### Country: Republic of Moldova

### **COUNTRY PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE SUMMARY[[1]](#footnote-1)**

### Reporting period: 2013-2017

### **I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The UNDP Moldova Country Programme Document (CPD) for 2013-2017 committed to outcomes in three distinct but interrelated areas of Democratic Governance, Human Development, Social Inclusion, Environment, Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management closely aligned to the overall United Nations Partnership Framework. During the 2013–2017 programme cycle, UNDP contributed to sustainable development of Moldova, building the foundations for further consolidation of democracy; human rights and gender-equality promotion and inclusive, risk-informed growth. The UNDAF evaluation confirmed that impactful results were delivered,[[2]](#footnote-2) highlighting UNDP comparative advantages, such as the ability to tap into local and international expertise networks, the capacity to swiftly respond to government’s requests for assistance, the reputation of convening power[[3]](#footnote-3) and being a credible and impartial partner.[[4]](#footnote-4)

The transparency of the Parliament was strengthened through the implementation of an e-Parliament system and engagement in the Open Parliament initiative. The Central Electoral Committee became a highly capable institution delivering elections in line with international standards using advanced technological solutions, with its e-learning platform recognized as regional best practice.[[5]](#footnote-5) As highlighted by final programme evaluation “the impressive results achieved will have significant positive impact on all government institutions’.[[6]](#footnote-6) Moldova Social Innovation Lab became a partner for innovative governance, supporting public service modernization, new approaches to impact evaluation and policy design. Gender-equality and human rights aspects were integrated in national statistics, more complete and reliable disaggregated statistical data is now available.

Jointly with UN Women and OHCHR, UNDP engaged civil society and legislators in a comprehensive advocacy campaign, leading to the adoption of the ground-breaking law on Gender Equality in April 2016, which provides for a 40 per-cent gender quota in the Government Cabinet and on the political parties’ candidate lists. The enforcement of the law will increase the number of women in decision-making positions in line with the 2030 Agenda. With UNDP support, a shelter for survivors of domestic violence was opened in the break-away Transnistrian region, providing specialized services for women from the region for the first time.

Confidence-building measures (CBMs) have created channels of cooperation, transcending existing conflict divides, and therefore contributing to a practical rapprochement of the populations across the divide. CBMs provided access to better services and decent jobs to more than 500,000 beneficiaries. UNDP’s impartiality and ability to foster win-win solutions has been recognized by diverse partners in the country.[[7]](#footnote-7) UNDP’s positioning allowed for “significant development results and increasing cross-river partnerships in economic, social and cultural sectors.’[[8]](#footnote-8)

Significant progress has been made in environmental management, climate resilience and low-carbon development, key strategic planning frameworks being established with UNDP support.[[9]](#footnote-9) Climate change adaptation was mainstreamed into policy documents in agriculture, energy and transport sectors, while risk-informed decision making were introduced at district level. UNDP’s interventions in the area of renewable energy increased its share in the total energy mix from 5 to 14 per-cent and strengthened the energy security of the country, connecting 157,000 people to affordable heating and creating 150 new jobs for operators and biofuel producers. The first National Park in the country was established in Orhei, increasing the share of protected areas with 1%.[[10]](#footnote-10) Moldova has signed the Paris Agreement and is progressing on its ratification with UNDP support. The national warning systems of the State Hydro-meteorological Service were aligned with EU Meteoalarm and EUMetNet standards including Moldova in the European weather service network with UNDP support.

### **II: Country Programme Performance Summary**

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| **Country information** |  | | |
| **Country name:** Republic of Moldova | | | |
| **Current country programme period:** 2013-2017 | | | |
| **Outcomes** | **Total Expenditure** | **Key Indicators of outcome (1-4 per outcome)** | **Progress made against key indicators** |
| **OUTCOME 22.** Increased transparency, accountability and efficiency of central and local public authorities. | $ 27,218,630 | 1. ***Indicator:*** *Confidence in public institutions (gender disaggregated);*   ***Baseline****: Gov: 23%; Parl: 19%; LPAs: 47%;* ***Target:*** *45%; 40%; 60%.*   1. ***Indicator:*** *Women repress. in decision-making positions;*   ***Baseline*** *(2011): MPs-22%; 1 Minister; Mayors - 18%, Local Councillors – 28.7%;* ***Target:*** *30%; 25%,40%;*   1. ***Indicator:*** *Degree of implementation of Decentralisation Strategy;* ***Baseline****: Approved in 2012;* ***Target:*** *70% implemented.* | 1. *2016:*   *Gov: 9.2%; Parl: 6%; LPAs: 52%;*  *Male: 10,3%, 6,9%; 50%*  *Female: 8,3%; 5,2%; 55%*   1. *2016: MPs: 21.8%; Government Cabinet: Women 21%;*   *Mayors: 20.6%; Local councillors: 30%;*  *District Councillors: 18.5%;*   1. ***2015****: 57%* |
