Moldova is one of the poorest countries in Europe with the national poverty rate of 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, over 1 million people out of the population of 3.55 million work abroad. 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. Due to the country’s weak industrial base, the Moldovan economy is consumptive rather than productive and therefore is highly dependent on remittances and vulnerable to external shocks. Economic hardship leads to systematic social exclusion of poor people and there is a sharp increase in economic inequality. The country is vulnerable to disasters such as floods and earthquakes.
Moldova Red Cross requires significant organizational support and strengthening in order to step up their role to address these challenges. Capacity building both at headquarters and branch level is of utmost importance, so that the National Society and its staff can implement the prioritized activities.

This operational plan reflects the support IFRC will provide to the National Society in agreed upon areas. The focus for 2020 will be to strengthen the National Society in key areas and to develop programmes in disaster risk reduction, livelihoods, health and migration.

National Society Profile

Moldova Red Cross has approximately 100,000 members, 800 active volunteers and 16 branches. A law on Moldova Red Cross was approved in 2001 and amended in 2016. The government supports the National Society with various benefits such as free office premises, discounted utility payments and exemption from customs fees and VAT.

There are over 4,000 non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in Moldova resulting in significant competition in the civil society sector. Moldova Red Cross is highly dependent on external support, and requires significant capacity strengthening and staff training to meet the needs of vulnerable people. According to its 2018–2023 strategy, the key priorities of Moldova Red Cross are:

- Protecting life and reducing the impact of armed conflicts and disasters on communities
- Reducing poverty and promoting social inclusion
- Improving health status of the population of the Republic of Moldova
- Promoting humanitarian values and a culture of non-violence and peace

To achieve these strategic objectives, the Moldova Red Cross aims to focus its efforts on consolidating volunteering and youth, effective internal and external communication, strengthening international relations, organizational development, and mobilizing resources to fund the strategy.

Role of the Country Cluster Office

The IFRC Country Cluster Office based in Moscow provides technical assistance to the Moldova Red Cross in areas such as disaster management, health, institutional capacity strengthening, representation and advocacy as well as facilitation of partnerships and multilateral assistance to support vulnerable communities. As part of the Country Cluster including Russia and Belarus, the IFRC identifies and facilitates opportunities for Russian-speaking National Societies to exchange information and learning.
Movement Footprint

Norwegian Red Cross is developing twinning cooperation with three branches of Moldova Red Cross. A ‘Twinning Agreement’ for three years is signed between the two organizations and annual plans of actions are agreed based on mutual priorities.

Austrian Red Cross is present in the country and cooperates with a local NGO. Swiss Red Cross is present with a country coordinator, implementing programmes with local NGOs.

The Turkish Red Crescent provides in-kind support to the vulnerable people living in Moldova, mainly distribution of food parcels organized in cooperation with the Turkish Embassy and Moldova Red Cross. Turkish Red Crescent is also implementing a project on combatting violence.

ICRC supports Moldova Red Cross with dissemination of humanitarian values in two branches in Transnistria. ICRC also works with the government on issues including weapon contamination. In 2020, the ICRC plans to evaluate the work of Moldova Red Cross in developing its first aid strategy.
AREA OF FOCUS

DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

Every year around 70,000 people in Moldova are affected by floods and around 20,000 people are affected by the earthquakes. Extremely cold winters with snowstorms are possible, as well as sudden cold outbreaks during spring, which greatly affect not only communities, but also the harvest. In 2020 IFRC will support Moldova Red Cross to provide disaster preparedness information to people living in areas most prone to emergencies. IFRC will encourage the National Society to assess its capacities through the Preparedness for Effective Response (PER) process, as well as to conduct a Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment. IFRC will help Moldova Red Cross to review and update the existing contingency plan, conduct information sessions on climate related disaster response and support in developing forecast-based action plans.

OUTCOME

COMMUNITIES IN HIGH RISKS AREAS ARE BETTER PREPARED TO RESPOND TO DISASTERS

NUMBER OF PEOPLE REACHED WITH CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION INFORMATION 40

NUMBER OF COMMUNITY CONTINGENCY PLANS IN PLACE 1
AREA OF FOCUS

LIVELIHOODS AND BASIC NEEDS

The average salary in Moldova is approximately USD 200. About 750,000 people live on pensions and the average pension is approximately USD 70. Many older people live alone often in dire conditions. IFRC will support the Moldova Red Cross to develop a Coping Strategies Index of the population which will be the basis for a pilot programme of cash/voucher livelihoods support. IFRC will provide technical support on livelihoods programming, seeking expertise from partners to build the National Society’s knowledge. The initial livelihoods interventions will be modest but expected to scale up once the National Society’s capacity and experience grows.

