THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE EUROPEAN UNION:
PARTNERSHIP FOR MOLDOVA,
PARTNERSHIP FOR DEVELOPMENT
2005-2011

Chisinau, 2011
The United Nations and the European Union have provided support to the Republic of Moldova in recent years through development projects as well as during crisis situations. Our joint work has been recognized equally by our Government counterparts and the people we have helped.

We have united our efforts in building a democratic and prosperous Moldova and also responded jointly to the drought and floods that have affected the country.

Having spent several years in Moldova, I noticed that the word ‘prosperous’ in Romanian also means ‘hope’. I believe that as development partners, we have managed to feed people’s hope for a better life and we have helped many dreams come true by supporting the most vulnerable and creating opportunities for various initiatives.

When we speak about opportunities for development – for the entire country and for each citizen – we have to highlight the focus on human rights and gender equality, as well as the cooperation between the United Nations and the European Union for the benefit of the Republic of Moldova. The European Union has become the most important donor of the United Nations in Moldova.

Cooperation by the United Nations and the European Union with the Government has also contributed to speeding up Moldova’s progress in achieving the Millennium Development Goals. Together, we are focusing our efforts in areas where people are most in need of our support, regardless of their social statute or geographical location. This support addresses many needs including, among others, local governance, energy efficiency, transitional capacity for the reforms, protection of children, migration, health policies, gender equality, demographic issues, decent labour conditions, integration of refugees and border management. In particular, our support has succeeded in assisting people in the Transnistrian region.

These joint positive efforts will continue to help the Republic of Moldova in the coming years to find itself in the European family of democratic and prosperous states and further affirm itself in the larger family of the United Nations.

Kaarina Immonen

Foreword by UN Resident Coordinator in the Republic of Moldova
Foreword by Head of EU Delegation to the Republic of Moldova

Current projects coordinated by the European Union Delegation to Moldova and implemented by the United Nations agencies amount to nearly 30 million Euro and cover numerous areas from migration and electoral support to health, renewable energy and confidence building measures. They also cover regional initiatives such as the EU Border Assistance Mission to Moldova and Ukraine, Strengthening of Migration Management and Local Integration of Refugees in Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine.

Since 2005, the support of the European Union to the Government of the Republic of Moldova has been significant and the assistance and expertise provided by United Nations agencies has been of utmost importance in furthering the country’s development goals.

While we will need more time to see the real impact of our joint efforts, these efforts already constitute concrete and tangible results.

A lot remains to be done and there are many challenges ahead. In this context, one of the most important areas of our cooperation aims at strengthening the capacities of our partners in Moldova. Efforts aim to build their skills to undertake responsibilities in the implementation of a very ambitious reform agenda set by the Government.

The first and most important priority of the EU Delegation in Moldova is the support of the European integration efforts of the Republic of Moldova.

In terms of the Transnistrian region, the EU will expand its confidence building efforts. Our assistance will significantly increase in this area and we hope that the cooperation between the two sides of the Nistru river will continue in a positive way.

We have a full agenda and the EU Delegation in the Republic of Moldova is proud to support the European integration plan of the Government. We count on cooperation with the UN agencies in this process.

Dirk Schuebel
United Nations Country Team in Moldova

- **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 United Nations Agencies in Moldova

- **IAEA** International Atomic Energy Agency
- **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
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5
**Introduction**

The United Nations and the European Union have a long history of international cooperation in the area of development assistance, human rights, conflict prevention and crisis response. This publication takes stock of successful partnership and cooperation between the United Nations (UN) and the European Union (EU) in the Republic of Moldova from 2005 to 2011. This is a diverse and close cooperation benefitting the Moldovan people.

In all parts of the world, the development partnership between the United Nations and the European Union advances an international agenda based on the United Nations Millennium Declaration and its eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The Millennium Development Goals range from halving extreme poverty to halting the spread of HIV/AIDS and providing universal primary education, all by the target date of 2015, and form a blueprint agreed to by all the world’s countries and leading development institutions.

![European Comission funding to the United Nations (2000-2010)](image)

* 2010 data includes all European Commission Directorates-General funding
** 2010 Food Facility contributions: 64.1 M€

Figure 1: The European Union, through its European Commission, provides funds to support United Nations efforts worldwide.
In Moldova, the programmes, projects and initiatives supported by the United Nations and the European Union contribute to the achievement of the country’s development priorities, one of which is the European integration of the Republic of Moldova. The UN Country Team has established, with the support of the European Union, a diverse and close cooperation with the Government of the Republic of Moldova, civil society and other partners. This partnership focuses on the strategic areas of the UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) for 2007-2012: governance and participation, access to quality services and regional and local development.

The United Nations and the European Union are now strategic partners of the Republic of Moldova. Their cooperation started with a regional initiative to prevent drug abuse and trafficking in Belarus, Ukraine and Moldova (BUMAD, 2003-2008). This programme was followed by interventions in the area of border management, known as the Enhancing Border Control Management Programme (EBCMP) of the EU Border Assistance Mission in Moldova and Ukraine (EUBAM). The support provided to Moldova in the framework of these projects contributed to the fulfilment of the priorities envisaged by the Republic of Moldova - European Union Action Plan.

The level of cooperation has increased over the years, especially following the expansion of the EU presence in Moldova and opening in October 2005 of the EU Delegation office in Chisinau. Partnership with the United Nations has been strengthened through joint actions in areas such as social sector support, human rights, electoral support and democracy promotion, regional development and confidence building measures, public administration and institutional development, environment and climate change, migration and EU-Moldova agreements. The UN-EU cooperation has considerably evolved, from initiatives supported by the EU to joint programmes with the UN and a diversified portfolio funded by the EU. As a priority partner country, Moldova has benefitted from the most generous support in per capita terms in the framework of the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP). The ENP’s action plan sets strategic objectives including a commitment to promoting European values; efficiently implementing political, economic and institutional reforms; and supporting the country’s priorities for integration in European structures.

In November 2010, the Government of Moldova and its development partners endorsed the Partnership Principles Implementation Plan (PPIP). This agreement, signed by 21 development partners, including the United Nations and the European Union, envisages a set of principles inspired by the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness and Accra Agenda for Action. Its focus is on coordination and harmonization of practices to strengthen the efficiency of foreign aid.

Numerous programmes and projects are benefitting people and communities in Moldova as a result of the country’s partnership with the United Nations and European Union. Examples of initiatives in the key areas of governance and participation, access to quality services, and regional and local development are presented in this publication.
1. GOVERNANCE AND PARTICIPATION

Ensuring good governance, rule of law and equal access to justice, and promoting human rights
Building on increasingly close collaboration over the past years, the United Nations agencies and the European Union have supported the formulation and implementation of institutional policies and capacity development projects that have helped Moldova harmonize priority sectors identified by the Government to European standards.

**Building institutional capacity**

Institutions with sound policies, structures and management will help Moldova to achieve its goal of integration in the European Union. The fulfilment of European integration commitments is a key objective of the project “Building Institutional Capacity of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration”. One major focus of the project is to prepare the Ministry staff and the Negotiation Team to negotiate the Association Agreement between the European Union and the Republic of Moldova. Moldova is making progress in speeding up reforms and aligning policies and regulations to European standards in the framework of the Agreement. Implementing the Association Agreement is a first step towards legal harmonization, which is crucial for the European integration of Moldova.

Training for civil servants is part of the effort to build institutional capacity, from improving staff motivation to enhancing communication with the public. “We will aim to help Moldovan people, the society, the state and non-state actors in building a prosperous country with respect for rule of law and human rights,” said Matilda Dimovska, UNDP Deputy Resident Representative.

The project also supports effort to build institutional capacity in external and internal communications. In Balti, Cahul and Comrat, information centres known as “Pro-Europe” Centres have received grants for information and awareness-raising activities about the benefits of European integration for Moldova. Another focus is on enhancing the impact of Moldova’s participation in the regional cooperation process, and the project has provided support to the Mission of the Republic of Moldova to the European Union, in Brussels, to organize events to promote EU-Moldova relations and cooperation.