| **UNDP Contribution:**  CP Outputs:  1. A modernized public administration system able to efficiently develop, implement and monitor policies and EU association agenda.  2. The Parliament is better able to exercise its representation, oversight and law making functions ensuring human rights and gender equality.  3. LPAs have larger autonomy, incl. financial, better capacity to exercise its functions applying human rights and gender equality.  Progress and Achievements:  The political context during the CPD cycle did not present a conducive environment for moving forward the democratic reforms. UNDP had to establish relations with five consecutive Governments during four years, while the country faced three general elections – to the Parliament in 2014, local elections in 2015, and Presidential elections in 2016, all disrupting the work of the Government and the Parliament and causing delays in adoption of important political decisions, policy and legislation. A series of political crises, unveiled cases of grand corruption, theft of USD 1 billion from the banking system and a gradual capturing of public institutions and decision making power by a group of political cronies – all these attested for the weakness of democratic institutions and of the justice system that failed to protect public interest. At the same time, the events caused a dramatic decrease in people’s trust in governance institutions with 80% of the populations believing the country moves in the wrong direction. Popular support to the European integration agenda significantly weakened, society remaining divided between two geopolitical options: EU integration and the option of a Russia-led Eurasian Economic Union (EEU). As a result of all aforementioned developments, democratic standards of governance, as well as the rule of law and human rights record remain a shared concern among development partners, and is addressed by UNDP under the Outcome area.  In the volatile country’s development context, UNDP focused on **democratic and accountable governance** via two critical dimensions: developing institutions, and ensuring the people’s voice is heard, focusing on those underrepresented, so that genuine engagement provides legitimacy and public support to the needed change. The Outcome evaluation stated: *“Overall, the results achieved are greater than captured by the indicators. UNDP has made a considerable contribution to progress on the Outcome through substantial results on all Outputs indicators”.*  As the EU integration aspiration was the main driver of change in Moldova, UNDP provided **support to the implementation of the EU integration Agenda**. UNDP visibly contributed to the implementation of the Visa Liberalization Action Plan (VLAP) that resulted in the EC offering visa free regime to Moldovans and to country meeting the conditions for signing the Association Agreement (AA) and DCFTA, addressing major impediments to the reform (weak technical and institutional capacity) through policy advice, expertise, exposure to the best practices (including by means of South-South Cooperation), capacity development of a number of line ministries and other public institutions, capacity building and advocacy in justice, law enforcement, anti-corruption, migration, border management, food safety, tax system, and in other important areas.. As evidence of UNDP’s role in supporting the change, EU Results Oriented Mission Report on EU High Level Policy Advice Mission scored the quality of the project as “good to very good”, and referred to UNDP management as a key success factor: “*UNDP has a lengthy presence in the country and in these institutions, can provide support at a high level, which would not be possible from a commercial service provider, and to facilitate linkages with its other projects*”.  To address **corruption**, as one of country’s top problems, UNDP has focused on increasing transparency, integrity and accountability of the central public administration institutions. Anti-corruption was embedded in the work on enhanced border management focusing on the risk assessment methodology that increased the seizure of illegal goods flow. Further on, UNDP provided capacity development support to the **National Integrity Commission** established in 2013 to deal with the civil servants’ declarations on income, assets and conflict of interest. UNDP also partnered with the **National Anti-corruption Centre** addressing enhancement of its corruption prevention and analysis functions. Public awareness campaigns and other actions to consolidate the anticorruption demand side had been implemented at the local level, with a specific focus on youth.  UNDP continuously supported the Government in rolling out an **inclusive and innovative approach to policy elaboration, as well as** the **production of data and their use** for developing evidence-based policies. These policies were based on enhanced data disaggregation, targeting specific vulnerable and marginalised groups and addressing their needs. UNDP supported the Government in nationalizing SDGs through facilitation of Post-2015 Dialogue, engaging the government and the Civil Society both offline and through an innovative crowdsourcing platform into debates on the needs and priorities and launching the national discussion on the national prioritization of the SDGs. UNDP strongly supported systemic reforms of the Government, by facilitating a restructuring of the State Chancellery with the purpose of making it a leaner and more results-oriented organization, having the role of a **Centre of Government**, at the forefront of policy visioning and implementation of key reforms, such as the public administration reform.  **Parliament’s** legislative, oversight and representation functions had been significantly strengthened and transparency and accountability increased due to use of new tools offered by UNDP, including public hearings, establishing Parliamentary constituency offices etc. UNDP supported the elaboration and implementation of the first ever **Parliament Secretariat Strategic Development Plan**. Against the backdrop of massive anti-corruption protests, UNDP critically strengthened the Parliament’s commitment to lead the fight against corruption. With UNDP support, the Moldovan Parliament conducted an institutional **Corruption self-assessment**, adopted an **Anti-Corruption Action Plan** and considered a legal initiative on **a Code of Conduct for MPs**.  Strengthened by UNDP, capacity of the **Central Elections Commission** was internationally certified under two ISO standards - on quality management and data security. OSCE/ODIHR issued statements after all three last elections attesting that elections were well administered, administration was generally professional and transparent and enjoyed the confidence of most stakeholders, while the quality of voter lists, unlike in the previous elections, was not contested. Professional elections were also due to the support provided to the Centre for Continuous Elections Training (CCET) in building and expanding an E-Learning Platform. Capacities of the CEC and CCET in mainstreaming gender equality in elections systems and processes have also been strongly increased through UNDP support.  