

# Moldova 2030 SDGs

## Partnerships Fund

### Phase II



# 2024 Consolidated Annual Progress Report

## Contributors

---



Switzerland



Sweden

## UN Participating Organizations

---



# Contents

<b>Executive Summary</b> .....	<b>6</b>
<b>Results Achieved under the Fund</b> .....	<b>8</b>
<b>Priority Area 1: Just and inclusive institutions and equal opportunities for Human Development</b> ....	<b>8</b>
<b>Fund Output A:</b> Joint Action to Strengthen Human Rights in the Transnistrian Region of the Republic of Moldova .....	8
<b>Fund Output B:</b> Ensuring equitable access of refugees with temporary protection to quality health services in the Republic of Moldova .....	13
<b>Priority Area 2: Participatory governance and social cohesion</b> .....	<b>15</b>
<b>Fund Output:</b> Enhancing social cohesion in Moldova through dialogue and community empowerment.....	15
<b>Priority Area 3: Enhanced shared prosperity in a sustainable economy</b> .....	<b>17</b>
<b>Fund Output :</b> Enhance peace and Prosperity through Women's Leadership and Inclusion (Women for Peace & Prosperity).....	17
<b>Conclusions, Lessons Learnt and Future Plans</b> .....	<b>21</b>

## List of abbreviations

<b>AIDS</b>	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
<b>ARV</b>	Anti-retroviral treatment
<b>CBM</b>	Confidence Building Measures
<b>CCM TB/AIDS</b>	Country Coordination Mechanism on TB/AIDS
<b>CLM</b>	Community-Led Monitoring
<b>CRPD</b>	Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
<b>CSOs</b>	Civil society organizations
<b>DV</b>	Domestic Violence
<b>EcoST</b>	Expert Community Scoring
<b>FB</b>	Facebook
<b>GFATM</b>	The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria
<b>GoM</b>	Government of the Republic of Moldova
<b>HIV</b>	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
<b>HR</b>	Human Rights
<b>HRBA</b>	Human Rights based Approach
<b>ILO</b>	International Labour Organization
<b>IOM</b>	International Organization for Migration
<b>LEA</b>	Law-Enforcement Authority
<b>LPA</b>	Local Public Authority
<b>LPAs</b>	Local Public Authorities
<b>MLSP</b>	Ministry of Labor and Social Protection
<b>MPTF</b>	Multi-Partner Trust Fund
<b>MSM</b>	Men who have sex with men
<b>NGO</b>	Non-Governmental Organization
<b>OHCHR</b>	Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

<b>PCA</b>	Partnership and Cooperation Agreement
<b>PLWH</b>	People living with HIV
<b>PrEP</b>	Pre-exposure prophylaxis
<b>PwDs</b>	People with disabilities
<b>PWUDs</b>	People who use drugs
<b>RAF</b>	Results Assessment Framework
<b>SCDP</b>	Sustainable (Community) Development Platform
<b>SCORE</b>	Social Cohesion and Resilience Index
<b>SDG</b>	Sustainable Development Goal
<b>SoPs</b>	Standard operating procedures
<b>STMM</b>	Social Tension Monitoring Mechanism
<b>SW</b>	Sex Workers
<b>TB</b>	Tuberculosis
<b>TN</b>	Transnistrian region
<b>UN</b>	United Nations
<b>UNAIDS</b>	United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
<b>UNCT</b>	United Nations Country Team
<b>UNDG</b>	United Nations Development Group
<b>UNDP</b>	United Nations Development Programme
<b>UNFPA</b>	United Nations Population Fund
<b>UNICEF</b>	United Nations Fund for Children
<b>UNODC</b>	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
<b>UNSDCDF</b>	United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework
<b>UORN</b>	Harm reduction and drug users' rehabilitation in the North
<b>UN Women</b>	UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
<b>WAD</b>	World AIDS Day
<b>WHO</b>	World Health Organization
<b>WUD</b>	Women who use drugs

# Executive Summary

This Annual Consolidated Progress Report outlines the results achieved in 2024 under the Moldova 2030 SDGs Partnership Fund – Phase II (hereinafter "the Fund"). Prepared in accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding between the Fund and the Participating United Nations Organizations (PUNOs), as well as the Fund's Terms of Reference, the report is based on information and data provided in the Annual Narrative Programme Reports submitted by the individual Joint Programmes and PUNOs.

As of December 2024, twelve PUNOs are part of the Fund: FAO, ILO, IOM, UNAIDS, UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNODC, OHCHR, UN Women, and WHO.

Originally established for the 2023–2027 period, the Fund's mandate has been extended through the end of 2028. This extension is necessitated by the approval of a joint project under the Fund, which has a lifespan exceeding the Fund's original term. Consequently, the Fund's duration has been extended to ensure comprehensive coverage and support for the project's completion. The Fund supports three of the four strategic pillars (Outcomes) outlined in the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (2023–2027) in Moldova:

- (i) **Just and inclusive institutions and equal opportunities for human development;**
- (ii) **Participatory governance and social cohesion; and**
- (iii) **Enhanced shared prosperity in a sustainable economy.**

In 2024, the Fund experienced both programmatic and financial expansion. Three new joint projects were launched, bringing the total to four active joint initiatives spanning all three priority areas.

