



**UNITED NATIONS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION  
FRAMEWORK  
The Republic of Moldova  
2023–2027**

## PREAMBLE AND COMMITMENT TO COOPERATION

The Government of the Republic of Moldova and the United Nations are committed to working together to achieve the national development priorities, the Sustainable Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals and treaty obligations.

The Cooperation Framework tailors the responses to national priorities, ensuring that all United Nations entities can effectively support national implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Building on the successes of our past cooperation, the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework will guide the joint work of the Government of the Republic of Moldova and the United Nations system from 2023 until 2027.

The collective results expected from this Cooperation Framework will help the Republic of Moldova become a more prosperous and resilient country, with strong participative democratic institutions, green development and equal opportunities for all, in line with the overarching aim of the Sustainable Development Goals of “Leaving No One Behind”.

In signing hereafter, the partners endorse this Cooperation Framework and emphasize their joint commitment towards the achievement of its results.

### *ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA*

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H.E. NATALIA GAVRILIȚA

Prime Minister of the Republic of Moldova

### *ON BEHALF OF THE UNITED NATIONS IN MOLDOVA*

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H.E. SIMON SPRINGETT

United Nations Resident Coordinator in the Republic of Moldova

## COMMITMENT AND SIGNATURES

### UNITED NATIONS IN THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

We, the undersigned, commit to working together in pursuing the strategic priorities laid out in the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) for the period of 2023–2027, underscoring our joint commitment to its priorities and cooperation results.

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## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

|         |   |
|---------|---|
| BOS     | Business Operations Strategy                                      |
| CAREC   | Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation Program                |
| CBO     | Community-Based Organization                                      |
| CCA     | Common Country Analysis   |
| CEDAW   | Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women      |
| CSO     | Civil Society Organizations                                       |
| DCFTA   | Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Agreement                       |
| EaP     | Eastern Partnership   |
| ENTSO-E | European Network of Transmission System Operators for Electricity |
| EVAW    | Elimination of Violence against Women                             |
| FACE    | Fund Authorization and Certificate of Expenditures                |
| FAO     | Food and Agriculture Organization                                 |
| GAM     | Global AIDS Monitoring  |
| GDP     | Gross Domestic Product  |
| HACT    | Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfers                             |
| HBS     | Household Budget Survey   |
| IARMP   | Inter-Agency Risk Management Plan                                 |
| IFAD    | International Fund for Agricultural Development                   |
| IFI     | International Financing Institutions                              |
| IOM     | International Organization for Migration                          |
| ITU     | International Telecommunication Union                             |
| JWP     | Joint Workplan  |
| LGBTQI+ | Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer and Intersex           |
| LNOB    | Leave No One Behind   |
| M&E     | Monitoring and Evaluation   |
| MAFI    | Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry                         |
| MEA     | Multilateral Environmental Agreement                              |
| MEL     | Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning                               |
| MoLSP   | Ministry of Labour and Social Protection                          |
| MSM     | Men Who Have Sex With Men   |
| MSME    | Micro, Small and Medium-Sized Enterprise                          |
| NBS     | National Bureau of Statistics                                     |
| NDS     | National Development Strategy                                     |
| NEA     | National Economic Agency  |
| NEET    | Not in Employment, Education or Training                          |
| NGO     | Non-Governmental Organization                                     |
| NHRAP   | National Plan in the Field of Human Rights                        |
| NHRC    | National Human Rights Council                                     |
| NSGE    | National Strategy on Gender Equality                              |
| OHCHR   | Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights                  |
| R&D     | Research and Development  |
| RMPS    | Resource Mobilization and Partnerships Strategy                   |
| RRP     | Refugee Response Plan   |

|        |  |
|--------|--|
| SBA    | Standard Basic Association Agreement                             |
| SDG    | Sustainable Development Goal                                     |
| SEEHN  | South-Eastern Europe Health Network                              |
| SOP    | Standard Operating Procedure                                     |
| UNAIDS | Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS                       |
| UNCT   | United Nations Country Team                                      |
| UNDIS  | United Nations Disability Inclusion Strategy                     |
| UNDP   | United Nations Development Programme                             |
| UNECE  | United Nations Economic Commission for Europe                    |
| UNESCO | United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization |
| UNFCCC | United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change            |
| UNFPA  | United Nations Population Fund                                   |
| UNHCR  | United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees                    |
| UNICEF | United Nations Children's Fund                                   |
| UNIDO  | United Nations Industrial Development Organization               |
| UNODC  | United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime                         |
| UNSDCF | United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework     |
| UPR    | Universal Periodic Review  |
| VNR    | Voluntary National Review  |
| WHO    | World Health Organization  |

## SUMMARY

The United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) 2023–2027 presents an agreement between the Government of the Republic of Moldova (hereinafter referred to as Moldova) and the United Nations system to expand their cooperation and scale up the results of the previous framework in order to help the country address the development challenges and barriers to more inclusive social and economic development and the achievement of national priorities outlined in the National Development Strategy (NDS) Moldova 2030, as identified in the Voluntary National Review (VNR) 2020. Development of the UNSDCF was undertaken through a broad consultation process with different stakeholders and through a variety of methods, including surveys with young people, diaspora and migrants, the general population (of which 50 per cent represented vulnerable groups), as well as focus group discussions with representatives of Roma, persons living and affected by HIV, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and intersex (LGBTQI+) persons, persons in or released from detention, and unemployed persons. A Gender Assessment elaborated by the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) and the World Bank added to a comprehensive understanding of the root causes and impact of gender inequality in Moldova and supported the reflection of these issues in the UNSDCF. The Theory of Change and strategic priorities was presented and validated with the participation of government institutions, civil society organisations (CSOs), the private sector and development partners, which will strengthen coordination and achieve better alignment of multistakeholder interventions to accelerate implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

Guided by the overarching vision of NDS Moldova 2030 of **a country where people want to live, where all people fully exercise their human rights and where people enjoy a better quality of life in a more inclusive and resilient society**, the UNSDCF 2023–2027 puts a strong emphasis on the transformative nature of the SDGs. It integrates options to boost inclusive, diversified and job-intensive economic transformation while promoting the advancement of human rights, gender equality and the well-being of all people of Moldova, underpinned by enhanced inclusion and resilience, peace and security and a sustainable environment. The UNSDCF Theory of Change is based on the premise that **better quality of life for all people of Moldova can only be achieved if the country's prosperity is shared among all people and the most vulnerable and marginalized are empowered to exercise their human rights and participate meaningfully in all spheres of life.**

To that end, the UNSDCF 2023–2027 places a stronger emphasis on the empowerment of rights holders while building the capacities of duty bearers to respond to their claims in order to enable people to become active participants in development processes. This will help the country speed up its economic recovery and achieve the ambitious 2030 Agenda, especially, for those identified by the Common Country Analysis (CCA)<sup>1</sup> as being most vulnerable and marginalized: women survivors of violence; vulnerable children, particularly in rural areas; Roma; ethno-linguistic minorities; victims of human trafficking; migrants; persons with disabilities; persons living and affected by HIV; LGBTQI+ persons; people in detention; asylum seekers, refugees and stateless persons; older people; youth not in employment, education or training (NEET); small agricultural producers; and, in general, people in rural areas. The UNSDCF will leverage the participation of Moldova in human rights mechanisms (such as the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) and Treaty Body reviews) and implementation of its human rights commitments (including the newly ratified Istanbul Convention) to strengthen the government's respect, promotion and fulfilment of human rights.

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<sup>1</sup> [UN Moldova CCA 2020](#).

Recognizing the complexity of the national development context, which faces challenges from economic crisis, energy insecurity, COVID-19 pandemic and a shattered regional peace infrastructure, the United Nations and the Government of Moldova have identified four impact areas (strategic priorities) and four respective Outcomes that incorporate transformational changes (results) that are critical for the achievement of the national priorities and Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) (see table below). Their selection is informed by considerations of the comparative advantages the United Nations system enjoys in the country and the potential catalytic effect that selected targets, mainly under SDGs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, 16 and 17, may have on other interrelated targets to produce benefits across multiple SDGs. Further, the linkages between the sustainable peace and development nexus are reinforced by integrating the immediate needs of affected populations such as refugees coming from Ukraine and migrants within the country’s long-term development objectives and by strengthening dialogue and social cohesion, including in relation to the Transnistrian conflict and heightened geopolitical tensions. A harmonized approach to mainstreaming the Leave No One Behind (LNOB) Principle, Human Rights-Based Approach, Gender Equality & Empowerment of Women, Resilience, Sustainability and Accountability will be ensured across United Nations interventions and in cooperation with partners.

**Just and Inclusive Institutions and Equal Opportunities for Human Development**

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

**Participatory Governance and Social Cohesion**

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

**Enhanced Shared Prosperity in a Sustainable Economy**

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

**Green Development, Sustainable Communities and Disaster and Climate Resilience**

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.

Implementation of the UNSDCF is expected to ameliorate the achievement of results in several thematic areas – including education, health, food systems, migration, governance, decent work, social services, labour productivity, the competitiveness of the economy, energy, environment and climate change, connectivity and trade, and statistics – which will facilitate the integration of the Republic of Moldova into the European Union and help improve living standards. Therefore, effective coordination with partners will remain a key consideration for the United Nations support implementation. The UNCT will further seek to consolidate its collaboration with traditional partners, i.e. the government and local public authorities; CSOs; workers’ and employers’ representatives; think tanks; and international non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and foundations. The UNCT will also explore innovative partnerships with new emerging development partners, particularly harnessing the potential of the private sector, of the financial sector and of research institutes, and will improve cooperation with International Financial Institutions (IFIs).

To maximize multi-stakeholder engagement and contribution to the UNSDCF 2023–2027 implementation, the UNCT will explore new venues for cooperation and more effective ways of working with partners and stakeholders through the UNSDCF 2023–2027 governance and coordination mechanisms and, in particular, through results and thematic groups. The UNSDCF 2023–2027 Steering Committee, co-chaired by the United Nations Resident Coordinator (on behalf of the United Nations system) and the Prime Minister (on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Moldova), will provide high-level oversight of UNSDCF implementation, monitoring of results and the final evaluation, but also will ensure that the implementation is sufficiently supported by strategic partnerships.

The UNCT is committed to implementing the UNSDCF 2023–2027 in the spirit of United Nations reform. It will work to improve the coherence, transparency, accountability and efficiency of the United Nations development system in the country and to amplify the efforts to strengthen inter-agency cooperation, including more coordinated partnerships building and the mobilization of resources, joint programming and communication. Synergies with regional and global frameworks and platforms – including the Global Forum on Migration and Development and platforms such as Eastern Partnership (EaP), the Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation Program (CAREC), the International Conference on Population and Development and its regional reviews and the Budapest and Prague Processes – will be further explored to ensure coherence and complementarity across interventions and to reach out to non-United Nations stakeholders.

## CHAPTER 1: COUNTRY PROGRESS TOWARDS THE 2030 AGENDA

### 1.1. The country context

Moldova has achieved good progress in terms of advancing human development over the last decades. Between 1990 and 2019, the Human Development Index value of Moldova rose from 0.690 to 0.750, an increase of 8.7 per cent. However, although it moved to the upper-middle-income country classification<sup>2</sup>, the Republic of Moldova is still a resource-limited economy, with the lowest gross domestic product (GDP) per capita in the region (approximately US\$4,55 in current prices).<sup>3</sup> One in four Moldovans lives in absolute poverty, while the extreme poverty rate reached 10.8 per cent in 2020.<sup>4</sup> The poverty rate was declining (both in rural and in urban areas) prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, mainly due to the expansion of social assistance programmes and resilient remittances.<sup>5</sup> However, the poverty rate increased in 2020 compared to 2019 as a result of the impact the pandemic had in the country.<sup>6</sup>

Low living standards and lack of jobs and income-generating opportunities, especially in rural areas, have led to large-scale emigration. Over the last eight years, the resident population<sup>7</sup> has decreased by 10.5 per cent (from 2,844,000 in 2015 to 2,597,100 in 2021).<sup>8</sup> These demographic dynamics have led to an average annual population decline of 1.8 per cent. due to massive emigration and negative population growth. In this line, the fertility rate is below the population replacement level at 1.77 (2020),<sup>9</sup> while the desired number of children per couple has gone up to three.<sup>10</sup> By 2035, the country's population could fall to two million people, and every third person would be over 60 years of age. This is likely to decrease the country's potential for economic development and the "sustainability" of the health and social protection systems as there will be more older people who will live longer, but their quality of life will likely not be good enough preventing them from active ageing, among other things.<sup>11</sup>

The internal stability and development potential of the Republic of Moldova also remains affected by the Transnistrian conflict. The settlement process has been negatively impacted by the geopolitical tensions associated with the war in Ukraine, in turn contributing to the further weakening of social cohesion in the country.

The economy of Moldova is mainly service-oriented, but with a comparatively large agricultural sector.<sup>12</sup> It is characterized by high levels of underemployment across various sectors, with informal employment

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<sup>2</sup> [World Bank classification](#).

<sup>3</sup> [World Bank database](#).

<sup>4</sup> In 2020 the absolute poverty line was estimated at 2,174.1 MDL per month per person, and the extreme poverty line was on average 1,753.4 MDL.

<sup>5</sup> National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) (2021) Households Budget Survey (press release).

<sup>6</sup> [National Bureau of Statistics \(NBS\) \(2021\)](#) Poverty rate.

<sup>7</sup> The NBS, with UNFPA support, recalculated the population in 2020, based on a new methodology that includes the habitually resident population, consisting of those who have lived mainly on the territory of the Republic of Moldova for the last 12 months, regardless of temporary absences.

<sup>8</sup> NBS "[Resident Population number](#)" (2021). Population numbers do not include Transnistrian region.

<sup>9</sup> NBS "[Populația și procesele demografice](#)" (2021)

<sup>10</sup> Ministry of Health, Labour and Social Protection of the Republic of Moldova, NBS (survey sample), UNFPA and NIDI-GGP (as partner and distributor) (2020) Generations and Gender Survey.

<sup>11</sup> According to the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) forecasts. UNFPA (2022) Moldova CCA, 2022 update.

<sup>12</sup> In 2021, services accounted for 54.9 per cent of Moldova's GDP, while agriculture accounted for 10.4 per cent. Industry (including construction) and manufacturing made up 20.6 per cent and per cent 9.4% of Moldova's GDP respectively. Available at [NBS](#) and [WB database](#).

predominant in agriculture.<sup>13</sup> Weak economic diversification, especially heavy reliance on primary agriculture, and lack of compliance with international quality standards has affected exports. The COVID-19 pandemic led to a GDP contraction of 8.3 per cent in 2020, but it bounced back to 13.9 per cent GDP growth in 2021, mainly driven by investments and private consumption stimulated by higher wages, social transfers and remittances. Currently, the Moldova's economy is facing a three-fold crisis related to (i) post-Covid-19 recovery challenges, (ii) energy price increase and (iii) the impact from the Ukraine war (refugees and sanctions disrupting trade). Notably, the post-pandemic economic recovery in 2021 is offset by the current supply chain disruptions, challenges with food security and market access, growing energy prices and high inflation. While the economy was expected to grow around 3–4 per cent during 2022,<sup>14</sup> the negative effects of high energy prices, massive trade and supply chain disruption and the refugee crisis are likely to bring this estimate down substantially. Moldova currently generates only 20 per cent of its electricity consumption, while only 6 per cent comes from renewable sources. The country procures its electricity from the gas-fired Kuchiurgan power plant in the Transnistrian region. In February, the country successfully connected its electricity network to the European ENTSO-E transmission network.

Low levels of energy security due to dependence on one dominant foreign gas supplier (Russia), low in-country and cross-border integration hampered by poor quality transport infrastructure (energy, roads, and railways), lack of private sector shareholder transparency and weak governance create vulnerabilities and hinder sustainable economic growth,<sup>15</sup> affecting social and human development trends.

Despite various pressures posed by the economic crisis, it also represents an opportunity for Moldova in terms of closer economic integration with the European Union; building resilient (regional) supply chains; the diversification of trade while investing in high value-added economy sectors (including high-tech agriculture); benefiting from “importing” a qualified refugee labour force; and enhancing the country's energy security. The impact of war-related trade disruptions highlights the need to reduce dependency on the CIS markets while investing more in quality conformity infrastructure, access to new markets and also making better use of the free trade agreements with Turkey, the Balkans (under the Central European Free Trade Agreement) and the European Union.

## 1.2. National vision for sustainable development

### ***National policy framework and alignment with SDGs***

In 2018, Moldova drafted the [NDS Moldova 2030](#), which provides a strategic vision for the country's socioeconomic development in the coming years and is based on a set of priority dimensions that measure the quality of life for its population. This document serves as a strategic benchmark and framework strategy for all national, regional and local policy papers and is aimed at achieving the SDGs and ensuring that no one is left behind in the process. The Strategy's priority areas demonstrate the strong interlinkages with SDGs and reference all dimensions of sustainable development, namely: Increase revenues from sustainable sources and reduce economic inequalities; increase people's access to physical infrastructure, public utilities and housing; improve working conditions and reduce informal employment; ensure quality education for all and promote life-long learning opportunities; ensure fundamental right to best physical and mental health; solid and inclusive social protection system; ensure a work-family life balance; ensure

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<sup>13</sup> ILO Department of Statistics and NBS Moldova (2019) Changes to the Labour Force Survey of Moldova – Overview and Assessment of Impact.

<sup>14</sup> [EBRD economic growth forecast](#).

efficient and inclusive governance and rule of law; promote peaceful, safe and inclusive society; and, ensure fundamental right to a healthy and safe environment. Given that the COVID-19 pandemic, followed by the energy crisis and the humanitarian crisis in the region, has left a substantial footprint on the economic and social development of Moldova, a revision and adaptation of the Moldova 2030 Strategy is in progress.

In October 2021, the government's **Action Plan for 2021–2022**<sup>16</sup> was approved. A three-year National Development Plan –will be developed and most of the national sectoral policy documents, which guide the development of specific areas of the economic, social, and environment sectors, are on course to be updated by the end of 2022.

### ***The European Union integration agenda***

Since 2014 Moldova deepened its commitment to EU integration having signed EU-Moldova Association Agreement (AA).<sup>17</sup> Provisions of the Association Agreement have been further detailed in Association Agendas for 2014 – 2016 and 2017 – 2019. Association Agenda for 2021 – 2027 is being finalised. On 4<sup>rd</sup> March 2022, Moldova submitted the application for the European Union membership. On 22 April and 12 May 2022, the Republic of Moldova submitted its replies to the Questionnaire of the European Commission for the preparation of the Opinion on the application. Opinion of the European Commission is under development. It is expected to be examined at the June 2022 meeting of the European Council.

In 2019, the European Commission presented the European Green Deal, a comprehensive package of reforms aimed at transforming climate and environmental challenges into opportunities to ensure a green transition to a fair and prosperous society. The European Green Deal is also relevant for Moldova given the cross-border nature of environmental problems, and it offers opportunities for sustainable and economic development. Moldova continues implementation of targeted actions in the field of waste management, extended producer responsibility, green and circular economy promotion, air quality monitoring, industrial emissions reduction.

### ***Human rights, gender equality and women's empowerment***

The *National Plan in the Field of Human Rights* (NHRAP) 2018–2022 was adopted following the second cycle of universal periodic review (UPR). The NHRAP aims at supporting public authorities to reshape the policy development process at the central and local levels using a human rights-based approach, including by giving due regard to the obstacles faced by minority and vulnerable groups in the full realization of their fundamental human rights.<sup>18</sup> Established institutional mechanisms – such as the National Human Rights Council (NHRC), the Permanent Secretariat for Human Rights and local structures of the NHRC – should ensure efficient implementation and monitoring of the international human rights treaties to which the Republic of Moldova is a party and support the development and evaluation of human rights policy documents. The NHRAP also aims to monitor the implementation of the *National Strategy for Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence* 2018–2023 and proposes to strengthen the implementation of the *National Strategy Ensuring Equality between Women and Men* 2017–2021. The NHRAP emphasizes prioritizing specific measures to ensure that all citizens, especially the most vulnerable groups (e.g. national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities; persons with disabilities; people living with HIV; and children and youth), have their fundamental human rights

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<sup>16</sup> [The Action Plan of the Government of the Republic of Moldova for 2021–2022](#).

<sup>17</sup> The official versions of the Association Agreement between the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community and their Member States, of the one part, and the Republic of Moldova, of the other part. Accessible [here](#).

<sup>18</sup> [National Report Submitted in Accordance with Paragraph 5 of the Annex to Human Rights Council Resolution 16/21, Republic of Moldova](#).

respected, protected and fulfilled, and the legal framework and the services provided are in accordance with international human rights standards and a human rights-based approach.<sup>19</sup>

In October 2021, the Republic of Moldova ratified the Council of Europe's Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (the Istanbul Convention). Following the ratification, the government initiated a participatory process of developing a road map for implementing the convention involving CSOs, relevant stakeholders and international organizations. Under the UNSDCF 2023–2027, the United Nations will provide full support to the government in implementing this road map. In December 2018, the Republic of Moldova submitted its sixth periodic report to the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). Following the CEDAW 2020 Concluding Observations for Moldova, the Government of Moldova adopted the Action Plan for the implementation of the recommendations as a tool to monitor progress and advance implementation of the Convention.

Promotion of gender equality and women's empowerment is a policy priority of the authorities. Several policy documents were approved in the recent years: the Strategy for Ensuring Equality between Women and Men for 2017-2021, the National Strategy on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence for the period 2018-2023, National Strategy for Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Human Beings for the period 2018-2023, as well as other sectoral strategies (health, employment, social protection, security, child protection and so on). Since 2018, the Government has been implementing the National Programme to implement United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security for 2018-2021. In the last years, with the support of civil society and external development partners, several important legislative amendments have been adopted to promote gender equality. These include the introduction of 14 days of paternity leave; banning sexist language and advertising; introduction of 40 per cents quota for women and men in lists of candidates for all elections; provisions on the financing of political parties depending on how they ensure gender equality, and promotion of gender equality.

### 1.3. Progress towards the SDGs

Moldova committed to implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in 2015, and was among the first countries to nationalize the SDGs and develop nationalized SDG indicators in 2016. In 2019, from an initially defined list of 226 nationalized SDG indicators, a list of 338 indicators was developed by the NBS following a rigorous revision process.

The first VNR<sup>20</sup> of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Moldova, was conducted in 2020. This exercise highlighted significant progress in the area of poverty reduction, decent work and economic growth, climate action and partnerships for development (SDGs 1, 8, 13 and 17). In terms of social protection, Moldova over last years succeeded to build good framework for targeted social assistance which was used to support the population during the COVID-19 pandemic<sup>21</sup> with vertical top-ups of benefits, child allowances and temporary unemployment benefits. Although well established, these programmes have numerous needs regarding strengthening of their operational efficiency and effectiveness while facing challenges of limited fiscal space.

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<sup>19</sup> National Human Rights Action Plan for the period 2018-2022, accessible at <https://www.coe.int/t/commissioner/source/NAP/Moldova-National-Action-Plan-on-Human-Rights-2018-2022.pdf>

<sup>20</sup> The Republic of Moldova VNR Progress Report 2020, accessible at [UN](#) and [State Chancellery](#) websites.

<sup>21</sup> Gentilini *et al.* (2020) Social Protection and Jobs Responses to COVID-19: A Real-Time Review of Country Measures, p. 568, "Moldova".