*“Pro-Europe” Centre in Chisinau*
Providing high level policy advice

The Government of Moldova is taking a leadership role in the reform of public institutions to improve the quality of governance and public services. At the request of the Government, the European Union’s team of High Level Policy Advisers is supporting this effort. Active since January 2010, EUHLPAM aims to support the democratic and sustainable development of Moldova through provision of high level policy advice on the EU integration process, economic recovery and democratic reforms.

The mission consists of fifteen international experts who have been deployed at public institutions including the Office of the Prime Minister and the Ministries of Economy, Finance, Justice, Internal Affairs, Agriculture and Food Industry, Transport and Road Infrastructure, and Environment. Advisors are also engaged in the Prosecutor General’s Office, State Customs Service, Bureau for Migration and Asylum, Centre for Combatting Economic Crimes and Corruption, State Tax Inspectorate and Public Procurement Agency.

The Prime Minister of the Republic of Moldova, Vladimir Filat, has expressed the commitment of the Government to use this expertise to help accelerate Moldova’s transition to a market economy with a vibrant civic society. “We are very grateful to EU and UNDP for the positive response to our request to provide high-level international experts to advise the Government in its activity.”

“We are very grateful to EU and UNDP for the positive response to our request to provide high-level international experts to advise the Government in its activity,” Vladimir Filat, Prime Minister of the Republic of Moldova

“Moldovan Economic Trends”, a quarterly publication supported by EUHLPAM / UNDP
Increasing citizen participation through free and fair elections

Moldovan citizens are benefitting from an improved electoral process, greater transparency of the electoral process and improved capacity for citizens abroad to participate in national and municipal elections. Reforms led by Moldova’s Central Electoral Commission (CEC) are contributing to the ability of citizens to play an enhanced part in the country’s democratic development and decision-making processes.

The United Nations and the European Union supported the Central Electoral Commission in organizing free and fair elections through the project “Electoral Support for Moldova”. A record voter turnout - two out of three voters, including Moldovans living abroad - was higher than any other previous election. For the first time, in the early parliamentary elections in November 2010, CEC registered voters electronically, and people with visual impairments could cast their vote directly and discretely, using a new system. Also, an improved system to display turnout and voting results provided faster and more secure access to information.

“Thanks to UN and EU support, we managed to ensure a greater participation of citizens, both in the country and abroad, to improve the electoral processes and to increase the transparency of elections results,” said Iurie Ciocan, Chairman of the Central Electoral Commission.

Training courses for CEC staff and an extensive awareness and civic education campaign in the country and abroad also contributed to the electoral success. The UN had a key role in ensuring the out-of-country voting, which resulted in a voter turnout four times higher than in any previous elections with 64,201 Moldovans living abroad participating in the elections in November 2010. This initiative contributed to increasing the capacities of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration in efficient organization of polling stations abroad, in particular in the countries where Moldova has no diplomatic presence. More than 100 Moldovan diaspora associations were involved in promoting the messages of an information and education campaign aimed at promoting voting of Moldovans abroad.

Awareness campaign “Votează lume!”, 2010 / UNDP
Better management of migration

The Government of Moldova is working together with the UN and the European Union on several regional efforts to manage migration.

**MIGRABEL-MIGRAMOL: Migrants’ Accommodation Centre**

Recently renovated and equipped, the Migrants’ Accommodation Centre in Chisinau can provide decent accommodation to up to 200 irregular migrants. The Centre offers a range of services including temporary accommodation; free access to interpretation, legal and medical services; social and psychological assistance as well as assistance to return to the countries of origin. Its main operational standards are confidentiality, non-discrimination, tolerance, respect and protection of human rights and responsibility. Eighteen employees of the Centre have received training in procedures and documentation of the Centre’s operations. Local non-governmental organizations (NGOs) provide legal advice and social and humanitarian assistance.

The Centre was helped by the project “Strengthening of Migration Management” (MIGRABEL-MIGRAMOL), a regional project supporting readmission agreements in Belarus and Moldova. MIGRABEL-MIGRAMOL has contributed to increasing the capacities to manage migration, with a special focus on irregular migrants and supporting the Government’s efforts to implement international best practices and humanitarian standards.

**GUMIRA**

The process of documenting foreigners immigrating to Moldova is becoming more efficient through Government-led efforts that focus on the treatment of irregular migrants, protection of their rights, and cooperation with countries of origin and transit.
A project known as “Technical Cooperation and Capacity Building for the Governments of Ukraine and Moldova for the Implementation of Readmission Agreements with the European Union” (GUMIRA) has provided technical cooperation and capacity building assistance to the Governments of Ukraine and Moldova. Seventeen staff of the Ministry of Interior and other state institutions have participated in training on EU readmission practices and 170 irregular migrants have benefitted from legal and social assistance and humanitarian support.

**SIREADA**

Based on the results of MIGRABEL-MIGRAMOL and GUMIRA, another regional project on readmission was launched in 2011 - “Support to Implementation of EC Readmission Agreements with the Republic of Moldova, the Russian Federation and Ukraine: Facilitation of Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration” (SIREADA). The project provides reintegration assistance to readmitted migrants and those who have voluntarily returned to their origin country. It also strengthens assistance capacities for the voluntary return of third country nationals with no legal statute, and contributes to the gradual creation of a sustainable system for assisted voluntary return.

SIREADA helps to improve the situation of at least 675 migrants from tertiary countries and 150 citizens of the implementing countries. It will also contribute to a better welfare of some 2,500 detained migrants in three migrant custody centres in Ukraine and one centre in Moldova. More than 100 staff working in migration and employment in Moldova, Russia and Ukraine will gain knowledge and improved skills to fulfil commitments under the readmission agreements.
Improving border and customs practices

More than 3,500 staff of the Border Guards and Customs Services in Moldova and Ukraine have benefitted from on-the-job and formal training at local and central levels and study visits to EU member-states to modernize their border management and customs procedures. This training has contributed to positive changes including better service provision at the border, where corruption is an endemic problem.

The capacity of authorities to carry out effective border and customs controls and border surveillance in line with European practices is a key element of European integration efforts. The European Union Borders Assistance Mission to Moldova and Ukraine (EUBAM) was launched in 2005, at the request of the Presidents of Moldova and Ukraine.

EUBAM provides training, technical advice and assistance. Results include better knowledge and professional skills of the partner services, more successful cooperation among these partners and with the agencies of EU Member States and neighbouring countries. The impact of enhanced capacity is evident in significant detections of smuggling and other cross-border crime. Other important results include an improved risk analysis system and a better analytical overview of border security, due in part to the provision of modern border and customs control equipment. The Customs Services of Moldova and Ukraine are also assisted in fighting various types of fraud through Jointly Operated Border Crossing Points and the Pre-Arrival Information Exchange System.

EUBAM helps Moldova and Ukraine in modernizing their border management and customs procedures / EUBAM
Applying normative standards for human rights

Translating international human rights standards into national laws and practices is a priority, and a challenge, in many countries. In Moldova, Government leadership has created an environment for progress on human rights issues and has endeavoured to bring legislation in line with international and European standards. The United Nations agencies and the European Union have supported the Government in areas including health, education, justice and social policies and legal and normative documents. These efforts have had an impact on promotion and protection of human rights and the rule of law.

The Torture Prevention Project

The European Union and the United Nations undertook cooperation towards the implementation of the “Support to Strengthening the National Preventive Mechanism as per Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture (OPCAT) provisions”. Commonly called the “Torture Prevention” project, it aims to prevent the prevalence/ incidence of torture and other forms of cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment by enhancing the National Prevention Mechanism (NPM) in line with the requirements of the UN Convention against Torture and the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture. It promotes the national system of human rights protection. The project also contributes to the creation and strengthening of partnerships between the NPM, NGOs and public authorities to ensure effective monitoring of torture cases.

One focus of action has been on building the capacity of the National Preventive Mechanism (NPM), a visiting body for the prevention of torture. Support to the NPM and its staff has included technical assistance, communication and awareness campaigns, and training and advice.

To improve monitoring of the situation, skilled staff and modern equipment are making a difference. Twenty experts, members of the NPM, the Advisory Council and civil society activists have been trained in how to monitor places of detention to prevent torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment. The project has provided video and photo cameras, computers and other devices to help conduct efficient monitoring visits. Also, the Training Centre of the Department for Penitentiary Institutions in Goieni, was repaired and renovated, with UN and EU support.