The Fund received in 2024 new contributions totaling USD 5,604,371 from Switzerland and Sweden. Switzerland is currently the largest contributor, with a total cumulative investment of USD 5,331,965 and Sweden, respectively, with USD 2,508,314.

In alignment with the Fund's policy, at least 15% of total resources must be allocated to gender equality and the empowerment of women. In 2024, more than 30% of the total budget was dedicated to gender mainstreaming and empowerment-focused activities, reflecting an enhanced gender-responsive approach.

Under **Priority Area 1** the Fund provided continuous support for an ongoing joint programme aimed at enhancing the progress in advancing human rights, inclusive service delivery, and institutional capacity in the Transnistrian region, despite ongoing security challenges. Key accomplishments included the expansion of the Roma community mediator network to Dubasari and international recognition of this model, the launch and implementation of five human rights advocacy initiatives focused on marginalized groups including Roma, persons with disabilities, and Ukrainian refugees, and the strengthening of the Thematic Working Groups under the Sustainable (Community) Development Platform. Over 250 healthcare professionals were trained in rights-based service delivery, contributing to the development of a regional Viral Hepatitis/HIV plan targeting 10,000 individuals. The joint initiative under the Fund also supported child protection reforms through advocacy for the Barnahus model, enhanced the role of media in human rights promotion, and trained 100 PLWH in psycho-

social support and rights awareness. The only trust line for GBV survivors in the region handled 359 calls, leading to 28 emergency response cases, while awareness campaigns and community events reached over 1,500 direct beneficiaries, fostering a stronger human rights culture.

Within the same outcome, the Fund supported another joint initiative aimed at enhancing access to healthcare for Ukrainian refugees under Temporary Protection in the Republic of Moldova, implemented by IOM, WHO, UNICEF and UNFPA. Through strategic collaborations with the National Health Insurance Company, the Oncology Institute, and the Mental Health Community Centre, a total of 8,019 individuals received health care, with 2,924 services delivered. The establishment of a sub-working group under the National Programme for the Gradual Integration of Foreigners (2025–2027) marked a key step toward long-term inclusion. These achievements, supported by multi-partner trust fund mechanisms, underscore progress toward a more inclusive and resilient health system, though structural and financial gaps remain and call for continued reforms and policy alignment to ensure sustainability and equitable access for all residents, regardless of migration status.

Under **Priority Area 2** the Fund supported one joint initiative aimed at strengthening social cohesion, resilience and sustainable peace on both banks of Nistru river in the Republic of Moldova, implemented by UNDP and UNFPA. The joint work laid critical groundwork for long-term peacebuilding by initiating the establishment of the Social Tension Monitoring Mechanism (STMM) in 10 right-bank communities and initiating steps toward its digital integration and rural

expansion. In parallel, the initiative launched intergenerational dialogue platforms in seven right-bank and three left-bank communities, guided by locally informed action plans based on comprehensive needs assessments and SCORE 2022 data. These efforts empowered community stakeholders, strengthened local resilience, and enhanced the capacity to proactively address social tensions. Together with health and refugee support interventions, these results reflect coordinated efforts under the same Fund and contribute to a shared vision of inclusive services and strengthened social cohesion in Moldova.

Under **Priority Area 3**, the Fund supported an initiative aimed at enhancing peace and prosperity through women’s leadership and inclusion, implemented jointly by UN Women and the ILO. During its initial phase from July to December 2024, the project focused on laying the foundation for long-term impact by promoting institutional gender mainstreaming and improving women’s access to economic opportunities. Key achievements included the official launch of the programme, capacity-building for 45 public servants on gender-responsive policymaking, and the “Finance for HER” conference, which empowered 112 women entrepreneurs and strengthened partnerships with financial institutions. At the local level, women in Cahul (district in the south of the country) improved financial resilience, while employers and labor inspectors received training on workplace violence prevention in line with ILO Convention 190. The initiative also launched Moldova’s Gender Pay Gap report and advanced policy support for women’s labor force reintegration through a validated pilot childcare support program—demonstrating a multi-level commitment to gender equality and inclusive economic growth.

# Results Achieved under the Fund

## Priority Area 1:

### Just and inclusive institutions and equal opportunities for Human Development

**Outcome 1:** “By 2027, institutions deliver human rights-based, evidence-informed and gender-responsive services for all with the focus on those who are left behind”

**Fund Output A:** Joint Action to Strengthen Human Rights in the Transnistrian Region of the Republic of Moldova

**Joint Project period:** 2022 – 2025

**PUNOs:** UNDP, IOM, OHCHR, UNAIDS, UNICEF, UNFPA, UNODC

#### ■ Key Results:

- ▶ Reactivation and Strengthening of the **Sustainable (Community) Development Platform (SCDP)**: The SCDP was reactivated with expanded membership and regular cross-river engagement, facilitating coordinated advocacy and service planning among CSOs, including those representing persons with disabilities and Roma communities.
- ▶ Enhanced **Access to Human Rights and Social Services for Roma Communities**: Roma community mediators on the left bank supported over 1,000 Roma individuals, including 284 Ukrainian refugees, in obtaining identity documents, accessing healthcare, and addressing discrimination.
- ▶ Comprehensive **Support for Vulnerable Women**: Crisis rooms in Balti and surrounding areas provided integrated legal, medical, psychological, and social services for women who use drugs, sex workers, women living with HIV, and refugees, significantly improving access to protection and care.
- ▶ Expanded **Awareness and Access to HIV Testing**: The national “JUST TEST” campaign, implemented in collaboration with 42 partner organizations across 21 cities, reached over 650,000 people, contributing to stigma reduction and increased access to HIV services.
- ▶ Advancement of **Child Protection Systems**: The Programme promoted child-friendly justice and Barnahus-type services in Tiraspol and Cahul, including cross-sectoral capacity building for professionals and advocacy for policy reform to better support child victims of violence.

