



UNFPA, United Nations Population Fund in the Republic of Moldova

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



PROMOTING HEALTH EDUCATION
AMONG YOUNG PEOPLE



EXPLORING STATISTICS IN A CREATIVE WAY



ENSURING REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS AND HEALTH FOR ALL



CERVICAL CANCER CAN BE PREVENTED



SPEAK UP AGAINST
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE



HEALTHY AND ACTIVE AGEING

FOREWORD

UNFPA, United Nations Population Fund, is the lead UN agency for reproductive health and rights for all. We uphold the rights of women and young people in over 155 countries, by promoting their dignity, equality and inclusivity. In the Republic of Moldova we are present since 1995.

We are grateful to our partners – government institutions, development partners, civil society organizations, the private sector, academia, communities and individuals – who supported us along the way to fulfill our mission and bring positive changes in the lives of many people of Moldova. Together we managed to save lives and empower women and men, boys and girls.

As we are embarking on a new Country Programme for 2018-2022 we are committed to further support the country towards full realization of reproductive health and rights. We strongly believe that unlocking the potential of women and young people is a smart investment and will lead to sustainable results for the future.

We believe that our mandate has never been more relevant than today and are confident that with joint efforts we will come closer to realizing a world where no one is left behind.

Join us in delivering a bright and bold world to secure a better life for all.

Rita Columbia,
UNFPA Moldova Representative

This publication provides a brief overview of UNFPA activities and results for people in the Republic of Moldova and outlines the vision for the 2018-2022 Country Programme.

HEALTH EDUCATION AND YOUTH PARTICIPATION



Adelina: “We are used to complain, but it’s more important to find solutions”

She has always been shy and withdrawn, preferring to sit quietly at her school desk and stay invisible. Even if she knew the answers to questions, she had never dared to raise her hand and answer them, because she was afraid to be wrong.

However, since she became a volunteer at Y-PEER Moldova, a youth network, supported by UNFPA, which promotes youth participation through peer education on healthy life styles, Adelina’s life has changed. She is not afraid anymore to express herself; she is more courageous and more self-confident.

Adelina is 16 and lives in Balti town, Northern Moldova. She has been a member of Y-PEER since early 2017. She learned about this network of young people from a school peer and decided to try her powers. She learned about her body and healthy behaviours and relationships, negotiation skills and how to make right decisions. She was empowered and excited to share the knowledge with other girls, just like her, to make their lives safer.

Supervised by teachers, Adelina brings powerful examples and useful information about healthy life styles to her peers. ‘My group is attended by pupils from 7 to 12 grades. They listen to me attentively, even if they are older than me’, she says.

The young girl has big plans for her own life and helps her friends to dream big too. She wants to bring a change in their lives. ‘You know, we are used to complain, but I think it’s more important to find solutions. If we fight for our rights all together, including for the right to health and education, then we will see the change.

I say ‘yes’ to this change and I invite all my peers to join me’, says confidently Adelina.

FACTS AND FIGURES

- Over **one million** of young people live in Moldova; one in three persons is aged **15-34** years;
- Only **a half** of sexually active young people aged **15-24** used a condom;
- Only **1/3** of young people have comprehensive knowledge about HIV;
- **Six out of ten** people infected with sexually transmitted diseases are young people in the age group of **15-29** years;
- Every year, about **3,000** adolescent girls aged **15-19** years become mothers, which is two times higher compared to EU countries;
- **One abortion in ten** is made in young girls aged **15-19** years, and the situation has not changed during the last decade.



UNFPA helps young people, especially adolescent girls, remain healthy and reach their full potential through innovative education, training and services.

UNFPA'S KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- More than **55,000** young people were informed about sexual and reproductive health and rights;
- **Y-PEER** doubled its reach from **17** to **36** districts of Moldova, increasing the access of young people to quality information and contributing to prevention of HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases;
- **Social Theatre Festival** was institutionalized in the country as a national edutainment instrument engaging young people in health education promotion;
- **349** school nurses built skills in delivering an age-appropriate sexual and reproductive health education and counselling to young people in schools;
- The National Strategy on Youth Development **2020** was approved.

REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS



Irina and Vladimir have planned their family and have a healthy child

“During the few days of Ira’s stay at the maternity hospital I lost 5 kg. When the doctor told me ‘Congratulations! You have a son!’ I burst into tears like a baby”, recalls Vladimir of the happiest day of his life. Tears and emotions overwhelmed him, because for a long time he had not even dreamed about such a miracle.