The Torture Prevention project launched a toll-free “green line” at the Centre for Human Rights, where callers can report human rights violations, dialling the phone number 0 8001 2222. Since its launch in July 2009, the green line has received 308 complaints of human rights violations and 1,445 requests for advice on human right issues. The green line was recently promoted in a nationwide communication campaign on torture prevention in which seven NGOs received small grants.

It also supported 126 monitoring visits with the participation of the Human Rights Centre and the NPM, and assisted with the submission to law enforcement agencies of eight requests for criminal investigation - one request for starting disciplinary procedures, and 53 informational notes. The project has also conducted a comprehensive analysis of efforts to combat torture in Moldova and published a study with a set of recommendations for action. The study was used by experts in elaborating a new chapter for the National Action Plan in Human Rights.
Joint UN-EU human rights agenda

A related project launched in January 2011 supports forensic examination along with training to try cases of torture. The project “Strengthening the Forensic Examination of Torture and Other Forms of Ill-Treatment in Moldova” helps people who need it obtain accurate, comprehensive and independent forensic examination, including through the Centre of Forensic Medicine in Moldova. Some 200 forensic experts, medical personnel from places of detention and penitentiary institutions, hospital staff and independent medical practitioners will be offered training on examination techniques and relevant standards when dealing with torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment. Another 200 representatives of the police, prosecution and judiciary will be trained to investigate and adjudicate cases of torture, compliant to the Istanbul Protocol.


Groups vulnerable to being marginalized have also received special attention. Parliament ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in August 2010 and approved the Strategy on the Social Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities. United Nations agencies were instrumental in advocating for approval of the Strategy. Also, a roadmap was launched in 2011 which envisions the introduction of the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health, a classification adopted by the World Health Assembly and coordinated by the World Health Organization. For children, support from UN enabled the Youth Media Centre to build partnerships with the Association of Independent Press, Centre for Investigative Journalism and other media in the country. The aim was to explore ethical issues related to media coverage of children and increase the presence of children and their rights in media. Workers also gained in 2011 with the formulation by the Government and UN to promote labour policies through an action plan of the National Employment Agency.

Monthly round tables are providing a platform for discussion in Moldova’s Transnistrian region. Cooperation between the region’s authorities, civil society, media and international organizations has evolved through a social partnership network created with the support of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe and the UN agencies. Among the issues discussed are domestic violence, problems faced by children and youth, modalities for social services provision, creation of an NGO database in the region, and the promotion and implementation of the National Referral System for victims and potential victims of human trafficking.
Setting standards for safety and health at work

Moldova has demonstrated national commitment in improving health and safety at work. A pressing challenge for the country is the increasing human, economic and social burden of workplace accidents, diseases and fatalities. Moldova was selected to participate in a pilot project to develop international standards and operational action in this field. The project “Improving Safety and Health at Work through a Decent Work Agenda” promotes a set of urgent actions required to reverse this trend of workplace accidents, which too often lead to disability, reliance on benefits, early retirement, exclusion from the labour market, the loss of a breadwinner and poverty.

The initiative promotes a dialogue on safety and health at work among six pilot countries (Honduras, Malawi, Moldova, Nicaragua, Ukraine and Zambia) and within each country at three levels (government, trade unions and employers). Advocacy tools are being developed to promote safety and health at the national level. Each pilot country will adopt a National Programme and Action Plan. Another key element is the organization of a nationwide public awareness campaign on the occasion of the World Day of Safety and Health at Work.
Drought response turns loss into value

Drought forced Maria Neagu into a desperate situation, lacking money or the prospect of a harvest. The prices of seeds and fertilizers kept going up. Then Maria and her family in Tătărăști village, Cahul rayon, received a donation of seeds, fertilizers and fuel. They were among 42 farm households in the village that benefitted from United Nations and European Union support, which nationwide reached 19,589 households affected by a severe drought in 2007. Maria said the assistance received by her family as well as her daughter’s family was like “a sip of water for a thirsty person”. She sowed two hectares of land with winter wheat and welcomed a rich harvest. Another farmer from the village, Petru Swithii, says his heart is full of joy when he looks at his field planted with wheat, like a thick green carpet. “The donation came when we needed it most,” Petru said.

A large number of partners responded to the Government’s international emergency appeal, including the United Nations and the European Union. The response not only addressed consequences of the drought but furthered development of the food and agriculture sector, demonstrating that in Moldova the losses caused by the drought could be turned into value. Through the interventions of the project estimated at US $10 million, value worth US $ 80 million has been created. The response helped more than half a million people.

Results of the UN-EU project “Relief and Technical Assistance Response to the Drought in Moldova” include the following:

- 19,589 farm households or about 80,300 persons from 494 mayoralties and communities from 18 rayons of the country benefited from packages with winter wheat seeds, fertilizers and fuel;
- 20,210 households or about 82,500 persons benefited from livestock fodder. Out of which, 4,224 households or 13,939 persons are from the five rayons of the Transnistrian region;
- 82,223 households or about 345,300 persons from 31 rayons received maize seeds;
- 14,200 pregnant women and nursing mothers (including from the Transnistrian region) received food packages;
- 1,817 persons (including 188 from the Transnistrian region) benefited from cash support;
- 205,02 tons of seed material, 1,230 tons of fertilizers and about 163,950 litres of fuel were distributed to farmers in 18 rayons of the country.

The activities of the project were carried out by the Government of Moldova with the support of the European Commission through its Directorate-General for Humanitarian Aid (ECHO), the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA), the Austrian Development Agency (ADA), the Federal Ministry of Rural Development and Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management from Austria, Governments of the Netherlands, Norway, Italy and Finland, and in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), the World Food Programme (WFP), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) as well as non-governmental organizations and local public authorities.
2. ACCESS TO QUALITY SERVICES

Access to services for children, migrants and victims of human trafficking
The United Nations and the European Union have contributed significantly to the expansion of equal and guaranteed access to quality services in Moldova. Groups already considered vulnerable in Moldova – children and the elderly – are among the most affected by the global financial crisis. The Government has developed social assistance programmes and community-based services to protect the poorest, supported in this effort by international partners. Assistance in areas such as health, social protection and youth education and participation has been critical.

**Keeping children in a family environment**

Moldova is seeking new solutions for children in need of social protection and those at risk. Many of these are children that were abandoned or placed in institutions by their parents due to poor socio-economic conditions, or left behind by migrant parents; street children; children not attending school; children victims of violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation (including trafficking); children in conflict with the law; children infected and affected by HIV/AIDS, and children with disabilities. Moldova has a National Strategy and an Action Plan on the Reform of the Residential Care System (2007-2012) that aims to reduce by 50 per cent the number of children living apart from the family environment.

Establishing a protective environment for children was the major objective of the EU-funded project “Development of Integrated Social Care Services for Vulnerable Families and Children at Risk”. The aim was to prevent the placement of children in residential care institutions and to reduce the number of children already living in residential care.

The project worked on several fronts. It strengthened the policy and legislative framework for the development of integrated social care services for vulnerable families and children at risk. It also developed and tested new models of integrated social care services for vulnerable families and children at risk in municipality of Bălți and five districts: Făleşti, Florești, Hâncești, Strășeni and Telenești. Another focus was institutional capacity building to provide integrated social services, with training courses for 1,235 child protection specialists, members of local public authorities, social assistants and staff of orphanages.

Around 800 members of 171 local councils participated in round table discussion on child protection and prevention of institutionalization.

The results in the pilot regions showed a significant impact. Between January 2006 and January 2007, the total number of children in general boarding schools was reduced by 26 per cent in six rayons and decreased from 2,264 to 1,697. A total of 567 children were helped to return to their families or to find a new family. The number of children from institutions has decreased by 50 per cent since the launch of the reform – from 11,500 in 2007 to 5,650 in 2011. Eleven out of 67 residential institutions were closed and one institution reorganized.
Moldova is replicating the project’s best practices in all rayons. It is also continuing to implement its master plan to transform residential institutions and its residential care strategy and action plan, and to consolidate regional child protection structures and referral mechanisms.

