regulations, including nomenclature of social services, regulations on day care centers for children with disabilities and maternal centers.

A model implemented at the local level provided evidence to the government and partners on how services from the health, education, social protection and justice sectors, as well as the police, local authorities and NGOs can and should work together to protect vulnerable children – including those in conflict with the law. The UN supported the implementation of the de-institutionalization plan by developing models of transformation or closure of residential institutions, including for children with disabilities. As a result, six out of eleven residential institutions that went through the transformation and closure process in 2011 are schools for children with disabilities, half of them with UN support. As a result of this support, two institutions have been closed and in one, in Sarata Noua/Leova, the number of children was reduced by 60

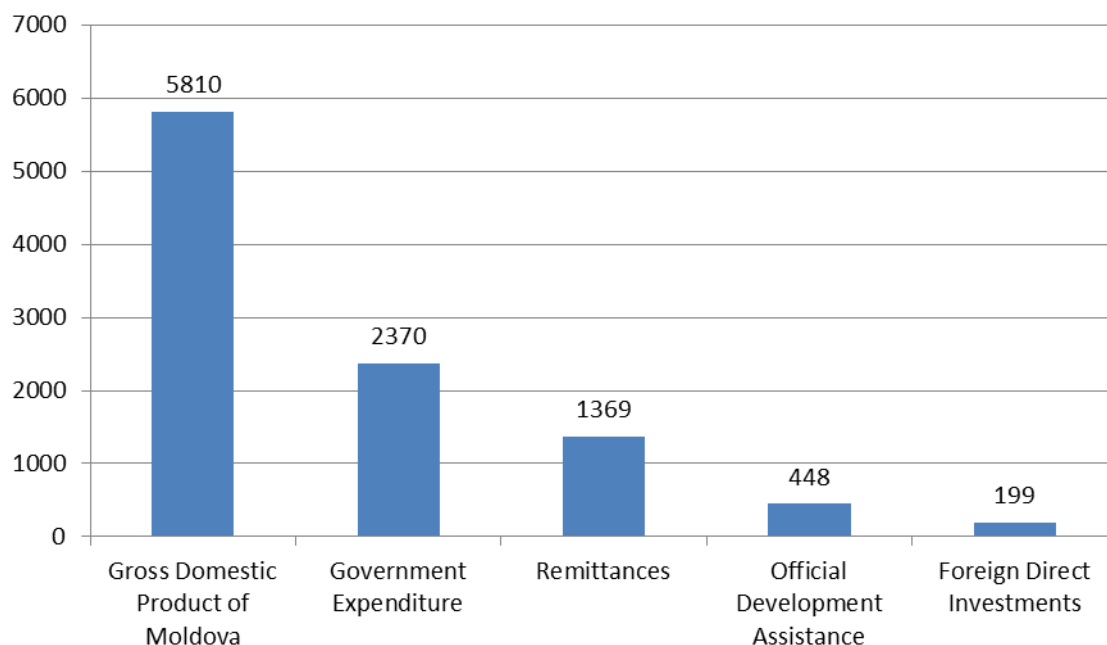
percent. Some 200 children with disabilities have been reintegrated from residential to mainstream schools.

These reforms are resulting in concrete improvements in the life of Moldovan children: the overall number of children in institutions in Moldova decreased from 6,960 in 2010 to 5,650 in 2011. In 2011, 200 children with disabilities moved from the residential care to mainstream schools.

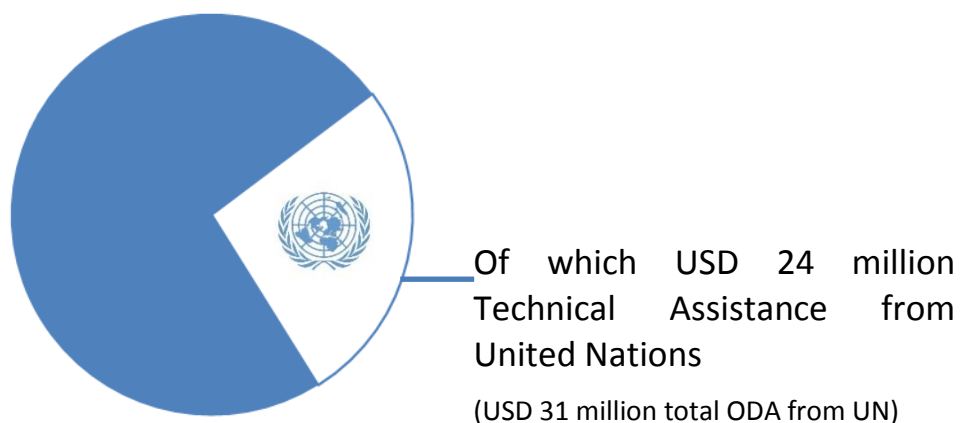
In October, a “Road Map for Mainstreaming Ageing in the Republic of Moldova” was presented to the National Commission on Population and Development. The project was finalized together with the inter-ministerial working group coordinated by the Ministry of Labour, Social protection and Family.

