

# UN Socio-economic Response and Recovery Plan

Pillar 2. PROTECTING PEOPLE: Social protection and basic services



**COVID-19  
RESPONSE**

Socio-Economic Taskforce Meeting  
Promotion of the UN Socio-Economic  
Response and Recovery Plan  
2 December 2020

# PROTECTING PEOPLE:

## Social protection and basic services

UN entities: **12** Partners: **21** Projects: **27**

Requirements: **\$21.5M (2.8M funded)** Recover Better Projects: **17M**



### Response

- Scale-up and expand resilient and pro-poor social protection systems
- Maintain essential food and nutrition services
- Ensure continuity and quality of water and sanitation services
- Secure sustained learning for all children, and adolescents, preferably in schools and non-formal education
- Ensure continuity of services and programmes for young people through youth centres and other local institutions, including programmes on mental well-being
- Support the continuity of social services and identification of alternative type of care services
- Support the delivery of targeted social aid to the vulnerable families affected by the decrease of remittances income and unemployment benefits to eligible returning migrants
- Support the continuity of public services (police, penitentiaries, national statistical office, etc.)
- Support the redesign and digitization of public services
- Ensure a framework for safe and orderly migration for the returning migrants deciding to re-emigrate

- Support the development of social and economic reintegration services for returning migrants and their families
- Support the continuity of TB/HIV health services (prevention, ARV treatment, PMTCT, care and support, including for women)
- Support survivors of Gender-Based Violence (GBV) through provision of on-line psycho-social and legal support and access to shelters
- Support older persons, people with disabilities, refugees and other vulnerable groups
- Support awareness campaigns regarding the risks of COVID-19 and promoting the idea that people are socially responsible for stopping the spread

### Recovery

- Strengthening progress towards universal social protection
- Building on the increase of coverage during the COVID-19 response
- Redesign social protection systems so they are more responsive to shocks, including climate shocks
- Strengthening care systems so they respond to the needs of women and men as well as vulnerable and marginalized groups throughout their lifecycle without discrimination



## Impact of the pandemic



Poverty: poor households were impacted more by the pandemic

Food security: school meals part of daily food intake; 20% of people faced limitations in access to food

Education: inability of children to attend school due to lack of equipment, infrastructure, connectivity, teachers & online methods. 15 educational institutions and 48 groups of children are in quarantine as of 27/11.

Children and Youth, NEET, adolescents: mental wellbeing; risk behavior & addiction; higher impact on girls, urban areas, low income

Gender: women affected more than men: persisting gender inequalities; gender norms & stereotypes; disproportionate burden; job losses; domestic violence

Returning migrants and their families: job losses; lack of savings, social protection; risk of poverty

Self-employed and small entrepreneurs: no access to work, business opportunities, financial support; seasonal agriculture

Targeted social assistance: low coverage of 'ajutorul social' - only 19% of those in need

Water and Sanitation: structural lack of access – 79% of rural and 16% of urban population; 21% of schools without proper sanitation; 80% of rural schools with pit toilets

Vulnerable groups: lack of food, hygiene items protective equipment



PwC

# Impact and leading vulnerabilities



## Children and Youth

### Widespread barriers to remote learning reinforce pre-pandemic inequalities



**Pre-pandemic PISA** tests score gap widening between socially advantaged-pupils and socially-disadvantaged



**75%** of sample children and youth lacked sufficient devices (poor 80%)



**50%** of sample lacked an internet connection (poor 30%)



**50%** did not have adequate knowledge to connect to remote educational platforms (poor 85%)



**25%** were in a school that only partially ensured remote learning (poor 55%)

### Children from vulnerable family structures experienced worse educational outcomes



**42%** is the poverty rate among households with 3+ children



**27%** divorced or single parents could not organise remote learning (1% married parents)

## NEET Youth

### NEET youth experienced serious material and social deprivations pre-pandemic



**25%** of NEET did not have their house connected to the energy supply



**6** NEET individuals were sleeping in abandoned buildings and **3** in garages



**37%** of NEET youth did not have sufficient protective equipment during the pandemic period



**13%** of NEET youth cited receiving remittance income in 2020 (versus **22%** receiving in 2019)

### Basic needs suffer in the absence of resources



**47%** of NEET youth spent their savings to go through the pandemic expenses



**18%** of NEET reported that in order to compensate for income loss some days they did not eat at all



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# The Response

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# Education - UNICEF



## On-going support:

UNICEF is chairing the UN Coordinated Education Task Force (UNETF) for COVID-19 with membership of UN Agencies and the WB. UNETF actions:

- Coordination of interventions between agencies and communication with MECR
- 30 coordination meetings
- Development of Education Thematic Paper (ETP)
- Discussions on the ETP with young people through the UN Info Centres

## New projects - funded:

- Procurement of 105 computers and [500 educational kits](#) for the most vulnerable children. National online training for pre-school teachers on [positive parenting during the COVID-19 pandemic, transition and recovery period](#). **UNICEF** (\$70,000 from GPE)
- Support on risk communication, [procurement](#) of [critical hygiene materials](#), national training of preschool and school staff on hygiene practices in [preschools](#) and [schools](#) (shared at global level) and infection prevention and assessment of the socio-economic impact of COVID-19 on the most vulnerable families and children. **UNICEF** (\$1,550,000 from USAID COVIDTF )
- Support to MECR for planning of continuity of learning, development of COVID-19 preparedness and response plan, of guides for [students](#) and [parents](#) and regulations on the organisation of the new school year, distribution of online materials on learning and [parenting](#). **UNICEF, UNFPA** (\$10,000)