The progress towards improving nutrition, health and well-being, gender equality, sustainable energy, industry, innovation, infrastructure and sustainable cities (SDGs 2, 3, 5, 7, 9 and 11) has been more modest. The COVID-19 pandemic limited access to health care services, including for reproductive health care, and put substantial strain on the health care system of Moldova, resulting in the growing burden of non-communicable diseases. On the positive side, the public health emergency led to strengthening the technical and human resource capacities of health care providers, as well as the upgrading of some infrastructure. In spite of multiple efforts and financing across all social areas, there has been less noticeable progress towards enhancing the quality of education and of water and sanitation. Better progress could also be made in the reduction of inequalities (particularly non-monetary inequalities), and much more can be done regarding ensuring more responsible production and consumption, as well as life on land. Peace, justice and strong institutions (SDGs 4, 6, 10, 12, 15 and 16) are particularly important areas for improvement in order to maximize and accelerate efforts towards achieving the SDGs.

According to the [2021 SDG Report](#), negative progress has been identified for SDG 4 and major challenges remain on SDGs 8, 15 and 16 for Moldova.<sup>22</sup> Acceleration of progress under some of these goals seems more urgent in the light of the increased vulnerability of the economy (SDG 1, SDG 8 and SDG 9), health and food security (SDG 3 and SDG 2) and weak social cohesion (SDG 16) aggravated by the economic crisis and geopolitical trends. Data shows some progress for SDG 10, however continued attention is required to further reduce inequalities in the country. At the same time, SDG 4 has been identified in the national strategic documents as one of the key drivers for inclusive human development, labour productivity and economic prosperity.

While the next Population and Housing Census is planned for 2024, there is currently insufficient of disaggregated data, and data relating to certain marginalized and vulnerable groups. Thus, it, which hampers the adequate monitoring and reporting on the inclusion of those vulnerable groups and the effectiveness of public policies and interventions to leave no one behind. Of the 338 indicators defined, data were fully or partially available for 77 per cent of the total and not available for 23 per cent. At the same time, fully disaggregation of the SDG data in line with the global metadata was possible for 50 per cent of the nationalized indicators, partially possible for 25 per cent and not possible (because of the unavailability of data) for 20 per cent. In addition, in order to monitor progress against the SDGs there is the need to have intermediate targets before total ones in 2030. In addition, localization of the SDGs would facilitate promoting and tracking contributions from the local governments.

### ***Financing for the SDGs***

Moldova currently does not have any specific formal policy framework for tracking or fostering financing of the SDGs. There is also no system in place for tracking public finance allocation to the SDGs. The ability to mobilize development financing from the constantly evolving potential sources and prudent management of public resources at national, local government and sectoral levels are some of the critical attributes of an Integrated National Financing Framework. In this line, the Government of the Republic of Moldova is implementing the Project „Strengthening capacities and systems for effective public finance management in the Republic of Moldova” (2020-2023)<sup>23</sup> aiming at strengthening the capacities of the public finance system stakeholders for integrating structural reforms in the national budget framework, improving budget efficiency and rationalizing public spending to ensure the alignment of budget and financial flows to the priorities of the “Moldova 2030” National Development Strategy aligned to the nationalized SDGs and the sector-specific priorities.

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<sup>22</sup> [2021 Sustainable Development Report](#) and [chapter for Moldova](#). Error! Hyperlink reference not valid..

<sup>23</sup> With the support from UNDP.

## **Vulnerable groups**

According to the CCA,<sup>24</sup> multiple factors account for vulnerability and exclusion in Moldova, including geographic location (urban/rural), gender, age, source of income and size of family, ethnicity, disability and socioeconomic status.

### **Most vulnerable and discriminated populations identified in the CCA**

Women survivors of violence; vulnerable women and children, particularly in rural areas; Roma and ethno-linguistic minorities; victims of human trafficking; vulnerable migrants; persons with disabilities; persons living and affected by HIV; LGBTQI+ persons; people in detention; asylum seekers, refugees and stateless persons; older people; youth in NEET; and small agricultural producers

## CHAPTER 2: UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM SUPPORT TO THE 2030 AGENDA

### 2.1. CCA findings on challenges and gaps and the selection of priorities

Based on the CCA and broader consultations with representatives of all sectors and target populations, including from the most vulnerable groups, the United Nations system and the Government of Moldova have identified the following most pressing issues to be addressed in the UNSDCF.

- **The social protection systems** offer insufficient protection for people from vulnerable situations, especially poverty shocks. The COVID-19 pandemic, the war in Ukraine and the energy crisis have negatively affected access to basic public services, particularly for the most vulnerable and marginalized populations. In addition, underinvestment in **basic services and economic incentives and limited access to them, as well as poor infrastructure** (water supply; sanitation; roads and transportation; care services), have exacerbated the situation and led to the high outmigration of working age people. Therefore, **resilience building and equal access to basic quality services in local communities and among vulnerable groups** remains one of the key areas with strong potential to tackle structural discrimination and the root causes of poverty and exclusion.
- **The health and education systems have systemic and structural inefficiencies and imbalances** stemming from inadequate budgeting and weak mainstreaming of human rights and gender equality into policies and provision of services. The COVID-19 pandemic has deepened inequalities by increasing the pressure on the already-low resilience of the health system, worsening access to good-quality essential health services, especially for rural population and vulnerable groups. Despite substantial progress in life expectancy, Moldovans live on average 10 years less than their European peers. Moldova faces a double health burden: from non-communicable diseases (including high rates of cervical cancer) and from communicable diseases (HIV and TB). Access to health care for Moldovans is unequal due to several factors, including the geographical concentration of health care service providers (primarily in Chişinău). The health emergency has also impacted negatively on access to education, in particular for children and youth from vulnerable groups. This results in poorer health and education outcomes compared with most European countries, affecting

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<sup>24</sup> Moldova CCA, 2021 update.

- sustainable human development through skills gaps and mismatches in the labour market, low productivity and brain drain, and ultimately making Moldova less attractive for foreign direct and national investment.
- A number of governance institutions and processes have a low level of responsiveness to the needs of rights holders because of **weak transparency and accountability mechanisms**, as well as because of **inconsistent application of human rights, gender equality and non-discrimination standards** into the legal and policy framework and institutional mechanisms. The **efficiency of governance institutions** is also affected by **corruption**. **Enhancement of transparency, participation and accountability mechanisms** will contribute to a more efficient governance oriented towards people's needs, while a stronger performance of the judiciary, law enforcement, ministries and other state institutions, as well as of national human rights institutions, will lead to greater respect, protection and fulfilment of human rights and the achievement of gender equality, resulting in higher trust in institutions and stronger social cohesion.
  - **Policy development and budgeting processes are not always based on evidence and do not fully take into consideration the needs of the most vulnerable.** While disaggregated data dois insufficient in many areas, analysis of existing disaggregated data is not done coherently, which prevents from comprehensively addressing multidimensional factors contributing to inequalities based on gender, age, disability, ethnicity, geographic accessibility, etc. although a new national strategic planning framework was put in place, which stands for evidence-informed decision-making and policies,<sup>25</sup> the weak analytical capacity, particularly within the public authorities (central and local), still present major challenges that need to be addressed to ensure that decision-making (including policy formulation and monitoring and evaluation (M&E) in particular of impact) is based on evidence and disaggregated data.
  - gender **equality needs to be further mainstreamed into central and local level processes for budgetary planning**, resulting in the country's limited progress towards achieving gender equality as envisaged in the 2030 Agenda. **Harmful gender stereotypes and norms** limit the participation of women and girls in decision-making and accessing services, and continue to perpetrate discrimination and violence against them. **deficient enabling environment** to reduce gender segregation in employment and over-representation of women in informal and low-paid work, as well as to support work and life reconciliation, create a structural barrier to women's participation in public and private sectors of the economy, resulting in a substantial loss in human capital. **Environmental policies and governance lack a gender-differentiated approach** to reduce the negative impacts of climate change and disasters also affects the meaningful participation of women in environmental governance, climate action and disaster response and access to decision-making and control over resources. Traditional gender roles for both women and men limit their personal and professional opportunities, leading to gender-based discrimination and gender-based violence and affecting the overall well-being of women and girls. 48% of women experienced physical violence and 13% experienced sexual violence at least once during their lifetime since the age of 15<sup>26</sup>. Domestic violence cases are twice as significant among women with disabilities. The risk of domestic violence went up with the COVID-19 pandemic and lockdown.
  - **Insufficient economic diversification and slow development of the green economy – with overall limited investment in climate and the business environment; low value added**

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<sup>25</sup> [https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc\\_id=121921&lang=ro](https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=121921&lang=ro)

<sup>26</sup> Well-being and Safety of Women. OSCE-led survey on violence against women (2018)  
[https://www.osce.org/files/f/documents/9/2/413237\\_0.pdf](https://www.osce.org/files/f/documents/9/2/413237_0.pdf)

- production; weaknesses in the food systems; low competitiveness and low resilience to crisis in micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs); poor quality standards and limited market opportunities; underinvestment in research and development (R&D); and slow innovations** – prevent the country from reaching its potential in boosting sustainable economic development and the creation of well-paid jobs. **Developing and sustaining high-skilled human capital** supported by the creation of a better working environment in terms of remuneration and safety and health at work and access to lifelong learning becomes an urgent priority, because the labour-force outmigration and ageing are likely to decrease the country's economic potential. Furthermore, **increasing the capacities and engagement of MSMEs** in unpacking the development potential of communities is essential for a more qualitative and inclusive economic growth. In addition, as a landlocked developing country, Moldova depends on other countries for international trade and transit compounds and requires further efforts to meet the priorities of the Vienna Programme of Action.
- **The impact of Climate change on Moldova is growing** and is expected to accelerate, leading to extreme weather conditions that will not only affect the economy, but also social aspects of sustainable development. The impact of the economy and human beings on climate change manifests itself in continuous **degradation and overexploitation of natural capital, low food security and inefficient resource management practices** – all of which threaten both the quality of the environment and people's health, well-being and fulfilment of their rights. The pandemic, followed by energy crises, raised concerns about the country's environmental, economic and public health resilience and brought a few strategic priorities to the table regarding **emergency preparedness, the reduction of vulnerability to disasters, green recovery, energy security and climate change mitigation and adaptation**.
  - **Divisions in Moldovan society are pronounced:** the Transnistrian conflict, **racial discrimination and bias-based exclusion, hate speech, intolerance, negative attitudes towards marginalized groups and weak social cohesion** impede security and the full exercise of civil, cultural, economic, political and social rights, as well as the resilience of people and communities. The divide across the Nistru River has a profound effect on all dimensions of sustainable development, affecting communities on both banks. Challenges relating to the proximity of services, access to resources, the protection of human rights and the equal involvement of community representatives in decision-making are some key barriers to building trust and interaction between the sides and fostering social cohesion and reconciliation.
  - **Migration policies are not effective enough** to enhance the valorization of the diaspora and the potential of migrants regarding the sustainable development of the country. **Migration governance** requires a **more integrated and holistic gender-sensitive approach** in order to engage significant human and material resources of the one million Moldovan migrants for sustainable national and local development, while securing their rights and interests and their democratic participation in governance. **Better use of evidence on multidimensional factors and whole-government approaches** should inform the development of social and economic policies in order to support safe migration that fully respects, protects and fulfils migrants' human rights in locations of origin, in transit and at their destination, including by expanding pathways for regular migration for migrants who are compelled to leave their countries in the context of climate change and environmental degradation. Adolescents and young people face challenges caused by a lack of parental support due to labour migration and limited opportunities for youth engagement at community level. Over one-third of adolescents have at least one parent working abroad.

Despite various pressures resulting from the war in Ukraine, this conflict also triggered closer economic integration with the European Union; building resilient (regional) supply chains; the diversification of trade while investing in high value-added economy sectors (including high-tech agriculture); benefiting from “importing” a qualified refugee labour force; and enhancing the country’s energy security.

## 2.2 THEORY OF CHANGE

### From CCA to Cooperation Framework Priorities

The formulation of the Theory of Change for the UNSDCF was undertaken through a broad consultation process with different stakeholders. This included the update of the CCA developed in 2020 with a particular focus on the root causes of inequalities but also to prioritize key areas that can have transformational impacts in the country. Overall, 2,082 respondents (with 50 per cent representation from vulnerable groups and 20 per cent from the Transnistrian Region) participated in a general survey. In addition, the findings from the U-Report (2,339 young people, out of them 68 per cent women) and the online survey with diaspora and migrants (326 people, out of them 67 per cent women) were used to identify key transformational areas. To reach out to most vulnerable groups in Moldova, focus group discussions were conducted with representatives of Roma, persons living and affected by HIV, LGBTQI+ persons, persons in or released from detention, and unemployed persons. To ensure that the UNSDCF integrates aspirations of young people, consultations were held with the United Nations Adolescent and Youth Advisory Panel. Complementing the CCA, the UNCT and the World Bank elaborated a Gender Assessment with the objective to have an integral and comprehensive understanding of the root causes and impact of gender inequality in Moldova.

In order to ensure country-led prioritization, from October to November 2021, the RCO organized prioritization workshops and conducted surveys with development partners, CSOs, NGOs, and government agencies. The results from this initial prioritization were further assessed by the UNCT during a series of internal workshops at the technical level and also with Heads of Agencies to prioritize the key areas of support based on the transformational change, United Nations added value and national priorities. The draft Theory of Change was validated in online stakeholder workshops with representatives from the government, civil society, the private sector and UNCT.

### The UNSDCF 2023-2027 Theory of Change

The UNSDCF Theory of Change is based on the premise that **better quality of life for all people of Moldova, as envisioned in the Moldova 2030 Strategy**, can be achieved only if the country’s prosperity is shared among all people, while the most vulnerable and marginalized are empowered to exercise their human rights and participate meaningfully in all spheres of life. Enhanced **inclusion and resilience, sustainable peace and security** are important preconditions to empower all people to contribute to the social and economic transformation of the country.

In order to move towards the long-term vision **by 2030, Moldova is a country where people want to live and where all people fully exercise their human rights and enjoy a better quality of life in a more inclusive and resilient society** – the United Nations system and the Government of Moldova, together with their stakeholders, have defined *four impact areas* that also represent strategic priorities for the UNSDCF 2023–2027: **(1) Just and Inclusive Institutions and Equal Opportunities for Human Development; (2) Participatory Governance and Social Cohesion; (3) Enhanced Shared Prosperity in a**

**Sustainable Economy; and (4) Green Development, Sustainable Communities and Disaster and Climate Resilience.** Four respective Outcomes represent the transformational changes (results) that should enable the achievement of the national priorities and SDGs (see the Theory of Change in Table 1).

Achieving transformational changes under these priority areas requires a more systemic approach to addressing pending structural challenges and the root causes of poverty, discrimination, low economic competitiveness and environmental sustainability, and to removing the barriers to participation that have been identified by the CCA. **Structural and organizational changes** that are required to ensure the sustainability of the Theory of Change include, but are not limited to:

- The governance system is based on the principles of transparency, accountability, participation, non-discrimination and human rights
- Issues of corruption and business integrity are comprehensively addressed while promoting investment and recovering people's trust in the government
- Human rights, gender equality, climate change and non-discrimination are mainstreamed into policy development and the provision of services
- Gender equality and empowerment of women are promoted in all spheres of life
- Harmful social norms and stereotypes are systematically challenged at the level of institutions and through a variety of channels
- Sustainable capacities (knowledge, skills, abilities, etc.) are in place to make policies are informed by evidence, disaggregated data and risks and impact analysis, taking into account population shifts, ageing and brain drain and target multidimensional causes of poverty and exclusion
- Resilience to social, economic and environmental shocks is mainstreamed at the systemic and institutional levels
- Public health emergency is systematically addressed at the level of institutions and through a variety of channels
- Digitalization is accelerated at the country level, with value added for the most vulnerable and poor
- Cross-sectoral partnerships to provide effective and innovative solutions to empower people and promote socioeconomic transformations and environmental sustainability
- The nexus between development, humanitarian action and peace, is strengthened contributing to a more cohesive and conflict-free society

The Theory of Change integrates six guiding principles<sup>27</sup> into the UNSDCF in a holistic manner and their mainstreaming is reinforced through results-based programming, taking assumptions and risks into consideration and including interventions that emphasize comprehensive and coherent policy support to national partners and capacity development, with the ultimate goal of advancing achievement of the SDGs in the country. The Theory of Change also recognizes that achieving results in the UNSDCF 2023–2027 depends on both external and internal (arising from United Nations interventions) factors.

## **Assumptions**

Key assumptions relating to the **external** environment include the following:

- The government will continue to demonstrate its political will and commitment towards international obligations and agreements, in particular with the European Union, and will enforce

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<sup>27</sup> LNOB; Human Rights-Based Approach to Development; Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women; Resilience; Sustainability; and Accountability.

evidence-informed decision-making and implementation of the national sustainable development agenda

- Long-term political stability in the country will result in improving policy development processes and the consistency of policy implementation to keep the country on the sustainable development path
- Forthcoming territorial-administrative reform will establish clear competencies between all levels of government and improved allocation of resources for investment in rural areas
- Implementation of SDGs is adequately resourced and managed, primarily through SDG-aligned domestic public and private finance
- The government remains continuously committed to respect, protect and fulfil human rights for all
- Fighting corruption and enhancing e-governance promotes foreign direct investment in Moldova
- The government undertakes a strategic approach to diaspora engagement that is based on building trust and on accessible and flexible governance mechanisms
- The COVID-19 crisis is resolved, ensuring economic and social stability and a more favourable external environment for implementing the UNSDCF 2023–2027
- The actors from both banks of the Nistru River involved in the Transnistrian conflict settlement process remain committed to creating new momentum for progress, supported by steps taken by the international community to strengthen and further build on confidence-building measures through new initiatives and innovative approaches, with the aim to attain a comprehensive, peaceful and sustainable settlement of the Transnistrian conflict based on the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Moldova within its internationally recognized borders;
- The government promotes evidence-informed policies and decision-making for demographic resilience to sustain and reverse demographic trends and migration patterns;
- The rising energy and price crisis is addressed and its impact on vulnerable groups is mitigated
- The flow of refugees due to geopolitical developments and the humanitarian crisis in the region is stabilized, and the government remains committed to fulfil the rights of refugees and asylum seekers in line with national and international legal and policy frameworks, including the Refugee Global Compact.

## Risks

**The main risks** to the implementation of the UNSDCF and sustainable progress towards the achievement of the SDGs in the country are as follows.

- The vulnerability of Moldova to geopolitical developments, in particular in the context of the heightened regional tensions that developed throughout 2021–2022 (including the war in Ukraine and the perceived risk of wider and/or protracted conflict in the region), is likely to have impact on the Transnistrian conflict settlement process and other results in relation to the country's energy security, trade and economy
- Political stability may be undermined by challenges in the gas and energy sector, as well as by the continuing impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, which may be further aggravated by the humanitarian crisis and could impact the government's capacity to implement its reform agenda
- Environmental hazards, including extreme drought and flooding, may increase poverty and force budget reallocations from the development sphere to address emergencies
- Poverty in the context of COVID-19-related measures, inflation and the gas crisis may increase, limiting budget allocations for spending on social and health services and active labour-market measures

For its part, the UNCT will operate based on the following assumptions: (i) inter-agency cooperation is strengthened including more coordinated mobilization of resources, joint programming and communication by ensuring strategic leadership in the United Nations Results Groups; (ii) the UNCT undertakes a more coherent approach across agencies to support civil society and systematically engages and consults with CSOs and community-based organizations (CBOs) in the UNSDCF 2023–2027 coordination structures, including the Results Groups, and in United Nations lead processes; (iii) the United Nations steps up its engagement with the private sector to ensure that private sector resources, including those of the diaspora, are deployed more effectively towards the solution of development problems; (iv) the UNCT ensures a harmonized approach to mainstreaming the Leave No One Behind Principle, a Human Rights-Based Approach, Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women and Resilience, Sustainability and Accountability across United Nations interventions and in cooperation with partners; (v) the UNCT undertakes more integrated efforts to target populations from both banks of the Nistru River; (vi) the UNCT demonstrates a stronger commitment to implementing the United Nations Disability Inclusion Strategy and ensures the mainstreaming of disability inclusion at the strategic and operational level to meet the targets in the UNCT Disability Inclusion Scorecard; and (vii) the UNCT works in a coordinated way to improve resource and partnership mobilization and to extend cooperation with IFIs.

**Table 1: Theory of Change of the UNSDCF 2023–2027**

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| <p><b>Vision (2030 Horizon)</b></p>   | <p>By 2030, Moldova is a country where people want to live and where all people fully exercise their human rights and enjoy better quality of life in a more inclusive and resilient society</p>  |  |   |   |
| <p><b>SF Strategic Priorities</b></p> | <p>Just and inclusive institutions and equal opportunities for human development</p>  | <p>Participatory governance and social cohesion</p>  | <p>Enhanced shared prosperity in a sustainable economy</p>  | <p>Green development, sustainable communities and disaster and climate resilience</p>   |
| <p><b>If UNSDCF Outcomes</b></p>      | <p><b>Outcome 1:</b> By 2027, institutions deliver human rights-based, evidence-informed and gender-responsive services for all with the focus on those who are left behind</p>   | <p><b>Outcome 2:</b> 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</p>   | <p><b>Outcome 3:</b> 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</p>   | <p><b>Outcome 4:</b> 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</p>  |
| <p><b>If Outputs</b></p>              | <p><b>Output 1.1.</b> 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</p> <p><b>Output 1.2.</b> Health, education and food systems are strengthened and become more resilient to ensure universal access and quality of services and respond to humanitarian needs</p> <p><b>Output 1.3.</b> Public institutions and CSOs/CBOs have enhanced</p> | <p><b>Output 2.1.</b> Regulatory framework and capacities of government and non-government institutions are enhanced to promote human rights, gender equality, non-discrimination and accountability</p> <p><b>Output 2.2.</b> Institutions at all levels have increased capacities to produce, share and utilize quality disaggregated data in line with national priorities and in accordance with</p> | <p><b>Output 3.1.</b> Policy and institutional frameworks create an empowering environment for inclusive and sustainable economic development that promotes creation of productive and decent work</p> <p><b>Output 3.2.</b> Regulatory framework and institutions promote economic empowerment of women and their equal access to decent work</p> <p><b>Output 3.3.</b> Enterprises are more resilient to crises and</p> | <p><b>Output 4.1.</b> Public authorities have enhanced environmental governance capacity to implement gender-responsive policy frameworks that promote climate resilient and green development and disaster risk reduction</p> <p><b>Output 4.2.</b> Public and private institutions have increased capacities to ensure effective sustainable management, protection and use of natural resources, improved energy resources efficiency and climate, emergency and disaster resilience that benefit most vulnerable and poor</p> |

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|                         | <p>capacities to ensure quality sustainable people-centered service delivery that is responsive to social, economic and environmental shocks and emergencies</p> <p><b>Output 1.4.</b> Rights holders, in particular from vulnerable groups, are empowered to access and claim for quality public services</p> <p><b>Output 1.5.</b> State institutions and CSOs ensure effective prevention and improved multisectoral response to address all forms of violence against women and girls, including harmful practices and discriminatory gender norms and stereotypes</p> | <p>international standards and methodologies</p> <p><b>Output 2.3.</b> 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</p> <p><b>Output 2.4.</b> Government and non-government actors have strengthened capacities and resources to address the humanitarian crisis, sustain peace and security at the national and regional level and ensure access to justice for all</p> | <p>have strengthened capacities to efficiently utilize resources, generate decent employment and integrate innovations to enhance productivity and competitiveness</p> <p><b>Output 3.4.</b> People of Moldova, in particular those left behind, have improved access to adequate protection and safe working conditions, knowledge, in-demand skills and resources to foster employability, competitiveness and entrepreneurship culture</p> | <p><b>Output 4.3.</b> Agricultural producers have strengthened capacities to engage in sustainable and resilient agricultural practices, integrate renewable energy sources and access new markets</p> <p><b>Output 4.4.</b> 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</p> |
| <b>SDG accelerators</b> | <b>SDG 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 10, 11, 17</b>   | <b>SDG 5, 10, 16, 17</b>  | <b>SDG 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9,10, 17</b>   | <b>SDG 2, 5, 7, 9, 11, 12, 13, 15, 17</b>  |
| <b>Assumptions</b>      | <p>Adequate funding is provided for health, education and social protection</p> <p>Development policies are informed by evidence, disaggregated data, impact and risks analysis, take into account population shifts, ageing and brain drain and target multidimensional causes of poverty and exclusion;</p>  | <p>Government demonstrates commitment to promotion, protection and fulfilment of human rights, achievement of gender equality and women’s empowerment</p> <p>Political stability enhances security and peace</p>  | <p>Public–private cooperation promotes technological innovations and the empowerment of people</p> <p>Anticorruption measures promote foreign investment and the mobilization of diaspora resources</p>   | <p>The government is committed to allocate sufficient funding and implement environment and climate-related multilateral agreements</p> <p>The government scales up support to inclusive and participatory green development, climate change action and emergency and disaster risk management</p>   |

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|  | <p>Digitalization reaches most vulnerable and poor enabling access to services and reduction of the digital divide.</p> | <p>The government commits to sustainable open, transparent and structured civil dialogue with active involvement of civil society, women's and youth movements and other advocates for the needs of most vulnerable and marginalized groups in Moldova</p> <p>Enhanced accountability and public engagement contribute to trust to the government and social cohesion.</p> | <p>Employment remains a priority on the reform agenda and adequate fiscal space is provided to sustain it;</p> <p>Demographic and migration trends are sustained or reversed.</p> | <p>Investment from the private sector, including resources of diaspora, and specialized funds is streamlined to promote sustainable use of natural resources and build resilience of people and communities</p> <p>Private enterprises are willing to integrate innovative climate-smart solutions and renewable energy, environmentally friendly waste management methods and responsible consumption and production patterns.</p> |
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**Areas of synergy**

- Risk governance and risk-informed development
- Coherence and complementarity of the humanitarian response with medium-term and long-term national development priorities
- Use of disaggregated data for evidence-informed decision-making
- Digital divide and technological innovations
- Youth participation
- Partnerships for sustainable development and SDG financing

## 2.2. STRATEGIC PRIORITIES FOR THE UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM

Based on the CCA and multi-stakeholder consultations, the United Nations in Moldova identified **four critical drivers** that present strategic priorities for the UNSDCF and emphasize the linkages across the economic, social, and environmental dimensions of sustainable development (see Table 1 for details). Their selection is informed by consideration of the potential impact the United Nations system aims to achieve in all areas under the direct attention of the UNSDCF 2023–2027 and in those areas that remain beyond. To that end, these priorities are interlinked and mutually reinforcing and may deliver benefits across multiple SDGs. These priorities also represent strategic opportunities to engage with a wider range of partners and stakeholders from a variety of sectors and international actors (IFIs, funds, etc.) and to capitalize on advantages stemming from regional and global platforms and cooperation mechanisms such as South–South and triangular cooperation.

