United Nations Development Programme

PROJECT DOCUMENT
Republic of Moldova

Project Title: Multidimensional response to emerging human security challenges in Moldova
Project Number:
Implementing Partner: UNDP
Start Date: January 2023[1]   **End Date:**   January 2024   **PAC Meeting date:**

Brief Description
Moldova is facing a compound crisis of energy and food security, curtailed economic growth, growing inflation, limited institutional capacities and divisions in society, aggravated by the continuing socio-economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and the war in Ukraine. The refugee crisis presents an additional challenge that requires sustained attention and support from the international community. Without urgent intervention, the deepening socio-economic, energy, food and human security crises has the potential to derail the trajectory of development, and drastically increase human suffering of people in Moldova, whether Ukrainian refugees, third country nationals, or Moldovan citizens (including those from minority ethnic groups). There are risks of massive outmigration and brain drain, as an immediate impact of the worsening of the socio-economic situation, depleting the country of its major asset: human capital.

The *overall objective* of the intervention is to protect human security and enhance the resilience of the Republic of Moldova, in order to address the multifaceted and interconnected challenges of the current socio-economic, food and energy shocks. The three specific objectives are:
Specific objective 1: To enhance people's energy security through access to affordable energy that supports livelihoods and energy-efficient production
Specific objective 2: To enhance food security by supporting the government to implement its Food Security Strategy, thereby strengthening the capacities of agricultural producers affected by the compound crises
Specific objective 3: To enhance community security by capacitating the police service and community actors to deliver on the principles of social cohesion and peaceful coexistence.
With this project, UNDP ensures that immediate humanitarian assistance is complemented by development efforts across three core insecurities (Energy, Food, Community) to protect and maintain vital systems, structures and a capacity to support Moldova's resilience. Ultimately, the advancement of human security in Moldova will give rise to more tangible and sustainable results that comprehensively address root causes and drivers behind current and emerging challenges, identify priorities based on the actual needs, vulnerabilities and capacities of the governments, institutions and the target group of people, and advance solutions that strengthen the protection and empowerment of all peoples and communities.

Contributing Outcomes (UNSDCF, CPD, RPD):			
Outcome 1: By 2027, institutions deliver human rights-based, evidence-informed and gender-responsive services for all with the focus on those who are left behind	**Total resources required:**	6,812,175 USD	
Outcome 3: By 2027, all people of Moldova, especially the most vulnerable, benefit from inclusive, competitive and sustainable economic development and equal access to decent work and productive employment.	**Total resources allocated:**	**UNDP TRAC:**	
		Donor:	
		Government:	
Outcome 3: By 2027, all people of Moldova, especially the most vulnerable, benefit from inclusive, competitive and sustainable economic development and equal access to decent work and productive employment.		**In-Kind:**	
Indicative Output(s) with gender marker: tbc	**Unfunded:**		

Agreed by (signatures):

[1] Depending on funds' transfer

I.   DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGE

The war in Ukraine has significantly increased the Republic of Moldova's levels of political, economic, social, security and environmental fragility. The geopolitical tensions in the region present both a security and an economic threat for Moldova. The country's resilience is undermined by its precarious internal situation, limited institutional capacities and social divisions. The most immediate and visible consequence of the war is the refugee influx, which has placed state capacities under significant strain. To date, nearly 700,000 refugees, mostly women (62 %) and children (29 %), have fled to Moldova. The country has registered the highest number of refugees per capita from the Ukraine crisis, hosting approximately 97,000 refugees (nearly 4 % of its population). National and local public authorities quickly responded to the immediate needs of the refugees, but limited capacities are hindering how to further address the steady inflow of refugees from Ukraine and intensifying existing vulnerabilities and putting at risk major aspects of human security, such as economic security, food security, environmental security, and personal and community security.

Due to the conflict, Moldova's economy will be curtailed despite swift efforts to recover from COVID-19. Disrupted trade and supply routes, loss of markets, and the unprecedented rise in fuel/energy prices and overall inflation have had a serious impact. The economy is expected to contract by 0.4 % in 2022, reversing the previous forecast of 3.9 % growth. The government's macroeconomic projections indicate that the war could reduce national GDP by 3 to 15 %, compared to a 'business-as-usual' scenario. Inflation rate reached 34.6 % in October 2022. According to UNDP Moldova estimates, over 30 % of the population could be living below the poverty line within the next twelve months, and 54 % of individuals facing high risks of falling into poverty.

The Republic of Moldova is also highly energy-vulnerable: Until recently, it imported 100% of its gas from Russia, and about 70 % of its electricity was produced in the Transnistrian region. Moldova's efforts to diversify its energy sources, which included importing more than 30% of its electricity from Ukraine, were severely impacted by the attacks on Ukraine's energy infrastructure in October and November 2022, due to which Ukraine halted all electricity exports. Since October, reduced gas supplies from Gazprom have forced Moldova to buy gas at high prices at the European spot market, while also complicating Chisinau – Tiraspol relations and leading to a halt in electricity supplies from the Transnistrian region. Energy security therefore presents a serious challenge for Moldova both this and next winter.

Rising energy costs also present a major challenge for households in Moldova. Since the war in Ukraine started, gas prices have increased by a factor of five, putting high pressure on national economy and deepening energy poverty to a level where almost 60 % of the population is affected. The prices are highly dependent of international gas market fluctuations, which leaves the Moldovan Government vulnerable to unforeseen excessive price increases. This has put significant pressures on Moldova's public finances and vulnerable households to afford gas throughout the winter. Rising electricity costs are now presenting and additional challenge. Households will be particularly affected by the prices, since over 60% spend much over 10% of their incomes on energy. Addressing energy vulnerability became a major issue of concern for Government. In addition to supporting the citizens to cope with high energy bills, through on-bill compensation instrument, the Government is looking to increase the share of renewable energy in the total energy use in Moldova, including by consolidating the biomass market, and increase of biomass heating uptake by local public authorities and households. While the Government received solid support from EU throughout 2011-2018 to develop local biomass market, which was successfully implemented by UNDP, under the current energy crisis context the need of continued support to address lesson learned, additional needs and gaps identified, becomes evident.

Therefore, diversification of energy sources is a key priority. For Moldova, biomass represents a renewable energy source with great potential, along with solar and others. It has demonstrated its effectiveness in cost reduction during previous initiatives financed by the EU, UNDP and JICA. In the framework of these initiatives a solid foundation has been put in place for use and production of biomass, by both the private and the public sector. In the current energy crisis, the Government

expressed strong interest in biomass[2], as one of the key pillars of its energy security efforts, but simultaneously – if the market is developed following sustainable principles – to contribute greatly to food security.

Food security is another result of the energy crisis, growing food prices and stagnating supply due to the 2022 drought. Increased gas, fertilizers and gasoline prices is also affecting the economy, in particular agricultural SMEs. Given that the agricultural sector is resource- and energy-intensive, and provides livelihood opportunities to more than half of the population (in a context where rural women are four times more prone to absolute poverty[3]), the impact of the war in Ukraine and regional uncertainties on Moldova's agricultural production is the government's highest concern. Moldova is at high risk of droughts and extreme weather events, with on average a drought every two years: the agricultural output will drop by an estimated 30% year-on-year. Producers face significant challenges due to disrupted value chains, including difficult logistics and the impossibility of using traditional import and export routes, coupled with reduced productivity due to outdated technologies, business processes and equipment used for production. The government's coherent approach to addressing food security issues – the recently presented Food Security Strategy – requires additional support to strengthen implementation mechanisms and resource mobilization.

The unprecedented humanitarian crisis is rolling out on the background of already fragile *social cohesion*. One of the features of the socio-economic landscape in the country is the weakness of vertical and horizontal social cohesion and high potential of social volatility and tension. Weak social cohesion stems from low trust in institutions, social distance between most of the population and the minority groups, rural-urban divide as well as generational divide. The war in Ukraine and the refugee influx in the country could have a strong impact on social cohesion through its potential to intensify the social tension and affect overall human security. The compound crisis has revealed low capacities of state institutions but also of local communities to address emerging insecurities, and efficiently engage communities to resolve issues related to human security. Social tension is likely to increase, especially in communities hosting refugees, being amplified by the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, energy crisis and increasing costs of living in Moldova.

The current situation requires urgent interventions to help national and local actors to prepare for, respond to, and implement durable solutions to sustain *community security and peaceful environments*, at the same time reducing vulnerabilities to various threats. This resonates with the Government's 2030 National Development Strategy,[4] Home affairs strategic policy framework,[5] which is intended to build a modernized and resilient home affairs system by 2030, able to respond promptly and professionally to the needs of the people it serves. The police services are on the frontline of the national response, being one of the first responders to various threats and needs in terms of community security. Therefore, enhancing their capabilities to react to various security-related calls and sustain peaceful coexistence between various community groups is of utmost importance to ensure that human security is fulfilled.

Urgency of the Situation

Moldova has been facing a compound crisis of energy and food security, curtailed economic growth, growing inflation, limited institutional capacities and divisions in society, aggravated by the continuing socio-economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. This crisis is being intensified by the refugee crisis, which also threatens resilience to external challenges.

