



RESULTS 2024



## Empowering adolescents and youth for a brighter future

About **123.000** adolescents and young people were empowered in 2024 with UNFPA support through participation programs and life skills development



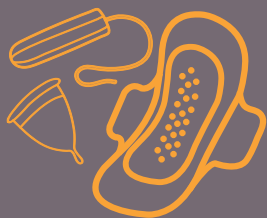
# EduLIFE in SCHOOL: Education for Life



## GENERAL EDUCATION

*In 2024, UNFPA equipped 164 schools across the country with dispensers and free sanitary pads. In four pilot schools, after installing the dispensers, the absenteeism rate among girls due to menstruation decreased fourfold (from 55% to 12.5%).*

- ➔ **The UNFPA EduLIFE School Program was piloted in 4 more schools across the country.** Now, “EduLIFE School” is present in 8 institutions, including 3 Model Schools. Students learn health education and life skills in student-friendly classrooms equipped with modern technology, multifunctional furniture, interactive teaching materials, and trained teachers. They also have access to renovated medical and psychological counseling offices with trained specialists, while girls receive free sanitary pads through dispensers installed in school restrooms.
- ➔ **The Menstrual Hygiene Program was piloted at the national level in support of over 28,000 girls.** In 164 schools, 41 Youth-Friendly Health Centers, and 67 Youth Centers, dispensers with free menstrual pads were installed, and girls were educated on their proper and rational use. In four pilot schools, after installing the dispensers, the percentage of girls missing school due to menstruation-related reasons decreased fourfold (from 55% to 12.5%).



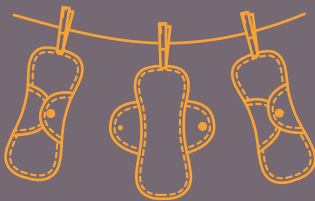


- ➔ **Over 700 professionals** representing all district departments of education, school managers, teachers, psychologists, and medical personnel increased their skills in addressing puberty, menstrual health, and non-violent school environments to support the harmonious development of adolescents.
- ➔ **More than 800 students** participated in training sessions on menstrual hygiene, teenage pregnancy prevention, bullying, and available free youth health services.
- ➔ **152 parents were trained to support their adolescent children** in safe, healthy, and harmonious development, as well as to discuss puberty-related topics and sexual education in a youth-friendly manner.
- ➔ The national communication campaign **“Schools that Inspire”** under the patronage of the Ministry of Education and Research, promoting a safe and supportive learning environment for students and teachers, **reached 568,826 parents, students, teachers, and education stakeholders.**
- ➔ **UNFPA supported the “Moldova for Education”** – national mobilization initiative led by the Ministry of Education and Research. Through two major events involving parents and the vocational education community, the EduLIFE School Model was showcased, highlighting the crucial role of the education sector in preparing the young generation for life.



## VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING (VET)

*In 2024, UNFPA launched a comprehensive program for youth life skills development and job readiness aimed at the entire technical vocational education system.*



- ➔ **Two Centers of Excellence were accredited** for the first time to conduct continuous training programs for teachers who teach the life skills discipline in technical vocational education.
- ➔ **Over 60% of VET institutions (48 out of 79) were capacitated to effectively teach the „Decisions for a Healthy Lifestyle” course**, following a long-term institutionalized teacher training program completed by 64 teachers.
- ➔ **100% of VET institutions (79) were equipped with the EduLIFE Box** – a kit with interactive teaching materials to facilitate students’ learning of the „Decisions for a Healthy Lifestyle” course. The materials, available in both Romanian and Russian, include puberty-related puzzles, the board game „No Taboos”, posters on contraception methods and STI/HIV prevention, and more.
- ➔ **Girls in VET institutions now have access to free menstrual hygiene products at school**, thanks to dispensers installed in all institutions. This initiative helps ensure that girls do not miss classes due to a lack of sanitary pads, creating a more gender-friendly school environment.





- ➔ **A comprehensive private sector program for creating youth-friendly, safe, and violence-free workplaces** was piloted by UNFPA in partnership with the Moldova Chamber of Commerce and Industry. As part of the program, 24 national trainers were prepared to work with business companies in dual education, and the **first 20 companies graduated from the program.**
- ➔ **The Peer Educator Network in VET was expanded to 20 institutions**, involving 80 students and 20 adult mentors.
- ➔ In 2024, **Peer Educators organized over 270 awareness-raising activities for 10,500 fellow students** on topics such as mental health, respectful communication and relationships, teenage pregnancy prevention, violence prevention, and risky behaviors.

