

Leveraging the positive impact of migration on Moldova’s development through improved policy evidence and better engaged diaspora

➔ **4 FACILITATING REGULAR MIGRATION**

REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS



BUDGET (USD)

2,000,000

DURATION (MONTHS)

36

MOST RELEVANT SDG GOALS



BRIEF BACKGROUND

Migration waves, which started in the 1990s, have led to an outflow and unprecedented brain drain and brain waste of the educated and highly qualified Moldovan nationals, with a quarter of the population residing abroad. However, lack of adequate information and analysis of the actual and potential factors driving migration limit the ability of the Government to devise appropriate migration policies, including for groups left behind and highly skilled migrants. Moreover, there are limited opportunities for qualified diaspora to engage through return, investment in home country and there are few initiatives to systematically engage diaspora and valorize its human capital and unique expertise and know-how for socio-economic development, particularly concerning Moldova's EU accession. Past and current actions to leverage remittances remain small-scale. Most of the remittances are directed for consumption, influencing the

economy to be consumption biased because of the low level of productive investment of remittances, creating dependencies in households. Returning migrants, children, adolescents, and the older persons left behind by migrating family members are facing particular vulnerability, reduced entrepreneurship propensity and low financial culture/literacy impacting initiatives for empowerment.

PROJECT SUMMARY

Over 36 months (2023-2026), the Programme implemented by International Organization for Migration (IOM), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and World Health Organization (WHO), funded by Migration Multi-Partner Trust Fund Programme (MMPTF) aims to leverage the positive impact of migration on Moldova's socio-economic development and minimize the negative effects of migration.

To achieve this, first, the programme will strengthen the capacities of relevant public authorities for ensuring effective migration policy design and management. It will draw recommendations for policy response following the profile analysis of various categories of migrants, diaspora communities and their engagement potential as well as of the impacts that migration and remittances have on the structure of the communities left behind, including children.

Second, the programme will employ innovative mechanisms to strengthen diaspora engagement, including the establishment of participatory platforms for outreach, consultation and capitalization of diaspora's skills, knowledge, and expertise for development initiatives. In addition, it will attract diaspora investments to Moldova, and develop trade and business partnerships in sectors such as tourism.

SYNERGIES

The Programme will build on national labour migration management and diaspora engagement frameworks and strategies in the Republic of Moldova as well as on regional and global frameworks.

The Programme's implementation strategy, data and capacity building components, sustainable and innovative approaches are aligned to and supportive of the diaspora engagement priorities under the Government of Moldova (GoM's) Action Program and plan for 2021-2029; the National Diaspora Strategy 2025; the National Program for Return and Reintegration of Moldovan migrants 2023-2027; the Health Workforce Development Strategy 2016-2025; and the GCM objectives 1, 3, 18, 19, 20, 21 and 23; the SDG targets 3.c, 3.8, 8.5, 8.10, 10.7, 17.3, 17.8. UN will catalyse synergies with sectorial development policies and actions, harmonize local practices with international Human Rights-Based Approach (HRBA) standards, mainstreaming gender equality and child sensitivity, approaching social exclusion and bridge the gap between

SDG policy and practice. UN will ensure the alignment of the actions with the Leave No One Behind principles, empowerment of the most vulnerable groups. The Programme will further enhance national ownership and sustainability in this area through policy input, establishment of self-sustaining long-term institutional capacity, data tools, design and integration of innovative processes and products, and transfer of advanced analytical and operational skills.

PARTNERSHIPS

UN Agencies will directly engage relevant stakeholders in the Programme's co-design, co-delivery, participatory dialogue, steering and implementation according to their respective interests, capacities and mandates, roles/functions, through a range of participatory *partnerships*, based on relevant and complementary expertise, and contributions to the project's objective.

Government of Moldova will employ the project's outputs to amend its policy framework and institutional response and guide the Programme's direction, through chairing the Programme's governance structures, participation in the development of methodologies and experts' terms of reference, provision of policy input and access to data sources and systems, benefit from policy and expert input from the hosted highly qualified expatriated practitioners/experts, the Moldovan students abroad and the recent graduates of international academic institutions.

More specifically, the Programme will cooperate closely with the **central public authorities**, including State Chancellery of the Government of the Republic of Moldova, Diaspora Relations Bureau, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health, National Bureau for Statistics, Ministry of Economy, Organization for Entrepreneurship Development; **local authorities**, including the Congress of Local Authorities from Moldova, **academia and research community**, including State University of Medicine and Pharmacy "Nicolae Testemitanu", **private sector, diaspora networks**, migrants' groups, including high qualified diaspora experts and **UN Agencies** in Moldova.

PROJECT OUTCOME 1: National public governance and development programs and policies effectively and efficiently facilitate diaspora engagement based on improved evidence.

Output 1.1: Analysis of the profile of various categories of migrants available, in support to policymaking, with focus on gender aspects of migration, impact of migration and remittances on groups left behind (children).

