



## Republic of Moldova

- Population: 2.6 million; PwD - 175 thou./ 6.7%
- Main obstacles for PwD:
  - poverty - main income from pensions & social payments; employment rate gap 14% vs 44% (ambiguous legal requirements)
  - inaccessible infrastructure & services
  - discrimination, esp. for mental disabilities

## Multiple crises

- Security (war in UA, separatist TN region)
- Humanitarian: refugees (~110'000 hosted)
- Economic: energy, inflation, supply chains
- Covid-19





# Legal framework

## UN Convention on the Rights of PwD & Optional Protocol to the Convention

### National programs & action plans on

- ✓ Social inclusion of PwD (2017-2022)
- ✓ Deinstitutionalization of pers. with intellectual & psycho-social disabilities (2018-2026)

### Ongoing reforms, action plans on

- ✓ Community mental health services
- ✓ System determining disability & transition from medical to social model approach
- ✓ Ensuring accessibility of PwD to public infrastructure

### Latest regulations on

- ✓ Functioning of social service “Day care center for PwD” & quality standards
- ✓ Assisted employment of PwD



## GESI/LNOB approach

- ✓ Mainstreaming GESI into Cooperation Program
- ✓ GESI in programs & projects
- ✓ Policy dialogue & policy influencing
- ✓ Targeted direct support (Small Action & Culture projects)
- ✓ Institutional awareness & training
- ✓ More inclusive team & more accessible office







## GESI/Disability in programs

- **Economic Development & Employment**
  - piloting assisted employment services & mechanisms
- **Health**
  - rights of persons with mental and physical disabilities
  - adapted medical equipment
  - accessible sexual-reproductive healthcare
- **Local Governance**
  - PwDs' CSOs, participation in policy & decision making processes and monitoring
  - availability of statistical data on PwDs





# Engaging Citizens, Empowering Communities project

- 245 CSOs capacitated & organized in 4 networks: PwD, elderly, Roma & youth
- Analyses & recommendations / amendments to make legislation, policies and decisions more inclusive
- Monitoring inclusive implementation
- National & local participation mechanisms
- Support Parliament in improving participation of PwD
- Active involvement in National Council of PwD under the Ministry of Social Protection.

## #disability4SDC Campaign: Webinar

How to truly Leave No One Behind: A disability-inclusive protection in practice







## Targeted, direct support: SCO Small Grants Program, e.g.

- ✓ Inclusive sports events
- ✓ Mimico-gestual dictionary
- ✓ Digital literacy for elderly women with disabilities
- ✓ Mapping of assistive equipment management & distribution
- ✓ Electoral inclusion of PwD
- ✓ Independent mass-media & arts against exclusion.







# Refugee crisis response

## Assessment & planning

- Monitoring visits: border crossings, refugee shelters, host families
- Management decision: focus on the most vulnerable
- UNCHR Refugee Response task force group on PwD

## Immediate / direct HA interventions

- Modern bus stop & amenities at the busiest UA-MD border crossing point
- Transportation of refugee-PwD to Switzerland
- **Humanitarian aid:** 20 T of goods; cash assistance; water and sanitation in host families; support to hospitals

## HA contributions to government & international organizations

(targeted: the most vulnerable, incl. PwD):

- Energy Vulnerability Reduction Fund (6 mio CHF contribution)
- Access to legal services for refugees and host families
- Development of national & local protection mechanisms
- Grassroots women platforms' engaged in peace & security

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## Targeted, direct support: Humanitarian small actions, examples

- ✓ Adapted minibus for refugees with disabilities
- ✓ Hotline & mobile service delivery for persons with mental disabilities
- ✓ Village shelter hosting PwD & with rare diseases
- ✓ Humanitarian aid to Roma, elderly & PwD in the TN region
- ✓ Humanitarian aid & services, children with mental disabilities in the TN region







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Swiss Cooperation Office  
Representation of the Embassy of Switzerland to Moldova

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**Thank you  
for your  
attention &  
questions!**