



# COUNTRY FACTSHEET

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Swiss Agency for Development  
and Cooperation SDC

## SWISS COOPERATION WITH THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA



of Moldova's population and the cohesion of Moldovan society, with a special focus on the inclusion of disadvantaged groups. By supporting the participation of women/girls and men/boys in decision-making processes, their access to enhanced economic opportunities, and their effective enjoyment of good quality services, the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) makes a contribution to improving people's physical, social and economic situation and increasing their trust in institutions. By prioritizing social inclusion, the SDC contributes to more equity in the political, economic, and social spheres.


### Local governance

Swiss Cooperation actively advocates for effective decentralisation and supports local public authorities in increasing their access to financial resources, allocating and spending funds in line with the population's priorities, and in providing sustainable and quality services in an inclusive and accountable way. The aim is to generate more income for local authorities and to increase citizens' participation in local affairs so that their needs and interests are brought into the political process. The SDC strives to ensure that women and men, especially from disadvantaged groups, have more opportunities to effectively participate in local decision-making processes, demand the respect of their rights, and hold local public authorities accountable. It also supports migrants' participation in local development. Finally introducing civic education to youth prepares the next generation of citizens to participate in civic life.

### Economic development and employment

Low employment and high emigration rates pose serious demographic and social challenges for Moldova and hamper economic development. In order for the economy to grow sustainably for the benefit of all, the private sector must increase its productivity and competitiveness. The approach is to look at selected market systems in a holistic way, i.e., addressing constraints and opportunities in given value

#### Swiss representations

 Cooperation Office

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**Swiss Cooperation supports the Republic of Moldova in providing quality public services for all citizens, particularly those living in rural areas and disadvantaged groups. It also supports the private sector to grow and create more and better jobs. Priority areas are health-care reforms, strengthening local governance and sustainable economic development and employment.**

### Background

Moldova's progress towards democracy and a functioning market economy since independence has been uneven. Advancements in building a democratic system and economic growth record have been tarnished by political instability, opaque decision-making, and corruption, which frequently obstructed the implementation of structural reforms. Despite significant achievements in reducing income poverty, Moldova remains one of the poorest countries in Europe, with a high emigration rate.

### Swiss commitment

The overall goal of the Swiss Cooperation Programme for 2018–2021 is to enhance the well-being



Proud youth group member of the civic education project is presenting the vision and planned activities in their community, summer camp, Moldova, 2019.

chains including the regulatory framework and business support services that will lead to private sector growth thus creating more and better jobs.

The SDC supports three labour market-related measures:

- > encouraging companies to create new jobs;
- > gearing vocational education and training (VET) incl. dual VET to the demands of the labour market;
- > expanding the range of services offered by public employment services and business membership organisations.

These measures aim to help fight poverty by reducing the number of unemployed people and generating more income. They should also reduce dependence on remittances from relatives living abroad.



Rodion gets ready for work in the catering company "Floare de Cireş", one of the few businesses in Moldova employing people with disabilities.

## Health

The health status of Moldova's population is well below the European average. Average life expectancy is 70 years. Universal access to basic healthcare is not guaranteed, especially in rural areas, and the population is insufficiently protected against financial risks associated with high healthcare expenses. The SDC therefore supports the Republic of Moldova in its efforts to reform the health system in order to provide high-quality health services that are accessible to all citizens. Another focus of Swiss-supported activities is on awareness-raising measures to prevent non-communicable diseases (e.g. diabetes, cardiovascular diseases, cancer) and to highlight the long-term benefits of a healthy lifestyle. With Swiss support, a network of 41 Youth-Friendly Health Centres have been created throughout the country, while 40 Community Mental Health Centres are advancing reforms of mental health system.



The SDC is helping Moldova to ensure that children in all regions of the country receive the best possible medical care.

## Approach

Considering the persistent rural-urban welfare gap, Swiss Cooperation focuses its interventions on the rural population. In order to deal with widespread inequalities, social inclusion has become a crosscutting topic. Supply-side interventions (working with government and service providers) is complemented with equally strong demand-side ones (working with communities, civil society organizations, parliamentarians, media, and the private sector), in order to support citizens make their voice heard and influence policies, using data and evidence. Conflict-sensitive programme management (CSPM) approach is applied to the entire Swiss Cooperation programme, as the political instability and economic turmoil of the past years have accentuated and brought to the forefront the underlying vulnerabilities and cleavages within Moldova's society.

## Transversal themes

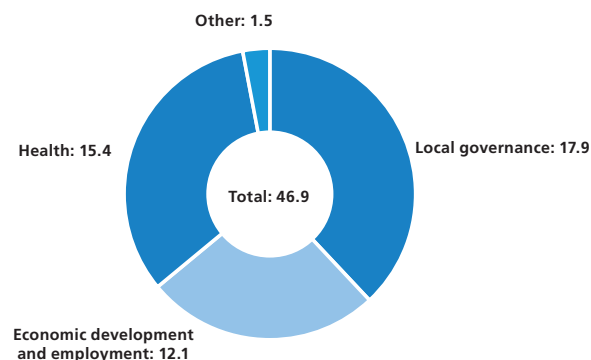
The Swiss Cooperation programme takes into account the six principles of good governance: accountability, participation, rule of law, equality/non-discrimination, transparency and efficiency/effectiveness. It places a high priority on the integration of disadvantaged groups and systematically emphasises the promotion of gender equality and women empowerment. It also looks at opportunities to advance environmentally sound practices. This is done through targeted activities as well as mainstreaming.

## Partners

Switzerland's key partners in the Republic of Moldova:

- > National partners: State Chancellery, Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Development and Environment, Ministry of Health, Labour and Social Affairs, Ministry of Education, Culture and Research, Ministry of Economic and Infrastructure, the National Bureau of Statistics, city and municipal authorities, civil society, professional organisations, business membership organisations and the private sector.
- > Swiss NGOs and partner organisations: SKAT Consulting Ltd, Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute, Helvetas Swiss Intercooperation.
- > Bilateral and multilateral partners: Germany (BMZ, GIZ), Austria (ADA), Council of Europe, World Bank, WHO, UNDP, UNFPA, European Union and the UN Resident Coordinator Office, UNICEF and IOM.

## Budget 2018-2021 by theme (mio. CHF)



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