

# Migration MPTF

## Annual Report

### PROJECT INFORMATION

<b>Joint Programme Title:</b>	Leveraging the positive impact of migration on Moldova's development through improved policy evidence and better engaged diaspora.
<b>Country(ies)/Region (or indicate if a global initiative):</b>	Republic of Moldova
<b>Project Identification Number:</b>	
<b>Start and Planned End Dates</b>	13 September 2023 – 11 September 2026
<b>Convening Agent (Lead PUNO):</b>	International Organization for Migration (IOM), Mission to the Republic of Moldova
<b>PUNO(s) (PUNOs):</b>	IOM, UNDP, UNICEF, WHO
<b>Key Partners:</b> (include Implementing Partner)	State Chancellery, Bureau for Diaspora Relations, Statistics Office
<b>Project Period (Start – End Dates):</b>	13 September 2023 – 11 September 2026
<b>Reporting Period:</b>	1 January 2025 – 31 December 2025
<b>Total Approved Migration MPTF Budget:</b> (breakdown by PUNO)	IOM: USD 800,000 UNDP: USD 610,000 UNICEF: USD 250,000 WHO: USD 340,000 Total: USD 2,000,000
<b>Total Funds Received To Date:</b> (breakdown by PUNO)	IOM: USD 800,000 UNDP: USD 610,000 UNICEF: USD 250,000 WHO: USD 340,000
<b>Report Submission Date:</b>	31 March 2026
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## Executive Summary

The Programme reporting period (the calendar year 2025) accounted for significant progress in advancing the collaboration with the Government of Moldova, against the backdrop of the country progressing towards the EU accession. The joint programme continued providing timely support to Moldova's EU integration path with its implementation strategy, data and capacity building components, sustainable and innovative approaches aligned to this process, and engagement of diaspora's skills and competences for policy reforms. The Programme worked in support of the current **national priorities**, strategies and policies as outlined in the *National Development Plan for 2024-2026*, the *National Action Plan for the Accession of the Republic of Moldova to the European Union for the years 2024-2027*, the *Government Action Plan for 2024*, and the *National Diaspora Program for 2024-2028*.

The Programme's work contributes to Moldova's efforts for achieving the SDG indicator 10.7.2 "The country governance framework integrates migration policies that facilitate orderly, safe, regular, and responsible migration and mobility of people".

The Programmes activities in 2025 contributed to achieving the **UN-Moldova SDCF's** 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", in particular through work on achieving Output 1.1. "Regulatory and policy framework that is evidence-informed and takes into account demographic trends promotes gender-responsive and human rights-based social protection and equal access to basic services". It also worked towards reaching the 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 development processes", through work on Output 2.2. "Institutions at all levels have increased capacities to produce, share and utilize quality disaggregated data in line with national priorities and in accordance with international standards and methodologies" and Output 2.3. "People of Moldova, in particular most vulnerable and marginalized, are empowered to claim and exercise their human rights and meaningfully participate in public and civic life, governance and decision-making processes". It worked to support the 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", through contribution to Outputs 3.1. "Policy and institutional frameworks create an empowering environment for inclusive and sustainable economic development that promotes creation of productive and decent work" and 3.3. "Enterprises are more resilient to crises and have strengthened capacities to efficiently utilize resources, generate decent employment and integrate innovations to enhance productivity and competitiveness". The present Programme also contributes to the Outcome 4: "By 2027, institutions and all people of Moldova benefit from and contribute to green and resilient development, sustainable use of natural resources and effective gender-responsive climate change action and disaster risk management", through contribution to the Output 4.4. "Public institutions and civil society have increased capacities to promote meaningful engagement of local communities and other rightsholders in development and deployment of sustainable solutions to address environmental degradation, climate change and natural disasters and hazards".

The Programme worked towards reaching the planned Outcome 1, to ensure that the national public governance and development programmes and policies effectively and efficiently facilitate diaspora engagement based on improved evidence.

To analyze the profile of various categories of migrants available, in support of policymaking, with a focus on gender aspects of migration, impact of migration and remittances on groups left behind (children), PUNOs made significant progress under **Output 1.1** with:

- Activity 1.1.1: “Execution of comprehensive sociological analysis in the Republic of Moldova for profiling migrants, incl. children”, through conducting the field data collection (both quantitative and qualitative components), preparing a summary narrative report, and presenting it to the stakeholders. The study includes four components: i) the profile of returning Moldovan migrants; ii) the profile and situation of children whose parents work abroad; iii) the profile of foreigners in the Republic of Moldova; iv) the reintegration needs, experience, and challenges of the returning Moldovan migrants.
- A1.1.3: “Organising outreach, promotion and information campaigns spurring Government/country-diaspora engagement”, continuing the implementation of the information campaign titled "People Next to Us.", aiming to encourage various target groups to participate in the return program. It highlights the program's positive impact and promotes its beneficial results.
- A1.1.4: “Supporting the development of institutional, coordination, policy and legal/regulatory amendments, programmes, tools and services for an efficient diaspora engagement”, through supporting the development of the National Program for Natural Disaster Risk Reduction for 2026-2030 and integration of the human mobility in the crisis context dimension.

Under the **Output 1.2**, Participating United Nations Organizations (PUNOs) developed and piloted the methodology and data collection tools for extended, coordinated, sustainable, and systematic mapping of diaspora communities, through:

- A1.2.1: “Assessing the statistical and administrative migration data systems, incl. health-related”, by conducting the assessment and validating it with the stakeholders. The assessment report informed further work on upgrading the Extended Migration Profile, as outlined in A1.2.2 below.
- A1.2.2: “Upgrading the Extended Migration Profile (EMP) to integrate in-depth aspects related to gender, children whose parents work abroad and other vulnerable groups, migrant health and mobility of health personnel”, through producing an upgraded EMP template and indicators, the draft Government Ordinance for regular public production of the EMP, and the reporting matrix in close coordination with the stakeholders. Following the Programme’s support, the upgraded EMP template and indicators were formally adopted by the Government in September 2025.
- Activities 1.2.4 and 1.2.5: “Developing a methodology for and conducting an extended diaspora mapping, including migrant children, integrating skills, needs, engagement propensity and plans, diaspora health related variables profiling”, through field data collection in the destination countries (both quantitative and qualitative components), preparing the narrative analytical report, and presenting its summary to the stakeholders on 18 December 2025.

Under **Output 1.3.**, the capacity of public officials to deploy, implement and use statistical and administrative data and statistical tools was enhanced (activity 1.3.1), through facilitation of access to the

best available international practices, incl. related to human mobility dimension in the analysis of the National Censuses. The programme offered further methodological support for the analysis of the human mobility dimension of the 2024 National Census. The Programme initiated the work on a comprehensive review and analysis of foreign statistical, administrative, and census data on the Moldovan diaspora in the main destination countries. The Programme also provided capacity support to the national stakeholders on the use of the upgraded EMP template and indicators, as well as the reporting matrix, for regular production of the EMP.

Part of the **Output 1.4**, working to upgrade the National data systems to allow for sustainable and systematic assessment of the impact of diaspora, the relevance of work under activity 1.4.2 “Developing a nationally owned sustainable methodology for migration forecasting and measuring the impact of migration on economic and development variables” was reconfirmed with the national stakeholders, and the concept and Terms of Reference (ToR) were developed, defining the scope of work; the Programme contracted a national expert to support the implementation of this task, who initiated the work by consulting the main stakeholders.

Within the **Output 2.1’s**, the PUNOs facilitated the establishment of a sustainable platform for diaspora dialogue and engagement in public governance, by providing thematic support and commissioning expertise and developing the concept of the platform; it was operationalised through the establishment and organisation of the first diaspora-Government working groups on a range of policy areas (A2.1.1); the procurement of IT services was finalised for digitalising the platform, and an IT company was contracted to that end, under activity 2.1.2 “Designing, launching, and promoting the up-graded multi-functional electronic web-portal for operationalisation of the platform for dialogue and engagement of Diaspora”.

Under **Output 2.2**, the PUNOs designed and operationalized a mechanism for leveraging the intellectual potential of Moldovan graduates and students at foreign universities in key development areas, through:

- Activities 2.2.1, 2.2.2, and 2.2.3: “Developing the concept, its operational mechanism and cooperation framework for leveraging intellectual potential of Moldovan graduates and students of foreign universities; operationalizing and launching the mechanism”, by providing counselling and facilitation of professional/academic placement and case-management, to a total of 52 cases, with 42 already returning to Moldova; capacity support was provided; medical diaspora database was established and kept up to date; the medical mobility scheme was developed, launched and promoted through information materials under A2.2.4, resulting in the first three applications. The Programme organised three visibility and networking events for the target group.
- A2.2.4: Promoting the program for the return of Moldovan graduates to the diaspora and the Moldovan public, through producing and disseminating visibility materials to the target group and stakeholders.

Under **Output 2.3**, the PUNOs developed and operationalised the mechanism for short-term engagement/temporary return to Moldova of highly qualified practitioners in priority areas for development, through:

- Counselling, facilitation of professional/academic placement, and case-management provided to a total of 107 cases, of which 24 already participated in missions to Moldova (A2.3.1 and 2.3.3) to various public institutions, universities in Moldova, etc., as well as at the local level; study visits and meetings with the medical diaspora organised, a joint scientific publication and educational materials were produced under A2.3.2 “Strengthen health workforce coordination and institutional governance”.

Under **Output 2.4**, the project engaged diaspora business leaders as development promoters and business envoys, through supporting the organization, part of A2.4.1, of the 11<sup>th</sup> edition of the Moldovan – American Convention (MAC 11) in Orlando, USA, as a high-level platform for dialogue and cooperation between representatives of the Moldovan diaspora, local public authorities, and development partners. As part of this activity, three Diaspora Invest promotional events were successfully organized in Verona, Düsseldorf, and London, engaging a total of 180 diaspora participants and strengthening outreach and engagement with Moldovan communities in key European hubs.

At least 10 partnerships between diaspora entrepreneurs and producers/exporters from the Republic of Moldova are in an advanced stage of formalization, as a result of organizing a minimum of 10 promotional events across five key diaspora markets. These actions contribute to direct connections between businesses abroad and local companies. The activities are carried out in cooperation with the Moldova Investment Agency, which is responsible for coordinating the “Buy Moldova” diaspora business engagement Programme, aimed at strengthening the visibility of Moldovan products and services abroad and stimulating opportunities for export, investment, and economic collaboration.

Part of **Output 2.5**, the PUNOs continued developing instruments and services for productive investment of remittances in the Moldovan economy, through:

- A2.5.1 “Evaluating the current national programmatic framework for the engagement of migrants’ economic resources and providing recommendations to the stakeholders for its modernization”, whereby the project supported the development of a concept for municipal bonds as an innovative financial instrument to leverage diaspora capital for local development. The concept is currently being advanced through the identification and analysis of a suitable pilot project;
- Activity 2.5.2 “Establishing a digital platform to support migrants in managing and monitoring remittances sent to households in Moldova via an online voucher system”, existing platforms that support remittance tracking were mapped. An analytical report was prepared, which concluded with the recommendation to re-direct the Programme’s resources to other needs, related to children impacted by migration/mobility. This will require additional time for implementation, calling for an extension of the Programme duration by additional 6 months.
- Activity A2.5.3: by reviewing best practices for developing financial literacy programs, mapping the existing platforms that support remittance tracking, and surveying the profile and needs of the target group; contracting services for developing and disseminating promotion/visibility materials under A2.5.3. “Developing the concept of the financial literacy pilot program, mechanism of implementation and sustainability options, financial literacy toolkit, training

curricula, promotion materials, monitoring mechanism and in-take forms, training program and calendar”;

- Providing updates to diaspora on investment mechanisms and opportunities in the Republic of Moldova part of five events organised for the diaspora under A2.5.4 “Operationalising the financial literacy pilot program through workshops”.

