ADDRESSING DEMOGRAPHIC CHALLENGES IN NATIONAL POLICIES

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Moldova’s demographic challenges

• Low fertility rate

• Ageing

• Low life expectancy, especially for men

• Out-migration, especially of the working-age population
Employment rate and fertility rate in EU + Moldova
Gender gaps in life expectancy

$R^2 = 0.6212$

- Lower life expectancy, high gender gap in life expectancy
- High life expectancy, low gender gap in life expectancy
Current demographic policies have a low relevance
Moldova has the highest policy challenges on demographic security in EECA region.

Countries with good demographics and good economics.

Countries with worsening demographics and worsening economics.

Average score across three demographic dimensions, 2012.
Moldova’s population decreases annually with 1%
Population estimation and projection per three major age groups (children, adults, and the elderly), 2004-2035

- The population of working age will decrease continuously (up to 58-60% with some annual fluctuations), while the ageing population (60+) will increase significantly – up to 23.4% by 2035.
Demographic dividend: share of working age population in the total population, 1970-2035

- Estimating the demographic dividend in relation to the present population shows that after massive emigration, Moldova has not used the opportunity offered by this stage in the evolution of the population. Demographic dividend period is very short (only the years 2005 to 2020).

- Even the demographic dividend is very small, oscillations observed in the proportion of working age population shows a very favourable situation for achieving economic growth.

- To use this window of opportunity, investments in young people are needed, which targets their health, education and employment.
A new shift of paradigm in implementing demographic policies is required

- Re-design the current National Programme on Demographic Security 2011 – 2025 to a new one grounded on human rights, evidences and international experiences for harnessing the demographic dividend of the country

- Introducing "Whole-of-Government“ approach in demographic policy coordination

- To introduce a budgetary programme on “Demographic wellbeing” to ensure proper implementation of the new programme.

- Integrate a robust M&E framework and target inequalities, especially gender gaps between men and women
Addressing demographic challenges in the new Programme

Focus:
Harnessing the demographic dividend
Low fertility rate

Pro-active policy interventions

• Improve access to high quality reproductive services including contraceptives services to ensure optimal birth interval, prevent abortions and teenage pregnancies.

• Reduce the incidence of STIs as prevention of infertility especially among young people.

• Increase access to life skills-based health education programs for in-schools and out-of-schools children.

• Improve work and life balance of women and men (reform child care leave)

• Shorter and better paid maternity leave to facilitate re-integration of women into the labour market.

• Expand preschool education services.
Demographic ageing of population

Adaptive policy interventions
• Make pension systems more financially sustainable and equitable
• Reform health care system to address health needs of growing ageing population
• Introduce lifelong learning to make older workers more flexible
• Ensure age-friendly working environment for older persons and intergenerational solidarity
• Stimulate older persons to remain on the labour market after retirement
Low life expectancy and high mortality rate

Pro-active policy interventions

• Promote healthy life style among population, including young people and adolescents through educational curriculum
• Reduce health care inequalities primarily for:
  • men – ensure behavioral changes to increase addressability, improve healthy life style.
  • rural population – improve access to high quality health services.
• Increase alcohol control policies.
Migration, especially migration of younger and productive population

Adaptive policy interventions

• Promotion of circular migration schemes
• Ensure migrants social protection
• Ensure effective integration of returning migrants
• Increase benefits from Diaspora (investment opportunities for remittances)
Thank you for your attention!