



United Nations
MOLDOVA

2012 Progress Report

**United Nations - Republic of Moldova
Development Assistance Framework
2007 - 2012**

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Acronyms

| | |
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| CALM | Congress of Local Authorities |
| CBO | Community-Based Organization |
| CSO | Civil Society Organization |
| DCFTA | Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area |
| GDP | Gross Domestic Product |
| HIV/AIDS | Human Immunodeficiency Virus/ Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome |
| MDG | Millennium Development Goal |
| MICS | Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey |
| NGO | Non-Governmental Organization |
| OSCE | Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe |
| STI | Sexually Transmitted Infection |
| UPR | Universal Periodic Review |
| USD | United States Dollars |

UN Country Team

| | |
|----------|--|
| FAO | Food and Agriculture Organization |
| IFAD | International Fund for Agricultural Development |
| ILO | International Labour Organization |
| IOM | International Organization for Migration |
| OHCHR | Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights |
| UNAIDS | Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS |
| UNDP | United Nations Development Programme |
| UNESCO | United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization |
| UNFPA | United Nations Population Fund |
| UNHCR | United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees |
| UNICEF | United Nations Children's Fund |
| UN Women | United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women |
| WHO | World Health Organization |

Non-Resident UN Agencies

| | |
|----------|--|
| IAEA | International Atomic Energy Agency |
| ITC | International Trade Centre |
| UNCITRAL | United Nations Commission on International Trade Law |
| UNCTAD | United Nations Conference on Trade and Development |
| UNECE | United Nations Economic Commission for Europe |
| UNEP | United Nations Environment Programme |
| UNIDO | United Nations Industrial Development Organization |
| UNODC | United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime |

Introduction

In March 2012, the election of Nicolae Timofti as President of the Republic ended a long-term political stalemate, providing a positive and much improved basis for the implementation of reforms, and helping to instill a sense of stability among the population.

To a large extent, Moldova managed to overcome the economic downturn, as strong private consumption and booming exports allowed the economy to expand beyond its pre-crisis level. However, the foundations of the growth remain shaky. The recovery has been jobless and remittance-fuelled consumption has remained central to further expansion of economy. Following GDP growth of 7 percent in 2010 and 6.4 percent in 2011 the economy was set for a sharp slowdown in 2012 with latest projections pointing to an expected growth of 0.3 percent, given the economic slowdown in the Eurozone and the related drop in remittances.

Over the summer, Moldova suffered the combined impacts of poor rainfall and extremely high temperatures, leading to one of the most severe droughts in recent history, with widespread reductions in yields and crop failures. The drought caused an estimated 20 percent reduction in agriculture production, thus further denting growth prospects.

According to the IMF, the economy is expected to pick up considerably and grow by 4 percent in 2013. This expansion should be supported by recovery in external demand, investment in infrastructure, and increase in total factor productivity.

Moldova recorded good progress in its dialogue with the EU, concluding negotiations on a number of important matters, such as customs cooperation, setting-up of a common aviation area, protection of geographical indications, and association to the 7th Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development, which opens up access to EU thematic programmes. With these agreements, Moldova becomes the fastest-advancing among the Eastern Partnership countries aspiring to conclude Association Agreements with the European Union. By end of 2012, 23 out of 24 chapters of the Association Agreement have been provisionally closed.

Negotiations on the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area (DCFTA) are advancing. The visa dialogue, which aims at laying the ground for visa-free travel of Moldovan citizens to the EU, is ongoing in accordance with the EU-Moldova Visa Liberalization Action Plan. Moldova met all benchmarks set for the first phase of the plan in June, including 42 legislative measures, and in November entered the second - and last - phase.

The Government aims to conclude the negotiations on visa liberalization, DCFTA and Association Agreement as soon as November 2013 at the Eastern Partnership Summit in Vilnius. The challenge that Moldova currently faces is the need for a rapid and effective passing from negotiations with the EU to implementation of commitments, i.e. from policy development to implementation, to ensure the people feel the positive effects of the reforms on their lives.

Decentralization reform progressed significantly, with the Decentralization Strategy adopted by Parliament on 5 April. The strategy aims to strengthen the role of local public authorities in making public expenditure more transparent and efficient, and to equitably improve the population's access to basic public services, such as education, health, and water and sanitation. While major challenges such as administrative territorial reform remain to be addressed, in the long term it is expected that the decentralization reform will help Moldova overcome the rural-urban divide that has obstructed the country's progress in recent years.

Justice sector reform is another major objective of the Government programme "European Integration: Liberty, Democracy, Welfare" 2011-2014. The Justice Sector Reform Strategy 2011-2016 was adopted by the Parliament on 25 November 2011, and the Action Plan has been approved in early 2012. The implementation of the plan will build an accessible, efficient, independent, transparent and professional justice sector with high public accountability and consistent with European standards, which will ensure the rule of law and protection of human rights and contribute to increased society's trust in the acts of justice.

Further progress has been made in the area of human rights. In 2012, the Government finalized the process for consideration and acceptance of the Universal Periodic Review recommendations, and incorporated them into the National Human Rights Action Plan 2011-2014. The adoption of the Equal Opportunities Law in May established the institutional framework for ensuring non-discrimination.

Moldova continued to promote the reform in education and improve access and quality of education services. Law Number 91 was adopted by Parliament, setting the legal basis for the promotion of the education structural reform, education decentralization, and implementation of the new financing of primary and general secondary education institutions.

While significant progress has been made in certain dimensions of human well-being, economy, governance and management of ecosystems, the achievement of all eight national Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by the target date of 2015 remains a challenge and progress on the achievement of the national targets remained uneven. The main areas of concern are MDG 2 (Achieve universal access to general compulsory education) and MDG 6 (Combat HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and other diseases), whose targets Moldova is likely to miss. Little data is available on MDG 7 (Ensure environmental sustainability), however it is clear the country is not on track with targets related to water and sanitation. As 2015 draws closer, country consultations on the post-2015 development agenda have been launched to build a shared vision on 'The Future Moldova Wants', with clear recommendations for action, which can influence the intergovernmental processes.

The new programme of cooperation, "Towards Unity in Action: United Nations - Republic of Moldova Partnership Framework", was launched by Prime Minister Vlad Filat and the United Nations Country Team, through the signing of a joint Action Plan.

Developed through broad consultations with many partners from government and civil society, the Partnership Framework supports Moldova's priorities and development challenges in three main areas: (1) democratic governance, justice, equality and human rights; (2) human

development and social inclusion; and (3) environment, climate change and disaster risk management. The programme will also help further deepen the UN reform in the country to respond more effectively to national priorities.

The Government of Moldova has chosen to join over 30 governments in a global reform effort of the UN development system known as "Delivering as One". The Prime Minister has asked the UN for a step-by-step implementation of Delivering as One, to bring the full potential of the UN family of agencies to Moldova, making the best use of their comparative advantages and identities, and most importantly, to deliver support effectively and efficiently, and ever closer to the people.

A number of high-level UN representatives visited Moldova in 2012, including Regional Directors Fernanda Guerrieri (FAO); Yolanda Valle-Neff and Dendev Badarch (UNESCO); Cihan Sultanoglu (UNDP and chair of the Regional Team of the UN Development Group); Marie-Pierre Poirier (UNICEF); and Zsuzsanna Jakab (WHO); and members of the UN Working Group on Discrimination against Women in Law and in Practice, the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the UN Subcommittee on the Prevention of Torture. As a follow up to the 2011 visit by High Commissioner on Human Rights Navanethem Pillay, senior human rights diplomat Thomas Hammarberg was engaged as Senior Expert for Human Rights in Transnistria, to carry out work throughout 2012 on strengthening human rights in this region.

The UN remained first and foremost a provider of technical cooperation. In addition to Government, the generous support of partners such as the European Union, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Italy, Japan, Liechtenstein, Netherlands, Norway, Romania, Russian Federation, Sweden, Switzerland, the United States, Orange Moldova and OSI has been essential to deliver the outcomes identified above.

This 2012 Progress Report of the UN in Moldova covers key development trends, and progress and results achieved within the three strategic areas of the UN Development Assistance Framework 2007-2012. It was drafted by the UN's thematic expert groups and with inputs from UN Agencies.

UNDAF Objective 1

By 2012, public institutions with the support of Civil Society Organizations are better able to ensure good governance, rule of law and equal access to justice and promotion of human rights



Key development trends

The election of Nicolae Timofti as President of the Republic in March ended a long-term political stalemate, and provided a positive and much improved basis for the implementation of reforms. This helped instill a sense of stability among the population, and inspired trust that the country is able to advance in a democratic fashion.

On 25 December 2011, the Transnistria region had experienced the first change of de facto leadership in its twenty-year history, as Transnistrian voters elected Yevgeny Shevchuk as president.

Moldova managed to overcome to a large extent the economic downturn, as strong private consumption and booming exports allowed the economy to expand beyond its pre-crisis level. However, the foundations of the growth remain shaky. The recovery has been jobless and remittance-fuelled consumption has remained central to further expansion of economy. Following GDP growth of 7 percent in 2010 and 6.4 percent in 2011 the economy was set for a sharp slowdown in 2012 with latest projections pointing to an expected growth of 0.3 percent, given the economic slowdown in the Eurozone and the related drop in remittances.

This comes against the backdrop of the severe sovereign debt crisis and economic recession in the euro-zone and in some other EU economies.

The contraction of external demand, mainly in the EU to which roughly half of Moldovan exports goes, resulted in a fall in industrial production of 1.8 percent in the first three quarters of the year and a standstill in exports. Additionally, private consumption is forecast to increase only slightly, with a 1.3 percent increase forecast for 2012 year-on-year, given the contraction of remittances. Ultimately, the severe drought, causing an estimated 20 percent reduction in agriculture production in 2012, has dented growth prospects even further.

Moldova suffered the combined impacts of poor rainfall and extremely high temperatures leading to one of the most severe droughts in recent history, with widespread reductions in yields and crop failures. Given the magnitude of the disaster, the Government asked for support from the international community in mitigating the consequences of the drought, focusing on provision of agricultural inputs such as seeds and fertilizers, and fodder for preserving the livestock to vulnerable farmers; assessment of immediate impact of the drought and identification of short-term rehabilitation measures; and development of sustainable medium and long-term measures to adapt agricultural crops to climate changes and advise the farmers on most appropriate technologies in the context of the climate change. Measures were and are being undertaken both at national and local levels to diminish the consequences of the drought and to further develop the agricultural and food processing sectors, bringing them in compliance with international standards of food security.

According to the IMF, the economy is expected to pick up considerably and grow by 4 percent in 2013. This expansion should be supported by recovery in external demand, investment in infrastructure, and increase in total factor productivity.

Moldova recorded good progress in its dialogue with the EU. The European integration perspective remained the main driver of transformative change and of economic and social modernization, as it is seen by the ruling coalition - and by large parts of the population - as a route to stability and prosperity, governed by democratic values and respect for fundamental

human rights. The Government has therefore made consistent efforts to implement reforms regarding freedom of the mass media, independence of the judiciary and economic liberalization of the economy. The increasing demand for improved environmental stewardship as part of the EU integration agenda continued to be the major drive for initiated reforms in the environment sector.

Moldova concluded negotiations with the EU on a number of important matters, such as customs cooperation, setting-up of a common aviation area, the protection of geographical indications and association to the 7th Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development, which opens up access to EU thematic programmes. With these agreements, Moldova becomes the fastest-advancing among the Eastern Partnership countries aspiring to conclude Association Agreements with the European Union.

By end of 2012, 23 out of 24 chapters of the Association Agreement have been provisionally closed, in particular on such thematic areas as Political Dialogue and Reform Cooperation in the Field of Foreign and Security Policy; Justice, Freedom and Security; and People-to People Cooperation.

Negotiations on the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area (DCFTA) are ongoing. Moreover, Moldova continues to implement the EU's Key and Additional Recommendations on 13 trade-related areas, a precondition for launching the DCFTA talks.

The visa dialogue, which aims at laying the ground for visa-free travel of Moldovan citizens to the EU, is ongoing in accordance with the EU-Moldova Visa Liberalization Action Plan. Moldova met all benchmarks set for the first phase of the plan in June, including 42 legislative measures, and in November entered the second - and last - phase.

The Government aims to conclude the negotiations on visa liberalization, DCFTA and Association Agreement as soon as November 2013 at the Eastern Partnership Summit in Vilnius. The challenge that Moldova currently faces is the need for a rapid and effective passing from negotiations with the EU to implementation of commitments, i.e. from policy development to

implementation, to ensure the people feel the positive effects of the reforms on their lives.