Official Development Assistance in Context

Million USD (2010)



Technical Assistance out of total Official Development Assistance: USD 91 million in 2010



UNDAF Objective 3

“By 2011, vulnerable groups in poor rural and urban areas take advantage of sustainable socio-economic development opportunities through adequate regional and local policies implemented by Local Public Authorities (LPAs) and partners”



3.1 Key development trends

In 2011, Moldova remains in transition and in the midst of many reforms of its public institutions, legislation and policies. The complexities of the continued democratic political transition are evident from the fact that Moldova had at least one electoral exercise every year from 2007 to 2011. The local general elections held in June to elect the 898 mayors, 1,120 district councilors and 10,630 village and town councilors has resulted in more than 50 percent new locally elected officials as compared to the local elections in 2007. Now Moldova has 18.5 percent of women mayors, a positive trend being observed as compared to 2007 and to 2003 local elections, with an increase of 3 percent.

The economy has performed strongly during the year, on the back of robust domestic demand and booming exports, although a gradual moderation is on the horizon. Private consumption has been boosted by solid growth of remittances, which constituted 21 percent of the GDP in 2011, and wages, while strong investment reflected improved sentiment about business prospects and rising corporate profitability. Although economic

recovery proceeds rapidly, so far the labor market has failed to recover. According to data provided by the National Employment Agency, as of October, over 49,803 people were registered as unemployed, out of which 18,361 are aged between 16 and 29.

Economic opportunities are unequally distributed across the territory. The population in Transnistria region faces barriers to the labor market. The rural/urban divide is contributing significantly to social exclusion, as employment opportunities in villages are limited. Small towns, the former backbone of country, now in most cases represent a poverty trap, with a combination of meager employment opportunities and limited possibilities for subsistence agriculture - the common coping strategy in villages. People residing in rural areas have limited information on existing services provided by local public administration, low cash incomes that are volatile and heavily affected by weather shocks and longer-term climate change.

Limited access to improved basic services such as water and sanitation, health and education, and rising costs of utility services additionally limits the opportunities for economic inclusion, especially for the vulnerable. Due to these factors, outward labor migration remained a preferred exit strategy for many Moldovans. The public administration reforms that started, especially in the area of local public administration, proved to be a critical point in increasing local autonomy, improving service quality and access, and moving decision making closer to the people.

New cases of domestic violence and human trafficking continued to emerge during the year. Although the justice system increasingly has ordered protection to victims of domestic violence, in practice protection is lacking in the vast majority of cases, primarily because of strong patriarchal attitudes. Moldova's anti-trafficking and anti-domestic violence activities also remain dependent on international donor funding and support from international organizations and NGOs.

In 2011, the Transnistrian issue remained high on the political agenda, a tentative rapprochement between Russia and major Western actors and institutions opening a window of opportunity for a concerted effort by international and local actors to find a resolution to the conflict. However, the so called presidential elections in the region in December are expected to bring a full systemic change, with the long-term

“President” Smirnov losing the first round of elections. Nevertheless, no serious breakthroughs are to be expected until the parties in conflict are politically ready to discuss issues of concern. Confidence-building measures supported by the EU and implemented by the UN have substantially contributed to laying a solid foundation for future development work in the region.

3.2 Assessment of progress towards Outcome indicators

UNDAF Indicators	Outcome	Baseline	Target	Status 12/2011
Level of absolute and extreme poverty:				
- National level		- National level: 26,5% and 14,7%	- Reducing the level of poverty and inequality	-National: 21,9% and 1,4%
- Rural areas		- Rural areas: 31,2% and 18,0%		-Rural areas: 30,3% and 2,1%
- Towns		- Towns: 34,9% and 17,5%		-Towns: 14,2% and 0,3%
- Cities		- Cities: 6,9% and 2,9%		-Cities: 7,3% and 0,4%
- Gini Coefficient, based on consumption, per one inhabitant (relative)		- Gini Coefficient , based on consumption, per one inhabitant (relative) – 0,361		-Gini Coefficient , based on consumption, per one inhabitant (relative): 0,305