Vladimir has been HIV-positive for several years. When he learned about his health status, he lost his hopes for the future, and could not even dream about a family and children. However, things changed when he met Irina, his wife, who gave him hopes and power to go on.

In the beginning after they got married, they faced difficulties because they had no information about how to be safe and healthy. They have learned about sexual and reproductive health rights, including about free-of-charge contraceptives, provided as part of UNFPA supported services. Now they speak openly about their family, and teach others how to protect themselves and live a fulfilling life.

‘I wasn’t afraid of getting infected, though I admitted the risk. That is why we planned the pregnancy and did everything possible to conceive the child beyond any danger. We consulted a HIV specialist, performed medical tests, took vitamins, and led a healthy life. Vova also had a viral load medical test, which could not be detected over the whole period of treatment’, reveals Irina.

And when Bogdan was born healthy, she was floating with happiness. ‘No words can render these feelings. It is a state of supreme quiet and peace’.

FACTS AND FIGURES

- Only **one third** of women of reproductive age use modern methods of contraception;
- **Every tenth** woman, married or in-union, declared unmet needs for modern contraception;
- Incidence of sexually transmitted diseases (syphilis, gonorrhoea) in Moldova is **one of the highest** in the Central Eastern Europe region;
- The incidence of HIV among young people aged **15-24** has almost doubled over the past **15** years;
- Estimates show that about **15,500** people from the Republic of Moldova are living with HIV, and about half of them do not know their status.



UNFPA empowers women and men to manage their sexual and reproductive health and protects the health of mothers during pregnancy and childbirth.

UNFPA'S KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- The Government took ownership over the procurement of contraceptives for the most vulnerable groups in **2015**;
- About **295,000** unintended pregnancies among the vulnerable women and girls were averted in the last five years;
- About **4,000** HIV-positive people and people with high risk of infection received quality sexual and reproductive healthcare services in medical institutions in **2017**;
- The rate of mother-to-child HIV transmission **has decreased** in Moldova, thanks to the improvement of medical services and public information campaigns about HIV prevention and reproductive health.

CERVICAL CANCER PREVENTION



Otilia succeeded to prevent cancer thanks to timely cervical screening

Otilia is 33 years old and has a beautiful family with three children. Today, Otilia enjoys her family and, being an active and dynamic person, she manages well the work-life balance.

But her life could have been different if she did not go through a regular screening of cervical cancer seven years ago. In 2010, her world was shattered when she heard a news from her doctor that she was detected with precancerous cervical lesions.

“My doctor called and told to come to the clinic urgently. I understood that something was wrong. I did not expect that my regular checkup and Pap smear test would bring bad news. However, I was relieved to know that I was diagnosed at early stage.”

UNFPA initiative on prevention of cervical cancer allowed thousands of women like Otilia to prevent cervical cancer through screening program, as well as to early diagnose and treat cervical cancer by well-trained health professionals.

A year ago, Otilia got the good test results and finally heard the long-awaited news - she is healthy!

With three children and a loving husband, Otilia feels that she has her whole life ahead.

FACTS AND FIGURES

- Almost **daily** a woman is diagnosed with cervical cancer in the Republic of Moldova;
- Every **three days** a woman dies from this disease;
- Over the past five years, more than **1,500** women developed cervical cancer and more than **1,000** died;
- Young women, aged **35-45** years, are mainly affected, which seriously impacts their lives, their families and the whole society;
- Cervical cancer can be easily prevented by well-organized cervical screening programs among women aged **25-61** years and vaccination against Human Papilloma Virus in adolescence;
- The countries that have implemented such national programs have a much **lower** cervical cancer rate.



UNFPA works to ensure women and adolescent girls can access quality reproductive health care and exercise their rights.

UNFPA'S KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- Improved national regulations for cervical cancer screening based on the Action Plans on Strengthening the Capacities in Implementing the Cervical Screening in the Republic Moldova for **2014-2015** and **2016-2018**;
- The proportion of women receiving cervical screening was introduced as a performance indicator for primary health care workers;
- Over **400** primary health care workers from all regions of the country were trained in provision of quality cervical screening services;
- A cervical cancer **coordination unit** was set up to coordinate the national programme on prevention of cervical cancer;
- Strengthened national capacity in **colposcopy**.