This process will be underpinned by other key reforms stemming from the new National Development Strategy "Moldova 2020" that was adopted by the Moldovan Parliament. "Moldova 2020" provides strategic vision and seven key priorities for the country's development in the coming years, with a clearly defined overall objective: ensuring qualitative economic development and, implicitly, reducing poverty. The focus of the strategy is to produce social and economic impact by removing critical barriers that prevent the optimal use of resources. As such the implementation of the strategy will address core pre-requisites for future development such as energy efficiency and development of renewable sources of energy, improving education outcomes, road infrastructure, and others. In the course of the elaboration of "Moldova 2020", the participation of civil society in decision-making has improved, with around 84 percent of policy proposals consulted through the National Participation Council and the Open Government data portal.

Another key area of transformation was the decentralization reform, which aims at strengthening the role of local public authorities in making public expenditure more transparent and efficient, and equitably improving the population's access to basic public services, ranging from education and health to water supply and sanitation. The Decentralization Strategy was adopted by the Parliament on 5 April. The essence of this strategy is to ensure that local public authorities function in a democratic and autonomous manner, have adequate capacity and resources to provide public services according to the needs and preferences of beneficiaries, and operate effectively and efficiently, and with strict financial discipline. Secondary education, social assistance, water supply and sanitation are just some of these services on which local governments can make decisions and allocate resources. High impact policy changes have been proposed in 2012 regarding fiscal decentralization and devolution of property.

While major challenges such as administrative territorial reform remain to be addressed, in the long term, it is expected that the decentralization

reform will help Moldova overcome the rural-urban divide that obstructed the country's progress in recent years. 80 percent of the country's poor reside in rural areas. Furthermore, poor households tend to have lower levels of educational attainment and a bigger number of children. The rural population also suffers from significantly worse access to other basic services, such as water and sanitation. 90 per cent of the population without access to public sewage systems lives in rural areas.

Statistics show that in 2010 poverty fell to 21.9 percent down from 30.2 percent in 2006. This continuing trend is mostly driven by an increase of remittances and social assistance, but also by rising incomes from agricultural activity. The 2010 improvements were mostly driven by declines in rural poverty as opposed to the previous years, when rising incomes in big cities ensured poverty reduction. Indeed, in 2010 poverty reduction was mostly pronounced in rural areas - by 6 percentage points down to 30.3 percent, and small towns - by 5.5 percentage points down to 14.2 percent.

Despite the fact that growth in remittances was sluggish in recent years and they currently hover at a level of 22 percent as ratio to GDP (down from a 32 percent peak in 2007), remittances still play a huge role in keeping afloat rural households. As numbers of migrating Moldovan workers continues growing, it is clear that for many Moldovans this remains an exit strategy. The resulting labor shortages - it is estimated that up to one-third of Moldovan labor force is abroad - compounded by poor demographic outlook, start acting as a drag on the country's development prospects as recognized by the National Development Strategy Moldova 2020.

The justice sector reform is a major objective of the Government programme "European Integration: Liberty, Democracy, Welfare" 2011-2014. The Justice Sector Reform Strategy 2011-2016 was adopted by the Parliament on 25 November 2011, and the Action Plan has been approved in early 2012. The implementation of the plan will build an accessible, efficient, independent, transparent and professional justice sector with high public accountability and consistent with European standards, which will ensure the rule of law and protection of human

rights and contribute to increased society's trust in the acts of justice.

In the area of gender equality, the development of a package of amendments and recommendations to the 2006 Law on Ensuring Equality of Opportunities between Women and Men constituted major progress. These amendments will pave the way for de-facto realization of gender equality. Moreover, a new National Action Plan on Gender Equality under the "National Program on Gender Equality for 2010-2015 has been initiated and developed.

Underrepresentation of women in decision-making in political and public life, violence against women and girls, trafficking of women and girls, and degrading public image of women in media and advertisement persist. It is worth noting that some efforts were made to increase women's participation in politics: a draft legislative package requiring 40 percent representation for both sexes is pending adoption. A harmonized set of gender sensitive indicators was developed to support government and line ministries in reporting on implementation of the gender equality action plan.

Further gradual progress has been made in the area of human rights. In 2012, the Government finalized the process for consideration and acceptance of the Universal Periodic Review recommendations, and incorporated them into the National Human Rights Action Plan 2011-2014. The adoption of the Equal Opportunities Law in May established the institutional framework for ensuring non-discrimination.

The amendment of the 2007 law on HIV, which entered in force on 1 June, has removed some of the discriminatory provisions existing in the law, and has effectively abolished travel and permanent residence restrictions for people living with HIV. The amended law also strengthened personal data protection and confidentiality measures, and attempts to engender the national response to HIV expressly, including attributions for a gender-sensitive response for local and central public authorities.

To improve integration of migration and development agendas, the Government undertook a systematic mainstreaming of migration into development planning. A first

Extended Migration Profile Report was developed as part of the EU-Moldova Visa Liberalization dialogue benchmarks and the National Migration and Asylum Strategy 2011-2020. The 5th Congress of Moldovan Diaspora was organized in Chisinau in October, constituting a platform of discussions, focused on mobilizing the efforts of the Government to solve Diaspora's problems and on involving Diaspora in social, economic, academic, and political processes.

Following years of UN-supported diaspora-inclusive governance, the Government, through Decision no. 780 of 19 October, established a Bureau for Relations with Diaspora within the State Chancellery and under the direct supervision of the Deputy Prime-Minister in charge for

reintegration policies. In order to enhance the mechanism of cooperation with Moldovan Diaspora Associations, the Bureau will be responsible for ensuring coordination of the state policy in the field of relations with Diaspora, and coordination the process of policy making in the field of relations with the Diaspora, thus contributing to keeping and affirming Moldovans' ethnic, cultural and linguistic identity abroad, and capitalization of the human and material potential of the Diaspora. The bureau is also responsible for the coordination of activities of cultural, educational, economic and social nature by ministries and other public authorities aimed at supporting and collaborating with the Diaspora representatives.

Assessment of progress towards Outcome indicators

| UNDAF Outcome Indicators | Baseline | Target | Status 12/2012 |
|---|-----------------------------|---|---|
| Voice and accountability indicator ¹ | 38.5 (2006) percentile rank | High level of public participation in elections | 48.8 (2011) |
| Corruption perception index (CPI) | 2.3 (2004) | Decrease of corruption in public institutions | In 2012 Moldova scored 36 points on the CPI, ranking 94 th of 176 countries. This rank is 18 positions higher than in 2011. CPI for 2012, was developed using a new methodology, therefore comparison with baseline is not possible. |

¹ A subjective governance indicator aggregated from a variety of sources and measuring perceptions of the following concepts: free and fair elections, freedom of the press, civil liberties, political rights, military in politics, change in government, transparency in laws and policies. Estimates range between -2.5 and 2.5; higher is better.

Narrative analysis of progress

a. Pro-poor policies, addressing development and population issues, are formulated, implemented, and monitored in a more transparent manner

The UN team continued to support the development of pro-poor policies. It substantially contributed to the elaboration of Moldova 2020 National Development Strategy, and sector strategies in the areas of economy, education, justice, e-governance and environment, ensuring a participatory approach to policy elaboration and engagement of civil society. Further support was provided in the implementation, and monitoring and evaluation of the national sectorial strategies and reforms, international partnership agreements and reporting on MDGs, conventions and fulfillment of international commitments by Moldova.

i. Statistics

The UN Joint Programme on Strengthening the National Statistical System (ILO, UN Women, UNDP, UNFPA and UNICEF) continued to strengthen data production, dissemination and use of statistical information with particular attention to national needs and overall conformity of official statistics with international and European standards. For instance, the in-depth assessment of three statistical areas - short term statistics, annual structural statistics, and labor cost statistics - was undertaken towards their compliance with EU requirements. Gaps, priority needs and follow-up activities to further approximate to European statistical standards were identified and integrated into the annual work plans for the strategic development of national statistics. The resulting conclusions and recommendations represent a roadmap for further actions to fully meet the EU requirements and standards in the respective fields of statistics.

A monitoring and evaluation framework of the National Decentralization Strategy has been developed with support of the UNDP/UN Women Joint Integrated Local Development Programme to measure the impact of decentralization on the population and in particular vulnerable groups.

This will help to increase responsiveness of the decentralization reform to the needs of the people. The programme also provided advice and guidance to the Ministry of Labor, Social Protection and Family in the elaboration of the 2011 Report on the Implementation of the Action Plan of the National Programme on Ensuring Gender Equality.

To support better monitoring, and improve public understanding of and demand for evidence-based monitoring, a training curriculum and a manual for basic statistical literacy were developed and will be embedded into the curriculum of specialized academic institutions.

In December, the eleventh National Human Development Report for Moldova was launched. It aims to foster evidence-based dialogue between different national stakeholders on the opportunities but also the complexity of the European integration process, and its potential to further human development and the well-being of all people in Moldova. The report, which was commissioned by UNDP, provides feasible policy recommendations that will allow the Government to accelerate progress towards sustainable development, a more inclusive society, and better readiness of the country to take full advantage of the European integration aspirations of the people. The 2012 National Human Development Report is closely linked to the 2011 report, which focused on the promotion of social inclusion as key contributor to sustainable human development for Moldova.

In this regard, a first policy brief on social exclusion was developed by UNDP as a logical continuation of the 2011 National Human Development Report. The brief provides the methodology for the calculation of a national aggregate index of social exclusion, which represents a suitable way to measure the phenomenon at national and, potentially, on community levels and to monitor progress in terms of social inclusion. This aggregate index is an innovative and practical tool for the country's policy makers, deeply rooted in the regional UN expertise, which will be used by practitioners involved in policy analysis, monitoring and evaluation at various line ministries. It will allow for better coordination of inter-ministerial efforts to tackle the phenomenon in a comprehensive

way, under the leadership of the Ministry of Labor, Social Protection and Family.

In cooperation with its partners, UNICEF supported the implementation of a Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) and has successfully advocated with the local authorities to design and carry-out a MICS in the Transnistria region. The Transnistria MICS was launched in November.

A number of analytic works were carried out by ILO to update data on migration and skills, including a study evaluating the links between migration and education; a study analyzing the impact of migration on teachers and researchers; an analysis of the vacancies and skills required in the EU, in the main migration destination countries, and in Moldova and Ukraine; and a study assessing the activity of private employment agencies. Additional support was provided to the National Bureau of Statistics on conducting a migration and skills survey as part of the Labor Force Survey. The data collected and recommendations arising from these studies will be used to formulate policies on labor migration, with a special focus on human capital.

ILO contributed to a better matching between supply and demand of skills requested on the labor market, by developing occupational standards in sectors that absorb most migrants such as constructions and agriculture, and adjusting the national legislation to the European standards. To bear out the sustainability of integrating the migration and development agendas, the Moldovan Government enhanced the systematic mainstreaming of migration into development planning, a process supported by the UN Country Team in Moldova.

With IOM and UNDP support, the inter-ministerial Extended Migration Profile Technical Working Group concluded the work on a first Extended Migration Profile Report, as part of the EU-Moldova Visa Liberalization dialogue benchmarks and the National Migration and Asylum Strategy 2011-2020. A government decision in 2012 institutionalized the Extended Migration Profile under the purview of the Bureau for Migration and Asylum of the Ministry of Interior, to give the government sustainable access to reliable data and analysis on migration and its development impacts.

UNECE provided a key contribution to the implementation of the National Strategic Plan on Demographic Security for 2011-2025 and to the elaboration of the National Report to UNECE on the implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing.

ii. Institutional development

The UN further extended its support to the government in articulating policy approaches to move the EU agenda ahead. In particular it helped the government - both at the level of overall coordination and of line ministries - to carry out negotiations with the EU by providing expertise, developing capacity and other technical support. Structured around the institutions that play a key role in the negotiation process - Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration, Ministry of Economy and Commerce, Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry, Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Interior and others, UNDP support has been provided to achieve further progress in the negotiations of the EU-Moldova Association Agreement, Visa Liberalization and the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Agreement.

Also, significant contributions were made to build sector capacities of the Center for Legal Approximation under the Ministry of Justice and to help strengthen the center's role as an adviser to other institutions in their legal approximation work, rather than an enforcer of the process. UNDP assisted the Center for Legal Approximation in drafting tables of concordance, assessing the compliance of the selected national legal drafts with the relevant EU acquis and advising on the ways of improvement of the quality and the compliance of the approximated drafts. The center now has a more efficient mechanism and improved procedures to evaluate conformity of draft legislation with the EU legal framework, and developed new data storage, monitoring and reporting systems. Its employees gained hands-on experience through internships in EU Member States' Governments.