Their selection is also informed by an assessment of the comparative advantages of the United Nations system in Moldova to ensure that it is well-positioned to provide value added through joint interventions in order to stimulate catalytic transformations across all sectors and dimensions of sustainable development, as well as to accelerate the achievement of the SDGs. These **drivers of change/strategic priorities** constitute the following.

1. **Achieving just and inclusive institutions** that have sufficient capacities to ensure effective delivery of quality human rights-based and gender-responsive services is a critical precondition for equal, sustainable and participatory human development, which is necessary to build the human capital that will drive social and economic transformation of the country. This should address the need for stronger investment in human development in Moldova on both banks of the Nistru River through more effective and responsive social protection and access to quality basic services, to empower those who persistently remain excluded to contribute to and, equally benefit from a more sustainable development of the country.
2. **Sustained participatory and accountable governance** in social, economic and environmental dimensions is regarded as the key driver for promoting changes under all areas of strategic priority for equal opportunities for human development, shared prosperity and building the well-being and resilience of people and communities to socioeconomic and environmental shocks and all types of hazard. Strengthening governance and the rule of law to contribute (among other outcomes) to the respect, protection and fulfilment of human rights and gender equality, providing access to justice and security and sustaining peace, will be given strong emphasis under the UNSDCF to ensure that structural barriers and bottlenecks preventing equal and meaningful participation and engagement of people in building a more cohesive society are effectively addressed and removed. In connection with this, social responsibility be enhanced through pro-activeness, co-creation, self-development, etc. in order to assist the state to help its population and accelerate the achievement of the SDGs.
3. **Enhanced and shared prosperity** underpinned by a **more sustainable inclusive economic development** is regarded as another powerful accelerator for equal access to human development. Connected with this, building human capital that can diversify and innovate economic activities and increase the proportion of high value and low-carbon circular industries connected to global value chains is a key precondition for boosting economic growth that benefits all. Comprehensively addressing the digital divide and skills mismatch, as well as gender segregation in the labour market, persistent discrimination of some marginalized groups, low

protection at work and low competitiveness and inclusiveness of the private sector, should facilitate the development of a human capital that will drive the transformation of the Moldovan economy. At the same time, it is critical to strengthen governance and institutional capacities to ensure that policies and service delivery are based on a human rights and non-discrimination approach and to stimulate the mobilization of available resources (including through engagement with the diaspora) for the creation of decent employment, innovativeness and competitiveness of enterprises to enhance livelihoods and incomes. In addition, interlinked areas such as well-developed transport and road systems, connectivity, trade and sustainable value chains and sustainable urban development are very important factors contributing prosperity and economic development.

4. Finally, greater emphasis on **green development, climate change mitigation and adaptation**, as well as on **emergency and disaster resilience**, are expected to have a catalytic effect on social and economic dimensions contributing to the reduction of poverty and inequalities. Strengthening environmental governance and institutional capacities at all levels to integrate sustainable solutions for mitigating climate and all types of risks; promoting effective and participatory management, protection and sustainable use of natural resources, including through Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEA);<sup>28</sup> and encouraging cleaner production and energy efficiency are important preconditions for building the resilience of people and communities. It is also essential to strengthen national and local capacities to avert, manage and address population displacement related to the adverse impacts of climate change in Moldova. Achieving a cleaner, greener environment and enhanced gender-responsive resilience also largely depend on responsible investment, consumption and behavioural change at the level of people and institutions by eliminating outdated resource practices, including energy inefficiency. In order to produce a transformative effect in this area, more efforts are needed to increase awareness and ensure meaningful and informed participation of people and groups in addressing environmental and climate change issues.

The UNSDCF 2023–2027 recognizes that, in order to promote complex transformations under the selected strategic priorities, the United Nations system in Moldova is required to undertake a more systematic approach to cooperation with the government, building on the natural comparative advantages of the United Nations agencies as impartial providers of policy advice, high-quality technical expertise based on international experience and good practices and as conveners of a wide range of national and international development partners.

Using the opportunities stemming from the global and national commitments made by Moldova under the 2030 Agenda as leverage for achieving results under the UNSDCF 2023–2027, the United Nations will support the government through: (i) strengthening collaboration between public, private and civil society sectors for implementing the SDG agenda; (ii) attracting national and international investment into the areas of strategic priority to accelerate transformational change in relation to key development challenges; (iii) providing an objective space for civil dialogue that promotes respect, protection and fulfilment of human rights, gender equality, non-discrimination and peace throughout the whole country; (iv) building the capacities of institutions at all levels to target the systemic change required for the country to remain on track to achieve the SDGs and meet national and international obligations and

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<sup>28</sup> Including through five MEAs and their protocols: <https://unece.org/environment-policy/conventions-and-protocols>.

commitments; and (v) promoting a holistic approach to achievement of the strategic priorities, which includes enhanced cross-sectoral alignment and synergies resulting from the interventions of national and international development actors.

### 2.3. INTENDED DEVELOPMENT RESULTS

Working together with the government and other stakeholders under four selected strategic priorities, the United Nations system in Moldova will focus under the UNSDCF 2023–2027 on key SDG accelerators and targets that might reinforce the achievement of other goals. Aligned with the priorities reflected in the NDS Moldova 2030 and in national plans and programmes, these goals and targets were identified as a result of the CCA and multi-stakeholder consultations as having the most potential in the context of the country to produce a transformative effect on all dimensions of sustainable development.

Under the strategic priority *Just and Inclusive Institutions and Equal Opportunities for Human Development*, the United Nations system in Moldova is going to support the government in reducing multidimensional poverty (**SDG 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 1.a and SDG 11.1**), thus also contributing to the elimination of inequalities (**SDG 10.1, SDG 10.2, SDG 10.7**). Gender equality will receive special attention and partners intend to consolidate their efforts to promote progress in several targets (SDG 5.6, 5.c), including those relating to the access of women to gender-sensitive health and prevention services (**SDG 3.1. and 3.2**); the elimination of all forms of gender-based violence (**SDG 5.2**); and ensuring access to sexual and reproductive health services and education, including family planning (**SDG 3.7**). Strengthening the health system and achieving universal health coverage (**SDG 3.8**) in Moldova for the most vulnerable populations should lead to the achievement of several targets under **SDG 3 (SDG 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.5, 3.7, 3.b, 3.d)**. Food security, healthy diets and nutrition will receive increased attention and will be approached as part of sustainable food systems development (**SDG 2.2**). To reduce inequalities in the access to, and the quality of, education, the focus will be on deepening the inclusiveness of the education system, especially for marginalized groups (**SDG 4.2, 4.5**), and on increasing its relevance to the needs of economic development and responsiveness to new global challenges imposed by technological advancements and the COVID-19 crisis (**SDG 4.4**). At the same time, the role of the education system will be enhanced to promote the knowledge and skills essential for sustainable development, such as on healthy and sustainable lifestyles, on human rights and gender equality and on a culture of tolerance, non-violence, peace and global citizenship (**SDG 4.7**).

Achieving good governance is a fundamental prerequisite for the social and economic transformation of society. Intended results under the strategic priority of *Participatory Governance and Social Cohesion* relate to several targets under **SDG 5, SDG, 10 and SDG 16**. Progress in these areas should help the country meet its human rights commitments towards sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels, as well as its national priorities in relation to this, also aligned with the Association Agreement. Progress in justice, governance and public administration reforms (**SDG 16.3, 16.5, 16.6, 16.7, 16.a**) should ameliorate other results, in particular relating to the elimination of violence against women and children (**SDG 16.1, 16.2**). In addition to this, strengthening the rule of law (**SDG 16.3**) and effectively tackling all sorts of discrimination (**10.3, 16.b**) is expected to enhance a sense of security and to build trust and social cohesion in society. Tackling the challenges relating to data availability on the SDGs, the United Nations system in Moldova will support the government in strengthening the capacities of institutions to produce and utilize national statistics, including the census data (as the main and only source for data on specific vulnerable groups to be targeted within UNSDCF), built on the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics (FPOS) and in

compliance with the European Statistics Code of Practice and in knowledgeable reliable and disaggregated data (**SDG 17.18**) for effective policies to leave no one behind. In particular, data gaps in relation to the demographic situation and migration, as well as on persons with disabilities, ethnic and religious minorities, violence against women and in some other areas are to be addressed.

Under the strategic priority ***Enhanced Shared Prosperity in a Sustainable Economy***, the UNSDCF will support the reduction of informal employment (**SDG 8.5**) and increased productivity of the economy (**SDG 1.2**) underpinned by the development of human capital, which benefits from improved access to knowledge and skills and entrepreneurship (**SDG 4.3**) and contributes to the diversification and competitiveness of the economy, in particular of small and medium-sized enterprises (**SDG 9.3**). To ensure that women can equally benefit from and contribute to inclusive economic growth, several interrelated targets under **SDG 8** and **SDG 5 (SDG 5.5, 5.c)**, will be emphasized, while partners from different sectors will continue working on creating decent and safe jobs (**SDG 8.3, 8.8**), adoption of wage and social protection policies (SDG 10.4), and economic opportunities for the most vulnerable populations (**SDG 8.6**). To help the country build the resilience of economy – particularly in the context of the energy crisis, geopolitical tensions and the post-COVID-19 recovery – the focus will be on the capacities of the private sector (including small agricultural producers) to innovate and to increase productivity and competitiveness, as well as to greening the economy, in order to secure new markets and integrate into the global and regional value chains (**SDG 2.3, 2.4, 2.b, 9.3**).

Under the strategic priority ***Green Development, Sustainable Communities and Disaster and Climate Resilience***, United Nations Moldova will promote progress towards the achievement of several goals (**SDG 13, SDG 6, SDG 7, SDG 12, SDG 2 and SDG 15**). One of the main directions of work will include strengthening environmental governance in the country, which is expected to accelerate the achievement of several SDG targets under other goals (**SDG 3, 5, 8 and 9**) in the scope of the UNSDCF. This will help the country effectively implement commitments under the climate change action, such as decreasing greenhouse gas emissions and enhancing climate and disaster resilience (**SDG 13.1, 13.2, 13.b**). More sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources (**SDG 12.2, 12.c**) and their protection (**SDG 15.1, SDG 15.b**) should further strengthen the resilience of urban and rural communities, including those who may be most affected by social and economic shocks induced by climate change (**SDG 11.6**). Supporting the country to move forward on its path to a green economy, the UNSDCF will promote the integration of innovative solutions on low emissions, climate resilience and the development of green enterprises, which should positively affect related targets on energy efficiency (**SDG 7.3**) and increase the resilience and competitiveness of agricultural producers (**SDG 2.3, 2.4**). In line with the VNR recommendations to increase the social responsibility of people for achieving the SDGs, the UNSDCF will contribute to raising broader awareness on climate change and sustainable development (**SDG 13.3, 12.8**) in order to foster the meaningful engagement of all people of Moldova, particularly women (**SDG 5.5**), and to mobilize resources to address environmental degradation, ineffective natural resources management practices and reduce the impact of climate change on people and economic growth (**SDG 17.4 and 17.6**).

To maximize the positive impact that intended results under the Outcomes are expected to produce in relation to the gaps and challenges to be addressed by the UNSDCF 2023–2027 and, further, regarding the achievement of the 2030 Agenda, the UNCT agreed on some **cross-cutting issues** to be mainstreaming into agency-specific result frameworks and projects.

- **Risk governance and risk-informed management** will inform the interventions under the UNSDCF 2023–2027, given its utmost importance in the context of the current economic and

humanitarian crisis, but also to build back better after the COVID-19 slow down and enhance resilience of people, the economy and the environment in the long term

- **Coherence and complementarity between the Refugee Response Plan (RRP) and the UNSDCF** will be consistently promoted, ensuring the refugee response contributes to medium-term and long-term national development priorities and building the resilience of systems and services to prepare them for crises and emergencies and to increase their governance capacities to address the immediate needs of refugees and hosting communities, while considering issues of inclusion and cohesion in the long-term perspective
- **The Production of disaggregated data** which is lacking for specific groups of population and its **use for evidence-informed decision-making** is given special attention in the UNSDCF, with dedicated outputs and indicators, and joint efforts in this area of work should have a positive effect on overall policy coherence and responsiveness to the needs of the country and its population, including those who are at risk of exclusion
- To address the global challenges and lessons learned from COVID-19, the United Nations system in Moldova will mainstream issues of **digital divide** into their intervention and will promote **technologic innovations** in order to address barriers to equal and inclusive human development, raise living standards and boost the competitiveness of the economy
- **Youth participation** will be emphasized across all outcomes and results areas, and the disaggregation of indicators will allow for capturing specific challenges pertinent to youth, as well as reflecting opportunities for meaningful youth engagement in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda
- Finally, **partnerships for sustainable development** will be promoted across all results, with respective SDG 17 targets being integrated into the workplans. Using the UNSDCF as a leverage to address SDG financing gaps, the United Nations system will capitalize on opportunities that may become available as the result of advocacy and the implementation of the partnership and resources mobilization strategy to increase investments from a diversity of sources and to accelerate progress under the outcomes in relation to the nationalized SDG targets

## 2.4. UNSDCF OUTCOMES AND PARTNERSHIPS

### Priority Area 1: Just and Inclusive Institutions and Equal Opportunities for Human Development

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

**SDG targets: SDG 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 1.a; SDG 2.1, 2.2, SDG 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.5, 3.7, 3.8, 3.b, 3.d; SDG 4.1, 4.2, 4.4, 4.5, 4.7; SDG 5.2, 5.6, 5.c; SDG 10.7; SDG 11.1; SDG 17.9**

#### Theory of Change

The Theory of Change for this outcome suggests that, in order to promote inclusive human development and to build human capital to drive the economic transformation of the country, it is essential **to improve the delivery of services by strengthening government and non-government institutions** to ensure equal access to human rights-based, evidence-informed, and gender-responsive services for all, particularly with

a focus on those who find themselves in disadvantaged situations or who are at risk of being excluded or marginalized.

Delivery of services that are relevant and reach those who need them the most depends on the existence of a regulatory and policy framework that is evidence-based and takes demographic trends into account that have particular significance for the context of an ageing population and large-scale outmigration. At the same time, as the lessons learned from the COVID-19 crisis suggest, it is equally important to promote changes at the level of systems (especially the health, education and food systems) to ensure they are not only inclusive and ensure universal access and quality of services, but also become more resilient in the face of crises and emergencies. Connected to this, cooperation partners will develop the capacities of public institutions and CSOs/CBOs to enable them to ensure quality and sustainable people-centred and gender-sensitive service delivery that is responsive to social, economic and environmental shocks and emergencies. Concurrently, it is critical to remove barriers – including those entrenched in the system and in people’s behaviour stereotypes, norms and harmful practices – that prevent rights holders (among them the most vulnerable) from benefiting from services and more inclusive human development. Therefore, cooperation partners will continue working on an improved multisectoral response to the effective prevention and elimination of all forms of violence against women and girls, including harmful practices and discriminatory gender norms and stereotypes. Along with this, and to accelerate achievement of the SDGs, more emphasis will be given under the UNSDCF to empower stakeholders from the most vulnerable groups so that they are able to claim and access quality public services and contribute in their own way to the more inclusive sustainable development of the country.

Achievement of targets under this outcome is directly conditioned by progress under Outcome 2, in particular in connection with outputs relating to the enhanced regulatory framework, improved access and use of disaggregated data, as well as to enhanced access to justice, peace and security. In turn, the empowerment of rights holders promoted through an improved regulatory and institutional environment and access to services should have a positive effect on multiple targets under participatory governance (Outcome 2), shared prosperity (Outcome 3) and climate and environmental resilience (Outcome 4).

The sustainability of the Theory of Change depends on several assumptions, mainly relating to the provision of adequate funding for health, education and social protection; improved policymaking informed by evidence, disaggregated data and impact and risk analyses, taking population shifts into account and targeting the multidimensional causes of poverty and exclusion; and the success of the digitalization reform in reaching the most vulnerable and poor, enabling access to services and contributing to the reduction of the digital divide.

**Vulnerable groups:** These include vulnerable women, young people and children, particularly in rural areas; Roma and ethno-linguistic minorities; victims of human trafficking; vulnerable migrants; persons with disabilities; survivors of sexual and gender-based violence; persons living with HIV; LGBTQI+ persons; children and adolescents left behind without parental supervision; people in detention and people released from prisons; asylum seekers, refugees and stateless persons; drugs users; sex workers; and older people.

**National development strategies and plans:** These include the NDS Moldova 2030; the Government Activity Programme and Action Plan 2021–2022; the NHRAP 2018–2022; the Development Strategy in the Field of Internal Affairs for the years 2022-2030 (draft); the Programme for Managing the Migration Flows, Asylum and Integration of Foreigners 2022–2025 (draft); the National Diaspora Strategy 2025; the National Programme for Promoting the Return and Reintegration of Moldovan Migrants 2022–2026; the National Regional Development Strategy of the Republic of Moldova 2022–2028; the National Programme on Growth Poles Development in the Republic of Moldova 2021–2027; the National Programme on Active

and Healthy Ageing 2023–2027; the National Programme on Social Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities 2017–2022; the National Programme on Deinstitutionalization of Persons with Intellectual and Psychosocial Disabilities from Residential Institutions Under National Social Assistance Agency 2018–2026; the National TB and HIV/AIDS/STI Control and Prophylaxis Programmes 2022–2025; the National Immunization Programme 2022–2025; the National Programme on Child Protection 2022–2026 (draft); the Programme for National Integrated State Border Management Strategy 2022–2025; the National Programme on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights 2017–2022 (and the new programme covering the next five years); the National Strategy on Education 2030; the National Strategy for Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence 2018–2023; the National Programme and Action Plan on Gender Equality for 2022–2026 (draft); the National Health Strategy 2022–2031 (draft); the National Tuberculosis Response Programme 2022–2025; the National Strategy against Trafficking of Human Beings 2018–2022; the Programme for Support of Roma Population in the Republic of Moldova 2022–2025; the National Strategy for Agriculture and Rural Development 2022–2027 (draft); the National Employment Programme 2022–2027 (draft); the Decent Work Country Programme 2021–2024; the National Drug Control Strategy 2020–2027; the Programme for Public Order and Security 2022–2025; the Programme for Crime Prevention and Control 2022–2025; the Programme for Emergency and Exceptional Situations Management 2022–2025; and the Programme for Strengthening the Trust and Security of Society through Training, Integrity and Digitization of the Internal Affairs System 2022–2025.

**Partnerships:** The United Nations will further promote strategic partnerships with governmental and non-governmental institutions in order to achieve Outcome 1. A particular focus will be given to private sector engagement and building the capacities of local CSOs and NGOs to support the empowerment of rights holders to claim for their human rights and to facilitate the implementation of evidence-informed and gender-responsive services for all, with a focus on those who are left behind. Building partnerships with the following institutions will ensure the agreed results: local public authorities; the NBS; the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Bureau for Migration and Asylum; the Department of Border Police; the Diaspora Relations Bureau; the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection; the National Agency for Social Assistance; the Ministry of Education and Research; the Ministry of Health; the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry; the National Food Safety Agency; the Medical State University; the National Agency of Public Health; the National Health Insurance Company; the e-Governance Agency; the Ministry of Economy and Infrastructure; Ministry of Finance; State Chancellery; CSOs; NGOs; research institutions; and youth networks.

## **Priority Area 2: Participatory Governance and Social Cohesion**

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

**SDG targets: SDG 5.1, 5.2, 5.5, 5.c; SDG 10.2, 10.3, 10.7; SDG 16.1, 16.2, 16.3, 16.6, 16.7, 16.a, 16.b; SDG 17.3, 17.18**

### **Theory of Change**

Achieving more accountable, transparent, human rights-based and gender-responsive governance is not only essential for building trust in the government and, more generally, in institutions in Moldova; but it is also important for empowering people, including the most disadvantaged and marginalized, to participate in all spheres of life and to contribute to the sustainable development of the country. The Theory of Change underlying this outcome emphasizes the changes that should happen at the system and institutional level with the ultimate target of strengthening the capacity of the state as the main duty bearer in the implementation of its international human rights obligations and in promoting human rights, gender equality, non-discrimination and accountability. Targeted improvement in the regulatory framework and in building the capacities of the duty bearer's institutions is directly linked with increasing the capacities of data holders and providers to produce and share quality disaggregated data. Relatedly, support to state institutions to build enough/relevant capacities to produce and utilize disaggregated data for decision-making and accountability should ameliorate several key challenges identified by the CCA, such as weak policy relevance and coherence (particularly in addressing inequalities); the lack of risk-informed management linked to the low resilience of institutions and systems; limited analytical capacities; and inadequate abilities to monitor the impact and report on the achievement of the SDGs.