**Support for Cross-River Exchanges:** The Sustainable (Community) Development Platform (SCDP) was reactivated, expanding its membership and outlining future activities. The Thematic Working Groups of the SCDP, such as “Adjustment of the Normative Framework and Advocacy” and “Social Services,” met regularly to propose new initiatives to the de facto structures, focusing on the rights of persons with disabilities (PwDs).

**Advocacy Initiatives:** The Programme continued to support and strengthen human rights capacity building skills of human rights defenders and activists from civil society organizations, including alumni of the long-term Human Rights Capacity Building Programme. This year, a new group representing and advocating for the rights of refugees from Ukraine in the

Transnistrian region joined the human rights defenders’ space. Capacity-building initiatives aimed at enhancing right-holders’ knowledge and skills in their ongoing commitment to human rights education and advocacy.

**Institutional Capacity Building for CSOs:** The Programme supported the strengthening of the institutional capacities of the SCDP by facilitating the functioning of the Platform’s Secretariat and the coordination and planning activities. Representatives of CSOs from both banks of the Nistru River, including PwDs and Roma, participated in regular quarterly coordination and planning meetings of the Platform. Special attention was given to digital transformation, with a series of offline and online ICT training sessions organized for the members of the Platform.



Human rights capacity building training and thematic advocacy group meetings, August-October 2024

@Photocredit: OHCHR Moldova

**Sexual and Reproductive Rights:** Representatives of 36 CSOs, social assistance departments, educators, and child rights advocates from both banks of the Nistru River were supported to enhance their knowledge and skills necessary to support adolescents and young people in developing a healthy understanding of their sexuality and rights. The training included practical sessions on creating a safe and judgment-free environment where teenagers feel comfortable asking questions and expressing their concerns.

**Roma Community Mediators:** The Programme continued to support the Institution of Roma community mediators on the left bank of the Nistru River, expanding the network to Dubasari town. Roma community mediators provided consultative support and facilitated access to public services for 1,000 Roma, including 284 refugees from Ukraine. The main issues addressed included lack of identity documents, access to health services, and discrimination.

**Gender-Specific Services:** The Programme ensured access to crisis rooms for female drug users from the municipality of Balti and other neighboring towns, providing comprehensive support including legal, medical, social, and psychological assistance. The project targeted several key groups of beneficiaries, including women who use drugs, women sex workers, women living with HIV, and women refugees from Ukraine.

**Counseling and Protection Services:** The Programme provided support to the "Interaction" NGO Trust line to ensure survivors of domestic and sexual violence received improved service delivery. The trust line answered a total of 359 calls related to domestic violence, leading to 28 new SOS cases being opened. The Programme also developed recommendations and guidelines for relevant entities providing protection and social services on the left bank of the Nistru River.

**HIV, TB, and Drug Dependency Services:** The Programme continued to strengthen human rights efforts by finalizing and disseminating the Informative Note titled "Community Integration of People Released from Detention in the Republic of Moldova." The Programme organized 40 weekly events offering support to people after release, including peer mentorship and group peer support sessions.

**Comprehensive Sexuality Education:** The Programme supported out-of-school comprehensive sexuality education activities for 75 adolescents and 52 parents/caregivers. Discussion Cafés on comprehensive sexuality education were conducted, providing a friendly and interactive environment for young participants to explore topics like body development, sexuality, and intimate relationships.

## Output 2:

# Improved Systems and Mechanisms for the Respect, Protection, and Fulfillment of Human Rights of Vulnerable Groups

**Human Rights Framework:** The Programme continued efforts to finalize and advocate for the adoption of the Human Rights Framework. Despite continuous dialogue with the de facto structures, the process remained slow. The Programme organized meetings with CSOs representatives and human rights defenders to discuss models of implementation and monitoring of human rights action plans.

**HIV Regulatory Framework:** The Programme focused on enhancing accountability and improving HIV-related services through community-led monitoring (CLM). Training sessions were conducted for service provider NGOs and community beneficiaries, and a targeted questionnaire was developed to assess policy awareness among individuals living with HIV. The Programme also developed a regional Viral Hepatitis/HIV plan, aiming to reach 10,000 people in the Transnistrian region by 2030.

**Child-Friendly Justice:** The Programme advocated for the approval and implementation of the Child Rights Roadmap and organized capacity-building activities for professionals in the child protection and justice sectors. Public

lectures on Child Protection and Justice for Children were delivered in collaboration with local academic partners, and cross-sectoral cooperation in cases involving children in custody was strengthened.

**Barnahus-Type Services:** The Programme advocated for integrated services for child victims of crime through Barnahus-type services. Extensive advocacy and preparatory work were carried out for both the Tiraspol and Cahul Barnahus, including coordination with key ministries. Training sessions were organized for justice sector professionals to enhance their capacity to address issues related to violence against children.