The Ministry of Finance received UNDP assistance in improving public debt management system at the national and local levels, while undergoing reform to ensure conformity with EU norms and

regulations in the field. Its subordinated institutions, the Customs Service, the Public Procurement Agency and the Main State Inspectorate, continued to receive UN support aiming at capacity development of the staff and improving business processes to provide better services and increase transparency and accountability.

As part of the Visa Liberalization Action Plan, the Law on Centre for Combatting Economic Crimes and Corruption reform has been adopted, resulting in the restructuring of the institution into a National Anticorruption Centre and in the first ever open-competition based and transparent election of the Head of the Centre. UNDP provided technical expertise for the elaboration and implementation of the reform.

UNDP also contributed to the signature of the Common Aviation Area Agreement between the EU and Moldova in June, providing support to the Government with preparing the necessary position papers for the negotiation process.

Moreover, UNDP supported the negotiations of the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area (DCFTA) by providing expertise to the revision of draft legal texts, preparing the positions in the negotiation rounds, and drafting the DCFTA preparation reports. In line with the negotiations, UNDP supported translations of the EU food safety requirements – a top priority for the agreement - into the domestic law and practice. The Food Safety Agency will be established and operational in January 2013 with UNDP support.

In April, Parliament approved its Strategic Development Plan for 2012 - 2014, developed with UN support. The UN's Democracy Programme continued assisting its implementation, focusing on strengthening the legislative and oversight functions of the Parliament, on developing necessary skills of the Members of Parliament and of the Secretariat staff, and offering expertise in developing new rules and procedures aiming at ensuring more effective and efficient work of the Secretariat and the Standing Committees. At the Central Electoral Commission, UNDP commenced activities to expand the knowledge of Central Electoral Commission members and staff on issues of human rights and gender equality.

Together with civil society and development partners, UNDP and UN Women supported the elaboration of the Decentralization Reform Strategy throughout all stages, from visioning to design, and contributed with specialized methodological support. This assistance ensured that the local governments will function democratically and independently, and have the capacity in terms of efficiency, effectiveness, equity and financial discipline and necessary resources to provide public services according to the needs and requirements of the beneficiaries. The UN's support and methodological guidance has ensured that the strategy incorporated international standards for gender and human rights.

The UN continued assisting the Government in strategic planning and budgeting, in particular through strengthening capacities of the line ministries in developing their Medium Term Budgetary Frameworks for 2013-2015. UNICEF advocacy for instance resulted in allocation of resources for the Inclusive Education Programme under the Medium Term Budgetary Framework of the Ministry of Education; and co-payments for medical consultations for insured persons, including children, have been withdrawn from the Medium Term Budgetary Framework of the Ministry of Health. This will allow the families with children, in particular poor, to have better access to health services and reduce inequities in the sector.

iii. Human Rights

OHCHR has placed a Human Rights Adviser in the Resident Coordinator Office since 2008, who is co-funded by the agencies of the UN Country Team. The Human Rights Adviser has been heavily involved in the below activities.

As a cross-cutting issue, human rights touch upon the mandates of each agency. As such, they have helped bring the different agencies around one common platform. Human rights are placed at the center of all of the UN's engagements in the Republic of Moldova for the coming period. This work follows up groundbreaking pilot work to mainstream human rights in local development policies and practices applying Human Rights Based Approach. Measures to address

discrimination and social inclusion are integrated throughout the UN's strategic planning framework for joint UN action in the country- the UN-Moldova Partnership Framework "Towards Unity in Action" 2013-2017.

Via a broad range of joint initiatives, the UN Country Team has pooled expertise and resources to support initiatives such as the development of Roma inclusion policies on a human rights-basis. Moreover, the team has worked together to build human rights capacity in various Ministries and other areas of the public administration, as well as among civil society and the Ombudsman institution; and worked jointly to combat systematic human rights issues such as violence against women.

In supporting the government to address the issue of discrimination and inequality, it was critical that the UN Country Team had the capacity and expertise available to follow up on requests for advice and support from all stakeholders. Through the presence of a Human Rights Adviser, a strong UN Women office, and an inter-agency Human Rights Working Group that pools together and leverages the human rights expertise, experience and resources across the agencies, the country team was able to provide pertinent and timely follow up. This in turn strengthened the credibility of the UN in Moldova.

The UN Country Team systematically examines all of its programmes with a discrimination lens. For example, the recommendations of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights helped align the UN's HIV/AIDS policies and programming along two human rights lines: discrimination against persons living with HIV/AIDS and weak systems for privacy and confidentiality. Following strong advocacy efforts on these two issues, the Moldovan Parliament passed an amended Law on HIV/AIDS in April. The new law significantly strengthens non-discrimination guarantees and privacy and confidentiality safeguards, and also removes arbitrary barriers to immigration for persons with HIV/AIDS.

One key area in which UN Country Team action has been particularly evident has been in mainstreaming human rights in the field of health, as well as in strengthening links between human rights, health and social inclusion. With UN support, the Ministry of Health established in

2010 a Health and Human Rights Working Group bringing together social protection, health and justice experts. In this framework, a range of policies, laws and practices have been reformed to better comply with human rights law and standards. The UN provided support in the elaboration of substantial amendments related to the rights of persons living with HIV/AIDS, migrants' rights, persons with tuberculosis, persons in psychiatric care, to medical testing and the right to free and informed consent in any medical intervention, with particular target on sexual and reproductive health that had been adopted by the Parliament. Policies of coercive treatment for tuberculosis have been revised, data protection for persons with stigmatized diseases have been strengthened, and problematic practices such as the requirement that psychologists provide information on their patients to the police have been stopped. In addition, the UN team has assisted the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Labor, Social Protection and Family and Ministry of Justice in embarking on far-reaching reform as concerns the rights of persons with disabilities to live and participate fully in the community.

After the adoption in January, of the amendments to the Action Plan on supporting Roma people in Moldova for 2011-2016, promoted by the UN, the Action Plan was enacted in a completely new version. On that basis, the UN supported important steps forward taken by the Government in the area of social inclusion of Roma by promoting the institutionalization of the Roma mediator, in order to link the isolated Roma communities with the local public administrations and to ensure their access to public services. Joint advocacy efforts by the UN family and the Council of Europe led to the institutionalization of Roma Community Mediators and allocation of resources for the Roma mediators institution in the State budget 2013, and also in the Medium Term Budgetary Framework for 2013-2015. On 8 May the position of Social Mediator was included in the Registry of Professions.

Human rights have also played a central role in the UN's engagement in the Transnistrian region, a separatist region not under control of the Government of Moldova. Following elections in December 2011, Transnistria experienced its first change in the de facto leadership in twenty years.

The UN acted swiftly to follow up recommendations by the High Commissioner to engage senior human rights diplomat Thomas Hammarberg as Senior Expert for Human Rights in Transnistria, to carry out fact-finding work throughout 2012 on strengthening human rights in this region. In the course of this work, over 250 persons have been released from arbitrary detention in the period to November 2012.

The UN Country Team now annually celebrates the achievements of distinctive human rights defenders at a major event on Human Rights Day, every 10 December. Increasingly, the Moldova human rights awards, which are broadcast live on national television, have come to focus on voices from marginalized and excluded groups, and to celebrate the efforts of pariah persons and groups to press for genuine inclusion. This year, Human Rights Day has also been marked by a speech of the UN Resident Coordinator in Parliament, launching the national consultations on the post-2015 agenda, and providing the opportunity to convey the reform agenda and engage Members of Parliament in the UN's work.

The UN Country Team has also established a Diversity Task Force to examine diversity issues within the UN family in Moldova, and to help to improve the UN's own diversity profile. These actions are in keeping with an increasing awareness and commitment that the UN in Moldova must be the fundamental human rights change it seeks to bring about in Moldova. In this sense, the international human rights machinery – including the visit of the Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief, the first Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of Moldova, and the visit of the High Commissioner – must be seen as having been overwhelmingly positive experiences for Moldova's democratic development.

One of the most important results of the UN human rights advocacy work and also of the support provided to the Government's representatives to participate in the most important UN human rights sessions, including the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights review and various international human rights fora was the Government of Moldova's decision of March 2012 to accept pending the Universal Periodic Review recommendations. The UN continued the support

to the Government partners in drafting reports to the treaty-based and charter-based bodies, including the UPR by offering consultations on UPR procedures, guidelines on preparation of the Report, as well as guidance and support in the process of inclusive consultations with the civil society. Support to the Government was also provided in drafting the initial report to the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

The UN pro-actively advocated for and supported the adoption in May of a comprehensive anti-discrimination law, the "Law on Ensuring Equality", which enters into force in January 2013, and which had been one of the conditions for the positive evaluation of the first phase of Visa Liberalization Action Plan. The law establishes the institutional framework for ensuring nondiscrimination.

Using the Human Rights Based Approach, the UN supported the Ministry of Labor, Social Protection and Family and other relevant authorities in adjusting legislation and practices in line with the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and WHO standards, and in moving from "medical" to "social" models for the determination of disabilities. The UN contributed to achieving the important progress in implementing the UN Convention, specifically initiating the reform on the legal capacity in order to ensure that all persons with disabilities can exercise their rights, and piloting the Ombudsperson in psychiatric institutions project, which is an independent complaint mechanisms for persons detained in psychiatric institutions, established to identify human rights violations of such.

OHCHR, UNDP and UNICEF started a joint work with the Parliament aiming at strengthening its oversight function in the area of human rights and taking into consideration gender, human rights in general, and in particular, children rights issues in the legislative work. The Parliament of Moldova ratified the Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse - the Lanzarote Convention - in December 2011, and the UN started the implementation of a project to support the further implementation of this important convention. As the first steps, amendments were

made to the Penal Code and Penal Procedures Code, in order to bring them into compliance with the Lanzarote Convention's standards and to improve the protection of Moldovan children against sexual abuse and exploitation.

Since Moldova's accession in 2002 to the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, the Government has failed to make progress in the production of Convention Travel Documents or refugees and beneficiaries of humanitarian protection. It has provided assurances that the long-standing gap in Moldova's compliance with the 1951 Convention will be addressed and it is hoped this will finally be resolved in 2013 as also necessitated within the EU-Moldova visa liberalization efforts.

The Bureau for Migration and Asylum received UNHCR support in the establishment of the institutional framework and capacities within the bureau for the implementation of the UN Convention on Statelessness, with a Unit for Statelessness created and its capacities developed. These activities helped the bureau issue the first decision on the Status of Stateless Persons. The Bureau for Migration and Asylum still relied upon an ad hoc commission to examine statelessness cases, rather than fully implementing the recently approved procedure, but the newly established unit is expected to commence handing cases directly in the course of 2013.

To address the integration of refugees and beneficiaries of humanitarian protection the UN has strongly advocated for the adoption and subsequent implementation of the Law on the Integration of Foreigners, as well as a coordinated inter-ministerial mechanism which would address integration needs of refugees and beneficiaries of humanitarian protection, help them become self-reliant and full members of the Moldovan society. With UNDP advice, the Bureau for Migration and Asylum elaborated a strategy and policy-making tools in the area of the integration of foreigners. A law on the Integration of Foreigners came into effect in July, but the relevant unit responsible for addressing integration needs has yet to become fully functional and needs further support. Thus, partners have proposed establishing a working group to address the Government of the Republic of Moldova's needs in this regard.

Access to citizenship for foreigners remains often fraught with challenges and delays. The eight-year residency requirement necessary prior to applying for citizenship inhibits integration. Many refugees must resort to UN-funded legal challenges as their citizenship requests are often initially refused.

b. The justice system functions in a more transparent, accountable and independent manner

The UN provided essential support to the implementation of the justice sector reform, which is seen by all key players as indispensable milestone for ensuring the proper functioning of institutions, respect for human rights, and the ability of the country to effectively fight corruption. In particular, UNDP and OHCHR support was provided to the elaboration of the Justice Sector Reform Action Plan approved in early 2012, and to setting of a well-designed system for monitoring of reform implementation, consisting of seven inter-ministerial working groups for the seven pillars of the strategy.

Expert support has been provided by the UNDP in the elaboration of the package of laws on judiciary, such as the law on the disciplinary responsibility of judges and the law on the selection, career and performance evaluation of judges, and of the amendments to the Law on Courts organization, the Law on Judges' Status, the Law on Supreme Council of Magistrates; the Law on Supreme Court of Justice, the Law on Judges' Selection and Career and Judges' Performance Evaluation Commissions.

UNDP in partnership with the EU further contributed to promotion and institutionalization of anti-torture approaches in the justice system through strengthening the institutional and operational capacity of the Centre of Forensic Medicine in documentation of torture and other ill-treatment cases. At the same time, with UNDP support, 24 amendments to the criminal procedure concerning effective investigation of torture cases have been passed by Parliament.