- Execution of comprehensive sociological analysis in Moldova for profiling migrants, including immigrants, and their families.
- Organizing evidence-focused policy dialogue events on diaspora engagement, incl. in health sector and on specific needs of children left behind.
- Organizing outreach, promotion and information campaigns spurring Government/country-diaspora engagement.
- Supporting the development of institutional, coordination, policy and legal/regulatory amendments, programmes, tools and services for an efficient diaspora engagement.

Output 1.2: Nationally owned methodology and data collection tools for an extended, coordinated, sustainable and systematic mapping of diaspora communities developed and piloted.

- Assessing the statistical and administrative migration data systems, including health related.
- Upgrading the Extended Migration Profile to integrate in-depth aspects related to gender, children left behind and other vulnerable groups, migrant health and mobility of health personnel.
- Developing a nationally owned statistical methodology for estimating the number of diaspora and circular migrants using the usual residence definition
- Developing a methodology for extended diaspora mapping, including migrant children, integrating skills, needs, engagement propensity and plans, diaspora health related variables profiling.
- Conducting extended diaspora mapping, incl. of migrant children, assessing diaspora's health variables and engagement of expatriated professionals, in health area in particular.
- Up-grading IT data solution and the Automated Human Resources Information System for the Ministry of Health.

Output 1.3: The public agencies enabled to operate the developed methodology and data collection tools for an extended, coordinated, sustainable and systematic mapping of diaspora communities.

- Enhancing the capacity of public officials to deploy, implement and use the new statistical and administrative data and statistical tools.

Output 1.4: National data systems upgraded to allow for sustainable and systematic assessment of the impact of diaspora contributions beyond remittances.

- Assessing the national data systems measuring diaspora's economic contribution.
- Developing a nationally owned sustainable methodology for migration forecasting and measuring the impact of migration on economic and development variables, incl. a roadmap for sustainable assessment of economic impact of diaspora.
- Upgrading the IT data solutions for sustainable assessment of economic impact of diaspora.

Output 1.5: Public agencies enabled to operate the upgraded national data systems allowing for sustainable and systematic assessment of the impact of diaspora contributions beyond remittances.

- Enhancing the capacity of public officials to deploy, implement and use the new data tools.

PROJECT OUTCOME 2: Moldovan diaspora is engaged to contribute to sustainable homeland development via innovative and sustainable models.

Output 2.1: A nationally owned and sustainable platform is available and operational for diaspora dialogue and engagement in public governance and development opportunities to support acceleration of the national development agenda.

- Facilitating, through expertise and thematic support, the establishment of a sustainable platform for diaspora dialogue and engagement in public governance.
- Designing, launching and promoting the up-graded multi-functional electronic web-portal for operationalization of the platform for dialogue and engagement of Diaspora.

Output 2.2: Mechanism for leveraging intellectual potential of returning Moldovan graduates and students at foreign universities in key development areas in Moldova operationalised.

- Developing the concept and its operational mechanism and cooperation framework for leveraging intellectual potential of returning Moldovan graduates and students of foreign universities.
- Providing professional development and capacity building to the participants in the program/mechanism and the Government officials involved in its operation.

- Supporting the operationalisation of the program through counselling, facilitation of professional/academic placement, case-management, coverage of travel costs and an indemnity incentive.
- Promoting the program and its results to the diaspora and the Moldovan public.

Output 2.3: Mechanism for short-term engagement/temporary return to Moldova of highly qualified professionals in priority areas for development, at the national and local levels operationalised.

- Expertise for developing the mechanism for short-term engagement/temporary return to Moldova of highly qualified diaspora professionals.
- Strengthen health workforce coordination and institutional governance, incl. on management of health workforce mobility, comprehensive retention strategies, migrants' health and social inclusion and integration and mainstreaming of health in all policies.
- Supporting the operationalization of the mechanism through counselling, facilitation of professional/academic placement, case-management, coverage of travel and per-diem costs.
- Developing the concept and supporting the implementation of a national twinning centre on human resources in health with diaspora involvement.
- Promoting the mechanism and its results to the diaspora and the Moldovan public.

Output 2.4: Diaspora business leaders engaged as development promoters and business envoys (in trade, tourism and investment attraction) and cooperate with national stakeholders.

- Organization of thematic events for diaspora and Moldova-based business leaders on partnerships building, investment opportunities and local economic development.
- Facilitation of business partnerships between diaspora and Moldovan entrepreneurs, with support mechanisms for joint initiatives dedicated to local economic development.

Output 2.5: Instruments and services for productive investment of remittances in the Moldovan economy operationalised.

- Evaluating the current national programmatic framework for the engagement of migrants' economic resources and providing recommendations to the stakeholders for its modernization.
- Establishing an online voucher system to support migrants to manage and monitor the remittances sent to the households in Moldova.
- Developing a national financial literacy pilot program.
- Operationalizing the national financial literacy pilot program.

Interested to know more?

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