



SAVING AND TRANSFORMING LIVES

MILESTONES 2018

Delivering a world where
every pregnancy is wanted
every childbirth is safe and
every young person's
potential is fulfilled



Ensuring rights and choices for all since 1969



ICPD25
International Conference on
Population and Development

CONTENTS

END UNMET NEED FOR FAMILY PLANNING

Pregnancies by choice, not by chance

6

SAVING WOMEN FROM CERVICAL CANCER

Cervical cancer can be prevented

10

UNLEASHING THE POTENTIAL OF YOUNG PEOPLE

Young people agents of change in schools and communities

14

POLICIES AND DEMOGRAPHIC INTELLIGENCE

It's not about numbers. It's about people

20

END GENDER BASED VIOLENCE

All women and girls to live free of violence and abuse

22

PARTNERSHIPS AND RESOURCES

26

UNFPA Moldova Country Programme 2018-2022

supports the people of Moldova to achieve full realization of sexual and reproductive health and rights. We envision that all women and men and young people in Moldova are empowered to make healthy choices about their lives and prevent harmful behaviours. We believe that unlocking the potential of women and young people is a smart investment and will lead to sustainable results for the future.

Sexual and reproductive health and rights in Moldova: At a glance



Every year, more than 2,600 adolescent girls become mothers. That is the size of two medium villages in the country



61% of Moldovans prefer that people affected by HIV/AIDS are excluded from their communities



Almost daily, a woman is diagnosed with cervical cancer



Violence affects 6 out of 10 women starting from an early age



17% of all women of reproductive age have unmet need for family planning and the biggest need is among young women from rural areas (15-19 years old)



The demand for health education in schools is as low as 10% among adolescents



The rate of youth volunteering is only 18%



UNFPA ENGAGEMENT AND SUPPORT IN 2018

POLICY

Endorsement of the National Programme on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights 2018-2022

Approval of Moldova 2030 National Development Strategy

Approval of the National Strategy on prevention and combating violence against women and domestic violence 2018-2023

INSTITUTIONS

166 health professionals certified in Family Planning

140 medical professionals improved skills in provision of cervical screening services

75 professionals learned how to prevent and address HIV for most at risk of infection populations

22 teachers acquired knowledge in using innovative health education teaching techniques

5 Local Public Authorities learned how to budget for youth activities based on youth needs and their rights

COMMUNITIES

16,400 girls and boys acquired information and skills to safeguard their sexual reproductive health through peer to peer and school-based education

1,000 young people were mobilized by Youth Centres and led community events and civic engagement initiatives

5,700 people were engaged in public debates and interactive activities on youth healthy life style through the "Health education – my right, my choice" community mobilization campaign



END UNMET NEED FOR FAMILY PLANNING

Pregnancies by choice, not by chance

210,115 USD

were allocated in 2018 from the national budget for the procurement of modern contraceptives. As a result:

45,000*

unintended pregnancies among vulnerable population** will be averted in 2019

34,000*

abortions among vulnerable population** will be averted in 2019

* Impact 2 model for measuring the impact of reproductive health programmes, Marie Stopes International.

**Young people up to 24 years old; Low-income families; HIV positive; with substance abuse; with psycho-social disabilities; victims of sexual abuse; women who had an abortion in the last year.

MILESTONES

The National Programme on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights 2018-2022 was approved by the Government. The Programme is accompanied by a costed action plan with a dedicated budget line for centralized procurement from State Budget of contraceptives for vulnerable groups, including young people.

Clinical Protocols on Family Planning (Emergency Contraceptive Pills, Combined Vaginal Ring, Copper-Bearing Intrauterine Device, Combined Oral Contraceptives, Injectable Contraceptives) for family doctors and gynecologists were developed and approved by the Ministry of Health, Labour and Social Protection. The Protocols include provisions related to youth, people with disabilities, people with HIV.

Virtual Contraceptive Consultation, a digital training in Family Planning, was integrated in the medical university curricula in three languages (English, Romanian and Russian). 166 health professionals completed the course with certification.

A training module on **reproductive health in emergencies** was integrated in the medical university curricula.

75 professionals from civil society and public institutions know how to prevent and address HIV for most at risk of infection populations.