A **significant overall challenge** was the increase of prices for the expert services and goods, which put pressure on the budget and delayed the procurement process for selection of service providers and consultants. Other challenges were: the complex regional security context, superimposed on the political processes in Moldova; 2025 was an electoral year, in which the Parliamentary elections were organised; therein, the democratic engagement of diaspora through its massive unprecedented participation and active pro-EU and pro-democracy stance, was decisive for the outcome of the democratic exercise; the continued refugee dynamics; the continued war in Ukraine; the external actors attempts to destabilise the internal political situation in the country, and the acute energy crisis. The challenges called for adoption of coping measures by the Programme.

The Programme implementation team, reviewing the course of implementation of the activities, given the time remaining until the scheduled end of the Programme, the outlined challenges as well as the suggested modifications to the activities, decided to propose to extend the Programme by additional 6 months, i.e. the new end-date being 10 March 2027 (vs the initially planned end-date of 11 September 2026). Upon approval of the National-level Steering Committee, the request for revision of the Programme will be presented to the administration of the Migration MPTF for final endorsement, under the upcoming reporting period.

## Annual Progress

### 1. Summary and Context

The overall objective of the Programme is to leverage the positive impact of migration on Moldova’s socio-economic development and minimize the negative effects of migration. The objective is being achieved by working to address the capacity limitations of the Government of Moldova to devise appropriate migration policies targeting groups left behind and highly skilled migrants through a range of concrete outputs devised to reach the two planned Outcomes.

The Joint Programme is on track to meet its set goals. The significant progress was made in enhancing public governance, engaging the diaspora, and developing innovative models for sustainable development highlights the programme's effectiveness.

In 2025, the Programme made significant progress in collaborating with the Government of Moldova, supporting the country's EU accession efforts through strategic implementation, data and capacity building, and innovative approaches. Notably, the year saw unprecedented diaspora engagement in the Presidential elections and the EU accession referendum, with their record massive turnout and active pro-EU and pro-democracy stance being decisive for the outcomes. This fact reinforced the importance of the present initiative as a milestone of UN contribution to the efforts of Moldova to nurture and advance the

engagement of its large diaspora in development and democratic processes in the homeland. The Programme monitored the discourses, arguments, suggestions and requests by the Diaspora, voiced during the electoral period, to ensure that they feed into the analyses, policy and programmatic developments, and instruments for practical engagement being developed under the present initiative.

The present Programme, being **the flagship UN initiative** in support of the Government-diaspora engagement, served as a fundamental reference point for expertise, capacity building support and source of innovation and best practices. The Programme therefore came as timely input for the development and implementation of a range of new policies starting, namely: the *National Development Plan for 2024-2026*, the *National Action Plan for the Accession of the Republic of Moldova to the European Union for the years 2024-2027*, the *Government Action Plan for 2024*, and the *National Diaspora Program for 2024-2028*.

The Programme, in synergy with the other UN initiatives, provided important policy and best practices input in support of the Republic of Moldova's participation in the 30<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Belem, Brazil, from the angle of the human mobility nexus and diaspora's contribution to climate change action. The Programme worked in close (initially unplanned) synergy with another, IOM-funded and implemented initiative, which started in 2025 "*Engaging the Moldovan Diaspora and Local Stakeholders in the Implementation of the Second National Climate Change Adaptation Plan*" (D4C), which was developed building on significant policy and analytical level input provided by the present Programme's work; the facilitation of policy dialogue between the Government and the diaspora, through organization of a series of events within the Diaspora Congress 2025 edition; and creation of a joint thematic expert group on climate actions. Based on the present Programme's recommendations, the climate action dimension will be integrated within the national DAR 1+3 programme, through the provision of grants at the community level, and a mechanism for valorizing migrants' resources for climate change adaptation will be developed under the new project, in close synergy with the present Programme.

Additionally, the Programme continued synergizing and valorizing the outputs of the important progress made under another, IOM-funded and implemented initiative, "*Save More In Migration: Supporting Migrant Workers From Georgia and the Republic of Moldova to Enhance Savings, Remittances & Sustainable Benefits of Labour Migration*" (SMIM). The present initiative took on board and further advanced the behavioral economics approach and practice, used therein for improving the financial literacy of Moldovan migrants going to Israel, by working to adapt it and expand it to other labour migration corridors – notably the Republic of Moldova-Germany. The synergies between the two initiatives, and the experience from the SMIM initiative, allow the present Programme to work, under Output 2.5, towards developing a national-level financial literacy pilot program, with a mechanism of implementation and sustainability options, a financial literacy toolkit, training curricula, promotion materials, a monitoring mechanism, in-take forms, a training program, and a calendar. The Programme worked to further valorize the partnership with *Expert-Group*, a key Moldovan think tank, involved through one of its experts, in the implementation of the financial literacy exercise under the SMIM project. The ongoing analytical work conducted under the SMIM, for reviewing the financial literacy and propensity of the Moldovan labour migrants, served to guide the diaspora mapping exercise under the

present Programme, informing the development of the national-level financial literacy pilot program. The Programme further valorized the dialogue and partnership developed with commercial banks / private sector under the SMIM project, for the piloting of the national-level financial literacy programme. Under the same output 2.5, the present Programme made significant progress by valorizing the opportunity to contribute to the organisation of a range of *Diaspora Invest* forums in 2025, jointly with the Moldova Invest Agency, and the Presidency of the Republic of Moldova. The present Programme's input to three of the *Diaspora Invest* events (in Verona, Düsseldorf, and London), focused on the promotion of financial literacy and awareness of investment tools and opportunities available for the Diaspora in Moldova. The Programme's input and the respective work, contributed to the implementation of the *Diaspora Invest Program*, by the Moldova Invest Agency, which remains a new segment of the Agency's mandate. Under the same output, the present initiative joined efforts with a US-based Moldovan diaspora-funded initiative on advancing the financial literacy of rural youth. Through this partnership, the Programme supported the scale-up of activities to 16 rural schools across the Republic of Moldova. This collaboration integrated a distinct youth dimension into the financial literacy component of the Programme..

The present Programme also capitalized on the synergies with the ongoing UNDP-Swiss initiative, "STRONG Project," which aims to improve the living standards of people in Moldova through a more inclusive, accountable, responsive, and evidence-based model of governance, while enhancing the participation of migrants and the diaspora in Moldova's sustainable development. In 2025, this collaboration supported the transition from piloted diaspora-migration-development (DMD) solutions to more institutionalized and scalable approaches, by aligning policy-level technical assistance to the Diaspora Relations Bureau (BRD) with community-level interventions implemented under STRONG. Analytical work, policy consultations, and capacity-building activities informed and were informed by lessons emerging from local implementation, contributing to improved coherence between national return and reintegration policies and local governance practices.

At the community level, synergies were operationalized through coordinated support to the Alliance of Hometown Associations of Moldova (AHTA), Local Public Authorities (LPAs), and Local Action Groups (LAGs), strengthening cooperation models, migration-sensitive local development planning, and inclusive governance practices. STRONG-supported mentorship, peer-learning, and capacity-building initiatives enhanced the ability of HTAs and LPAs to jointly deliver community-based interventions and to engage diaspora actors more effectively, while complementary support to the DOR Programme reinforced social, cultural, and civic ties between diaspora youth and their communities of origin. Overall, the synergies with the STRONG Project contributed to a more integrated DMD ecosystem, strengthening linkages between policy reform, institutional capacity development, and resilient, participatory local development.

Despite facing challenges such as increased prices and regional security issues, the programme has successfully advanced its objectives, contributing to the Republic of Moldova's development and its EU accession efforts. The continued collaboration with the key partners and the strategic focus on data, capacity development, and diaspora engagement ensure that the programme remains aligned with its goals and poised for further success in the upcoming reporting period.

## **2. Results**

The Programme worked towards reaching the planned **Outcome 1**, its outputs and activities working to ensure that the *national public governance and development programmes and policies effectively and efficiently facilitate diaspora engagement based on improved evidence*. During the implementation period, the Programme delivered a range of important contributions towards the planned Outcome 1, as follows:

Under *Output 1.1*, the PUNOs conducted the analysis of migrants' profiles, focusing on gender aspects, migration, and remittances' impact on children left behind. Additionally, the "People Next to Us" campaign continued to encourage diaspora engagement and a draft legislation on diaspora received development support. Under *Output 1.2*, data collection tools were developed, piloted, and used, and the mapping of diaspora communities was conducted. The PUNOs assessed migration data systems, re-established and supported the convening of the inter-agency Technical Working group on the EMP, and upgraded the EMP to include gender, children, and health aspects in a sustainable and nationally owned manner. Under *Output 1.3*, PUNOs enhanced the capacity of public officials to use statistical tools and data and initiated the analysis of the human mobility in the 2024 National Census in alignment with the international statistics requirements and Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) indicators. The work under Outcome 1 meets the national priorities outlined in the *Government Action Plan for 2024* and the *National Diaspora Program for 2024-2028*.

The Programme's respective work contributed towards achieving the following **indicators at Outcome 1** level:

Indicator 1a: *The country's governance framework integrates migration policies that facilitate orderly, safe, regular, and responsible migration and mobility of people*, Indicator 1d *National statistical system produces regular estimates of number of diaspora and circular migrants, based on usual residence definition*, and Indicator 1e *National institutional, coordination, policy mechanisms, programmes, tools, and services enhanced, and capacities strengthened to assume an enhanced and sustainable role of coordination of Diaspora, Migration and Development areas*, through the execution of the assessment of the migration data systems, re-establishment and supporting the re-convening of the inter-agency working group on the EMP, upgrading of the EMP to include gender, children, and health aspects, and the provided access to national stakeholders on international best practices and standards on international migration statistics. This contributed to progress also under the United Nations Sustainable Development Country Framework (UNSDCF)'s indicator 1.b (under the Output 1.1) and the SDG indicator 10.7.2 (*The country governance framework integrates migration policies that facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people*). The work is in progress, and changes in indicator metrics will be provided in the next report(s).

Indicator 1b *Number of institutional, policy and legal/ regulatory amendments, programmes, coordination mechanisms, services, and data instruments for an efficient engagement of diaspora in homeland development, incl. In climate change action, developed in a participatory manner and submitted for endorsement by the Government*, through the work on enhancing the national legislation on diaspora, the drafting of one policy proposal was supported during the reporting period (activity A1.1.4). The work is in progress, and changes in indicator metrics will be provided in the next report(s).

The Programme made progress towards achieving the planned **Outputs**, under Outcome 1, in 2025, as follows (note: reference to indicators progress is provided within the Results Reporting Framework table below):

Under the **Output 1.1**, the PUNOs *made the 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)*, through the implementation of a range of activities:

- The PUNOs advanced and finalised the activity 1.1.1, by executing a comprehensive sociological analysis in the Republic of Moldova for profiling migrants, incl. children.

During the reporting period, the Programme conducted the field data collection (both quantitative and qualitative components), and finalised the data analysis, preparing summary narrative reports and presenting them to the stakeholders on 18 December 2025 within a workshop titled “Innovative Data Collection Tools for Evidence-Based Policy Making” (*kindly refer to Annex 1*). The executed study included four components: i) the profile of returning Moldovan migrants (*kindly refer to Annex 2*); ii) the profile and situation of children whose parents work abroad (*kindly refer to Annex 3*); iii) the profile of foreigners in the Republic of Moldova (*kindly refer to Annex 4*); iv) the reintegration needs, experience and challenges of the returning Moldovan migrants (*kindly refer to Annex 5*). The developed analytical studies, provided to the national stakeholders, including Central Government Institutions, National Statistical and Research Institutions, Local Public Authorities, Diaspora Institutions and Advisory Bodies, (CSOs) and Academia among others, improved their understanding of migration flows, diaspora engagement, labour mobility, and remittance use, and are supporting evidence-based policy making.