Increased participation from all people (especially those from underrepresented groups) in public and civic life, governance (including census enumeration) and decision-making processes is equally important to promote the coherence and relevance of policies and services to the needs of all segments of population, but also to hold duty bearers accountable and to gain trust and improve social cohesion. To this end, cooperation under the UNSDCF will promote the empowerment of rights holders, including the most marginalized, to participate in public and civic life and to react against violations of human rights, intolerance or discrimination and to put pressure on the state to respect, protect and fulfil the human rights of all people regardless of their gender, ethnicity, social status, disability or other characteristics. Instrumental to these positive changes, there is a need to strengthen the capacities of government and non-government actors to sustain peace and security at the national and regional level (including the refugee crisis) and to ensure access to justice for all in order to enhance political stability and to provide a secure environment for people to fully exercise their human rights.

Key assumptions underlying the Theory of Change include the commitment of the government to promoting, protecting and fulfilling human rights and to the achievement of gender equality and women's empowerment, as well as to holding sustainable open, transparent and structured civil dialogue with the active involvement of CSOs, women's and youth movements and other advocates for the needs of most vulnerable and marginalized groups in Moldova. It also depends on the persistence with which the government implements structural reforms, including justice sector and public administration reforms, and, through this, enhances accountability and public engagement and strengthens social cohesion.

**Vulnerable groups:** These include vulnerable women, young people and children, particularly in rural areas; Roma and ethno-linguistic minorities; victims of human trafficking; vulnerable migrants; persons with disabilities; survivors of sexual and gender-based violence; persons living with HIV; LGBTQI+ persons; children and adolescents left behind without parental supervision; people in detention and those released from prisons; asylum seekers, refugees, and stateless persons; drugs users; sex workers; and older people.

**National development strategies and plans:** These include the NDS Moldova 2030; ; the Government Activity Programme and Government Action Plan for 2021-2022; the National Human Rights Action Plan 2018–2022 the National Integrity and Anticorruption Strategy 2017–2023; the National Strategy on Development of the Youth Sector “Tineret 2030” (draft); the Strategy for the Development of the National Statistical System 2030 (draft); the Program for Crime Prevention and Control 2022–2025 (draft); the Program for Strengthening the Trust and Security of Society through Training, Integrity and Digitization of

the Internal Affairs System 2022-2025 (draft); the Development Strategy in the Field of Internal Affairs for the years 2022-2030 (draft); the National Programme on Child Protection 2022-2026 (draft); the Strategy for Ensuring Independence and Integrity of the Justice Sector 2022–2025; the National Programme and Action Plan on Gender Equality 2022–2026 (draft); the National Programme on Active and Healthy Ageing 2023–2027 (draft); the National Programme for the Implementation of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security (draft); the Strategy for Consolidation of Inter-Ethnic Relations in the Republic of Moldova 2017–2027; the Programme for Support of Roma Population in the Republic of Moldova 2022–2025 (draft); the National Programme on Social Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities 2017–2022; the Strategy for Development of Public Finance Management 2013–2022 (new draft developed in 2022); and the-; Strategy on Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence 2018–2023.

**Partnerships:** Strategic partnerships will be further developed with national and local public institutions in order to empower citizens to participate in good governance at all levels, and strong collaborations will be developed with the local public authorities; the NBS; the Demographic Research Centre; the State Chancellery; the Ministry of Internal Affairs; the Ministry of Finance; the Ministry of Justice; the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection; the Department for Penitentiary Institutions; the Agency for Inter-Ethnic Relations; the NHRC; the Permanent Human Rights Secretariat; the Equality Council; the People’s Advocate Office; the National Legal Aid Centre; the National Youth Agency; CSOs; CBOs; youth and other specialized networks; and universities.

### **Priority Area 3: Enhanced Shared Prosperity in a Sustainable Economy**

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

**SDG targets: SDG 1.2; SDG 2.3, 2.4, 2.b; SDG 4.4; SDG 5.4, 5.c; SDG 8.3, 8.5, 8.6, 8.8; SDG 9.3; SDG 10.7.4; SDG 17.3**

#### **Theory of Change**

Achieving higher economic productivity and, consequently, higher living standards requires creating equal opportunities for all people of Moldova to contribute to inclusive and sustainable economic growth. The Theory of Change asserts that the creation of an empowering environment for inclusive and sustainable economic development through policy and institutional frameworks that promote the creation of productive and decent work is a major precondition for equal and meaningful participation of all people in the economy and to address the problem of shrinking human capital due to outmigration and the ageing of the population.

In connection with this, it is essential to enhance the regulatory environment to ensure it promotes suitable conditions for labour- force participation by women and vulnerable groups, for example persons with disabilities. These efforts should be complemented by interventions that target improved access (particularly for those left behind) to adequate protection and to safe working conditions in line with international labour standards, knowledge, in-demand skills and resources to foster an employability, competitiveness and entrepreneurship culture in Moldova. Finally, the capacities of enterprises should be

strengthened to enable them to create green and decent jobs, to efficiently utilize resources (including green and renewable energy), to contribute to sustainable urban development and to integrate innovations to enhance their productivity and competitiveness and resilience to global and geopolitical crises and emergencies.

Interlinked with Outcome 4, the results under this outcome should support the development of a diversified and competitive economy in Moldova and contribute to the reduction of poverty and of rural and urban inequalities. Together with Outcome 1, this outcome will be instrumental in addressing the root causes of exclusion and discrimination and to promoting equal human development.

The robustness of the Theory of Change is conditioned by several assumptions: public–private cooperation to promote technological innovations and the empowerment of people via citizens participation, among others; anticorruption measures to promote foreign investment and the mobilization of diaspora resources; and effective efforts to address demographic changes and migration and to sustain and develop human capital. At the same time, as for other priorities, it is vital that the government builds effective and sustainable public–private partnerships and engages the private sector to contribute more proactively to SDG agenda implementation and monitoring.

**Vulnerable groups:** These include vulnerable women and youth, including NEET; poor people in rural areas; returning migrants and their families; refugees and asylum seekers; stateless persons; small agricultural producers; persons with disabilities; Roma and ethno-linguistic minorities; and older people.

**National development strategies and plans:** These include the NDS Moldova 2030; ; the Government Activity Programme of Action and Government Action Plan for 2021–2022; the; National Human Rights Action Plan 2018–2022; the Development Strategy in the Field of Internal Affairs for the years 2022–2030 (draft); the Programme for Managing the Migration Flows, Asylum and Integration of Foreigners 2022–2025 (draft); the National Diaspora Strategy 2025; the National Programme for Promoting Return and Reintegration of Moldovan Migrants 2022–2026; the Programme for Integrated State Border Management 2022–2025 (draft); the National Regional Development Strategy of the Republic of Moldova 2022–2028; the National Programme on Growth Poles Development in the Republic of Moldova 2021–2027; the National Employment Programme 2022–2027 (draft); the Decent Work Country Programme 2021–2024; the National Programme and Action Plan on Gender Equality 2022–2026 (draft); the Programme of Support for the Roma Population in the Republic of Moldova 2022–2025 (draft); the National Strategy for Agriculture and Rural Development 2022–2027 (draft); and the National Programme on Supporting Clustering Initiatives (draft).

**Partnerships:** Strategic partnerships will be developed with line ministries, as well as with regional and local governments. Private sector engagement will be essential to achieve the expected results under this outcome. Partnerships with the following institutions are considered indispensable: the Ministry of Economy; the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry; regional and local governments; ; the Organization for Small and Medium Enterprises Sector Development; the Diaspora Relations Bureau; the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection; trade unions; employer organizations; the e-Governance Agency; the Economic Council of the Prime Minister; MSMEs; NGOs; youth-led and women-led organizations; farmer associations; multiple industrial associations; business associations; and chambers of commerce.

#### **Priority Area 4: Green Development, Sustainable Communities and Disaster and Climate Resilience**

**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**

**SDG targets: SDG 2.4; SDG 5.5; SDG7.3; SDG 9.4; SDG 11.6; SDG 12.2; SDG 13.1, 13.2, 13.3, 13.b; SDG 15.1, 15.b; SDG 17.14, 17.16**

## Theory of Change

Fostering green development would allow the country to realize the untapped potential and available global resources to stimulate a transformation that would facilitate progress towards all pillars of sustainable development, enhancing human well-being, yielding responsible but competitive economic growth and increasing the overall resilience of people and communities. The Theory of Change in this outcome recognizes the need to focus on several drivers for change that will have a catalytic effect on several targets under the UNSDCF 2023–2027, such as people’s health, job creation, innovativeness and competitiveness of businesses and the increased social responsibility of population of Moldova for the sustainable development agenda.

Achieving enhanced environmental governance capacity to implement gender-responsive policy frameworks that promote climate resilient and green development and disaster risk reduction is one key precondition that will not only enable the country to meet its commitments under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Kyoto Protocol, the Paris Agreement and related targets and other MEAs,<sup>29</sup> but will also increase the resilience of urban and rural communities and the most vulnerable populations to the adverse impacts of climate change to prevent human, social and economic losses. Improved environmental governance also encompasses creating a conducive environment for small and medium-sized enterprises to promote innovation within all sectors, including the use of cleaner technologies.

Considering the importance of agriculture for economic growth in Moldova and its criticality for ensuring food security amid the economic and refugee crisis, it is important to strengthen the capacities of those involved in agriculture (particularly small farmers) to engage in sustainable and resilient agricultural practices, to integrate renewable energy sources and to access new markets. At the same time, it is critical to strengthen the social responsibility of businesses and people regarding a clean environment and the sustainable use of natural and energy resources. To pursue positive changes at the institutional and behavioural level, it will be necessary to build the capacities of public and private institutions to ensure effective sustainable management, the protection and use of natural resources, improved energy efficiency, and climate, emergency and disaster resilience that benefits the most vulnerable and poor, as well as to engage partners from public institutions and civil society to promote meaningful participation of local communities and other rights holders (including from vulnerable groups) in developing and deploying sustainable solutions to address environmental degradation, climate change and natural disasters and hazards.

In addition to interlinkages with Outcome 3, the results under this outcome will directly affect targets under Outcome 1, especially in relation to health and education. Nevertheless, they will be conditioned by the progress achieved under participatory governance to ensure that green development and climate

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<sup>29</sup> Including five MEAs and their protocols: <https://unece.org/environment-policy/conventions-and-protocols>.

change adaptation and disaster risks reduction measures are responsive to all people in Moldova regardless of sex, age, disability and migration status or socioeconomic characteristics.

Critical assumptions underlying the Theory of Change for this outcome mainly relate to the commitment of government to attract and allocate sufficient funding and to implement environment and climate-related multilateral agreements. This should allow scaling up support to inclusive and participatory green development, climate change action and emergency and disaster risk management. Other than that, building effective partnerships in order to increase investment from the private sector (including diaspora resources) to promote the sustainable use of natural resources and build the resilience of people and communities is of utmost importance and should be supported by smart policy solutions that motivate private enterprises to integrate innovative climate-smart solutions and renewable energy, environmentally-friendly waste management methods and responsible consumption and production patterns.

**Vulnerable groups:** These include vulnerable women in rural areas; poor and female-headed households; small agricultural producers; Roma; youth; older people; persons with disabilities; and refugees and asylum seekers.

**National development strategies and plans:** These include the NDS Moldova 2030; the Government Activity Programme and Government Action Plan 2021–2022; ; the National Environment Strategy 2014–2023; the Development Strategy in the Field of Internal Affairs for the years 2022-2030 (draft); the Programme for Emergency and Exceptional Situations Management 2022-2025 (draft); the National Strategy for Agriculture and Rural Development 2022–2027 (draft); the Land Reclamation Programme to Ensure Sustainable Soil Management 2021–2025; the Low Emission Development Strategy 2030; and the National Climate Change Adaptation Programme 2023–2028 (draft).

**Partnerships:** Ensuring strategic partnerships with line ministries, sectoral coordination structures and the private sector will be key to achieving Outcome 4. In particular, the private sector will play a pivotal role in supporting R&D and in streamlining investments in green production and technologies. The government will also have a key role in promoting and supporting green investment and the transition to green energy and in improving policy frameworks. The main partners will be: the Ministry of Environment; the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry; the Ministry of Economy; the local public authorities NBS; the Diaspora Relations Bureau; the Organization for Small and Medium Enterprises Sector Development business associations; industrial organizations; and IFIs.

## 2.5. SYNERGIES BETWEEN UNSDCF OUTCOMES

The design of the UNSDCF (Theory of Change) establishes the interlinkages between the outcomes at the SDG target level, which should facilitate achievement of the intended results by United Nations Moldova and their partners through synergies to produce a multiplying effect on achieving the goals that are within the focus of the UNSDCF and those that remain beyond. The UNCT will also closely follow up on the process of localization of SDG targets and indicators into the national strategies and Action Plans and use opportunities stemming from increased ownership of particular targets to promote synergies through strategic partnerships with relevant partners.

The UNSDCF also takes into consideration the linkages between sustainable peace and development within the specific Moldovan context. Priority areas and outcomes include goals and activities that take a holistic approach to promoting equitable economic opportunities, human rights and gender equality while also strengthening dialogue and social cohesion, including in the context of the protracted conflict with the Transnistrian region and heightened geopolitical tensions.

Furthermore, the UNSDCF exists in complementarity with the RRP. The RRP is the fundraising, coordination and planning instrument for the humanitarian response to refugees in Moldova. While responding to humanitarian needs, it also serves as a transition plan to promote the inclusion of refugees in the country. With overall emphasis on building resilience of the systems, institutions and people to crises and emergencies, the UNSDCF design holistically integrates multidimensional issues of protection, safety and access to basic needs and services (such as health, nutrition and education) through a multisectoral human rights and gender equality-based approach, complementing an inter-agency RRP plan to ensure coherent and comprehensive solutions to the refugee crisis and strengthening the humanitarian–development–peace nexus.

Implementation of the UNSDCF will benefit from the existence of several regional platforms and partnerships, such as: EaP; CAREC; the Budapest and Prague Processes; the Central European Initiative; the Commonwealth of Independent States; the Police Cooperation Convention for Southeast Europe; the Regional Cooperation Council; and the South-Eastern Europe Health Network. Synergies with these and other regional and global frameworks, for example the Global Forum on Migration and Development, will be further explored, leveraging regional United Nations expertise and assets, including engagement with regional collaborative platforms regarding related results areas to ensure coherence and complementarity across interventions, as well as to reach out to non-United Nations stakeholders.

The UNSDCF will leverage the participation of Moldova in human rights monitoring mechanisms such as UPR, Treaty Body reviews and Special Procedures and the implementation of international human rights standards and conventions (such as CEDAW, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and the Istanbul Convention) to strengthen the government's respect, protection and fulfilment of human rights. Mainstreaming of principles of Leaving of No One Behind, Human Rights and Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment will be supported through all results areas, and by reflecting in the results matrix the specific gaps in the identified in the recommendations received by human rights oversight mechanisms and instruments and followed up by actions reflected in the national human rights plans (among others).

## 2.6. SUSTAINABILITY

The UNSDCF has been developed in close dialogue and consultation with the government and stakeholders from civil society and the private sector. The selection of priorities and SDG targets has been directly aligned with national priorities and the country's aspirations relating to its accession to the European Union, which should contribute to the sustainability of results under the outcomes. Furthermore, the UNSDCF 2023–2027 results matrix integrates outputs and indicators under each of the outcomes that present changes in capacity that are necessary for the sustainability of results, including building an enabling legal and policy environment, institutional and human capacity development and the engagement of partners and beneficiaries (including from the most marginalized and vulnerable groups). Involvement of United Nations agencies in the development and revision of the policy framework and sectorial strategies as well as budget development for the ministries will promote sustainability of developed products and services. In addition, as a part of their programme and project exit strategies, all

United Nations agencies will ensure relevant capacity development at the partner institutions to ensure they are able to take ownership of results under the UNSDCF.

The UNSDCF places a strong focus on synergies with the European Union Association Agreement and respective strategic plans, as well as relevance to the recommendations received by human rights monitoring instruments and mechanisms established for implementing conventions, and this should contribute to national ownership of the results. In addition, the United Nations system will promote a multisectoral approach (which brought more sustainable solutions to a variety of developmental challenges under the previous programme) and will advocate for its institutionalization.

The revised UNSDCF governance structure should ensure better alignment with the plans of SDG coordination bodies and institutions providing technical support (such as the State Chancellery) to support the country to address the development challenges identified in the VNR. In this regard, the UNCT, together with partners, will raise national capacities to integrate SDG indicators and targets into the national planning and monitoring system and to harmonize budgeting for the SDGs. This should achieve greater accountability for achieving the nationalized SDG indicators and, further, should enhance the national capacity to monitor the achievement of the SDGs. Building national SDG M&E capacity, including in terms of the collection of disaggregated data, remains one of the key priorities of the UNSDCF 2023–2027.

Finally, the United Nations system will support the government institutions in implementation of important further steps, as outlined in the VNR 2020, such as better integration of SDG targets and indicators in the main strategic and programmatic documents, use of disaggregated data to measure vulnerabilities in development and implementation of social, economic and environmental policies, as well as allocation of sufficient financial resources. These interventions will enhance national ownership of SDGs and contribute to the sustainability of results under the UNSDCF as linked to specific SDG targets.

## 2.7. UNITED NATIONS COMPARATIVE ADVANTAGES AND UNCT CONFIGURATION

The United Nations has been a valued partner in Moldova and, as the evidence from the multi-stakeholder consultations suggests, there will be high demand for UNCT expertise and services from the government. This support will relate in particular to the country's integration into the European Union, touching on a number of areas (human rights, gender equality, migration, climate change, transparent governance, demographic resilience, etc.), as well as relating to support for the implementation of the NDS Moldova 2030 (which is being updated). All these present strategic opportunities to promote further coordination within the UNCT and to fine-tune cooperation towards a more integrated approach, with the overarching goal of accelerating progress towards the nationalized SDG targets.

While the country is still pulling itself out of the post-COVID-19 crisis, the regional tensions and the refugee situation are most likely to have unprecedented consequences that might affect the UNSDCF for the whole of its cycle. Also, depending on the development of the refugee crisis, the UNCT may need to continue supporting the implementation of the refugee response and to work in close collaboration and complementarity with the existing refugee coordination structure in Moldova to promote the humanitarian–development–peace nexus. The above-mentioned factors and challenges may request more additional capacity from the United Nations in Moldova, for example to ensure coherence and synergies between humanitarian needs and sustainable development objectives; mainstreaming resilience and cohesion across all programmatic and operational activities; and making stronger reference to LNOB, human rights, gender equality and other guiding principles to address multiple vulnerabilities, including those that may become more salient due to the impact of the war in Ukraine on the regional architecture and infrastructure. As such, the UNCT will need to be more agile and flexible to adapt to

changes in context. To that end, the UNCT will explore ways in which to attract expertise from the regional and headquarters level to increase capacity to carry out multidimensional risk analysis and to ensure more regional and cross-country exchanges that will benefit the implementation of the UNSDCF.

There is likely to be more demand for technical expertise in policy formulation, data generation and knowledge exchange, as well as to provide a neutral space for broader dialogue between the government, civil society and the private sector on how to mobilize multi-stakeholder resources and commitment to achieve the national priorities and the 2030 Agenda. As a result, the UNCT have agreed that the configuration exercise should be repeated in the first year of the UNSDCF 2023–2027 and later (depending on changes in context) to ensure that the allocation of capacity supports the development path as envisioned in the Theory of Change.

While the UNCT has comparative advantages in most results areas of the UNSDCF, the results from the configuration exercise suggest that internal coordination should be improved to ensure maximum utilization of available functional capacities (such as M&E; the capacity to access, generate, manage and exchange knowledge and adapt it to the local context; and communication and advocacy capacity). At the same time, the UNCT intends to extend engagement with the government and other stakeholders through the UNSDCF 2023–2027 governance and coordination mechanisms and, in particular, through thematic groups and networks. This may allow more effective use of the capacities and assets that are available at the specialized agencies and agencies with a regional dimension to attract technical expertise in the areas of interest of stakeholders and to improve access for them to policy innovation and cutting-edge knowledge.

## CHAPTER 3: UNSDCF IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

### 3.1. Implementation strategy and strategic partnerships

Integrated and effective coordination with partners will remain key to the United Nations support implementation. The UNSDCF implementation will build on ongoing successful partnerships, while developing and establishing new partnerships to support informed engagement and multi-stakeholder consultations. The UNCT will further seek to consolidate its collaboration with traditional partners – i.e. government and local public authorities, national human rights institutions, CSOs, think tanks, international NGOs and foundations – and develop innovative ones with financial sector institutions and research institutes.

Contacts and partnerships with newly emerging development partners will be explored and considered in the context of South-South and Triangular Partnership and Cooperation, as well as improving cooperation with IFIs. Further on, the UNCT will aim to harness the potential of the private sector to broaden its partnerships base and include innovative ways in which businesses can contribute to UNSDCF implementation and to the 2030 Agenda, in broader terms. For more active engagement with businesses, the UNCT will create more avenues for participation in private sector events and will create more opportunities for structured and regular dialogue. Building on its positive experience with more than 20 successful private sector partnerships in the past, the UNCT will explore innovative approaches and initiatives, such as corporate pledges to impact investments; the implementation of family, child and gender friendly policies; active ageing; and the promotion of clean energy solutions.

The UNCT, with the coordination of the Resident Coordinator Office, will continue supporting the State Chancellery as the coordinator body at the government level for SDG implementation in the country.

More specifically, the UNCT will more actively engage and support the existing National Council for Sustainable Development,<sup>30</sup> as well as specialized sector coordination forums.

### 3.2. Joint workplans

The programme will be nationally executed under the overall co-ordination of the designated national authority for external assistance coordination, Ministry of Finance. ministries and public authorities, CBOs/NGOs, international NGOs and United Nations system agencies will contribute to the implementation of programme activities. The UNSDCF will be made operational through the development of joint workplans (JWPs) and project documents as necessary, which will describe the specific results to be achieved and will form an agreement between the United Nations system agencies and each implementing partner on the use of resources. The United Nations system agencies and partners will use the minimum number of documents necessary, namely the signed UNSDCF and signed JWPs or agency-specific workplans and project documents to implement programmatic initiatives. However, as necessary and appropriate, project documents can be prepared using the relevant text from the UNSDCF, JWPs or agency-specific workplans and/or project documents among others. In addition to the JWPs elaborated for each outcome, a Joint United Nations plan on HIV/AIDS will be formulated and approved by the UNCT every year.

The UNCT will develop annual JWPs as a mechanism to operationalize the UNSDCF. The JWPs will translate outcomes and outputs into concrete, measurable and time-bound activities that provide a clear description of how the United Nations is contributing to the achievement of the agreed targets. The annual JWP is a critical instrument as it avoids duplication and fragmented approaches and ensures United Nations-wide coherence in collective programming for the country. The JWPs are also an opportunity for the UNCT to modify or add new outputs.

The JWPs also allow monitoring of progress towards the agreed results and are the basis for preparing the Annual Country Results Report. They are drafted in UN INFO by the Results Groups, with support from the M&E group and technical support from the Resident Coordinator Office.

The JWPs, aligned with the SDG framework and the national priorities of Moldova, undergo annual reviews to gauge progress made and suggest course corrections (if required). The outputs in the JWP reflect the aggregate of sub-outputs, which provide further desegregation and details of the agreed outputs.