- Due to the war in Ukraine and the COVID-19 pandemic, gas prices increased by a factor of five during 2022, with more increases to come, and the war is causing disruption to food and gas supply, and electricity generation, as mentioned above

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[2] https://www.iea.org/reports/moldova-energy-profile/sustainable-development (new 2030 targets for energy from renewable sources in gross final energy consumption to be set)

[3] Gender Equality Strategy of Moldova 2016-2020

[4] https://gov.md/ro/moldova2030

[5] https://mai.gov.md/sites/default/files/QR%20Code/subiect-12-nu-484-mai-2022.pdf

- Food prices have increased in 2022 by an estimated 50 %, and they are expected to rise more following the increase in energy costs, with food and energy supplies to be secured for the upcoming winter and beyond. The Government and agricultural producers require substantial and urgent support in terms of building the capacity to adapt and respond to the shock. In particular, the Government has to develop capability to map, monitor and anticipate shortages of supplies; it must further increase its capacities to plan and target subsidies in a transparent manner to most in need agricultural producers affected not only by the current socio-economic and regional conditions, but also by climate change

- Without urgent assistance, local capacity will be unable to meet the intensified societal and economic vulnerabilities. There is a high risk that the human security of people from both Ukraine and Moldova will drastically deteriorate within a short period of time if the current conditions continue. This is likely to create an increasingly insecure environment and social tension, which will diminish the protection space for refugees and asylum seekers[6] and will hamper the development of the country.

Necessity of the Intervention

Moldova is at a tipping point where the multi-reinforcing refugee, food, energy and public security crises will derail the trajectory of human development, and drastically increase human suffering of people in Moldova, whether Ukrainian refugees, third country nationals, or Moldovan citizens (including those from minority ethnic groups). There are risks of further massive outmigration and brain drain, as an immediate impact of the worsening of the socio-economic situation, depleting the country of its major asset: human capital. To prevent this, there is a strong need to implement integrated responses to address a broad range of complex issues requiring holistic inputs from UNDP with the humanitarian-development-peacebuilding (HDP) nexus approach.

With prices on the rise for energy, and subsequently for food, agriculture production (fertilizers and gas), the private and public sectors are looking for ways to adopt affordable energy supply solutions, contributing to both energy and food security in the country. In this context and with the Government energy security strategy aiming to increase the use of renewable energy sources, there is a need to stimulate the market for high efficiency biomass based domestic heating systems. Based on the results and lessons learnt from implementation of biomass related activities in Moldova, procurement of modern and efficient biomass heating stations at the level of individual households and small businesses, has a high replication potential. In addition, there is a need of a continuously supporting the biomass market players (end-users, operators of biomass heating boilers/systems, local public authorities, Association of Bio-fuel producers, etc.). The potential for biomass and solar energy is the highest in Moldova, and thus these renewables are of the greatest interest to all stakeholders.

Food security has also emerged as a new major challenge for the country. The government requires support for proper implementation of its Food Security Strategy, but also support to measure and monitor food poverty as an emergent form of poverty in the country. Small agricultural producers and farmers require additional targeted support to overcome the new costs of doing business, as well as additional incentives and subsidies for use of new technologies and export reorientation. The latter requires the rapid development of a modern registry of farmers and farm exploitations to map existing capacities, but also adopt more targeted support measures and build the resilience of the agricultural producers.

Unpredictability of the Situation

The Russian invasion of Ukraine on 24 February 2022 has contributed to a series of negative and at times unpredictable impacts on Moldova. The regional situation is very tense, and the prospects for the conflict to escalate and affect Moldova remain high. In a worst case scenario, the challenging domestic situation, which cannot be seen in separation from the geopolitical developments in the region, also has the potential to lead to civil unrest. Despite the critical need for additional funding

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[6] Needs and capacity assessment of local public authorities to manage the refugee crisis in Moldova, June-July 2022, UNDP Moldova

for resilience-building and human security for all people in Moldova, refugees, third-country nationals, host communities (including ethnic minority groups), very limited funding has been available for resilience-oriented activities, to address widespread and cross-cutting challenges to livelihoods, human dignity and human security. Therefore, immediate funding for these strategic priorities is essential, and UNDP with its mandate and presence on the ground is extremely well placed to support in this endeavor.

II.   STRATEGY

In the longer-term, the action will support transformative change by strengthening Moldova's **resilience** to external shocks beyond the immediate refugee inflow from Ukraine. The current crisis has the potential to have longer-term implications for Moldova's development. The action will also address the medium- to long-term needs of the refugees and host communities, through developing self-reliance activities, and promoting social cohesion and peaceful coexistence between refugees and host communities. The specific risks and vulnerabilities of women will be a key priority in a context where women and girls comprise most of the population displaced from Ukraine.

THE THEORY UNDERPINNING THE PROPOSED PROJECT IS:

IF people have access to affordable energy that supports livelihoods and energy-efficient production **and**
IF the Government has strengthened capacities for evidence-based policy making, in the agricultural, food security and food poverty policies AND agricultural producers are able to comply with food safety and other standards
and
IF capabilities of central and local public authorities, including police as well as civil society actors are enhanced to deliver on the principles of social cohesion and peaceful coexistence
THEN the resilience of the Moldovan Government, the population and communities to face multifaceted and interconnected challenges in the areas of energy and food security will be enhanced
THEN peaceful coexistence, an environment of trust, free of fear, want and indignity and ultimately social cohesion is fulfilled in Moldovan communities

BECAUSE challenges of energy security, food security and community security within a multifaceted crisis Moldova is currently facing will be addressed through an integrated approach – at the local, regional and national levels – thus contributing to both protection and empowerment dimensions of the human security.

Human security approach

Guided by **UN General Assembly resolution 66/290** this project has identified a widespread and cross-cutting challenges to the survival, livelihood and dignity of the people in Moldova. As indicated above, the compound crises that the country is experiencing is affecting all dimension of the **human security framework** (political, community, personal, economic, food, health and environmental).
In this context, **energy security, community security and food security** have been identified as the **most pervasive and inter-connected insecurities** that have potential entry point for positive multiplier affects across all other dimensions.
Furthermore, this project is guided by five fundamental principles:
- **People-centered:** the project is considering the broad range of conditions that challenge people and their communities, particularly those who are most vulnerable, which the project will continuously assess to ensure how different communities, groups and people are experiencing different type of threats and vulnerabilities.

- **Comprehensive:** the project recognizes the complexity and interconnected nature of the challenges that confront people in Moldova and will focus on three core insecurities (Energy, Community and Food) that have multipliers affects across all other dimensions.
- **Context-specific:** the project recognizes that risks to the human condition vary considerably. It is guided by consultations with local communities and civil society and will continue to promote national ownership through the integration of the findings into the policies and interventions wherever possible.
- **Prevention-oriented**: the project is tackling solutions to help mitigate the impact of the ongoing compounded crisis in Moldova. By strengthening the resilience of people, communities and institutions, it will also prevent, and better prepared, communities for future challenges.
- **Protection and empowerment:** Each of the three inter-connected pillars of this project will combine top-down protection and bottom-up empowerment measures, which brings a wide range of stakeholders based on their comparative advantages in addressing the insecurities of the target population and leverage factors of resilience at all level.

Through this project, the advancement of human security in Moldova will give rise to more tangible and sustainable results that comprehensively address root causes and drivers behind current and emerging challenges, identify priorities based on the actual needs, vulnerabilities and capacities of the governments, institutions and the target group of people, and advance solutions that strengthen the protection and empowerment of all peoples and communities. The combination of these elements will help bolster actions taken by the UNDP, the Governments and other actors to build resilience, prevent crises and support people's aspirations to be free from fear, want and indignity.

Humanitarian – Development – Peace Nexus

The humanitarian-development-peace nexus is a recognition that complementary, coordinated and coherent approaches between humanitarian, development and peace actors are required to tackle the multi-risk, multi-dimensional challenges that the country is experiencing. UNDP Moldova is working closely with the UN entities and other humanitarian stakeholders to meet the specific needs caused by the impact of the war in Ukraine on Moldova, including through the Regional Refugee Response Plan (RRRP). With this project, UNDP ensures that immediate humanitarian assistance is complemented by development efforts across three core insecurities (Energy, Food, Community) to protect and maintain vital systems, structures and a capacity to support Moldova's resilience.

III.   RESULTS AND PARTNERSHIPS

EXPECTED RESULTS

Overall Objective

The **overall objective** of the intervention is to protect human security and enhance the resilience of the Republic of Moldova, in order to address the multifaceted and interconnected challenges of the current socio-economic, food and energy shocks.