Maria, 22, young mother

At the age of 22, Maria is already raising three little girls together with her husband. She gave birth to all of them by surgical c-section. “I lost weight after the first birth, and continued losing weight after every pregnancy. I was very weak.” Even though she had heard that she should protect herself and make longer breaks between births, she did not know how to do it. “I have never discussed such things. I was ashamed.” Maria dropped out education and her family is barely making end meet.

Maria’s story is not unique in the Republic of Moldova. Every year, more than 2,600 young girls are in her situation. The National Programme on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights, adopted in 2018 by the Government, due to UNFPA and WHO advocacy efforts and technical support, will help women and girls like Maria access reproductive health information and services and make healthy choices for their bodies and futures.

IN ACTION

Successful launch of the National Programme on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights 2018-2022 by the Ministry of Health, Labour and Social Protection, in partnership with UNFPA and WHO.



“Every woman has the right to be a mother, if she wants, to plan her family, to be happy”.

Marianna Andrușoi,
a mother of two, emphasized her belief in Family Planning as a Human Right at the World Population Day event.





SAVING WOMEN FROM CERVICAL CANCER

Cervical cancer can be prevented

The Cervical Screening Coordination Unit was established by the Government of the Republic of Moldova at the National Institute of Mother and Child with the role to oversee and coordinate the cervical cancer prevention programme in Moldova.

MILESTONES

The first Survey on **Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices** (Study available here: <https://bit.ly/2TL1f5Z>) on cervical cancer was carried out at national level and brings important data and facts for an evidence-based response to cervical cancer.

Over 140 medical professionals from entire country, including primary health care specialists, colposcopists, laboratory personnel improved skills in providing quality cervical screening services.

The National Colposcopy Referral Centre was set-up at the Institute for Mother and Child and offers quality colposcopy services for women and trainings for specialists. The Center was supplied with modern equipment through the Kusanone Programme of the Embassy of Japan to the Republic of Moldova

Modern training equipment for all medical educational institutions and laboratory equipment for the Cytological Laboratory of the Republican Center for Medical Diagnostics has been procured.



Irina, 46,
cervical screening participant

Irina is 46 years old and is a happy woman because she managed to prevent cervical cancer by doing a screening test. She never had any symptoms that would get her worried. At one of the routine controls, the woman was diagnosed with pre-cancerous lesions, which she treated shortly afterwards. “I was so sure my medical results would turn out fine that I even forgot to give the doctor my phone number,” she recalled. “Seeing my example, all my friends went urgently to the doctor. Some of them discovered they had serious health problems and managed to treat them.”

In the Republic of Moldova, a woman is daily diagnosed with cervical cancer and every three days one dies from this disease. The Cervical Cancer Prevention Programme 2017-2020, initiated by UNFPA and supported by the Government, SDC, RoAid and other partners, supports the health system to provide accessible cervical screening services of the highest quality standards and informs women and girls about their importance.

IN ACTION



Women and health professionals say #OK4PAPtest during Cervical Cancer prevention week campaign.



“Some women address to the family doctor too late, so the counselling and communication techniques that I have learned during the training on cervical screening services are very useful to me”.

Alexandra Anghelova,
midwife at the Health Center
in the village of Avdarma, Comrat.



UNLEASHING THE POTENTIAL OF YOUNG PEOPLE

Young people agents of change in schools and communities

16,400

girls and boys acquired information and skills to safeguard their sexual reproductive health through peer to peer and school-based education

1,000

young people were mobilized by Youth Centres and led community mobilization and civic engagement initiatives

MILESTONES

The curriculum of the **“Health education”** optional course for gymnasiums and high-schools was modernized and includes age appropriate, gender sensitive and cultural adapted information for young people.

Teachers and educators from 22 schools learned how to use innovative health education teaching techniques.

Local **advocacy platforms on health education**, that engage parents, teachers, authorities, religious leaders, were established in 22 communities to raise the demand for youth health education.

5,700 people were engaged in public debates and interactive activities on youth healthy life style through the **“Health education–my right, my choice”** community mobilization campaign.

Six new Youth Centres opened their doors for young people.

15 Youth Centers were assessed and developed institutional action plans to improve the quality of programs and reach more young people, especially those left behind.

Five Local Public Authorities learned how to **budget for youth activities** based on youth needs and their rights.

New partnership with Centre of Excellence in Light Industry for the promotion of reproductive health and rights in **vocational schools** was established.

New partnership with **Municipal Directorate for Child Rights Protection** to reach vulnerable adolescents with reproductive health and rights information and programmes was established.