### 3.3. Governance

The UNSDCF governance structure, as presented in

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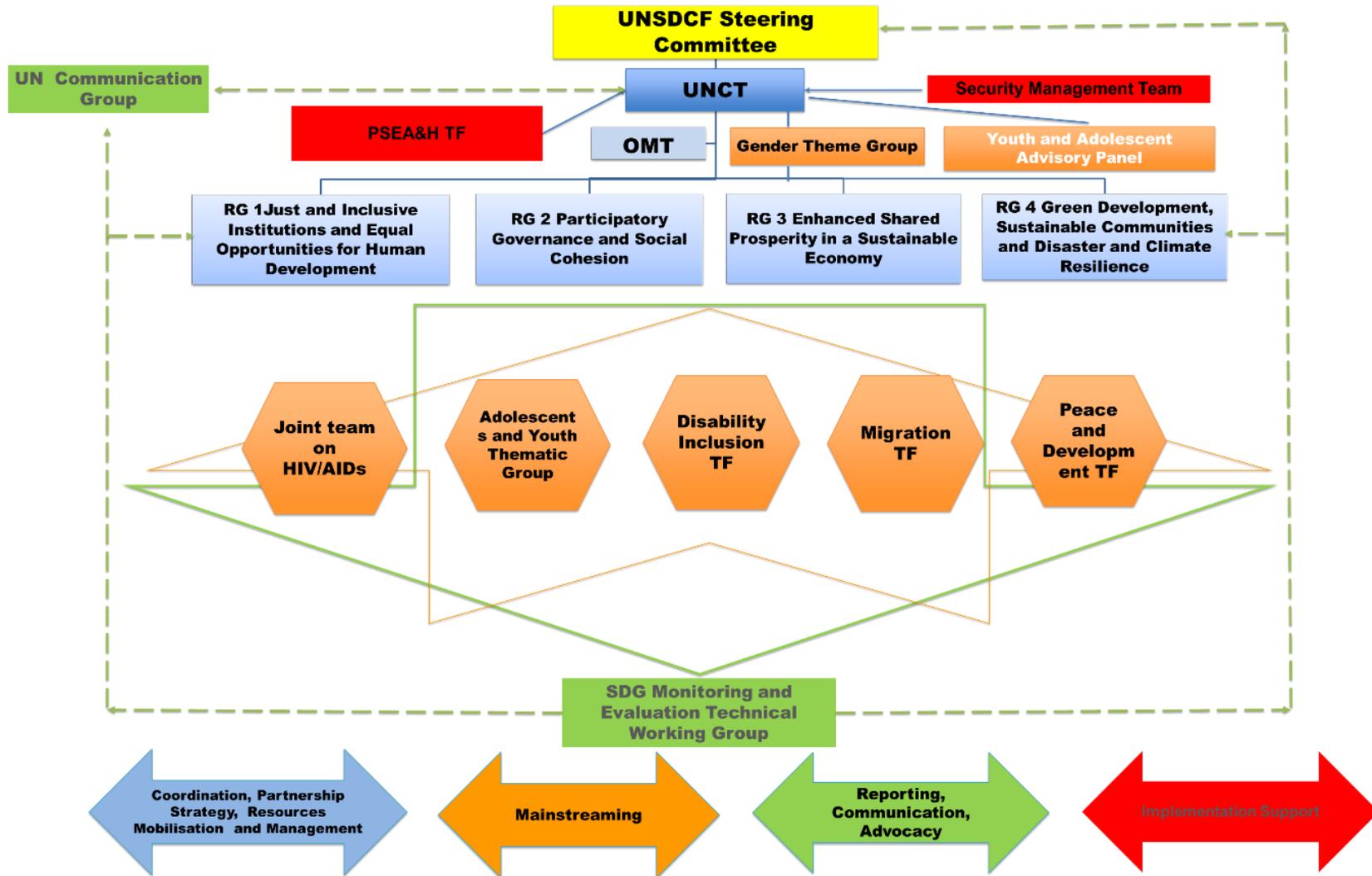
<sup>30</sup> Created through Government Decision No. 912 of 25 July 2016 and composed of the Prime Minister and cabinet, academia, trade and employers' unions and civil society.



**Figure 1**, should provide for a more coordinated, efficient and transparent implementation of the UNSDCF in close alignment with national priorities and the government-led processes of nationalizing the SDG goals. It is comprised of the high-level Steering Committee, four Results Groups and the thematic and technical groups and task forces that were determined by the country context. The **Steering Committee**, co-chaired by the United Nations Resident Coordinator (on behalf of the United Nations system) and the Prime Minister (on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Moldova), will be established to provide high-level oversight and support to the implementation of the UNSDCF. The Steering Committee will be responsible for reviewing and guiding the strategic direction of the UNSDCF and of the JWPs; providing a strategic overview of the annual results report; and overseeing the final evaluation of the framework. The Steering Committee will meet at least once a year to discuss results and review the relevance of the UNSDCF to the national priorities, as well as whether its implementation is sufficiently supported by strategic multi-stakeholder partnerships. In this regard, the UNCT intends to explore more effective ways of attracting partners from different sectors to contribute to work of the Steering Committee and of the **Results Groups**, such as organizing extended theme-based meetings that allow for broader participation of national and international partners and stakeholders.

Further, the UNCT will build on the successful experience of several thematic groups and task forces that have proved effective in increasing cooperation with the government and in mainstreaming cross-cutting issues such as gender, disability, migration and HIV/AIDs at the programmatic level. The UNCT will ensure more results-oriented engagement between the thematic groups and tasks forces and the Results Groups to support the latter to undertake a more strategic role, including holding policy dialogues with the government; resource mobilization and partnership building; and ensuring overall better alignment of joint interventions with the SDG targets within the scope of the UNSDCF. Given the urgent need to move from localization to acceleration in achieving the SDGs, the UNCT intends to strengthen the role of the United Nations Communication Group in reporting the results achieved under the UNSDCF in terms of their relevance to nationalized SDG targets. In connection with this, the SDG M&E Working Group will serve as a focal point to consolidate the data and evidence from the Results Groups and other thematic groups and task forces to provide timely input for strategic-level decisions at the Steering Committee and Results Groups level and to raise the visibility of the UNSDCF contribution to achieving the national priorities and the 2030 Agenda.

Figure 1: UNSDCF 2023–2027 governance structure



### 3.4. Resourcing the UNSDCF

Adequate funding will need to be identified and mobilized in order to fully implement and fulfil the UNCT's commitments under the current UNSDCF 2023–2027. Accordingly, the UNSDCF 2023–2027 resources strategy will focus on two key elements: development of the **Funding Framework** (which consists of a financial landscape analysis, the Multi-Year Framework and the annual Funding Frameworks), and the **Joint Resource Mobilization and Partnerships Strategy (RMPS)**. The *Funding Framework* will represent a consolidation of the agreed, costed results of the UNSDCF, including for operations and communications. In this context, the UNCT will develop and approve a multi-year framework as well as an annual Funding Framework.

Based on the Funding Framework, the *Joint RMPS* will address two key aspects: how the UNCT will act to secure adequate funding and build partnerships for an efficient and effective implementation of the UNSDCF 2023–2027. The RMPS, based on the landscape analysis (the development finance assessment), highlights the main funding needs from the framework, including the identified gaps, and guides the UNCT on possible options and ways to mobilize the resources to fill in the gaps, as well as how to draw on the possibilities to effectively identify and mobilize the needed partnerships for the UNSDCF 2023–2027.

All funding and financing strategies will promote a joint approach for resource mobilization. Important instruments in this regard are the pooled funding mechanisms, as these bring the United Nations together, strengthen coherence, reduce fragmentation and internal competition, broaden the donor base and allow sharing risks with partners and tackling multidimensional challenges with comprehensive, innovative solutions. As for *funding sources*, the UNCT will further explore cost-sharing with government. Traditional and new sources of financing will also be identified and explored, including improved bilateral and multilateral partner co-opting; options for blended and innovative finance; and influencing the policy environment to facilitate greater resource flows for SDG-related country priorities. In this context, the Moldova Multi-Partner Trust Fund will support the UNCT in leveraging the financing of national development priorities through the UNSDCF.

The UNCT will share individual agency resource mobilization strategies and plans with the Resident Coordinator Office so as to be able to effectively coordinate efforts in this area. More specifically, the Resident Coordinator Office will coordinate the related approaches and advocacy messages in order to avoid unnecessary duplication and competition, maximizing our joint efforts and ensuring adequate funding and sustainable partnerships.

The main coordination structure for the cooperation with the government on resource mobilization and partnerships will be the UNSDCF Steering Committee. At a more technical level, the UNCT will consider working through the Results Groups, where government representatives can co-chair and/or establish a new coordination structure as a task force or thematic group tasked specifically with operationalization of the RMPS.

The United Nations system agencies will provide support for the development and implementation of activities within the UNSDCF 2023–2027, which may include technical support, cash assistance, supplies, commodities and equipment, procurement services, transport, funds for advocacy, research and studies, consultancies, programme development, M&E, training activities or staff support. Part of the support of United Nations system entities may be provided to NGOs/CSOs as agreed within the framework of the individual workplans and project documents. Cash assistance for travel, stipends, honorariums and other

costs will be set at rates commensurate with those applied in the country, but not higher than those applicable to the United Nations system (as stated in the International Civil Service Commission circulars).

Subject to annual reviews and progress in the implementation of the programme, the United Nations system agency funds are distributed by calendar year and in accordance with the UNSDCF Funding Framework. These budgets will be reviewed and further detailed in the workplans and project documents. By mutual consent between the government and the United Nations development system entities, funds not earmarked by donors to United Nations development system agencies for specific activities may be reallocated to other programmatically equally worthwhile activities.

The government will support the United Nations system agencies' efforts to raise the funds required to meet the needs of the UNSDCF and will cooperate with the United Nations system agencies, including: encouraging potential donor governments to make available to the United Nations system agencies the funds needed to implement unfunded components of the programme; endorsing the United Nations system agencies' efforts to raise funds for the programme from other sources, including the private sector, both internationally and in the Republic of Moldova; and permitting contributions from individuals, corporations and foundations in the country to support this programme, which will be tax exempt for the donor to the maximum extent permissible under applicable law.

### 3.5. Business Operations Strategy in support of the UNSDCF

The Business Operations Strategy (BOS) is a results-based framework that focuses on joint business operations with the purpose of eliminating duplication, leveraging the common bargaining power of the United Nations and maximizing economies of scale. In line with the United Nations reform targets, the United Nations Moldova has designed a BOS in support of a more effective programme delivery on the 2030 Agenda. This BOS is updated and monitored every year through the online platform.

The BOS focuses on common services that are implemented jointly or delivered by one United Nations entity on behalf of one or more other United Nations entities. Common services for future collaboration were identified in the areas of: common ICT services; common finance services; and common administration services, including common facilities/premises, common procurement services and common human resources services.

The UNCT provides overall oversight of the BOS process; approves and releases necessary agency and joint resources; and signs off on the final BOS and annual reporting. The Operations Management Team and its subsidiary bodies are responsible for facilitating the development and implementation of the BOS at the country level.

## CHAPTER 4: MONITORING AND EVALUATION PLAN

### 4.1. Monitoring plan

The UNCT, in collaboration with the Government of the Republic of Moldova, has developed a multi-year joint monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL) plan to strengthen results-based management through the collection of baseline data, tracking and monitoring progress towards the delivery of UNSDCF results and the SDGs. Agency-specific MEL plans will be derived and synchronized with the UNSDCF MEL plan.

An inter-agency SDG/M&E Working Group will provide technical support to the UNCT and Results Groups in all M&E-related efforts. The SDG/M&E Working Group will draw upon expertise from across the UNCT

and include one representative from each UNCT Member. The SDG/M&E Working Group will also work in close partnership with the NBS as a coordinator of the national statistical system. The United Nations will be actively engaged in the work of the Sector Council on external assistance in the field of official statistics and other similar forums. The United Nations will also cooperate with the State Chancellery on tracking the progress of SDG implementation, including under VNR processes or thematic reviews with a focus on specific SDGs.

The UNSDCF results matrix (Annex 1) will serve as the main tool against which progress will be measured. Structured around three levels of results – impact, outcomes and outputs – the matrix also defines performance indicators, including baselines and targets, which were formulated considering the nationalized SDG indicators. With the support of the United Nations, the national SDG monitoring system will be settled to ensure disaggregated data are available for policymakers and the general public. National SDG monitoring systems will be used to extend possibilities and to monitor the implementation of the UNSDCF, including through collaboration with the NBS. Major monitoring activities will include joint monitoring missions, regular outcome progress reviews, annual UNSDCF reviews and specific assessments and evaluations. As appropriate, joint M&E will be undertaken in collaboration with the government. The UNCT will pursue and promote new and innovative approaches for M&E (e.g. mobile technologies, Big Data, etc.). Accountability to vulnerable groups will be considered during the M&E processes.

The UNCT will continue to support strengthening of the national statistical system, including through efforts aimed at improving the availability of SDG indicator data and increasing the capacity of national partners to collect disaggregated data to ensure the proper monitoring of UNSDCF implementation, but also the country's progress towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda more broadly. The Government of the Republic of Moldova is committed to provide appropriate data for ensuring the monitoring efforts under the UNSDCF.

The Results Groups and SDG/M&E Working Group will meet twice a year to reflect on and learn from implementation monitoring reports, including on SDG indicators, issues and synergies across priority areas. Joint inter-agency monitoring activities throughout the UNSDCF cycle will ensure that the United Nations development system is (a) delivering on the commitment to leave no one behind; (b) helping national partners develop capacities; (c) mitigating drivers of conflict, disaster risks, humanitarian crises and complex emergencies; and (d) promoting integrated and coherent policy support.

To support the UNSDCF monitoring and assessment of risk for achieving the UNSDCF results, the CCA will be updated on an annual basis. Based on CCA evidence, as well as following the Joint Steering Committee analysis of progress in the implementation of the UNSDCF, the country framework results, indicators and targets will be adjusted as needed.

The UN INFO platform will be used to digitize and make the UNSDCF and its corresponding JWPs and documents publicly available, improving the coherence, transparency and accountability of the United Nations development system in the country. United Nations entities will annually update the system with quality assured data and analysis. Using UN INFO will allow for streamlined joint inter-agency monitoring and reporting of progress towards UNSDCF results, enabling senior leadership to make corrections to programming and to shift resources in a timely manner in response to changes in situation and emerging needs. To improve accountability under the UNSDCF, the MEL plan will be aligned with the United Nations Joint Communication and Advocacy Plan, which will contain outputs and key communication activities. The plan is regarded as an important tool for raising visibility of the UNSDCF and in joint efforts of the UNCT and national stakeholders to help accelerate progress on the SDG targets directly addressed in the

UNSDCF and interrelated goals. The results of the monitoring activities will be used for joint advocacy to mobilize resources and build partnerships for achieving the 2030 Agenda.

Implementing partners agree to cooperate with the United Nations system agencies for monitoring all activities supported by cash transfers and will facilitate access to relevant financial records and personnel responsible for the administration of cash provided by the United Nations system agencies. To that effect, implementing partners agree to the following:

1. Periodic on-site reviews and spot checks of their financial records by the United Nations system agencies or their representatives, as appropriate, and as described in specific clauses of their engagement documents/contracts with the United Nations system agencies
2. Programmatic monitoring of activities following the United Nations system agency standards and guidance for site visits and field monitoring

Special or scheduled audits. Each United Nations organization, in collaboration with other United Nations system agencies (where so desired and in consultation with the respective coordinating ministry), will establish an annual audit plan, giving priority to the audits of Implementing Partners with large amounts of cash assistance provided by the United Nations system agencies and to Implementing Partners whose financial management capacity needs strengthening.

#### 4.1.1. Risks and opportunities

The UNSDCF formulation process identified multidimensional threats that may impact the development trajectory of the Republic of Moldova, mainly derived from the military conflict in neighbouring Ukraine. As mentioned previously, the vulnerability of Moldova to geopolitical developments with impact in Transnistrian region, the economic crisis; and environmental hazards may impede the effectiveness of the UNSDCF, particularly in relation to vulnerable groups.

The risks mentioned above will be managed through a solid inter-agency risk management plan (IARMP), which will be reviewed and updated periodically. The IARMP will be developed and approved by the UNCT. The Results Groups, informed by the CCA findings, will monitor the risks and opportunities envisaged in the IARMP in relation to results and targets. These will be further discussed at the Joint Steering Committee as part of the joint annual performance review, with a subsequent update of the IARMP. In addition, the annual CCA update will provide the foundation for the UNSDCF Result Groups to review the validity of the Theory of Change in relation to assumption and risks. The work of the thematic and technical groups and the Joint Steering Committee will also allow identifying emerging risks and opportunities.

As for now, the key opportunities include expediting the accession of the Republic of Moldova to the European Union; strengthening the in-country systems (high value-added agriculture; the IT sector; good governance; just and inclusive institutions; etc.) due to increased cooperation with development partners; enhanced access to external concessional financing; diversification of markets; securing the energy sector; and reforming the national statistical system.

#### 4.1.2. UNSDCF review and reporting

The United Nations Country Results will be reviewed at least once a year by the Joint Steering Committee, co-chaired by the Prime Minister and the United Nations Resident Coordinator. The Joint Steering

Committee will undertake an annual review based on the annual performance assessment, conducted by the Results Groups and with the involvement of all relevant stakeholders, including government partners. An Annual United Nations Country Results Report will be developed and will capture key findings of the annual review. The results report will be prepared by the Resident Coordinator's Office, the Results Groups and the SDG/M&E Group. The Annual Review is an important exercise to report progress and undertake any revisions in the light of new evidence and make course corrections, if needed, in the UNSDCF through the JWPs. This also serves an important accountability function. This will be of utmost importance, particularly now that we need to focus on development in emergency mode.

All relevant reviewing and reporting documents will be uploaded to the UN INFO platform and kept updated.

#### 4.2. Evaluation plan

An independent final UNSDCF evaluation will be commissioned in the penultimate year of the UNSDCF cycle. The evaluation will assess the relevance, coherence, efficiency, effectiveness and sustainability of the United Nations support to the country. The evaluation will follow the United Nations Evaluation Group norms and standards for evaluation, guidance on integrating human rights and gender equality and international principles for development evaluation. Data collection methods and processes will consider gender sensitivity and will follow a human rights-based approach.

The final independent evaluation will be carried out as an inclusive and participatory exercise involving all relevant stakeholders, including, but not limited to, 1) government partners; 2) CSOs; 3) vulnerable populations; 4) international and regional financial institutions; 5) the private sector; 6) international donor partners; and 7) United Nations entities operating in Moldova. It will especially assess the extent to which the UNSDCF guiding principles, particularly the principle, have been applied, as well as the impact of United Nations development interventions on vulnerable groups identified in the CCA.

The final UNSDCF evaluation will be informed by agency-specific or joint programme evaluations, ensuring United Nations evaluation processes are mutually supportive rather than duplicative. The conclusions and lessons learned from the evaluation will feed into the development of the next UNSDCF.

## ANNEXES

### ANNEX 1: UNSDCF RESULTS MATRIX

#### Outcome 1

**Strategic priority 1:** Just and inclusive institutions and equal opportunities for human development

**National development policies and programmes for implementation:**

- National Development Strategy Moldova 2030
- Government Activity Programme and Government Action Plan for 2021–2022
- National Human Rights Action Plan 2018–2022
- Development Strategy in the Field of Internal Affairs for the years 2022-2030 (draft)
- Programme for Managing the Migration Flows, Asylum and Integration of Foreigners 2022–2025 (draft)
- National Diaspora Strategy 2025
- National Programme for Promoting Return and Reintegration of Moldovan Migrants 2022–2026
- National Regional Development Strategy of the Republic of Moldova 2022–2028
- National Programme on Growth Poles Development in the Republic of Moldova 2021–2027
- National Programme on Active and Healthy Ageing 2023–2027
- National Programme on Social Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities 2017–2022
- National Programme on Deinstitutionalization of Persons with Intellectual and Psychosocial Disabilities from Residential Institutions Under National Social Assistance Agency 2018–2026
- National TB and HIV/AIDS/STI Control and Prophylaxis Programmes 2022–2025
- National Immunization Programme 2022–2025
- National Programme on Child Protection 2022-2026
- Programme for Integrated State Border Management 2022-2025
- National Strategy for Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence 2017–2023
- National Strategy on Education 2030
- Programme for Support of Roma Population in the Republic of Moldova 2022–2025
- National Strategy for Agriculture and Rural Development 2022–2027 (draft)
- National Employment Programme 2022–2027 (draft)
- National Drug Control Strategy 2020–2027
- National Strategy Against Trafficking of Human Beings 2018–2022
- Decent Work Country Programme 2021–2024
- National Programme on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights 2017–2022
- National Programme and Action Plan on Gender Equality for 2022–2026 (draft)
- National Health Strategy 2022-2031 (draft)
- National Tuberculosis Response Programme 2022-2025
- Programme for Public Order and Security 2022-2025

- Programme for Crime Prevention and Control 2022-2025
- Programme for Emergency and Exceptional Situations Management 2022-2025
- Programme for Strengthening the Trust and Security of Society through Training, Integrity and Digitization of the Internal Affairs System 2022-2025

**Regional frameworks**

- Eastern Partnership (EaP)
- CAREC
- Budapest Process
- Central European Initiative
- Commonwealth of Independent States
- Global Forum on Migration and Development
- Police Cooperation Convention for Southeast Europe
- Prague Process
- Regional Cooperation Council
- The South-Eastern Europe Health Network (SEEHN)
- Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence (the Istanbul Convention)
- International Conference on Population and Development

**SDG accelerators:** SDG 1 (1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 1.a), 2 (2.1, 2.2), 3 (3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.5, 3.7, 3.8, 3.b, 3.d), 4 (4.1, 4.2, 4.4, 4.5, 4.7), 5 (5.2, 5.6, 5.c), 10 (10.7), SDG 11 (11.1), 17 (17.9)