A family for every child

Lidia and Alina were the poster children for the campaign “A Family for Every Child.” With their brother Ion and their elder sister Viorica, they were one of the best examples of family reintegration after their parents had placed three of them in the Cazanesti boarding school in 2005 because their family was in a difficult situation.

Alina Pascaru, one of the five social assistants of the Telenesti team of the UNICEF-European Union project “Integrated Social Services for Families and Children” managed the file on the Cazacu children. “First of all, I spoke to the children to find out whether they wanted to go back to their family. Then I had a discussion with their parents. I assessed their living conditions. We also managed to help them by buying them a cow. They used to have one but had to sell it.” In a village, a family with four children needs milk to survive.

“We have several goats and one foal. The cow is healthy. We breed ducks,” says Nina Cazacu explaining how she manages now that their family is together again. “The children help me to clean the house. They do their homework. They clean up after the animals and do not have much time to play. When I see that their marks are getting worse, I go to school to see what is going on.”

Even knowing that they would have a lot of work around the house or could not always wear new clothes, the Cazacu children were very glad that they came back home. “In this case we closely cooperated with the social assistant of the Cazanesti Mayor’s Office and with the administration of the boarding school,” says Ms Pascaru. Her team is now part of the Social Assistance Centre of the Telenesti Department of Social Assistance and Child and Family Protection and has changed the fate of many children and families for the better.

The same is true in the other five target regions of the project: Hincesti, Falesti, Floresti, Stranesti raions and Bălți municipality.
Mitigating the impact of migration

While remittances sent home by parents can bring economic benefits, the children left behind often experience many negative impacts. The project “Support to the Implementation of the Migration and Development Component of the EU-Moldova Mobility Partnership” is a response to growing concern. As in most countries with high out-migration, in Moldova information on the welfare of children and the elderly left behind is scarce. A study carried out in 2011 identified their specific needs in order to help the Government of Moldova to develop efficient policies based on data. The project also provided support to 71 children in the form of enrolment in school, clothes, food, family allowance, psychological counselling, and another 16 children were referred for crisis intervention and assistance.

Another project, “Addressing the Negative Effects of Migration on Minors and Families Left Behind”, launched in May 2011, protects migrant workers and their families at home by strengthening the capacity of referral institutions, which will in turn help to reduce the negative social impact of migration. It provides training on data management and child protection to 35 representatives of the Ministry of Labour, Social Protection and Family and helps build the capacities of the institutions, local centres, social workers and managers of social centres through online counselling activities, internships and study visits. The project builds the capacity of seven social-education centres in providing assistance to children left behind. Soon 200 children and families left behind and 50 immigrant parents in Italy will receive individualized assistance and protection. Also, 100 children and minors will receive professional orientation and training while at least 40 minors and their families will be supported to create their own business.

A regional initiative, carried out in Moldova and Ukraine, aimed at elimination of human trafficking through labour market based measures. Project interventions have contributed to the improvement of policies and legal framework on migration and combating human trafficking, and victims and potential victims of trafficking have received information and support for socio-economic integration.
Combatting human trafficking

Trafficking in human beings is a severe human rights violation affecting negatively women and men, boys and girls. The project “Combatting Human Trafficking in Ukraine and Moldova” aimed at strengthening the national response to trafficking in human beings, contributing significantly to reducing human trafficking and its consequences by providing assistance for the reintegration of victims and their families. Activities aimed at helping authorities and civil society in addressing protection, socio-economic reintegration of victims and potential victims, prosecution, criminalization, prevention and advocacy.

Some 666 people have benefited from protection and rehabilitation assistance at the Assistance and Protection Centre in Chisinau, which as of 2008 became a state institution under the Ministry of Labour, Social Protection and Family. The Centre offers a private, protected and welcoming environment for survivors of human trafficking after their return which includes social, psychological, medical and legal assistance. The National Referral System (NRS) for assistance and protection of victims and potential victims of trafficking expanded to 21 districts throughout the country with at least 288 people having received reintegration assistance by the multi-disciplinary teams at the community level. The project provided 30 grants for reintegration of victims and support to their families.

Another component of the project focused on prosecution and criminalization of the perpetrators. Twenty Moldovan lawyers have increased their knowledge in offering protection to victims within NRS and in close cooperation with multi-disciplinary teams. A play-based national information campaign “Abandoned People” was organized as part of the prevention and advocacy efforts to promote “safe migration” and raise awareness about the risks and dangers of the illegal migration and trafficking in human beings. The campaign included presentations and facilitated discussions in secondary schools, professional schools and universities throughout the country. The screening of the play’s video version reached more than
14,000 participants in Moldova, and distribution included 1,000 DVDs containing the play and 15,000 prevention brochures. The information campaign “Abandoned People” will be also carried out in Italy to raise awareness among Moldovan migrants and Italian citizens about the negative consequences of migration on family ties as well as to inform about the available resources and assistance for parents in Italy and their children and families at home.

A victim of human trafficking returns to Moldova

In 1999, as a result of deception, S. was taken away from the country and sold in Turkey where she was exploited and re-sold several times. In 2000, she was bought by a Turkish man who kept her in a private residence for six years. There she was exploited sexually and had to work for the man and his wife. Under these circumstances, she gave birth to two children: the first was born in 2002, and the second in 2003. She gave birth in the place of exploitation, assisted by a neighbour, and did not therefore obtain birth certificates for her children. S. was saved by a Moldovan woman who helped her to escape and contacted the police. During the time of her escape, S. was five months pregnant with her third child.

In June 2006, S. was brought to Moldova with the help of the International Organization for Migration. She and her children stayed at the Chisinau Assistance and Protection Centre for some time and then joined her family. In October 2006, S. gave birth to her third child. With the help of IOM, she received an identification card and legal assistance in obtaining documents for her two other children, who were born in Turkey. In August 2007, both of the children received birth certificates.

S. and her children now live in a flat owned by her mother. The living conditions of S. and her children are better due to the financial support made possible by this project. S. received psychiatric help and was diagnosed as a disabled person according to Moldovan classification. As a result, she now receives a pension and other humanitarian assistance from the state. Her children attend kindergarten, and she works as dishwasher at a canteen.

In another project, National Red Cross Societies are engaged in identification, referral and assistance to ensure sustainable access to rehabilitation and reintegration services. Strengthening the National Referral System through the Red Cross network is a major objective of the project “Strengthening National Mechanisms for the Reintegration and Rehabilitation of Victims of Human Trafficking in Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine,” launched in 2011 with EU funds. It also aims at bringing closer the assistance and protection services to those in need by expanding the National Referral System to 50 communities in two new districts and creating multidisciplinary teams at the local level which will help enhance the coordination role of the National Coordination Unit within the Ministry of Labour, Social Protection and Family (MLSPF). The improved system is expected to integrate 100 victims of trafficking. Also in the near future, nine Red Cross focal points and 50 home visiting nurses will be trained on specific health needs, and on the identification and referral of victims of trafficking. At least 50 beneficiaries will receive rehabilitation assistance at the Assistance and Protection Centre in Chisinau.
Strengthening national health policy

Over the past years, the UN and the EU have increasingly partnered to strengthen the public health system in the Republic of Moldova. Improving the health status of the population, in particular of the most vulnerable groups, is the objective of a project that provides support related to the health sector budget. Its overall aim is to help the Republic of Moldova achieve the Millennium Development Goals, especially those related to health by enhancing the health system to efficiently deliver quality health services and to progressively expand coverage. The project helps to improve coordination of investments; increase the use of evidence for policy making, planning and performance monitoring; strengthen institutional framework in public health and health care; and respond to non-communicable diseases.

Launched in late 2010, the project “Health Sector Budget Support Related Technical Assistance” contributes to the implementation of the National Health Policy 2007-2021 and the Healthcare System Development Strategy 2008-2017, both documents advocating for capacity building in priority areas for the health sector in Moldova.