- Progress on activity 1.1.2 “Organising evidence-focused policy dialogue events on diaspora engagement, incl. in health sector (WHO 1.4) and on specific needs of children left behind (UNICEF)”.

PUNOs organized the policy dialogue event “Innovative Data Collection Tools for Evidence-Based Migration Policy Making”. The workshop facilitated evidence-based discussions among 60 participants, of which 39 women, on migration and diaspora engagement, including implications for the health sector, and supported multi-stakeholder dialogue among government institutions, UN agencies, academia, and civil society.

- Part of the activity A 1.1.3: “Organising outreach, promotion and information campaigns spurring Government/country-diaspora engagement”, the PUNOs continued the implementation of the information campaign titled “People Next to Us”, encouraging the various target groups to participate in the return home program. It highlights the program's positive impact and promotes its beneficial results.

As part of Activity A 1.1.3, “Organising outreach, promotion and information campaigns spurring Government/country–diaspora engagement”, video production services were ensured for the implementation of the “People Next to Us” outreach and information activity.

Video materials were produced and promoted on social media, highlighting the missions of diaspora experts. The videos emphasizes the value of diaspora expertise, its positive impact on public institutions

and national development, and encourages diaspora members to return temporarily and contribute to Moldova's development. The campaign also conveys messages calling on public authorities to remain open to the experience and knowledge gained abroad.

Several information and outreach activities carried out were targeted at the main audiences of two return-support programmes: (i) the short-term return of highly skilled diaspora members and (ii) the return and reintegration of graduates from abroad. A variety of channels were used to disseminate information, including social media (Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, and TikTok), institutional websites, media interviews, and online and in-person individual and group meetings. Within both programmes, a range of promotional and informational materials were produced and disseminated such as posters progressively showcasing programmes' results, interviews with beneficiaries shared in short video formats, online information sessions for diaspora members, information sessions for decision-makers, stakeholders from central public administration, national agencies and other governmental actors, as well as media features on the knowledge-transfer missions carried out by highly skilled diaspora members. In the reporting period, 11 meetings were organized with governmental actors to present the short-term return of the highly skilled diaspora programme. The total number of governmental representatives ranged from 45 to 50, with approximately the same proportion of men and women. 11 feature stories about the same programme were produced and disseminated, including 8 in short video format. The short-term return of highly skilled diaspora members programme was presented in 14 other group sessions, reaching about 220 persons, including about 100 men and 120 women. Also, an online campaign was launched in 2025 and continues in 2026 to progressively disseminate the results of the implemented highly skilled transfer missions. Under the programme for Moldovan graduates returned from abroad, efforts focused on connecting beneficiaries and consolidating a community of Moldovan graduates returnees through 3 major networking events, reaching a total number of 53 persons, including 14 men and 39 women, as well as through collecting and publishing beneficiaries' testimonials in the form of posters and short video materials. In both programmes, outreach efforts also continued through 2 public interventions<sup>1</sup> in the national TV 47 individual meetings and one-to-one guidance for about 50 interested persons, including 32 women. Overall, these activities increased the programmes' visibility and contributed to the successful implementation of one of them.

Following the promotion and networking events organized in both online and offline formats in 2025 by International Organization for Migration, World Health Organization, United Nations Development Programme and BRD – Diaspora Relation Bureau, a broad and diverse audience from the diaspora and the Moldovan public was informed about the opportunities to leverage the intellectual potential of Moldovan graduates and students studying at foreign universities.

These coordinated efforts ensured wide visibility and outreach, significantly expanding awareness among key target groups. As a result, 69,671 individuals were reached through online platforms on the programme concerning return and reintegration opportunities for the Moldovan graduates (see the

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<sup>1</sup> [Teleradio Moldova \(2025\) Granturi pentru experti din diaspora](#); [TVR MOLDOVA \(2025\) Emisiunea Obiectiv Comun](#).

Annex 6), while 351 participants were engaged in person. Additionally, targeted outreach to highly qualified diaspora practitioners achieved an extended reach of 582,366 individuals, (see the Annex 7) further amplifying the impact and reinforcing the importance of engaging a wide and diverse audience in promoting knowledge transfer and professional collaboration.

- Within the activity A1.1.4: “Supporting the development of institutional, coordination, policy and legal/regulatory amendments, programmes, tools and services for an efficient diaspora engagement”, PUNOs commissioned expertise and provided thematic input for developing draft legislation on diaspora, working in close coordination with the stakeholders.

Following an express request from the Ministry of Environment, the Programme provided support for the development of the National Program for Natural Disaster Risk Reduction for 2026-2030 (NPNDRR) and integration of the dimension of human mobility in the crisis context. To that end, the Programme developed the ToR (*kindly refer to Annex 8*) and commissioned expertise for supporting the development of the respective policy document. The scope of work, as defined by the TORs, included the conduction of desk research and bilateral consultations with key stakeholders, development of a draft of the NPNDRR and its Implementation Plan, facilitation of the consultation and validation process, and delivery of a training with relevant stakeholders involved in Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), including national and local authorities, humanitarian organizations, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), and community leaders. The drafted Programme (*kindly refer to Annex 9*) integrated considerations related to human mobility in crisis. The development of the NPNDRR was supported by a structured three-stage consultation process, complemented by an additional UN thematic working group consultation, which progressively validated and strengthened the programme through technical methodological review, sectoral public consultations with environmental and risk-management institutions, and an extended intersectoral dialogue with Government, UN partners and civil society, ensuring alignment with the Republic of Moldova’s sectoral and territorial realities, human mobility patterns, existing climate resilience and disaster risk initiatives, and ongoing UN-led DRR/ Disaster Risk Management (DRM) projects. The NPNDRR was further coordinated, reviewed, and endorsed, as per the national lawmaking process, at the end of the present reporting period. Furthermore, a two-day online training was provided to the local public authorities (LPAs) from across the country to enhance the capacity to implement the NPNDRR, by IOM in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment and General Inspectorate for Emergency Situations, bringing together 70 participants (17 men and 53 women).

Under the **Output 1.2**, PUNOs *developed and piloted nationally owned methodology and data collection tools for extended, coordinated, sustainable and systematic mapping of diaspora communities*, through implementation of a range of activities:

- Part of the activity A1.2.1 “Assessing the statistical and administrative migration data systems, incl. health-related”, the assessment was executed and validated with the stakeholders.

The Programme supported the regular convocation of the inter-agency Technical Working Group (TWG) on the EMP. The TWG, supported by the IOM experts, led the data collection under the assessment. The experts executed the assessment based on the previously developed methodological instruments. Following the data collection finalisation, the Data Assessment Report was finalised and validated upon

the review by the TWG stakeholders (*kindly refer to Annex 10*). The produced assessment report informed further work on upgrading the EMP, under the A1.2.2 below.

- Within the activity A1.2.2 “Upgrading the Extended Migration Profile (EMP) to integrate in-depth aspects related to gender, children left behind and other vulnerable groups, migrant health and mobility of health personnel”, the upgraded EMP template and indicators, the draft Government Ordinance for regular public production of the EMP, and the reporting matrix were produced in close coordination with the stakeholders. Following the Programme’s support, the upgraded EMP template and indicators were formally adopted by the Government.

In close coordination with the national stakeholders, a set of the updated/new indicators (*kindly refer to Annex 11*) and an enhanced template for the updated EMP content and structure (*kindly refer to Annex 12*) relevant for Moldovan context were produced, including integrating in-depth aspects related to gender, children left behind and other vulnerable groups, migrant health, mobility of health personnel, those related to measuring the institutional capacities for governing migration etc. The Programme supported the consultations and the validation of the updated EMP with the stakeholders. On 2 September 2025, the Government of the Republic of Moldova officially adopted the new EMP template and set of indicators.<sup>2</sup> The Programme supported the development of a general reporting matrix (*kindly refer to Annex 13*), as well as institutional reporting matrixes (*kindly refer to Annex 14*) to be used by the 26 national institutions mandated for reporting under the upgraded EMP.

As a result, the upgraded EMP 2.0 framework is a nationally owned tool mandating 26 national institutions to systematically collect and report migration-related data on an annual basis. It is aligned with:

- **Global Compact for Migration (GCM) indicators:** 159 out of 241
- **Migration Governance indicators (MGI):** 125 out of 241
- **EUROSTAT indicators:** 61 out of 241 (critical for the Republic of Moldova’s EU integration efforts)
- **SDG indicators:** 19 out of 241

The upgraded comprehensive tool enhances the evidence base required to design, implement, and monitor migration policies and regular pathways, while also supporting the Republic of Moldova’s Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) for the 2026 International Migration Review Forum (IMRF) and subsequent SDG and GCM reporting cycles. The new EMP 2.0 integrates the SDGs, the GCM, MGI, and EUROSTAT standards. This represents a major step in strengthening evidence-based migration governance and aligning the Republic of Moldova’s migration data reporting with EU and global standards on international migration statistics. This effort contributes to IOM’s global review of the Migration Profile Guidelines; to that end, the Programme developed a document outlining the process and roles of establishing an EMP, based on the experience of the Republic of Moldova (*kindly refer to Annex 15*); also input was provided to the IOM headquarters-led expert work on updating the EMP Guidelines (*kindly refer to Annex 16*).

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<sup>2</sup> [Moldova adopts upgraded migration data tools with IOM support to | Moldova](#)

- Progress on Activity 1.2.3. will be reported in the next reporting period.
- Under activities 1.2.4 and 1.2.5: “Developing a methodology for and conducting an extended diaspora mapping, including migrant children, integrating skills, needs, engagement propensity and plans, diaspora health related variables profiling”, the field data collection in the destination countries (both quantitative and qualitative components) was conducted, analysis was finalised, and the narrative analytical report was prepared and presented to the stakeholders.

The extended Moldovan diaspora mapping included migrant children, as well as assessed the diaspora’s health variables in selected destination countries. The resulting diaspora mapping report (*kindly refer to Annex 17*) enhances the understanding of the specific nature of the diaspora and constructs a profile of the diaspora population. The study identified subgroups within the larger diaspora population based on factors such as period/duration of migration, age/generation, socioeconomic profile, expertise, skills, current occupation, health-related aspects, future plans, propensity to engage, cultural and linguistic profile, among others. The study supports the Moldovan public authorities in engaging the diaspora towards establishing long-term cooperation and supporting the EU integration process. The mapping results concerning the sociodemographic characteristics of the Moldovan diaspora, challenges, including health-related issues, their current and desired engagement behaviors, and the resources they may eventually mobilize for specific purposes, will be used to identify and develop potential future intervention areas and public services based on the specific needs, interests and developed competences of sampled diaspora populations.

- Part of activity 1.2.6 “Up-grading IT data solution and the Automated Human Resources Information System for the Ministry of Health”, the IOM experts conducted the assessment of the existing systems of the Ministry of Health, within the data assessment process under the activity A1.2.1 above.

Further progress on activity 1.2.6 will be reported in the following report.

Under the **Output 1.3**, the PUNOs made significant progress to *enable the public agencies to operate the developed methodology and data collection tools*, through implementation of a range of activities:

- Within the activity 1.3.1, the *capacity of public officials to deploy, implement and use statistical and administrative data and statistical tools was enhanced*, through facilitating their access to the best available international practices.

