

Main Challenges

- 1 Annually more than ten thousand children are at risk of exploitation, abuse and neglect.
- 2 Yearly, more than 1,000 children become victims of different forms of violence: every second child is exposed to physical violence, every third - to psychological violence, and every tenth - to sexual abuse.
- 3 Three out of four women are experiencing some form of partner abuse or violence. Women and girls sex trafficking is a serious concern, particularly for undocumented, stateless, and Roma women and girls.
- 4 More than 32 thousand children were reported as being separated from their parents in 2021, with migration of one or both parents being the cause in more than 8 in 10 separated children.
- 5 More than 600 children remain in residential institutions. Children with disabilities are particularly vulnerable to abuse and neglect, and they may be at greater risk of experiencing violence in institutional care settings.
- 6 Although the number of child offences decreased by one third from 2016 to 2020, the number of children sentenced to detention increased by two thirds.
- 7 Overall, there are limited avenues for preventive and rehabilitative care in the justice, child protection, social welfare, and education systems.



PROTECTION

GUARDING THE INNOCENCE

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Proposed Solutions

Combating Violence against children, adolescents, and women: Strengthening prevention and response mechanisms to tackle all forms of violence, neglect, and exploitation against boys, girls, and women including urgent action against online violence.

Family Resilience: Boost the resilience of vulnerable families to prevent child separation, with a specific emphasis on providing targeted support to children with disabilities.

Empowering Transition: Support adolescents and youth in their journey towards independent living through comprehensive life skills programs and fostering platforms for their active engagement.

Advancing Gender Equality: Empower girls and women by reinforcing women and girl-led organizations, enabling them to drive gender equality and address the underlying causes of gender-based violence (GBV).

Holistic Support for Child Victims: Develop integrated child protection and GBV services inspired by the Barnahus model in Chisinau, Cahul, and Tiraspol, ensuring the comprehensive well-being of children who are victims and witnesses of crimes.

Access to Justice for Children: Enhance children's access to a more friendly, effective, and gender-equitable justice and child protection system across Moldova, including in the Transnistrian region.

Safeguarding Rights: Strengthen the normative framework, tools, and services for children below the minimum age of criminal responsibility, with a focus on prevention and the protection of their rights.

Why UNICEF



UNICEF works in more than 190 countries and territories to protect children from violence, exploitation and abuse. Our efforts strengthen child protection systems to help children and adolescents access vital protection services, from birth through adolescence.

During a humanitarian crisis, we provide leadership and coordination for all actors involved in the response, focusing on reunifying separated children with their families; preventing and addressing violence against children and gender-based violence; and safeguarding children from sexual exploitation and abuse. With the onset of war in Ukraine in 2022, we strengthened Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) as well as protection services for girls, boys and women to ensure the most vulnerable children and families receive support.

We also support governments with policy, legislation and regulatory frameworks that give more children access to vital protection services and justice. In Moldova we supported the development and implementation of the 2022-2026 National Child Protection

Programme and strengthened capacities of partners and local public authorities to effectively prevent and respond to violence against children, including gender-based violence, establishing models for multidisciplinary response that can be replicated across the country.

We have also improved alternatives to detention for child offenders through probation programs, and continue to work with the Ministries of Justice, Internal Affairs and Labour and Social Protection to enhance children's access to a more friendly justice.

Throughout all we do, we listen to young people to ensure their needs drive our programming and advocacy. Our initiatives also support parents and caregivers and build alliances at the local and global levels to leverage knowledge, raise awareness and encourage action.

Funding Gaps, USD

Activity	Total	Funded	Unfunded
Strengthen Child Protection system and services	15,000,000	5,000,000	10,000,000
Prevent and response to VAC and GBV	3,000,000	2,000,000	1,000,000
Access to justice for Children	3,000,000	1,000,000	2,000,000
Community awareness and social and behavior change	500,000	150,000	350,000
Total	21,500,000	8,150,000	13,350,000