3.3 Narrative analysis of progress

a. LPAs operate in a more effective and transparent manner

In order to increase local autonomy, improve service quality and access, and move decision making closer to the people, UN supported the development of the Decentralization Strategy, applying human rights based approach and gender equality principles. It was approved by the Government and submitted to approval by Parliament. Before its submission a nationwide consultation process involving over 2,400 participants was organized to take into account the opinions of local public authorities and civil society organizations with support from the Congress of Local Authorities (CALM) and the National Participation Council. More than 45 national

and regional NGOs and community-based organizations and groups took part in the public consultations of the draft National Decentralization Strategy and provided a comprehensive set of recommendations, including on gender equality, human rights and vulnerable groups. Due to the inputs by the CSOs, the current draft of the National Decentralization Strategy is human rights and gender sensitive. Important elements in introducing these principles were the identification of vulnerable groups and the assessment of statistical data measuring the level of vulnerability, marginalization and exclusion.

To promote decentralization reform, the Government has been supported in the creation of sectoral decentralization working groups in the line ministries. Moreover, UN was instrumental in assisting the Ministries of

Finance and Economy in the initiation of a policy analysis on fiscal decentralization and Local Government property, which will lay the foundation for further decisions and actions in these areas. The Government was also assisted in the elaboration of the Chart of Central and Local Government responsibilities, which, after being consulted with central and local public authorities and CSOs, will support sectoral interventions.

More than 5,000 newly elected local officials from the entire country are now able to better perform their functions as a result of the National training programme for newly elected officials that started with UN support in 2011. A dedicated guide was updated for this purpose, covering issues such as local public administration and the decentralization process, as well as the application of human rights and gender equality principles in local affairs— thus strengthening the partnership with the Academy of Public Administration in the local governance and the decentralization reform. The institutional and organizational capacities of the Congress of Local Authorities have continued to be strengthened, and, for the first time since the independence of Moldova, a large, active and dynamic national association of local public authorities is emerging to play an important role in pushing the decentralization process forward. Also for the first time in Moldova, a Network of Women Mayors was created under the aegis of the Congress of Local Authorities.

Institutional and administrative capacities of 73 LPA authorities from North, South and Central regions of Moldova (10 district councils, 8 towns and 55 rural communities) have been strengthened through a comprehensive package of technical assistance and small grants interventions.

b. New businesses and jobs are created in targeted poor rural and urban areas

The UN contributed to increasing youth employment in vulnerable areas, with youth employment having increased by about 20 percent in the first half of 2010. In 2011, 460 young people were vocationally trained, a

total of 478 beneficiaries were employed, and 53 new jobs were created in partnership with private companies and through social enterprises.

121 loans were provided to finance rural businesses, of which 28 to rural agricultural enterprises, creating 136 new jobs, and 93 to rural micro-entrepreneurs.

Moreover, 550 young people from over 70 villages in rural areas benefitted from trainings on launch and development of businesses.

Business development support was provided to comprehensively tackle the development of small and middle businesses in the Transnistria region and establish close links between businesses on both sides of Nistru River. In 2010-2011, a business school has been set up in three cities in Transnistria (Tiraspol, Bender, Ribnitsa) to cover 70 percent of the region's territory with courses for approximately 800 entrepreneurs organized.

A feasibility study on Small and Medium Enterprises development in the Transnistria region has been conducted, with 200 businesses surveyed and 25 in-depth interviews with businesses conducted. A comprehensive report with practical recommendations for establishing a business incubator has been produced.

Measures to promote confidence building measures among business representatives on both banks included working visits to new EU member-states involving entrepreneurs from textile, business support and agricultural industries, and joint participation at specialized seminars and roundtables to address issues in business development on both banks. The seminars covered issues such as economic and trade policies for businessmen, policy professionals, decision makers, experts, researchers and analysts, representatives of the confidence-building working groups and other stakeholders from Moldova, including Transnistria.

In the framework of the Moldova Energy and Biomass project, which was officially launched

in March, the UN supported important first steps towards the establishment of sustainable markets for renewable energy production and consumption. As a result of an extensive awareness raising and capacity development efforts at the district and community level with the aim of significantly increasing the use of renewable energy sources for heating public buildings and households in rural areas of Moldova, 35 biomass based heating systems are already under installation. The new installations will increase the thermal comfort enjoyed by over 10,000 building users, reduce heating costs, and contribute to sustainable community development. With the facilitation of functional fuel supply chains, mainly targeting baled straw, briquettes and pellets, new employment, income and business opportunities are created in those communities.