**Youth-Friendly Health Services:** The Programme organized a comprehensive capacity building program on adolescent health for health specialists from both banks of the Nistru River. The program focused on various critical aspects, including adolescent health services, communication techniques, and addressing issues related to sexual and reproductive health, mental health, violence prevention, chronic illnesses, and puberty.



Training for women in Căușeni and Tiraspol, October-November 2024.

@photocredit: UNAIDS Moldova

## Output 3: Enhanced Human Rights Culture in the Transnistrian Region

**Human Rights Media Brunches:** The Programme organized thematic human rights media brunches for journalists, media specialists from CSOs, bloggers, and influencers from both banks of the Nistru River. These events aimed to enhance their knowledge about human rights, especially with a focus on marginalized groups. Media specialists increased their knowledge and skills on human rights-compliant communication with and about groups vulnerable to discrimination.

**Awareness-Raising Initiatives:** The Programme supported several awareness-raising activities and campaigns to enhance the human rights culture in the Transnistrian region. These included International Roma Day, the Human

Rights Caravan, and the "16 Days of Activism" campaign. The Programme also organized press tours and press club meetings to provide journalists with valuable insights into key help-seeking organizations.

**Behavior Change Communication Campaigns:** The Programme implemented mentoring programs and awareness campaigns around HIV to reduce stigma and promote inclusive healthcare. The "JUST TEST" national campaign significantly increased HIV testing awareness and access, engaging 42 partner organizations across 21 cities. The campaign reached over 650,000 people through large-scale public awareness efforts.



Empowered advocacy group on the rights of persons with disabilities organise the Media Brunch to promote personal assistant services, 5 December 2024.

@Photocredit: OHCHR Moldova

**Fund Output B:** Ensuring equitable access of refugees with temporary protection to quality health services in the Republic of Moldova

**Joint Project period:** 2024 – 2025

**PUNOs:** IOM, WHO, UNFPA, UNICEF

### ■ Key Results:

- ▶ **Over 12,000 Ukrainian Refugees Accessed Comprehensive Health Services:** Refugees benefitted from more than 25,500 primary health care visits, 4,432 specialized consultations, 3,741 emergency services, and 5,600 hospital services, ensuring access to critical health care across age groups and needs.
- ▶ **Integration of Refugees into National Health Systems:** Refugees with Temporary Protection were successfully integrated into Moldova’s national health systems, including registration with family doctors, access to the e-Prescription system, and benefit packages aligned with the WHO H3 Package.
- ▶ **Revised Health Benefit Package Launched Nationwide:** A new, inclusive benefit package was introduced in March 2024, improving financial protection and access to compensated medicines for vulnerable groups, including 189 children and 140 adults.
- ▶ **Strengthened Health Workforce and Mediation Services:** Over 650 health professionals and 11 IOM health mediators were trained to provide culturally sensitive care and improve communication with refugee populations, enhancing service quality and trust.
- ▶ **Improved Health Governance and Digital Infrastructure:** The mConnect platform enabled real-time data sharing between health and migration authorities, while enhanced NHIC transparency mechanisms now publicly report refugee-related service volumes and costs.

The main goal of the project is to enhance access to quality health care and strengthen the resilience of the health system in the Republic of Moldova, with a focus on supporting Ukrainian refugees under Temporary Protection through coordinated efforts, strategic partnerships, and long-term inclusion measures.

Since the onset of the war in Ukraine in 2022, the Republic of Moldova—supported by several UN agencies and more than 40 partners—has undertaken extensive efforts to integrate Ukrainian refugees into its national health system. These efforts are guided by the 2025–

2026 Refugee Response Plan (RRP), which aims to assist approximately 100,500 refugees and 41,500 members of host communities.

To ensure long-term inclusion, the Government of Moldova adopted a Gradual Inclusion Plan for Foreigners, aligned with its National Development Plan for 2025–2027. The Ministry of Health (MoH), in collaboration with the National Health Insurance Company (NHIC) and several UN agencies, established a joint working group for the health sector. The planning process was informed by situational assessments and international peer learning, including a study

visit to Lithuania. These efforts have laid the foundation for a structured and sustainable approach to integrating refugees into national systems.

As part of support to the RRP, the project underscored a successful model of humanitarian-development collaboration in Moldova's health sector. With over 12,000 refugees directly supported through primary, specialized, emergency, and mental health services, the interventions have significantly contributed to equitable and sustainable health access. The systemic reforms introduced—ranging from benefit package revisions to digital system integration—are positioning Moldova to respond more effectively and inclusively to current and future health challenges.

## Direct Results and Services Delivered

The project is structured around two outcomes: *Outcome 1 – Equitable access to quality essential health services for refugees with Temporary Protection (TP)* and *Outcome 2 – Health system strengthening to support refugee integration and long-term inclusion into national services.*

Under *Outcome 1*, the project delivered equitable access to quality health services for refugees with Temporary Protection (TP). Refugee children (ages 0–17) were a key target group, with 4,537 registered with family doctors and gaining access to primary health care. Among 308 children identified as needing outpatient medications, 189 received them free of charge. Specialized hospital care services were also expanded, with 1,365 specialized outpatient services and 356 hospital care services provided to children.

For refugee women aged 18 to 55, the project supported the registration and access to primary and emergency care of 2,598 individuals. Additionally, 91 women received compensated medicines and medical products. Services were

offered through 163 family doctor centers and 26 specialized outpatient providers, delivering 981 consultations (including 6 dental) and 174 hospital admissions, primarily for medical-surgical and psychiatric emergencies.