IOM in cooperation with its partners continued supporting authorities to improve the quality of investigations, prosecutions, convictions in human trafficking and related cases, and in ensuring

protection of victims through a better national justice system. Expertise and advice had been provided to the Center for Combating Trafficking in Persons and to General Prosecutors' Office that strengthened the capacities of investigators and prosecutors in investigating trafficking in persons cases and in protecting the victim-witness' rights throughout the criminal proceedings. Court proceedings and victims' protection were improved through the installation of video conferencing equipment for interviewing victims from secure locations in three Appellate Courts and three Prosecutor's Offices and equipping a Child Interviewing Room in the Appellate Court in Balti. Moreover, the UN (UNHCR) continued to consolidate the capacity of the judiciary in the area of protection of refugees, asylum-seekers and stateless persons.

With support of IOM and its partners, an on-site advisor placed at the Center for Combating Trafficking in Persons to strengthen capacities of investigators and prosecutors to handle trafficking in persons cases, and in protecting the victim-witness' rights throughout the criminal proceedings; the capacities of investigators, prosecutors and judges, and of the multidisciplinary teams of the National Referral System for Protection and Assistance of Victims and Potential Victims of Trafficking were enhanced; a guide on investigation and prosecution of trafficking in persons and related cases was developed; and the Permanent Secretariat of the National Committee on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings initiated the harmonization of the domestic legal framework in the field of preventing and combating trafficking in persons.

c. There is increased engagement of CSOs and media to participate in the national development process

The UN supported inclusive and participative public consultations around different policy documents, including Moldova 2020, National Decentralization Strategy, the Strategy for the Reform of the National Anti-corruption System, Universal Periodic Review recommendations, and draft legislation and amendments to laws and regulations.

Through UNDP, UN Women and OHCHR support, the National Decentralization Strategy underwent an extensive consultation process with more than 2,400 stakeholders from all over the country including variety of civil society organizations, minority and women's groups, academic institutions, think tanks and media in Chisinau and in the districts. Special focus was paid to consulting the potential implications of the reform with the Roma and older women and men, with special public debates organized in Tibirica village and Cantemir town.

With UNDP and OHCHR support, civil society organizations engaged in litigation activities on cases of discrimination, bringing cases of direct and indirect discrimination on disability, ethnicity, gender and sexual orientation to the attention of the general public and relevant authorities, and prompting adjudication of discrimination cases by domestic courts.

NGOs received training in monitoring Universal Periodic Review recommendations. Further support has been provided to NGOs that engage in combatting and prevention of torture and other forms of inhuman treatment.

The advocacy capacity of NGOs was strengthened through provision of UNICEF supported training to the Alliance of NGOs active in the area of social protection of family and child. During these sessions, the NGOs were familiarized with policy-making and budgeting processes and the ways in which they can advocate for child rights, especially at local level, given that many aspects related will be under the responsibility of Local Public Authorities through the decentralization reform.

The capacity of the media on children's issues was developed thanks to UNICEF support of the Network of Child Friendly Journalists: the number of members has doubled, more in-depth investigations on child rights were produced and widely disseminated, and awareness raising media campaigns were organized by important National TV Channels on promoting the family environment for every child. Public debates generated around this issue made a strong push for a policy result. On 17 May, the Government committed to stop placing children under three years old in institutional care. This way Moldova became one of the first countries in the region

who responded to the Call to Action initiated last summer by UNICEF Regional Office and UN High Commissioner for Human Rights.

A sound awareness raising campaign to promote the inclusion of children with disabilities was organized on the occasion of a historical football game Moldova-England that took place in September – for the first time in Moldova, a football game was dedicated to a social cause. Moreover, UN/UNICEF supported children and youth to generate discussions through traditional media as well as blogging and social media to ensure that the voices of the most vulnerable children are heard, amplified and taken seriously in consideration to prepare the ground for their social inclusion.

Thanks to advocacy efforts of UNICEF and its partners, including the Council of Europe and Media NGOs, amendments of the Audio-Visual Code on ethical reporting on children were approved and are mandatory for all broadcasters. Also, awareness of society on trafficking in persons has further increased, and media capacity to investigate and report trafficking in persons cases has been enhanced.

The UN is also pro-actively engaging with CSOs in Transnistria. A social partnership network, established in 2007 in the Transnistria region by IOM in cooperation with OSCE and local NGOs active in the social protection field in the region, continues its activities. It serves as a platform for discussing new social initiatives. Recently press clubs for the mass media from the two banks of Moldova were initiated.

A hotline for victims of trafficking and potential migrants, established in Transnistria with UN support, received in 1,064 calls in the first 9 months of 2012, and a Trust Line for victims of domestic violence received 1,006 calls in the same period.

The awareness on trafficking in persons cases among the Moldovan society increased due to the publication of articles on trafficking in persons files reported by Ziarul de Garda and Center for Investigative Journalism, and UN-supported trainings to journalists. Press clubs for the mass media from the two banks of Moldova were initiated.

d. Management of environment and natural resources is improved in compliance with international/EU standards

Throughout 2012, the UN team in Moldova continued to align behind the Government's efforts towards increasing coherence with the EU environment acquis and improving compliance with commitments under the main Multilateral Environment Agreements to which Moldova is a party. The UN is supporting policy development and legal and institutional reforms aiming at improved capacities and modernized environmental governance and practices at central and local levels, including with the support of an EU High-level Policy Advisor to the sector. The Ministry of Environment, with the support of UNDP, initiated a comprehensive reform of the National Ecological Fund. The new draft Regulation and Operational Manual adopt best international practices for public environmental expenditure and project cycle management.

Related to the national climate change policy framework, the draft national Low Emission Development Strategy was updated in line with the results of the progressing international climate change negotiations. The prioritized list of Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions, classified in actions to be financed and implemented autonomously by the country and supported actions, which require international financial support, lays an important basis for accessing climate finance in support of national development priorities. A broadly consulted feasibility study identified the options and associated benefits and costs related to the implementation of an Emission Trading Scheme in Moldova and its potential linkages with the EU system.

Biodiversity conservation remained a significant area of UNDP work in 2012, contributing to the advancement of the strategic framework and tangible progress towards improved protection and management of Moldova's ecosystems and significant biodiversity values at different levels. The official documentation for the creation of Moldova's first National Park Orhei was endorsed by the Government and submitted to Parliament for approval. While the Biodiversity Conservation Education and Awareness Campaign implemented in Orhei region proves to be crucial in the park

establishment process, further emphasis was placed in 2012 on identifying and leveraging financial support for biodiversity-friendly alternative income generating opportunities for local communities. Institutional reform for strengthening the Protected Areas governance in compliance with international and EU standards further advanced with the establishment of a Protected Areas Unit in the Forest Agency Moldsilva and reforming its accounting systems for tracking the expenditures for Protected Areas management. A set of 6 Operational Guidelines for protected area planning and management was developed and the skills and competencies of protected area managers assessed and improved through a tailor-made training programme embedded into the sector's professional development system.

In line with the 2011-2020 Strategic Plan of the UN Convention on Biological Diversity, a multi-stakeholder process for the development of the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan was initiated. The national targets in response to the global Aichi Targets were developed in a participatory manner and the principles and main priorities of the National Biodiversity Strategy identified. The Programme for Consolidation and Expansion of the Protected Area System in Moldova and the National Biodiversity Conservation Education and Awareness Programme, both previously elaborated with UNDP support, will feed into the new Strategy, as such ensuring sustainability of the interventions. A comprehensive assessment of the economic benefits of biodiversity conservation measures will serve as powerful tool in support of mainstreaming biodiversity conservation across all sectors.

With support led by UNDP and UNDESA, the Moldovan national preparation process for the Rio+20 Summit held in June resulted in a comprehensive set of recommendations for the advancement of the country's sustainable development. Specific focus was put on the adequate institutional framework, as well as policy instruments and priority measures in the most relevant sectors including agriculture, energy, construction, regional development, water and education. The recommendations, embedded in the National Report to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development,

derived from an in-depth stocktaking and gap analysis and an inclusive participatory national consultation process which triggered a broad national dialogue among all relevant stakeholders on options for country's future development path. This process under the leadership of Ministry of Environment and State Chancellery of the Republic of Moldova, was instrumental in placing Rio+20 and its core themes higher on the Government's agenda and renewing the commitment for further incorporating the principles of sustainable development in national and sector policy making. The green economy assessment undertaken with UNDP and UNEP support as part of the national preparation process delivered first evidence and analytical basis, catalyzing further research and advocacy for the promotion of a green growth model.

The Global Environment Facility's Small Grants Scheme was initiated in Moldova, laying the basis for up-scaling NGOs and CBOs initiatives in environment protection and sustainable development at the community level in areas such as biodiversity conservation, elimination of persistent organic pollutants and climate change mitigation.

Throughout the year, UNDP supported the country in advancing with the Strategic Approach for Sound Management of Chemicals by mainstreaming the identified priority issues into national and sector development strategies, contributing to increased ownership for the protection from chemicals risks and hazards. The draft Law on Chemicals which is a fundamental building block for improved chemicals management was fully revised in accordance with EU requirements. It initiates a legal and institutional reform which aims at decentralizing the licensing, authorization, and reporting for chemicals risk management thus contributing to enhanced competitiveness and increased business opportunities for the private sector. Foundations were laid for the creation of the National Chemicals Agency and the Regulatory Impact Assessment of the draft Law on Chemicals helped to identify and assess cost recovery opportunities for financing implementation of the proposed new legislation. The implementation of the Hydrochlorofluorocarbons Phase-out Management Plan further advanced in view of freezing consumption by 2013. The Governmental

Decision for the National Phase-out Plan for Hydrochlorofluorocarbons for the period 2012-2040 was drafted, and the certification system for technicians prepared and the Customs Service equipped with state of the art equipment required for the detection of Hydrochlorofluorocarbons and hydrofluorocarbons.

With UNIDO support, good progress was made towards the improvement of industrial energy efficiency and reduction of emissions. The Moldova National Institute of Standardization and Metrology adopted ISO 50001 as national standard. Capacities for the implementation of industrial systems optimization and energy management were strengthened with a series of awareness seminars and training programmes for national professionals and enterprises and development of practical implementation tools, including a Guide for the Implementation of Energy Management Systems in Compliance with ISO 50001. Building on the benchmarking piloted in the dairy sector, a national energy consumption, performance monitoring and verification framework, as well as an Industrial Energy Efficiency best practice dissemination programme were developed. The National Cleaner Production Programme was successfully implemented throughout the year. Expert assessments led to the identification, evaluation and implementation of resource efficient, cleaner production opportunities, customized to processes, operations and management of the participating enterprises and organizations, as such contributing to significant savings in energy, water and material input. Replication activities were initiated to scale up the application of resource efficient, cleaner production in the municipal services sector in ten public institutions.

With WHO and EU support, alignment of public health policy and public health legislation with EU requirements was assessed, and recommendations were provided in areas where approximation is needed.

e. There is improved readiness to prevent and mitigate natural and man-made disasters and crises

With UN support, a Country Situation Analysis was finalized this year, providing for a comprehensive inventory of risk assessments and projects, data sources and sets and relevant organizations in disaster risk management, also identifying gaps and additional external support required. The creation of a National Disaster Observatory was further advanced with the aim of strengthening risk assessment capacities and improving information management. The National Disaster Observatory is attached to the Crisis Command Center which was created with World Bank support.

UNDP continued to place special emphasis on supporting risk reduction efforts at local level, reducing vulnerabilities and strengthening capacities of communities and local public administrations, which are most directly affected by disaster and climate risks. 10 communities were supported in implementing concrete disaster and climate risk reduction measures, identified as part of the risk assessments previously undertaken, and in mainstreaming disaster and climate risks in the local level development planning. In August, in partnership with the Civil Protection and Emergency Situations Service, a Flood Prevention Exercise was undertaken in Criuleni district increasing the capacities of local communities to better prevent, prepare for and react to climate-related hazards. Local authorities were trained on and applied Risk Assessment methods and the necessary equipment was provided for the implementation of the flood simulation exercise.

Following the severe drought over the summer, the UN supported the government in assessing the impacts of the drought and to identify immediate and longer-term recovery needs. Further, the State Chancellery was supported in coordinating the development partner response to the drought, including support to the Ministry of Agriculture to analyze the drought effects and come up with priority actions; and support to inter-ministerial coordination and response. Support is provided to vulnerable farmers and families to sustain the livestock of milk-cows over the winter in the regions most affected by the drought.

In view of the need for an effective multi-stakeholder mechanism for improved planning

and coordination, in November UNDP organized together with the Civil Protection and Emergency Situations Services a workshop on the establishment of a National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction.