**UN agencies:** FAO, IFAD, ILO, IOM, ITU, OHCHR, UNAIDS, UNDP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNODC, UN Women, WFP, WHO

| Results  | National SDG indicators/performance indicators (disaggregated)   | Baseline (year)   | Target (2027)   | Source/MoV/periodicity           | Assumption statement   |
|--|--|---|---|----------------------------------|--|
| Outcome 1: By 2027, institutions deliver human rights-based, evidence-informed and gender-responsive services for all with the focus | A) Absolute poverty rate, by sex of head of household, age (children under 18) (based on national SDG indicator 1.2.1) | 2020 (in %)<br>Total: 26.8<br>Men: 25.6<br>Women: 29.3<br>Children: 26.0<br>[disability disaggregation not available] | Target to be set by the government in the NDS 2030                | NBS, HBS/link/annual             | Adequate funding is provided for health, education and social protection |
|  | B) Share of households with access to basic services, including safe water, sanitation, Internet connection            | 2020 (in %)<br><br>Safe water: 71.2<br>urban/rural: 95.9/54.4<br>Disability: 69.3                                     | (in %)<br><br>Safe water: 75<br>Urban/rural: 97/56<br>Disability: | NBS/statistical reports (annual) | Evidence-informed decision-making,                                       |

|                              |   |  |   |  |   |
|------------------------------|---|--|---|--|---|
| on those who are left behind | (based on national SDG indicator 1.4.1)   | With/without migrants: 72.3/71.1<br><br>Sanitation: 33.7<br>Urban/rural: 79.4/2.8<br>Disability: 25.6<br>with/without migrants: 27.0/34.4<br><br>Internet connection: 64.6<br>Urban/rural: 76.9/56.3<br>Disability: 61.7<br>with/without migrants: 85.0/62.6 | Migration:<br><br>Sanitation: 35 per cent<br>Urban/rural: 81/3.5<br>Disability:<br>Migration:<br><br>Internet connection: 75<br>Urban/rural: 85/65<br>Disability:<br>Migration: |  | which is accompanied by disaggregated data, impact and risks analysis, taking into account population shifts, ageing and brain drain and targeting multidimensional causes of poverty and exclusion<br><br>Digitalization reaches the most vulnerable and poor, enabling access to services and reduction of the digital divide |
|                              | C) Prevalence of violence against women and girls (aged 15-65 years old) by partner/spouse in the last 12 months, by age and form of violence: a) physical, b) sexual, c) psychological (national SDG indicators 5.2.1) | 2010 (in %)<br>Total: 26.8<br>a) Physical: 8.9<br>b) Sexual: 4.1<br>c) Psychological: 25.7<br>By age:<br>15–24: 33.3<br>25–34: 33.4<br>35–44: 23.8<br>45–54: 25.8<br>55–59: 20.6<br>60–65: 22.3  | Decrease prevalence by at least 1.5 percentage points (for all disaggregation categories)   | NBS/ <u>Behaviour Study on Violence</u> /quinquennial EVAW survey (after 2023) |   |
|                              | D) Maternal mortality ratio (SDG indicator 3.1.1)   | 2020: 16.3 per 100,000 live births   | 14.5 per 100,000 live births (or minus 2 p.ps from the baseline)  | NBS/Annual Yearbook of the National Public Health Agency/annually              |   |
|                              | E) Under-five mortality rate (U5MR), per 1,000 live births (national SDG indicator 3.2.1)   | 2020: 10.5 per 1,000 live births   | 10.0 per 1,000 live births (in accordance with the draft National Health Strategy 2030)   | NBS, Ministry of Health/vital statistics/annual                                |   |
|                              | F) Gross enrolment ratio in pre-primary education   | 2020/21: 90.3%   | 95%   | NBS, MER (EMIS)/administrative data, <a href="#">link/annual</a>               |   |

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|  | (contributing to SDG indicator 4.2.2)   |   |   |  |  |
|  | G) Universal Health Coverage Service Coverage Index (SDG indicator 3.8.1)   | 2019: 67  | 70                                      | Global Health Observatory/ <a href="https://apps.who.int/gho/data/node.main.INDEXOFESSENTIALSERVICE_COVERAGE?lang=en/biennial">https://apps.who.int/gho/data/node.main.INDEXOFESSENTIALSERVICE_COVERAGE?lang=en/biennial</a> |  |
| 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 | 1.1.a Government budget allocations to social sectoral policies and programmes as percentage of total government budget allocations (related to SDG indicator 1.a.2)                              | 2021: 58.9%   | >60%                                    | Ministry of Finance/administrative data/annual   |  |
|  | 1.1.b The country governance framework integrates migration policies that facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people (SDG indicator 10.7.2) <sup>31</sup> | 2021 Migration Governance Indicators (MGI) score: 60      | MGI score: 80                           | Ministry of Internal Affairs and IOM/ <a href="#">MGI country report/biennial</a>  |  |
|  | 1.1.c Population projections at national and subnational level are developed to inform policy framework (related to SDG indicator 17.19.2)  | 2022<br>a) National level: No<br>b) Subnational level: No | a) National: Yes<br>b) Subnational: Yes | Annual Report on the Strategy of Statistical System 2030   |  |

<sup>31</sup> The MGI is a tool based on policy inputs, which offers insights on policy levers that countries can use to develop their migration governance. The MGI is not meant to rank countries on the design or implementation of migration policies, but rather to be a framework to help countries in the assessment of the comprehensiveness of their migration policies, as well as to identify gaps and areas that could be strengthened. The MGI aims to advance conversations on migration governance by clarifying what “well-governed migration” might look like in the context of SDG Target 10.7. The measuring is performed using a United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs module with questions about government policies, programmes and strategies relating to international migration. Responses to questions in the module are needed for global monitoring of SDG indicator 10.7.2 on policies to facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, as well as to assess migration policy responses to the COVID-19 pandemic. The MGI includes refugee response as one of six sectors of intervention.

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|  | 1.1.d Number of budgeted, evidence-informed national (multi-) sectoral strategies, policies and/or Action Plans targeting social protection and equal access to basic services, with a focus on those furthest left behind, developed and implemented between 2023–2027 (contributing to SDG targets 1.3 and 1.4) | 2022<br>Health: 5<br>Education: 3<br>Regional development: 2<br>Disability: 2<br>Social protection: 0<br>Minorities (Roma): 1  | Health: 17<br>Education: 5<br>Regional development: 4<br>Disability: 2<br>Social protection: 2<br>Minorities (Roma): 1                      | UN agencies' internal reporting/annual        |  |
| Output 1.2. Health, education and food systems are strengthened and become more resilient to ensure universal access and quality of services and respond to humanitarian needs | 1.2.a Percentage of pupils in the last grade of secondary school with minimum literacy skills and minimum knowledge of mathematics (national SDG indicators 4.1.1.1 and 4.1.1.2)  | 2018 (PISA)<br>Literacy - total: 57<br>Urban/rural: 70/42<br>F/M: 66/49<br><br>Mathematics - total: 50<br>Urban/rural: 60/37<br>F/M: 50/49   | 2026 (PISA):<br>Literacy - total: 60<br>Urban/rural: 75/45<br>F/M: 70/55<br><br>Mathematics - total: 54<br>Urban/rural: 63/39<br>F/M: 54/53 | MER/PISA study 3-4 years (2022 tbc, 2026 tbc) |  |
|  | 1.2.b Proportion of the target population covered by all vaccines included in their national programme (national SDG indicator 3.b.1)   | 2018<br>BCG: 96.8<br>DTP: 90.2<br>ROR: 90.3<br>VPO: 91<br>HEPB: 91.1<br>HIB: 89.9<br>RV: 71.5 (ex. TN)<br>PC: 78.9 (ex. TN)<br>DT: 95.1<br>Td: 96.8<br>Children (0–11 with 3 doses of DTP/penta vaccine): 86.1% (2020) | 95% for all vaccines<br><br><br><br><br><br><br>95%   | MoH/NAPH administrative data/annual           |  |
|  | 1.2.c Student-to-computer ratio (primary and secondary education)   | 2021/22 school year: 20  | 2026/27 school year: 16   | NBS/StatBank/annual                           |  |

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|  | (related to SDG indicator 4.4.1)  |  |  |   |  |
|  | 1.2.d Existence in school curriculum of the curricular modules/contents: 1) human rights, 2) gender equality, 3) health education; and ensuring their quality implementation through an interdisciplinary approach in order to form the graduate profile and teacher training (based on national SDG indicator 4.7.1) | 2022: the compulsory school curriculum includes basic information/contents with limited initial and in-service training for teachers | Overall: curricula reviewed<br>1) human rights: at least 1 module/content partially integrated and at least 1 teacher training<br>2) at least 1 course from school curricula adjusted revised from gender equality perspective for secondary education<br>3) The school curriculum includes comprehensive health education; pre-service and in-service teacher training aligned with international CSE standards | Baseline: data from UNESCO and existing mandatory curricula<br>Agencies' implementing partners reports/annually |  |
|  | 1.2.e Adolescent birth rate (age 15–19) per 1,000 women in same age group, urban/rural (usual resident population) (national SDG indicator 3.7.2)   | 2021<br>Total: 26.2<br>Urban: tbc<br>Rural: tbc<br>By rayons: tbc  | Total: 20<br>urban<br>rural<br>by rayons   | NBS/StatBank/annual   |  |
|  | 1.2.f Food consumption per capita (daily average) (SDG indicator 2.2.1)   | 2020<br>2597.9 kcal<br>78.6 gr (proteins)<br>103.5 (lipids)<br>340.3 (glucides)  | 2820.0 kcal<br>84.8 gr (proteins)<br>109.1 (lipids)<br>352.7 (glucides)  | NBS/statistical yearbook/annual   |  |
|  | 1.2.g Share of students with special educational needs and disabilities in general education institutions (% out of total enrolled)   | 2020/21 school year:<br>94.5%  | 2026/27 school year:<br>97%  | NBS/link (Annex, Table 7), MER (EMIS)/administrative data/annual  |  |

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|   | (contributing to SDG indicator 4.5.1)  |  |  |  |  |
|   | 1.2.h Number of refugee children enrolled in formal education (by educational levels, by sex and disability) (contributing to SDG indicator 4.5.1)   | 2022, May<br>Total: 1,800<br>Preschool: 600<br>Primary, lower secondary and Upper secondary: 1,200 | Total: 50,000<br>Preschool: 15,000<br>Primary, lower secondary and Upper secondary: 35,000 | MER/administrative data/annual   |  |
| Output 1.3. Public institutions and CSOs/CBOs have enhanced capacities to ensure quality sustainable people-centered service delivery that is responsive to social, economic and environmental shocks and emergencies | 1.3.a Percentage of individuals belonging to key populations (PWUD, SW, MSM), who are covered by HIV prevention services (contributing to SDG target 3.3)  | 2020 (in %)<br>PWUD: 59.3<br>Sex workers: 45.6<br>MSM: 26  | PWUD: 90<br>SW: 90<br>MSM: 60  | Spectrum modelling (Global AIDS Monitoring report)<br>National HIV Programme;<br>National TB Programme |  |
|   | 1.3.b International Health Regulations (IHR) capacity and health emergency preparedness (SDG indicator 3.d.1)  | 2022: 80% (average of 13 International Health Regulations core capacity scores)                    | 85% (average of 13 International Health Regulations core capacity scores)                  | WHO/ <a href="#">Global Health Observatory</a> /annual   |  |
|   | 1.3.c Number of institutions and service providers <sup>32</sup> with strengthened capacities and knowledge to improve the provision of essential services, goods and/or resources for all, with a focus on vulnerable groups (contributing to SDG target 1.4) | 2022<br>Total institutions: 186<br>Total service providers: 107                                    | Total institutions: 3,054<br>Total service providers: 283                                  | Agencies' annual reporting;<br>Ministry of Education and Research; GAM/annual                          |  |
|   | 1.3.d Level of satisfaction of service users with the  | 2021: 60   | 80   | e-Gov reports/UNDP assessments/Annual  |  |

<sup>32</sup> Mainly referring to Roma mediators.

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|   | co-implemented digital services<br>(contributing to SDG target 1.4)   |  |  |  |  |
|   | 1.3.e Percentage of displaced persons (including refugees and disaster affected population) covered by social protection floors/systems, by sex (contributing to SDG indicator 1.3.1) | 2021:<br>Refugees: 0.7% (3 persons)<br>(disaggregation tbc)  | 2025: 100% of persons that meet eligibility criteria | MoLSP; IOM annual reports  |  |
|   | 1.3.f Percentage of migrants and refugees, including victims of trafficking, who are covered by national public health insurance scheme, by sex (contributing to SDG target 1.3)      | 2021 (in %):<br>Asylum seekers: 36<br>Refugees: 65<br>(disaggregation tbc)   | 100%   | Agency project and annual reports; RRP reporting/annually            |  |
|   | 1.3.g Number of children who participate in community-based child protection programmes (contributing to SDG target 1.3)  | 2021: tbc  | 5,000  | UN agencies' internal reporting/annual                               |  |
| Output 1.4. Rights holders, in particular from vulnerable groups, are empowered to access and claim for | 1.4.a Proportion of women aged 15–49 years who make their own informed decisions regarding sexual relations, contraceptive use and reproductive health care (SDG indicator 5.6.1)     | 2020 (in %)<br>Total: 73.3<br><br>Disaggregation:<br>With primary education: 59.24<br>With higher education: 77.89<br>15–19 years old: 68.42<br>20–49 years old: 73.2<br>North region: 69.06 | Total: 85%   | Generations and Gender Survey, once every 3 years (2024 and in 2027) |  |

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| quality public services   |  | Centre: 72.15<br>South: 75.08<br>Disability: available in June<br><br>[Additional disaggregation available by marital status, occupation, income, etc.]                 |   |   |  |
|   | 1.4.b Percentage of people living with HIV who know their status; percentage of persons with HIV enrolled in treatment and percentage of those with viral suppression (contributing to SDG target 3.3) | 2020: 66% - 70% - 87%   | 92% – 92% - 92%   | National Agency for Public Health and WHO/GAM report/annual   |  |
|   | 1.4. c Proportion of vulnerable women, such as women who use drugs and PWUD, with children accessing crisis services, including shelter and rehabilitation (related to SDG indicator 3.5.1)            | 2020:<br>PWUD: 1% (out of 3,000) [this includes PWUD with children]   | PWUD: 5% (out of 3,000) [this includes WUD with children] | UNODC reporting/annual  |  |
| Output 1.5 State institutions and CSOs ensure effective prevention and improved multisectoral response to | 1.5.a Share of women and girls who access services after experiencing violence or discrimination (contributing to SDG target 5.2)  | 2020:<br>69.7 % (total VFV 2,450 and 1,708 benefited)<br><br>Profile of VFV:<br>Women: 87.3%<br>Men: 12.7%<br>VFV PWUD: 52 total (39 f; 13 m)<br>Urban/rural: 26.4/73.6 | 85%   | MLSP/report on domestic violence/annual<br><br>MLSP/Statistical Report CER103 (information on girl victims of violence); report on number of girls accessing Barnahus type services (newly developed) |  |

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| address all forms of violence against women and girls, including harmful practices and discriminatory gender norms and stereotypes |   | Age: 18–34: f 40%/m 37%;<br>35-49: f 37.6%/m 33.4%;<br>50–65: f 17%/m 19.6%; 65+:<br>f 5.4%/m 10.0%  |           |  |   |
|  | 1.5.b Number of developed guidelines, protocols and standard operating procedures to strengthen EVAWG services in line with the Essential Services Package (contributing to SDG target 5.2) | 2021: 7<br>[intersectoral protocols (draft); <u>intervention guideline</u> for cases of violence against children; Standard Operating Procedure on forensic expertise in domestic violence cases; SOPs for social workers; SOPs for health providers; SOPs for police; national protocol on clinical management of rape] | 11        |  | Agency annual reporting                       |
|  | 1.5.c Number of state institutions and CSOs with increased capacities to address discriminatory gender norms and violence against women and girls (contributing to SDG target 5.2)          | 2021: Total 38   | Total: 76 |  | Agencies’ annual and project reporting/annual |
|  | 1.5.d Proportion of rayons covered with advocacy initiatives addressing gender social norms and male engagement programmes (contributing to SDG target 5.2)                                 | 2021: 13% (tbc)  | 25% (tbc) |  | Agencies internal reports/annual              |

## Outcome 2

### **Strategic priority 2: Participatory Governance and Social Cohesion**

#### **National development Priorities arising from the following national development policies and programmes for implementation:**

- National Development Strategy Moldova 2030
- Government Activity Programme and Government Action Plan for 2021–2022
- National Human Rights Action Plan 2018–2022
- National Integrity and Anticorruption Strategy 2017–2023
- National Strategy on Development of the Youth Sector “Tineret 2030” (draft)
- Strategy for the Development of the National Statistical System 2030 (draft)
- Program for Crime Prevention and Control 2022–2025 (draft)
- Program for Strengthening the Trust and Security of Society through Training, Integrity and Digitization of the Internal Affairs System 2022-2025 (draft)
- Development Strategy in the Field of Internal Affairs for the years 2022-2030 (draft)
- National Programme on Child Protection 2022-2026
- Strategy for Ensuring Independence and Integrity of the Justice Sector 2022–2025
- National Programme and Action Plan on Gender Equality for 2022–2026 (draft)
- National Programme on Active and Healthy Ageing 2023–2027 (draft)
- National Programme for the Implementation of Security Council Resolution 1325 for Women, Peace and Security (draft)
- Strategy for Consolidation of Inter-ethnic Relations in the Republic of Moldova 2017–2027
- Programme for Support of Roma Population in the Republic of Moldova 2022–2025 (draft)
- National Programme on Social Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities 2017–2022
- Strategy for Development of Public Finance Management 2013–2022 (new draft developed in 2022)
- Strategy on Combating Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence 2018–2023

#### **Regional frameworks**

- Eastern Partnership (EaP)
- CAREC; Budapest Process
- Central European Initiative
- Commonwealth of Independent States
- Global Forum on Migration and Development
- Police Cooperation Convention for Southeast Europe
- Prague Process
- Regional Cooperation Council
- The South-Eastern Europe Health Network (SEEHN)
- International Conference on Population and Development
- Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence (the Istanbul Convention)

**SDG accelerators:** SDG 5 (5.1, 5.2, 5.5, 5.c), 10 (10.2, 10.3, 10.7), 16 (16.1, 16.2, 16.3, 16.5, 16.6, 16.7, 16.a, 16.b), 17 (17.3, 17.18)

| UN Agencies: FAO, IFAD, ILO, IOM, ITU, OHCHR, UNAIDS, UNDP, UNECE, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNODC, UN Women, WFP, WHO  |   |  |  |   |  |
|---|---|--|--|---|--|
| Results   | National SDG indicators/performance indicators (disaggregated)  | Baseline (year)  | Target (2027)  | Source/MoV/periodicity  | Assumption statement   |
| 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. | A) Proportion of the population reporting that in the last 12 months they have ever felt discriminated against or harassed on a ground prohibited under international human rights law (national SDG indicator 10.3.1/16.b.1) | 2020: Total: 23 (%)<br><br>By discrimination criteria (in %):<br>Age: 28; Financial status: 26;<br>Spoken language: 16;<br>Disability: 2; Gender: 15;<br>Ethnicity: 5; Religion: 8                               | Total: 20 (%)<br><br>By discrimination criteria (in %):<br>Improved by 2 percentage points each from baseline  | Equality Council/ <u>perception survey</u> collected biannually | Government demonstrates commitment to the promotion, protection and fulfilment of human rights, the achievement of gender equality and women's empowerment |
|   | B) Gender mainstreaming in public policies index (contributing to SDG indicator 5.1.1)  | 2016: 0.88<br><br>[next report to be issued end of 2022, update baseline]  | 2.0  | Centre Partnership for Development/Analytical report/biennial   |  |
|   | C) Number of children victims of any form of violence, neglect, exploitation and trafficking (VNET) (national SDG indicator proxy 16.2.1.2)   | 2020<br>Total: 10,283 subjected to VNET<br>Girls: 4,936/Boys: 5,347  | Total: 9,000<br>Girls 4,320/Boys 4,680   | MLSP/administrative data CER103/annual                          | Political stability enhances security and peace  |
|   | D) Percentage of people who trust governance institutions (parliament, government, justice) by sex, urban/rural and migration status (contributing to SDG target 16.7)<br><br>Note: migration status refers to persons with   | 2021<br>Parliament: Total: 15%;<br>Men/Women: 14%/16%;<br>Urban/rural: 15%/15%;<br>Migrants (2020): 6.6%<br><br>Government: Total: 19%;<br>Men/Women: 16%/21%;<br>Urban/rural: 18%/19%;<br>Migrants (2020): 8.4% | Parliament: Total: 30%;<br>Men/Women: 30%/30%;<br>Urban/rural: 30%/30%;<br>Migrants: 10%<br><br>Government: Total: 30%;<br>Men/Women: 30%/30%;<br>Urban/rural: 30%/30%;<br>Migrants: 12% | IPP Public Opinion Barometer/biennial                           | The government commits to sustainable open, transparent and structured civil dialogue, with active involvement of CSOs,                                    |

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|   | migration experience (Moldovan migrants who returned from abroad)  | Justice: Total: 19%;<br>Men/Women: 18%/19%;<br>Urban/rural: 20%/18%.<br>Migrants (2020): 7.8%                   | Justice: Total: 30%;<br>Men/Women: 30%/30%;<br>Urban/rural: 30%/30%;<br>Migrants: 11%                   |   | women's and youth movements and other advocates for the needs of most vulnerable and marginalized groups in Moldova |
|   | E) WJP Rule of Law Index (selected factors) (contributing to SDG target 16.3)  | 2021<br>Overall score: 0.51<br>Absence of corruption: 0.36<br>Open government: 0.57<br>Order and security: 0.81 | Overall score: 0.53<br>Absence of corruption: 0.40<br>Open government: 0.60<br>Order and security: 0.83 | World Justice Project/Rule of Law Index <a href="#">link</a> /annual  | Enhanced accountability and public engagement contribute to trust in the government and social cohesion             |
| Output 2.1. Regulatory framework and capacities of government and non-government institutions are enhanced to promote human rights, gender equality, non-discrimination | 2.1.a Number of laws, policies, strategies, Action Plans and programmes adopted, revised and repealed to advance gender equality and international human rights standards (contributing to SDG targets 5.1 and 10.3) | 2021<br>National: 17<br>Local: 43   | National: 50<br>Local: min. 63  | GAM, MoH; evaluation NHRAP; monitorul official; agencies' internal reporting/annual   |   |
|   | 2.1.b Level <sup>33</sup> of implementation of international human rights  | Recommendations received prior to 2021:<br>Total score: 3 (out of 5)<br>CEDAW: 4                                | Implementation level:<br><br>Total score: 3.5 (out of 5)<br>CEDAW: 4.5                                  | National Human Rights Monitoring Platform:<br><a href="http://monitor.drepturi.md/">http://monitor.drepturi.md/</a><br>agencies' annual reports |   |

<sup>33</sup> Members of the [platform](#) are evaluating using marks 1–5, where 1 means that no actions were undertaken and 5 means that the recommendation is fully implemented.