Collaboration and partnership with the Ministry of Health, local partners and international agencies are serving to reinforce synergies, avoid duplication of efforts and ensure sustainability. The project helps to create links between institutions of the Ministry and other organizations and development partners as well as to improve the overall coordination of the external assistance to the health sector in Moldova.
Further to a strategic planning mission by a multi-disciplinary team of experts, a series of processes are being carried out in close cooperation with the Ministry of Health. These include the development of a framework for health system performance assessment and strengthened coordination for improved aid effectiveness, greater use of evidence for policy decisions and strategic planning through an elaborate policy research programme comprising several distinct policy studies, and policy dialogues to focus on specific issues. These will contribute to the knowledge-base for policy decisions pertaining to primary care and hospital reform, health financing, public health services, tobacco and alcohol control, and availability and affordability of medicines.

The institutional capacity of the Ministry of Health to deliver population-based and results-oriented public health services is being strengthened, and the control of non-communicable diseases is enhanced through a series of projects and training programmes. This includes a review of national legislation in the area of public health and facilitation of the process to develop national, evidence-based action plans for alcohol and tobacco control.

In September 2011, a new project “Better Managing the Mobility of Health Professionals in the Republic of Moldova” was launched in Moldova with EU funding. Its objective is to help the country to manage the mobility of Moldovan health professionals as nurses and doctors, and to create a better framework for the legal migration of health workers between Moldova and the EU in order to mitigate the negative impacts of migration on the Moldovan health system as well as facilitate the reintegration of returning health workers. The project will involve many partners in the Republic of Moldova, institutions in EU countries and international organizations.

A recent global initiative of EU and WHO to start in early 2012 will bring additional benefits to Moldova by continuing the policy dialogue on national health policies, strategies and plans. The initiative will allow partners to scale up the policy dialogue processes initiated since 2011, focusing on non-communicable disease control, health financing and the priorities outlined in the Ministry of Health’s Roadmap to accelerate health sector reforms in Moldova.
3. REGIONAL AND LOCAL DEVELOPMENT

For the benefit of people and communities
Regional and local development policies have created opportunities for sustainable social and economic development of the most vulnerable people from the rural and urban areas.

Community-based efforts in the Transnistrian region

The special needs of the communities in the Transnistrian region of the Republic of Moldova that have not been addressed by development initiatives are the priority of the project “Confidence Building Measures”. Funded by the European Union, the project promotes action at the local level through a community-based approach bringing together organizations from the Transnistrian region and the rest of Moldova. The organizations work on development opportunities and partnerships in areas pertaining to business development, community empowerment and civil society organizations.

Non-governmental organizations receive grants through the project, and in 2010 a group of 12 grant beneficiaries implemented activities to improve the life of people from the Transnistrian region in fields such as business, infrastructure, health, ecology and tourism. Three business schools were established in the region at Tiraspol, Rybnitsa and Bender, in a project to spur business development that is being implemented by the Transnistrian region’s Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Healthcare services in the Transnistrian region are also benefiting from the project. The medical centre in Ciobруci village, Slobozia district, was repaired and now offers high-quality and prompt health services to 7,000 inhabitants of Ciobруci and neighbouring villages. Mother and Child Centres were equipped and renovated in Tiraspol and Bender, the biggest towns in the Transnistrian region with a population of 250,000 people. The perinatal service in the Transnistrian region has improved, and medical staff from maternity hospitals have enhanced their skills through training on cost-effective and evidence-based interventions in maternities, as recommended by WHO.

Children and youth have also benefitted from the support of the UN and the European Union, which has included the creation of a network of 11 day-care centres for children and youth with disability from both banks of the Nistru river. Luminita, a rehabilitation centre in Singerei, has provided individualized medical and social rehabilitation services for a dozen children while also assisting another 43 children and their families with other support services.
Improving health and environment

The Confidence Building Measures project addresses more than the health system – it also addresses environmental issues and priorities such as clean drinking water. In Nezavertailovca village, Slobozia district, 476 school-aged children and 66 of pre-school age gained unlimited access to high-quality drinking water and the use of modern bathrooms and showers after the renovation of the aqueduct and sewerage system in two local schools and kindergartens, along with renovation of their cafeterias, kitchens and bathrooms. In Roscani village, Anenii Noi district, 320 school children gained access to a modern sport hall and other pro-health facilities.

The project also supported another type of activity in Slobozia – the construction of 20 new platforms for solid waste collection and the manufacture of 60 new containers. This was accompanied by a campaign to raise public awareness about the need to separate the collection of paper, glass and PET bottles. Tourism has also benefitted from the Confidence Building Measures project. Partnerships between tourist organizations and operators from both banks of the Nistru river were established after a pause of 18 years, while several tourist routes were included in the management plan of the Lower Dniester zone.
Local integration of refugees

The project “Local Integration of Refugees in Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine” supports the three Governments in the implementation of their obligations under the 1951 Refugee Convention by strengthening their international protection capacities and improving the integration prospects of refugees. It provides vital assistance to vulnerable refugees, persons benefiting from subsidiary protection and asylum seekers.

Through this project, several partners provide community development services. Ave Copiii provides social assistance including food aid, hygienic, sanitary items and clothing to vulnerable beneficiaries, medical assistance, visits by trained social workers and also facilitates enrolment in kindergartens and schools. The Charity Centre for Refugees runs a computer class and organizes lessons in drawing, painting, ceramics, English and French. It also organizes celebrations on various holidays, cultural and sporting events, including both the Moldovan host community and refugees, in order to promote integration and enhance the self-sufficiency of beneficiaries.

Over 2009 to 2011, the project’s self-reliance employment programme assisted 70 refugees. Psychological support and counselling benefitted 81 persons with the help of the RCTV Memoria. The project also supported hundreds of medical consultations. The Free International University in Moldova provided Romanian language courses to more than 50 refugees. Legal assistance was provided free of charge to 100 refugees and asylum seekers through the Law Centre of Advocates, with many beneficiaries seeking advice in order to naturalize as Moldovan citizens.

In addition to direct services, the project launched a tolerance-building campaign in Moldova with publication of articles and dissemination of good practices on local integration. Agreements of collaboration were signed with local authorities outside Chisinau for the renovation of eight apartments to promote refugee integration in more affordable areas of Moldova.
Keeping doors open to persons in need

Another UN initiative funded by the European Union was the two-year “Regional Protection Programme”, aimed to help Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine keep their doors open to all persons in need of international protection and ensure that refugee status determination procedures are fair and effective.

The 2009-2010 programme provided protection monitoring at all of Moldova’s strategic border crossing points and at the Migrant Accommodation Centre in Chisinau in order to ensure access to territory and the asylum procedure; capacity building through the provision of training and technical assistance to the authorities and civil society and public awareness campaigns to promote refugee protection and a better understanding of the difference between economic migrants and refugees.

Achievements of the programme include establishing a framework for regular dialogue, cooperation and information exchange among national authorities, civil society and international organizations via an agreement signed by UNHCR, the Border Guard Service, Bureau for Migration and Asylum under the Ministry of Internal Affairs, and the NGO Law Centre of Advocates. Protection monitoring missions, on-the-job training missions and awareness raising efforts were conducted regularly in border areas and detention facilities to help ensure that asylum seekers had access to the country and to asylum procedures.

The programme’s comprehensive training strategy focused on capacity building by Border Guard and police officers to ensure access to the territory and asylum procedure for persons in need of international protection, helping the central asylum authority further improve the quality of asylum decisions and targeting workshops to ensure judges, prosecutors, lawyers and legal NGOs are aware of development in the field of refugee law.

Facilities for interviewing asylum seekers were refurbished and temporary accommodation was ensured at six border points, including Chisinau international airport.

Modules in refugee law were developed and included in the curriculum of the National Border Guard College in Ungheni and Stefan cel Mare Police Academy in Chisinau. During the 2009-2010 academic year, more than 300 students from the Police Academy and some 180 Border Guard cadets successfully completed the course. Additional publications, produced in cooperation with authorities, included a Practical Guide on Asylum Legislation and Referral of Asylum-Seekers at the Border. Leaflets were printed in eight languages typically spoken by asylum-seekers in Moldova (Arabic, Chinese, English, Farsi, French, Romanian, Russian and Urdu), and disseminated at all border crossing points and district police stations as well as at the Migrant Accommodation Centre in Chisinau.
Preventing drug abuse

A regional programme on drug abuse and trafficking from 2003-2006 focused again on the three countries of Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine. The Programme for the Prevention of Drug Abuse and Fight against Trafficking (BUMAD) was supported by the European Union.