UN supported interventions further complemented national efforts, providing primary and pre-hospital care to 3,608 individuals, specialized consultations to 1,229, and hospital emergency services to 124 people.

Support was also extended to adult refugees over the age of 55 and men of all ages. The project facilitated 165 oncology treatments and 99 dialysis sessions for 9 patients. An additional 140 people received compensated medicines. Mental health services were delivered to this group, including 65 psychiatric consultations and 43 psychotherapy sessions. Vulnerable individuals also accessed social and rehabilitative services, such as sheltered housing (10 people), speech therapy (3), crisis center support (2), addiction treatment (1), and mobile mental health interventions (1).

Across all groups, the total health service package included 3,741 emergency services, 4,432 specialized outpatient consultations, 25,500 primary health care visits, and 5,600 hospital-based services. In total, over 12,000 refugees directly benefited from these health interventions.

Under *Outcome 2*, the project strengthened the policy and institutional framework for health inclusion. A revised health benefit package aligned with the WHO H3 Package was launched in March 2024. More than 650 health professionals and 11 IOM health mediators were trained to improve the quality of care and communication with refugee populations.

Information and communication tools were enhanced, with brochures and website content updated in Ukrainian, Russian, Romanian, and

English to inform refugees of their health rights and entitlements.

Digital systems were improved to support the integration of refugees into national platforms. The mConnect platform enabled data exchange between NHIC and the General Inspectorate for Migration, and refugees were integrated into the national e-Prescription system for compensated

drugs. Data reporting mechanisms were upgraded to allow for better disaggregation by age, gender, and locality.

Transparency and accountability were promoted through the NHIC website, which now publishes service volume and cost data related to refugee care, as well as procedures and agreements regulating their inclusion in the health system.

## Priority Area 2:

### Participatory governance and social cohesion

**Outcome 2:** “By 2027, more accountable and transparent human rights-based and gender-responsive governance empowers all people of Moldova to participate in and to contribute to the development process”.

**Fund Output:** Enhancing social cohesion in Moldova through dialogue and community empowerment

**Joint Project period:** 2024 – 2025

**PUNOs:** UNDP, UNFPA

#### ■ Key Results:

- ▶ Groundwork Laid for **Social Tension Monitoring Mechanisms (STMM)** in 10 New Communities: The project refined the STMM methodology and prepared for its expansion to 10 additional right-bank communities, including reviewing and restructuring Community Councils for inclusive engagement.
- ▶ Development of an **AI-Enabled Social Media Monitoring Tool**: Initial consultations were completed for a tool that will detect hate speech, dis/misinformation, and online gender-based violence—supporting early warning systems and policy responses.
- ▶ Launch of **Intergenerational Dialogue Platforms in 10 Communities**: Platforms were introduced in both right-bank and Transnistrian communities using innovative methods like theater and storytelling to foster understanding and cohesion between youth and older persons.
- ▶ **Community Action Plans and Mentorship Program Frameworks** Developed: Needs assessments informed the creation of localized action plans and the design of a future mentorship initiative aimed at addressing specific sources of local tension.

The main goal of the Joint Programme is to strengthen social cohesion, resilience, and sustainable peace across both banks of the Nistru River in Moldova. The programme will foster inclusive dialogue platforms, empowering diverse community groups—such as youth, older persons, women, underrepresented populations, and refugees—and enhancing collaboration with local stakeholders, including civil society organizations (CSOs) and local public authorities (LPAs).

The project has two planned outputs: (1) “Local platforms and tools are established in target communities to foster dialogue, tolerance and cooperation” and (2) “Youth and older persons have the capacity to actively participate in the community life, to access social services and contribute to social cohesion”. Under output 1 the project will fully consolidate the Social Tension Monitoring Mechanisms (STMM) in 10 right-bank communities and under output 2 the project will support intergenerational dialogue platforms in seven right-bank communities and three left-bank communities.

As the project only started in the second part of 2024, extensive preparatory work has been undertaken for future activities, including development of ToRs and planning frameworks that guide future interventions, refining the methodological framework, and setting the stage for scaling the mechanism into rural areas where social divides are more pronounced. Additionally, initial steps have been taken to set the groundwork for the development of an e-monitoring tool that will integrate digital and community-based data, enhancing the planned Social Tension Monitoring Mechanisms (STMM), including their ability to identify and address emerging tensions in real time. These efforts are essential for ensuring that STMM remains a dynamic, evidence-based tool

that can effectively support social cohesion initiatives.

During the reporting period, the project laid ground for the expansion of the Tension Monitoring Mechanism (STMM) to 10 additional pilot communities on the right bank. The methodology was refined to align with the local context and implementation is planned for 2025. Community Councils were reviewed and restructured to ensure broader inclusion and strengthen their role in providing local input to the STMM.

The project also launched the development of a social media monitoring tool, with initial consultations defining its scope. The tool will use AI to support human analysis by identifying trends related to hate speech, dis/misinformation, and online gender-based violence, providing actionable insights for stakeholders to guide responses and policy interventions.

In parallel, the project supported intergenerational dialogue platforms in 10 communities, including three in Transnistria. Tailored methodologies were developed to foster social cohesion through activities like theater, storytelling, and documentary photography. Based on local needs assessments, community-specific action plans were created to inform a future mentorship program focused on addressing local tensions.