In the area of **local governance**, UNDP contributed substantively to the elaboration of the Decentralisation Strategy and to setting up a system and a process of fiscal and financial decentralisation, as well as decentralisation of education. Though the timeline for the implementation of the Decentralization Strategy was extended, legal acts for greater local autonomy, previously developed with UNDP support, were passed, including the Law on Local Public Finance that was based on analysis provided by UNDP. The National Decentralization Strategy, elaborated with UNDP support, was the first gender-mainstreamed national strategic document guided by the Human Rights Based Approach. UNDP invested in data generation by reviewing the Small Area Deprivation Index (SADI) to support evidence-based policy-making focused on local development and targeting the most vulnerable segments of population.  As 2015 local elections resulted in a large share of first-time local councillors and mayors, exceptional capacity building efforts were needed. UNDP supported the induction training of all 898 mayors (50% of which were newly elected) and developed an e-learning training platform available on-line to all 12,000 local councillors and mayors at the Academy of Public Administration. UNDP has also provided support to the empowerment of women at the local level facilitating the establishment of the women-mayors network of the Moldovan Congress of Local Public Authorities.  This Outcome’s contribution to increasing gender equality in Moldova was confirmed by the Outcome Evaluation: *“Concerning the cross-cutting priority of gender, UNDP partnering with UN Women is clearly recognized to having been in the lead for it to become more accepted, understood, and established among policymakers in parliament, in local government, in public institutions overall, and among civil society”.* | | | |
| **OUTCOME 23.** Justice sector actors are better able to promote access to justice and uphold rule of law in compliance with international commitments | $3,865,645 | 1. ***Indicator:*** *Level of public confidence in the justice system;*   ***Baseline****: 24%;* ***Target:*** *34%;*   1. ***Indicator****: # of negative European Court of HR judgements waiting for effective resolution; Confidence in justice system (gender disaggregated);* ***Baseline****: 187; 24%;* ***Target****: 100; 34%* 2. ***Indicator****: # of court final punitive decisions for torture, degrading treatment cases;* ***Baseline****: 1 in 2011;* ***Target****: 10* | 1. ***2016****: 7,8%*   *Male: 9%*  *Female: 7%*   1. *The indicator was considered as irrelevant and deleted.* 2. ***2015****: 9* |
| **UNDP Contribution:**  CP Outputs:  1. Efficient pre-trial investigation system and respecting human rights.  2. System for preventing ill-treatment ensures rights of detainees.  3. People have better access to justice through strengthened capacity of the justice system  Progress and Achievements:  Despite strong initial commitment and significant support from the EU, the pace of implementing the **Justice Sector Reform Strategy** 2011-2016 (JSRS) was slower than initially planned. The UNDAF evaluation confirms that “fair trial rights remain somewhat problematic”; corruption, including in justice, continues to be a serious problem in Moldova and measures to combat it are considered as not sufficient. In this context, UNDP, while initially supporting the elaboration of the Strategy and its Action Plan and setting up of a sound monitoring and reporting system for their implementation, has helped further strengthen capacities of government institutions, ensure effective funds absorption and achieve a better progress of the targeting specific Strategy related activities. Amidst difficulties, a continued positive trend is observed regarding CPD Outcome indicator c. on torture and COP Output 1.: a 35% decrease was registered in the number of complaints related to cases of torture and ill-treatment received by prosecutors. The UNDAF evaluation also evidenced that detention conditions were improved and incidence of torture cases was reduced.  In addition, UNDP contributed to the **courts’ optimization** process by supporting a review of relevant global experience and a draft methodology for court optimization in Moldova. This led to the adoption in 2016 of the Law on the reorganization of the court system, which is the basis of further court system reform in Moldova. UNDP has also facilitated the development of the **Strategy on the Prosecution System Reform** aiming at strengthening the independence of the prosecution and the professionalism of prosecutors, and a comprehensive legislative reform of the prosecution system initiated in 2013. Through one of the first governmental Cost-Sharing Agreements in Moldova, UNDP has elaborated an e-Case management system, providing the Prosecution Service with a digital document management solution for criminal cases, also deploying necessary hardware for piloting of the system in six institutions.  UNDP built capacities of the three national forensic institutions and contributed to the **forensic system reform**: new Law on forensic expertise and statute of judicial expert has been adopted in 2016, two forensic institutions (Police Forensic Centre and the national Centre of Judicial Expertise) have been significantly re-equipped and standardization of forensic methodologies towards international certification was in progress by the end of 2016 contributing to CPD Output 1.  The **legal aid system** became fully operational in non-criminal matters and UNDP aimed at ensuring quality of legal aid. A number of specific activities (research, assessments, and capacity building) were undertaken and based on the support provided, a National Legal Aid Council (NLAC) was fully institutionalized.  Gender and youth related issues were mainstreamed through the **torture and ill-treatment prevention, as well as youth offenders related** trainings for prison staff, contributing to the CPD Outputs 1 and 2.  The **National Institute of Justice**, which is one of the key institutions for the implementation of the Justice Sector Reform Strategy, has progressed in its systemic changes, with related UNDP development assistance. Thus, in 2015 the NIJ has approved its revised initial training programme, which is a first step to avoid duplication with university-level legal education and to better focus the programme on tailored professional training. UNDP has thus facilitated the positioning of the NIJ as a justice system role model, as well as strengthened capacity of justice institutions in respecting human rights, ensuring physical and informational accessibility of justice and acting in a gender-sensitive way, thus leading to strengthening the capacity of the judiciary and prosecution services and contributing to CPD Output 3.  Major achievements were also registered in the support to the **Police reform process**, covering operational, professional, institutional and legislative aspects in three areas: communication, forensics and community policing. | | | |