The national statistical office was provided with the opportunity to access and review the best available international practices incl. related to the reflection of human mobility dimension in the National Censuses, and analysis of the respectively collected data under the 2024 National Census. The respective experience was showcased by the Republic of Moldova in the International Forum on Migration Statistics 2025, organised in Malmö, Sweden, in June 2025. The Moldovan National Bureau of Statistics (NBS)’s application was selected by the organisers, allowing the Republic of Moldova to co-organize a panel session at the International Forum on Migration Statistics (IFMS) 2025, together with IOM. The session focused on *the importance of integrating statistical and administrative data for enhanced evidence-based migration governance, experience, and best practices*.

The Programme offered further methodological support for the analysis of the human mobility dimension of the 2024 National Census. Work was initiated for a prepared analytical note, contracting national expertise to that end.

Following the NBS request, the Programme also initiated the work on a comprehensive review and analysis of foreign statistical, administrative, and census data on the Moldovan diaspora and migrants in the main destination countries (*kindly refer to Annex 18*).

The Programme also provided capacity support to the national stakeholders on the use of the upgraded EMP 2.0 template and indicators, as well as the reporting matrix, for regular production of the EMP. The relevant institutions were trained on its use during a workshop organised on 20 November 2025, bringing together 21 participants (8 women and 13 men) from 14 institutions.

Additionally, Romania's experience with EUROSTAT reporting was also reviewed, as related to the EMP implementation and strengthening the national data systems.

Part of the **Output 1.4**, working to upgrade the national data systems to allow for sustainable and systematic assessment of the impact of diaspora, the relevance of work under activities 1.4.1 "Assessing the national data systems measuring diaspora's economic contribution" and 1.4.2 "Developing a nationally owned sustainable methodology for migration forecasting and measuring the impact of migration on economic and development variables" was reconfirmed with the national stakeholders during a workshop organised on the 9 October 2025, bringing together 12 participants (9 women and 3 men), representing 8 institutions. The concept and ToR (*kindly refer to Annex 19*) were developed, defining the scope of work, while the Programme contracted a national expert to support its implementation, who initiated the work by consulting the main stakeholders.

Progress under the **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", will be reflected in the following report.

**100 per cent of the outputs under Outcome 1 are on track. Outputs 1.2 and 1.3 are fully achieved (40% of all outputs).**

**Information on the number and type of beneficiaries of outputs under Outcome 1 is provided within the Results Reporting Framework table below.**

The Programme worked towards achieving the planned **Outcome 2**, its outputs and activities being directed to ensure that the *Moldovan diaspora is engaged to contribute to sustainable homeland development via innovative and sustainable models*. Under the reporting period, the Programme made important contributions towards the planned Outcome 2, as follows:

The PUNOs made significant progress in developing and operationalizing platforms and mechanisms to engage the Moldovan diaspora in public governance and development. They initiated the establishment of a sustainable platform for diaspora dialogue, developed and deployed mechanisms to leverage the intellectual potential of Moldovan graduates and students abroad, and created a system for short-term engagement of highly qualified diaspora practitioners.

The PUNOs engaged diaspora business leaders through a series of *Diaspora Invest* promotional events in Verona, Düsseldorf, and London, as well as a high-profile Diaspora Business Forum organized in the USA (Orlando, Florida) under the auspices of the Moldovan American Convention's 11th edition. The Program also worked to implement a financial literacy pilot program to promote productive investment of remittances in the Moldovan economy. The work under Outcome 2 meets the national priorities outlined in the *National Development Plan for 2024-2026*, the *National Action Plan for the Accession of the Republic of Moldova to the European Union for the years 2024-2027*, the *Government Action Plan for 2024*, and the *National Diaspora Program for 2024-2028*.

The Programme respective work contributed towards achieving the following **indicators at Outcome 2** level:

Indicator 2d *Share of population (15+) that has a bank account (Nationalized SDG indicator 8.10.2), disaggregated by sex and migration status*, through the work on the financial literacy pilot program.

Indicator 2e *Diaspora funds/migrants' resources channeled for productive investment into the Moldovan economy and local development, per program (incl. new ones)*, through the work for developing instruments and services for productive investment of remittances in the Moldovan economy.

Outcome Indicator 2d *Number of new partnerships, business, trade and academic links, initiatives and development projects*, through the work on engaging diaspora business leaders as development promoters and business envoys.

The work is in progress, and changes in some indicators' metrics will be provided in the following report(s).

The Programme made progress towards achieving the planned **Outputs**, under the Outcome 2, in 2025, as follows (note: reference to indicators progress is provided within the Results Reporting Framework table below):

Under the **Output 2.1**, the PUNOs made significant progress towards *establishing and operationalizing a nationally owned and sustainable platform for diaspora dialogue and engagement in public governance and development opportunities*, through the implementation of a range of activities:

- Within the activity 2.1.1, the PUNOs have advanced the establishment of a sustainable platform for diaspora dialogue and engagement in public governance, through providing thematic support and commissioning expertise and developing the concept of the platform; it was operationalised through the establishment and organisation of the first diaspora-Government thematic expert groups in three policy sectors and the Secretariat.

During the reporting period, the PUNOs provided thematic support for the establishment of the platform, commissioned expertise, and finalised the development of the concept of the platform (see Annex 20). The platform was operationalised in an offline format first, through the establishment and organisation of the first diaspora-Government working groups on Economy and Investments, Governance & Local Development, as well as on Education.

Within Output 2.1, UNDP mobilized targeted technical assistance to the State Chancellery and the Diaspora Relations Bureau (BRD) to support the operationalization and effective functioning of the

Diaspora Engagement Platform (DEP), with a particular focus on the establishment and consolidation of thematic diaspora–Government working groups. This support included the development of the DEP conceptual and governance framework, informed by a stakeholder analysis and a dedicated Diaspora Engagement Roadmap, which defined the mandate, roles, decision-making arrangements, and coordination mechanisms of the platform and its working groups.

As a result, the first thematic working groups—covering Governance and Local Development, Economy and Investment, and Education—were established as part of an institutionalized diaspora engagement framework. The Education and Research Working Group engaged 12 participants (4 men and 8 women), while the Democracy and Governance Working Group brought together 44 participants (12 men and 32 women), each operating under a clearly defined governance structure, agreed working modalities, and indicative activity plans. The Economy and Investment Working Group is currently in the process of operationalization, with membership mapping and engagement modalities under development. UNDP’s technical assistance supported BRD in establishing practical tools and procedures for convening meetings, facilitating structured dialogue, mapping diaspora expertise against institutional needs, and ensuring systematic follow-up on agreed actions. Collectively, these outputs contributed to the transition from ad-hoc consultations to a predictable and institutionalized mechanism for diaspora engagement, strengthening public institutions’ capacity to absorb diaspora expertise and advancing MMPTF outcomes related to inclusive governance, evidence-informed policymaking, and participatory public administration.

- Under the activity 2.1.2, the procurement of IT services was finalised for digitalising the platform, and an IT company was contracted to that end, under “Designing, launching, and promoting the up-graded multi-functional electronic web-portal for operationalisation of the platform for dialogue and engagement of Diaspora”. At the end of the reporting period, the commissioned IT company was carrying out consultations with the concerned stakeholders on the functions of the platform.

Under the **Output 2.2**, the PUNOs *designed and operationalized a mechanism for leveraging intellectual potential of Moldovan graduates and students at foreign universities in key development areas in Moldova*, through the implementation of following activities during the reporting period:

- Under Activity 2.2.2, the Programme provided professional development and capacity development to the participants in the programme/mechanism and the Government officials involved in its operation. This was achieved through the organization of three networking and awareness-raising sessions for a total of 53 participants (14 men and 39 women), in support of their sustainable reintegration in the Republic of Moldova. Two of the events were promoted on social media with a reach of 7,918 views.
- Within Activity 2.2.3, the PUNOs supported the operationalisation of the mechanism through counselling, facilitation of professional/academic placement, case-management, coverage of travel costs, and an indemnity incentive.

Following the development of the concept and its operational mechanism for leveraging the intellectual potential of Moldovan graduates and students of foreign universities, under the activity 2.2.1 above, the actual operation of the mechanism continued.

The Programme provides support for Moldovan overseas graduates' professional placements in the Republic of Moldova's labor market sectors that align with the knowledge and skills the Moldovan graduates have developed abroad. This initiative facilitates the reintegration of returning graduates into the local workforce by providing them with opportunities that valorize their expertise, as well as promoting networking opportunities among returning peers, exchanges of ideas, and mutual support.

During the reporting period, the total number of served beneficiaries and those manifesting interest who were in the pipeline for provision of counselling was 43 persons (12 men and 31 women). Moreover, the Programme provided professional/ academic placement and case-management to a total of 31 (6 men and 25 women) eligible beneficiaries, as a tangible benefit to the target group.

Under Output 2.2, a mechanism for leveraging the intellectual potential of Moldovan graduates and students educated abroad was operationalised in the health sector. The medical diaspora database was updated and currently includes 577 members across 29 countries, with 75 potential medical diaspora members identified. As a direct result of the developed mechanism, 10 diaspora-origin students, including 5 women were enrolled for the 2025–2026 academic year.

The programme supported the launch of a research mobility scheme, under which 5 mobilities were planned, 3 applications were received and approved, and 1 research mobility was implemented in 2025. Promotion and outreach activities reached the diaspora and national stakeholders through official communications, generating over 1,100 online views across project-related announcements.

Through these interventions, Output 2.2 contributed to strengthening institutional linkages between Moldovan medical and academic institutions and highly skilled graduates and students educated abroad, supporting sustainable engagement and knowledge transfer in priority areas of the health sector.

- Part of the activities A1.1.3 and A2.2.4, the program for return of Moldovan graduates was promoted to the diaspora and the Moldovan public, through producing and disseminating visibility materials to the target group and stakeholders (see more details under A1.1.3 above).

Under **Output 2.3**, the PUNOs *developed and operationalised a mechanism for short-term engagement/temporary return to Moldova of highly qualified practitioners in priority areas for development, at the national and local levels*. During the reporting period, this was achieved through the following activities:

- Within the activity 2.3.2, PUNOs worked to 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

Under Output 2.3, a structured mechanism for short-term engagement and temporary return of highly qualified practitioners from the Moldovan medical diaspora was developed, tested and operationalised in the health sector. The mechanism was elaborated in close consultation with diaspora members and defines priority areas, forms of engagement and modalities for short-term involvement, including educational activities, research collaboration and institutional capacity building.

As part of the operationalisation of the mechanism, 3 members of the medical diaspora including two women were supported to undertake short-term visits to Moldova during 16–22 October 2025, contributing as speakers, trainers and moderators in national scientific and educational events. These diaspora experts were engaged in priority fields such as neurology, respiratory medicine, cardiology, genetics, and sleep medicine.

In parallel, the programme supported capacity-building study visits for 4 medical professionals including two women of Nicolae Testemițanu State University of Medicine and Pharmacy, organised through two international study visits to Germany in May and November 2025. These visits were facilitated by members of the medical diaspora acting as institutional ambassadors and resulted in direct engagement with over 10 diaspora medical professionals active in leading clinical and research institutions abroad, as well as the establishment of new academic and research contacts. Study visits and meetings with the medical diaspora were organised, and a joint scientific publication and educational materials were produced under A2.3.2 “Strengthen health workforce coordination and institutional governance”.

- Under the activity 2.3.3, the PUNOs supported the operationalisation of the mechanism through counselling, facilitation of professional/academic placement, case-management, coverage of travel and per-diem costs.

Upon the development of the concept and the operational mechanism for short-term engagement/temporary return to Moldova of highly qualified practitioners (activity 2.3.1), the actual operation of the mechanism continued in 2025.