With support of international expertise, the development of the National Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy for Moldova has been initiated. The Strategy will be developed in line with existing strategic development documents (National Development Strategy - Moldova 2020) and the new UN - Moldova Partnership Framework "Towards Unity in Action" 2013-2017.

WHO continued its support to strengthen disaster preparedness and response capacities of the health sector. 76 hospital managers were trained in hospital disaster response planning and preparedness and a special guide in this area was

developed, approved and distributed to managers. WHO also assisted the Disaster Medicine Centre in the development of a Hospital Resilience Strengthening Programme for 2012-2014 which was subsequently approved by the Ministry of Health. With UNFPA support, also as a part of UN support to the Disaster Medicine Centre, the Minimum Initial Service Package tool was implemented, as a solid foundation for planning a wider integrated package of comprehensive Sexual and Reproductive Health interventions.

Efforts have been continued to further scale-up the Public Health and Emergency Management training course as part of the training program for a Master degree in Public Health at the University of Medicine and Pharmacy.

Table 1: Update on Achievement of National Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

| Assessed target | Value of the indicator (2009) | Value of the indicator (2010 and/or 2011) | Attainability by 2015 |
|---|-------------------------------|---|-----------------------|
| MDG-1: Reduce extreme poverty and hunger | | | |
| Target 1. Reduce the proportion of people whose consumption is under \$4.3 a day/person (in PPP terms) from 34.5 percent in 2006 to 29 percent in 2010 and 23 percent in 2015. | 29.5 | | Most likely |
| Target 2. Reduce the proportion of people under the absolute poverty line from 30.2 percent in 2006 to 25 percent in 2010 and 20 percent in 2015 | 26.3 | 21.9 (2010) | Most likely |
| Target 3. Reduce the proportion of people under the extreme poverty line from 4.5 percent in 2006 to 4 percent in 2010 and 3.5 percent in 2015. | 2.10 | 1.40 (2010) | Most likely |
| MDG-2. Ensure access to general compulsory education | | | |
| Target 1. Ensure opportunities for all children to attend general secondary education. Increase the gross enrolment rate for general <u>compulsory</u> education from 94.1 percent in 2002 up to 95 percent in 2010 and 98 percent in 2015. | 90.7 | 90.3 (2010), 90.1 (2011) | Unlikely |
| Target 2. Maintain the literacy rate for the 15-24 year-old population at 99.5 percent. | 99.6 | 99.5 (2010) and 99.6 (2011) | Most likely |

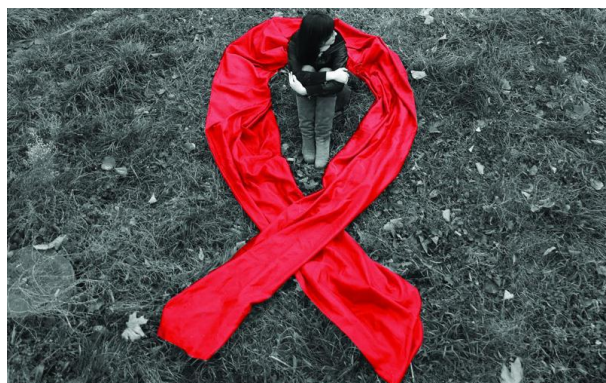
| | | | |
|---|---|--|-----------------|
| Target 3. Increase the enrolment rate for pre-school programs for 3-6 year-old children from 41.3 percent in 2002 to 75 percent in 2010 and 78 percent in 2015, and general enrolment rate for 6-7 year-old children from 66.5 percent in 2002 to 95 percent in 2010 and 98 percent in 2015, as well as reduce by less than 5 percent the discrepancies between rural and urban areas and between disadvantaged and middle-income groups. | (group 3-6 years old) – 75.5 (group 6-7 years old) – 93.8 ² | (group 3-6 years old) – 77.1 (2010), 79.6 (2011) (group 6-7 years old) – 93.1 (2010), 93.0 (2011) | Unlikely |
| MDG-3. Promote gender equality and empower women | | | |
| Target 1. Increase women's representation in decision-making positions. Increase representation of women at the decision making level (from 26.5 percent in local councils in 2007 to 40 percent in 2015, from 13.2 percent in district councils in 2007 to 25 percent in 2015, from 18 percent women mayors in 2007 to 25 percent in 2015 and from 22 percent women MPs in 2005 to 30 percent in 2015) | MPs - 24.7 Mayors – 18.15 (2007) | MPs – 19.8 (2012) Mayors – 18.49 (2011) | Uncertain |
| Target 2. Reduce gender inequality in employment: reduce disparity between women's and men's salaries by at least 10 percent by 2015 (the average monthly salary of women represented 68.1 percent of the average salary of men in 2006). | 76.4 | 76.1 (2010), 74.4 (2011) | Likely |
| MDG-4. Reduce child mortality | | | |
| Target 1. Reduce infant mortality from 18.5 (per 1,000 live births) in 2006 to 16.3 in 2010 and 13.3 in 2015. | 12.1 | 11.7 (2010), 10.9 (2011) | Likely |
| Target 2. Reduce the under-5 mortality rate from 20.7 (per 1,000 live births) in 2006 down to 18.6 in 2010 and 15.3 in 2015. | 14.3 | 13.6 (2010), 13.4 (2011) | Likely |
| Target 3. Maintain the proportion of children under 2 years with vaccination against measles at no lower than 96 percent in 2010 and 2015 | 91.3 | 91.1 (2010) and 91.3 (2011) | Unlikely |
| MDG-5. Improve maternal health | | | |
| Target 1. Reduce the maternal mortality rate from 16 (per 1,000 live births) in 2006 to 15.5 in 2010 and 13.3 in 2015. | 17.2 | 44.5 (2010) and 15.3 (2011) | Unlikely |
| Target 2. Maintain the number of births assisted by qualified medical staff during 2010 and 2015 at 99 percent | 99.8 | 99.8 (2010, 2011) | Likely |
| MDG-6. Combat HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and other diseases | | | |
| Target 1. Stabilize the spread of HIV/AIDS infection by 2015. Reduce HIV/AIDS incidence from 10 cases per 100,000 population in 2006 to 9.6 cases by 2010 and 8 cases by 2015. | 17.1 | 17.1 (2010), 17.6 (2011) | Unlikely |
| Target 2. Reduce HIV/AIDS incidence in the 15-24-year age group from 13.3 cases per 100,000 population in 2006 to 11.2 cases by 2010 and 11 cases by 2015. | 19.6 | 21.6 (2010), 18.4 (2011) | Highly unlikely |
| Target 3. Halt and begin to reverse the spread of tuberculosis by 2015. Reduce the rate of mortality associated with tuberculosis from 15.9 (per 100,000 population) in 2002 down to 15.0 in 2010 and 10.0 in 2015. | 18.0 | 12.89 (2011) | Unlikely |

² For methodological aspects the metadata provided by NBS can be consulted at http://www.statistica.md/public/files/Metadate/ODM/ODM2_SR1_IR4_1b.pdf

| MDG-7. Ensure a sustainable environment | | | |
|--|---|---|-----------|
| Target 1. Integrate principles of sustainable development into country policies and programs and reduce degradation of natural resources. Increase forested area from 10.3 percent in 2002 to 12.1 percent in 2010 and 13.2 percent in 2015. | 10.9 | n/a | n/a |
| Target 2. Increase the share of protected areas to preserve biological diversity from 1.96 percent in 2002 to 4.65 percent in 2010 and 4.65 percent in 2015. | 4.76 | n/a | n/a |
| Target 3. Increase the share of people with permanent access to safe water sources from 38.5 percent in 2002 up to 59 percent in 2010 and 65 percent in 2015. | 55.0 | n/a | n/a |
| Target 4. Increase the share of people with permanent access to sewage systems from 31.3 percent in 2002 to 50.3 percent in 2010 and 65 percent in 2015. | 47.9 | 50.7 (2010) and 54.6 (2011) | Uncertain |
| Target 5. Enlarge the population with access to sanitation systems from 41.7 percent in 2002 to 51.3 percent in 2010 and 71.8 percent in 2015. | N/A | n/a | n/a |
| MDG-8. Create a global partnership for development | | | |
| Target 1. Further develop a transparent, predictable and non-discriminatory trade and financial system based on rules through promoting exports and attracting investments. | Trade balance (% of GDP) -36.7 | Trade balance (% of GDP) -39.8 (2010), -42.5 (2011) | Likely |
| Target 2. Deal with issues associated with Moldova's landlocked status by upgrading transportation and customs infrastructure. | Share of investment in transportation sector, (% of public investment) – 7.2; Share of investment in air and naval transportation (% of investment in transportation) – 27.5 | Share of investment in transportation sector, (% of public investment) – 16.4 (2010) and 10.7 (2011); Share of investment in air and naval transportation (% of investment in transportation) – 58.7 (2010) and 15.4 (2011) | Unlikely |
| Target 3. Monitor external debt issue | External public debt (% of GDP) – 15.9; Gross external debt (% of GDP) – 80.8. | External public debt (% of GDP) – 23.2 (2010), 21.7 (2011); Gross external debt (% of GDP) – 82.3 (2010), 77.9 (2011) | Likely |
| Target 4. Develop and implement youth strategies. Reduce unemployment among youths to 15 percent in 2010 and 10 percent in 2015 | 15.4 | 17.8 (2010), 14.9 (2011) | Unlikely |
| Target 5. Ensure access to basic medication | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Target 6. Build an information society. Double the number of fixed and mobile telephone subscribers from 2006 to 2015 and increase the number of personal computers and Internet subscribers at a minimum annual rate of 15 percent. | 32.0 | Fixed telephony penetration per 100 population – 32.6 (2010), 33.6 (2011) | Likely |

UNDAF Objective 2

By 2012, vulnerable groups enjoy increased equitable and guaranteed access to basic services of good quality provided by the state with the support of civil society



2.1 Key development trends

Moldova continued to promote the reform in education and improve access and quality of education services. Law Number 91 was adopted by Parliament, setting the legal basis for the promotion of the education structural reform, education decentralization, and implementation of the new financing of primary and general secondary education institutions based on per-pupil standard cost and the use of adjustment coefficients. The latter promote inclusive education, which was set as a priority in the Programme for Development of Inclusive Education adopted in 2011. The adoption of the National Decentralization Strategy in 2012 creates the premises for the development of the education decentralization strategy, and a favorable environment for the transfer of competencies from the central to the local level and improvement of management and quality of education services.

The country also achieved important progress in reducing infant and child mortality. However, despite this positive trend, Moldova still has a significantly higher level of infant mortality rate than most European countries. Children from poor families, from families with many children and Roma children face a higher risk of mortality. Official maternal mortality rates have fluctuated

widely and represent another significant challenge.

The incidence of HIV/AIDS rose from 4 cases per 100,000 population in 2000 to 17.58 cases per 100,000 population in 2011. The situation is even more alarming in the Transnistria region, where the incidence of HIV/AIDS is 42.1 per 100,000 inhabitants. As of 1 November, there were cumulatively 7,720 people living with HIV registered in Moldova, 595 new cases being registered in 2012. Moldova is classified as a concentrated/low prevalence country with key populations such as injecting drug users, sex workers, men who have sex with men, and their sexual partners most affected. There is evidence of spread of the infection in the general population. Although the epidemic remains concentrated among males from urban areas, the trends of new cases show an increase among females in rural areas. Among new cases, there is an increase in the rate of people infected through sexual contact. Migration is a risk factor for HIV infection and drug use, especially on the left bank. It is projected that there were 1,882 new HIV cases in 2012, of which 599 cases in the region of Transnistria. The estimated HIV prevalence on the right bank is 0.44 percent compared to 1.31 percent on the left. In 2011, the total population infected with HIV was estimated at 14,528, of which 4,011 on the left bank. The need for antiretroviral treatment is estimated at 5,683 persons, of which 1,303 on the left bank.

In 2011, expenditures for the national AIDS response increased by 20.3 percent compared to 2010 to USD 13.9m. Of this, public financial resources constituted 37 percent, or USD 5.1m. The national response thus remains overly reliant on international funding. As Global Fund grants end in 2014, it becomes imperative to ensure sustainability of interventions and takeover of funding from the domestic public budget.

Women in Moldova suffer from various forms of violence. Domestic violence deserves particular attention for being one of the most serious forms of gender-based violence. This phenomenon is interconnected and related to the traditionally subordinate position of women. According to the "Domestic Violence against women" Survey of 2011, 63.4 percent of women have suffered from

different forms of domestic violence throughout their lifetime. Approximately 26.8 percent of women have suffered from violence in the last 12 months. A considerable part of society continues to consider such violence justified.