Specific Objectives, Outputs and Activities

Specific Objective 1: To enhance people's energy security through access to affordable energy that supports livelihoods and energy-efficient production

Secure and affordable energy supply improves people's living conditions as well as production processes, both of which are vital to sustainable development, poverty reduction and climate resilience. To facilitate the access to the uninterrupted availability of energy sources at an affordable price it is crucial for the Republic of Moldova to encourage people and enterprises, including in the agriculture sector, to implement energy efficiency and renewable energy sources technologies because they face many problems in using the existing local resources. In response to that, support to existing solid biofuel producers would be provided, along with the promotion of solid biofuels to reduce the energy costs and increase the heating comfort in the public sector and households. Further on, energy efficient technologies coupled with capacity building activities would be

implemented both in the agricultural and non-agricultural sectors via private sector engagement, through provision of energy-efficiency technologies and capacity building in the area of clean, affordable and sustainable energy. The relaunch of the biomass market in the residential sector, with the support of this project, will reduce the dependence on natural gas imports, including through the local use of biomass energy resources. A number of 20.000 people will benefit of reinforced biomass heating activities.

Output 1.1. Capacities of solid biofuels producers enhanced

Activity 1.1.1. Design and operationalize a grant scheme for the development support of existing producers of solid biofuels for resource efficient production, including energy efficient technologies

The project will design and implement a support scheme for 10 selected companies producing solid biofuels to mitigate the increase of production costs due to the energy price increase, high equipment maintenance and logistics costs and limited competitiveness on the local market. Launching a grant mechanism dedicated to the improvement the energy efficiency of the production process or/and installation of photovoltaic systems, among others, is intended to reduce the production costs and will allow them to reinvest the savings into business extension. An additional support will be the grants for development of the businesses in this area by construction of larger warehouses, which will offer more flexibility in accumulation of stocks in the period when the sales are low, but the production capabilities (incl. availability of raw material) is high.

Activity 1.1.2. Enhance the capacities of the Association of Bio-fuel Producers to advocate for solid biofuel producers

The Association of Bio-fuel producers has been established in 2017 and since then it is the only associative structure, which represents the interests of the solid biofuel producers form Republic of Moldova. The Association's role is very important for the advocacy of the key problems of the sector in relationship with central public authorities. The most critical problems are high competition rate with imported solid biofuels and tendency of monopolization of biomass market. The support will be channeled for a better visibility of the Association, producing brand book, as well as organization of at least 1 national event on the problems of biomass producers in Moldova, at least 5 meetings with decision makers in energy area, etc.

Activity 1.1.3. Provide regulatory support for improving raw material supply and development of the solid biofuel market

As a set of regulatory interventions on the accessibility of the raw material for the producers of solid biofuels are vital for the solid biofuel market development, the project will provide legal and normative assistance in such areas as uncontrolled burn on open fields instead to be collected and used for biofuels production, use of abandoned lands, which are not properly maintained in order to facilitate creation of energy plantations or forest with a special destination as an energy reserve, amendment of the forestry code and secondary legislation, subsequently, at least 8 working meetings are expected to be organized with central public authorities to agree and promote at least 1 draft secondary legislation to improve the conditions of biomass production and market operation.

Output 1.2. Uptake of solid biofuels by public institutions and households' sector increased

Activity 1.2.1. Support the installation of biomass heating systems in households

The aim of this activity is to stimulate the installation of energy efficient biomass boilers in the households. It consists of the development of a grants' program for at least 350 households that are willing to substitute firewood and other fossil fuels, mostly imported (natural gas) and used to produce thermal energy for space heating, housing and domestic hot water production, with thermal boilers based on pellets or briquettes. The grant programme is responding to the high demand for biomass boilers by HHs in conditions of high tariffs for electricity and heating. By directly stimulating the procurement of biomass boilers at the household level, the program aims to feasibly increase

the demand for biomass boilers[7]. The grant programme is responding to the high demand for biomass boilers by HHs in conditions of high tariffs for electricity and heating.

Activity 1.2.2. Support the functionality of the remote monitoring system for biomass boilers for public buildings

The project will support the Energy Efficiency Agency (EEA) in updating and upgrading the existent remote monitoring system (RMS) for biomass boilers to provide systematic and reliable information on heat production and fuel consumption as well as information on comfort level in buildings, CO2 and other relevant emissions, operation indicators and security parameters. Under this activity it is proposed the technical assessment of all RMS sensors, agreeing on central server and RMS modules ownership arrangements, testing the system and trainings of the new staff to operate the RMS, etc. Overall, the RMS is seen by EEA as an important source of data on biomass use, that is further used for decision making in the energy sector.

Activity 1.2.3. Conduct training events for biomass boiler operators

The project will organize a training program for solid biomass thermal power plant operators, which is based on the program previously developed in 2017 and approved by the Ministry of Education. At the same time, the data made available by the Energy Efficiency Agency, collected from local public authorities through district energy managers, showed that the number of people willing to be trained as operators of biomass thermal power plants is much higher. Thus, as of 11.15.2022, 356 people showed interest in accessing these courses, effectively 2 times more than the target group planned to be trained. By carrying out activity 1.2.3, the aim is to train a sufficient number of operators from public institutions that own and operate a solid biomass boiler[8].

Activity 1.2.4. Support the upgrade of the online platform for trading in solid biofuels

This activity aims at relaunching the portal www.piata-biomasa.md in order to facilitate access to information between the main actors on the biofuel market in the Republic of Moldova. At the same time, the mentioned activity is also part of the actions identified for the removal of barrier no. 11 Insufficient communication between producers and consumers of solid biofuels, based on the decision of the working group responsible for identifying solutions regarding the use of solid biofuels during the 2022-2023 heating season, established by the Ministry of Infrastructure and Regional Development by order no. 134 of 29.07.22[9].

Activity 1.2.5. Conduct analysis of options for integration of large biomass boilers in district heating systems (DHSs)

The project will aim at developing a technical and economic analysis on the justification of investments by thermal energy enterprises in solid biomass power plants. In parallel, the provision of power plants within thermal energy companies with raw material from solid biomass will also be considered by diversifying a supply chain with this material. So far, no studies or analyzes have been developed that highlight the technical and economic aspects regarding the integration of biomass power plants of large capacities in the centralized heat energy supply network. To diversify energy supply resources, two heating companies SA CET Nord and SA Termoelectrica carried out two projects for the integration of solid biomass power plants in the district heating circuit. Emerging

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[7] A similar mechanism (subsidy fund) was implemented by UNDP during 2013-2016 with EU funding. With this multidimensional crisis the country is currently facing, the demand in subsidies for biomass heating systems from households and SMEs is still high. The EEA (Energy Efficiency Agency) is frequently receiving requests in this regard.

[8] According to a Report published by the Energy Efficiency Agency in 2022, more than 500 operators of biomass thermal power plants have benefited from certified training provided by the Public Institution "Centre de Excellence în Construcții" (CEC) within the same project

[9] The www.piata-biomasa.md portal was launched in November 2016 by the Energy and Biomass Project and represented a platform where the demand and supply of solid biofuel, raw material and importers of solid biomass thermal power plants met. The portal offered modular information about the green technologies available on the Moldovan market depending on the type of final beneficiary – household consumer, company or public authority, as well as the creation of a legislative database in the field of the energy sector, with the incorporation of studies and research on the evolution of the market. Due to the decline in the biofuels market, the portal's activity was suspended.

from good European practices, biomass used for central heating plays an essential role in diversifying energy resources and promoting the concept of distributed heat generation.

Activity 1.2.6. Conduct awareness raising activities and educational programmes to enhance understanding of the benefits of biomass energy use

The project will aim at expending the educational initiatives on renewable energy in community schools that benefit from biomass heating, which will help teach middle school children how the sun, water, wind, and plants can help them save money and energy, promoting the use of renewable energy sources, especially biomass, but also the rational consumption of energy resources through energy conservation practices. Society's awareness of the benefits and advantages of using biomass will boost its use effectively and in a rational way from the point of view of consumption and environmental protection. Summer camps for children will also be used as platforms to communicate and educate children about the benefits of using renewable energy sources. In addition to the knowledge of how to use the energy of nature, whose promoters become participants in this camp, the children will make new friends and have fun, as various interactive games will be organized. At the same time, the activity will also include the organization of workshops for people from local public authorities such as energy managers, technical staff, managers of the buildings of the built fund, as well as individuals from the communities who have benefited from support for the procurement of solid biomass thermal plants or own and already operates a plant, etc.). It is expected a total of at least 5 persons to benefit from educational and training activities.

Activity 1.2.7. Provide remote assistance for public and private users of solid biomass boilers

The project will support the establishment of a call center and open a special telephone line, to assist local public authorities in preparing solid biomass plants for the heating season. Remote recommendations will be provided to eliminate minor technical problems and put authorities in contact with plant repair companies. Individuals who operate a biomass power plant will also benefit from the call center's assistance. Preparing solid biomass boilers for the heating season requires knowledge specific to this activity. According to the technical procedures, each institution needs to have a technical service contract with an authorized company that will check, propose and remove technical faults that occurred during the previous heating season. Not knowing the specific technical aspects of this equipment, as well as removing minor technical problems for the preparation of thermal plants for the heating season, make these plants non-functional for the winter. It is expected that the call center will provide consultative support to at least 100 BHS installed in localities, as well as at least 500 HHs using biomass boiler.

