

CHILDREN IN MOLDOVA

Country key latest statistics*

GENERAL INFORMATION¹

Population (excluding transnistrian region)	3,560,430
Children under 18	745,606
%	20.9
Children under 5	192,835
%	5.4
Children born	40,474
Poverty rate (%)	21.9
Children under 18	24.2
Urban	9.8
Rural	33.0
Households with 3 or more children	36.8
Both parents are self-employed in agricultural activities	38.9
Access to water and sanitation inside the dwellings (% of households with children)	
Running water	64.8
Urban	92.0
Rural	44.5
Inside toilets	37.4
Urban	76.3
Rural	8.2

HEALTH² and NUTRITION³

Infant mortality (per 1,000 live-births)	11.7
Urban	8.6
Rural	12.8
Under 5 mortality (per 1,000 live-births)	13.6
Urban	9.6
Rural	14.8
Maternal mortality (per 100,000 live-births)	44.5
Urban	41.9
Rural	45.6
Main nutrition	
Children under 6 months exclusively breastfeed (%)	45.5
Women suffering from slight anemia (%)	28.0
Stunted children under 5 years old (%)	8.4
Rural	9.2
Poorest 20% households	13.5
Population using iodized salt (% of households)	59.8

HIV/AIDS⁴

New cases of HIV per year	704
Incidence per 100,000 population	
Moldova	17.1
Excluding Transnistria	12.4
Transnistrian region	42.3
Adolescents 15-19	6.7
Children under 15	0.8
Mother to child transmission (%)	1.7

*excluding Transnistria, except where indicated

¹ Source: National Bureau of Statistics, Household Budget Survey

² Source: Ministry of Health, National Bureau of Statistics, TransMONIE

³ Source: Moldova DHS, 2005

⁴ Source: AIDS Centre

⁵ Source: TransMONIE, National Bureau of Statistics, MISPF, Annual Social Report, 2009

⁶ Source: National Bureau of Statistics, Ministry of Education

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SOCIAL POLICY AND ADVOCACY

MOLDOVA



Policy and investment decisions made by Government have a direct impact on children's lives. To make wise choices, Moldova needs civil servants, parliamentarians, media and civil society organisations who understand the value of investing in children. In turn, these professionals require solid data and policy oriented research to help in their advocacy and decision-making. Children too have a role to play – sharing their stories, opinions and views.

Today, as Moldova is progressing towards EU integration, a series of reforms are underway to modernise and improve health services, education, social protection and justice – often with an eye also to cost efficiency and economic growth.

At the same time, thousands of children remain excluded or receive insufficient attention, care or services from public bodies, especially children from poor families, the Roma community and those with disabilities.

The changes in the next few years can have a positive impact if child rights are taken into account – or they can end up continuing and even accelerating the cycle of exclusion of the most vulnerable children. UNICEF works with the Government, Parliament, local authorities, the media, NGOs and children to help place child rights and the best interest of the child at the heart of those reforms.



CHILD PROTECTION⁵

Children in residential care	6,960
Children in family substitute care	7,600
Guardianship	7,157
Foster families	128
Family type homes	315
Per 100,000 children under 18	
In residential care	1,058
In family substitute care	950
Adoptions	208
Domestic	162
Inter-country	46
Children and migration	
Children with one or both migrated parents (%)	17.1
Mother or father only in the household	15.2
Both parents are missing in the household	1.5
Households with children, having at least one migrated parent (%)	21.6
Urban	15.5
Rural	26.2
Child labour	
Children aged 5-17	108,700
%	18.3
Children aged 5-11	38,200
%	14.1
Children aged 12-14	30,500
%	20.3
Juvenile justice	
Offenses committed by children	1,358
Share in total crimes (%)	4.1
Children who committed offenses	1,568
Per 100,000 under 18	207
Children sentenced	410
Children detained	71
Serving sentences	35
Arrested	36

EDUCATION⁶

Net enrolment rate (%)	
Pre-school education (age 3-6)	75.8
Urban	93.4
Rural	65.5
Primary education (grades I-IV, age 7-10)	87.8
Urban	97.3
Rural	82.7
Lower secondary education (grades V-IX, age 11-15)	83.3
Urban	90.3
Rural	79.8
Gross enrolment rate (%)	
General compulsory education (grades I-IX)	90.7

WHAT UNICEF DOES

Budget reforms for children

UNICEF supports the Government to improve public financial management, so that scarce funds are invested wisely in health, education and social protection, and policy changes benefit in particular the most vulnerable children and families. To do this, UNICEF helps by:

- Providing policy makers with evidence on the cost-effectiveness of different social policy options;
- Helping line ministries and local authorities to prepare child-friendly budgets;
- Giving evidence-based advice on ways to ensure that social benefits reach the poorest families and benefit children.

Better data, monitoring and research

UNICEF supports the Government to strengthen statistical systems and ensure regular data collection and analysis of the situation of children and families with children with special focus on data disaggregation and equity. This helps partners to monitor child rights and supports research to help guide wise policy and investment choices for children. Efforts include:

- Helping the National Bureau of Statistics produce regular publications and disseminate data on children's issues;
- Supporting social Ministries' ability to generate and use data for policy development and monitoring;
- Targeted research on key issues like the impact of migration on children, discrimination against Roma families etc.

