**Project Fact Sheet**

**Speak Up for Youth Health Education**

Joint project of United Nations reproductive health and rights agency (UNFPA) and Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, in partnership with the Ministry of Education, Culture and Research of the Republic of Moldova.

**Project Background**

Moldova is among the youngest countries in Europe, with 34% of its population aged 14-35 years old¹ (2014 Census²). The adolescents (10-19 years old) represent 334 thousands which is 12% of total country population. Emigration of working-age population has produced negative social effects on children and young people left behind, in particular in rural areas (more than 100,000 children and youth are left behind, without parental oversight).

Limited access to information and education on human rights, healthy lifestyle and life-skills based health education in schools and communities has caused serious misconceptions about gender equity and risky health behaviors among young people. The undermining of a right of adolescents and youth to access age-appropriate, rights-based information and education on reproductive health and rights, resulted in high teenage pregnancy and abortions among youth, increased incidences of Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs), including HIV, risky health and social behaviors.

Consequently, the adolescent birth rate continues to be twice higher in Moldova (27.9 per 1,000 women aged 15-19 in 2015) than in the EU³, with high disparities between rural and urban areas. The share of abortions in the age group of 15-19 years, during the last 10 years, constituted about 10% of the total number of abortions among women of reproductive age.⁴ The incidence of the STIs among young people is one of the highest in Eastern Europe. The HIV incidence among young people (aged 15-24) per 100,000 population has almost doubled from 12.2 in 2000 to 20.3 in 2015.

The project seeks to increase awareness of respect for a healthy lifestyle among young people and to strengthen the education system's role in prevention of risky health and social behaviors of young people in the Republic of Moldova by ensuring the universal access to health information and education in line with international and EU standards.

**Local stakeholders and main actors from targeted rayons**

In all targeted rayon’s, will be involved a large spectrum of local stakeholders for increasing demand for comprehensive health education among young people, as follows: Local Public Authorities; Rayon General Directorate of Education; School administration; Teachers and teacher associations; Parents and parents associations; Religious leaders; Youth Peer Education Network Y-PEER Moldova; Youth-Friendly Health Centers; Rayonal Youth Centers; Rayon’s Public Health Centres; Mass-media; other local interested partners.

**Duration**

July 2017 – June 2019

**Target areas**

Republic of Moldova, 22 localities in Chisinau municipality and four rayons of the country:
- Chisinau municipality: Bacioi and Ghidighici villages;
- Cahul rayon: Cahul city, Alexandru Ioan Cuza, Borceag, Moscovei and Slobozia villages;
- Falesti rayon: Falesti city, Bocani, Călinești, Glinjeni and Obreja Veche villages;
- Rezina rayon: Rezina city, Cuizauca, Ignatei, Horodiste and Peciste villages;
- Orhei rayon: Orhei city, Branesti, Putintei, Jora de Jos and Lucaseuca villages.

**Project goal**

The project goal is to increase the knowledge of adolescents (10-19 years old) about their health and empower them to demand in schools age-appropriate and culture-sensitive health education, including reproductive health, human rights and prevention of gender-based violence.

**Project target groups**

The project will directly target young people aged 10-19 years old (in school and out-of-school, including from vulnerable groups) in five rayons of the Republic of Moldova.

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¹ Youth age range according to national legislation (Law no. 215 of 29.07.2016)
² http://recensamant.statistica.md/en
⁴ Population Situation Analysis, Demographic Research Center, 2016