Output 1.3. Energy-efficient technologies adopted by the private sector in the agricultural sector

Activity 1.3.1. Design and conduct a capacity-building programme for households and agricultural enterprises on how to benefit from clean, affordable and sustainable energy

This activity will address the capacity barrier of households to launch businesses which are resilient in the face of climate change and the energy shocks. Due to the capacity gaps, there is limited access to the local natural and financial resources which leads to overexploitation and mismanagement of the natural capital and underuse of the alternative sources of clean energy.

To increase the farmer capacities in this area, UNDP will carry out a capacity development programme for youth, women headed households and men and women agri-producers, including community-based organisations in strengthening the knowledge and skills in climate resilient livelihoods, leadership, and income generating activities development with sustainable and green aspects mainstreamed. The capacity development programme will envisage mentoring and coaching activities as wells as workshops, trainings intended to enhance the capacity of the small and medium farmers and to the households with economic activities to plan and manage their economic activities in a resilient manner.

Activity 1.3.2. Organize a grant programme for introduction of energy-efficient technologies by enterprises

In order to create a synergy between the capacity building programme and the entrepreneurs' willingness to invest in the clean and energy efficient technologies it will be enabled a financial support mechanism to 20 smallholder farms that will implement energy-efficient and renewables technologies to build their resilience to the effects of energy crisis and climate variability and change.

This activity includes the following type of support to be offered: a) Support potential grantees to enable a larger number of potential beneficiaries to submit competitive applications through extensive consulting and other supportive measures; b) Provision of non-cash support to women and men-led smallholder farms through the procurement of equipment/goods/works/services to implement energy-efficient technologies for their business.

Activity 1.3.3. Assist 10 MSMEs working in non-agricultural sectors to reduce the environmental impact and improve their efficiency and competitiveness through supporting: a) Energy efficiency in the production process (Upgrading old production lines, Improved regulation and control of the production process, Recovering waste heat) and b) Efficient generation of energy inputs (Renewable energy generators (solar, wind, etc), High efficiency boilers, Improved insulation of production spaces, etc))

Activity 1.3.4. Organize a grant programme for improving of energy-efficient measures by households with economic activity

Following the financial and technical support to be offered to the smallholder farms the same approach will be used to enable a support for the households with the economic activities in the agriculture sector. This activity includes the following type of support to be offered:

Specific Objective 2: To enhance food security by supporting the government to implement its Food Security Strategy, thereby strengthening the capacities of agricultural producers affected by the compound crisis

The agricultural sector plays a critical role for the sustainable development of the country and its food security, by contributing to about 10% (2020, WB data) to Moldova's GDP, and employing about 21% of the active population (2021, ILO estimates). One main task for the MAFI with immediate but also medium- and long-term result in addressing the food security crisis and in building a sustainable Moldovan agriculture sector, fully integrated with EU and global agriculture markets, is to provide help in the development of a Farmers' Digital Registry that will be a robust and reliable information platform on farmers and their activity within the country.

Output 2.1. The resilience of the agricultural sector in the Republic of Moldova will be strengthened in terms of food security, allowing for complete traceability and quality assurance

The agri-food sector is increasingly focused on meeting increasing consumer demands regarding quality, safety and security of products. Traceability is a risk management tool that can be used by the consumers to identify clear and precise information for agri-food products: by tracking the production chain it is possible to verify, certify, and monitor if the final product complies in fact with the relevant specifications and quality requirements. A Farmers Registry is a strategic priority of the Moldovan Government, being imperative for the development of the agriculture sector as a key measure to address the upcoming food security crisis of the country. The development of a National Farmers Registry is strongly aligned and directly supports the main goal of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry of Moldova of strengthening the sector's resilience and competitiveness, which is key in addressing the food security crisis:

- By providing the main entry point for agricultural production, including collection, analysis, monitoring and provision of technical assistances to farmers – including subsidies, the Farm Registry ensures full traceability of Moldovan agricultural products, and supports Moldova in becoming more resilient to food security crises.

- By mainstreaming digital technologies and using digital solutions – the Farm Registry being a key digital platform - it anchors digital processes in a line ministry in Moldova, and a key sector of the Moldovan economy.
- By immediately ensuring a quality and traceability assurance system for the Moldovan agriculture sector, the creation of a Farm Registry will allow market-access to more demanding and thus higher-priced international markets.

MAFI, being responsible for the development of one of the key economic sectors of Moldova, is to promote the modern digital technologies both in administrating the sector, improving policy and decision making in the sector, but also in encouraging and teaching agriculture producers and processors to increase efficiency, improve decision making, realize more revenue, and make them more resilient to the crisis quickly and easily. The Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry and relevant quality assurance bodies will be the main government counterparts in host country coordination.

Activity 2.1.1. Operationalize the feasibility assessment for the setting up and implementation of the National Farmers Registry and develop the legislative and regulatory framework for the National Farmers Registry. The aim of the activity is to assess the current situation in the Republic of Moldova, scope main challenges for setting up a fully functional National Farmers Registry (software) in 12 months. The project will also prepare the legislative and regulatory framework necessary for the Registry. As the Registry of farmers in one of the main conditionalities of the EU to Moldova and represents a prerequisite for European Union integration and access to the EU market, alignment with European and international norms and standards will be considered. Access to EU funds will catalyse the modernization of the sector and policies and regulatory framework, that is to be further aligned to the EU norms and standards. The registry is also the basis for the new Regulation on Subsidies by the Government that will be implemented starting with 2023 onwards and that is based on good practices from the European Union countries.

Activity 2.1.2. Develop the digital software and dashboard, considering front- and back-end design and development, with data linkage between involved institutions, based on established legal and regulatory framework

The registry will make use of the existing networks and datasets, as well as digital tools and technologies available on the mark. The registry will provide the Government with the required evidence for making key decisions, including on the subsidies, monitoring and anticipation of yields, prices, supply and other elements.

Activity 2.1.3. Pilot the digital software through the collection, verification and validation of primary information for pilot communities (12 villages selected in 4 rayons with at least 2,000 small producers covered). Improve the software

The pilot will cover the critical part of the Registry design, including the collection and verification of real data on the field, in three/four pilot rayon (districts), and the data integration into the Registry software. Additionally, the project will explore the possibility of integration of the data from existing registries such as the Wine and Vine Registry, Animals Registry, and Businesses Registry. Quality assurance will be ensured through careful design and planning (to ensure alignment EU and international standards), on-the-spot verification and during collection and processing of the data. The expectation is that by the end of the pilot phase, the National Legislation will be prepared for launching the National phase of the Farmers Registry, the software will be up and running, and around 30 thousand hectares of agriculture land will be recorded into the Registry according EU requirements.

Activity 2.1.4: Support the scaling-up of the improved registry on the national level

This activity aims at supporting the scaling up of the Farmers Registry, to register agricultural producers within the Republic of Moldova. This objective will be accelerated by promoting the use of the data from the Registry to approve and grant agricultural subsidies. In turn, this activity will also strengthen the use of evidence-based data in policy-making within the MAFI (see outcome 3), promote the digitalisation of other services (such as subsidies) within the MAFI, and inter-operability

of digital systems within the MAFI and across ministries. This will ensure also that Moldova's subsidy system aligns with the European Union's legal and regulatory framework, in which subsidies are linked to National Farmers Registry,

Activity 2.1.5. Support the organisation and implementation of an awareness-raising and promotional campaign

A public awareness and information campaign will be conducted in the selected regions to ensure that farmers, agriculture owners and producers know about the Farmers Registry and know the requirements to record their agriculture areas in the system and submit annual production declarations.

Activity 2.1.6. Conduct trainings for the quality assurance bodies and institutions

The aim is to ensure understanding of the data utility as a tool in executing state supervision of food safety, as well as security, quality, and quantity assurance, with the objective of improving capacity-building of state control bodies that are part of the quality framework to use the agriculture traceability system and detect frauds and quality and other issues. In total, 10 seminars for Food Safety Agency (ANSA), Agency for Interventions and Payments in Agriculture (AIPA) and other stakeholders will be organised and delivered. This activity will also include the development of data quality control manuals and tools, including field verification procedures for parcel and harvest declarations, in line with current good practices in other European countries.

Output 2.2. Support for evidence-based policy making, to inform agricultural development, food security and food poverty policies, and related sectors.