NEXT STEPS

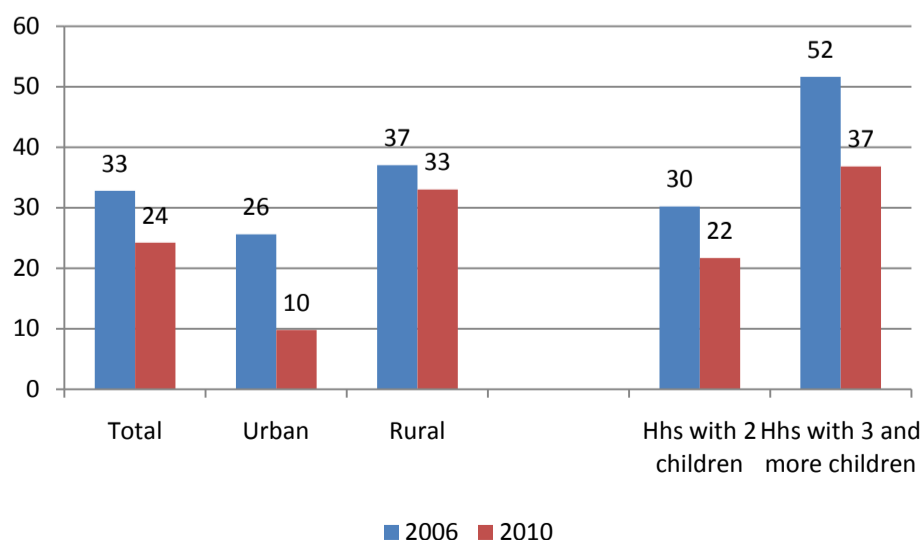
Strengthen the Moldovan Parliament's capacities in addressing the child-related issues, especially of those most vulnerable;

Provide evidence and policy advice so that changes in social protection result in appropriate support for all disadvantaged families with children;

Support the development of child friendly budgets at the central and local levels, including through appropriate decentralization;

Child poverty rates

(% of children under 18 living below absolute poverty line)



Data source: National Bureau of Statistics

Increasing attention to child rights in Parliament and beyond

To bring together partners to address child rights and make sure children's voices are heard, UNICEF:

- Supports the Deputy Prime Minister to solve children's problems through a high-level National Council on Child Rights;
- Gives Parliament technical assistance to review child rights laws and helps arrange public hearings;
- Support the Ombudsman's Office for Child Rights to monitor and address violations;
- Works with media to encourage ethical reporting on children;
- Works with children's groups to help them express their views and bring them to the attention of all Moldovans, including the Parliament and Government decision makers.

KEY RESULTS

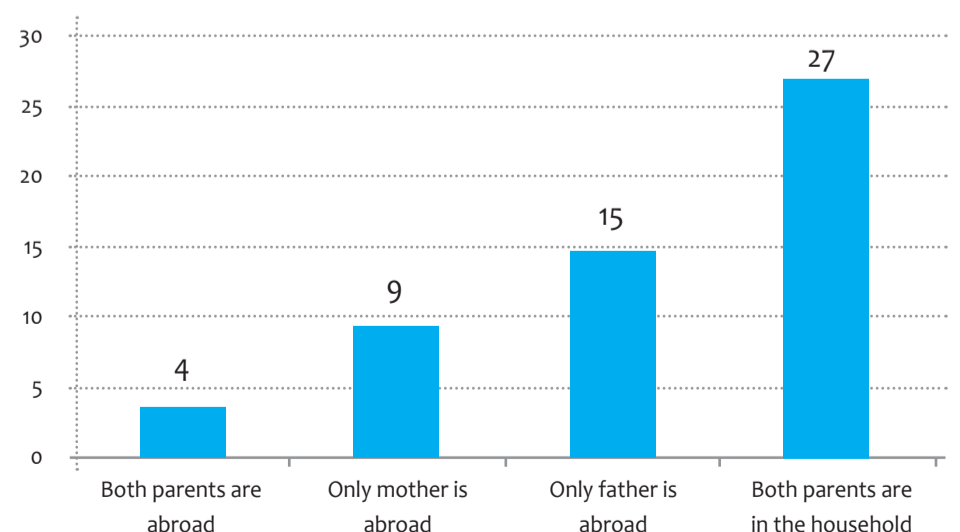
- Creation of an Ombudsman's Office for Child Rights within the Human Rights Centre;
- Inclusion of a special chapter on child rights in the draft of EU-Republic of Moldova Association Agreement;
- New tools for local authorities, the Ministry of Social Protection and the Ministry of Finance for the development and costing of social services at the community level, expanding at the national level;
- Based on a model developed by UNICEF, the Government of Moldova is appointing and training mediators in the 47 Roma communities to improve access to health, education and social protection;
- Ethical standards for media to report about children developed and used by the media.

Support the Government in strengthening national statistical system with special focus on data disaggregation, gender and equity;

Promote child rights to influence policy development and to increase public awareness, by working with and strengthening the capacity of the media and civil society, and taking into account the EU integration agenda;

Support public authorities and civil society in the inclusion of Roma families to ensure their access to community-based services and the respect of their rights.

Child poverty by presence of parents, %



Data source: National Bureau of Statistics