## New projects - to be funded:

- Facilitating the continuity of learning through the development and provision of materials, support and IT equipment to teachers, students and parents. **UNICEF** (\$700,000)

# Education - UNDP



## Ongoing support:

- **Recognition of professional competencies** – pilot mechanism in construction & catering; expanding in five additional areas (beauty, IT, transportation, textiles, & medical assistance) – support to MECC by UNDP and IOM
- **Tekwill in Every School** - extracurricular course for general education to develop competencies in IT, critical & creative thinking, collaboration and leadership; 77 schools, 216 teachers, over 18,000 pupils
- **Studii.md** - online platform for parents, teachers, students that makes learning process more efficient and transparent (119 schools /47 from ATU Gagauzia, 4300 teachers, 58000 pupils, 40000 parents)

## New Projects – funded:

- **Advancing e-learning in the Republic of Moldova / pilot in ATU Gagauzia; UNDP** (\$100,000 UNDP, \$100,000 ATU Gagauzia);
  - ✓ 47 schools; improving access to infrastructure for pupils and teachers in schools and at home (ICT devices, Internet connectivity, and school management system); improving online teaching practices through digital tools; increasing the attractiveness of STEM subjects among pupils, especially girls;

## New projects – to be funded:

- Improving access to water and sanitation in schools; **UNDP**, UNICEF (\$2,000,000)
- Support modernization of the educational services in public schools & digitalization of the educational offer: **UNDP**, UNICEF (\$2,000,000)

# Education - UNFPA

## On-going support:

UNFPA supports the education sector, with the focus on VET:

- Online psychological support programmes for students & teachers (*192.648 people reached during the first edition*). *Second edition is ongoing*
- Guides for students on preventing COVID-19 , leading on VET (jointly with UNICEF, WHO)
- Training of teachers, school nurses and students from all 91 VET institutions on school safe reopening
- Equipping 12 VET schools with PPEs - UNFPA and ADA
- Digitalization of learning materials on life-skills education for VET and general education – UNFPA and ADA

## New Projects – funded:

- VET institutions and dormitories develop capacity to ensure continuity of education, particularly for those most vulnerable and from rural areas through WASH infrastructure and COVID-19 prevention training. **UNFPA** (\$700,000)
- Supporting most vulnerable groups (adolescent girls) from VET institutions with distance learning
- Further digitalization of life-skills curriculum in general education

## New projects – to be funded:

- Building the resilience of young people through life skills education programmes, including a psychological support programme. **UNFPA, UNICEF, UN Women** (\$750,000)



### MĂSURI DE PROTECȚIE ÎN TIMPUL STAGIILOR DE PRACTICĂ



1. Voi selecta unitatea economică care îmi va asigura condițiile de igienă și securitate conform măsurilor de sănătate publică pentru prevenirea infecției COVID-19.
2. Voi merge la practică doar dacă sunt sănătos. În caz că am simptome precum dureri de cap, nas înfundat, dureri în gât, tuse, respirație îngreunată, voi anunța conducătorul de practică.
3. Voi purta mască de protecție la locul de practică.
4. Voi păstra distanța de cel puțin 1,5 m între mine, colegii stagiași și personalul unității economice.





# Social protection (youth, NEET)- by UNFPA

## On-going Support:

- 44 Youth Centers – PPE and disinfectants for youth workers
- Impact of COVID-19 on young people:
  - The Impact of COVID on youth participation
  - The impact of COVID on youth mental well-being;
- Mobilization of community youth volunteers for national campaign: #We Stay Home Because We Care, And What About You?



## New Projects:

- Further mobilization of Youth Centers Network for community programme and civic engagement in COVID-19 post recovery
- Targeted programs for young people NEET, especially girls from rural areas to facilitate further resilience and employability in post-COVID-19 recovery (UNFPA, UNDP)



# Social protection (TVET - technical vocational education and training) – ILO



## By the beginning of the pandemic:

- **Survey on TVET providers:** understanding challenges in coping with the pandemic

## New projects – to be funded (pipeline):

- **Joint Proposal:** *Ensuring continuing access to TVET in Moldova by introducing E-learning and blended learning.*
  - **Purpose:** Supporting digital readiness and digital transformation of the TVET system & TVET schools: School-plans for digital transformation, capacity building for teachers & trainers in planning, developing and implementing E-learning
  - **Actions:** Teacher training, digital skills
  - **ILO (lead),** ITU, UNESCO, UN Women (\$600,000)
- **SDG-Fund proposal:** *Climate Investment and Innovation Fund Programme in Moldova*
  - **Purpose:** Green economic recovery of the economy, particular MSMEs (micro-small and medium sized enterprises)
  - **Actions:** Financing, financial literacy, business development and skills development for greening MSMEs and greening the economy.
  - **FAO (lead),** IOM, ILO (\$4.241.560), submitted Nov 2020