

Migration

Your task

You are leading a team tasked by the Moldovan Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to support the development of a new national migration strategy, aimed at maximizing the country's development benefits of migration. The program is co-funded by the German Development Cooperation (GIZ).

After reviewing an early draft version of the strategy, you notice that it neither assesses the needs of children, nor includes children in its recommendations.

You use an upcoming meeting with the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and GIZ to make the case for an explicit inclusion of children affected by migration (including left behind children) and to propose how children could be consulted in the process. Prepare a 3 minutes pitch with your team.

For inspiration and reference, please consult:

1. Tool 2.3: Sector Checklist: 'Education, Vocational Training and Culture'
2. Tool 3.1: Matrices for assessing the environment for child participation
3. Tool 4.2: Checklist for Legislation
4. Tool 6.4: 'Identifying key stakeholders'

Resources:

- Association Agreement between the European Union and the Republic of Moldova (2014): Article 138
- UNICEF in Moldova - who we are, what we do: p. 5-6
- UNICEF in Moldova - who we are, what we do: p. 48-49
- UN Final Report on Post-2015 Country Consultations in the Republic of Moldova, 2015: p. 85-87

Association Agreement (2014) - Article 138

Such cooperation shall include, in particular:

- (a) the prevention and combating of all forms of exploitation (including child labour), abuse, negligence and violence against children, including by developing and strengthening the legal and institutional framework as well as through awareness-raising campaigns in that domain;
- (b) the improvement of the system of identification and assistance of children in vulnerable situations, including increased participation by children in decision-making processes and the implementation of efficient mechanisms to handle individual complaints made by children;
- (c) exchange of information and best practices on the alleviation of poverty among children, including on measures to focus social policies on children's wellbeing, and to promote and facilitate children's access to education;
- (d) the implementation of measures aimed at promoting children's rights within the family and institutions, and strengthening the capacity of parents and carers in order to ensure child development; and
- (e) accession to, ratification and implementation of the relevant international documents, including those developed within the United Nations, the Council of Europe and the Hague Conference on Private International Law, with the purpose of promoting and protecting of children's rights in line with the highest standards in the field.

***ASSOCIATION AGENDA BETWEEN THE EUROPEAN UNION AND THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA
(Brussels, 26 June 2014)***

Cooperation on migration, asylum and border management

1. The Parties reaffirm the importance of a joint management of migration flows between their territories and shall strengthen the existing comprehensive dialogue on all migration-related issues, including legal migration, international protection, illegal migration, smuggling and trafficking in human beings.
2. Cooperation will be based on a specific needs assessment, conducted in mutual consultation between the Parties, and implemented in accordance with their relevant legislation in force. It will, in particular, focus on:
 - (a) the root causes and the consequences of migration;
 - (b) ...

UNICEF, 2008, The Impact of Migration and Remittances on Communities, Families and Children in Moldova

- However, according to a recent study by UNICEF, 21% of Moldovan children are missing at least one parent due to labour migration. (UNICEF, 2008)
- Studies have shown that the children left-behind face numerous adverse effects of parental migration. For example, in Moldova, 22% of migrants' children do not attend school, and for many that do, there are problems related to deteriorating academic performance, declining attendance, and a lack of motivation. (UNICEF, 2008)
- Due to the care deficit, family stability and future development are also at stake, which can lead to youth unemployment and juvenile delinquency. Left-behind children are also vulnerable to human trafficking and labor exploitation. (UNICEF, 2008)

UN Final Report on Post-2015 Country Consultations in the Republic of Moldova, 2015: p. 85

Current situation

Over the last decade, migration became a salient feature of Moldova. In 2011, according to the data of NBS, there were 316,900 emigrants, representing 13% of the working age population of Moldova. Other sociological surveys suggest that more than half a million working age Moldovans have had a migration experience at some point. The majority of migrants are young, aged between 20 and 49 years. Women represent over one third of migrants (35.5%). The proportion of rural migrants is very high (70.7%). So far, remittances have been the most important positive outcome of migration. Between 2000 and 2012 they grew 27% on average per year, reaching a maximum of 34.5% of GDP in 2006. However, the social impact of migration has been appreciated to be negative in most studies. This refers to the migration impact on family, children, the labour market, the elderly and so on. Despite negative social consequences, the Government's actions in migration management are quite superficial.

Only the economic aspect raised a higher interest and with the support of the European Union budget support programme, a new programme PARE 1+1 was launched to stimulate investment of remittances in the set-up of new rural businesses. The PARE 1+1 Programme was managed by the Organization for Development of Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (ODIMM).

Migrant statistics & Remittance Flow, Moldova (World Bank, 20011)

Country	Population (Millions, 2009)	Stock of Emigrants (2010)	Stock of Emigrants (as % of population)	Top Destination Countries	Inward Remittance Flow (in US\$ Millions, 2010 estimate)	in % GDP (2009 estimate)
Moldova	3.6	770.300	21,5	Russian Federation, Ukraine, Italy, Romania, USA, Israel, Spain, Germany, Kazakhstan	1.316	23,1

Source: World Bank, Migration and Remittances Factbook, 2011, <http://go.worldbank.org/QGUCPJTOR0>, Migration Policy Checklists, GIZ