To enhance visibility, a communication campaign was initiated. Additionally, partnerships with local authorities in Donduseni and Comrat will lead to the creation of two community centers, with local funding allocated for renovation and support.

Together, these efforts combine data-driven monitoring with community-led initiatives, creating a cohesive framework to promote social cohesion and address emerging tensions.

## Priority Area 3:

# Enhanced shared prosperity in a sustainable economy

**Outcome 3:** “By 2027, all people of Moldova, especially the most vulnerable, benefit from inclusive, competitive and sustainable economic development and equal access to decent work and productive employment”.

**Fund Output:** Enhance peace and Prosperity through Women's Leadership and Inclusion (Women for Peace & Prosperity)

**Joint Project period:** 2024 – 2028

**PUNOs:** UN Women, ILO

### ■ Key Results:

- ▶ **Strategic partnership with CALM established to localize gender-responsive governance.** Terms of Reference were developed to pilot gender-responsive budgeting and inclusive governance in 10 communities and 2 municipalities, creating a foundation for scaling to 60 localities.
- ▶ Four key **ministries integrated gender equality into sectoral reforms.** The Ministries of Agriculture, Economy, Infrastructure, and Labor advanced gender-responsive policies aligned with ILO Conventions 156 and 190, supporting care infrastructure, workplace equality, and inclusive development planning.
- ▶ **Regional dialogue advanced Women, Peace, and Security** across five countries. A high-level platform convened 80 peacebuilders (60 women) from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova, and Ukraine, resulting in a joint declaration for inclusive peace and alignment with global peace agendas.
- ▶ Targeted support strengthened **women's access to entrepreneurship and finance.** Over 60 women gained skills in EU funding, leadership, and proposal development; 127 participants (112 women) engaged in the national “Finance for HER” conference, promoting inclusive financial ecosystems.
- ▶ **Care economy solutions piloted** to support women's labor force participation. Childcare needs assessments launched in six regions; 20 women were trained and certified to establish family-type nurseries, contributing to the development of alternative care services at local level.

The programme aims to empower women across the country—particularly those from disadvantaged or conflict-affected regions such as Gagauzia and Transnistria—by enhancing

their social and economic opportunities and enabling meaningful participation in decision-making, economic and peacebuilding processes.

The initiative, jointly implemented by UN Women and ILO, is in its incipient stage, with the reporting period (July–December 2024) focused on foundational activities to enable future implementation. Key achievements include the official program launch and Steering Committee meeting, initial capacity-building for public servants and local stakeholders, awareness-raising on gender equality and financial empowerment, and early steps toward institutional engagement on workplace equality and support for women’s labor market reintegration.

The programme is structured in two main Outcomes: *(1) Women increasingly engage in governance processes and meaningfully participate in sustained peace building and social cohesion in Moldova, and (2) Women, including the most disadvantaged, have better access to economic opportunities and decent employment and entrepreneurship*

Under *Outcome 1*, the project supported the increased engagement of women in governance processes and their meaningful participation in peacebuilding and social cohesion in Moldova.

During the reporting period, significant progress was made in establishing the conditions necessary for transformative change, with a strong focus on institutional engagement and the formation of key partnerships. These foundational efforts were essential to ensure alignment with the project document and to facilitate the successful implementation of future activities. By building collaboration with both local public authorities and civil society organizations, the project has created a conducive environment for enhancing gender-responsive governance and inclusive decision-making at the local and regional levels.

The project-initiated actions to strengthen the institutional capacities of local government authorities to develop and implement gender-responsive legal frameworks, policies, and

budgets. A strategic partnership was formed with the Congress of Local Authorities from Moldova (CALM), with Terms of Reference developed to guide CALM’s engagement beginning in 2025. The collaboration will focus on enhancing women’s participation in local governance, promoting gender-responsive budgeting (GRB), and supporting social cohesion and peacebuilding efforts through community-based initiatives. These interventions will initially be piloted in 10 local communities and 2 municipalities, out of a total of 60 localities, providing an opportunity to test approaches and generate lessons learned for future replication and scale-up.

Complementary to institutional efforts, the project also focused on enhancing the capacities of women and girls, particularly those from marginalized and crisis-affected communities, to participate meaningfully in public life and local decision-making processes. Preparatory actions during the reporting period resulted in the development of Terms of Reference for upcoming activities aimed at fostering participatory civic engagement. These activities will engage local public administrations, non-governmental organizations, and both women and men as active agents of change. The interventions are designed to challenge existing gender norms, promote inclusive participation in policymaking, and support the monitoring of local authority activities by community members. Special attention will be paid to refugees and host community members to ensure their voices are included in local governance. The initiative is expected to reach up to 27 communities in its initial phase, with full implementation planned by the end of 2025.

At the regional level, the project contributed to peacebuilding and social cohesion by supporting a high-level dialogue platform focused on Women, Peace, and Security (WPS). Over 80 peacebuilders from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova, and Ukraine—60 of whom were women—participated in a two-day regional dialogue. This initiative culminated

in the adoption of a joint statement calling for coordinated actions and transformative change toward inclusive and sustainable peace across the region. The dialogue was organized in connection with global peace and security processes, including the lead-up to the 2024 UN Summit of the Future, the 30th anniversary of the Beijing Platform for Action (B+30), and the review of the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 (UNSCR 1325+25). The initiative was supported by UN Women and the UN Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (UN-DPPA), with co-funding from the governments of Switzerland and Sweden.