The development of a National Farmers Registry will allow to generate more reliable data on food security and the Moldovan agricultural sector, improve the use of evidence-based policy-making and inform further reforms of the agricultural sector, in terms of agricultural outputs, food quality and assurance, and supporting mechanisms to farmers (subsidies). By collecting accurate information about the agricultural cadastre (a system for mapping and managing land), agricultural land use, and agricultural enterprises, as well as quantitative and qualitative data about agricultural land, the registry will contribute to significantly reduce the use to inaccurate data, which hampers the capacity of decision-makers to get a clear understanding of the current situation and elaborate accurate and effective decisions and policies. Secondly, the registry will lower the number of discrepancies in official documents, by harmonising data sources, thus lowering the risk of false perception of the real state of the agricultural sector and improving policy results. Thirdly, the data collected by the National Farmers Registry will serve as the basis for agricultural subsidies provision, to support more efficiently farmers and in a more targeted manner. Finally, by aligning with EU standards and international regulations, the farm registry will be developed to generate national agricultural data comparable with international and EU standards, thus strengthening Moldova's sectorial legislation and regulations

Activity 2.2.1. Support the development of a regular food poverty measurement and monitoring mechanism, with at least 2-3 new integrated solutions for tackling food poverty. Build MAFI capacity in using the mechanism

In building the resilience of the agricultural sector, UNDP will support the Government in developing the Registry of Farmers, as well as a mechanism to measure and monitor food poverty. These two elements will ensure a more transparent and evidence-based policy formulation process. This would include an analytical flow on food poverty with income simulations, food poverty analyses with specific territorial aspect, impact assessment of food poverty, as well as comparing and integrating analyses with other assessments on energy poverty, incomes, etc. The aim of the activity will be to improve capacity within the MAFI to ensure that the use of evidence-based will be sustained within the ministry, and to ensure stronger data-driven decision-making, improved governance and data accessibility and sharing.

Activity 2.2.2. Develop specific digital services for the MAFI

This will include the use of Earth Observation Data, to improve understanding of the impact of draughts on the agricultural sector, the impact of climate change on agricultural practices, nowcasting toolkits for anticipation of the evolution in prices for main agricultural commodities, other services.

Activity 2.2.3. Adjust the agricultural subsidy mechanism, using the National Farmers Registry as the basis for verification and granting of subsidies to potential beneficiaries.

The project will work with the sector associations to encourage self-control by the agriculture sector across the value chains. Sector's self-monitoring practices will enable associations to improve quantity, quality, and detect quality issues in a timely manner and organize peer support assistance before state interventions. The project will work with the MAFI to enhance its role as a coordinator and mediator between the private and public sector. The registry will serve as the basic mechanism for monitoring agricultural subsidies, thus serving as a key instrument in improving the quality of agricultural subsidies payments. Moreover, it will strengthen transparency and traceability within the process of approval and verification of applications submitted by potential beneficiaries, by aligning with EU countries systems of agricultural subsidies, toward integration with the EU's Integrated Administration and Control System.

Output 2.3. The capacity of agricultural producers in targeted communities to comply with food safety and other standards is enhanced, and their competitiveness is strengthened as a result of the new adopted technologies and livelihoods development.

According to a UNDP study *Mapping of financing instruments and practice for MSMEs in the Republic of Moldova*, MSMEs, particularly in the agricultural sector, have greater difficulties in accessing support in terms of adequate funding and education, to create added value and implement modern tools and techniques. Therefore, this intervention will aim at covering this gap, providing the beneficiary producers of critical agricultural production with the needed equipment, as well as business development support.

Activity 2.3.1. Provide support to 10 MSMEs working in the agri-food sector upgrading their harvesting, production, storage and processing capacities.

Along with the provided equipment and/or infrastructure, the project will support the redesign of internal business processes, this improving the companies' labour productivity and competitiveness. This will ensure a greater agricultural output, contributing to a greater food security of the country.

Activity 2.3.2. Provide business advisory services for the beneficiary MSMEs, with a particular focus on women-led ones.

The project will build business capacity through coaching provided by specialized Business Associations and mentoring offered by experts in the areas of project intervention. The TA and capacity building will provide very hands-on support to producers, particularly women-producers in implementing new agri-food technologies, as well as will support them improve its productivity and efficiency.

Specific Objective 3: To enhance community security by capacitating the police service and community actors to deliver on the principles of social cohesion and peaceful coexistence

Community security is preoccupied with protecting communities from stress and tension brought by various crises. The compound crisis that the Republic of Moldova is being faced with, in case local communities will not be strengthened to resist and recover, will bring a range of social insecurities and fears that are likely to impede communities from striving for continuous sustainable development. Through assessing potential fragility points in terms of social tension/social cohesion and then strengthen the capacities, of both the communities and of the central public authorities, the project will contribute to increasing horizontal and vertical social cohesion, strengthen community security and support communities to participate collectively towards shared vision of sustainable development.

The project will pilot and test the sociological tool to assess social tension across the country (Social Tension Monitoring Mechanism) and to inform the decision making of central and local authorities that will be conducive to strengthening social cohesion. Based on the findings of the Social Tension Monitoring Mechanism it will support the dialogue and collaboration of local and central authorities as well as civil society organizations to solve problems of the communities affected by the crisis. It will strengthen the technical capacities of police to respond to challenges related to ensuring personal and community security in these times of crisis, but it also will consolidate the policy making process to enhance collaboration between police and LPAs to maintain community security.

Output 3.1. Enhanced capacities of central and local public authorities as well as national human rights institutions and development partners to anticipate and mitigate social tensions

Activity 3.1.1. Implement the Social Tension Monitoring Mechanism to identify the factors determining social tension across the country

The Social Tension Monitoring Mechanism (STMM) is a sociological tool to measure biannually the level of tensions and cohesiveness of the Moldovan society including the dynamics of the attitudes of the Moldovan population towards Ukrainian refugees and other vulnerable social groups within Moldova. The mechanism includes conducting a succinct situation and conflict analysis focusing on dimensions, factors and drivers of social division as well as connectors conducive towards social cohesion as well as to conduct dialogues with the relevant stakeholders to reflect their views in designing of the tool/mechanisms. The first stage of rolling out the STMM will consist of piloting and testing the tool through the employment of quantitative (nationwide survey) and qualitative data (research and analysis including through desk review) of the trends in the field of social fragility and factors of social tension. The tension drivers will be identified in at least 10 communities, especially in those where there is a high density of refugee population.

Activity 3.1.2. Organize awareness raising and capacity building activities to operationalize the data on social tension and strengthen community security

The Social Tension Monitoring Mechanism will generate data on current tensions and potential divers of social tension in the country. In order to make the data generated by the tool operational a complex set of awareness raising and capacity building activities will need to be implemented. The project will develop an interactive dashboard based on the data received from the implementation of the mechanism, will implement information and awareness raising on the usefulness of the social tension data. It will also strengthen capacities of central and local public authorities to use the data on social tension and will facilitate community dialogues and coordination of activities based on the identified fragility trends to prevent or mitigate social tension.

Output 3.2. Enhanced response capacities of police service to emerging community security threats

Activity 3.2.1. Enhance the mobility and response capacities of first-response police teams

Police service is at the frontline of the community security response, being usually the first service called in a security-related emergency. The capacity of police service to react promptly to these calls is crucial for saving lives, preventing and responding to crime or re-establishing public order.[10] Through this intervention the Project will support the prompt deployment of police services (including in remote areas) by providing at least 10 first response police teams in 5 districts with high number of settled refugees with fit-for-purpose police vehicles to enhance the mobility and rapid response capacities to community security calls or crisis situations. This support will be also instrumental in ensuring the safe passage of refugees from the border to host communities or transit the country on their route to other destinations. The intervention will embed, to the extent possible, environmental

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[10] The 2021 data indicate that police's response time to a 112-emergency call was in average 28 minutes. The Home Affairs Development Strategy for 2022-2030 sets as a goal reducing the response time to 15 min by the end of 2024. Achieving this goal is influenced by the capacity of police to mobilize and quickly reach the location where police services are required.

sustainability (emissions control, fuel consumption), hybrid vehicles being considered as a first option before combustion vehicles.

Activity 3.2.2. Strengthen the capacities of police to detect and document public order violations by implementing body camera system

Wearable cameras are often utilized by law enforcement officers to record their interactions with the public, maintain public order, gather video evidence at crime scenes or reconstruct events. The use of this instrument by police services across the region and the world has significantly increased during the last years, being seen as a tool for addressing issues of community security and trust, as well as a way to increase police accountability and tackle corruption.[11] Through this intervention the project will seek to unlock the potential of this tools for enhancing community security and support the expansion of the implementation of the body camera system by providing 100 police staffers from 10 districts with high number of settled refugees from North, Centre and South of the country with rugged body cameras (and accessories, where applicable) to properly detect and document public order violations. This equipment will be integrated with the mainframe system, currently built by the Ministry of Internal Affairs based on the recently approved regulatory framework.[12]

Output 3.3. Digital transformation of police operations in support of community security is advanced

Activity 3.3.1. Support the piloting of the e-Contraventions system

Digital transformation is a new reality Police service needs to adhere to. To stay relevant, it must modernize and develop capabilities to address the digital challenge through the exploitation of new technologies. Nevertheless, many essential services are not yet digitalized in the home affairs sector.[13] Through the current intervention, UNDP will support the piloting of the newly developed e-contraventions case management system[14] by providing 100 police staffers from 10 districts with high number of refugees settled with fit-for-purpose rugged mobile devices for a field testing of incorporated functionalities and interoperability features before a full-scale roll out of the system.