END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS



Mrs. Lidia reported the violence and was saved

Domestic violence, against a spouse, is a frequently debated topic in our society; violence against one's own mother or father is a less visible phenomenon.

This is not because it does not exist, but because in most cases parents do not disclose the acts of aggression, they do not want to go against their own children.

Mrs. Lidia, 78 years old, experienced physical and psychological abuse from her son for many years. 'Many times I slept in the street or at the station only to run away from his hits', Mrs. Lidia recalls with pain.

Her nightmare had lasted for years, until one day the old woman gathered all her strengths and made a complaint to police against her son. Since then, her life has changed; she received all the help she needed - psychological counselling, legal assistance and financial support.

This could not be possible without UNFPA's initiative on educating police officers and health-care workers to provide support to survivors of gender-based violence and collaborate with national partners.

'I am not afraid anymore that he will kill me while I am sleeping, as he threatened me each time when he got drunk. I am minding my own business. I have a piece of land, which I harvest for food. Thank you for all your help', Mrs. Lidia said

FACTS AND FIGURES

- **Six out of ten** women, especially from rural areas, experienced a particular type of violence: psychological, physical or sexual, from their husband or partner in their lifetime;
- **One in three** old persons was subject to violence, of which the majority are women;
- Only **8.4%** of abused women reported the case to the police;
- Gender-based violence undermines the health, dignity, security and autonomy of persons, having serious consequences on their lives.



UNFPA fights to end violence against women and girls and protect them from harmful practices that prevent them from realizing their full potential.

UNFPA'S KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- **Protection Orders** were introduced, forcing the perpetrator to leave the house;
- More than **4,000** Protection Orders were issued in the last five years, ensuring an increased protection for the women affected by violence;
- **600** police officers were trained and know how to intervene efficiently in cases of domestic violence and protect victims;
- **764** family doctors and nurses from **20** districts of the country were trained and know how to intervene and provide health care in the cases of domestic violence;
- The survivors and perpetrators of domestic violence can receive family planning counselling in **17** rehabilitation and reintegration facilities from eight districts of the country.

USE OF DATA FOR POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT



Rosaura and Antonia made the data speak about You(th)

Rosaura Sanchez from Mexico and Antonia Guttman from Germany are two girls, who succeeded to conquer the Moldova's public by creating a new mobile application used for the visualization of Population and Housing Census data.

Volunteers at the National Youth Council of Moldova, they were happy to learn about the #Data Youth Hackathon, organised by UNFPA and partners, and eager to take part in it.

The girls' idea was to create an interactive game for young people, which would provoke them to answer different questions about age, ethnicity, health, education, migration and other similar issues.

'We wanted to spread the word that Census data are about each and every inhabitant of this country. By learning their level of uniqueness and knowing how many persons are in the same situation like them, young people can understand better the context they are living in and come up with solutions to development challenges', said Antonia and Rosaura.

UNFPA educated young people about data and engaged them in disseminating Census data in simple and acceptable way. Now the girls are enthusiastic and waiting to finalize the project jointly with National Bureau of Statistics and with support from UNFPA.

'We hope to have a nice collaboration. We encourage all young people in Moldova to explore statistics for the purpose of human development', urge the girls.

FACTS AND FIGURES

- Out of its total number of population, almost $\frac{1}{4}$ are young people between the ages of **16** and **30**;
- Disaggregated data for measuring the progress towards Sustainable Development Goals are available for **only half** of nationalized indicators.



UNFPA ensures that everyone, everywhere is counted and accounted for, in the pursuit of sustainable development.

UNFPA'S KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- The National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) received international technical advice in following the **2010** Census Global Recommendations throughout the entire exercise of the Population and Housing Census (PHC);
- Strategy and Operational Plan for Development of National Statistical System **2020** is in place;
- For the first time in the Republic of Moldova, data on disability has been collected, analysed and disseminated by the NBS, as part of the **2014** PHC;
- The Government has validated a new **Concept Vision** on Population and Development to shift its demographic policies to a new paradigm grounded on evidence, international practices and human rights and in alignment with recommendations from the International Advisory Panel on Population and Development. The Concept Vision is at the core of development of the national development strategy Moldova **2030**;
- A **Demographic Research Center** has been established with the main role to research, analyse and provide complex policy options tailored to the current demographic context of the country.