Through UN assistance, the national legislation in the field of tangible and intangible cultural heritage was brought in line with international norms and standards. Cultural diversity was promoted through research and mapping of traditional arts and handicrafts, capacity development of local communities in these areas.

c. Empowered communities and CSOs participate in local development planning, implementation and monitoring

70 pilot communities have been supported by the Joint UN Programme on Integrated Local Development to develop their local socio-economic development plans in a participatory, human rights based and gender responsive manner. Community profiling was an important element of this, taking into account human rights and gender equality concerns, especially from women of vulnerable groups. The identified priorities help the communities to improve partnership and cooperation with local public authorities in local development planning and budgeting, and serve as basis for human rights based and gender sensitive decentralization and local governance agenda of the state. Local

expertise was created in the field of local development based on human rights and gender equality principles. Within the target communities, local development projects reflecting development priorities have begun to be implemented.

During the year, CSOs from 9 pilot communities benefited from small grants for improvement of services of community information centers and increased access of women, men and children representing the most vulnerable groups of the population to the services provided.

Local authorities from Leova, Orhei and Balti piloted and developed a model of mapping, planning and coordinated inter-sectorial-services in order to tackle the inequity at community level. Applied national wide, the model will ensure better coordination of interventions of different services provider horizontally and will ensure more significant impact of interventions on the beneficiaries.

In order to increase confidence between Chisinau and Tiraspol, municipalities, civil society organizations and other stakeholders were continuously involved in economic and social confidence building projects. These addressed the needs of vulnerable communities, with a specific focus on Transnistrian region, including the security zone, by increasing their access to basic social and economic services, as well as to objective and diversified sources of information.

Support was provided to develop local capacity for the provision of better services in the field of health and social support as well as environmental protection. The programme had a direct effect on the lives of 70,000 beneficiaries, and an additional cumulative effect on the lives of the entire population of the Transnistrian region. These initiatives gave an unprecedented boost to supporting confidence among civil society, local authorities and experts on both banks of river Nistru.

Citizens from nine communities in Anenii Noi, Causeni and Dubasari districts in the Security Zone and in Slobozia rayon benefit from better local public services as a result of

reconstructions projects. The projects include the rehabilitation of kindergartens, schools and social centers for elderly.

Civil society organizations were supported to improve cross-river partnerships in areas such as community empowerment, poverty reduction, combating social exclusion, prevention of violence against children, environment, health, youth and social, innovative media and human rights.

Around 2,000 people have gained useful life skills and have become more competitive on the job market by taking courses in accounting, computer literacy, basics of entrepreneurship and business initiation skills, job-searching skills and employment in and outside the country. Representatives of local mass media were trained on how to correctly report on human trafficking and domestic violence. Local services were strengthened to

support victims of human trafficking and domestic violence.

Due to limited access to information and services at the local level, some Government initiatives to improve public service delivery are facilitated and supported by UN. With support of the Women's Economic Empowerment programme, a new approach for service provision was introduced and piloted in four rayons under the auspices of local administration. The approach aims to promote access, coordinated and timely provision of information and services rendered by local administration, and private sector and CSO organizations. So far, 65 percent of total beneficiaries of services provided through the new innovative approach were women, and over 80 percent were from rural areas.

Joint Communications

A number of different communications activities were undertaken jointly with support of the UN Communications Team and through cost-sharing by UN Agencies.

Through the 2011 edition of the Family Festival, the UN continued to promote human rights, in particular respect for diversity of families. It included joint press conferences with the Government, competitions for pupils, public awareness and information activities, concerts and other festive events. The innovative part of this year's festival was the cooperation with the Romanian celebrity Andreea Marin, who promoted the messages of the festival through a TV spot aired on major TV channels in the country. In the framework of the Family Festival, she visited the penitentiary in Rusca and participated in the AIDS Candlelight Memorial ceremony, raising awareness on issues such as the rights of women detainees and people living with HIV/AIDS. Her participation in several live talk shows and public events together with UN representatives also brought visibility and coverage of the UN's work in this area.

The United Nations Day was marked by a number of events during that week. These included public lectures on the UN and its work conducted by various UN Agencies for students in Universities in Chisinau and other localities. As highlight, a concert of classical music was organized in the Organ Hall to mark the 66th anniversary of the UN and the cooperation between the United Nations and the Republic of Moldova. The concert was attended by representatives of the Government, parliament, diplomatic corps and international organizations, civil society and media. UN representatives also gave interviews to major media outlets in the country.