BUMAD organized an effective public awareness campaign involving think tanks and celebrities; organizing sports, essay, drawing and painting competitions; and promoting social theatre and anti-drug lessons in schools. Nicu Țărnă from the band Gândul Mâței stated his anti-drug position in a national television interview on Moldova 1. “I am against drugs. I prefer to do other interesting things in life such as music rather than use drugs,” he said. The popular singer promoted anti-drug messages and autographed flyers declaring, “We do not believe in drugs!”

The project strengthened the national legal framework, created a data collection and analysis system to improve monitoring drugs and drugs abuse in the region, and formulated programmes on prevention of drug abuse implemented by NGOs. At-risk groups were the focus of awareness-raising programmes, and efforts in early detection, interventions, social reintegration and employment opportunities for drug users.

“I am against drugs. I prefer to do other interesting things in life such as music rather than use drugs,”
Nicu Țărnă from the band Gândul Mâței
Beyond Poverty Alleviation - migrants and entrepreneurship

Increasing the investment of migrant resources in small and medium enterprises (SME) can boost the impact of remittances on economic development in Moldova. This was the rational of the project “Beyond Poverty Alleviation: Developing a Legal, Regulatory and Institutional Framework for Leveraging Migrant Remittances for Entrepreneurial Growth in Moldova”, carried out during 2007-2009. An estimated 300,000 to 600,000 Moldovans live outside of the country with remittances representing more than a quarter of GDP, making it one of Europe’s most emigration-affected countries.

Ultimately, the project helped the Government of the Republic of Moldova develop a sound legal, regulatory and institutional framework to enhance the positive impact of remittances on investment in small businesses. It contributed to the development of a national remittances programme; strengthened institutional, infrastructural and human resource capacity in the Ministry of Economy and contributed to the establishment of the Organization for Small and Medium Enterprises; improved data on migration and remittances, information channels for migrants; facilitated linkages between remittances and financial services; and, finally, built bridges with the Moldovan Diaspora.
Research provided important data for more informed decision making. One assessment looked at the national framework relevant to business growth, with a special focus on remittances and labour migration. The recommendations of the assessment helped the Government develop policies for fostering the productive investment of remittances. Another important survey, the 2007-2008 Migration and Remittances Study, collected and analysed data on key macroeconomic variables, migration modalities, income distribution and poverty and created a socio-economic profile of migrants and their families. The Government established a working group to review trends in migration and remittances and to discuss ways to improve the data gathering process. A study on the socio-economic impact of the economic crisis on migration and remittances in Moldova linked business and banking practices to public perceptions about migration and remittances.

Stronger policies were also promoted, in particular through institutional capacity building support to the Ministry of Economy so that it could design, implement, monitor and evaluate the policy related to SME development and national priorities in the field of migration and development. The country’s policies on diasporas and remittances were also examined in a policy seminar organized by Government of Moldova. The aim was to strengthen relationships between Moldovan migrants and their country of origin and engaging them as a resource for development.

Migrant workers and their families gained business skills through financial literacy programmes focused on entrepreneurs starting and improving their own businesses. A step-by-step business start-up guide also supported the establishment of a small and medium enterprise.

The project also worked to improve financial systems, such as loan and deposit services, that could better serve migrants and attract migrant workers to Moldova. Various activities promoted access to remittances and to financial and business services for SMEs. A web-based platform was created to improve cooperation between local- and national-level SME organizations, and to enhance transparency in financial services.

IOM organized financial literacy programmes for migrant workers and their families / IOM
Migration for development

New benefits for local and regional development can be attained by minimizing the negative effects of migration and harnessing the benefits of migration for development purposes. In this context, the project “Supporting the Implementation of the Migration and Development Component of the EU-Moldova Mobility Partnership” helps build the institutional capacity of the Government of Moldova to better manage all aspects related to migration flows.

An Extended Migration Profile (EMP) is being created and supervised by a technical working group consisting of key national institutions and local and international experts. A data assessment report in December 2010 issued recommendations for improving the data collection and information-exchange systems. A list of indicators in line with international standards was developed in January 2001 and a month later, the first draft of Moldova’s EMP template was submitted to the working group and approved by the Government. Part of these EMP exercises, a study was carried out on the needs of children and elderly people left behind by migrants, and the policies and services that might reduce the negative consequences of migration on the vulnerable groups.

The project helped to create a Migration Technical Facility to support the Government of Moldova in the implementation the EU-Moldova Mobility Partnership. It strengthened the institutional capacity of the Government to cooperate with the diaspora and implement joint activities, at the same time supporting Moldovan migrant associations in the destination country. To support this effort, 23 Consular Officers received training and a curriculum for internal training use was developed. Also, the communication system of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration was enhanced. Fourteen websites were developed and launched for diplomatic missions and placed on the central server of the Ministry. An online registration module was created to allow online consular registration, appointments for consular services, and access to a database of Moldovan citizens settled abroad and the diaspora associations. The online platform www.diaspora.md was improved to foster the intra-diaspora and homeland-diaspora communication and allow exchanges of best practices.

Public events also strengthened relationships between Moldovan migrants and their country of origin. In October 2010, the fourth congress of the Moldovan Diaspora brought together more than 100 Moldovans, representing 64 Moldovan diaspora associations from 31 countries. Ten diaspora associations participating in this and other events have benefited from a small grant mechanism to build their institutional capacity and improve the diaspora-homeland and diaspora-diaspora communication. In August 2011, on the occasion of 20th anniversary of Moldova’s independence, some 60 delegates of the Moldovan diaspora gathered in Chisinau to meet representatives of Government, diplomatic missions and NGOs.

The negotiation of bilateral labour and social protection agreements with countries of destinations helped to improve the social security and protection of Moldovan migrants. Other measures have included innovative temporary and permanent return and reintegration programmes, and economic empowerment initiatives for youth and women. The project also supported the Government for further negotiation of bilateral social protection agreements with a number of countries of destination for Moldovan migrants (Austria, Belgium, Estonia, Luxemburg, Poland and Romania).
Training and knowledge-exchange was another area of activity supported by the project. A pilot scheme facilitated the return of scientists and young Moldovan graduates to transfer skills and knowledge to the homeland, exchange innovative ideas and create cross-border cooperation networks. More than 20 training sessions for youth and women from rural localities were organized as part of the National Youth Economic Empowerment Programme. Over 300 young people from rural areas were provided with small business set-up grants, of which 20 have already received equipment allowing them to expand their business. In addition, 90 more participants in trainings will receive small grants to launch their businesses.

Sergiu, the success story of a young entrepreneur

Sergiu Cucu runs a successful business producing construction materials – concrete pavement, glue for terracotta, bricks – in a small town in Moldova’s Causeni district. At the age of 28, he is optimistic and perseverant.

Sergiu is a beneficiary of the National Youth Economic Empowerment Programme, which helped him receive a low interest rate loan to purchase a special mechanism to carry heavy loads, and a mixer for making asphalt.

Sergiu followed the path of his father who opened a shop for construction materials after losing his job due to a massive reduction in personnel during the 1990s. Since then, it has become a family business in which the father and his two sons work with dedication towards expanding their activities and improving the quality of their products and services. Although young, Sergiu manages more than 10 employees, providing them with the chance to earn a decent salary for their families.

When asked whether he intends to migrate, he promptly replied that he would not. Although the times were not always happy at home, he said, he would continue to develop his business and contribute to the prosperity of his family and community in Moldova.
Harnessing the contribution of migrants to destination countries

The Joint Migration and Development Initiative (JMDI) of the United Nations and European Union harnesses the contribution of migrants to destination countries, where they meet labour shortages and enrich local cultures. The project represents a major innovation and successful example of inter-agency collaboration. It was implemented by the UN Office in Brussels in partnership with the European Union. Five agencies – UNHCR, UNFPA, UNDP, ILO and IOM – were engaged in the management and direction of the programme by supporting civil society organizations and local authorities seeking to link migration and development.

