Recent data on youth shows a population aged between 16-30 of around 870,000, which represent around 25% of the population in Moldova. On the other hand, even though we don’t have any accurate data, we estimate that only around 50,000 of them are beneficiaries of some sort of state programs for youth (grants, entrepreneurship, youth centers beneficiary etc.) and around 34,000 are enrolled in sport schools, which represent only 6% (youth programs) and around 4% (sport enrollment) from all youth population. The National Strategy for Youth Sector Development, adopted in December 2014, intend to rise the numbers of beneficiaries and create the platform for youth involvement. Below are some issues and priorities taken from the strategy in which the support of the development partners is needed.

The main issues that youth and sport sector is confronting according to the strategy are:

1. Youth programs and activities are not fully inclusive. We are not succeeding at creating sufficient opportunities for the vast majority of young people. The existing programs are targeting very specific groups of youths like NGOs members, small numbers of young entrepreneurs or youth centers;
2. Youth services quality and infrastructure issues. In 2015, based on the Youth Strategy, the work on defining the list and standards of youth services started (with UNFPA support). Still, this is just the first step in building a strong network of youth service providers and assuring the quality standards;
3. Lack of capacities among youth workers. The sector does not have a clear understanding of what does it mean to be a youth workers. Due to this, professional could not improve on their skills and not have the right motivation to do this. A full understanding and a system of recognition among professional could motivate people to get involved;
4. Poor infrastructure in the sport sector and lack of information on the facilities that could be used by youth to practice sport;

To cope this problems a set of action are needed to be taken so we could improve and narrow the gap between the numbers of youth and the ones who benefits from youth and sport policies. Below are the area in which development partners could support the Ministry of Youth and Sport to achieve this goal:

1. **Support in building a strong network of youth service providers by:**
   - Elaborate the handbooks for youth service providers in order to assure the implementation of the youth service standards (*expertise support needed*);
   - Setting-up the National Agency for Accreditation and Quality of the Youth Services (*expertise support needed*);
   - Elaborate handbooks for outreach youth service providers;
   - Elaborate the financing mechanism for Youth Services (*expertise support needed*)
2. **Support in building institutional capacities for development and implementation of the Youth Programs:**
   - Setting-up the monitoring mechanism for youth policies (UNFPA support - on going);
   - Setting-up the National Center for Youth Programs and Research (*expertise support needed*);
   - Run the biannual research on youth - Youth in Moldova to assess the results of the National Strategy for Youth Sector Development implementation (*support needed in running the survey*);

3. **Support to institutionalize the youth worker profession:**
   - Defining the competences needed for youth workers (*expertise support needed*);
   - Elaborate a curriculum and the handbooks for youth workers educational process (*expertise support needed*);
   - Setting-up the program for youth workers accreditation and recognition (*expertise support needed*);

4. **Support in building the data collection electronic infrastructure for youth and sport (Youth and Sport Database Management System) that will manage all the information regarding youth services, NGO’s, beneficiaries and the infrastructure in the sport sector;**

5. **Support for mapping the sport infrastructure in order to establish the starting point of the development process.** The information will be used to optimize the sport school network and to reform their way of working by: revision of the curricula, improving the infrastructure, introducing the financing based on performance and consolidating the human resources.

In conclusion, in order to well implement the Youth Strategy and to extend the reach of the youth and sport programs, the support from the development partners with expertise, research on youth and sport, infrastructure improvements in areas mentioned above is needed.

Thank you!