| **OUTCOME 24.** State bodies and other actors effectively promote and protect human rights, gender equality and non-discrimination, with particular attention to the marginalized and the vulnerable | $ 3,268,623 | ***Indicato****r: % of human rights/*  *gender treaty body’s recommendations implemented; Frequency/participation in NHRAP/ UPR monitoring;*  ***Baseline****: 122 UPR recommend/17 gender related; NHRAP approved;*  ***Target****: UPR recommend. implemented; NHRAP/UPR monitored, considers recommend. of CSOs, especially of women, people with disability and Roma.* | ***2015:*** *Out of 122 UPR recommendations: 45 (37%) implemented and 77 (63%) under implementation* |
| **UNDP Contribution:**  CP Outputs:  1. Enhanced capacity of Ombudsman, Parliamentary Commission for Human Rights, ministries and CSOs to implement and monitor NHRAP/ UPR recommendations  2. Increased human rights awareness and empowerment of the vulnerable, incl. women, Roma, people with disability  Progress and Achievements:  During the reporting period the implementation of the National Human Rights Action Plan (NHRAP) has continued, while the intermediary UPR implementation reported that out of 122 UPR recommendations 45 (37%) were implemented and 77 (63%) under implementation.  In this context, UNDP, while initially supporting elaboration of the NHRAP 2011-2014, continued to use its for programming and development assistance after its expiration given the lack of another drafted national human rights policy document. Solid data on human right attitudes and perceptions of 14 marginalised, minority and vulnerable groups was collected within two baseline studies in 2015-2016, which provided a strong evidence-based basis for further planning, monitoring and evaluation. A strong empowerment of vulnerable and minority groups was achieved through training, grants and consultancy provided by UNDP and OHCHR, which resulted in the more than doubling the number of 2nd cycle UPR shadow submissions (from 18 in 2011 to 38 in 2016) strongly contributing to CPD Output 1.  The release in 2013 of the first report on human rights in the secessionist **Transnistrian region**, commissioned by UN, which identified deeply rooted problems and provided a series of recommendations to *de facto* authorities, became one of the major human rights developments in the country. The report has also guided UNDP’s development assistance in the region and serves as a baseline to measure the progress in the future.  One of the important achievements consisted in the **establishment of the Equality Council** (national anti-discrimination enforcement body) through the appointment of its 5 members by the Parliament in 2013. Thus, Moldova became the first CIS country which adopted anti-discrimination legislation and set up the corresponding enforcement body. UNDP has contributed to the initial capacity building of the Council in strategic planning, staff recruitment, elaboration of internal rules and regulations etc. By mid-2016 the Council has examined 420 complaints, has issued 230 decisions and has found discrimination in 103 cases.  New Law on **Peoples Advocate (Ombudsperson)** was passed in 2014 with strong UNDP support in cooperation with other development partners, although the new Ombudsperson was appointed later, in 2015. Further, the Ombudsperson's Office and Equality Council strengthened their role as **National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs)**, as confirmed by UNDAF evaluation.  UNDP’s cooperation with other UN agencies, NHRIs and civil society, primarily marginalized, minority and vulnerable groups, showed its effectiveness in several **public awareness campaigns**. Thus, the participatory involvement of minority and vulnerable groups helped fight prejudices and protect their rights, through a joint UNDP-UNAIDS-OHCHR-UNODC-NHRIs-Civil Society HIV awareness nationwide campaign. Prejudices and stereotypes related to gender (women), sexual orientation (gay), ethnicity (Roma) and disability (severe locomotor) were specifically targeted within the other equality **awareness TV and online campaign** and reached at least 903,371 people (36% of adult population of Moldova). In 2013-2015 UNDP, in cooperation with OHCHR, provided significant development assistance for the **implementation of the UN CRPD** and strengthening the protection of people with different types of disabilities, with special focus on the most vulnerable women and men with intellectual and psycho-social disabilities.  In 2016 a strong progress was recorded on CPD Outputs 1 and 2: in November, the Constitutional Court recognized as unconstitutional the **legal provisions on guardianship** that restricted the right to appeal to courts for persons with intellectual and psycho-social disabilities deprived of their legal capacity – one of the most vulnerable and poor groups in Moldova.  UNDP also provided advice for the elaboration of the **National Employment Strategy 2017-2021** to make it rights based, people-centred and responsive to the SDGs 1-5 and 8-10, UN right to work standards, relevant UN treaty bodies and UPR recommendations, and the Strategy has been adopted by the Government at the end of December 2016. All these development interventions are contributing to the CPD Outputs 1 and 2 in terms of enhancing capacity of public institutions to implement UPR recommendations and empowerment of the vulnerable, including women, Roma and other ethnic minorities, people with disability. | | | |
| **OUTCOME 25.** People have access to more sustainable regional development, economic opportunities – innovation and agriculture in particular - and decent work | $ 38,818,471 | 1. ***Indicator****: Deprivation Index;*   ***Baseline****: North 472, South 455, Center 462;* ***Target****: increase by 10 % per region;*     1. ***Indicator:*** *# of projects in Transnistria (incl. gender sensitive);*   ***Baseline****: 36* ***Target****: 125;*   1. ***Indicator****: Gender wage gap;*   ***Baseline****: 76.4%;* ***Target****: reduce by 2 p.p ;*   1. ***Indicator:*** *Employment Rate, disaggregated by urban/rural, geographical areas, gender and age* ***Baseline****: General: 39.49%; Women 37.1%; Urban: 44.1%; Rural: 36%; mun.Chisinau: 49.2%; North: 37%; Centre: 37.6%; South (incl.Gagauzia): 34.7%; People aged 55-64: 40.9%; Young aged 15-24: 18.9%;* ***Target****: increase by 10 p.p.* | 1. *Uneven regional progress: North 541 (improved by 15%), South – 417 (8.3% deterioration); Center – 404 (12% deterioration); Gagauzia region – 631; New methodology was developed in 2014, and data collected in 2015;;* 2. *2015: 147;* 3. *The indicator was deleted during mid-term review.* 4. *2014: General: 39.6%; Women 37.4%; Urban: 41.8%; Rural: 38%; mun.Chisinau: 48.5%; North: 39.9%; Centre: 37%; South (incl.Gagauzia): 33.1%; People aged 55-64: 40.7%; Young aged 15-24: 17.4%;* |