Today the results are tangible thanks to the project’s partners. The NGOs Second Breath (Moldova) and HelpAge International (United Kingdom) raised awareness among policy makers and service providers of the vulnerability of migrants’ families. Institutional capacity building activities improved the ability of civil society and state authorities to provide migrants’ families with effective support. A network of older volunteers was created to provide community-based support and succeeded in assisting 613 vulnerable households (children of Moldovan migrants and their grandparents). The project featured the participation of ‘children left behind’ in 223 events such as discussion club, the School for Grandparents, social theatre, and drawing contests on migration themes. One 74-year-old grandmother, Maria Chirtoca, recounted her participation in a multi-generational event. “Taking part in the contests was really interesting and useful; it raised my good mood. I haven’t taken part in such contests for more than 20 years. I did my best to succeed in all tests as I could not let down my 13-year old grand-granddaughter. As an ex-teacher, I believe such contests should be organized more often as they make us, aged people, more active. They develop intellectual capacities and maintain the health of our children,” she said.
The impact of the financial crisis in Moldova was addressed in training provided to 1,300 people from 65 localities by the Rural Development Centre (Moldova) and Frankfurt School of Finance and Management (Germany). It increased the ability of families of migrants in Moldova to address future economic difficulties anticipated by the decrease in remittances.

The Centre of Sociological, Politological and Psychological Analysis and Investigations (Moldova) and the International Agency for Source Country Information (Austria) enhanced the financial investment and development capacity of migrants by positioning them as a specific market segment with a range of interests for the output of their remittances. Comprehensive market research regarding the investment intentions of the Moldovan migrants was elaborated and presented to Moldovan authorities and financial institutions. The project facilitated networking between communities in countries of origin, migrant communities in host countries, and financial intermediaries. A variety of options for transfer of remittances, micro-credit, small loans for housing, health insurance, mutual investment funds, pension and child education savings schemes are being developed and tested.

The Child Rights Information Centre (Moldova) and Accompagnement, Lieux d’accueil, Carrefour éducatif et social (France) carried out joint activities aiming to diminish the negative impact of parents’ migration on children left behind in five communities of Moldova. Some 10,000 children all over Moldova learned about the consequences of parents’ migration and ways to cope with difficult situations. The book for parents, My child is home alone, was translated into French and Bulgarian and adapted for migrants to France. The French authorities plan to translate the book into English for migrants coming from Nigeria.

The State Medical and Pharmaceutical University “Nicolae Testemitanu” (Moldova) and the University of Leipzig (Germany) tapped into the potential of doctors and pharmacists in the Moldovan Diaspora, along with other scientists and students, for the development of the Moldovan health system. The project was a joint effort of host institutions of migrants currently working in European Union member states. A web site www.medconnect.md was developed to alert medical institutions about upcoming project activities such as training/research workshops and opportunities to elaborate project proposals.

The Association of Independent Press (API) from Republic of Moldova and COMUNISON RC Association (Great Britain) published eight issues of Pro Diaspora magazine, which became a communication bridge between inhabitants of Republic of Moldova and Moldovans living and working abroad.

The book “My child is home alone” helps migrant parents and their children to cope with difficult situations / UNDP
Dealing with diseases, improving food security

The veterinary service of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry (MAFI) has taken steps to deal adequately with potential major epizootic disease outbreaks. Its efforts have met specific conditions in the EU-Moldova action plan and helped to alleviate rural poverty. It has also helped collect, manage and disseminate food security information. This progress was accomplished with the support of the UN and the European Union to enhance national capacity.

Results of the programme include the establishment in 2007 of a State animal register (an informational system) as well as the design and construction of the National Operations Centre in the premises of Moldova’s Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry. Also, the conceptual, legislative, technical and budgetary basis for a Rapid Alert System (RAS) was established and first steps were taken to establish the RAS within the Veterinary and Sanitary Sector.

A new programme has been in effect since January 2011: “EC/FAO Programme on Information Systemsto Improve Food Security Decision-making in the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) East Area.”

Four main areas of intervention have been identified as priorities for the Programme:

- support to further contribute to the traceability of animal products in order to remove restrictions on exports of animal products to the European Union;
- development of the capacity of the MAFI to analyse market information, forecast price trends and produce thematic analyses on issues of special relevance to support policy-making processes;
- support MAFI to analyse census data and highlight policy implications for the development of agriculture; and
- support to the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) for the Food Balance Sheet (FBS) to comply with international standards and train MAFI staff in using FBS to develop plans and strategies in the food and agriculture sector.

The programme aims at improving food security by enhancing the national capacity to generate, analyse, communicate and mainstream more relevant and reliable information into policies and programmes. It helps to upgrade the System for Animal Registration and Traceability through 3 information systems and develop the Marketing Information Centre within the Ministry of Agriculture. In addition, the National Bureau of Statistics is supported in improving the methodology of Food Balance Sheets calculation according to the EU standards.
4. RECENT INITIATIVES

There is more good news to share
Collaboration with the Government and people of Moldova continues to be a priority for United Nations agencies and organizations and for the European Union. Several recent initiatives suggest new directions for future endeavours to build a democratic and prosperous Moldova. There is more good news to share about cooperation between the United Nations and the European Union for the benefit of the people of the Republic of Moldova.

Promoting renewable energy

The use of renewable sources will significantly increase over the next four years in Moldova. More than 130 kindergartens, schools, medical centres and other public institutions in rural areas and over 500 households will be heated with locally-produced energy from biomass, especially straw and other cereal wastes. This effort is supported by the “Moldova Energy and Biomass Project” launched in 2011 with funds from the European Union.

The project constitutes the most ambitious initiative in the area of renewable energy promotion in Moldova. It aims to increase energy security, set up functional markets for biomass technologies and fuel, and create new jobs and income at the local and regional level. Dirk Schuebel, Head of EU Delegation to Moldova, placed the project in context. “Renewable energy plays a crucial role in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and other forms of pollution, diversifying and improving the security of energy supply and maintaining clean-energy technology industry. The EU has agreed to achieve a 20 per cent share of renewable for the entire Union by 2020. This European framework should help everyone move to a more sustainable energy supply,” he said. The Moldova Energy and Biomass Project will support authorities to diversify the energy sources. This will, in turn, contribute to a more secure and sustainable energy supply system in more than 130 selected rural communities, with a high potential for replication and upsizing. Many public buildings and private households in rural areas will have increased heat comfort while saving money on energy consumption. Agricultural producers and biomass technology providers will benefit from new business opportunities.

“This European framework should help everyone move to a more sustainable energy supply,”

Dirk Schuebel, Head of EU Delegation to Moldova
This project will work in all regions of Moldova and will yield many important benefits for rural communities. Local energy security and heat comfort for many schools, kindergartens, hospitals, community centres, and social centres will be increased. At the same time, the project will help to create sustainable value-added chains at the local level through commercializing the fuel straw and creating new green jobs, and as such contributing to poverty reduction and income generation in rural areas. Kaarina Immonen, UN Resident Coordinator, described the project’s role. “UN finds this initiative to be an important step in promoting renewable energy in Moldova, with a significant potential for further replication,” she said.

**Continued support to the Transnistrian region**

Efforts to increase confidence between Moldova and its Transnistrian region will be further strengthened in the near future through a project that emphasizes the value of collaboration and cooperation:

- Supporting the development of small and medium-sized enterprises in the Transnistrian region by promoting cross-river exchanges and expanding the range of catalytic business support services;
- Empowering local communities to participate in collaborative projects that address pressing development needs and ensure the delivery of essential public services;
- Addressing environmental concerns by creating opportunities and platforms for joint collaboration from both banks of the Nistru river;
- Enhancing the capacity of NGOs to generate activities that promote cross-river collaboration and address key development needs.