More than 400 protection orders have been issued since the Domestic Violence Law entered into force in 2008. Further improvements to domestic violence legislation will be necessary to efficiently issue, monitor and execute protection and restraining orders, to promote victim safety and ensure offender accountability in line with the European Convention on Preventing and Addressing Gender-based Violence and Domestic Violence. A first specialized center for the treatment of perpetrators opened in December

and the legal framework for such services was developed.

The Moldovan Government continued to support the functioning of the National Referral System for Protection and Assistance of Victims and Potential Victims of Trafficking in Human Beings. The system was further enhanced through complex trainings of multidisciplinary teams, and covers the whole territory of Moldova on district level.

Collaboration with the destination countries for Moldovan migrants intensified through signing of or updating of bilateral agreements, and implementation of those signed in the past.

Access to social housing remains an important gap both for needy citizens and other vulnerable residents of the Republic of Moldova.

2.2 Assessment of progress towards Outcome indicators

| UNDAF Outcome Indicators | Baseline | Target | Status 12/2012 |
|--|--|--|---|
| Net enrolment rate for primary and secondary schools by: sex, urban/rural, socio-economic status | Pre-primary <40% Primary education <90% | Pre-primary over 80% Primary education over 90% | Pre-primary 78.3% (2011) Primary education 87.9 (2011) |
| Infant Mortality rate | 12/1.000 live births | Decrease by 25% | 11/1.000 live births |

2.3 Narrative analysis of progress

- a. All children, especially the most vulnerable, enjoy access to early childhood care and development programmes and quality basic education

Efforts have been continued to promote inclusive education, ensuring that the first 39 children with special educational needs finished compulsory education in mainstream schools. New quality education standards from the perspective of child friendly schools were developed and await their implementation in all the schools of the country, which sets the basis for quality requirements in the education structural reform. Moreover, the School Readiness Tool that is designed to help practitioners support children's development before starting the primary education was

developed with UNICEF support and will be piloted.

UNICEF also supports the Ministry of Education in the development of the National Program for Drop-out Prevention. This is based on the results of an Out of School Children study that defined the profile of out-of-school children, and the roles and functions of different bodies that need to ensure enrolment of children and prevent of drop out. The monitoring of the structural reform in education that UNICEF together with World Bank supported, led to the development of policy briefs and of a school children census and database that allows for monitoring of the drop-out of children.

A total of 800 local trainers among school managers and teachers were trained on the monitoring of the implementation of education standards, evaluation, curricula and inclusive education. They are now able to transfer their knowledge to the teachers in their respective schools. A total of 175 educators, managers and

inspectors from 50 localities without kindergartens were trained on child-centered methodology and collaboration with parents; 143 mayors, and social and medical assistants were trained on the importance of early childhood development; 38 Community Centers were set up and equipped with furniture, books and cognitive toys; 1,900 children from the poorest rural localities without kindergartens benefit from early childhood education programs. Water and sanitation issues were solved in all established community centers. As a result of joint efforts of the Government and UNICEF, the pre-school enrollment rate continued to increase reaching almost 80 percent. A total of 48,000 young children benefitted from USD 1.5m worth of cognitive toys from LEGO Foundation.

The Ministry of Education in cooperation with UNAIDS developed an internet based-course on health education, based on international guidelines, and lessons learnt from the previous cycle of life skills based education. The course can be accessed following the link: www.viatasisanatatea.md.

WHO has contributed to strengthening child and adolescents' care and development by providing assistance in improving the Integrated Supervisory System in Child Health, conducting near-miss case reviews within all third and second referral level prenatal centers and maternities, and conducting a policy study in the respective area.

In the framework of the EU mobility partnership, an IOM pilot project is addressing the negative effects of migration on minors and families left behind. Support is provided to the development of a comprehensive person-centered information system within the National Social Protection System on vulnerable categories of population, including children and other family members left behind. The Ministry of Labor, Social Protection and Family and IOM closely collaborated to set up the identification method and train the social assistants in data collection.

Moreover, the IOM developed capacities of 12 socio-educational centers that assist children left behind. Activities, targeting children placed in these centers, include: playgrounds, summer camps, sports fields, and psycho-social animation. 100 vulnerable youth, including children left behind, received vocational training, and 141

children left without parental care received crisis assistance through the Centre for Assistance and Protection from Chisinau. During the first nine months of 2012, 183 children left behind, unaccompanied minors and children of victims of trafficking were assisted in finding accommodation and received psychological, social, medical and vocational assistance.

b. People of reproductive age adopt safe behaviors and seek health commodities and information about HIV/AIDS/STIs and reproductive health

With UN team support (UNDP and WHO) an MDG-6 Acceleration Framework for HIV and Tuberculosis was finalized, resulting in an Action Plan.

In order to ensure an evidence-informed national response to HIV, strategic data on HIV/AIDS was collected, disseminated and used for decision-making. Inter alia, estimations and projections of HIV incidence, prevalence, and need in antiretroviral treatment for both banks of Nistru River were carried out, a report on findings of data triangulation for public health actions was finalized, and a cost-effectiveness study on needle-and-syringe exchange programs for injecting drug users was produced in the framework of a regional initiative.

Specifically for Transnistria, the UN (UNODC, UNAIDS and WHO) organized a round table with health and prison authorities to better integrate services across sectors, and participated in the opiate substitution therapy assessment mission which provided specific recommendations for capacity building in the region.

UNICEF supported the assessment of cost-effectiveness and cost benefits of youth friendly health services, including budgeting of outreach services for most at risk and vulnerable adolescents. The results of the costing exercise will be used for revising the financing methods of these services.

A first draft communication strategy on adolescents' safe sexual behavior was developed with involvement of all UN partners. Availability of information on HIV/AIDS was enhanced through UNAIDS support to the web portal www.aids.md. UNFPA has contributed to increase the access of

young people to age-appropriate sexual and reproductive health education, HIV/STIs prevention and life skills-based education through support of peer education activities. The UNFPA supported Y-PEER network raised awareness of young people on Sexual and Reproductive health and HIV prevention, organizing 196 informational sessions throughout the country. A Candle Light Memorial related car rally and Solidarity for Life public awareness campaign was organized for people living with HIV/AIDS. With UNESCO support, through social theatre techniques, the level of knowledge among young people increased on such issues as reproductive health, sexually transmitted infections, HIV/AIDS and alcohol abuse.

In partnership with Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria and primary recipients, the WHO is leading the updating of national HIV and tuberculosis treatment protocols as per the latest WHO guidelines. Another key result has been the strengthening of national capacities, systems and institutions. Institutional reform has culminated in the establishment of the National Dermatology and Communicable Diseases Hospital. Due to consistent advocacy and lobbying, the 2007 Law on prevention of HIV has been amended and all travel and stay restrictions were removed as of 1 June.

In order to better address the needs of vulnerable persons in prisons, authorities were assisted by UNODC in conducting an assessment of prison health services. Consequently, suitable mechanisms, regulations and curricula are being developed to ensure appropriate medical practices in prisons regarding HIV and drug dependency in the line with international standards.

WHO supported Ministry of Health and Ministry of Education in the revision of the regulation framework for the school health services, including school nurse job description, quality standards and monitoring indicators, description of care packages for school health services and a referral mechanism between family doctors and school nurses. Additionally, WHO provided support in the development of a training package for school health nurses, and UNFPA conducted capacity building.

The government capacity of primary health care providers was strengthened by UNFPA by providing trainings for 125 family doctors and nurses in counseling standards in reproductive health and technology of modern contraception, HIV/AIDS, cervical cancer prevention and domestic violence; thus contributing to the improvement of quality of services and increasing the reaching out of vulnerable groups, particularly in rural areas. Through UNFPA support, health care providers were trained in prevention and management of post abortion complications, by applying the Ministry of Health Regulation on Safe Abortion and Quality Standards.

Reproductive health services in the Transnistria region were strengthened by supporting the creation of Reproductive Health Center in Tiraspol and capacity building of health professionals. UNFPA has equipped the Reproductive Health Center with furniture and medical equipment.

- c. All individuals, especially the vulnerable ones, enjoy improved access to essential health care of good quality

With UN (WHO) support, the Ministry of Health developed a Policy Roadmap on Health that was approved in March. The roadmap sets out short-term priorities and actions until 2014, within the context of Healthcare System Development Strategy 2008-2017. A series of policy dialogues and events related to roadmap implementation were further supported by WHO, including a workshop on Opportunities for the implementation of Public-Private Partnerships in the health sector, a roundtable discussion on hospital governance, a roundtable discussion on the development of the e-Health Strategy, a policy dialogue on health care service delivery and the first National Health Forum. Additionally, WHO has provided support in assessing the development of the primary care system and the hospital sector and in improving medicines and medical devices' policies, by producing several assessment reports and recommendation to the new Law on Medical Devices.

Support was also provided to initiate the development of the National Public Health Strategy, which will be in line with *the new*

European policy for health – Health 2020 and Strengthening public health capacities and services in Europe: a framework for action adopted in the WHO Regional Committee in September. Moreover, WHO and its partners provided assistance in the development of an e-Health Strategy.

A Health Systems Review was launched by WHO and the European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies in November, assessing the progress of reforms and the broader issues affecting the Moldovan health system.

Throughout the year, WHO provided assistance to the Ministry of Health to finalize the review of health financing reforms. The analysis was undertaken by key institutions involved in health financing, and consulted with major stakeholders. WHO also provided support for the development of the National Health Insurance Company Institutional Development Strategy 2013-2017.

Among the key issues faced by the health sector are the human resources in health management, shortage and migration of health professionals. WHO's support in this area includes strengthening of capacities to manage the migration of health professionals and to build up a better framework for legal migration in order to reduce and mitigate the negative impacts of migration on the health system. Other activities completed with WHO's support include: review of all existing reports and databases pertaining to migration patterns and motivational factors of migration of health professionals; institutional analysis of health workforce planning and development, licensing and certification of health personnel, impact of retention policies, and distribution and composition of health workforce; and evaluations aimed at identifying the gaps between the training curricula of doctors and nurses and the EU requirements.

WHO, with the support of other UN agencies and international development partners active in the health sector, has contributed to strengthening Ministry of Health capacity to lead their Sector Coordination Council, and ensuring a harmonized approach by development partners through establishing mechanisms for information sharing and agreed positions. The ministry and WHO as lead development partner organized quarterly meetings of the Health Sector Coordination

Council's and development partners' pre-meetings. A comprehensive mapping of external assistance to the health sector was undertaken in early 2012 and a report on "Monitoring the Official Development Assistance to the Health Sector in the Republic of Moldova for 2011" was completed.

The regionalization of the public health service and laboratory network was launched by the Ministry of Health and the National Centre of Public Health. The main aim of the regionalization is to strengthen public health service and laboratory capacities, and improve the overall efficiency of the service.

WHO has also provided support in the area of TB control through the organization of a scoping mission and a sub-regional workshop on Multi-Drug Resistant-TB action plans for 15 high-burden countries. A healthcare waste management assessment mission and a mission on soil transmitted helminthes were organized, providing recommendations for improvement and capacity building.

The Government increased its attention to the prevention of non-communicable diseases. The National Strategy on Non-Communicable Disease control for the years 2012-2020 was approved by the Parliament in April. Development of the National Non-Communicable Disease evaluation report and the Action Plan for implementation of the National Strategy were initiated and are in the process of development with WHO's support. With the long term support of UNICEF, the first National Program on Reducing Iron and Folic Acid Deficiency Disorders for 2012-2017, developed with UN support, is now being implemented. The aim of the program is to reduce iron deficiency anemia and neuro-tub defect by 20 percent by 2017.

Reports on the cost-effectiveness of tobacco and alcohol strategies were completed and published jointly by WHO and Ministry of Health in February, serving as the basis and argumentation for the national programmes on tobacco and alcohol control, adopted in 2012. The National Tobacco Control Program and Action Plan for 5 years was finalized and approved by the Government in February. The Program has an Action Plan with concrete budgets, indicators and responsible institutions. A Communication Plan

for the National Tobacco Control Program was developed with WHO and Framework Convention on Tobacco Control Secretariat support and the communication campaign was officially launched in May. The National Program on Alcohol Control for the years 2012–2020 was finalized and approved in June. The National Programme was developed in line with WHO's European action plan to reduce the harmful use of alcohol. A Communication Strategy and Action Plan for the National Alcohol Control Programme was developed as well.

WHO with its international partners supported the Ministry of Health in development of the National Mental Health Program 2012-2016. The Program was revised by national counterparts and relevant authorities and was presented to Government for approval. Four priorities of the National Programme related to Mental Health integration into Primary Health care and Hospital care reform were additionally supported.