Promotion of human rights is one of the major priorities of the United Nations Country Team. The Human Rights Gala of Awards continued to be a key joint advocacy and promotion event of human rights in Moldova. Like in previous years, it aimed to recognize and award outstanding achievements in the

area of human rights by civil society organizations and mass media. For the second year in a row, the ceremony was broadcast live by the public broadcaster Moldova 1 TV which has nation-wide coverage. Given the UN's work to support the disability reform in Moldova, the focus of 2011 gala was on people with disabilities.

The United Nations and the European Union have a long history of cooperation, including in the Republic of Moldova. To take stock of the successful partnership and cooperation between the United Nations and the European Union in the Republic of Moldova, a publication was produced to capture the results of this cooperation during from 2005 to 2011. Entitled "The United Nations and the European Union: Partnership for Moldova, Partnership for Development", the publication will be distributed to development partners, Government, parliament, civil society, and other partners.

With UN support, over 80 local public administrations took part in the 2011 European Local Democracy Week, by organizing advocacy and awareness raising events under the common theme "Human Rights and Gender Equality at the Local Level". The national post office issued a special postal series of envelopes and stamps on this occasion.

Moldova began its preparations for the celebration of the 20th anniversary of its adherence to the United Nations which will be marked on 2 March 2012. The UN supported the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration in developing a publication which takes stock of Moldova's contributions to the UN's bodies and processes and well as the assistance provided by the UN to Moldova through its agencies present in Moldova. Three-minute fillers focusing on the history of UN globally and in Moldova, its priorities and achievements have been produced to be aired on TV in the context of the 2012 celebrations.

Also, UN contributed to the implementation of 16 days of activism against gender violence campaign organized under the auspices of the

Ministry of Labour, Social Protection and Family.

The quarterly UN Magazine continues to be a major source of information about the UN's work in Moldova. Issued in English and the state language, it reaches various audiences in Moldova and internationally such as donors, embassies, and regional bureaus of various UN agencies.

UN Agencies conducted a training to improve the use by mass media of the statistical data produced with UN's support. Almost 20 Moldovan journalists have been trained in a workshop aimed to strengthen their skills to explore, interpret and use the statistical data in their daily activity.

Over 80 young students, graduates and master alumni, including from the Transnistrian region, participated in the 2011

Model UN. This year's event focused on human rights and conflict resolution. It provided young people with a platform to discuss global issues and agree on common solutions through simulations of a multilateral format of decision-making and active participation in debates and negotiations on the agenda topics. UN experts spoke on various topics related to human rights and promotional and informational materials were disseminated to participants.

Other advocacy and communications activities included extensive media coverage and promotion of the visits of the UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion or Belief, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Fourth Session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Aarhus Convention in Chisinau and the support of a Volunteer Festival.

Annex 1: International Human Rights Treaties and other related instruments

Core universal human rights treaties in force	Ratification, Accession or Succession
• International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, 1965	1993
• International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, 1966	1993
• International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, 1966	1993
• Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, 1979	1994
• Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, 1984	1995
• Convention on the Rights of the Child, 1989	1993
• Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, 2006	2010
• Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, 1966	2008
• Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, 1999	2006
• Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, 2002	2006
• Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Involvement of Children in armed conflict, 2000	2004
• Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography, 2000	2007
• Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty, 1989	2006

Moldova has ratified 7 of the 9 core human rights treaties and 5 of the 8 optional protocols open for signature as of the end of 2011. Ratification of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families and the [International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance](#) were both not completed as of the end of 2011. Moldova has thus far accepted international complaints procedures only concerning the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. Moldova has imposed reservations related to treaty applicability with respect to the territory of the Transnistrian region on several treaties, but it has committed to withdraw these reservations. For further information concerning Moldova's interaction with the international human rights system, please contact: registry@one.un.md.

Other important international instruments in force (list does not include regional treaties)	Ratification/ Accession /Succession
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• Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, 1948	1993
• Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, 1998	2010
• Convention on the non-applicability of statutory limitations to war crimes and crimes against humanity, 1968	1993
• International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid, 1973	2005
• Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, 2000	2005
• Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, 1951	2001
• Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees, 1967	2001
• Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons, 1954	No*
• Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness, 1961	No*
• Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 and Additional Protocols thereto	Yes
• ILO fundamental conventions	Yes
• UNESCO fundamental conventions	Yes

* In December 2011, the Moldovan Parliament passed the draft law on Moldova's accession to the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and approved accession to the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness.