



## Factsheet

### Poverty in Moldova, the Millennium Development Goals and the Sustainable Development Goals: facts and figures

At the Millennium Summit in New York in September 2000, Moldova committed to achieve the eight Millennium Development Goals by 2015. Goal n.1 was to reduce extreme poverty and hunger. For the achievement of this goal, global targets were set: halving the proportion of people living on less than 1 USD a day and halving the proportion of people who suffer from hunger.

Moldova set its own national targets and data collection methods, defined by the Government with the support of international partners. On all targets, a constant downward trend has been visible after 2008 (see graphs below). The first target was bringing down to 23% the percentage of people leaving below the national poverty line of 4.3 USD per day – this was reached in 2010. On extreme poverty, defined as the share of people below minimum levels of food consumption, the target of 3.5% was reached in 2009.

Despite this success, the work on poverty reduction is far from concluded. Three main drivers account for these results: an increase of remittances during the period analysed, better targeted social support systems, and rising incomes in agriculture. While remittances and social support systems can represent solutions in the short run, they are extremely fragile to external factors and unsustainable in the longer run.

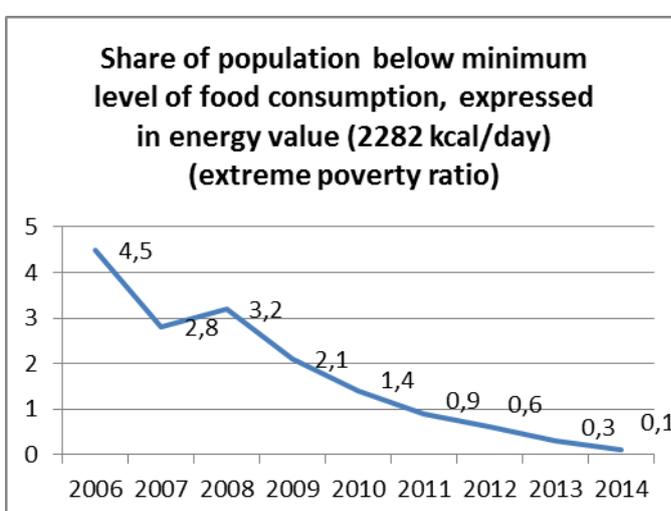
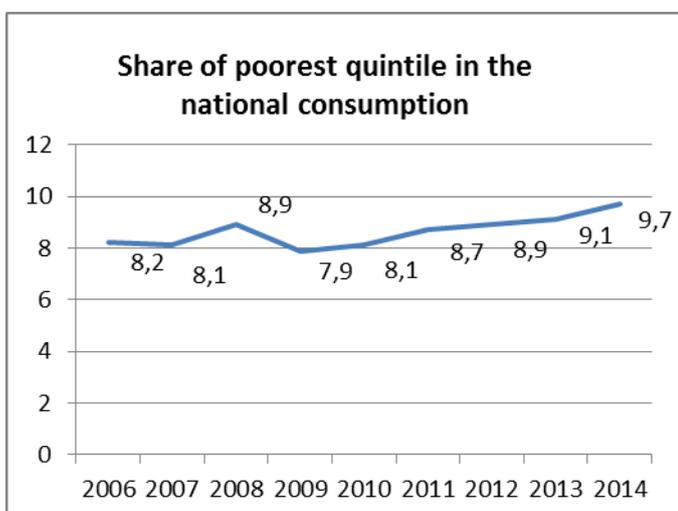
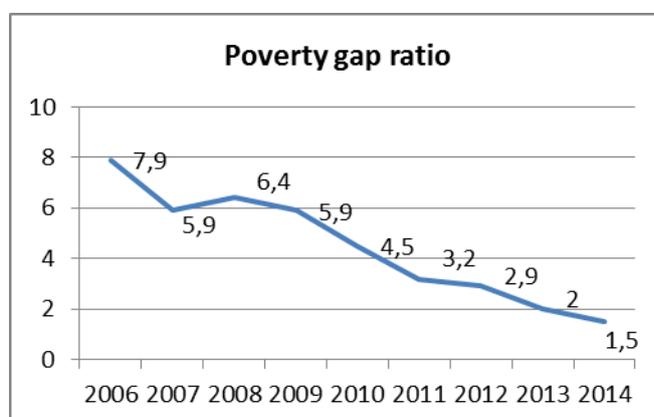
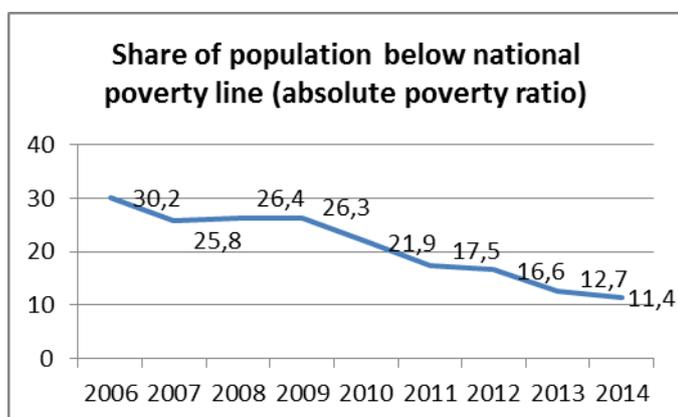
2015 can represent a test year for Moldova's approach to poverty reduction, transitioning from short term to longer term solutions. For the future, better access to and higher quality of education, a friendlier business environment and inclusive economic growth policies will need to play a prominent role in poverty reduction, together with building systems for better resilience to climate factors such as drought.