**Effective governance of labour migration**

The regional project “Effective Governance of Labour Migration and its Skill Dimensions”, funded by the EU and launched in March 2011, aims at supporting Ukraine and Moldova to regulate labour migration and promote sustainable return of migrants. It will particularly focus on enhancing human capital and preventing skills waste by:

- Building the capacity to analyse the skills shortages and oversupply as a result of migration;
- Enhancing the competences in balancing migration flow and return with national and EU Member States’ skills needs;
- Developing the capacities to negotiate and manage rights-based labour migration schemes, including bilateral agreements on social protection;
- Improving the abilities to govern labour migration, enact relevant legislation and engage social partners.
ANNEX 1: Projects carried out by the UN in partnership with the EU, including prospects, 2005-2014

Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
• Food Security Programme - Phase II “Food Security Information for Action”
• Programme on Information Systems to Improve Food Security Decision-making in the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) East Area

International Labour Organization (ILO)
• Elimination of human trafficking from Moldova and Ukraine through Labour Market Based Measures
• Effective Governance of Labour Migration and its Skill Dimensions
• Improving Safety and Health at Work Through a Decent Work Agenda

International Organization for Migration (IOM)
• Addressing the Negative Effects of Migration on Minors and Families Left Behind
• Combating Trafficking In Human Beings in Ukraine and Moldova
• Strengthening Migration Management in the Republics of Belarus and Moldova (MIGRABEL-MIGRAMOL)
• Strengthening National Mechanisms for the Reintegration and Rehabilitation of Victims of Human Trafficking in Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine
• Technical Cooperation and Capacity Building for the Governments of Ukraine and Moldova for the Implementation of Readmission Agreements with the EU (GUMIRA)
• Support to Implementation of EC Readmission Agreements with the Republic of Moldova, the Russian Federation and Ukraine: Facilitation of Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration (SREADA)
• Supporting the Implementation of the Migration and Development Component of the EU-Moldova Mobility Partnership
• Electoral support (out-of-country voting)
• Beyond Poverty Alleviation: Developing a Legal, Regulatory and Institutional Framework for Leveraging Migrant Remittances for Entrepreneurial Growth in Moldova

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
• Relief and Technical Assistance Response to the Drought in Moldova
• Electoral Support for Moldova
• EU Border Assistance Mission (EUBAM)
• Moldova Energy and Biomass Project
• EU High Level Policy Advice Mission (EUHLPAM)
• Programme for the Prevention of Drug Abuse and Fight against Drug Trafficking in Belarus, Ukraine and Moldova (BUMAD)
• Enhancing Border Control Management (EBCMP)
• Confidence Building Measures
• Support to Strengthening the National Preventive Mechanism as per Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture (OPCAT) provisions
• Strengthening the Forensic Examination of Torture and Other Forms of Ill-Treatment in Moldova
• Joint Migration and Development Initiative

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
• Local Integration of Refugees in Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine
• Regional Protection Programme (RPP) in Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine

United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF)
• Development of Integrated Social Care Services for Vulnerable Families and Children at Risk

World Health Organization (WHO)
• Health Sector Budget Support Related Technical Assistance
• Better Managing the Mobility of Health Professionals in the Republic of Moldova
• Supporting Policy Dialogue on National Health Policies, Strategies and Plans in Selected Countries
## ANNEX 2: Financial assistance provided by the EU through projects implemented by the UN agencies in Moldova, including prospects, 2005-2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>EU financial contribution, Euro</th>
<th>Implementation period</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>GOVERNANCE AND PARTICIPATION</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electoral Support for Moldova / UNDP</td>
<td>2,000,000</td>
<td>2008-2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EU Border Assistance Mission in Moldova (EUBAM) / UNDP</td>
<td>16,903,265</td>
<td>2005-2012</td>
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<tr>
<td>Support to Strengthening the National Preventive Mechanism as per Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture (OPCAT) provisions / UNDP</td>
<td>640,000</td>
<td>2009-2011</td>
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<tr>
<td>Strengthening the Forensic Examination of Torture and Other Forms of Ill-Treatment in Moldova / UNDP</td>
<td>800,000</td>
<td>2011-2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EU High Level Policy Advice Mission (EUHLPAM) / UNDP</td>
<td>3,318,359</td>
<td>2010-2012</td>
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<tr>
<td>Relief and Technical Assistance Response to the Drought in Moldova / UNDP</td>
<td>3,000,000</td>
<td>2007-2008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joint Integrated Local Development (JILD) / UNDP</td>
<td>1,000,000</td>
<td>2009-2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enhancing Border Control Management (EBCMP) / UNDP</td>
<td>1,850,000</td>
<td>2005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strengthening Migration Management in the Republics of Belarus and Moldova (MIGRABEL-MIGRAMOL) / IOM</td>
<td>700,000</td>
<td>2006-2009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support to Implementation of EC Readmission Agreements with the Republic of Moldova, the Russian Federation and Ukraine: Facilitation of Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration (SIREADA) / IOM</td>
<td>374,122</td>
<td>2011-2013</td>
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<tr>
<td>Technical Cooperation and Capacity Building for the Governments of Ukraine and Moldova for the Implementation of Readmission Agreements with the EU (GUMIRA) / IOM</td>
<td>755,948</td>
<td>2009-2011</td>
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<tr>
<td>Improving Safety and Health at Work Through a Decent Work Agenda / ILO</td>
<td>36,754 (at the UN exchange rate, October 2011)</td>
<td>2011</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>ACCESS TO QUALITY SERVICES</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Addressing the negative effects of Migration on minors and families left behind / IOM</td>
<td>780,519</td>
<td>2011-2012</td>
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<tr>
<td>Combating Trafficking In Human Beings In Ukraine and Moldova / IOM</td>
<td>243,816</td>
<td>2006-2009</td>
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<tr>
<td>Strengthening National Mechanisms for the Reintegration and Rehabilitation of Victims of Human Trafficking in Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine / IOM</td>
<td>94,750</td>
<td>2011-2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elimination of Human Trafficking from Moldova and Ukraine through Labour Market Based Measures / ILO</td>
<td>250,000</td>
<td>2007-2008</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Financial assistance provided by the European Union through projects implemented by the United Nations in Moldova, 2005-2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>EU financial contribution, Euro</th>
<th>Implementation period</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Effective Governance of Labour Migration and its Skill Dimensions / ILO</td>
<td>1,507,501</td>
<td>2011-2013</td>
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<tr>
<td>Health Sector Budget Support Related Technical Assistance / WHO</td>
<td>2,992,753</td>
<td>2010-2013</td>
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<tr>
<td>Better Managing the Mobility of Health Professionals in the Republic of Moldova / WHO</td>
<td>2,000,000</td>
<td>2011-2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>REGIONAL AND LOCAL DEVELOPMENT</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Joint Migration and Development Initiative (JMDI) / UNDP</td>
<td>1,334,126</td>
<td>2010-2011</td>
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<tr>
<td>Moldova Energy and Biomass Project / UNDP</td>
<td>14,000,000</td>
<td>2011-2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Confidence Building Measures (CBM) / UNDP</td>
<td>3,700,000</td>
<td>2009-2011</td>
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<tr>
<td>Supporting the Implementation of the Migration and Development Component of the EU-Moldova Mobility Partnership / IOM</td>
<td>1,999,735</td>
<td>2010-2012</td>
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<tr>
<td>Regional Protection Programme (RPP) in Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine / UNHCR</td>
<td>400,000</td>
<td>2009-2011</td>
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<tr>
<td>Local Integration of Refugees in Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine / UNHCR</td>
<td>592,262</td>
<td>2009-2011</td>
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<tr>
<td>Programme for the Prevention of Drug Abuse and Fight Against Drug Trafficking in Belarus, Ukraine and Moldova (BUMAD) / UNDP</td>
<td>1,366,192</td>
<td>2003-2006</td>
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<tr>
<td>Food Security Programme - Phase II “Food Security Information for Action” / FAO</td>
<td>278,540 (at the UN exchange rate, October 2011)</td>
<td>2006-2008</td>
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<tr>
<td>Programme on Information Systems to Improve Food Security Decision-making in the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) East Area / FAO</td>
<td>439,800 (at the UN exchange rate, October 2011)</td>
<td>2010-2012</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Millennium Development Goals in the Republic of Moldova

MDG 1. Reduce extreme poverty and hunger

MDG 2. Achieve universal access to general compulsory education

MDG 3. Promote gender equality and empower women

MDG 4. Reduce child mortality

MDG 5. Improve maternal health

MDG 6. Combat HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and other diseases

MDG 7. Ensure environmental sustainability

MDG 8. Develop a global partnership for development