



PROJECT FACTSHEET

August 2015

YOUTH-FRIENDLY HEALTH SERVICES (YFHS)



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Overall goal

Improve the health of young men and women in Moldova by increasing demand, access to, and utilization of quality youth-friendly health services and health-related education programs.

tion, education, and social services that will help them solve age-related issues.

CHALLENGES AND POTENTIALS

Young persons aged between 10 and 24 years make up nearly a quarter of Moldova's population. Today, they are exposed to many risk factors. Limited opportunities for education and employment, lack of parental supervision, easy access to alcohol, tobacco and illicit drugs and the lack of mandatory education programs on life skills in schools have adverse effects over health and life choices of Moldovan young men and women.

The latest figures show that the health indicators such as safe sexual behaviour and reduction of adolescent pregnancies slightly improved in the 12 districts where youth-friendly health centres were operational. However, the incidence of sexually transmitted infections and unhealthy lifestyle remain at alarming levels nationwide.

The Republic of Moldova is a party to human rights treaties guaranteeing, among others, the right to information and the access to health care services for youth. Young people's health is a priority in state policy documents – the National Health Policy 2007–2021, the Strategy for Youth 2014–2020, and the National Strategy on Reproductive Health 2005–2015.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

The Republic of Moldova has undertaken, during the last decade, a number of important actions to address issues of youth health and development. The establishment of youth-friendly health services is one of the nation-wide initiatives implemented under the leadership of the Ministry of Health of Moldova with support from the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), UNICEF and the World Health Organization (WHO).

The 12 first youth-friendly health centres, created in 2003–2005, have provided adolescents and young adults with access to qualified medical assistance and youth-sensitive counselling on healthy lifestyle, reproductive health and child care. Since these services had proven their effectiveness, the Ministry of Health decided to start the process of scaling-up in 2011, and officially established youth-friendly health centres in all districts of the country.

The project "Youth-Friendly Health Services" provides assistance in scaling up youth-friendly health services across the country and in ensuring their quality. It also supports the efforts of the education and social sectors to provide young people with access to informa-

MAIN RESULTS OF THE PREVIOUS PHASES

The project set up the basis for national scaling-up of youth-friendly health services by raising professional

competency of specialists, creating appropriate infrastructure, having quality standards approved and obtaining the firm commitment from authorities. Also, it supported the revision of legal framework and training programs for health professionals, and carried out nation-wide information and community mobilization actions.

In 2014 all 37 youth-friendly health centres in the country were contracted by the National Health Insurance Company, compared to only 12 in 2011. The service scaling-up advanced more in 16 districts with trainings for primary healthcare providers as well. The implementation of intersectoral health promotion plans among youth started in 28 districts. As a result, the access of young people aged 10–24 to youth-friendly health services increased – from 5% in 2011 to over 15% in 2013.

The WHO 2014 Global Report on adolescents' health status presented the Republic of Moldova as a success model in scaling up youth-friendly health services.

CURRENT APPROACH

At this phase, the project supports the completion of youth-friendly health services scaling-up process, with focus on ensuring quality and sustainability. In addition, it will support the introduction of compulsory health education programs in schools, and the creation of a protective environment for healthy development of youth in communities.

The professional skills of managers and staff of youth-friendly health centres will be further developed through training, networking and exchange of experience, including at international level. To improve service management and referral of cases, the project will strengthen mechanisms for collaboration between sectors.

In order to produce social change on issues related to healthy development for youth, the project will resume its national information and community mobilization campaign. A variety of new technologies and tools will be used to reach all Moldovan young people, particularly most-at-risk adolescents with health promotion messages.

Expected results after project completion

- Youth-friendly health centers in all districts are operational, appropriately equipped, benefit from sustainable financing, have trained and motivated personnel, and offer the full package of services according to standards and regulations.
- The implemented quality management system allows managers to monitor the implementation of plans and objectives, and provide high quality services.

- The monitoring and evaluation system allows evidence-based management of services and a better understanding of youth health and development in the country.
- The University of Medicine curriculum for undergraduate students, residents and PhD students is revised to include youth-friendly healthcare approaches.
- Policy and regulatory framework defines clearly the position of youth-friendly health services within the health system and allows adolescents to access services without restrictions.
- A compulsory health promotion curriculum, including reproductive health and life skills education corresponding to pupils' age, is introduced in all schools of the country.

Beneficiaries: all young persons aged between 10 and 24 years; young couples with and without children; vulnerable adolescents (10–19 years), their families and communities.

Budget

CHF 4755000 (Co-funding UNICEF: CHF 598500)

Project duration

01.01.2014–31.12.2018 (current phase)

Implementers

- NGO "Health for Youth", Moldova
- UNICEF Country Office in Moldova

Main partners

- Ministry of Health of Moldova
- Ministry of Education of Moldova
- Ministry of Labour, Social Protection and Family of Moldova
- Ministry of Youth and Sports of Moldova
- State University of Medicine and Pharmacy of Moldova "Nicolae Testemitanu"
- World Health Organization (WHO)

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