Although tangible results at the community level are expected to emerge in the subsequent phases of implementation, the current reporting period demonstrates substantial progress toward the achievement of Outcome 1. The groundwork laid through institutional engagement, community-level planning, and regional collaboration reflects a strong alignment with the project's overall objectives and signals readiness for future expansion and impact.

Under *Outcome 2*, the project supported improved access for women—especially the most disadvantaged—to economic opportunities, decent employment, and entrepreneurship in Moldova.

During the reporting period, the programme registered visible progress, contributing meaningfully to enhancing women's access to decent work, social protections, and economic empowerment. Key institutional actors, including the Ministries of Agriculture and Food Industry (MAFI), Economic Development and Digitalization (MEDD), Infrastructure and Regional Development (MIRD), and Labor and Social Protection (MLSP), engaged in the revision and implementation of gender-responsive legal and policy frameworks. These efforts were aligned with international labor standards, notably ILO Conventions No. 156 (Workers with Family Responsibilities) and No. 190 (Violence

and Harassment in the World of Work), and focused on promoting care policies, labor rights, and inclusive services across sectors.

Progress was particularly notable in mainstreaming gender within national governance structures. MAFI integrated gender-responsive provisions into the revised Law on Agricultural Chambers, with UN Women's technical support. The reform strengthened commitments to non-discrimination and inclusive governance while broadening the Chambers' mandate to promote gender equality and ensure equitable access to resources and services, especially for women farmers, debutant entrepreneurs, and rural vulnerable groups.

In parallel, MEDD strengthened internal capacities to address gender inequalities in economic policymaking. A capacity-building workshop supported by UN Women equipped 28 staff members with the tools to challenge workplace stereotypes and harassment, improve gender-sensitive communication, and recognize the importance of male allies in promoting equality, particularly in the private sector and leadership.

MIRD made advances in applying a gender lens to regional development programming. A three-day training on gender mainstreaming in public policy allowed 17 staff members to assess the responsiveness of the "Satul European" program. Participants gained hands-on experience with UN methodologies to analyze gender gaps and systemic inequalities, enhancing their ability to design more inclusive policies.

The MLSP led critical legislative reforms aimed at expanding care infrastructure and creating a more enabling environment for women's participation in the labor force. UN Women and ILO supported a national working group that produced a detailed report—Public-Private Partnership as a Tool for Developing Better Alternative Childcare Services in Moldova—and developed legal proposals to regulate workplace childcare spaces and

caregiver services. A legal review of Moldova's alignment with ILO Convention No. 156 informed high-level discussions convened with the National Confederation of Trade Unions, highlighting the convention's role in promoting workplace equality for workers with family responsibilities. Informed by this work, MLSP also proposed concrete policy measures such as enhancing paternity leave uptake, supporting STEM pathways for girls, and strengthening collective bargaining frameworks to close the gender pay gap. These recommendations were reflected in the ILO-supported report *Gender Pay Gap in Moldova: Recent Trends and Policy Recommendations*, based on data from 2013 to 2023.

In parallel with institutional strengthening, targeted support was provided to women entrepreneurs—including those from disadvantaged regions such as the left bank of the Nistru River—to access resources, improve productivity, and scale businesses. Over 60 women from national institutions, business associations, and SMEs participated in strategic dialogues that deepened their knowledge of EU funding mechanisms, proposal development, and regional networking. The focus on financial tools, leadership, and the economic contributions of women-led enterprises helped position participants to increase their competitiveness and visibility in decision-making spaces.

UN Women's flagship "Finance for HER" conference further contributed to ecosystem-level change by convening 127 participants—112 of them women—from across sectors. Tailored workshops targeted financial institutions, regulatory bodies, and businesswomen, promoting financial literacy, inclusive value chains, and greater access to capital. The event catalyzed new partnerships with key national stakeholders, such as the National Bank of Moldova and the Commission for Financial Markets, to advance gender-responsive financial systems.

At the local level, a financial education workshop in Cahul, organized with the National Commission for Financial Markets, enhanced the financial literacy of 22 participants—mostly women—on topics such as consumer protection, responsible borrowing, and risk mitigation. This built critical knowledge for long-term financial resilience among underserved populations.

To improve enabling conditions for women's labor participation, the programme also addressed gaps in care services. A pilot mapping of childcare service needs was launched in Ungheni by NGO Civitta, as part of a broader assessment in six regional growth poles. Insights from this initiative will inform a forthcoming national roadmap on alternative childcare models. In addition, 20 women completed entrepreneurial training on family-type nurseries, receiving certification to launch childcare services and contribute to the development of localized care economies.

Efforts to promote safer and more equitable workplaces culminated in a national conference, *Convention 190 Can Change Destinies*, which spotlighted progress on tackling workplace violence and harassment. The initiative, developed in partnership with the National Trade Union Confederation (CNSM), produced a practical guide and training program. A network of 53 certified trainers reached over 285 trade union leaders and activists across eight regions, fostering broader awareness and capacity to implement ILO Convention No. 190 standards.

Taken together, these achievements mark substantial progress toward the goal of advancing women's economic empowerment and decent work in Moldova. Through a combination of institutional reform, targeted support for women entrepreneurs, care economy development, and regional outreach, the project has not only expanded access to opportunities but has also built a more inclusive and responsive policy environment for long-term impact.