Activity 3.3.2. Introduce smart policing tools for on-site identification and documentation of public security and road safety incidents

Digitalization is one of the key enablers for advancing structural changes in the home affairs area. Digital transformation has the potential to touch every part of the policing process, changing the way police work, harness data and exploit technologies. Police's patrolling should take advantage of the new technologies while responding quickly to emerging threats to public security and road safety incidents. Through this intervention the Project will support the Police service to introduce smart policing tools (for instance, smart police car solutions, crash scene mapping solutions) in three areas across the country (North, Centre and South districts) to identify the incident/issue, collect relevant data (including AI-powered and geospatial data) and take a decision on the case. Integrated software and hardware solutions will be identified and provided, embedding functionalities aligned to end-user's needs. Specialized training will be provided to ensure best use of smart policing solutions to be provided.

Resources Required to Achieve the Expected Results

The project is estimated to require 6,812,175 USD and will constitute one of the main projects to address the current multidimensional crisis by UNDP Moldova. The UNDP Moldova is made up of different teams of projects with a clear strategy to support effective governance, inclusive growth

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[11] UNDP Moldova, *Opportunities of Body Camera (Video Recorder) Use for the Moldovan Police Officers. Assessment Report*, 2018 (available in hard copy).

[12] https://gov.md/sites/default/files/document/attachments/subiect-09-nu-623-mai-2020.pdf

[13] Only 13 out of 69 public services provided by the Ministry of Internal Affairs can be accessed on-line.

[14] Through a partnership with Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), UNDP supports the MIA in developing the e-contraventions case management system. Building upon the MIA's aspirations to e-transform internal processes and enhance the quality of services delivered, the UNDP/Sida Project will develop a modern and scalable software solution to equip the police service with a digital tool to underpin a more effective and transparent work across the public safety system.

and tackle climate change and energy security-related issues in an integrated manner, having digitalization and innovation as a cross-cutting theme. To ensure cost efficiency and effectiveness, the Project will be implemented within a portfolio management approach, which will help to improve cost effectiveness by leveraging existing technical and operational support capacities, processes and partnerships with other on- going UNDP projects. It will also support project linkages with the different teams. The overall Project management approach places priority to ensure UNDP's organizational value for money criteria - economy, efficiency and cost- effectiveness. Also see Project Budget Work Plan.

The project will be managed and implemented by a highly skilled team, led by a Project Coordinator that will include national and international staff, and Independent Consultants (IC), as may be required for short-term support. The operations team will provide support to the project for recruitment, procurement, logistics, financial management and administration. A dedicated communications capacity (we are looking for a Japanese UNV capacity) will be part of the project structure. Thematic expertise will be accessed through UNDP Global Policy Network, rosters of consultants and SURGE capacity along with advice from specific teams from its Regional Hub and the HQ.

Partnerships

UNDP will build on its presence and broad partnerships it has nationally, regionally and internationally and will enhance them. At the country level, UNDP will work in close collaboration with line ministries, to ensure that government authorities own and lead the entire implementation process, so as to ensure the sustainability of the project. Close collaboration on the local level with public authorities and community representatives will support the effective implementation of the project, allowing to identify early areas of concerns and implementation issues. Engagement with private sector actors will leverage the technical expertise, innovation capabilities and financing available from the private sector, while actors within Moldova's academia and the European scientific community will contribute to develop new, evidence-based and targeted solutions to advance development prospects. The partnership with Japanese organizations will be enhanced through this project. Overall, the following key institutions will serve as key project's partners, among others:

Government counterparts: Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry, Ministry of Regional Development and Infrastructure, Ministry of Internal Affairs, E-governance Centre and STISC (Service for Information Technologies and Cybersecurity), General Police Inspectorate, Energy Efficiency Agency, Economic Council under the Prime Minister, Food Safety Agency (ANSA), National Agency for Payments (AIPA), and certification bodies to ensure that policy-related activities in the areas of energy, food and community security are anchored in the national priorities and are sustainable.

Local public authorities and community representatives: Congress of Local Authorities, community police, community mediators and community members to get the buy-in and interest of the actors for community-based initiatives, such as the roll-out of the tension monitoring mechanism, community security along with food and energy security support schemes. The target beneficiaries under Specific Objective 1 will be rural municipalities that manage public buildings with biomass heating systems, while for Specific Objective 3, target regional authorities will be engaged in community policing upgrade activities.

Private sector and CSOs: MSMEs, Chamber of Commerce and other business associations, farmers, sector or industry associations of agricultural producers, extension services in agriculture, Center for Sustainable Peace and Democratic Development (SEED), local civil society organizations to ensure the promotion of the project's activities along with building their capacities in food and energy security, thus being able to ensure the sustainability of the initiatives, especially of the grants' support schemes. Under Specific Objective 1, for instance, the project targets the private sector which has established biomass heat services. Under the Specific Objective 2, business associations will be assisted to develop new service lines for MSMEs in the area of food safety, energy efficiency and others, through participating in the implementation of the MSME support components. Under

the Specific Objective 3 of the Project, UNDP will partner with the Centre for Sustainable Peace and Democratic Development (SeeD[15][16] to develop and implement the Project interventions under Output 3.1., dealing with enhancing capacities of central and local public authorities as well as national human rights institutions and development partners to anticipate and mitigate social tensions. SeeD will be engaged through the Low Value Grants modality to roll out the Social Tension Monitoring Mechanism and to develop awareness raising and information tools related to the outcomes of the implementation of the mechanism. SeeD has a longstanding experience in working on social cohesion maters including in Moldova. They are the only organization that have an integrated approach to social and vertical social cohesion and have implemented the SCORE study that is the only research on social cohesion in the Republic of Moldova.[17]

Academia: Technical University of Moldova, State University of Moldova, and other academic institutions will be engaged in designing mechanisms and tools for food and energy security (ex. evidence-based policy making in food areas, quality standards for biomass, biomass awareness raising activities in schools and universities, etc.)

United Nations agencies: complementarity and synergies will be ensured with the initiatives implemented by the UNHCR to support the refugee population in the country, FAO on the food security front mainly by coordinating the activities and ensuring there are complementarities in working with the same partners, ITU on the digitalization front, by accessing its specialized expertise, where needed.

Japanese organizations: UNDP will work closely with the Embassy of Japan in Moldova to discuss progress and achievements of the project and to ensure effective visibility and communications on the project, highlighting the contribution of Japan. All significant proposed changes to the project during implementation will be discussed in advance with the designated focal point of the Embassy. Under the proposed project, UNDP will expand this existing partnership to co-create with JICA possible collaboration solutions to support Ukrainian refugees, third country nationals, the Government of Moldova and host communities to address the current and future negative impacts of the compound crises resulting from the war in Ukraine, and explore a possibility of establishing a UNDP-JICA partnership on multi-sector resilience-building assistance beyond humanitarian assistance, utilizing JICA's vast expertise and jointly advocating for the implementation of the HDN in Moldova. Partnering with Japanese NGOs and companies will be ensured, whenever possible.

Other international partners: European Space Agency (ESA) for geospatial data use, based on the strategic partnership between UNDP and the ESA.

Risks and Assumptions

- Volatile political and high-risk security environment, subject to unforeseen and sudden changes, due to the war in Ukraine and deterioration of the political situation as well as changes in the governmental landscape and changes in the local public administration political representation after the local elections in 2023. To mitigate the political and security risks, UNDP will assess the situation on a regular basis during the implementation of the projects and alternatives could be sought as appropriate. The project will put in place a communication strategy and will consider the specific regional political context when

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[15] The Centre for Sustainable Peace and Democratic Development (SeeD) works with international development organisations, governments and civil society leaders to design and implement people-centred and evidence-based strategies for promoting peaceful, inclusive and resilient societies. Working in Europe, the Middle East, Africa and Asia, the organziation provides social transformation policy recommendations that are rooted in citizen engagement strategies and an empirical understanding of the behaviours of individuals, groups and communities. SeeD's approach focuses on understanding the root causes of societal problems by developing an evidence-based theory of change which is empirically tested. The organization works in five thematic areas: social cohesion and reconciliation, youth inclusion, gender empowerment, governance and anti-corruption and urban cohesion. For more details, please see https://www.seedsofpeace.eu/

[16] As per UNDP Programme and Operations Policies and Procedures (POPP) on Selecting Responsible Parties and Grantees, https://popp.undp.org/_layouts/15/WopiFrame.aspx?sourcedoc=/UNDP_POPP_DOCUMENT_LIBRARY/Public/PPM_Design_Select%20Responsible%20Party%20and%20Grantees.docx&action=default

17 See at: SCORE Index (scoreforpeace.org)

planning and implementing activities, paying careful attention to timing, visibility and presentation.