HEALTHY AND ACTIVE AGEING



Old people from Bahrinesti village empowered to age actively

Gathered in the Mayor's Office of Bahrinesti village, Floresti district, in the north of Moldova, about 15 senior citizens, most of them women, listened carefully to the Mayor of the village, Feodosia Bunesco. She told them with enthusiasm about a new initiative that will revive their village.

'We will have here, in Bahrinesti, a real "learning centre" for the elderly. We will dance, draw, learn how to use a computer and will spend the time in the most interesting and useful way for you', she explained.

Bahrinesti is one of the settlements that won the Small Grants Program, provided by the Ministry of Health, Labour and Social Protection for active ageing activities. For the first time in the Republic of Moldova, in 2017 such grants were provided from the state budget as part of the Action Plan on Active Ageing developed with support from UNFPA.

Bahrinesti is a village with about 2000 inhabitants, most of whom are over 60 years old. Although sceptical at first, they gradually agreed on this idea. 'I would really like to learn how to use a computer. My grandchild, who is in the 5th grade, shows me how to use it, but I would like to manage it on my own', said one of the women. 'I am not sure about drawing, but I will definitely come to crochet', stated another person.

The Ministry of Health, Labour and Social Protection will continue the Small Grant Initiative on Active Ageing to engage more communities in healthy and more productive living.

FACTS AND FIGURES

- **17%** of the total population is older than **60** years old. If the trend continues, the elderly population will constitute about **33%** of the total country population by **2050**;
- According to the Active Ageing Index elderly in Moldova are the least integrated in the social and economic life compared to their peers in European countries;
- More than **70%** of people aged **55** years and more are not active enough;
- Only **3%** of old people use information technologies compared to **41%** which is the EU average;
- **Every second** elderly in Moldova considers his/her health condition being poor or very poor.



UNFPA is passionate and committed to improving the well-being of individuals and communities by supporting active and healthy ageing.

UNFPA'S KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- The Action Plan on Active Ageing is in place;
- **Active Ageing Index** developed, which measures the access of people aged **55** years and older to active and healthy ageing;
- **Sixteen** nongovernmental organisations created the Platform for Active Ageing, as a tool to advocate for the rights of older people in Moldova;
- A **Small Grants Program** for active ageing initiatives financed from the national public budget was launched in **2017**;
- Ageing issues are mainstreamed into several sectorial policies (health, employment, social protection), facilitating an efficient integration of elderly rights and needs in the public policies.

Commitment



1/3 of births among girls aged 15-19 averted by 2020.

Strategic focus and results

Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights



- Advocacy for increased access to integrated sexual and reproductive health services and fulfilment of reproductive rights of women, girls and key populations;
- Support in institutionalization of quality of care mechanisms for sexual and reproductive health services;
- Increase access to reproductive health commodities of vulnerable groups;
- Support in revision and monitoring of health clinical protocols and curricula;

Adolescents and Youth



- Provide evidences for strengthening national commitments to prioritize, invest and empower adolescents and youth;
- Improve education system capacity to promote age-appropriate education for health, including sexual and reproductive health education, prevention of gender based violence and human rights;
- Scale-up outreach education on sexual and reproductive health and rights through Youth Friendly Health Clinics Network and peer to peer education network;

- Improve humanitarian preparedness mechanisms, and incorporate the sexual and reproductive health needs of women and young people in national humanitarian contingency plans;
- Support health system to reduce incidence and mortality of women attributable to cervical cancer;
- Increase multisector capacity in addressing gender based violence.
- Support the creation of advocacy platform (youth-led NGOs, human rights advocates, media associations, young people) to advocate for increased access to sexual and reproductive health education and services of young people;
- Support local public authorities to prioritize investment in young people, including through development of local youth centres.

Population and Data



- Strengthen national statistical capacity in production of disaggregated data in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals implementation and monitoring;
- Support in improving administrative data and developing real time monitoring mechanisms and use of big data on sexual and reproductive health, including gender-based violence;
- Increase national capacity in population forecasting for policy decisions;
- Promote use of disaggregated data in planning and decision-making by local public authorities to address the needs and rights of young people;
- Provide technical assistance for revision of demographic statistics based on Census 2014 results and provide technical expertise in conducting next Census.

JOIN US

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:

moldova.office@unfpa.org; (+ 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