The Programme provides support to Moldovan public institutions, including those in education, research, development, and health sectors, in identifying and engaging in sustainable cooperation with highly skilled Moldovan diaspora and returning professionals. This activity aims to harness the expertise and resources of diaspora members and highly skilled returning migrants through temporary or permanent physical and/or virtual returns to advance the transposition of EU *acquis communautaire* into national legislation, institutional and policy reforms in the public institutions in the Republic of Moldova, including advancing the reforms in education, research and development, health as well as other sectors.

During the reporting period, the Programme provided counselling, facilitation of short-term missions, and case management to a total of 87 (33 men and 54 women) applicants, as a tangible benefit to the target group. Out of the 87 persons who were provided full counselling support, 10 persons (5 men and 5 women) were selected for provision of support for the execution of short-term missions to the Republic of Moldova.

These missions supported a range of host institutions at central and local levels, including the Prime Minister’s Office, the Investment Agency, the National Financial Market Commission, the National Agency for Research and Development, and higher education institutions, as well as local-level entities such as the Youth Community Centre in Budești and the Residential Care Centre for Elderly People in Nisporeni, Ion Creangă State Pedagogical University of Chișinău, Moldova State University, National Agency for Research and Development, and Technical University of Moldova, Faculty of Agricultural, Forestry and Environmental Sciences.

Through these placements, the Programme contributed to strengthening institutional capacities, knowledge transfer, and evidence-based practices across public administration, academia, and community services. Eleven missions were planned during the 2024 reporting period, and implemented throughout 2025.

Within Output 2.3, four (4) educational and scientific workshops were delivered in Moldova with the direct participation and support of diaspora experts. These events brought together over 200 participants, including medical students, resident doctors, PhD students, researchers, clinicians and academic staff, and focused on strengthening professional competencies, promoting modern clinical and research practices and encouraging international collaboration.

The mechanism further leveraged diaspora expertise through the joint development of academic materials and scientific outputs, including:

- 2 major academic publications<sup>3</sup> (a medical handbook and a monograph) developed with the contribution of diaspora members;
- over 8 scientific articles co-authored<sup>4</sup> by Moldovan and diaspora medical professionals are being published in international peer-reviewed journals indexed in SCOPUS and Web of Science.

Through these combined interventions, Output 2.3 contributed to strengthening health workforce capacity, improving knowledge transfer, expanding international research collaboration and integrating highly qualified diaspora expertise into Moldova's health, education and research systems in a structured and sustainable manner.

- Under the activity 2.3.4, PUNOs “Developing the concept and supporting the implementation of a national twinning centre on human resources in health with diaspora involvement”

Under Activity 2.3.4, WHO initially planned to support the development of a national twinning centre on human resources for health with diaspora involvement. Following a detailed review of the national context and existing institutional frameworks, WHO determined that the conceptual elements of this activity were already embedded within existing national health workforce strategies and coordination mechanisms.

As a result, the activity was not implemented as a standalone intervention, and the allocated budget was reprogrammed to higher-priority activities to avoid duplication and ensure efficient use of resources. The decision reflects WHO's strategic approach to strengthen and utilize existing systems rather than establishing parallel structures.

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<sup>3</sup> Ceasovschi A. et al (2025) [Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease \(COPD\) and autoimmune diseases: unravelling complex interactions](#).  
Ceasovschi A. et al (2025) [Broad Electrocardiogram Syndromes Spectrum: From Common Emergencies to Particular Electrical Heart Disorders- Part II](#)

<sup>4</sup> Vlad M. et al (2025) [Burden of ophthalmologic disorders in obstructive sleep apnea](#).  
Poparcea D. et al (2025) [Cardiopulmonary exercise testing in chronic obstructive pulmonary disease](#).  
Valizadeh M. et al (2025) [COPD and Cardiovascular Diseases: Biomarker-Guided Stratification and Therapeutic Perspectives](#).  
Covantsev S. et al (2025) [Potential of doxofylline in the treatment of chronic obstructive airway diseases \(Review\)](#).  
Chelban V. et al (2025) [The Use of Next-Generation Sequencing in Diagnosing Inherited Atypical Parkinsonian Disorders](#).

- Through the A2.3.5 as well as A1.1.3, the Programme promoted the mechanism and its results to the diaspora and the Moldovan public, through producing and disseminating visibility materials to the target group and stakeholders (*kindly refer to A1.1.3 above*).

Within the **Output 2.4**, the PUNOs *engaged Diaspora business leaders as development promoters and business envoys (in trade, tourism, and investment attraction) and fostered their cooperation with national stakeholders*. This was achieved through the following activities:

- Under the activity 2.4.1, the Programme engaged diaspora business leaders as development promoters and business envoys, through the organization of a series of high-profile thematic events for diaspora and the Republic of Moldova-based business leaders on partnership building, investment opportunities, and local economic development.

The PUNOs partnered with the Government, private sector, and diaspora groups for the organisation of a diaspora business forum in Orlando, FL, USA between 2 and 4 May 2025. The forum was organised as part of the 11<sup>th</sup> edition of the Moldovan – American Convention (MAC 11), as a high-level platform for dialogue and cooperation between representatives of the Moldovan diaspora, local public authorities, and development partners. The event brought together 164 participants (91 women and 73 men). The event allowed, inter alia, to familiarise the diaspora with the investment prospects in the Republic of Moldova and updates related to legislation, policies, and programmes (*kindly refer to Annex 21*).

As part of this activity, three Diaspora Invest promotional events were successfully organized in Verona, Düsseldorf, and London, strengthening outreach and engagement with diaspora communities in key European hubs. The events brought together a total of 180 participants, including 70 women and 110 men from diverse professional and entrepreneurial backgrounds. Collectively, these events increased awareness of investment opportunities in the Republic of Moldova, strengthened trust and dialogue between diaspora entrepreneurs and public institutions, and contributed to advancing concrete expressions of interest in diaspora-led investments and business engagement.

At least 10 partnerships between diaspora entrepreneurs and producers/exporters from the Republic of Moldova are in an advanced stage of formalization, as a result of organizing a minimum of 10 promotional events across five key diaspora markets. These actions contribute to direct connections between businesses abroad and local companies. The activities are carried out in cooperation with the Moldova Investment Agency, which is responsible for coordinating the “Buy Diaspora” diaspora business engagement Programme, aimed at strengthening the visibility of Moldovan products and services abroad and stimulating opportunities for export, investment, and economic collaboration.

Part of **Output 2.5**, the project started work for developing instruments and services for productive investment of remittances in the Moldovan economy, through initiating and implementing a range of activities as follows:

- Under the Activity 2.5.1 PUNOs have developed and is piloting the concept of using the information system for issuing state securities to raise the resources of residents and the diaspora for financing local development projects

The intervention builds on the existing eVMS (e-State Treasury Notes – “Valori Mobiliare de Stat”) system administered by the Ministry of Finance, which currently enables borrowing from individuals for general budget expenditures. The Ministry of Finance has formally agreed to extend the use of this instrument to support the issuance of securities dedicated to financing local investment projects. A functional mechanism for refinancing regional and local public authorities has also been established, creating the necessary institutional and procedural preconditions for operationalization.

At output level, the initiative ensures the availability of an agreed regulatory and operational framework for subnational bond issuance through eVMS, aligned with Ministry of Finance requirements. At outcome level, it is expected to increase the volume of private capital mobilized for local infrastructure and energy efficiency projects, strengthen fiscal decentralization mechanisms, and enhance investment readiness of participating local authorities.

Currently, several local infrastructure projects are under preparation to pilot and test this instrument, providing a proof-of-concept phase that will generate evidence for potential scale-up and replication.

- Under the [Activity 2.5.2](#) the PUNOs initiated the work for establishing a digital platform to support migrants to manage and monitor the remittances sent to the households in Moldova.

A national consultant to map existing platforms that support remittance tracking was contracted. The consultant developed the needs assessment outline and research methodology, facilitated five focus groups with remittance receivers and completed seven interviews with key experts. The consultancy's inception report (Annex 22) revealed that in 2018-2019, a similar digital platform for the Moldovan diaspora was launched by Support Market SAS (France) and its subsidiary “Suport-Maestru” SRL (Moldova). The company aimed to meet a real need—remittances monitoring—but operational challenges, lack of critical mass, and cultural and digital barriers prevented its sustainability. Its failure highlights the importance of aligning digital solutions with beneficiaries' socio-economic realities and understanding the behaviours and needs of migrants and their families in Moldova.

Furthermore, discussions held via individual interviews with experts from the banking sector revealed that service providers (banks) have no interest in limiting or controlling how beneficiaries spend their remittances—highlighting an underlying ethical dimension to this stance.

Given these findings, the project will pivot toward strengthening support systems for separated children. This includes policy review, building the service providers' capacity, and development parenting support to address the specific vulnerabilities of these children and improve access to services. This amendment ensures that project resources are aligned with the most pressing needs and will deliver a sustainable, meaningful impact. This will require additional time for implementation, calling for an extension of the Programme duration by additional 6 months.

- Under [Activity 2.5.3.](#), PUNOs continued to develop the concept of the financial literacy pilot program, mechanism of implementation, sustainability options, financial literacy toolkit, training curricula, promotion materials, monitoring mechanism, in-take forms, training program, and calendar.

The financial literacy pilot programme for Moldovan labour migrants in the EU was developed based on insights from the IOM-funded behavioral economics initiative “Save More in Migration” (SMIM) and consultations with Moldovan migrants and diaspora in Germany, including the Moldovan Embassy in Berlin, the Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, and the German CSO Arbeit und Leben, conducted between December 2024 and January 2025.

Moreover, a practical information guide for Moldovan migrants working in Germany, “How can you save more effectively and safely?” (*kindly refer to Annex 23*), was developed and subsequently distributed (350 printed copies) during training and counselling activities, as well as in electronic format via information channels and direct community outreach in Germany. The information about the opportunities to participate in the financial literacy pilot programme (*kindly refer to Annex 24*) was disseminated through the IOM Facebook page and Moldovan migrants and diaspora social networks in Germany, as well as through the Moldovan Embassy in Berlin, and CSO Arbeit und Leben channels.

To ensure further sustainability, beyond current Programme implementation, a financial education sub-module was integrated into the orientation sessions for seasonal workers organized under the Memorandum of Cooperation between the Federal Employment Agency of Germany and the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of the Republic of Moldova. Starting in 2026, the financial education component will be delivered by a trained CSO Arbeit und Leben trainer, forming a part of the pre-departure information package, building on lessons learned from the pilot. This strategic integration supports the institutionalization, replicability, and continuity of the intervention within formal labour migration mechanisms, with an estimated coverage of around 500 beneficiaries per year within the Republic of Moldova–Germany migration corridor.

Furthermore, the PUNOs developed a new financial literacy pilot programme dedicated specifically to high school students from the Republic of Moldova. This process was supported by a partnership with Diaspora Hub (DHub, a USA-based Moldovan diaspora established NGO) and leveraged the expertise and outreach of diaspora representatives, to promote youth-focused financial education, social inclusion, and counter prevailing emigration narratives. Key outputs included the development of training curricula (*kindly refer to Annex 25*) and tailored learning materials (*kindly refer to Annex 26*). The content integrated practical modules on responsible financial decision-making and the productive use of remittances, reflecting the needs of Moldovan youth, especially given that according to recent studies, 16 per cent of households with children had at least one member abroad<sup>5</sup>, while nearly half of participating students in the financial literacy training reported having one or both parents or close relatives working abroad. The institutional sustainability was strengthened through the signing of a Memorandum of Cooperation between DHub and the Ministry of Education, aligning the financial literacy training piloted within the Programme with national education policies and priorities. A video reportage was produced with the participation of all key stakeholders, students, teachers, diaspora members, and local public authorities, highlighting the

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<sup>5</sup> According to NBS latest data, 16.0% of households with children had at least one member abroad, and Rural/urban split (households with children). // [Analiza sărăciei copii 2024.pdf](#)

financial literacy pilot programme model, which was disseminated through two posts on social media pages with a reach of 7,074 views.