- <u>Socio-economic risks</u> – the very high uncertainty and difficult socio-economic and market conditions in 2023. The mitigation activity is to closely work with the private sector and regularly update the list of specific needs so that to adjust the interventions in line with the requirements of the companies, small farms and end-users, in general. The Project will make best use of the existing extension services in the agricultural and energy sectors, but also support the existing business and sector associations, and small producers.
- <u>Environmental/climate change risks</u> – in an event of a severe drought or other adverse events, the development of the Registry of Farmers might be delayed. The mitigation measure for the piloting phase is to revise the list of selected districts/rayons for the piloting phase and select those that are able to proceed with the pilot phase.
- <u>Outreach risks</u> – the difficulty with which the engagement of the beneficiaries will take place because of the initially low interest and willingness to cooperate. The Project will come-up with a solid communication and outreach strategy to engage with small farmers/producers; also, the legal framework to be created will facilitate the process as the registration process becomes mandatory for all producers that want to be eligible for the governmental subsidies (based on the new Regulation on subsidies).
- <u>Financial limitations</u> – the development of the full-fledged Farmers' registry depends on the success of the pilot phase, but also on the support from all other development partners. The project staff will actively involve various partners in private and public sectors and will use the existing experience with similar projects from the past, when it comes to the digital technologies and their application; also, the Project will make best use of the existing practices in the development and implementation of agricultural registries in the European Union countries with similar contexts (Austria, Slovakia, Czech Republic, other).

Stakeholder Engagement

Further to the partnership approach described, the implementation of the project will be highly participatory and will be overseen by a project board. The direct beneficiaries will be engaged based on their willingness and commitment to contribute to the project results on a non-monetary basis. Training courses, workshops and seminars and other activities of the project will pay attention to ensuring access and involvement in project activities by both women and men and considering gender in studies and recommendations prepared by the project. From its onset, the project will promote ownership by the targeted local authorities and communities.

South-South and Triangular Cooperation

The project will make efforts to ensure that the support to address the multidimensional crisis in Moldova under the human security dimensions are leveraged by the best-practiced UNDP programmes in the regional and global context. The project will support documentation and sharing of experiences from other countries in the region and globally on developing digital databases and tools, including direct exchanges through key project capacity building activities.

Digital Solutions

The project will align to the general and specific objectives and priorities of the 2023-2030 National Digital Transformation Strategy and sectorial strategies and actions plans in force. UNDP Moldova is currently providing support to the Government in the development of the new digital strategy. As part of the Strategy, it is envisaged that the Government and all other relevant stakeholders will accelerate digital transformation by advancing on the key foundational catalysts of digital (data and identity) and will make best use of the sectorial opportunities (for instance in agricultural sector). UNDP will leverage its experience and support to the Government in digital transformation, as well as its recent support in implementing the registration platform and information system for the on-bill energy compensation system (as part of the Energy Vulnerability Fund), to ensure that digital solutions are best aligned with the Government strategy, and that digital components in the programme will be efficiently implemented.

Also, the Programme will make best use of the available digital infrastructure of the Government, including in terms of digital services, data infrastructure, interoperability (M-Connect) and exchange of data and other elements. The programme will focus on the so-called foundational catalysts of digital transformation, in particular on the digital identity and data. For instance, in the implementation of the Registry of Farmers, existing data infrastructures and digital signature will be extensively used. Data and knowledge generated in other digital programmes, available datasets and infrastructure will be used to inform and confirm analyses: new data services/use cases will be created by making use of available evidence and new types of data (including EO, VHR EO imagery, other). UNDP will also make use of expertise within the private sector, so that solutions reflect most recent and innovative approaches in the digital sector: digital solutions will be sourced from the local ICT community, which will facilitate further engagement of the very vibrant ICT community and will tap into the existing knowledge, technical expertise, innovation capability and financing available from the private sector. UNDP will make use of its Digital Innovation Calls to source best-on-the-market ideas and solutions.

Communications, Visibility and Knowledge

A communications officer (Japanese UNV, potentially) will be hired for the project and annual communications plans will be developed and consulted with the Embassy of Japan to Moldova. The communications plan will contain main messages, target audiences, key events and knowledge products, means of communications employed to reach out to key audiences (face to face, social media, mass-media etc.).

UNDP will ensure that the contribution of the Government of Japan is fully and visibly acknowledged. Japan's logo will be placed on relevant roll-ups and banners to be displayed at events, on donated equipment and on installed permanent marking signs at beneficiaries' sites. The Embassy of Japan to Moldova will be engaged with closely, including through regular communication as well as joint field visits and public events (press-conferences, inaugurations, press tours to meet beneficiaries), where representatives of the Embassy will be invited to speak and interviews with media will be arranged.

UNDP will publish press releases (quoting representatives of the Embassy of Japan to Moldova), human interest pieces, photo and video stories and share them with local and national media. All these media products will be sent out to UNDP's broad media database. UNDP will employ its social media platforms (Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn and Twitter) to disseminate information on the impact of this partnership.

Joint Japan-UNDP campaigns to promote energy efficiency and the benefits of use of biomass will be conducted, comprising visual and compelling products. Animated videos will serve as explainers of recommended measures to be used in households to save energy. Japan's contribution for the revamped portal piata-biomasa.md will be visible and relevant marking will be applied.

Also, an information campaign to encourage farmers to enroll in the e-register will be conducted, explaining the process via tutorials and the benefits via illustrations.

UNDP will constantly monitor the media clippings and web and social media behaviour of posts related to this project.

UNDP will make visible the knowledge products and lesson learned by:
- Developing user-friendly layouts, with acknowledgment of Japanese funding and respective branding;
- Conducting presentations, policy dialogues to discuss the conclusions and main recommendations;
- Developing illustrations for social media to highlight key messages and visualize the findings and recommendations of the publications;
- Conducting interviews in media with the authors of the knowledge products;
- Developing op-eds and blog posts to reflect on the lessons learned.

The key knowledge products planned are:
- Moldova Food Poverty Assessment (2023)
- Income simulation of inflation (for food items) on the poverty and vulnerability in Moldova (quarterly)
- Key lessons learned from the piloting of the Registry of Farmers in Moldova (2023)
- Moldova Nowcasting Tool for agricultural commodities (2023)
- Analytical papers on biomass raw material supply issues
- Study on the existing barriers in biomass sector from the perspective of the legal aspects

Sustainability and Scaling Up

The Project's sustainability and exit strategy is built into the Project's approaches and activities. However, before the end of the Project, UNDP will undertake a review of its overall strategy, with a view to developing a detailed plan for transition and exist. The exit strategy will also be informed by the findings of the Project evaluation. The key elements of sustainability and exit strategy include the following:

1) The Project invests in strengthening institutional capacities across the different components of the project that would take the areas of work forward. For example, the capacities of the MAFI in implementing the National Food Security Strategy and the National Strategy for the development of the agriculture and rural development and improve its targeted support to agricultural producers; also, the capacities of the Ministry of Regional Development and Infrastructure along with those of the Energy efficiency Agency in further developing the biomass market will be enhanced, to name just few. The legislative and regulatory changes envisaged by the project enhance its sustainability.

2) The capacity building coupled with provision of support schemes for private companies in the agriculture and non-agriculture sectors would help to develop the practical skills and knowledge of beneficiaries to enable them to develop and expand businesses, thus addressing the major barriers, such as quality standards, access to market, competitiveness, etc.

3) The project will facilitate partnerships to support sustainability of relevant activities. For example, cooperation between line Ministries (MAFI, Ministry of Regional Development and Infrastructure, Ministry of Internal Affairs, etc.), private companies and universities, sector associations and civil society actors to enhance the energy security and biomass promotion, food security and quality standards, and community security and peaceful coexistence. The piloted approaches on the Farmers' registry and tension monitoring mechanisms, for example, will be further fine-tuned and scaled-up.

IV. PROJECT MANAGEMENT (1/2 PAGES - 2 PAGES RECOMMENDED)

Cost Efficiency and Effectiveness

Cost efficiency and effectiveness in the programme management will be achieved through adherence to the UNDP Programme and Operations Policies and Procedures (POPP) and reviewed regularly through the governance mechanism of the UNDP Country Programme for the Republic of Moldova (2023-2027). In addition, there are specific measures for ensuring cost-efficient use of resources through using a portfolio management approach. This approach by UNDP Moldova deployed by its three Thematic Clusters – Effective Governance, Inclusive Growth, and Energy, Environment and Climate Change - ensures synergies and leverages activities and partnerships among several initiatives and projects that are implemented through the Thematic Clusters by UNDP Moldova. The strategy of this programme is to deliver maximum results with the available resources through ensuring the design is based on good practices and lessons learned, that activities are specific and clearly linked to the expected outputs, and that there is a sound results management and monitoring framework in place with SMART indicators consistent with the Theory of Change. The programme aims to balance cost efficient implementation and best value for money with quality delivery and effectiveness of activities.

On the financial side, UNDP Moldova will prepare a Combined Delivery Report (CDR) at the end of the calendar year, which will constitute the official report of programme expenditures for a given period. For any balance at the end of the programme, the UNDP Moldova shall consult with the local Embassy of Japan on its use. The interest income should be treated in accordance with the Japan-UNDP agreement on Arrangement for the Interest Income derived from Japan-UNDP Partnership Fund.

Project Management

The project will be implemented under the framework of UNDP Country Program Document for the Republic of Moldova (2023 – 2027), applying the Direct Implementation (DIM) modality, where UNDP Moldova will act as the Implementing Partner. This programme complies with policies, procedures and practices of the United Nations Development Programme, and as such, is consistent with UNDP's Programme and Operations Policies and Procedures, social and environmental sustainability through application of the UNDP Social and Environmental Standards.