14,000 SWISS FRANCS FUNDING REQUIREMENT

NUMBER OF PROGRAMMES TO IMPROVE INCOME SOURCES OF TARGET POPULATION

1

OUTCOME

COMMUNITIES RESTORE AND STRENGTHEN THEIR LIVELIHOODS
AREA OF FOCUS

HEALTH

It is estimated that there are 15,000 people living with HIV in Moldova, and HIV awareness rates and treatment coverage are low. HIV incidence is highly concentrated among key populations, for example one in four female sex workers in the city of Balti is HIV positive, and only one in three is aware of their status. At 101 per 100,000, the tuberculosis (TB) incidence rate is one of the highest in the region. It is estimated that 50 per cent of people living in Moldova are older people and there is a need for home care support, as well as promotion of healthy ageing.

IFRC will work closely with the Moldova Red Cross and other National Societies in the region to review and expand their role in prevention of HIV and in reducing stigma and discrimination among key population groups. A special focus will be given to establishing partnerships with communities of people living with HIV, TB and key populations, including migrants. IFRC will support Moldova Red Cross in conducting an internal situation analysis, developing a plan to reach key population groups and launching a dialogue with communities. IFRC will provide support in developing advocacy messages aimed to reduce stigma and discrimination and will facilitate advocacy activities such as round tables, press conferences and public events.

Moldova Red Cross is looking for partners to help develop home care and active ageing programmes for older people, with which IFRC will support. IFRC, in close cooperation with Movement partners, will expand the capacities of Moldova Red Cross in developing a systematic and strategic approach for first aid implementation.

**OUTCOME**

**VULNERABLE PEOPLE’S HEALTH AND DIGNITY ARE IMPROVED THROUGH ACCESS TO RELEVANT SERVICES**

**NUMBER OF PEOPLE REACHED WITH ADVOCACY ACTIVITIES ON HIV PREVENTION**

100

**NUMBER OF PROGRAMMES FOR DEVELOPMENT OF FIRST AID IMPLEMENTED IN MOLDOVA**

1
AREA OF FOCUS

MIGRATION

In Moldova over 11 per cent of people live in poverty, with 6 per cent going hungry daily. Consequently, over 1 million people have moved abroad for work. Moldova, including the breakaway region of Transnistria, is a source country for men, women, and children subjected to sex trafficking and forced labour within Moldova and to other countries in Europe and beyond. Most victims of trafficking are from rural areas and have low levels of education. Children living on the street or in orphanages are particularly vulnerable to exploitation and increasing numbers of children, particularly girls aged 13 to 15, are subjected to sex trafficking.

Supported by IFRC, Moldova Red Cross will provide assistance to migrants in need and will ensure access to legal, medical and social services. The IFRC and Moldova Red Cross will connect migrants who have left Moldova with the relevant National Society in their new country. Moldova Red Cross will disseminate information about safe migration and promote strong family links.

IFRC will implement a programme to prevent human trafficking with the main focus on children and young people. The programme will improve awareness of trafficking and abuse among youth through preventive actions such as peer education, community-based initiatives and events developed by volunteers. IFRC will develop access to re-integration, psychosocial support, education and legal services for victims of trafficking and abuse returning to Moldova.

OUTCOME

MIGRANTS AND VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING HAVE ACCESS TO RELEVANT SERVICES AND SUPPORT

NUMBER OF PEOPLE REACHED BY AWARENESS RAISING ON SAFE MIGRATION, CONSULTANCY AND REFERRAL

3,000

60,000 SWISS FRANCS FUNDING REQUIREMENT
STRATEGY FOR IMPLEMENTATION

STRENGTHEN NATIONAL SOCIETY CAPACITIES

The Moldova Red Cross requires strong support to develop its operational capacities, especially in emergency response, and to maintain essential positions such as Executive Director, Volunteer Officer, Fundraising Specialist and Master Trainer on First Aid. IFRC will deliver training in essential areas of Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting (PMER), finance, communications, and the DREF emergency response tool.

OUTCOME

THE NATIONAL SOCIETY HAS IMPROVED SYSTEMS, STRUCTURES AND COMPETENCIES TO SUPPORT VULNERABLE PEOPLE

ENSURE EFFECTIVE INTERNATIONAL DISASTER MANAGEMENT

IFRC will encourage participation of staff and volunteers from Moldova Red Cross in international disaster response surge trainings and deployments. Information management will be enhanced to ensure better emergency response and IFRC will promote the use of the “Go” disaster preparedness and response online platform. Needs assessment capacities will be improved through IFRC support.

OUTCOME

THE NATIONAL SOCIETY IS BETTER PREPARED TO RESPOND TO DISASTERS

INFLUENCE OTHERS AS LEADING STRATEGIC PARTNERS

IFRC will promote the Red Cross mandate especially in the fields of migration, disaster management and health, and will use humanitarian diplomacy to involve international organizations, local authorities and NGOs in Movement activities. IFRC will initiate meetings and discussions on key topics of humanitarian concern and will offer Chisinau as a platform for regional or global thematic events, conferences and workshops. IFRC will look for possibilities to support the development of domestic resource mobilization capacities in Moldova, such as market research, staff upskilling and peer-to-peer support. A partnership meeting will be organized where the challenges and priorities can be shared.

OUTCOME

THE NATIONAL SOCIETY IS BETTER POSITIONED AMONG KEY STAKEHOLDERS
Contact information of the IFRC Country office, for partners who wish to find out more

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