Ludmila Culidobri, health education teacher



Ludmila is a teacher of “Health Education” at high-school in Cahul, South of Moldova. She teaches the students about reproductive health and rights, healthy life-style and basic life skills in fun and interactive way. Ludmila believes that health education should be part of curricula in all schools to help teenagers build a safer start in the adulthood life. “Many pupils will quickly forget the math or chemistry formulas, but not what they learned during my course”, she says.

The demand for reproductive health education in schools and communities is still low in Moldova. The “Speak Up for Youth Health Education” project, supported by the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, mobilizes teachers, young people, decision makers and communities to promote health education and equip young people with knowledge skills and aspirations for healthy life-style. The activities take place in 22 communities.

IN ACTION

Young girls are engaged in promoting health education and gender equality in their communities through sports.



“Reproductive health information and rights is very important in the technical vocational education, because it helps us getting to understand our behaviours and choices better”.

Students from the Centre of Excellence in Light Industry from Chisinau.





Aurelia, 19,
youth worker

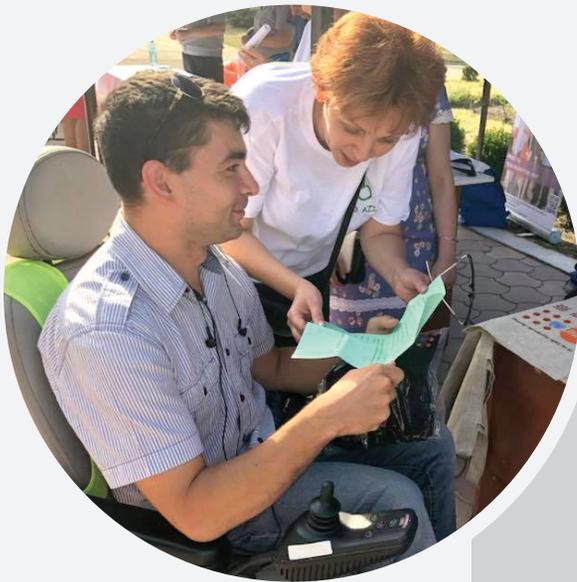
Aurelia Obreja is 19 years old and was employed by the Youth Center in Orhei right after graduating from high school. She has volunteered at the Center for many years and participated in various civic initiatives, as well as in local decision-making. Today, Aurelia combines a distance-learning programme with her job and can't imagine life without helping other young people around. "The activities of a youth worker are colourful. Adolescents come up with new ideas and energy, and it is important that someone supports them in their roles."

Today, Youth Centers in Moldova are present in 20 rayons. The Development Programme for Youth Centers 2017-2022, initiated by the Ministry of Education, Culture and Research in partnership with UNFPA, aims to establish youth centers in all rayons of the country and to transform them in safe spaces for youth development and participation at the local level.

IN ACTION



Young people discuss gender stereotypes and violence against women and girls at the Orhei Youth Centre.



UNFPA supported the celebration of the International Youth Day in Cahul, the youth capital of Moldova in 2018. Young people were engaged in various interactive activities, such as quizzes, and learned about their reproductive health and rights, civic engagement and youth centres.



POLICIES AND DEMOGRAPHIC INTELLIGENCE

It's not about numbers. It's about people

“Gender and Generations Programme”

was launched in Moldova aiming to study reproductive behaviours and trends

“Youth Score Card”

was elaborated and launched to monitor the development of young people

MILESTONES

The Government of the Republic of Moldova funded the **Gender and Generations Survey**, which will study the family structure and desired fertility to support human rights based policies in response to demographic changes.

The Youth Score Card (available here: <https://bit.ly/213r8Mf>), a tool that monitors situation of young people in education, health, participation in decision-making, employment, risk situations and social inclusion in every rayon of the country was developed and launched nationally.

For the first time, National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) estimated migration flows **that allowed to revise the population number** of the Republic of Moldova based on actual numbers.

NBS was equipped with a **new software** for processing a large amount of administrative data for calculating the new population number.

Census app (<http://recensamant.statistica.md>) was updated and provides high-disaggregated data in alignment with international recommendations.



END GENDER BASED VIOLENCE

All women and girls to live free of violence and abuse

11,026

cases of domestic violence were referred to the police in 2018, which is double amount of cases six years ago

3,877

emergency restriction orders were issued by police in 2018 to protect survivors, nearly twice more compared to 2017

MILESTONES

A National **Strategy on prevention and combating violence** against women and domestic violence 2018-2023 approved.

