Moldova is one of the poorest countries in Europe with the national poverty rate standing at 11.4 per cent. The frozen conflict in Transnistria contributes to a sustained and persistent vulnerability of large sections of the population. Due to grinding poverty and high levels of unemployment, some 836,000 people out of the population of 3.55 million work abroad. 6 per cent of the population experience absolute poverty and go hungry daily, spending less than CHF 2.5 per day. Teenage children who are left in the care of their grandparents, while parents work abroad, often fall victim to drug dealers, and experience violence and abuse. Human trafficking is widespread. HIV prevalence rate is 56 per 100,000 which remains among the highest in the region.

Moldova Red Cross requires significant organizational support and strengthening in order to step up their role in addressing these challenges. Capacity building both at headquarter and branch level is of utmost importance, so that the National Society and its staff can implement the prioritized activities. Creating and training disaster response teams in all regions vulnerable to emergencies is a priority for the near future, as well as developing first aid, preventing HIV, and supporting older people and the poorest population of Moldova.

The IFRC is connecting Moldova Red Cross with possible partners inside and outside of the Movement. The Norwegian Red Cross is developing twinning cooperation with three branches in Moldova - Bender, Chisinau and Criuleni. The Turkish Red Crescent provides in-kind support to vulnerable people living in Moldova, mainly through the distribution of food parcels in cooperation with TIKA and the Turkish Embassy in Moldova and Moldova Red Cross. The ICRC is supporting the Moldova Red Cross with first aid development and dissemination of humanitarian values in two branches of Beltsi and Benderi.

Austrian, Bulgarian, Ukrainian, Belarus and Swiss Red Cross are currently implementing projects in Moldova with non-Red Cross organizations.
Moldova Red Cross needs support in (1) reinforcing disaster response capacities, (2) developing and managing livelihood programmes, (3) addressing challenges linked to HIV and TB, (4) meeting older people needs and promoting healthy ageing, (5) developing the first aid system and implementing the programme accordingly, (6) preventing human trafficking and sexual and gender-based violence, and providing psychosocial support to survivors, (7) providing assistance to migrants in need and (8) strengthening the National Society’s capacities on headquarter- and local level.

**AREA OF FOCUS**

**DISASTER RISK REDUCTION**  
CHF 76,000 REQUIRED  
Moldova Red Cross aims to mitigate the impact of disasters on the population through its disaster management programme. People living in areas most prone to disasters will receive information about safety and preparedness for, and behaviour during disasters. In parallel, disaster response capacities of the National Society require reinforcement by developing human, material and technical resources.

**LIVELIHOODS AND BASIC NEEDS**  
CHF 250,000 REQUIRED  
The National Society will be supported to develop a coping strategies index of the population which will be the basis for the introduction of cash/voucher support, and other livelihoods interventions, helping the most vulnerable to improve their situation. Technical support to develop the livelihoods programming approach will be provided to the Moldova Red Cross as an integral part of this process. Expected outcomes are:  
- 500 people will benefit from the voucher programme  
- 200 people will improve their professional opportunities

**HEALTH**  
CHF 165,000 REQUIRED  
Health activities will mainly focus on the prevention of HIV, especially among young people. A peer education approach will be used to help people recognise situations that might put them at higher risk of HIV, and to gain practical skills and knowledge on how to handle these situations and how to resist peer and other pressure. IFRC will coordinate sharing international HIV prevention experience with Moldova and will support experience exchange with National Societies having similar HIV background. Moldova Red Cross will also develop harm reduction projects to support injecting drug users.

The National Society’s capacities need to be expanded in developing a first aid system, supporting older people and building healthy and active ageing programmes. Moldova Red Cross sees a significant need to develop home care to support older people living alone and is looking for partners to build their capacities in this area. Expected outcomes are:  
- 2,300 people will improve their knowledge on HIV prevention  
- 1,200 people will be trained in first aid

**PROTECTION, GENDER AND INCLUSION**  
CHF 100,000 REQUIRED  
Moldova Red Cross will provide support to children undergoing violence or abuse. Psychosocial support (PSS) specialists will be trained in at least four regions of the country to work with affected children. PSS specialists will also be able to contribute to reintegration of adults affected by human trafficking. An information campaign to prevent sexual and gender-based violence will be organized in Moldova to promote child protection. Youth information sessions will be organized to disseminate knowledge about humanitarian values and to prevent violent and discriminative attitudes.

**MIGRATION**  
CHF 70,000 REQUIRED  
Moldova Red Cross will provide assistance to migrants in need and will ensure access to legal, medical and social services in the country. Moldova Red Cross will also disseminate information about safe migration and will continue to promote strong family links to children of migrants being left behind. A programme to prevent trafficking will be implemented in Moldova, to inform those at risk, with the main focus on children and young people. Preventive actions, such as peer education, community-based initiatives and events with the involvement of volunteers will improve awareness of trafficking and abuse among youth. Access to re-integration, psycho-social support, education and legal services for victims of trafficking and abuse will be developed. Expected outcomes are:  
- 50 survivors of human trafficking will receive reintegration assistance  
- 3,000 people will benefit from educational sessions on safe migration

**STRENGTHEN NATIONAL SOCIETY CAPACITIES**  
CHF 100,000 REQUIRED  
Moldova Red Cross has very low capacities to respond to emergencies and support the vulnerable population, though the staff and volunteers aim to be among the first-responders. With external support, the Moldova Red Cross is able to ensure quality and transparent programme and operations implementation, however without this, the sustainability of the National Society is at risk. Strategic development is essential, and Moldova Red Cross needs both technical and financial support, as well as strengthening their Movement leadership knowledge.

In addition, support is needed to build the National Society’s core structure to manage and ensure the quality of the first aid programme according to the First Aid Strategy, which is currently being developed.

**CONTACTS**

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**STATISTICS**

- 11.4% of the country’s population live below the poverty line.  
- 24% of the country population work abroad  
- 15,000 people are HIV positive  
- 17% of the country’s population are older people