- Under Activity 2.5.4, the PUNOs initiated work for preparing the operationalisation of the financial literacy pilot programme.

The financial education materials (*kindly refer to Annex 27, Annex 28, and Annex 29*) were pilot tested with Moldovan migrants working in Germany between 29 March and 19 July 2025, during two group sessions, involving 17 participants, all women. The pilot aimed to test the financial education materials for the Republic of Moldova–Germany migration corridor and assess content relevance and participant interest. In addition to the group sessions, 56 individual financial counselling sessions were delivered during 2025 to Moldovan migrants working in Germany, with an average duration of 25 minutes each, tailored to the beneficiaries' specific financial situations. Furthermore, in order to explore new and more efficient outreach ways to Moldovan migrants in Germany and elsewhere, the current project contributed to the development of a concept and media content of a social media financial education campaign (*kindly refer to Annex 30*). The developed campaign concept and media content are building upon the developed training materials using short, targeted posts and videos adapted for platforms such as Facebook, Instagram, and TikTok, where Moldovan migrants are already active. The first three short videos were produced during 2025, with the first one being published on the IOM Moldova Facebook page, reaching more than 5,582 beneficiaries within the first weeks of its publication.

Moreover, during the reporting period, the Programme contributed to the National Bank of the Republic of Moldova working group discussions and provided input to the new Concept of the National Strategy of Financial Inclusion 2030, ensuring that the specific needs of migrants, foreigners, and displaced populations are integrated into this national policy.

The PUNOs initiated the operationalization of the financial literacy pilot program through the delivery of 16 structured financial education sessions in 16 secondary schools across the Republic of Moldova, implemented between 11 February and 31 March 2025. The pilot reached over 500 students (approximately 60% women) through interactive sessions supported by tailored curricula. Individual exercise notebooks designed to reinforce independent practice were developed and subsequently distributed 500 printed copies during training sessions as learning materials. Implementation was carried out in close collaboration with DHub, which supported the identification and facilitation of partner schools, particularly in rural areas, and coordinated quality delivery. Thirty teachers were actively engaged in supporting and coordinating the activities.

***100 per cent of the outputs under Outcome 2 are on track. Output 2.2 is fully achieved (20% of all outputs).***

***Information on the number and type of beneficiaries of outputs under Outcome 2 is provided within the Results Reporting Framework table below.***

Results Reporting Framework							
INDICATORS	Baseline	Target (end of programme)	Results achieved for the reporting period (only provide data for the specified year)			Cumulative Results <i>Note: For Y1 report, this will be the same; For Y2 report, it will be Y1+Y2; and for Y3 report, it will be Y1+Y2+Y3</i>	Notes
			Y1	Y2	Y3		
<b>OUTCOME 1</b>							
Indicator 1a: The country governance framework integrates migration policies that facilitate orderly, safe, regular, and responsible migration and mobility of people (Global SDG indicator 10.7.2)	86.7	91.7					The work is in progress and changes in Outcome indicators metrics will be provided in the next report(s), once the level of achieved changes will be measurable.
Indicator 1b: Number of institutional, policy and legal/ regulatory amendments, programmes, coordination mechanisms, services, and data instruments for an efficient engagement of diaspora in homeland development, incl. In climate change action, developed in a participatory manner and submitted for endorsement by the Government	0	15	2	9 <i>[8 (IOM) 1 (WHO)]</i>		11 <i>[10 (IOM) 1 (WHO)]</i>	
Outcome Indicator 1c: Proportion of public services made accessible through digitalisation to the diaspora/expatriated Moldovans, %	5%	10%	7,1 %	TBD later in 2026		7,1%	The work is in progress and changes in Outcome indicators metrics will be provided in the next report(s), once the level of achieved changes will be measurable.
Outcome Indicator 1d National statistical system produces regular estimates of number of diaspora and circular migrants, based on usual residence definition	No	Yes	No	No		No	
Outcome Indicator 1e National institutional, coordination, policy mechanisms, programmes, tools, and services enhanced, and capacities	0	80%	40 %	60%		60%	

strengthened to assume an enhanced and sustainable role of coordination of Diaspora, Migration and Development areas, for elaborating and implementing diaspora-engagement policies and services following training and exposure to international expertise, improving the access and exchange of information for engagement in homeland development.							
<b>OUTPUT 1.1</b>							
<b>Indicator 1.1a:</b> Comprehensive sociological analysis in Moldova of the various categories of migrants and their families, gender, profiling of needs of children left behind (UNICEF), other vulnerable groups impacted by migration, and the mobility of health personnel	No	Yes	No	Yes		Yes	Result achieved
<b>Indicator 1.1b:</b> Number of policymakers involved in policy dialogue on diaspora engagement, incl. in health sector (WHO) and specific needs of children left behind (UNICEF), disaggregated by sex, (IOM)	0	100	40, of which 24 women	62, out of which 41 women		102, of which 65 women	Members of the Inter-Ministerial Committee on Diaspora, Migration and Development
<b>Output Indicator 1.1c</b> Number of public officials and diaspora reached out, enhanced awareness on mutual engagement, disaggregated by sex (WHO and IOM).	0	25,000	1,970	654,644 [653,544 (IOM) 1,100 (WHO)]		656, 614 [655,514 (IOM) 1,100 (WHO)]	Work is on track.
<b>Output Indicator 1.1d</b> Number of institutional, coordination, policy and legal/regulatory amendments, programmes, tools, and services for an efficient diaspora engagement developed in a participatory manner and submitted for endorsement by the Government (WHO 1.7, IOM)	0	6	3	4		6	Draft diaspora law.
<b>OUTPUT 1.2</b>							
<b>Indicator 1.2a</b>	No	Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes	Result achieved

National data systems for measuring the number and profile of diaspora assessed and recommendations for upgrading made available.							
<b>Indicator 1.2b</b> Current information system for health workforce management assessed and recommendations for upgrading made available (WHO 1.3.1)	No	Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes	Result achieved.
<b>Indicator 1.2c</b> Number of statistical and administrative data and statistical tools (methodologies, questionnaires, surveys, in-take forms) developed/ amended to enable the production of data, including disaggregated by gender, migration status, as well as forecasting migration, estimating economic impact of diaspora, assessing the impact of migration and remittances on groups left behind, required for developing, monitoring, and evaluating national and sectoral policies.	0	5	3	1		4	Diaspora Mapping. Sociological study in Moldova. Extended Migration Profile Exercise. Work initiated on estimating the economic impact of diaspora beyond remittances
<b>OUTPUT 1.3</b>							
<b>Output Indicator 1.3 a</b> Number of public officials and national experts made aware of and enabled to deploy, implement and use the new statistical and administrative data and statistical tools, disaggregated by sex (WHO, IOM and UNICEF).	0	100, of which 40 women	8, of which 7 women	72, of which 48 women		80, of which 55 women	Statisticians, familiarised with international best practices and standards.
<b>OUTPUT 1.4</b>							
<b>Output Indicator 1.4a</b> National data systems measuring diaspora's economic contribution assessed and recommendations made available for their upgrading	No	Yes	No	No		No	Work is on track.
<b>Output Indicator 1.4b</b> Number of data strategies, amendments, improved data tools allowing for sustainable and systematic assessment of the impact of diaspora contributions beyond remittances and public agencies	0	3	0	0		0	Work is on track.

<b>OUTPUT 1.5</b>							
<b>Indicator 1.5a</b> Number of public officials and national experts made aware of and enabled to deploy, implement, and use the data tools for assessment of economic impact of diaspora, disaggregated by sex.	0	100, of which 40 women	0	0		0	Work is on track.
<b>OUTCOME 2</b>							
<b>Indicator 2a:</b> Percentage of people who trust governance institutions (Parliament, Government, justice) by sex, migration status (Indicator D under the UN SDCF's Outcome 2)	Baseline (2021) <b>Parliament:</b> Total: 15%; Men/Women: 14%/16%; Urban/rural: 15%/15%; Migrants (2020): 6.6% <b>Government:</b> Total: 19%; Men/Women: 16%/21%; Urban/rural: 18%/19%; Migrants (2020): 8.4% <b>Justice:</b> Total: 19%; Men/Women: 18%/19%; Urban/rural: 20%/18%. Migrants (2020): 7.8	Parliament: Total: 30%; Men/Women: 30%/30%; Urban/rural: 30%/30%; Migrants: 10% Government: Total: 30%; Men/Women: 30%/30%; Urban/rural: 30%/30%; Migrants: 11%	(October 2024) <b>Parliament:</b> Total: 20,5%; Men/Women: 20,7%/20,3%; Urban/rural: 21,6%/19,5%; <b>Government:</b> Total: 23,7%; Men/Women: 23,7%/23,7%; Urban/rural: 23,9%/23,5%; <b>Justice:</b> Total: 15,2%; Men/Women: 16,7%/13,8%;	(September 2025) <b>Parliament:</b> Total: 32%; Men/Women: 31%/32,7%; Urban/rural: 31,9%/32,7%; <b>Government:</b> Total: 33,8%; Men/Women: 31,1%/34,5%; Urban/rural: 34%/34,6%; <b>Justice:</b> Total: 27,5%; Men/Women: 31,1%/25,5%; Urban/rural: 27,7%/2,9%.			The work is in progress and changes in Outcome indicators metrics will be provided in the next report(s), once the level of achieved changes will be measurable.  Data source - <a href="#">Institutul de Politici Publice   Barometrul Opiniei Publice</a>

			Urban/rural: 16,5%/14%.				
<b>Indicator 2b:</b> Remittance costs as a proportion of the amount remitted (%), (SDG indicator 10.c.1)	5,8%	4.9%					
<b>Indicator 2c</b> Share of population (15+) that has a bank account (Nationalized SDG indicator 8.10.2), disaggregated by sex and migration status	43.79%	48%					
<b>Indicator 2d</b> Diaspora funds/migrants' resources channelled for productive investment into the Moldovan economy and local development, per program (incl. new ones) Total USD.	68,088,554 MDL	69,500,000 MDL	58,380,000 MDL	TBD in 2025		58,380,000 MDL	The work is in progress and changes in Outcome indicators metrics will be provided in the next report(s), once the level of achieved changes will be measurable.
<b>Indicator 2e</b> Number of new partnerships, business, trade and academic links, initiatives and development projects created/ implemented/ established at national and local level following/with diaspora engagement, Total	0	10	0	18		18	
<b>OUTPUT 2.1</b>							
<b>Indicator 2.1a</b> Sustainable and regular dialogue and engagement of Diaspora in development action and expertise sharing (UNDP, WHO, IOM)	No	Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes	The DEP concept developed, launched and operationalised through Thematic Groups
<b>Indicator 2.1b</b> Diaspora engagement is performed via innovative online/digital means (IOM)	No	Yes	No	No		No	Work is on track.
<b>OUTPUT 2.2</b>							
<b>Indicator 2.2a</b> Intellectual potential of Moldovan graduates and students at foreign universities leveraged in key development areas.	No	Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes	The concept developed, launched and operationalised.