UNICEF is supporting the development of an inter-ministerial regulation on early detection and intervention for children with disabilities. The early detection and early intervention system will contribute to habilitation of families with children with disabilities and will increase their access to services.

Standards on Child Growth monitoring have been assessed, adjusted and approved. According to the new standards, children from vulnerable families will be covered through the cross-sectorial cooperation mechanism for preventing and reducing the rates of infant and under-five mortality at home with social services provided by the local multidisciplinary team. In 2011, 10,200 children under 5 years of age from families at risk, including 5,599 children under 1 year, have been identified, assessed and benefited from services provided by multi-disciplinary teams consisting of family doctors, nurses, social workers and members of the community. In accordance with new Child Growth Monitoring standards, all children at 2 years old will be screened for autism. Moreover, a guide on nutrition status surveillance was developed with UNICEF assistance, and a parents' guide, with information for parents on child and adolescents' health and development was approved by the Ministry of Health and will be used for caregivers' information.

The UN provided technical assistance for the development of the communication strategy on the new vaccine introduction, including risk communication strategy and capacity building of professionals on vaccination for communication with families. In 2013 universal immunization against Pneumococcus will be introduced. WHO has also supported several activities regarding rotavirus vaccine introduction at national and regional level. Overall, immunization coverage is over 90 percent nationwide, with lower coverage in Transnistria region.

UNODC support was provided to the Ministry of Health's National Drug Observatory for data collection on HIV to enable evidence-based strategic planning. On 17 July, a memorandum of understanding between the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction and the Republic of Moldova was signed in order to strengthen the cooperation in drug monitoring situation in Moldova. The Ministry of Health became the responsible authority to share information on drugs on a systematic basis.

d. Vulnerable groups enjoy improved access to quality social protection services, including systems to prevent and protect from violence, abuse, exploitation and discrimination

Joint advocacy effort of the UN family and civil society with the Ministry of Labor, Social Policy and Family led to the approval of the Law on Accreditation of Social Services by the Parliament. This will provide the necessary legal framework for Local Public Authorities for social contracting and procurement of the necessary community-based social services from NGOs, which in turn will contribute to improve the situation in the area of provision of appropriate quality social services to population.

Cohesive advocacy efforts of the UN family, Council of Europe and civil society, including through high-level meetings, public discussions and consultations, and bilateral meetings with representatives of the Parliament led to ratification by the Parliament of the Council of Europe Lanzarote Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse. It was followed-up by corresponding

amendments to the Penal Code and Penal Procedures Code. This will improve the situation in the area of child protection and prevention against sexual abuse and exploitation.

In order to achieve the goals of enhancing the role of law enforcement authorities and drug control agencies, continuous support was provided to the Secretariat of the National Drug Control Commission. The Ministry of Interior Affairs has been offered UNODC technical assistance on HIV services for vulnerable groups, including Injecting Drug Users and inmates. More than 60 police officers and doctors working in field police station, representing all districts of Moldova were trained in topics such as drug dependence treatment, harm reduction programs for drug users, prophylaxis and prevention of HIV and TB.

The participation of high level officials from line ministries in the UN Women awareness raising campaign “16 days against violence” did not only ensure high visibility, but also demonstrated strong Government commitment, contributing to preventing domestic violence by guaranteeing more effective and better coordinated interventions by civil society, service providers, and government authorities from the social protection, health, justice and law enforcement sectors. The goal of the awareness raising campaign is to prevent and eliminate gender prejudices, stereotypes and conditions that generate gender-based.

During the first 9 months of 2012, 329 victims of domestic violence and 169 victims of human trafficking have been assisted by IOM through legal, psychological, medical, reintegration and other support. 75 medical staff received a Training of Trainers to identify victims of domestic violence and referring them to be assisted. A tracking

system was created to monitor and evaluate efforts of counter-trafficking state bodies, and will be shortly installed to allow the Permanent Secretariat of the Committee for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings to collect relevant data from state bodies. This will help generate comprehensive reports starting 2013. The National Referral System that covers domestic violence and trafficking is functional throughout the country at the district level. With IOM support, 80 community multidisciplinary teams, including community police officers, social assistants and doctors, have been enabled to identify, provide primary care and refer for assistance within the National Referral System. Moreover, multidisciplinary teams from 50 communities were trained on the development and functioning of the referral system, including legal aspects and identification of and support to victims.

With IOM support, a Special Assistance Fund continued to assist the Moldovan Government in covering the basic needs of migrants in detention, as well as to cover certain services, such socio-humanitarian assistance, psychological counseling, and legal advice. Throughout the year, approximately 150 migrants placed in the Chisinau Migration Accommodation Centre benefited from legal consultations, and psychological and social assistance.

For the fourth consecutive year, the Family Festival mobilized the community to promote behaviors in the spirit of family values of love, reciprocal respect, equal sharing of the household duties among all the family members, and combatting all the forms of violence against women, children, elderly persons.

UNDAF Objective 3

By 2012, vulnerable groups in poor rural and urban areas take advantage of sustainable socio-economic development opportunities through adequate regional and local policies implemented by Local Public Authorities (LPAs) and partners



3.1 Key development trends

While decentralization per se is not a precondition for EU integration, membership in the Council of Europe, implementation of its Charter for Local Self-government, and a democratic, accountable and efficient public administration, of which local government is an important element, are all preconditions for EU association process.

In the March monitoring report of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe, the rapporteurs noted positive progress regarding the legislation and institutions in respect of all statutory texts concerning the local public administration since the latest recommendations provided in 2005. In this regard, the National Decentralization Strategy, adopted by the Parliament on 5 April, is a sign of the current Government's declared commitment to conducting a thorough reform of local public administration to consolidate local authorities' autonomy and improve the management and quality of the services provided to the public. The Congress recommended that the Moldovan authorities continue with the measures they have launched in the context of the National Decentralization Strategy so that it can be adopted and implemented in keeping with the national authorities' declared intentions.

Decentralization reform aims at strengthening the role of local public authorities in making public

expenditure more transparent and efficient, and equitably improving the population's access to basic public services, ranging from education and health to water supply and sanitation. While major challenges such as administrative territorial reform remain to be addressed, in the long term, this reform should help Moldova overcome the rural-urban divide that plagued the country's progress in recent years. For instance, the disaggregated data outlines the persistence of rural-urban divide. 80 per cent of the country's poor reside in rural areas and 90 per cent of population without access to sewage are rural residents.

As a low middle-income country in transition, Moldova was severely hit in the wake of global economic crisis of 2008-2009. Despite the robust economic recovery since then, growth mostly relied on recovering remittances and expanding exports; remaining consumption-based, jobless and uneven from geographic standpoint. While absolute poverty significantly decreased from 67.8 per cent in 2000 to 21.9 per cent in 2010, disparities persist. The rural population remains the most vulnerable segment of the society in terms of welfare and economic security. Moreover, the urban-rural divide goes well beyond monetary poverty, as rural population faces much more limited access to basic services, such as clean water, education or health.

Income and human development inequality have grown over the last two decades between the capital city and the rest of the country, between urban and rural areas and, more recently, between the six development regions. The greatest socio-economic difference is between Chisinau Municipality and other territorial administrative units. The capital is not only the center of consumption and income but also of public expenses and welfare. In fact, as recent research suggests, Moldova displays one of the highest degrees of polarization of economic life in Europe. Economic growth has been unbalanced not only geographically but also from a gender perspective. In 2011, the average monthly salary of women represented 74.4 percent of the average salary of men. Women from poor families face greater challenges in entering the labor market, since the employability of women is

limited by the boundaries of traditional responsibilities for rearing children and directly linked to the availability of pre-school facilities for their children.

Labour migration is an important exit strategy for many Moldovans, mostly young people from rural areas. Women comprise almost 44 percent of migrants and are mainly employed in households. The country has one of the highest levels worldwide of migrant workers relative to the population and of remittances inflow relative to GDP. This development model contributed to poverty reduction, but with huge human and social costs and longer term political, economic, and demographic development constraints.

In general, development challenges faced by Moldova's Transnistria region are similar to the rest of the country. The issue of reintegration of Moldova with its break-away region is one of the top priorities of the current Government. After 20 years, 2012 brought a change in the leadership of the region, suggesting that improvement in relations may be possible, and leading to a more consistent and intense dialogue between legitimate central authorities of Moldova and self-declared authorities of the region.

Following the establishment of a good working relationship between the leadership of Moldova and the region, breakthroughs on diplomatic and socio-economic fronts followed. The peace negotiation process was unfrozen, the railway

connection was reestablished, the region's important tax on imported Moldovan goods abolished, and several political prisoners released. Notwithstanding, the room for progress looked exhausted in the second half of the year, as no more concessions were made on either side, while regional authorities reinstated the import tax. The slowdown in positive dynamics occurred against the backdrop of rising tensions surrounding negotiations over the gas supply from Russia and Russia's objections towards Moldova's commitment on implementation of the third energy package under the European Energy Community Treaty. That commitment was postponed but never abandoned.

Presently, the political situation in the Transnistrian region of Moldova is dominated by efforts of the new authorities to solidify their political and economic power and ensure economic and social development. As Moldova benefits from EU programmes, including assistance for political and economic reforms, visa facilitation, trade preferences, and participation in educational, scientific and cultural community programmes, Transnistrian residents remain unaware of these benefits and hence unable to use them. Therefore, the need and relevance of the expanded intervention in support of confidence building measures in April 2012 is reconfirmed.

3.2 Assessment of progress towards Outcome indicators

| UNDAF Outcome Indicators | Baseline | Target | Status 12/2012 |
|--|--|--|---|
| Level of absolute and extreme poverty: - in the republic at large - in rural areas - in towns - in cities - Gini Coefficient, based on consumption, per one inhabitant (relative) | - in the republic at large: 26.5% and 14.7% - in rural areas: 31.2% and 18% - in towns: 34.9% and 17.5% - in cities: 6.9% and 2.9% - Gini Coefficient , based on consumption, per one inhabitant (relative): 0.361 | - Reducing the level of poverty, in the first place, in the rural areas and town - Inequality reduction | - in the republic at large: 21.9% and 1.4% - in rural areas: 30.3% and 2.1% - in towns: 14.2% and 0.3% - in cities: 7.3% and 0.4% - Gini Coefficient , based on consumption, per one inhabitant (relative): 0.287 |

3.3 Narrative analysis of progress

a. LPAs operate in a more effective and transparent manner

Following the approval of the National Decentralization Strategy in April, UNDP and UN Women have taken important steps in its implementation. Draft legal amendments for decentralization were prepared and submitted to Parliament, covering 22 laws, including key ones as are those on Administrative Decentralization, Local Public Authorities, and Local Public Finances. The most significant progress was made in fiscal decentralization – a key domain for improving local autonomy and accountability of local authorities towards their citizens. Policy options were formulated and extensive simulations of their impact conducted. As a result, policy solutions were chosen and draft legal amendments to the law on Local Public Finances and Fiscal Code submitted to Parliament, involving primarily the sharing of personal income tax and a new equalization transfer system. In preparation for operation under the new fiscal decentralization framework, as well as to improve effectiveness, efficiency and transparency in use

of local funds, a training program to implement Programme Based Budgeting has been started. The Ministry of Finance expects district authorities to use Programme Based Budgeting starting in 2014 and first level local authorities in 2015.

Similarly, policy solutions and draft legal amendments were prepared for devolution of real assets of local authorities, regarding the identification and registration of property as well as their separation by level of local authority and public or private use. Sectoral decentralization strategies were submitted for public consultation for the most important service areas: education and social services.

The institutional and organizational capacities of the Congress of Local Authorities (CALM) have continued to be strengthened, especially by working with the CALM Women's Network, for which leadership development activities were organized nationally and internationally, as well as a good practices exchange programme. CALM developed an online collaboration and exchange platform as well as a best practices internet database and library. To support the implementation of the National Decentralization Strategy and increase the awareness of public servants and elected officials about the

decentralization reform, a training program on Decentralization has been introduced at the Academy of Public Administration, and two pilot workshops conducted with the expectation that Academy of Public Administration will adopt the topics in their regular academic and professional development related curriculum.

b. New businesses and jobs are created in targeted poor rural and urban areas

Following strong focus during 2007-2011 on business and employment opportunities for most vulnerable population, and achievement of intended objectives, in 2012 the UN has focused on more sophisticated cross-sector interventions.