| **UNDP Contribution:**  CP Outputs:  1. LPAs ensure sustainable development and access of vulnerable to public services by empowering communities, promoting PPPs and inter-municipal cooperation  2. Labour force competitiveness (focused on women and vulnerable) improved, by vocational education and job opportunities  3. Partnerships created between communities, businesses, CSOs across Nistru River for better services/business infrastructure  Progress and Achievements:  As noted by the Outcome Evaluation, significant “progress has been made towards achieving the intended outcome of Access to more equitable sustainable development and economic opportunities”. With UNDP support, the Government undertook systemic reforms to improve the quality of life for all citizens. It was assisted, inter alia, in developing local socio-economic development strategies, conducting comprehensive community profiling, and focusing on economic opportunities and job creation. In line with the Decentralization Strategy, the administrative capacity of 30 local governments in public procurement, property management, public finance management, tax collection and human resource management was strengthened. A Government Decision on Inter-Municipal Cooperation was adopted, regulating its use. Ten inter-municipal cooperation projects in 10 clusters of 40 rural communities of Moldova were successfully piloted. Through them, more efficient public services in water and sanitation, road maintenance, snow removal, waste management, greening, and public lighting were provided, contributing to improved living conditions and access to new services for over 120,000 women and men and 1,000 small businesses. Additionally, 200 people from rural areas (55% of them women) were supported to initiate small businesses, and 22 community and Roma mobilization projects were implemented.  LPAs were enabled to harness the positive potential of migration for local development. Aware of the large development potential migration brings, UNDP introduced a model for engaging the diaspora in the development of communities back home. Unique in the region, the model establishes a mechanism of communication and cooperation among local authorities, communities and migrants through 25 newly created Hometown Associations. These have involved 6,000 migrants in the local planning of 25 communities with over 200,000 inhabitants. Migrants already supported 100 small initiatives and are currently implementing large scale community projects based on crowdfunding from migrants’ abroad  With UNDP support, the Government developed a National Employment Strategy, adopted in December 2016 - a gender responsive and migration sensitive employment policy for the next 5 years. A network of five Career Development Centers was established since 2013 across the country, that introduced an innovative soft-skills training model to improve employability and promote entrepreneurship for self-employment. With an average success employment rate of 80 per cent for the more than 850 beneficiaries, and 45% for the self-employment module, the methodology was taken over by the National Employment Agency.  A Business Innovation Lab was set up in the Technical University of Moldova, enabling 20 SMEs to implement innovation projects by providing co-funding, coaching and fostering collaboration. They generated at least 80 new jobs, public support for innovations, and lessons to be used for establishing a National Innovation Support Fund.  With UNDP support, young entrepreneurs from across the country, including the breakaway Transnistrian region, created new companies, which provide for 350 new jobs: more than 50 per cent for women. All in all, more than 1000 new full-time jobs were created in the country with UNDP support, and more than 250,000 additional people benefitted from UNDP's interventions to improve livelihoods.  Despite a highly fragile political situation in the country, UNDP succeeded to boost confidence by creating alternative channels of communication between the two banks of the Nistru river, which have been instrumental in resolving common problems, strengthening the cooperation among technical experts, communities and business.  More than 160 common initiatives/projects have been implemented, engaging communities, local authorities, civil society and companies from both banks in collaborative work, benefitting directly and indirectly more than half of a million of people. With over 60 social infrastructure projects, about 200.000 women and men on both banks gained access to improved services and secured more resilient communities and livelihoods. The renovated, cultural, health care, educational, and other institutions generate many opportunities to organize joint events, such as sport activities, concerts, professional exchanges, etc. Over 1.800 direct beneficiaries, including 800 women and over 15.000 indirect beneficiaries have been involved in joint business activities. More than 60 business partnerships have been already established between businesses people from both sides. About 500 companies from both banks have carried out joint actions and received business management assistance, which offered them the opportunity to acquire good practices, promote their goods and find new partners abroad through their participation in international exhibitions. Over 1.500 business people (48% women) improved their managerial skills at a Business School established in the region, with branches in Tiraspol, Bender and Ribnita. 71 young entrepreneurs (55% women and 36 persons from the left bank) who were supported by grants and consultancy programmes with a strong networking component, became themselves strong examples of the benefits of cooperation to their peers, as they created hundreds of jobs locally and changed their own attitudes.  Over 50 initiatives were carried out jointly by at least 120 civil society actors from both banks, benefitting directly more than 35.000 people from most vulnerable groups.  All 41 communities of Gagauzia and Taraclia have gone through a local strategic planning exercise, thus enabling people from this territorial administrative unit with special status to better tackle pressing issues at community level. | | | |
