

INVESTING IN RESILIENCE WILL ENSURE A SOCIETY THAT IS READY TO FACE THE CHALLENGES OF CLIMATE CHANGE AND NATURAL DISASTERS

THE ISSUE:

Moldova's economy, population and environment are highly vulnerable to climate change and natural hazards and the impacts are expected to intensify. Investing in building a resilient society today secures development gains, protects livelihoods and saves money. The cost of inaction is high: recurring floods, droughts and other natural disasters cause considerable human and monetary losses, particularly on:

- **Agriculture:** decreased productivity and losses due to recurring droughts causing aridity, heat stress, flash floods, and landslides;
- **Water sector:** decrease of surface and ground water supplies, deteriorating water quality and lack of access to potable water;
- **Human health:** heat waves, disasters, increased risk of waterborne and foodborne diseases and appearance of new vector-borne diseases, degrading livelihoods of poorer rural residents.

As party to the Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), Moldova committed to develop, implement and report on adaptation measures, to take climate change into account in social, economic and environmental policies and actions, and to promote education and public awareness related to climate change. The EU and Moldova agreed to work together on climate change, including developing measures to mitigate and adapt to climate change with the Association Agreement foreseeing the development of a national strategy to adapt to climate change, as well as measures for the integration of climate considerations into policies.

KEY FIGURES:

- During 1984-2006, Moldova's average annual economic **losses due to natural disasters were about 2.13 percent of national GDP;**
- The **droughts** in 2007 and 2012 caused **estimated losses of about US\$1 billion and US\$1.25 billion** respectively;
- The 2008 **floods** cost the country about **US\$120 million**, those in 2010 **US\$ 42 million**.

Sources: World Bank (2010/2012), Government of Moldova: Post Disaster Needs Assessment (2010), FAO (2012)

PROGRESS MADE:

- The Government recently adopted a National Adaptation Strategy to help establish a strong enabling environment and clear direction for an effective and coherent adaptation process across all sectors.
- The Civil Protection and Emergency Situations Service under the Ministry of Interior initiated the development of a National Disaster and Climate Risk Management Strategy and first steps were made in promoting an institutional reform in the sector.
- Some sectors have already started to address climate change and disaster risks as integral part of their policies. Due to their high vulnerability, agriculture and health are frontrunners.

- At the local level, planners have started to integrate climate change into socio-economic development strategies and urban plans. Guidance and toolkits have been developed to guide them in this process.
- The Ministry of Environment initiated a comprehensive National Adaptation Planning process at the end of which Moldova should have a system and capacities in place for medium to long-term adaptation planning and budgeting. This process is supported by the first “fast-start climate financing” resources coming to Moldova.

WHAT REMAINS TO BE DONE:

Investment in a resilient society has to be a priority. To ensure that Moldova’s social and economic development is resilient to the impacts of climate change and natural disasters, there is a need to:

- **Improve the knowledge of sectoral planners and decision makers.** Policy makers in all sectors should have understanding and capacity for climate resilient planning, through raising awareness and targeted training and guidance materials.
- **Ensure effective inter-ministerial and inter-sectoral coordination,** across all relevant stakeholders and within the government.
- **Integrate climate change in policies and plans at national, sectoral and local level,** establishing a systematic process of identifying the climate change risk, combined with appropriate incentives and structures to incorporate adaptation into existing and planned policies, plans and budgets.

- **Adopt a forward looking approach focused on prevention, risk reduction and preparedness.** Modernized policies and institutional frameworks are required, combined with increased awareness, better warning systems, cross-border collaboration, and local level action.
- **Identify and mobilize national and international financing for adaptation and ensure that financing flows to the local level,** based on a realistic assessment of adaptation costs and identification of financing sources.

HOW TO ACHIEVE IT:

- Allocate financial resources for implementation of the National Adaptation Strategy and its Action Plan.
- Secure highest-level engagement in the National Adaptation Planning process which requires a legal mandate, a coordination mechanism, national and sectoral adaptation plans and financing.
- Ensure Moldova fulfills all the prerequisites that allow it to tap into international climate finance and benefit from the range of financing instruments available.
- Adopt and allocate resources for the National Disaster and Climate Risk Management Strategy, under preparation by the Civil Protection and Emergency Situations Service. Prioritize investments in prevention and preparedness.
- Swiftly nominate a National Focal Point under the Hyogo Framework for Action (currently vacant) which will allow Moldova to keep abreast of international negotiations and shape the new policy and practice issues related to the forthcoming revision of the Framework in 2015.