The Moldova Energy and Biomass project, financed by the European Union, places major emphasis on the establishment of sustainable markets for renewable energy production and consumption, as such contributing to the creation of alternative new employment, income and business opportunities at local and regional levels. By end 2012, with UNDP support, 64 biomass heating systems were installed, supplying heat and significantly increasing thermal comfort in 81 public facilities – mainly schools and kindergartens – in rural areas of Moldova. In these localities and districts, sustainable value added chains are established through the supply of biomass fuel and technologies, contributing to socio-economic community development. As a direct result of the project's interventions, 135 new jobs were created in the 12 districts covered so far. A tailor-made induction and on-the-job training significantly improved the knowledge and skills of the operators of the new heating systems in view of sound operation of biomass-fired boilers, labour safety and fire-prevention measures, and effective maintenance routines.

With UNDP support, major progress was made in advancing the commercial biomass fuel market, both at the supply and demand side. Over 200 potential suppliers of biomass fuel and relevant civil servants from local 60 municipalities in 13 districts were equipped with practical knowledge in setting up and managing briquette, pellet and baled-straw businesses capable to supply high-quality fuel to the public and private sector. The

knowledge and lessons learned were codified in a Handbook for Fuel Suppliers in both Romanian and Russian languages. 40 active briquettes and pellets producers from all regions of the country benefitted from local and international practitioners in the field to optimise their operations along the value-chain, cost-effectively boost productivity and increase the overall quality of their products. In further support of business creation, in 2012 two financing mechanisms were established in collaboration with the Energy Efficiency Agency and the Project Implementation Unit of the "2KR" project aiming at providing entrepreneurs with access to structured financing for hire-purchase of baling handling and briquetting equipment. It is expected that over the coming 3-year period the two Revolving Funds' operation would enable a EUR 1 million initial seed capital injection to be leveraged by at least two times.

During 2012, under the three on-going programmes, 102 loans were disbursed to rural entrepreneurs to develop new businesses, amounting to USD 1.3 million or 27 percent of the total IFAD loan amount disbursed during the period of January – October. In the same period all financed enterprises under on-going programmes of the International Fund on Agricultural Development have created 625 new jobs.

Through the Business Development component under the Support to Confidence Building Measures Project, UNDP aims to tackle difficult socio-economic conditions in Transnistria region and stimulate economic development while promoting cooperation between economic actors from both sides. This process is supported through four joint business initiatives in three main directions: business education, business support and development services (study trips, consulting services), and a research into the feasibility of establishing a micro-finance facility in the Transnistrian region. So far, 318 persons have benefitted from the different business development interventions, involving about 60 Small and Medium Enterprises from both sides of the Nistru River and more than 20 cross-river business exchanges. Opportunities increased and capacity improved for businesses on both banks to implement joint business projects, exchange information, as well as get access to external

resources, including in the field of export/import operations, trade between the two banks, EU quality systems, trade certificates, legislation, technical regulations, framework and policy documents and other business and trade related areas.

c. Empowered communities and CSOs participate in local development planning, implementation and monitoring

Local communities and their local authorities from 10 towns and 60 villages have been supported by the UNDP/UN Women Joint Integrated Local Development Programme to implement - in a participatory, human rights based and gender responsive manner - their local socio-economic development plans. For this purpose, 64 community groups were created and empowered to participate, together with Local Public Authorities and CSOs, to plan, implement and monitor local development projects. Community empowerment was achieved through 250 public meetings, involving a variety of community groups, particularly the vulnerable. In addition, 452 workshops were organized to develop skills of the vulnerable women and men to identify, voice and effectively advocate for their needs and their incorporation in the local development plans.

Seventy-three development projects, reflecting local development priorities, were implemented in the target communities. The projects targeted the improvement of conditions in kindergartens and schools (33 projects) through renovation, installation of modern sanitation and heating systems, including energy efficiency systems, as well as expansion of kindergarten facilities to host more children. Other projects achieved building of 7 playgrounds and 5 stadiums; improving roads in 5 communities; installing street lighting systems in 10 communities; infrastructure and access to public services in 2; and potable water supply systems in 3 communities. An innovative community transportation service was put in place in 5 rural communities, ensuring transportation of children to school and kindergarten, and of older and persons with disabilities to district health facilities. Two of the Joint Integrated Local Development Programme

supported projects built agricultural public market-places, increasing the income generating opportunities for the rural population. Three community development projects rehabilitated the kindergartens and schools from Hrustovaia and Kuzmin in Camenca raion, and Biciok in Grigoripol raion, all situated in the Transnistria region of Moldova.

Local authorities from Telenesti developed a model of inter-municipal cooperation, extending the existing waste management service to the neighboring rural localities. This model could be applied nation-wide, ensuring that essential services are offered to smaller communities without capacity and hope to develop such a service by themselves.

In order to increase confidence between the two banks of the Nistru river, municipalities, with UNDP support, civil society organizations and other stakeholders were continuously involved in economic and social confidence building projects. These addressed the needs of vulnerable communities, with a specific focus on Transnistrian region, including the security zone, by increasing their access to basic social and economic services, as well as to objective and diversified sources of information.

Implemented at the local level, communities' empowerment sub-projects addressed community needs and help citizens to solve their problems through common work and participation. 28 community-led projects in the Security Zone are under implementation on both banks of the Nistru River, including improvements of water supply, renovation of educational and health facilities, and improvement of service delivery. These UNDP supported projects enhanced the capacities of rural community members to effectively participate in and benefit from the development initiatives through an increased demand of efficient delivery of social security services, as well as utilities provision. They also help residents of the Security Zone from both sides to resolve the common issues they are facing. The problems that communities on both banks face are similar and they were jointly involved in order to better resolve them. The project has been run in a way that made local participation possible and opened the road towards community capacity development.

The activities derived from the approaches, experience and best practices of UN interventions at community level in Moldova, where communities were assisted in social mobilisation, formation and support of community organisation mechanisms, provision of technical and financial support to community-led development projects. Capacities among community members were developed for sustainable local development processes such as identifying and prioritizing community development needs, developing strategies for addressing identified problems, mobilising resources to implement community development projects and managing and sustaining the outputs.

Capacity-building, analytical studies and expert meetings contributed to national policy development for the safeguarding of the diversity of cultural heritage through the effective implementation of UNESCO Conventions, and promoted cultural development of local communities.

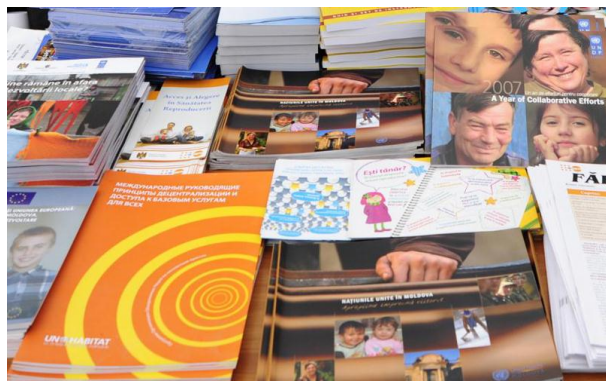
Civil society in Transnistria was continuously dealing with issues of underdevelopment and was comparatively weaker than the civil society from the rest of Moldova. NGO activity was centred in the main cities (Tiraspol, Bender and Dubasari) and was rather limited in rural areas. The number of CSOs focusing on youth issues, environment and community issues is small and those organizations which do exist have poor resources and limited capacities; thus reaffirming the need for provision of NGOs/CSOs capacity building

programmes. Supporting the development of Transnistria's civil society organizations at the grassroots level as well as fostering the creation of cross-river partnerships and co-operation projects between Moldovan and Transnistrian NGOs became an important component of UN interventions in 2012. The UN has further focused on empowering civil society and enhancing NGOs capacity to address key development needs

UNDP supported the establishment of cross-river people-to-people contacts and grassroots links through NGO partnership projects on both sides, under the aegis of its call for proposals, opened for CSOs from both banks. During the two grants competitions launched in 2012, 218 joint project proposals have been submitted by NGOs from both banks. 12 joint interventions in the field of media, research, democracy, as well as pressing social issues, environment, youth mobilization or human rights are currently under implementation, while other 118 proposals are being reviewed.

Despite limited capacity and resources, NGOs on both banks have demonstrated willingness to cooperate in areas of common interest, contributing to an overall reduction of mistrust and reaffirming the need to support these types of activities. The civil society projects contributed to NGOs capacity building, experience exchange and best practices transmission from one bank to another. There have been positive signs of successful cooperation between civil society organizations and local authorities in tackling community issues during the course of the year.

Joint Communications



The UN Human Rights Gala of Awards continued to be a key joint advocacy and promotion event recognizing and awarding outstanding achievements in the area of human rights in Moldova. In addition to being broadcast live by the public broadcaster Moldova 1 TV, the Gala of Awards was also aired by Radio Moldova and the news portal Privesc.eu. The event was attended by the Speaker of the Parliament as well as representatives of Government, civil society, international organizations, and media. The human rights exhibition organized on this occasion brought together human rights NGOs, including from the Transnistrian region. The Gala of Awards is available at:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=16A4drriXzo>

The United Nations Day was marked together with partners and people through the launch of street illumination in Nisporeni town. Attended by the Prime Minister and UN Country Team, the event was an excellent opportunity to showcase UN's results on the ground and to promote sustainable use of energy (International Year of Sustainable Energy for All). The commemoration programme also included dissemination of information materials about the UN and its work in Moldova, assembling by children and parents of a 32 square metres puzzle with the message "I am happy when you take care of me!" and awarding the winners of a drawing competition on efficient use of energy. Apart from this, 3 short documentaries about the UN were aired for 2 weeks by Publika TV. More about the UN Day in Nisporeni at:

http://www.un.md/news_room/pr/2012/UNDay_Nisporeni/index.shtml

4 issues of the quarterly UN magazine produced and widely disseminated and promoted on social media and UN website. The UN magazine is available at:

http://www.un.md/key_doc_pub/un_magazines/index.shtml

As Moldova launched its national post-2015 consultations, TV and radio spots were aired on major channels, and a web-platform <http://www.un.md/2015> was established on the UN website, where people can have their say on the future they want.

The 20th anniversary of Moldova's adherence to the United Nations was marked in March through a joint press conference of the Deputy Prime-Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration and the UN Resident Coordinator during which an anniversary publication which takes stock of Moldova's contributions to the UN's bodies and processes and well as the assistance provided by the UN to Moldova through its agencies in Moldova was presented. The publication was broadly disseminated including through Moldova's missions to the UN in New York and Europe.

UN Agencies continued their efforts to improve the use by mass media of the statistical data by partnering with the State University's faculty of communications and journalism in developing a course and manual on the use of statistics in the media and communications.

Other events jointly supported by the UN team included the Family Festival, 16 days against violence campaign, and a video and photo competition on migration and diversity Plural +. Advocacy and communications also included extensive media coverage and promotion of the visits of the UN Expert on Human Rights in Transnistria, the UN Working Group on the issue of discrimination against women in law and in practice, Rio+20 Conference on Sustainable Development, the debates on the situation of Roma, people with disabilities and other vulnerable groups, non-discrimination law. Messages of the UN SG on major UN observances were disseminated in all media.

Annex 1: International Human Rights Treaties and other related instruments

| Core universal human rights treaties in force | Ratification, Accession or Succession |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| • International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, 1965 | 1993 |
| • International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, 1966 | 1993 |
| • International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, 1966 | 1993 |
| • Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, 1979 | 1994 |
| • Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, 1984 | 1995 |
| • Convention on the Rights of the Child, 1989 | 1993 |
| • Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, 2006 | 2010 |
| • Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, 1966 | 2008 |
| • Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, 1999 | 2006 |
| • Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, 2002 | 2006 |
| • Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Involvement of Children in armed conflict, 2000 | 2004 |
| • Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography, 2000 | 2007 |
| • Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty, 1989 | 2006 |

Moldova has ratified 7 of the 9 core human rights treaties and 5 of the 8 optional protocols open for signature as of the end of 2012. Ratification of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families and the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance were both not completed as of the end of 2012. Moldova has thus far accepted international complaints procedures only concerning the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. Moldova has imposed reservations related to treaty applicability with respect to the territory of the Transnistrian region on several treaties, but it has committed to withdraw these reservations. For further information concerning Moldova's interaction with the international human rights system, please contact: registry.md@one.un.org.

| Other important international instruments in force (list does not include regional treaties) | Ratification/ Accession /Succession |
|--|---|
| • Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, 1948 | 1993 |
| • Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, 1998 | 2010 |
| • Convention on the non-applicability of statutory limitations to war crimes and crimes against humanity, 1968 | 1993 |
| • International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid, 1973 | 2005 |
| • Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, 2000 | 2005 |
| • Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, 1951 | 2002 |
| • Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees, 1967 | 2001 |
| • Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons, 1954 | 2012 |
| • Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness, 1961 | 2012 |
| • Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 and Additional Protocols thereto | Yes |
| • ILO fundamental conventions | Yes |
| • UNESCO fundamental conventions | Yes |