<p><b>Indicator 2.2b</b> Government, officials, graduates, and students improved knowledge, and engaged in development action and professional/academic cooperation (IOM), by sex</p>	0	Total: 100, of which women 50: 50 returned graduates and students, of which 25 women 50 public officials, of which 25 women	24 graduates, of which 17 women	43 graduates, of which 31 women participated in networking events  out of which 31 graduates of which 25 women received financially support  10 students, of which 5 women, 270 public officials, including 152 women		67 graduates, of which 48 women participated in networking events  10 students, of which 5 women  270 public officials, including 152 women	Work is on track.
<p><b>Indicator 2.2c</b> The diaspora and Moldovan public made aware of the opportunities for leveraging intellectual potential of Moldovan graduates and students at foreign universities, number of reached persons (via internet &amp; promotional materials)</p>	0	5,000	1,970	70,022		71,992	Participants at various events, as well as viewers of the social media content produced on the project opportunities for cooperation and results.
<b>OUTPUT 2.3</b>							
<p><b>Output Indicator 2.3a</b> Highly qualified diaspora practitioners involved in priority areas for development, through short-term engagement missions/ temporary return to Moldova at the national and local levels.</p>	No	Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes	The concept developed, launched and operationalised.
<p><b>Output Indicator 2.3b</b> Number of diaspora professionals and governmental stakeholders engaged in development cooperation and expertise sharing (IOM, UNDP, WHO 2.3.1)</p>	0	120, of which at least 50 women:	11 highly qualified diaspora profession	17 highly qualified diaspora, of		28 highly qualified diaspora, of	Work is on track.

		80 highly qualified diaspora professionals (at least 35 women): 40 (IOM), 10 in health sector; WHO), 30 (UNDP) 40 central and local government stakeholders (at least 15 women)	als, of which 7 women (IOM & UNDP)	which 8 women 31 government stakeholders, of which 25 women  [10 new cases processed in 2025, of which 4 women (IOM & UNDP)  7 professionals from health sector, of which 4 women (WHO).]		which 15 women 31 government stakeholders, of which 25 women  [21 highly qualified diaspora professionals, of which 11 women (IOM & UNDP)  7 professionals from health sector, of which 4 women (WHO)]	
<b>Output Indicator 2.3c</b> National health policy, institutional, governance, coordination, academic and research framework integrate health workforce mobility, engagement of expatriated health personnel and retention incentives aspects (WHO 2.3.2, 2.3.3, 2.3.4)	No	Yes	No	Yes		Yes	Work is on track.
<b>Output Indicator 2.3d</b> Highly qualified diaspora practitioners and Moldovan public made aware of opportunities for short-term engagement missions/ temporary return to Moldova, number of reached persons (via internet & promotional materials) and engaged	0	1,000	1,970	583,737  [582,637 (IOM, UNDP) 1,100 (WHO)]		585,707  [584,607 (IOM, UNDP) 1,100 (WHO)]	Participants at various events, as well as viewers of the social media content produced on the project opportunities for cooperation and results.
<b>OUTPUT 2.4</b>							
<b>Output Indicator 2.4a</b> Number of partnerships/ initiatives established at national and local level between diaspora business	0	10	0	0		0	Work is on track.

leaders and national stakeholders (UNDP)							
<b>Output Indicator 2.4b</b> Number of business leaders who promote development and/ or serve as business envoys and/or cooperate with national stakeholders (UNDP)	0	10	0	5		5	Work is on track.
<b>OUTPUT 2.5</b>							
<b>Output Indicator 2.5a</b> Number of governmental programmatic instruments for productive diaspora contributions, remittance management and investment attraction reviewed, re-designed and/or developed (UNDP, UNICEF)	0	3	0	2		2	Work is on track. The concept developed
<b>Output Indicator 2.5b</b> Financial literacy toolkit and training curricula developed for more productive investment of diaspora/migrants' remittances and savings, including by young people, families left behind, women migrants and other vulnerable groups (IOM)	0	2	0	5		5	Work is on track.
<b>Output Indicator 2.5c</b> Number of migrants, <b>young people</b> , families left behind, women migrants and other vulnerable groups in Moldova who enhanced their entrepreneurship culture and <b>financial literacy</b> , and were enabled to access financial / banking services, by gender (IOM).	0	10,000, of which women 5,000	714, of which 364 women	13,173 of which 7,903 women		13,887, of which 8,267 women	Work is on track.

### 3. Partnerships

The Programme builds upon PUNOs longstanding dialogue and experience of cooperation with the national agencies, academia, civil society, and diaspora associations, which laid a solid base for making sure that the Programme activities are implemented in an efficient manner. The excellent cooperation continued and was further advanced in 2025 with the following institutions: i) State Chancellery of the Government of the Republic of Moldova; ii) Diaspora Relations Bureau of the State Chancellery; iii) Ministry of Labour and Social Protection; iv) Ministry of Education and Research; v) Ministry of Health; vi) National Bank of Moldova.

New partnerships were established. The Programme was implemented through a broad partnership of civil society, academic, private sector, and diaspora-related organizations, each contributing to distinct but complementary outcomes. Pro-Activ, Rascu OV, DiHUB, Expert-Group, and the Berlin-based CSO Arbeit und Leben played a key role in increasing the financial literacy of Moldovan migrants and their family members, including youth, by delivering tailored training sessions, counselling, analytical inputs, and outreach activities that improved beneficiaries' understanding of personal finance, savings, and informed economic decision-making. Nicolae Testemițanu State University of Medicine and Pharmacy of the Republic of Moldova and Moldovan State University contributed to strengthening academic diaspora engagement through initiatives that facilitated skills transfer, professional networking, and reintegration pathways linked to entrepreneurship, education, and innovation. In parallel, the Medical Tourism Organization supported the Programme's analytical component by engaging in pilot-testing the economic impact of the diaspora beyond remittances, with a particular focus on diaspora-driven medical services and investments, transfer of knowledge and expertise thereby generating evidence to inform more comprehensive diaspora engagement and development policies.

The Government agencies' **role** was to provide strategic guidance and orientation to the project, partner in developing and piloting new programmes, policies, public services, dialogue platforms; the Government agencies on the other hand are beneficiaries of the Programme's expert input, trainings, capacity building, participation in international events, awareness of the best international practices. The Government provided input to the studies' methodologies, ensuring that they answer the evidence base needs for policy making. Other **strategic contributions** provided by the Government include: staff time and expertise; policy coordination; involvement of mandated institutions (such as the Embassies and Consulates) in the diaspora outreach work; matching the funds of the present Programme e.g. for the joint organisation of diaspora engagement events, such as the MAC 11 Diaspora Business Forum, and the three Diaspora Invest forums (see activities 2.4.1 and 2.4.2).

*Diaspora* continues to be involved throughout the implementation, benefiting from innovative engagement tools and capacity interventions, but also contributing to the development of key deliverables, through consultations and co-design approaches, policy consultations, as well participation in the Programme's governance structures. *Highly qualified expatriated practitioners* provide expert input, transfer their know-how and academic knowledge, support strategic policy and institutional development in their areas of expertise, provide recommendations for new initiatives, and inspirational good practices in various sectoral areas of governance, both at central and local levels, participate in proceedings and outcomes of the diaspora engagement platform/counselling board, foster the development of cross-border professional and academic partnerships, and are involved in improving various public services and provide mentoring to Moldovan and expatriated professionals. They are selected via a competitive public process, based on profile, experience, and relevance of the proposed input. *Moldovan students abroad and the recent graduates* of international academic institutions contribute their intellectual potential for key development priority areas and the targets of the 2030 Agenda, engage in policy-making process at the national and local levels, bring in innovative perspectives in the operation and reformation of public institutions and services. They

are selected via a competitive public process, based on profile, experience, and relevance of the proposed input. *Diaspora associations and leaders* coalesce larger groups of diaspora members into dialogue with the GoM, community development work, defining diaspora's perspective on policy, programmatic and institutional development, and public services modernization issues, engagement modalities, outreach, and communication. *Diaspora business leaders* are engaged as development promoters and business envoys in cross-border trade, tourism, and investment attraction areas, advancing cooperation with national stakeholders in Moldova, and facilitating partnerships of the Moldovan businesses with foreign counterparts from the countries of destination. They are engaged based on profile, experience, relevance of the proposed input and quality of business partnership ideas.

Under the reporting period, synergies were continued and advanced through maintaining close coordination with other projects and entities, including the following: i) the IOM Development Fund project "Save More in Migration: Supporting migrant workers from Georgia and the Republic of Moldova to enhance savings, remittances, and sustainable benefits of labour migration", which works, using insights from behavioral economics to enhance financial literacy of Moldovan migrants and incentivize them to use their savings towards developing sustainable livelihood activities, including entrepreneurship; ii) the UNDP, SDC-funded project "Resilient and inclusive markets in Moldova", which aims to contribute to the promotion of integrated approaches to inclusive and sustainable local economic development and employment creation, targeting both local population, as well as returning migrants and refugees, as well as the Swiss-UNDP project "Strengthen social cohesion through inclusive participation and empowered citizens" that aims to establish, through multi-dimensional partnerships and interventions, a model of efficient cooperation and strengthened social cohesion through empowered diaspora members, returning migrants and other citizens and responsive local governance.

During the reporting period, the Programme activities enjoyed the full support of the key national stakeholders, the state authorities, civil society, academia and private sector, being engaged in all aspects of the action and its coordination to ensure full national ownership of the results.

The key stakeholders maintained a continuous commitment to the Programme's objectives, including sharing information, harmonizing their coordination procedures, and working together. An example to this end is the consensus solution on the agenda of the regular coordination meetings, the Steering Committee, as well as the joint updating of the work plan of the Programme by the four PUNOs, in a participatory way with input and endorsement of the key stakeholders' agencies. The stakeholder agencies made a sufficient number of relevant staff available to Programme activities, so that the skills and knowledge obtained will be properly applied and transferred to colleagues, beyond the Programme's closure.

The Joint Programme has ***not entered into any formal implementation agreements*** (financial or other) with local government and/or related entities (e.g. provincial, municipal, district agencies), nor with non-governmental stakeholders, during the implementation period.

#### **4. Cross-Cutting Issues**

The Programme deployed and consistently used *gender-responsive and child-sensitive approaches*. In the Programme's call for experts, as well as in other vacancies published by the Programme or with any other professional profile needed, women experts are encouraged to apply. The Programme ensures a gender-sensitive approach to selecting participants in Programme structures, consultation meetings, workshops, trainings, and other events, and provides gender-disaggregated statistics on participants. In practical terms, that meant e.g. the inclusion of women in technical working groups and Programme teams of all four PUNOs agencies and the Steering Committee (11 out of 17 participating members are women).

All the research and data collection under the Programme collect disaggregated data and promote equitable representation to the maximum extent possible. The surveying methodology ensures the equitable representation of all genders and consultation of their perspective. The development of research tools ensures that the collected data is disaggregated, including but not limited to gender, age, disability status, incorporates gender and health variables, assess the specific vulnerabilities of Moldovan *children* left behind by migrant parents. In particular, the research assessed the migrant children physical and mental health in the Republic of Moldova, the psycho-emotional challenges and difficulties with education and community in the country, increased child delinquency, decreased school performance/attendance among others, assess how migration effects children's education, social interaction, and social integration, differentiated by age group, gender. The research paid attention to teenagers as a separate group with specific psychological issues related to children's puberty, perils of drug/alcohol addiction, conflict with law among others.

All the Programme's work concerning/involving children adhere to the UNICEF's Procedure for Ethical Standards in Research, Evaluation, Data Collection and Analysis. Data protection, privacy, confidentiality and archiving requirements of UNICEF were followed. The contractors documented all ethical issues and mitigation strategies as needed in the Study Protocol and must complete UNICEF or other equivalent ethics training prior to commencement of work. Steps are taken to consistently capture the opinions of the vulnerable and marginalized groups. Informed consent was granted prior to every focus group (FG) or interview from the participants.