| **OUTCOME 26.**  Improved environmental management in significantly increased compliance with international and regional standards; | $2,062,605 | 1. ***Indicator****: Environment Protection Agency established and functional* ***Baseline****: draft NES foresee creation of EPA;* ***Target****: EPA established and functional.* 2. ***Indicator****: Surface of protected areas managed in line with international requirements;* ***Baseline****: 4.65% (2011)* ***Target****: 7 % and in line with international standards* 3. ***Indicator****: Public information and participation mechanisms in place* ***Baseline****: None;* ***Target****: Information and participation mechanisms established.* | 1. *Creation of the Environment Protection Agency (EPA) was on the government agenda for 2015 and 2016, but did not materialized due to the political instability. Creation of EPA is planned in 2017, as part of the announced central government reform.* 2. *2015: 5.75% with alignment to international standards in progress supported by the adoption in 2015 of the National Biodiversity Strategy and Actions Plans in line with requirements of the Convention of Biological Diversity.* 3. *The Law on Environmental Impact Assessment adopted; the Law on Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) was approved in the first reading; the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers to the Aarhus Convention was ratified by the country in 2013; the Guidelines on Strategic Environmental Assessment is awaiting approval.* |
| **UNDP Contribution:**  CP Outputs:  1. Better capacities of institutions for environmental management and planning at all levels, in line with Multilateral Agreements and EU acquis  2. Central, local authorities effectively manage biodiversity / ecosystem services, biodiversity conservation is integrated in land use and spatial planning  3. Effective information/ participation policies/ mechanisms enable better environment decision making  Progress and Achievements:  During the CPD cycle, progress has been made towards improving environmental management and biodiversity conservation, however the adoption of the enforcement framework for effective participation in the environmental decision-making is advancing slowly. In 2014 the National Environmental Strategy was adopted with UNDP support laying the foundation for modernization of the national environmental management system, and initiating a comprehensive institutional reform in the sector.  With official establishment in 2013 of Moldova’s first National Park in the region of Orhei the coverage of the National Protected Area System has grown by 33,792 ha, or by 1%, showing a good advancement towards increase of protected areas surface in line with international requirements. Additional sustainable solution for improved biodiversity conservation such as pasture and forest restoration on 722 ha of land and ecological corridors on 100 ha were piloted on the ground in 3 districts of Moldova creating premises for reduced illegal grazing and logging, but also for stabilization of land prone to erosion and landslides. Enhanced capacities for environmental management were further acquired by local public authorities through development of biodiversity and gender sensitive green landscape planning in Soroca and Stefan-Voda districts of the country.  Adoption in 2014 of the Law on Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) with UNDP support, is an essential step towards improving transparency and public participation in environmental-decision making, while endorsement in 2016 of the Law on access to environmental information is additionally ensuring access to justice in environmental matters in line with EU/international standards, demonstrating good progress towards achievement of the 3rd indicator of Outcome 26.  Nation-wide UNDP’s extensively promoted the Environmental Fiscal Reform (EFR) as an instrument towards improved environmental management resulting in policy proposals and recommendations for greening subsidies in environmental, energy and agriculture sectors. At the local level UNDP’s technical expertise helped six pilot towns integrate environmental priorities into their local planning process, identify appropriate funding and plan for implementation, thus capacitating local public authorities with knowledge and skills for sustainable use of natural resources | | | |
| **OUTCOME 27.** Strengthened national policies and capacities enable climate and disaster- resilient, low emission economic development and sustainable consumption | $\_24,281,049 | 1. ***Indicator****: Number of national, sector and local policies/plans adopted/revised with climate change and DRM mainstreamed* ***Baseline****: 0;* ***Target****: DRM/CC Strategies adopted; climate screening framework for sector policies adopted and implemented; 100 local plans;* 2. ***Indicator****: % of renewable energy in energy consumption; # of biomass heating installations and biomass producers (disaggregated by gender)* ***Baseline****: 5%, 100, 0;* ***Target****: 11%, 200, 20%* | 1. *2016: Disaster Risk Management Strategy and Actins Plan pending approval, draft Forestry and Health Adaptation Strategies developed, recommendations for climate change adaptation mainstreaming into energy and transport sectors provided; guidelines to support climate adaptation decision making and promote medium and long term adaptation planning and budgeting prepared; 35;* 2. *2016: 14.3%; 1210 (including 67 in public institutions and 1143 in households); 70 businesses (out of which 7 female leaded)* |