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| and<br>accountability | recommendations by<br>Moldova<br>(contributing to SDG target<br>16.b)   | CRPD: 3<br>UPR: 3<br>CAT: 2.5<br>CESCR: 3<br>CRC: 4<br>CERD: 2  | CRPD: 3.5<br>UPR: 3.5<br>CAT: 3<br>CESCR: 3.5<br>CRC: 4.5<br>CERD: 2.5  |  |
|                       | 2.1.c Youth Action Plans:<br>a) National multisectoral,<br>gender-responsive<br>adolescent policy/Youth<br>Action Plan exists<br>(reflecting sectoral<br>commitments for<br>adolescents)<br><br>b) Proportion of local<br>public authorities with<br>evidence-informed, human<br>rights-based annual Youth<br>Action Plans that are<br>budgeted | 2022<br>a) Gender-responsive and<br>evidence-informed National<br>Strategy on Youth not<br>developed<br><br>b) 45.7%  | a) Gender-responsive and<br>evidence-informed National<br>Strategy on Youth adopted<br><br>b) 60%                       | Government decision;<br>agencies' annual<br>reports/annual |
|                       | 2.1.d Number of national<br>partners with capacities to<br>apply Gender Responsive<br>Budgeting tools in the<br>budget cycle<br>(contributing to SDG<br>indicator 5.c.1)  | 2021<br>Total: 47<br>CPA (5 - Ministry of<br>Defence;<br>Ministry of Interior, incl.<br>General Police Inspectorate;<br>National Penitentiary<br>Administration (Ministry of<br>Justice); Ministry of Finance,<br>incl. Customs Service;<br>Ministry of Labour and<br>Social Protection)<br><br>LPAs (42); Rural: 38, Urban:<br>4 | Total: 75<br>CPA (13, all line ministries)<br><br>LPAs (62); Rural: 55, Urban:<br>7<br><br>(all targets are cumulative) | UN Women/Annual Report<br>and media/annual                 |

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|  | 2.1.e Number of human rights initiatives implemented by civil society members trained on human rights, HRBA and gender equality (contributing to SDG targets 5.1 and 10.3)   | 2021<br>Total: 39<br>RB/LB: 14/15<br>Disability: 7<br>Roma: 3<br>Youth: 2<br>Other: 8<br>PLWH&KP: 5<br>LGBTQI+: 1<br>PWUD: 3<br>Prisoners: 3 | Total: 81<br>RB/LB: 39/21<br>Disability: 10<br>Roma: 8<br>Youth: 8<br>Other: 9<br>PLWH&KP: 19<br>LGBTQI+: 1<br>PWUD: 6<br>Prisoners: 5   | GAM; Agencies' annual and project reports/annual                              |  |
|  | 2.1.f Extent of alignment of the national legislative/normative framework to international commitments to eliminate violence against women and girls, in particular under the Istanbul Convention (contributing to SDG target 5.2) | 2021: partial alignment  | Complete alignment with global norms, standards and commitments on EAW, including the Istanbul Convention  | CpAs/Monitorul Oficial/annual   |  |
|  | 2.1.g Multi-stakeholder development financing mechanisms to strengthen public sector agility and efficient allocation of resources for policy implementation (contributing to SDG target 17.3)                                     | 2022: No   | Yes  | Government reports/decisions; UNDP internal reports/biennial                  |  |
| Output 2.2. Institutions at all levels have increased capacities to produce, share and utilize | 2.2.a Informational system on demographic and social statistics is in place and  | 2022: Informational system developed with one module operational on population and migration statistics                                      | Informational system is in place, with the following modules operational:<br>1) population and migration statistics; 2) employment and living standards statistics; 3) social services | Annual Report of the Strategy of Statistical System 2030, produced by the NBS |  |

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| quality disaggregated data in line with national priorities and in accordance with international standards and methodologies | operational (managed by NBS) <sup>34</sup> (contributing to SDG target 17.18)   |  | and justice statistics; and 4) census.   |  |  |
|  | 2.2.b Proportion of SDG indicators available at national level according to relevant disaggregations and the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics (national SDG indicator 17.18.1)   | 2022: Fully available: 50%; Partially available: 25%; Not available: 20%<br><br>Gender-sensitive SDG indicators: fully available 47%; partially available 54%; missing 28%<br><br>Child-related SDG indicators: fully available 36%; partially available 47% | 70% fully available, 15% partially available, 15% not available<br><br>Gender-sensitive indicators fully available: 70%<br><br>Child-related SDG indicators: fully available 45%; partially available 53%  | NBS/annual                                     |  |
|  | 2.2.c Number of statistical and administrative data initiatives and statistical tools (methodologies; questionnaires) developed and/or revised to improve the availability and use of data, including disaggregation by sex, age, disability, ethnicity, migration and legal status and other characteristics to inform, monitor and evaluate national policies and programmes and international commitments (contributing to SDG target 17.18) | 2022 Total: 7 [1 demographic changes (GGS); 1 population and migration estimate; 1 assessment of administrative data sources; 1 VAW; 1 ad hoc module to HBS on COVID-19; 1 administrative data on social sector; 1 child poverty and well-being analysis]    | Total: 17 [2 demographic changes (2x GGS); 3 gender; 1 census methodology, including disability and legal status; 1 GBV in health system; 1 on big data; 3 migration; 2 social exclusion index, including disability and ethnicity; 1 multidimensional poverty index; 1 EAW survey; 1 unpaid care work module; 1 human rights indicator] | UN agencies/annual UN agency results reporting |  |

<sup>34</sup> The [informational system on demographic and social statistics](#) is managed by the NBS and is developed based on available administrative data. The informational system has four modules: 1) population and migration statistics; 2) employment and living standards statistics; 3) social services and justice statistics; and 4) census.

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|   | 2.2.d SDG online monitoring platform, owned by government, makes up-to-date disaggregated data publicly available (contributing to SDG target 17.18)  | 2022: Demo version of SDG online monitoring platform in place  | SDG online monitoring platform operational   | NBS/annual   |  |
|   | 2.2.e Number of public authorities that have strengthened knowledge and skills and use data as evidence in the policymaking process (contributing to SDG target 17.18)                          | 2022 Total: 25<br>National: 8<br>LPAs: 17  | Total: 40<br>National: 24<br>LPAs: 16  | Agencies' annual reports/annual  |  |
| 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- | 2.3.a Proportion of seats held by women in (a) national parliaments, (b) local governments and (c) executive positions/ministers (cabinets) (national SDG indicator 5.5.1.a&b)                  | (%)<br>2022<br>Parliament: 40.6%<br>Government <sup>35</sup> 25%<br>Last election in 2019:<br>Mayors: 21.8<br>Local councils: 36.5<br>District council: 27.1 | (%)<br>Parliament: 40<br>Government: 40<br>Mayors: 25<br>Local councils: 40<br>District councils: 30 | State Chancellery, NBS, CEC// <u>IPU</u> and UNW calculation/<br>Annual  |  |
|   | 2.3.b Number of national participatory and inclusive review and monitoring processes in the context of implementation of international human rights standards (contributing to SDG target 16.a) | 2022 Total: 9  | Total: 18  | Ministry of Social Protection/national reports/on due year of reporting, 3 reports; OHCHR Annual Reports and monitor.drepturi.md |  |

<sup>35</sup> The 40% quota for the government that we intend to reinstate will only refer to the cabinet ministers, i.e. those appointed and voted by parliament. Therefore, the Governor of Gagauzia, who is directly elected, and although an ex officio government cabinet member, shall not be counted for either baseline or target (in this case).

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| making processes | 2.3.c Percentage of out-of-country voters, out of the total number of voters (contributing to SDG target 16.7)  | <p>2020 total: 15.9% (in the previous presidential elections)<br/> Women: 49.4% (out of total out-of-country-voters in the previous presidential election)<br/> Men: 50.6% (out of total out-of-country voters in the previous presidential election)</p> <p>2021 total: 14.3 % (in the previous parliamentary elections)<br/> Women: 48.3% (out of total out-of-country voters in previous parliamentary elections)<br/> Men: 51.7% (out of total out-of-country voters in previous parliamentary elections)</p> | <p>2024 total: 18% (in presidential elections)<br/> Women: 51 % (out of total out-of-country-voters in presidential election)<br/> Men: 49% (out of total out-of-country-voters in presidential election)</p> <p>2025 total: 16% (in parliamentary elections)<br/> Women: 52% (out of total out-of-country voters in parliamentary elections)<br/> Men: 48% (out of total out-of-country voters in parliamentary elections)</p> | Central Electoral Commission   |  |
|                  | 2.3.d Percentage of people reached by election awareness-raising campaigns who voted during the (local/national) elections (contributing to SDG target 16.7)  | 2021: 84%   | 90%   | CEC post-electoral reports; UNDP reports/after each major electoral exercise |  |
|                  | 2.3.e Number of CSOs working on human rights, gender equality and women's empowerment (especially women's organizations) that have strengthened capacities to | 2022 Total: 85  | Total: 121  | Agencies' annual reporting/annual  |  |

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|   | exercise their leadership role towards the achievement of gender equality and women's empowerment rights, as well as human rights (contributing to SDG targets 5.1 and 10.3) |  |   |  |  |
|   | 2.3.f Number of sustainable participatory mechanisms, as well as new programmes and services for diaspora engagement, supported by the government                            | 2022 Total: 6  | Total: 8  | State Chancellery, IOM, UNDP, annual programme reports   |  |
|   | 2.3.g Number of community-based initiatives implemented by young people at local level that promote civic engagement, participation and gender equality                      | 2022 Total: 147  | Total: 397  | Agencies' internal reports/annual  |  |
|   | 2.3.h Number of national and local initiatives implemented to enhance accountability, transparency and participation in decision-making (contributing to SDG target 16.6)    | 2022 Total: 4  | Total: 10   | Agencies internal reporting/annual   |  |
| Output 2.4. Government and non-government actors have strengthened capacities and | 2.4.a Share of women in leadership roles of the Thematic Working Groups (TWG) for the Transnistrian  | 2022: 21% women coordinators (3 out of 14: 12 TWG and 2 subgroups) | At least 30% women coordinators (from both sides) | Government, Bureau for Reintegration Policies/ <a href="#">link</a> /government reports on 2 <sup>nd</sup> generation 1325 NAP implementation/annual |  |

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| resources to address the humanitarian crisis, sustain peace and security at the national and regional level and ensure access to justice for all | conflict settlement process <sup>36</sup><br>(contributing to SDG target 5.5)   |   |   |  |  |
|  | 2.4.b Access to legal services and remedies:<br>i) Number of initiatives implemented to strengthen access to legal services and remedies;<br>ii) number of people accessing legal services and remedies virtually (contributing to SDG target 16.3) | 2022: 6<br>[LNOB: 1 disability, 1 gender equality]<br><br>2022: 3,500 | 9<br>[LNOB: 1 disability, 2 gender equality]<br><br>10,000                            |  | Agencies' internal reporting/annual                |
|  | 2.4.c Percentage of girls and boys in conflict with the law who are subject to a diversion order or alternative measure as opposed to a custodial sentence (contributing to SDG target 16.3)  | 2020: 20%   | 35%   |  | Ajutor/annual reports                              |
|  | 2.4.d Number of initiatives, including on human rights and gender equality, aimed to strengthen confidence, trust, social cohesion and contribute to sustained peace  | 2022 Total: 158<br>Gender and human rights: 28                        | Total: 266<br>Gender and Human Rights: 66   |  | Agencies' internal reporting/annual                |
|  | 2.4.e Number of border management authorities enabled to ensure migrants' and refugee   | 2022: 0   | 9<br>[MIA (BMA, GBPI), Customs Service, SIS, Civil Aviation Authority, National Child |  | Agencies' internal reporting; RRP reporting/annual |

<sup>36</sup> The baseline and targets refer to members of the TWG from the Chişinău side for which official verifiable data is available.

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|  | <p>protection, aviation security and carry out special investigation operations, integrating anti-corruption, gender and human rights commitments (contributing to SDG target 16.6)</p> |   | <p>Protection System Actors (MoLSP, child protection units of local authorities/guardianship authorities at raion and community level)]</p>                          |  |  |
|  | <p>2.4.f Percentage of people feeling safe in Moldova (contributing to SDG target 16.1)</p>   | <p>2021 Total: 25%<br/>Men/Women: 12%/13%;<br/>Urban/rural: 11%/14%;<br/>Ethnicity (Moldovan/Other): 19%/6%;<br/>Socio-economic status (low/medium/high): 4%/13%/4%</p> | <p>Total: 30%<br/>Men/Women: 20%/20%;<br/>Urban/rural: 20%/20%;<br/>Ethnicity (Moldovan/Other): 25%/15%;<br/>Socio-economic status (low/medium/high): 10%/20%10%</p> | <p><a href="#">IPP/Public Opinion Barometer</a>/biannually</p> |  |

### Outcome 3

**Strategic priority 3:** Enhanced Shared Prosperity in a Sustainable Economy

**National development Priorities arising from the following national development policies and programmes for implementation:**

- National Development Strategy Moldova 2030
- Government Activity Programme and Government Action Plan for 2021–2022- National Human Rights Action Plan 2018–2022
- Development Strategy in the Field of Internal Affairs for the years 2022–2030 (draft)
- Programme for Managing the Migration Flows, Asylum and Integration of Foreigners 2022–2025 (draft)
- National Diaspora Strategy 2025
- National Programme for Promoting Return and Reintegration of Moldovan Migrants 2022–2026
- Programme for Integrated State Border Management 2022–2025 (draft)- National Regional Development Strategy of the Republic of Moldova 2022–2028
- National Programme on Growth Poles Development in the Republic of Moldova 2021–2027
- National Employment Programme 2022–2027 (draft)
- Decent Work Country Programme 2021–2024
- National Programme and Action Plan on Gender Equality 2022–2026 (draft)
- Programme of Support for the Roma Population in the Republic of Moldova 2022–2025 (draft)
- National Strategy for Agriculture and Rural Development 2022–2027 (draft)
- National Programme on Supporting Clustering Initiatives (draft)
- European Union–Moldova Association Agreement and DCFTA

**Regional frameworks:**

- Eastern Partnership (EaP)
- CAREC
- Budapest Process
- Central European Initiative
- Commonwealth of Independent States
- Global Forum on Migration and Development
- Police Cooperation Convention for Southeast Europe
- Prague Process
- Regional Cooperation Council
- The South-Eastern Europe Health Network (SEEHN)

**SDG accelerators:** SDG 1 (1.2), 2 (2.3, 2.4, 2.b, 4 (4.4), 5 (5.4, 5.c), 8 (8.3, 8.5, 8.6, 8.8), 9 (9.3), 10 (10.4, 10.7), 17 (17.3)

**UN Agencies:** FAO, IFAD, ILO, IOM, ITC, ITU, OHCHR, UNAIDS, UNDP, UNECE, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNIDO, UN Women, WFP, WHO

| Results | National SDG indicators/performance indicators (disaggregated) | Baseline (year) | Target (2027) | Source/MoV/periodicity | Assumption statement |
|---------|--|-----------------|---------------|------------------------|----------------------|
|         |  |                 |               |                        |                      |

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|--|---|---|--|--------------------------------|--|
| 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. | A) Gender Pay Gap (SDG indicator 8.5.1 and contributing to SDG target 10.4)                           | 2020: 13.7<br>Sectors:<br>Information & communication:<br>Health and social assistance:<br>Public administration:<br>Total economic sector:<br>Industry:<br>Agriculture:<br>[Data for 2021 will be available in August 2022, by economic activity. No age and disability disaggregation available.] | Decrease of 0.5p.p on annual basis / or by 2027 to reach 13.0  | NBS/annual data release        | Public-private cooperation promotes technological innovations and empowerment of people<br><br>Anticorruption measures promote foreign investment and mobilization of diaspora resources |
|  | B) Employment rate (15+, in %) (contributing to SDG target 8.5)                                       | 2021<br>a) All: 39.8%<br>b) Female: 35.4%<br>c) Male: 44.7%<br>d) Youth (15-29): 28.9%<br>e) Urban: 45.6%<br>f) Rural: 36.0%<br>g) Disability: 13.5%<br>h) former prisoners: 1%<br>i) ethnicity (Roma): 5.5%  | To be aligned with the national target set in the new employment programme (drafting process to be finalized in 2022)<br><br>h) former prisoners: 5% | NBS/annual                     | Demographic and migration trends sustained or reversed   |
|  | C) Remittances as share of GDP (SDG indicator 17.3.2)   | 2020: 15.7%   | 13%  | NBS/World Bank database/annual | Employment and job creation remains a priority on the reform agenda and an adequate fiscal space is provided for such priorities   |
|  | D) Share of remittances in household budgets of poorest 20% (related to SDG target 1.2)               | 2020: 15.4%   | 15%  | NBS/annual                     |  |
|  | E) Manufacturing employment as a proportion of total employment, (%) (contributing to SDG target 8.5) | 2020: 13%   | 21%  | UNIDO reporting/annual         |  |

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|  |  |                       |                 |  | Decentralized implementation of employment policy remains a priority               |
| Output 3.1. Policy and institutional frameworks create an empowering environment for inclusive and sustainable economic development that promotes creation of productive and decent work | 3.1.a Number of policies and innovative programmes (and legal acts) facilitating inclusive and sustainable economic development and employment, in rural areas, including for engagement of migrants' economic resources for productive investment in the Moldovan economy (contributing to SDG targets 2.3) | 2022 Total: 29        | Total: 51       | Agencies' internal reports/annual  | Employment and institutional re-engineering remain a priority on the reform agenda |
|  | 3.1.b Volume of financial means allocated by government for fostering activities to promote local agricultural and agri-food products on foreign markets (nationalized SDG indicator 2.b.1.1)  | 2021: 1.0 billion MDL | 2.2 billion MDL | Law on state budget/annual   |  |
|  | 3.1.c Number of activities/services implemented to support the achievement of livelihood and inclusion solutions for displacement-affected populations/refugees (may   | 2021: 7               | 35              | Agencies' annual reports (based on CALM annual reports); RRP monitoring framework/annual |  |

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|  | be linked to SDG 8.5 and 10.7 )   |  |  |   |  |
|  | 3.1.d Private sector adopted transparent and ethical recruitment standards and enabled to apply it for more transparent and ethical recruitment (including non-discrimination) (contributing to SDG target 8.8) | 2023: No   | Yes at least 12 licensed private recruitment agencies have adopted the new standard, and 7 private companies have established and implemented transparent and ethical recruitment procedures   | MLSP/NEA and IOM/yearly reports   |  |
|  | 3.1.e Number of new jobs created by the private sector, with a focus on youth and women, including in special status regions (contributing to SDG target 8.5)   | 2021 Total: 3,849<br><br>Disaggregated (tbc):<br>Women 1,459; Youth 406; Urban/rural 0; Green jobs 262; Migrants and returnees 103; refugees 0; People from special status regions 783<br><br>Agriculture sector: 1,334, of which: 400 women, 660 green jobs, 130 migrants/returnees | Total: 9,310<br><br>Disaggregated (tbc):<br>Women 3,500; Youth 1,000; Urban/rural 2,700/3,100; Green jobs 300; Migrants and returnees 240; Refugees; People from special status regions 2,000; Agriculture sector: 3,200, of which 960 women, 1,600 green jobs, 320 migrants/returnees | Agencies annual and project reports/annual  |  |
| Output 3.2. Regulatory framework and institutions promote economic empowerment of women and their equal access to decent work. | 3.2.a Number of regulatory frameworks on women's economic empowerment revised/developed, in line with LNOB, and promoting HRBA (contributing to SDG target 5.c)   | 2022: 2  | Total: 4<br>[Child-care: 3; Equal pay: 1]  | Parliamentary Commission on Social Protection, Health and Family and the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection; CPD/annual |  |
|  | 3.2.b Proportion of time spent on unpaid domestic and care work by sex, age and areas of residence  | 2012:<br>Men: 2.7, Women: 4.8<br>Age 15–21: 2.6<br>Age 25–64: 4.1  | To improve (i.e. less time spent on unpaid domestic care work) all lines by at least 10 %  | NBS/after 2023 TUS module on unpaid work  |  |

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|  | (SDG indicator 5.4.1)   | Age 65+: 4.7<br>Rural: 4.4, urban: 3.3   |  |   |  |
| Output 3.3.<br>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. | 3.3.a Share of the volume of agricultural production of small agricultural producers (women and men) in total agricultural production (national SDG indicator 2.3.2)    | 2020: 53.8%  | 58.2%  | NBS/statistical yearbook/annual                               |  |
|  | 3.3.b Share of small enterprises (up to 49 employees) that accessed credit and/or loans, during the year, including by industry sector (national SDG indicator 9.3.2.1) | 2018: 11.7%<br><br>By type of MSME: 1–9 Employees: 73%; 10–49 Employees and industry: 92–94%<br><br>Gender:<br>Women-owned: 1–9 employees: 75%; more than 250 employees: 100%<br>Men-owned: 1–9 employees: 73%; more than 250 employees: 90% | 15%<br><br>Gender: increase by 5 percentage points for women-owned and men-owned | NBM/NBS; National Bank/annual<br><u>gender disaggregation</u> |  |
|  | 3.3.c Number of new and existing MSMEs with improved capacity to expand, innovate and increase resource use and export their products (contributing to SDG target 8.3)  | 2022: 1,000 (UNDP)   | 1,600 (UNDP)   | Agencies' internal reports/annual                             |  |
|  | 3.3.d Share of agri-food processed products in the total exports (%) (contributing to SDG target 2.3)   | 2020: 49%  | 60%  | NBS and MAFI/report/annual                                    |  |
|  | 3.3.e Number of new businesses established  | 2021<br>Total: 315   | Total: 1,000   | Agency reports/annual   |  |

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|---|---|--|---|---|---|
|   | (contributing to SDG target 8.3)  | General: 70 (UNDP)<br>Women owners: 58 (UNDP),<br>30 (UN Women)<br>Migrants: 140 (IOM)<br>Green businesses: 17<br>(UNDP) | General: 50 (UNDP)<br>Women owners: 100<br>(UNDP), 50 (UN Women)<br>Migrants: 700 (IOM), 50<br>(UNDP)<br>Green businesses: 50<br>(UNDP) |   |   |
|   | 3.3.f Number of farming households that benefited from emergency support in response to crises (contributing to SDG target 2.4)   | 2021: 0<br>Male-headed: 0<br>Female-headed: 0  | Total: 2,200<br>Male-headed: 1,000<br>Female-headed: 1,200  | Agency reports/annual                   |   |
| Output 3.4. People of Moldova, in particular those left behind, have improved access to adequate protection and safe working conditions, knowledge, in-demand skills and resources to foster employability, competitiveness and entrepreneurship culture. | 3.4.a Number of persons, including NEET girls and boys, who receive tailored support for employment and skills development, including in STEM areas (contributing to SDG targets 4.4, 8.5, 8.6)                         | 2021: 1,500<br>Disaggregation (tbc)<br>Women: 265<br>Disability tbc  | Total: 8,700<br>Disaggregation (tbc)<br>Women: 1,770<br>Disability tbc  | NEA and UN agency reports/annual        | More financial resources will be allocated to the NEA for the implementation of new active labour market measures |
|   | 3.4.b National Employment Agency applies M&E mechanisms to assess effectiveness of the service delivery (contributing to SDG target 8.5)  | 2021<br>NEA has no M&E mechanisms in place to assess effectiveness of services and programmes                            | NEA conducts M&E of at least three services and programmes based on defined M&E mechanisms  | NEA; MoL/reports/annual                 | The results of the pilot interventions are brought to scale   |
|   | 3.4.c Number of refugees accessing short-term and long-term employment through policy support and employment creation programmes, vocational training and skills recognition mechanism (contributing to SDG target 8.5) | 2022 (as of 1 April 2022)<br>Total: 187<br>Women: 139<br>Men: 48   | Total: 5,500<br>Women: tbc<br>Men: tbc  | NEA/administrative data, reports/annual |   |

