



MINISTERUL EDUCAȚIEI
ȘI CERCETĂRII
AL REPUBLICII MOLDOVA



EduLIFE
EDUCAȚIE ȘI DEPRINDERI DE VIAȚĂ

EduLIFE School

Prepares girls and boys for life

In a friendly, safe and inclusive environment

For nearly 30 years, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) in the Republic of Moldova has been supporting general, technical-vocational, and non-formal education to provide life skills and health education to adolescents and young people, helping them make responsible decisions for their present and future.

In 2023, UNFPA piloted in four general education institutions the EduLIFE School Program: friendly environment, access to health education, and menstrual hygiene products. This concept embodies a multidimensional approach to strengthening the educational institutions' ability to contribute to students' well-being and life skills, encouraging healthy and non-violent behaviour, promoting equal learning opportunities for both girls and boys.



The EduLIFE School Model invests in three key areas:

1 Access to safe school environments that foster students' healthy and harmonious development:

- Friendly classrooms with modern and attractive designs and furnishings, dedicated to teaching health education and life skills.
- Offices designed and equipped to meet quality and safety standards, offering health care and psychological counselling services for students, teachers, non-teaching staff, and parents.

3 Support for menstrual health and hygiene in schools to ensure that girls have equal access to education:

- Supplying schools with dispensers and free menstrual pads to reduce temporary absenteeism among girls and prevent bullying related to menstruation and pubertal changes.
- Providing age-appropriate information and training for girls and boys, tailored to their educational levels and specific needs.

2 Access to high-quality health education focused on relevant life skills development, with an emphasis on comprehensive sexuality education. This includes topics such as physical and psycho-emotional health, building harmonious and nonviolent relationships, preventing risky behaviours during adolescence, including early pregnancy; sexual and reproductive health, menstrual hygiene, and more:

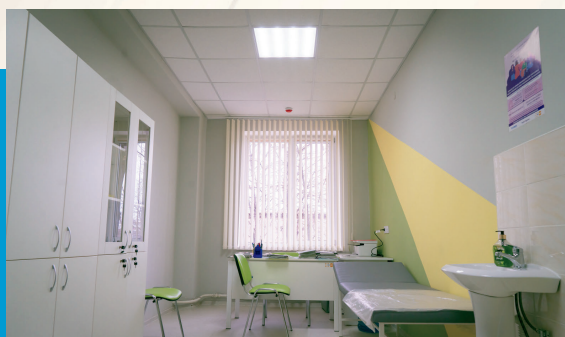
- Providing training programs for teaching and non-teaching staff.
- Equipping schools with educational materials, including online resources.
- Connecting schools, students and parents with youth-friendly, accessible health services in the community.



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Classroom



School health office



School psychologist's office

Access to menstrual hygiene products in schools

As part of the EduLIFE School Program, the four pilot schools were equipped with dispensers and free menstrual pads. Girls and boys received information about pubertal changes, menstrual health and hygiene, and the responsible use of menstrual hygiene products.

The analysis conducted in the pilot schools reveals that:

More than half

55,2%

of girls have missed school at least once during menstruation in the past. In the first three months after schools were equipped with dispensers and menstrual pads, the percentage of girls missing classes dropped to 12.5%.

55,9%

of the surveyed girls (558 girls) reported feeling safe at school after the installation of dispensers with menstrual pads.

38,2%

of girls confirmed that boys stopped making jokes about menstruation and became more respectful.



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This data will continue to be monitored in more general education institutions during the 2024-2025 school year, which will be equipped with dispensers and free menstrual pads.



Free sanitary product dispenser

*"This project is crucial for students' safety at school because if a girl has a problem, she knows she can go to the bathroom and take care of it."
(Student)*

*"Teenage girls are more self-confident; they feel supported and courageous, and they no longer miss classes."
(Head teacher)*

*"Most often, girls had to go home during menstruation. Every week, they would come to me saying they had gotten stained and needed to go home. This project has become a valuable support, especially for girls from vulnerable families. Many of them tell me they feel safe at school and are happy they can use sanitary pads instead of the alternative methods they previously relied on."
(School psychologist)*

*"I didn't realize just how important it is for us to talk about menstruation in school. Previously, I mainly focused on informing girls and boys about pubertal changes. Since the Program began, we have focused on the topic of menstrual hygiene and discovered that many girls lacked accurate information about menstruation, and boys were unaware of this natural process in a girl's/woman's life."
(Nurse)*

How you can contribute to expanding the EduLIFE School Model

● For educational institutions, teaching and non-teaching staff:

- Constantly organize information and education activities in school on topics related to sexual and reproductive health education, involving all students (girls and boys), parents, grandparents, etc.
- Collaborate with Youth Friendly Health Centers to organize educational activities and refer students to their services.
- Identify funding opportunities through various national and international programs and submit project proposals to develop the EduLIFE School Model.
- Engage in activities and training programs focused on adolescent development to better understand their needs and learn how to support them effectively.
- Call on diaspora support. A message in local groups could be a first step towards an EduLIFE School.



● For state institutions, development partners, private sector and diaspora representatives:

- Support the setting up of a friendly classroom, a doctor's office or a psychologist's office in one or several schools.
- Buy menstrual pads, so that girls have access to these products in emergencies at school, thereby helping to reduce absenteeism.
- Support the implementation of health education and life-skills programs in school and in the community.
- Partner with organizations that have already initiated such projects and join forces.

In 2024, UNFPA is expanding the EduLIFE School Model to four additional schools across the country, including those from the Model School Network. Our goal is to make this model accessible to as many students as possible.

If you would like to support the development of the EduLIFE School Model, please contact us:

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