| **UNDP Contribution:**  CP Outputs  1. Stronger national and local capacities to develop and integrate CCA and DRM into policies as well as implement those at all levels.  2. Enhanced local capacities to address climate and disaster risks and to access to risk information and knowledge on adaptation.  3. Communities, private sector and farmers (incl. vulnerable and women) with access and knowledge to use renewable energy sources and green technologies (biomass).  Progress and Achievements  Under this outcome, significant progress was made in terms of advancing national policies in climate change and disaster risk reduction at both national and local level. In 2014 the National Climate Change Adaptation Strategy developed with UNDP support was approved creating an important enabling environment for resilient social and economic development of the country. The Strategy was followed by an iterative National Adaptation Planning process which resulted in the draft Health and Forestry Adaptation Strategies and associated Action Plans. In addition, climate change adaptation policy measures were mainstreamed into the energy and transport sectors, as well as into the Action Plan of the new Moldova Gender Equality Strategy 2016-2020. At the same time, with UNDP assistance the National Disaster Risk Management Strategy and Action Plan was drafted covering the whole cycle of Disaster Risk Management, with a focus on prevention and preparedness.  At the local level with UNDP contribution climate change and disaster risk management is increasingly integrated into development planning in a gender-sensitive manner.  The training curricula and teaching methodology of the Center for Civil Protection and Emergency Situations were revised from a gender perspective, contributing to improved gender awareness by the staff of the center. For the first time in the country, gender sensitive measures have been incorporated into the Community Disaster Risk Management training modules and National Disaster Risk Management Strategy. A toolkit for district and local level risk management was widely applied and 35 urban and local development plans integrating climate change and disaster risks were successfully piloted. A toolkit for district and local level risk management was widely applied and 35 urban and local development plans integrating climate change and disaster risks were successfully piloted. Moreover, with UNDP support, 17 projects were piloted, looking for innovative solutions for climate risk management, including ecosystem based adaptation.  On the mitigation side the country approved the Low Emission Development Strategy, setting the path for transition to low-carbon development. The Strategy prioritizes a list of Nationally-Appropriate Mitigation Actions, which identify several steps that the country should undertake to reach the sectorial greenhouse gas emissions targets in line with the Paris Agreement on Climate Change recently ratified by Moldova with UNDP support.  UNDP support in the energy sector resulted in significant uptake of biomass and solar technologies and sustainable energy consumption in public and residential sectors. During the CPD cycle the total number of public institutions benefited from biomass and solar based heating reached 189, while contributing to comfort of 153,527 people. Remarkable results are also achieved at the household level. Approximately 337,000 people in 1,143 households benefited from alternative energy sources. 4,273 girls (59%) out of 7,227 children attending the schools, kindergartens, and rural community centres benefited from biomass-based heating systems, while 3,867 women out of 5,949 mothers and care-takers are therefore able to pursue education and full-time employment, contributing in such a way to an overall increase in the households’ income. Moreover, UNDP efforts, targeting biomass market development, led to the creation of more than 99 new jobs (green jobs), mostly for biomass heating plants operators and solid biofuel producers.  Overall, UNDP’ biomass and solar energy applications led to an increase of the renewable energy share in total gross domestic energy consumption in Moldova up to 14.3%, exceeding the 11% CPD target. 98% of the renewable energy is biomass based. To ensure sustainability of UNDP support, capacity is systematically developed at all levels, including local administrations, boiler operators, private sector, and education providers. With UNDP support the Training Programme on “Sustainable Energy Production from Renewable Sources and Implementation of Energy Efficiency in Public Buildings” was institutionalized with the Academy of Public Administration – the institution mandated to conduct the professional training of civil servants and elected officials in Moldova. Capacities of the National Bureau for Statistics’ have been sustained to comply and report on implementation of EU requirements by introducing new statistical tools for tracking household energy consumption. UNDP is also significantly contributing to the positive shift in perception towards renewables and energy efficiency as a result of continuous nation-wide communication and education activities such as the National Awards Competitions “Moldova Eco-Energetica”. | | | |
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| **Summary of evaluation findings (e.g. from outcome and project evaluations, UNDAF reviews, and other assessments)**  During the 2013–2017 programme cycle, UNDP contributed to sustainable development of Moldova, building the foundations for further consolidation of democracy; human rights and gender-equality promotion and inclusive, risk-informed growth. The UNDAF evaluation confirmed that impactful results were delivered,[[11]](#footnote-11) highlighting UNDP comparative advantages, such as the ability to tap into local and international expertise networks, the capacity to swiftly respond to government’s requests for assistance, the reputation of convening power[[12]](#footnote-12) and being a credible and impartial partner.[[13]](#footnote-13)  The transparency of the Parliament was strengthened through the implementation of an e-Parliament system and engagement in the Open Parliament initiative. The Central Electoral Committee became a highly capable institution delivering elections in line with international standards using advanced technological solutions, with its e-learning platform recognized as regional best practice.[[14]](#footnote-14) As highlighted by final programme evaluation “the impressive results achieved will have significant positive impact on all government institutions’.[[15]](#footnote-15) Moldova Social Innovation Lab became a partner for innovative governance, supporting public service modernization, new approaches to impact evaluation and policy design. Gender-equality and human rights aspects were integrated in national statistics; more complete and reliable disaggregated statistical data is now available.  Jointly with UN Women and OHCHR, UNDP engaged civil society and legislators in a comprehensive advocacy campaign, leading to the adoption of the ground-breaking law on Gender Equality in April 2016, which provides for a 40 per-cent gender quota in the Government Cabinet and on the political parties’ candidate lists. The enforcement of the law will increase the number of women in decision-making positions in line with the 2030 Agenda. With UNDP support, shelter for survivors of domestic violence was opened in the break-away Transnistrian region, providing specialized services for women from the region for the first time.  