## Outcome 4

| <p><b>Strategic priority 4:</b> Green Development, Sustainable Communities and Disaster and Climate Resilience</p> <p><b>National development Priorities arising from the following national development policies and programmes for implementation:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- National Development Strategy Moldova 2030</li> <li>- Government Activity Programme and Government Action Plan for 2021-2022</li> <li>- National Environment Strategy 2014-2023</li> <li>- Development Strategy in the Field of Internal Affairs for the years 2022-2030 (draft)</li> <li>- Programme for Emergency and Exceptional Situations Management 2022-2025 (draft)</li> <li>- National Strategy for Agriculture and Rural Development 2022-2027 (draft)</li> <li>- Land Reclamation Program to ensure sustainable soil management for 2021-2025</li> <li>- Low Emission Development Strategy 2030</li> <li>- National Climate Change Adaptation Programme 2023-2028 (draft)</li> <li>- EU-Moldova Association Agreement</li> </ul> <p><b>Regional Frameworks:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Eastern Partnership (EaP)</li> <li>- CAREC</li> <li>- Budapest Process</li> <li>- Central European Initiative</li> <li>- Commonwealth of Independent States</li> <li>- Global Forum on Migration and Development</li> <li>- Police Cooperation Convention for Southeast Europe</li> <li>- Prague Process</li> <li>- Regional Cooperation Council</li> <li>- The South-Eastern Europe Health Network (SEEHN)</li> </ul> <p><b>SDG accelerators:</b> SDG 2 (2.4), 5 (5.5), 7 (7.3), 9 (9.4), 11 (11.6), 12 (12.2), 13 (13.1, 13.2, 13.3, 13.b), 15 (15.1, 15.b), 17 (17.14, 17.16)</p> <p><b>UN agencies:</b> FAO, IFAD, ILO, IOM, ITU, OHCHR, UNDP, UNDRR, UNECE, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNIDO, UN Women, WFP, WHO</p> |   |                                     |                              |   |  |
|---|---|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|---|--|
| Results   | National SDG indicators/performance indicators (disaggregated)                      | Baseline (year)                     | Target (2027)                | Source/MoV/periodicity  | Assumption statement                               |
| Outcome 4: By 2027, institutions and all people of Moldova  | A) Greenhouse gas emissions reduced at national level (global SDG indicator 13.2.2) | 1990: 43.3891 MT CO <sub>2</sub> eq | 12.448 MT CO <sub>2</sub> eq | National inventory reports; national communications; biennial updated reports (UNFCCC)/annual | The government is committed to allocate sufficient |

|  |   |                         |   |  |  |
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| 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.                         | B) Energy intensity (related to SDG indicator 7.3.1)  | 2019: 0.38 ktOE/mil EUR | 0.285 ktOE/mil EUR; 25% decrease compared to baseline | <a href="#">NBS/Country Annual Implementation Reports to the Energy Community/annual</a> | funding and implement environment and climate-related multilateral agreements<br><br>The government scales up support to inclusive and participatory green development, climate change action and emergency and disaster risk management |
|  | C) Share of land area covered by forest and forest vegetation (%) (SDG indicator 15.1.1; indicator included in Moldova 2030 NDS)  | 2019: 13.4%             | 15%   | Moldsilva Agency/reports/annual  |  |
| Output 4.1. Public authorities have enhanced environmental governance capacity to implement gender-responsive policy frameworks that promote climate resilient and green development and disaster risk reduction | 4.1.a Disaster Risk Reduction Strategies (a) National disaster risk reduction strategy adopted and implemented in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 (SDG indicator 13.1.2) | 2022: No                | Yes, strategy adopted and implemented                 | Ministry of Environment; agencies' internal reports/annual                               | Investment from the private sector, including diaspora resources and specialized funds, is streamlined to promote the sustainable use of natural   |
|  | (b) Number of local governments that adopt and implement local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national disaster risk reduction strategies (SDG indicator 13.1.3)                             | 2021: 17                | 23  |  |  |
|  | 4.1.b Moldova collects and reports disaster risk data into the Sendai Framework Monitor   | 2022: No                | Yes   | Sendai Framework monitor/annual  |  |

|  |  |   |                                       |   |   |
|--|--|---|---------------------------------------|---|---|
|  | (contributing to SDG indicator 13.b.1)   |   |                                       |   | resources and build the resilience of people and communities  |
|  | 4.1.c Number of sectors that integrate climate change considerations that are gender- and migration-sensitive in the development planning frameworks (UNFCCC and European Union) (contributing to SDG target 13.2) | 2022 Total: 0                                   | Total: 8                              | Agencies' internal reporting/annual   | Private enterprises are willing to integrate innovative climate-smart solutions and renewable energy, environmentally friendly waste management methods and responsible consumption and production patterns |
|  | 4.1.d Number of national adaptation plans validated by the government that include migration, agriculture, environment and gender-sensitive climate change nexus considerations (contributing to SDG target 13.1)  | 2022: 0   | 2                                     | Agencies/M&E project reports; PMU reports/annual government/government activity reports and line ministries reports (MoE); government decisions; development plans/annual |   |
|  | 4.1.e Number of reformed institutions to deliver enhanced environmental services (contributing to SDG target 13.3)   | 2022: 0   | 2                                     | UNDP/M&E Project reports; PMU reports/annual Government/Government activity report and line ministries reports; Government Decisions/annual                               |   |
|  | 4.1.f National climate change coordination mechanism is operational and reflects gender balanced representation of delegated officials (contributing to SDG targets 5.5 and 13.b)                                  | 2022: CC Coordination Committee not operational | CC Coordination Committee operational | Agencies/M&E project reports; PMU reports/annual line ministries/reports/annual   |   |

|  |   |   |   |   |  |
|--|---|---|---|---|--|
| Output 4.2. Public and private institutions have increased capacities to ensure effective sustainable management, protection and use of natural resources, improved energy resources efficiency and climate, emergency and disaster resilience that benefit most vulnerable and poor | 4.2.a Number of private companies (women-led and men-led) that implement innovative solutions on low emission, climate resilient and green development (contributing to SDG target 9.4) | 2022: 29 private sector companies implementing green solutions<br>Ownership: Women: 5;<br>Men: 24 | 49 companies<br>Ownership: Women: 10;<br>Men 39 | Agencies/M&E project reports; PMU reports; agreements; CSAs/annual  |  |
|  | 4.2.b Number of people benefiting from sustainable natural resource practices (contributing to SDG target 12.2)   | 2021<br>Total: 24,000<br>Women: 12,480<br>Men: 11,520   | Total: 40,000<br>Women: 20,000<br>Men: 20,000   | Agencies/M&E project reports/PMU reports; reports on commissioning of completed works; practices; expert reports/annual |  |
|  | 4.2.c Share of agriculture areas under conservation practices, including those established/developed (related to SDG indicator 2.4.1)   | 2020: 18.8%<br><br>Land certified as organic: 1.1%  | 30%<br><br>Land certified as organic: 2.0%      | MAFI/reports/annual   |  |
|  | 4.2.d Amount of resources from migrants utilized for climate change mitigation and adaptation actions (contributing to SDG target 15.b)   | 2022: 0   | 20 million MDL                                  | ODIMM annual reports  |  |
| Output 4.3. Agricultural producers have strengthened capacities to engage in sustainable and resilient agricultural practices, integrate   | 4.3.a Number of farmers receiving advisory and technical support on sustainable and resilient practices (contributing to SDG target 12.2)   | 2021: 5,000   | 25,000  | Agency annual reports   |  |
|  | 4.3.c Export value of the local organic agri-food products  | 2020: 22,321 tons   | 35,713 tons (increase by 60%)                   | MAFI reports/annual   |  |

|  |  |   |                              |   |  |
|--|--|---|------------------------------|---|--|
| renewable energy sources and access new markets.   | (contributing to SDG target 12.2)  |   |                              |   |  |
| 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. | 4.4.a Number of NGOs, LPAs and CBOs, women NGOs including grass roots organizations with increased capacities to engage in climate and green development areas (contributing to SDG target 13.b)                                       | 2022 Total: 118                             | Total: 136                   | M&E project reports/PMU reports;<br>NGOs, CBOs reports/annual   |  |
|  | 4.4.b Number of sustainable platforms (owned by state institutions) operational to facilitate CSOs, CBOs, women and youth participation in decision-making process on environment and climate issues (contributing to SDG target 13.b) | 2022 total: 2                               | Total: 7                     | Ministry of Environment web page/annual basis;<br>M&E project reports/PMU reports;<br>line ministry reports;<br>NGOs, CBOs reports/annual |  |
|  | 4.4.c Number of people with enhanced awareness on environment, climate and green development (contributing to SDG target 13.3)   | 2021/22 total: 259,955 (disaggregation tbc) | 301,786 (disaggregation tbc) | M&E project reports; PMU reports; expert reports/annual   |  |

## ANNEX 2: LEGAL ANNEX

1. Whereas the Government of the Republic of Moldova (the “Government”) has entered into the agreements listed below with the United Nations, including its Funds, Programmes and other subsidiary organs, and other organizations of the United Nations system (“UN System Organizations”), which are applicable to their programme activities in the Republic of Moldova (the “UN Agreements”) under the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (the “Cooperation Framework”);
2. Whereas the UN Agreements, together with the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations of 13 February 1946 (the “General Convention”) and/or the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the Specialized Agencies of 21 November 1947 (the “Specialized Agencies Convention”) as applicable, form the primary existing legal basis for the relationship between the Government and each UN System Organization for supporting the country to deliver on the Cooperation Framework, and are non-exhaustive and without prejudice to any other legal instruments the Government may enter into, including additional agreements with UN System Organizations for the purpose of their activities in the country:
  - a) With **United Nations Development Programme** (hereinafter referred to as UNDP) have entered into a basic agreement to govern UNDP’s assistance to the country (Standard Basic Assistance Agreement (SBAA)) which was signed by both parties on 2 October 1992 and was amended on 2 July 1997. Based on Article I, paragraph 2 of the SBAA, UNDP’s assistance to the Government shall be made available to the Government and shall be furnished and received in accordance with the relevant and applicable resolutions and decisions of the competent UNDP organs, and subject to the availability of the necessary funds to the UNDP. In particular, decision 2005/1 of 28 January 2005 of UNDP’s Executive Board approved the new Financial Regulations and Rules and along with them the new definitions of ‘execution’ and ‘implementation’ enabling UNDP to fully implement the new Common Country Programming Procedures resulting from the UNDP simplification and harmonization initiative. In light of this decision this UNDAF together with a work plan (which shall form part of this UNDAF and is incorporated herein by reference) concluded hereunder constitute together a project document as referred to in the SBAA <sup>37</sup>
  - b) With the **United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF)** a Basic Cooperation Agreement (BCA) concluded between the Government and UNICEF on 4 October 1996.
  - c) With the Office of the **United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)** a Country Co-operation Agreement concluded between the Government and UNHCR on 2 December 1998.)
  - f) With the **Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)** of the United Nations the Agreement for the establishment of the FAO Representation in the Republic of Moldova on 7 April 2014, (ratified by Law no. 133 of 11.07.2014)
  - g) With **Agency International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)** signed a financing agreement in November 2016 for financing the Rural Resilience Project (2016 – 2023). In April 2020 the Government signed another agreement with IFAD for financing Talent Retention for Rural Transformation Project (2020-2027).

h) With the **International Labour Organization (ILO)** the Memorandum of Understanding concerning implementation of the Decent Work Country for the Republic of Moldova (2021-2024) signed on October 7<sup>th</sup> 2021 with the government, national employers' and workers' organizations.

i) **With the International Organization for Migration (IOM)** a Cooperation Agreement concluded between the Government and the International Organization for Migration on 21 March 2002.

o) With the **World Health Organization (WHO)**, the Parliament decision on Republic of Moldova accession to World Health Organisation from 4<sup>th</sup> of May 1992 and Biennial Collaborative Agreement concluded between the Ministry of Health and WHO in April 2022.

3. With respect to all UN System Organizations, including ITU, OHCHR, UNESCO, UNDRR, UN Women, UNAIDS, UNODC, and UNFPA:<sup>38</sup> Assistance to the Government shall be made available and shall be furnished and received in accordance with the relevant and applicable resolutions, decisions, rules and procedures of each UN System Organization.

4. Without prejudice to the above, the Government shall:

(i) apply to each UN System Organization and its property, funds, assets, officials and experts on mission the provisions of the General Convention and/or the Specialized Agencies Convention; and

(ii) accord to each UN System Organization, its officials and other persons performing services on behalf of that UN System Organization, the privileges, immunities and facilities set out in the UN Agreement applicable to such UN System Organization.

5. United Nations Volunteers performing services on behalf of a UN System Organization shall be entitled to the privileges and immunities accorded to officials of such UN System Organization.

6. Any privileges, immunities and facilities granted to a UN System Organization under the Cooperation Framework shall be no less favourable than those granted by the Government to any other UN System Organization signatory of the Cooperation Framework.

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<sup>38</sup> The Republic of Moldova will conclude a separate legal framework with UNFPA, UNIDO, UNODC, UNAIDS and UN Women providing assistance to the Government in accordance with the relevant resolutions and decisions of these structures.

### ANNEX 3: MONITORING, EVALUATION AND LEARNING PLAN

The Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) plan sets an overview of monitoring, reporting, evaluation and learning activities and objectives. A detailed MEL plan, which will define specific roles of the responsible Results Groups and Lead United Nations agencies, will be developed after the UNSDCF is signed.

| Description of Activities  | Main objective  | Responsible Results Groups                                     | Lead UN Entities | Timeline |        |        |        |        |
|--|---|--|------------------|----------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
|  |   |  |                  | Year 1   | Year 2 | Year 3 | Year 4 | Year 5 |
| <b>Monitoring</b>  |   |  |                  |          |        |        |        |        |
| Baseline data collection and target setting per UNSDCF outcome and output indicator (note: baseline - for those currently unset) | Ensure baseline data and target values are fully provided at the beginning of UNSDCF, including all relevant disaggregation                                 | All relevant RGs<br>SDG/M&E WG                                 | UNCT             |          |        |        |        |        |
| Develop metadata and reporting templates for UNCT to report on Result Matrix indicators' progress                                | To harmonise the methodology for reporting on Results achievement in the UNSDCF   | SDG/M&E WG<br>All relevant WGs                                 | UNCT             |          |        |        |        |        |
| Joint field monitoring and learning visits to implementing partners and intervention locations                                   | Monitor progress of delivering as one, document challenges and devise actionable recommendations  | All relevant RGs<br>SDG/M&E WG                                 | UNCT             |          |        |        |        |        |
| Biennial round tables on progress towards achievement of SDGs and UNSDCF targets   | Monitor progress towards achievement of SDGs, document challenges and devise actionable recommendations   | All relevant RGs<br>SDG/M&E WG                                 | UNCT             |          |        |        |        |        |
| Develop and update the UNSDCF risk management plan   | Monitor and mitigate the impact of risks. Improve the overall efficient implementation of the UNSDCF.   | All relevant RGs<br>SDG/M&E WG<br>OMT                          | UNCT             |          |        |        |        |        |
| Review and update Common Country Analysis and dashboard  | Strengthen situational monitoring through reflection on the changes in the country context, operating environment   | All relevant RGs<br>SDG/M&E WG                                 | RCO              |          |        |        |        |        |
| Conduct joint assessments, thematic studies in the areas of results of the UNSDCF  | Strengthen evidence generation to inform the UNSDCF implementation and/or SDG policy advocacy initiatives   | All relevant RGs<br>SDG/M&E WG<br>All relevant thematic groups | UNCT             |          |        |        |        |        |
| Conduct assessment of UN's institutional commitments on gender and human rights  | Ensure gender, youth and disability inclusion, and human rights baseline data and targets are fully provided at the beginning of the UNSDCF                 | All relevant RGs<br>SDG/M&E WG<br>All relevant thematic groups | UNCT             |          |        |        |        |        |
| Extend support to national government in strengthening the national statistical system   | Ensure enhanced national capacity to effective implementation of the SDGs and monitoring of achievement of the 2030 agenda                                  | All relevant RGs<br>SDG/M&E WG                                 | UNCT             |          |        |        |        |        |
| Organise regular RGs / thematic WGs meetings for monitoring, reporting, and learning purposes                                    | Ensure the overall efficient implementation of the UNSDCF   | All relevant RGs<br>SDG/M&E WG<br>All relevant thematic groups | UNCT             |          |        |        |        |        |
| Monitor the level of implementation of international   | Enhance the national capacities to use the National Human Rights Monitoring Platform<br><a href="http://monitor.drepturi.md">http://monitor.drepturi.md</a> | All relevant RGs<br>SDG/M&E WG                                 | UNCT             |          |        |        |        |        |

| Description of Activities  | Main objective  | Responsible Results Groups                                     | Lead UN Entities | Timeline                         |        |        |        |        |
|--|---|--|------------------|----------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
|  |   |  |                  | Year 1                           | Year 2 | Year 3 | Year 4 | Year 5 |
| human rights recommendations by Republic of Moldova  |   |  |                  |                                  |        |        |        |        |
| Support Government with international human rights reporting (UPR, CRC, CEDAW etc.)  | Ensure human rights reporting contributes to monitoring the country SDG commitments   | All relevant RGs<br>SDG/M&E WG<br>All relevant thematic groups | UNCT             |                                  |        |        |        |        |
| <b>Review and Reporting</b>  |   |  |                  |                                  |        |        |        |        |
| Conduct UNSDCF Annual Performance Review   | Reflect upon the overall progress towards UNSDCF outcomes and outputs and devise strategies to accelerate the implementation of UNSDCF  | All relevant RGs<br>SDG/M&E WG                                 | RCO              |                                  |        |        |        |        |
| Prepare the annual UN country results report   | Provide overview of UNSDCF achievements at the output and outcome level, key challenges, risks and key adaptations  | All relevant RGs<br>SDG/M&E WG                                 | RCO              |                                  |        |        |        |        |
| Timely reflect requested inputs to joint planning and annual reporting in UN INFO, ensuring data disaggregation and accuracy   | Provide an overview of CF outcome/output results and contribution to country progress towards national priorities and the SDGs, and ensure all development activities are on track to deliver results   | All relevant RGs<br>SDG/M&E WG                                 | RCO              |                                  |        |        |        |        |
| Support the Government in setting up and maintaining of SDG monitoring system to ensure timely reporting on SDG progress (VNR) | Strengthen policies and institutions and mobilize multi-stakeholder support and partnerships for the implementation of the SDGs. Insure the SDG online monitoring platform is operational   | All relevant RGs<br>SDG/M&E WG                                 | RCO              | When developed by the Government |        |        |        |        |
| Assessment of the UN SWAP scorecard implementation plan  | Ensure accountability for gender equality under the UNSDCF  | All relevant RGs<br>SDG/M&E WG                                 | UNCT             |                                  |        |        |        |        |
| Document and collectively analyse lessons emerging throughout programme cycle  | Cross-fertilize agency-specific and joint programmes with lessons learned   | All relevant RGs<br>SDG/M&E WG                                 | UNCT             |                                  |        |        |        |        |
| <b>Evaluation</b>  |   |  |                  |                                  |        |        |        |        |
| Conduct an Evaluability Assessment of the UNSDCF   | Determine the extent to which the UNSDCF can be evaluated in a reliable and credible fashion and thus inform the feasibility, scope, approach, and value for money of an evaluation. Moreover, it will check the coherence of the UNSDCF and mechanisms for availability of data and information for future assessments and evaluations | All relevant RGs<br>SDG/M&E WG                                 | RCO              |                                  |        |        |        |        |
| Conduct final independent evaluation of UNSDCF   | Evaluate the UNSDCF's relevance, cohesiveness, effectiveness, efficiency, impact and sustainability considering the SDGs and National 2030 Agenda   | All relevant RGs<br>SDG/M&E WG                                 | RCO              |                                  |        |        |        |        |
| Conduct UN joint programmes and thematic evaluations   | Assess the relevance, cohesiveness, effectiveness, efficiency, impact and sustainability of joint programmes and common themes of interest under the UNSDCF   | All relevant RGs<br>SDG/M&E WG                                 | UNCT             |                                  |        |        |        |        |

| Description of Activities   | Main objective   | Responsible Results Groups                              | Lead UN Entities | Timeline |        |        |        |        |
|---|--|---|------------------|----------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
|   |  |   |                  | Year 1   | Year 2 | Year 3 | Year 4 | Year 5 |
| <b>Learning</b>   |  |   |                  |          |        |        |        |        |
| Establish a learning mechanism for making emerging lessons available across the UN System.  | Improve performance by ensuring that best practices and lessons learnt are shared among agencies and key stakeholders  | All relevant RGs<br>SDG/M&E WG                          | UNCT             |          |        |        |        |        |
| Organise periodic capacity building for SDG/M&E WG and other working groups on UNSDCF outcome and output indicators, Results based management, UN INFO workspace, other areas of interest | Enhance capacities of UN Moldova working groups in linking UNSDCF indicators to national SDG indicator framework, enabling a better measurement of development results in line with 2030 Agenda  | All relevant RGs<br>SDG/M&E WG                          | UNCT             |          |        |        |        |        |
| Assessing learning needs of the agencies and organise thematic trainings for inter-agency groups (e.g. on disability inclusion, engaging youth, gender equality, human rights)            | Enhance capacities of inter-agency groups, tailored on their needs   | All relevant RGs<br>All relevant thematic groups<br>OMT | UNCT             |          |        |        |        |        |
| Support national Government to develop evaluation capacities (e.g. VNR, policies' evaluations)  | Nurture national evaluation capacity development to promote country led evaluations, use of evaluations in VNRs and policy implementation  | All relevant RGs<br>SDG/M&E WG                          | UNCT             |          |        |        |        |        |
| Capacity building to agencies on how to support national statistical system in data management and use  | Enhance capacities of agencies to be able to provide support to the national statistical system to collect, analyse and use real-time disaggregated data for evidence-based policy and programming, as well as SDG reporting and monitoring. | All relevant RGs<br>SDG/M&E WG                          | UNCT             |          |        |        |        |        |

#### ANNEX 4. HACT and other provisions

According to the Harmonized Cash Transfers (HACT) modalities, all cash transfers to an Implementing Partner are based on the Joint Workplans agreed between the Implementing Partner and the United Nations system agencies. Cash transfers for activities detailed in workplans (WPs) can be made by the United Nations system agencies using the following modalities:

1. Cash transferred directly to the Implementing Partner:
  - a. Prior to the start of activities (direct cash transfer), or
  - b. After activities have been completed (reimbursement);
2. Direct payment to vendors or third parties for obligations incurred by the Implementing Partners on the basis of requests signed by the designated official of the Implementing Partner;
3. Direct payments to vendors or third parties for obligations incurred by United Nations system agencies in support of activities agreed with Implementing Partners.

Direct cash transfers shall be requested and released for programme implementation periods not exceeding three months. Reimbursements of previously authorized expenditures shall be requested and released quarterly or after the completion of activities. The United Nations system agencies shall not be obligated to reimburse expenditure made by the Implementing Partner over and above the authorized amounts. Following the completion of any activity, any balance of funds shall be refunded or programmed by mutual agreement between the Implementing Partner and the United Nations system agencies.

The United Nations system agencies shall not have any direct liability under the contractual arrangements concluded between the Implementing Partner and a third-party vendor. Where the United Nations system agencies and other United Nations system agency provide cash to the same Implementing Partner, programme monitoring, financial monitoring and auditing will be undertaken jointly or coordinated with those United Nations system agencies.

Cash received by the government and national non-governmental implementing partners shall be used in accordance with established national regulations, policies and procedures consistent with international standards, in particular ensuring that cash is expended for activities as agreed in the workplans (WPs), and ensuring that reports on the utilization of all received cash are submitted to UNDP, UNICEF and UNFPA within six months after receipt of funds. Where any of the national regulations, policies and procedures are not consistent with international standards, the United Nations system agency financial and other related rules and system agency regulations, policies and procedures will apply.

A standard Fund Authorization and Certificate of Expenditures (FACE) report, reflecting the activity lines of the workplan (WP), will be used by Implementing Partners to request the release of funds or to secure the agreement that [United Nations organization] will reimburse or directly pay for planned expenditure. The Implementing Partners will use FACE to report on the utilization of cash received. The Implementing Partner shall identify the designated official(s) authorized to provide the account details, request and certify the use of cash. The FACE will be certified by the designated official(s) of the Implementing Partner.

Cash transferred to Implementing Partners should be spent for the purpose of activities and within the time frame as agreed in the workplans (WPs) only.

Cash received by the government and national NGO Implementing Partners shall be used in accordance with established national regulations, policies and procedures consistent with international standards, in particular ensuring that cash is expended for activities as agreed in the workplans (WPs), and ensuring that reports on the utilization of all received cash are submitted to [United Nations organization] within six months after receipt of funds. Where any of the national regulations, policies and procedures are not consistent with international standards, the United Nations system agency financial and other related rules and system agency regulations, policies and procedures will apply.

In the case of international NGO/CSO/intergovernmental organization Implementing Partners, cash received shall be used in accordance with international standards, in particular ensuring that cash is expended for activities as agreed in the workplans (WPs), and ensuring that reports on the full utilization of all received cash are submitted to [United Nations organization] within six months after receipt of funds.

The audits will be commissioned by the United Nations system agencies and undertaken by private audit services.