Health and social care professionals from five rayons piloted **Standard Operating Procedures** to improve prevention and response to violence against women and girls. The Procedures are in line with UN Global Essential Services on Gender Based Violence.

A set of indicators to track the cases of gender-based violence in health sector were developed to be integrated in **the health management information system**.

“Don’t blame the clothes” – a powerful exhibition of sexual violence survivors’ outfits, accompanied by their stories (can be read here: <https://bit.ly/2HZgaYd>), was presented at the State University of Moldova. Students could learn about prevention of gender based violence and stereotypes during one week.



Iuliana, 15, one of sexual violence survivors

Iuliana's story demonstrates how sexual abuse against women and girls tears apart their lives. Raped at the age of 15, she cut off her long hair, started to wear only men's clothes and even now, a dozen years later, has difficulties in building relationships. "My boyfriend would like me to wear a dress, use makeup or do my hair, but I can't do that because that would mean provoking men. I don't want this. I will never be able to make myself beautiful," Iuliana said in her testimonial, featured in the "Don't blame the clothes" exhibit, organized by UNFPA in 2018.

More than 40% of men in Moldova believe that women themselves are responsible for the rape cases and if a woman has a 'bad reputation' or does not physically resist an assault, the case should not be considered rape. UNFPA combatted the stereotypes during the public exhibit "Don't blame the clothes" organized at the State University of Moldova.

IN ACTION



Social care professionals from five rayons provide inputs to the Standard Operating Procedures to improve prevention and response to violence against women.



“Everything depends on education and it would be good to organize awareness raising initiatives more often, at schools, universities and private companies to fight stereotypes around gender based violence.”

**Alexandru Agrici, 19-year-old student
at the Faculty of Law, State University of Moldova.**



PARTNERSHIPS AND RESOURCES

1,007,833 USD

was the total budget invested by
UNFPA in 2018

64%

UNFPA resources

36%

Donors' resources

THANKS TO OUR PARTNERS



Kingdom of the Netherlands



MINISTRY OF
EDUCATION, CULTURE
AND RESEARCH



MINISTRY OF HEALTH,
LABOUR AND SOCIAL
PROTECTION



Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands is UNFPA donor supporting the safe behaviours of young people through quality health education in schools.

Swiss Cooperation Office in Moldova and Romanian Agency for International Development are supporting UNFPA to strengthen cervical cancer prevention efforts. Swiss Cooperation Office is also partnering with UNFPA to strengthen **participation and civic engagement** among young people in Moldova and supports **the revision of population number** by the National Bureau of Statistics

The **Ministry of Education, Culture and Research** is partnering with UNFPA through a “Joint Fund” established to develop Youth Centres in the country.

Orange Foundation will invest in building innovative labs in selected Youth centres as a result of UNFPA efforts to convene partners for empowerment of young people.

The **Ministry of Health, Labour and Social Protection, National Bureau of Statistics and Netherlands Interdisciplinary Demographic Institute** are collaborating with UNFPA within “Gender and Generations Survey Programme”.

UNAIDS is partnering with UNFPA within Joint UN Plan on AIDS, based on UBRAF Funds, to improve HIV response and prevention among Key Populations.

UNFPA IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS

State Medical and Pharmaceutical University “N. Testemitanu”
National Institute of Mother and Child
Center for Health Policies and Studies
Women’s Law Centre
National Bureau of Statistics
Independent Think-Thank “EXPERT-GRUP”

National Youth Council of Moldova
Educational Center “PRO-DIDACTICA”
Partnerships for Every Child
Terre des hommes Moldova
Youth Peer to Peer Network “Y-PEER Moldova”



UNFPA Moldova works in a dynamic context, where we build partnerships, foster innovation and are determined to deliver transformative results every day.

We are always looking for new and better ways to do this.
We welcome new partnerships.

If you would like to know more about our work, please visit:
www.moldova.unfpa.org

If you would like to join us and share your views, please contact:
office@unfpa.md; (+ 373 22) 214002

Connect with us:



@UNFPAMoldova



<https://twitter.com/UNFPAMoldova>



UNFPA Moldova



United Nations Population Fund
31 August 131 Street
Chisinau, Republic of Moldova