The Programme's partner *DiaMed* initiative embeds *human rights-based approach* and principles throughout its activities. This initiative fosters inclusivity and diversity within its membership by ensuring equitable access to resources and opportunities. Moreover, the *DiaMed* promotes research addressing healthcare disparities and challenges prevalent in underserved populations, thus aligning with the principles of social justice and human dignity. The *DiaMed* recognizes the importance of gender equity in advancing medical research and practice. To achieve this, the initiative actively promotes the participation and leadership of women in scientific endeavors, thereby challenging traditional gender roles within the field.

## 5. Programme Management and Coordination

The ordinary meeting of the **Programme Steering Committee (PSC)** was organized on 18 December 2025 (*kindly refer to Annex 31*). The PSC members endorsed and approved: i) the progress report for 2025; ii) the workplan for 2026-2027; iii) the Annual Work Plan (AWP) 2026 in the UNDP format; iv) the proposed budget revision and v) the no-cost extension by 6 months.

Besides the PSC, the Programme established and regularly convoked monthly **Programme Technical Coordination Team meetings**, which comprise the PUNOs programme management and key expert staff, but also the Head of the Bureau of Diaspora Relations (BRD) and a range of key staff of BRD. The Head of the BRD consulted and coordinated key Programme progress matters with the State Secretary of the State Chancellery (who is also the Chair of the PSC), prior to and after each monthly meeting. This arrangement ensured flexibility, fast coordination, steering, and guidance from the Government. The PUNOs also made sure to consult and brief the other key participating ministries on key progress elements under the Programme. Accordingly, no PSC meeting was organized in mid-2025, given that the Programme Technical Coordination Team meetings ensured the needed level of steering and reporting.

The Programme worked to regularly consult civil society, local authorities, diaspora/migrant associations and groups, youth, employers, professionals in various sectors, to ensure that its decisions are relevant and informed through the needs assessments/discussions/consultations of the stakeholders, and reflected the implemented activities.

*Women, and groups in vulnerable situations due to their migration context (returning migrants), youth and children left behind* had their specific needs and challenges assessed and approached through the execution of the Sociological Study under activity 1.1.1 and the Diaspora Mapping study under activity 1.2.5. Their voices were integrated in the implementation of the activity 2.5.2, with the mapping, redesign, and development of new instruments for remittances and investments management and monitoring, informed through the conduction of a dedicated study. The study will inform the inclusion of gender specific aspects in the innovative mechanism allowing men and women remittance senders to have a stronger say and control over the use of the remittances by the family members, the vouchers scheme allowing them to direct more significant shares to health and education needs of children, sustainable livelihood development solutions, family projects and limit the un-productive use of the remitted funds. The application of a *people-centered approach* ensured that the designed policies, products, and services are evidence- and needs-based, gender- and child-sensitive, and have at their centre the requirements of the most vulnerable groups. To that end, the cooperation with the commercial banks on the development of targeted banking services and products is evidence-based and needs-based, focusing on migrants as the beneficiaries of services, using the evidence collected through the studies conducted under the Programme.

## **6. Constraints, Adjustments, Lessons and Good Practices**

Same as in the previous reporting period, one of the most significant challenges faced was the increase in prices for expert services and goods. This surge in costs put considerable pressure on the budget and delayed the procurement process for selecting service providers and consultants. The Programme had to navigate these financial constraints by prioritizing essential activities and negotiating better rates with providers to ensure the continuity of the activities.

The complex regional security context continued to be another major challenge, which was further complicated by the political processes in the Republic of Moldova. The year 2025 was an electoral year, featuring Parliamentary elections. The democratic engagement of the diaspora was unprecedented, with massive participation and a strong pro-EU and pro-democracy stance that was decisive for the outcomes of this democratic exercise. The acute energy crisis which led to sharp rise in inflation added to the challenges faced by the Programme. The Programme had to adapt to this dynamic political environment by closely monitoring the situation and ensuring that its activities remained relevant and supportive of the democratic processes. This involved collaborating with local and international partners to secure the necessary resources and support, coordinating and adapting the communication and outreach efforts.

The continued refugee dynamics posed another layer of complexity. The ongoing war in Ukraine led to a steady influx of refugees, which strained local resources and required the Programme to adjust its focus to account for the overall national and regional emphasis on support for refugee integration and assistance. This situation was further exacerbated by attempts from external actors to destabilize the internal political situation in the Republic of Moldova. The Programme had to remain vigilant and responsive to these external pressures, ensuring that its initiatives were resilient and adaptable to the changing circumstances, through adapting its communication and outreach strategy.

To strengthen the relevance and effectiveness of the joint programme and enhance the coherence and coordination of the UN system support, several adjustments were proposed by the PUNOs to the workplan, calling for a revision of the budget and a no-cost extension of the Programme by another six months. The respective changes were proposed to and endorsed by the PSC on 18 December 2025. The proposed six-month no-cost extension would shift the Programme's end date from September 2026 to March 2027. This no-cost extension is required to ensure the completion of all planned activities and to achieve sustainable results. The extension responds to several challenges encountered since the project launch, including rising prices for specialized goods and services, which complicated procurement, as well as regional security and energy instabilities that affected

implementation. It will also allow UNICEF to implement an additional child-focused activity identified through recent studies, while WHO and IOM will continue their health and diaspora engagement interventions, transferring some activities into the extended period. Following the endorsement of the changes, the PUNOs have prepared a Revision Request package, which will be submitted in January 2026 to the Fund Management Unit, to facilitate the subsequent review and approval by the MMPTF Steering Committee.

## Conclusion and Next Steps

In 2025, the Joint Programme achieved significant progress in supporting the Republic of Moldova's advancement toward EU accession, deepening collaboration with the Government, and aligning its interventions with evolving national priorities. Building on the foundations laid in previous years, the Programme's activities were strategically focused on data-driven policymaking, capacity development, and innovative diaspora engagement, ensuring that interventions remained relevant and impactful in advancing the Republic of Moldova's development goals.

### Key achievements in 2025 included:

- **Enhanced Policy Alignment and Support:** The Programme's work was closely integrated with the National Development Plan (2024–2026), the National Action Plan for EU Accession (2024–2027), the Government Action Plan for 2024, and the National Diaspora Program (2024–2028), ensuring that all activities supported the most pressing strategic objectives.
- **Advancing Migration Policy and Data Systems:** Significant progress was made in upgrading the EMP, integrating gender, children left behind, migrant health, and mobility of health personnel. The new EMP 2.0 template and indicators were formally adopted by the Government, and methodologies for migration forecasting and impact assessment were developed and piloted.
- **Strengthening Diaspora Engagement:** Outreach campaigns such as "People Next to Us" continued to encourage diaspora participation and return, while new platforms for dialogue and engagement were launched, including the operationalization of a multi-functional electronic web-portal.
- **Capacity Building and Institutional Support:** Public officials received enhanced training and methodological support, particularly in the use of upgraded data tools and best international practices for migration analysis. The Programme facilitated the establishment of diaspora-Government working groups and supported the development of the National Program for Natural Disaster Risk Reduction.
- **Leveraging Diaspora Expertise and Investment:** Mechanisms for engaging Moldovan graduates and professionals abroad were further developed, resulting in successful placements and return missions. Diaspora business leaders were engaged as development promoters, with new partnerships and promotional events strengthening economic ties between the Republic of Moldova and its diaspora.
- **Promoting Financial Literacy and Productive Investment:** The Programme advanced the concept of a financial literacy pilot program and explored innovative financial instruments, such as municipal bonds, to leverage diaspora capital for local development.

Despite these accomplishments, the Programme faced several challenges in 2025, including rising costs for expert services, complex regional security dynamics, ongoing ugee flows, political developments during an electoral year, and external pressures on the Republic of Moldova's stability and energy resources. These factors required adaptive measures and led to a proposed extension of the Programme by six months, with a new end date of 10 March 2027.

## Next Steps for 2026

Based on the achievements and lessons of 2025, the Programme will focus on the following priorities in the coming period:

- Finalizing and disseminating the comprehensive sociological analysis of migrants, including returning Moldovans, children whose parents work abroad, and foreigners in the Republic of Moldova.
- Strengthening the national support systems for separated children due to migration through tailored services and enhanced institutional capacity.
- Operationalizing upgraded data systems and methodologies for migration forecasting, impact measurement, and regular production of the EMP.
- Developing the reporting module/component of the new IT system of the General Inspectorate for Migration, building on the EMP progress.
- Developing a statistical methodology for estimating the number of diaspora members and circular migrants.
- Finalizing the analytical note on the human mobility dimension of the 2024 National Census and launching/presenting it publicly.
- Conducting the review and analysis of foreign statistical, administrative, and census data on the Moldovan diaspora in the main destination countries. Preparing an analytical report, coordinating, validating, and publishing it.
- Upgrading the national data systems to allow for sustainable and systematic assessment of the economic impact of diaspora beyond remittances.
- Expanding the reach and functionality of the diaspora engagement platform, including its digitalization and stakeholder involvement.
- Continuing to leverage the intellectual and professional potential of Moldovan graduates and diaspora practitioners through targeted placement, return missions, and networking events.
- Facilitating new business partnerships and investment mechanisms, including the piloting of innovative financial instruments and the scaling up the rollout of the financial literacy program.
- Strengthening institutional capacities through ongoing training, methodological support, and inter-agency collaboration.
- Addressing emerging challenges through adaptive management, stakeholder consultation, and strategic resource allocation.

As the Republic of Moldova continues its path toward EU membership, the Joint Programme remains a vital partner, providing resilient, innovative, and evidence-based support for sustainable development, inclusive governance, and meaningful diaspora engagement.

## ANNEXES

Annex 1. Workshop agenda innovative data collection tools

Annex 2. Report on the profile of returning Moldovan migrants

Annex 3. Report on the profile and situation of children left behind

Annex 4. Report on the profile of foreigners in the Republic of Moldova

Annex 5. Report on the reintegration needs, experience and challenges of the returning migrants

Annex 6. Targeted outreach on the return and reintegration opportunities for the Moldovan graduates

Annex 7. Targeted outreach to highly qualified diaspora practitioners

Annex 8. TOR for national consultant on Natural Disaster Risk Reduction and Human Mobility

Annex 9. Draft National Program on Natural Disaster Risk Reduction for 2025-2030

Annex 10. Data Assessment Report for Extended Migration Profile (EMP)

Annex 11. EMP Updated Indicators

Annex 12. EMP Updated Template

Annex 13. EMP Reporting - General Templates

Annex 14. EMP Reporting - Institutional Templates

Annex 15. EMP Process and Roles

Annex 16. EMP Updated Guide 2026 draft

Annex 17. Diaspora mapping report

Annex 18. Concept of the analysis of foreign statistical, administrative and census data on the Moldovan diaspora

Annex 19. Beyond remittances methodology ToR

Annex 20. Diaspora Engagement Platform Technical Final Specs

Annex 21. MAC11-Program-Highlights

Annex 22. Report on remittances, needs and challenges for migrants

Annex 23. Financial literacy guide for migrants in Germany

Annex 24. FB Card for the financial education online session in Germany

Annex 25. Financial literacy program for pupils

Annex 26. Financial literacy workbook for pupils

Annex 27. Trainers' instruction for financial education sessions in Germany

Annex 28. Financial education module

Annex 29. One-on-one sessions

Annex 30. Concept note of the Financial Education Social Media Campaign

Annex 31. Agenda of the Steering Committee meeting