Confidence-building measures (CBMs) have created channels of cooperation, transcending existing conflict divides, and therefore contributing to a practical rapprochement of the populations across the divide. CBMs provided access to better services and decent jobs to more than 500,000 beneficiaries. UNDP’s impartiality and ability to foster win-win solutions has been recognized by diverse partners in the country.[[16]](#footnote-16) UNDP is perceived as ‘the only one without a hidden agenda’, ‘able to operate in the break-away Transnistrian region, identifying a modus operandi accepted by both sides’.[[17]](#footnote-17) UNDP’s positioning allowed for “significant development results and increasing cross-river partnerships in economic, social and cultural sectors.’[[18]](#footnote-18)  Significant progress has been made in environmental management, climate resilience and low-carbon development, key strategic planning frameworks being established with UNDP support.[[19]](#footnote-19) Climate change adaptation was mainstreamed into policy documents in agriculture, energy and transport sectors, while risk-informed decision making were introduced at district level. UNDP’s interventions in the area of renewable energy increased its share in the total energy mix from 5 to 14 per-cent and strengthened the energy security of the country, connecting 157,000 people to affordable heating and creating 150 new jobs for operators and biofuel producers. The first National Park in the country was established in Orhei, increasing the share of protected areas with 1%.[[20]](#footnote-20) Moldova has signed the Paris Agreement and is progressing on its ratification with UNDP support. The national warning systems of the State Hydro-meteorological Service was aligned with EU Meteoalarm and EUMetNet standards including Moldova in the European weather service network with UNDP support. | | | |

III. Country Programme Resources

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| **Focus Area** | **Programme Expenditure ($)** | | | **% of Total** |
|  | Regular (TRAC) | Other | Total |  |
| Effective Governance | $ \_638,067\_\_ | $ 31,517,934 | $ 32,156,001 | 32% |
| Inclusive Growth | $ \_1,851,269\_ | $ 38,949,635 | $ \_40,800,904 | 41% |
| Climate Change, Environment and Energy | $ \_974,773\_ | $ 26,286,422 | $ \_27,261,195 | 27% |
| Total |  |  |  |  |
| Total | $ 3,464,108 | $ 96,753,992 | $ 100,218,100 | 100.00% |

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| **Data sources: (please indicate the main sources from which data were obtained for this report.)** |
| Result Oriented Annual Reports (ROAR): 2013 -2016  Strategic Notes (SN): 2013-2016  CPD Outcomes Evaluation 2015, 2016  UNDAF Final Evaluation 2016, UNDAF mid-term evaluation 2014, UNDAF Annual Reports  National, Regional and Global Human Development Reports  National Bureau of Statistics  EU assessment and impact evaluations 2015  World Bank and IMF reports |

1. This assessment of results is to be prepared only in the absence of a completed Assessment of Development Results (ADR) for the cycle. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Final Evaluation of UN-RM Partnership Framework 2013-2017, [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Highlighted in the final evaluation of the Democracy Programme, operating in a particularly politicized context of Parliamentary Development, February 2017 [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. UNDAF Final Evaluation. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. 10 countries in the ECA region planning to replicate the model. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. Final Evaluation of the Democracy Programme, February 2017 [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. UNDAF final evaluation. [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. EU Joint Analysis. Programming on RM 2020, p. 99, https://eeas.europa.eu/sites/eeas/files/joint\_analysis\_0.pdf [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. Low Emissions Development Strategy of the Republic of Moldova (2016-2030) – Moldova being the first country in the world to adopt it, Climate Change Adaptation Strategy of Republic of Moldova and its Action Plan (2014-2020), Sector specific Climate Change Adaptation Strategies of health and forestry sectors and their APs (under approval), National Environmental Strategy (2014-2023), National Biodiversity Strategy (2015-2020). National DR Management Strategy and AP with a focus on prevention and preparedness [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
10. Around 23,560 people in rural areas benefited from degraded pasture and forest restorations (190 ha in total) and improved management of 839 ha of pastures. [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
11. Final Evaluation of UN-RM Partnership Framework 2013-2017, [↑](#footnote-ref-11)
12. Highlighted in the final evaluation of the Democracy Programme, operating in a particularly politicized context of Parliamentary Development, February 2017 [↑](#footnote-ref-12)
13. UNDAF Final Evaluation. [↑](#footnote-ref-13)
14. 10 countries in the ECA region planning to replicate the model. [↑](#footnote-ref-14)
15. Final Evaluation of the Democracy Programme, February 2017 [↑](#footnote-ref-15)
16. UNDAF final evaluation. [↑](#footnote-ref-16)
17. EU Commission Impact Assessment, 2015. [↑](#footnote-ref-17)
18. EU Joint Analysis. Programming on RM 2020, p. 99, https://eeas.europa.eu/sites/eeas/files/joint\_analysis\_0.pdf [↑](#footnote-ref-18)
19. Low Emissions Development Strategy of the Republic of Moldova (2016-2030) – Moldova being the first country in the world to adopt it, Climate Change Adaptation Strategy of Republic of Moldova and its Action Plan (2014-2020), Sector specific Climate Change Adaptation Strategies of health and forestry sectors and their APs (under approval), National Environmental Strategy (2014-2023), National Biodiversity Strategy (2015-2020). National DR Management Strategy and AP with a focus on prevention and preparedness [↑](#footnote-ref-19)
20. Around 23,560 people in rural areas benefited from degraded pasture and forest restorations (190 ha in total) and improved management of 839 ha of pastures. [↑](#footnote-ref-20)