Several United Nations agencies are now assisting Moldovan authorities in this direction. The new Sustainable Development Goals and its global targets, approved by the UN General Assembly in September, will now need to be localised and translated into national targets, and once again Goal n.1 is poverty reduction. The UN will support this process, in open consultation with the people of Moldova by using online and offline participatory tools to gather a wide range of contributions about how to best proceed on the path of poverty reduction and how to measure the progress more robustly.

In comparison to Millennium Development Goal 1, which focused on income-based poverty, the Sustainable Development Goals adopt a more comprehensive approach aimed at ensuring equality. Sustainable Development Goal 1 therefore switches to a multi-dimensional poverty measurement which takes into account the deprivation and exclusion of different population groups, including the most vulnerable.

**More information on poverty-related MDG indicators:**

- The share of population below the national poverty line (absolute poverty ratio) is calculated, since 2006, on the basis of the national officially approved definition of poverty. The absolute poverty ratio depends on the value of the national poverty line which was for example equal to 1,197 MLD per month in 2013 (or only 95 USD). So, the lower the poverty line, the fewer people are considered to be poor. In 2013, 132,000 people in Moldova were considered poor according to these criteria.
- The poverty gap ratio is an improvement over the absolute poverty ratio which simply counts all the people below a poverty line, in a given population, and considers them equally poor. Poverty gap ratio estimates the depth of poverty by considering how far, on the average, the poor are from that poverty line.
- The share of poorest quintile in national consumption is defined as the share of a country's national consumption or income that accrues to the bottom 20 percent of the population. This indicator is expressed as a percentage.
- Extreme poverty ratio can be measured in different ways. The measurement adopted for Moldova is the percentage of the population eating less food than is required to sustain the human body.



**Background:**

The media debate on the level of achievement of the Millennium Development Goals in Moldova was kick started by a series of public interventions by UN representatives, and in particular UN Resident Coordinator/UNDP Resident Representative Dafina Gercheva, on the occasion of United Nations 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary on 24 October 2015, and for the launch of the new Sustainable Development Goals which were approved by the UN General Assembly on 25 September 2015.

**For further information:**

- Database of MDG indicators, National Bureau of Statistics of the Republic of Moldova: [http://statbank.statistica.md/pxweb/Dialog/view.asp?ma=ODM0101\\_en&ti=Revised+indicators+for+Millenium+Development+Goals%2C+2000%2D2010&path=../quicktables/EN/ODM/&lang=3](http://statbank.statistica.md/pxweb/Dialog/view.asp?ma=ODM0101_en&ti=Revised+indicators+for+Millenium+Development+Goals%2C+2000%2D2010&path=../quicktables/EN/ODM/&lang=3)
- Latest Millennium Development Goals report for Moldova: [http://www.md.undp.org/content/dam/moldova/docs/Publications/UNDP\\_MD\\_3rdMDGREport\\_Eng.pdf](http://www.md.undp.org/content/dam/moldova/docs/Publications/UNDP_MD_3rdMDGREport_Eng.pdf)