# Conclusions, Lessons Learnt and Future Plans

The 2024 results of the Moldova 2030 SDGs Partnership Fund – Phase II clearly demonstrate that the pooled funding mechanism delivers greater coherence, scale, and impact than isolated efforts. By aligning the resources, expertise, and operational capacities of participating UN organizations, the Fund enabled joint programming that was more strategic, inclusive, and responsive to Moldova’s evolving development priorities.

Throughout the year, the Fund supported interventions that reached vulnerable communities on both banks of the Nistru River, reinforced institutional capacities, and delivered tangible benefits across key sectors. These included equitable access to health care for refugees, strengthened national human rights mechanisms, and improved gender-responsive governance and economic inclusion for women. Notably, more than 30% of the Fund’s resources were allocated to women’s empowerment activities, underlining its commitment to gender equality and its potential for transformational impact.

Crucially, the Fund fostered synergistic interventions that addressed interconnected challenges such as social cohesion, health equity, and gender-based violence. By facilitating joint planning, applying common results frameworks, and ensuring shared accountability, the Fund improved operational efficiency and proved that multi-stakeholder collaboration leads to more sustainable and systemic change.

At the same time, 2024 offered important lessons for the Fund’s continued evolution. There is

a need to strengthen communication and visibility to better showcase the Fund’s impact to government counterparts, development partners, and civil society actors. Streamlining administrative and reporting requirements would enhance efficiency for implementing agencies, enabling a stronger focus on delivery. Moreover, deeper coordination with sectoral ministries and better alignment with national planning and budgeting cycles are essential to ensure long-term ownership and sustainability.

## Strategic Vision for the Next Phase of the Fund

As Moldova’s Cooperation Framework reaches its midpoint, the Moldova 2030 SDGs Partnership Fund is positioning itself as a central mechanism for advancing joint resource mobilization, accelerating results, and reinforcing national ownership. Building on its track record, the Fund will evolve into a more strategic tool that connects financing, planning, and delivery in support of Moldova’s sustainable development priorities.

To that end, the Fund will reinforce its alignment with the Cooperation Framework to maximize coherence across UN interventions. Through enhanced coordination with the UN Country Team, government stakeholders, and development partners, the Fund will ensure that resources are mobilized and allocated in a manner that responds to national priorities and closes critical funding gaps.

To attract new resources and partnerships, the Fund will deepen its thematic focus by

introducing dedicated funding windows, including one on social cohesion. This will enable targeted investments in areas that foster inclusion, peacebuilding, and resilience at the community level. Simultaneously, the Fund will develop thematic proposals that resonate with donor priorities and national needs, unlocking contributions from bilateral partners, the private sector, and philanthropic actors.

Recognizing the importance of visibility and engagement, the Fund will strengthen its strategic communications and external relations. Through well-curated donor engagement

events, field visits, and high-level dialogues, it will showcase impact, facilitate exchange, and reinforce the value of joint investment in Moldova's sustainable and European future.

Finally, advancing social cohesion will remain a central pillar of the Fund's work going forward. It will invest in community-driven initiatives that build trust, promote dialogue, and empower marginalized groups. At the same time, it will strengthen early warning systems and local peacebuilding capacities to ensure that development gains are resilient to social and political pressures.

# STORY



## A WOMAN, 38-YEARS-OLD, SUFFERED FROM DOMESTIC VIOLENCE FOR SEVERAL YEARS

The Trust Line, supported by the Moldova 2030 SDGs Partnership Fund (MPTF), received a call from a 38-year-old unemployed woman who had endured various forms of violence throughout her family life. She faced significant challenges, including emotional and physical abuse, loss of parental rights, and alcohol dependency. At a critical moment, she turned to the Trust Line, an essential intervention funded through the MPTF, which is part of a larger initiative to support survivors of gender-based violence on both banks of the Nistru River - Fund Output A: Joint Action to Strengthen Human Rights in the Transnistrian Region of the Republic of Moldova.

The woman sought psychological, legal, and humanitarian assistance, as well as help in reestablishing contact with her children. Through the coordinated services provided by the MPTF-funded project, she received comprehensive legal consultations regarding her right to live free from violence. She was informed about available emergency services through consultations and printed materials. Despite her reluctance to relocate to a shelter, she was made aware of shelter services on both sides of the Nistru River.

She was provided with individual psychotherapy, practical techniques to build psycho-social resilience, and psychological interventions tailored to at-risk situations. Although she did not foresee her children relocating to her current housing due to her unstable financial situation, she felt significantly better and began actively seeking employment. She received in-kind food support and guidance toward professional training opportunities. Legal assistance was provided to help her reduce child support payments, and she decided to confirm the payment amount without changes.

By the time this report was submitted, she was employed and able to meet her personal needs independently. These outcomes were achieved thanks to the comprehensive, survivor-centered support system established under the Moldova 2030 SDGs Partnership Fund Joint Project. The Trust Line, as a front-line mechanism of this system, played a vital role in stabilizing her situation and supporting her recovery journey. NGO Interaction continued implementing case assistance throughout 2024. Her psychological condition improved, and she regained hope and autonomy. Trust Line and shelter services remain available in case of further risks, and the case was formally closed in the last quarter of 2024.