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# EduLIFE in the COMMUNITY: Education for Life

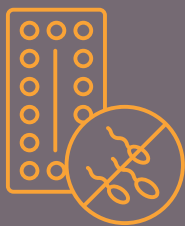


*Over 2,700 young people from vulnerable groups and Ukrainian refugee youth participated in long-term programs and educational activities on sexual and reproductive health.*

*Fifty-three institutions and organizations working with young people, including those on the left bank of the Nistru River, were empowered in adolescents' and youth's sexual and reproductive rights and health.*

- ➔ **Seven institutions and organizations across Moldova** including those serving vulnerable youth, **have been equipped with youth-friendly spaces** to facilitate non-formal activities focused on sexual and reproductive health education. These spaces bring organizations closer to young people, enhancing their capacity to address youth needs for knowledge and personal development.
- ➔ **47 civil society organizations and institutions** in the field of social assistance, including those from the left bank of the Nistru River, have been empowered to advocate for adolescents and young people's sexual and reproductive health and rights.
- ➔ **31 specialists from civil society organizations have been trained as facilitators** in programs on sexual and reproductive health education for young people.





- ➔ **76 parents/caregivers of adolescents with disabilities** from both sides of the Nistru River have increased their knowledge about sexual and reproductive health and have been empowered to support their children in the transition to adulthood.
- ➔ **598 young people from vulnerable groups benefited from long-term education programs on sexual and reproductive health**, including 278 young people from rural areas living in poor socio-economic conditions, 140 youth from placement centers, 145 young people with disabilities, and 75 young people from the Transnistrian region.
- ➔ **2100 youth refugees from Ukraine, including 28 Roma refugees, have been reached with sexual and reproductive health**, educational activities with a special focus on GBV prevention, including TFGBV and menstrual health and management.

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## Civic engagement and youth participation



*With the support of UNFPA, five youth centers from different regions of the country (Criuleni, Bălți, Cahul, Fălești, Ungheni) were equipped with minibusses, enabling them to reach approximately 8,000 young people in rural areas where opportunities for engagement and development are limited.*



- ➔ **The Program for the Development of Youth Centers 2030 was developed** by the Ministry of Education and Research and National Youth Agency with the support of UNFPA and outlines the main priorities for equipping the network of Youth Centers, professionalizing youth workers, diversifying programs, and expanding the network in rural areas.
  - ➔ **The annual analysis of the regional youth budgets has been conducted, and local public authorities (LPAs) at the II level have been supported** in improving the planning and budgeting process. Data shows a significant increase in allocations for youth, which now represent approximately 4.8% of local budgets, increasing from 26.7 billion lei in 2022 to 37.3 billion lei in 2023.
  - ➔ **Eight Local Public Authorities (LPAs)** at the II level (Criuleni, Taraclia, Soroca, UTA Găgăuzia, Dubăsari, Cantemir, Nisporeni, Bălți) **benefited from support in developing action plans and local youth budgets.** Since the program's launch in 2019, 22 LPAs have been supported, representing over 63 % of the 35 existing LPAs.
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- ➔ With the joint support of the National Youth Agency, Local Public Authorities, and UNFPA, the **Network of Youth Centers carried out activities for approximately 72,500 young people throughout 2024**, including refugees, young people from rural areas, youth with disabilities, and members of the Roma community.
- ➔ **Five youth centers from different regions of the country (Criuleni, Bălți, Cahul, Fălești, Ungheni) were equipped with minivans by UNFPA**, facilitating access to essential services for rural youth and refugees. The mobile centers served over **8000 young people** in just six months, providing programs and services focused on preventing violence and abuse.
- ➔ Through the YouCreate program, **16 youth civic initiatives were supported**, involving **428 young people** from various regions of the country. They worked together with youth workers and teachers to identify and address local youth issues. In addition to the grants provided by UNFPA, the youth mobilized an additional 158,000 lei from 18 local businesses, thereby enhancing the impact of their initiatives.
- ➔ **The Youth Centers network supported the campaign to mobilize youth participation in elections, „Drop everything and go to VOTE!”**. In the second round of the presidential elections on November 3, 2024, more than half of young people aged 18-25 (51.78%) and those aged 26-35 (52.04%) exercised their right to vote.
- ➔ **Menstrual hygiene products are free for all girls visiting the Youth Centers**. All institutions have been equipped with dispensers and sanitary pads to ensure a safe, friendly, and gender-sensitive environment.

#YouthEngagement  
#CommunityDevelopment  
#EduLIFE  
#LifeSkills  
#HealthEducation  
#EmpoweredYouth  
#HealthyDecisions  
#LifeCompetencies  
#JobReadiness



**The budget allocated by UNFPA Moldova in 2024 for programs dedicated to adolescents and youth:**

**24.390.637,19 MDL (1.358.507,14 \$)**

### **PARTNERS:**

Ministry of Education and Research  
National Youth Agency  
National Youth Council of Moldova  
Pro Bono Information and Resource Center  
MOTIVATION Association of Moldova  
The Moldova Project  
Media Center for Youth  
Suntparinte.md  
Terre des hommes Moldova  
Pro Didactica Educational Center  
Network of Youth-Friendly Health Centers  
Millenium Development Training Institute  
Health for Youth NGO  
Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Republic of Moldova

### **DONORS:**

Government of Switzerland  
Government of Norway  
Government of Sweden  
Austrian Development Agency  
Government of the United Kingdom  
Felicia Foundation

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