Swiss Cooperation with the Republic of Moldova 2018–2023

**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
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.

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.

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: Germay (BMZ, GIZ), Austria (ADA), Council of Europe, World Bank, WHO, UNDP, UNFPA, European Union and the UN Resident Coordinator Office, UNICEF and IOM.

Budget 2018-2023 by theme (mio. CHF)

Other: 2.6
Health: 23.4
Economic development and employment: 15.4
Local governance: 28.3
Total: 69.7

Imprint

Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA)
Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)
Eurasia Division
Freiburgstrasse 130, CH 3003 Bern
www.deza.admin.ch

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