The programme implementation team will include 1 International Programme Coordinator (to report to the Deputy Resident Representative), 3 Thematic Component Leads per each of thematic components, namely Community Security, Energy Security, Food Security, 2 Procurement Associates and 2 Financial/Administrative Associates, and 1 Communication Specialist (potentially a UNV professional). The programme implementation team will benefit from wider support services of the Programme and Operations Team of UNDP Moldova, including Procurement, Human Resources and other operational aspects.

In implementation, the programme implementation team will have the technical support of the UNDP GPN. This support will focus on providing technical assistance to the project through GPN ExRoster by deploying Immediate capacity needed for the implementation of the project activities in areas of analysis, capacity development, monitoring and evaluation. The GPN capacity will also be leveraged to support complex studies ensuring timely and efficient delivery of these activities. The programme implementation team will also coordinate with the UNDP's Istanbul Regional Hub (IRH), contributing to and benefitting from exchanges and sharing of experience and expertise within UNDP's regional support.

V. RESULTS FRAMEWORK[18]

Intended Outcome as stated in the UNSDCF/Country [or Regional] Programme Results and Resource Framework:

Outcome 1: By 2027, institutions deliver human rights-based, evidence-informed and gender-responsive services for all with the focus on those who are left behind

Outcome 3: By 2027, all people of Moldova, especially the most vulnerable, benefit from inclusive, competitive and sustainable economic development and equal access to decent work and productive employment.

Outcome 3: By 2027, all people of Moldova, especially the most vulnerable, benefit from inclusive, competitive and sustainable economic development and equal access to decent work and productive employment.

Outcome indicators as stated in the Country Programme [or Regional] Results and Resources Framework, including baseline and targets:

CPD Outcomes are the same as the UNSDCF Outcomes

Output 1.2. Digital transformation is supported through applying technological solutions and reducing the digital divide for quality, resilient and inclusive public services delivery to all, especially vulnerable groups

Indicator 1.2.2. Number of new digital solutions co-implemented to accelerate enhanced service provision. Baseline: 0 Target: 10 Source: UNDP, E-Governance Agency report

Output 2.2. Rule of law institutions have strengthened capacities to protect human rights, expand access to justice and legal remedies to ensure social cohesion and security for all

Indicator 2.2.3. Percentage of people feeling safe in Moldova Baseline: Total: 30% Men/Women: 30%/30% Urban/Rural: 33%/28% Target: Total: 35% Men/Women: 35%/35% Urban/Rural: 35%/35% Source: Public Opinion Barometer (BOP)

Output 3.2. Economic actors, including from regions with special status, have access to financial and non -financial assets and services to recover and build competitive and future proof productive capacities

Indicator 3.2.3. Number of economic actors, including from regions with special status, benefiting from improved productive capacities and strengthened value chains . Baseline: 1,000 - Women -led: 353 - Youth -led: 146 - Green businesses: 30 - Businesses from special status regions: 395 - Urban/rural business: 0/0 Target: 1,600 - Women -led: 560 - Youth -led: 225 - Green businesses: 50 - Businesses from special status regions: 625 - Urban/rural business: 640/960 Source: Chamber of Commerce, UNDP reports

Output 4.2. Public and private actors are enabled to implement efficient and innovative practices for sustainable natural resource use, climate resilience, low-emission, and green development

Indicator 4.2.1 Number of people with access to clean, affordable and sustainable energy. Baseline: total 199,030 Women: 53,738 (27%) Men: 145,291 Target: 215,000 Women: 64,500 Men: 150,500 Source: Energy Efficiency Agency reports

Applicable Output(s) from the UNDP Strategic Plan: Outcome 1. Structural transformation accelerated, particularly green, inclusive and digital transitions; Outcome 2. No one left behind, centering on equitable access to opportunities and a rights-based approach to human agency and human development; Outcome 3: Resilience built to respond to systemic uncertainty and risk

Project title and Atlas Project Number:

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[18] UNDP publishes its project information (indicators, baselines, targets and results) to meet the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI) standards. Make sure that indicators are S.M.A.R.T. (Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant and Time-bound), provide accurate baselines and targets underpinned by reliable evidence and data, and avoid acronyms so that external audience clearly understand the results of the project.

EXPECTED OUTPUTS	OUTPUT INDICATORS[19]	DATA SOURCE	BASELINE		TARGETS (by frequency of data collection)	DATA COLLECTION METHODS & RISKS
			Value	Year		
Specific Objective 1 To enhance people's energy security through access to affordable energy that supports livelihoods and energy-efficient production.	**1.1.1. Number of companies that will improve the efficiency of the solid biofuel production process**	*Government, UNDP*	16	2022	*26 companies*	*Data collected through coordination mechanisms*
	1.1.2.a. Number of knowledge products produced by the Association of Biomass Producers	*Government, UNDP Reports*	0	2022	*At least 3 articles on biomass production in national media Information campaign conducted Web page of the Association developed*	*Minutes of the meetings Knowledge materials publication*
	1.1.2.b. The Association of Biomass Producers is an active partner in biomass market and facilitator between Government and solid biofuels producers	*Government, UNDP Reports*			*Strengthened Association (a communication platform with the Government)*	
	1.1.3. Number of analytical papers and legislative/regulatory drafts on biomass row material supply issue	*Government, UNDP Reports*	0	2022	*2 (Study on the existing legal barriers, at least 1 secondary legislation on biomass market improvement)*	
	1.2.1. Number of households benefiting from subsidized household biomass heating programme	*Government, UNDP Reports*	1,089 private households	2018	*1,439 households (additional 350 families) with installed biomass heating systems through a subsidy scheme*	*Project field visits Post-training surveys Consultants' reports Portals*
	1.2.2. Remote monitoring system is operational and receives data from biomass boilers installed in public buildings	*Government, UNDP Reports*	Remote Monitoring system not operational	2019	*Remote monitoring system for biomass boilers operational*	
	1.2.3. Number of biomass boiler operators trained	*Government, UNDP Reports*	565	2022		

[19] It is recommended that projects use output indicators from the Strategic Plan IRRF, as relevant, in addition to project-specific results indicators. Indicators should be disaggregated by sex or for other targeted groups where relevant.

EXPECTED OUTPUTS	OUTPUT INDICATORS[19]	DATA SOURCE	BASELINE		TARGETS (by frequency of data collection)	DATA COLLECTION METHODS & RISKS
			Value	Year		
	1.2.4. The platform for trading solid biofuels is operational	Government, UNDP Reports	The portal www.piata-biomasa.md is not operational	2019	715 (additional 150) biomass boiler operators trained	
	1.2.5. Assessment on the integration of large biomass boilers in district heating in Chisinau and Balti	Government, UNDP, Chisinau and Balti municipalities reports	No options on the integration of large biomass boilers in Chisinau and Balti DHS	2022	The online portal www.piata-biomasa.md is operational and providing up-to-date information on raw materials	
	1.2.6. Number of people benefitting from awareness and educational programmes on the benefits of biomass use	Government, UNDP reports	25,000 people	2018	1 feasibility study conducted on integration of large biomass boilers into DHSs	
	1.2.7. Support call canter for biomass use is operational	Government, UNDP reports	No Call center	2022	Nation-wide campaigns conducted on biomass use 35,000 people (additional 10,000 persons, out of which 1,000 women) benefit from access to affordable energy	
					5,000 trained people from public authorities, students, children and community members	
					One support Call Center for biomass use is operational	

EXPECTED OUTPUTS	OUTPUT INDICATORS[19]	DATA SOURCE	BASELINE Value	BASELINE Year	TARGETS (by frequency of data collection)	DATA COLLECTION METHODS & RISKS
	1.3.1. Number of people benefiting from training programmes on energy efficient practices in agriculture as a result of this project	Government, UNDP Reports	854 people	2021	1,200 people	Field visits Post-training surveys Minutes of discussions
	1.3.2. Number of agricultural enterprises benefiting from energy-efficient technologies as result of this project	Government, UNDP Reports	4 agricultural enterprises	2022	14 agricultural enterprises	
	1.3.3. Number of non-agricultural enterprises with improved energy efficiency	Government, UNDP Reports	13 non-agricultural enterprises	2022	23 non-agricultural enterprises	
	1.3.4. Number of households with economic activities implementing energy-efficient technologies	Government, UNDP Reports	13 households with economic activity	2022	33 households with economic activity	
	TOTAL number of beneficiaries for Specific Objective 1				**20,000 beneficiaries**	
Specific Objective 2 To enhance food security by supporting the government to implement its Food Security Strategy, thereby strengthening the capacities of agricultural	2.1.1. Food poverty measurement and monitoring mechanism established	Government, UNDP Reports	No mechanism	2022	Mechanism in place (at least 3 interventions conceptualized and tested; 3 use cases developed for the monitoring of the food security and poverty)	Consultants' reports
	2.1.2. National Registry of Farmers piloted	Government, UNDP Reports	No Registry	2022	One pilot registry developed, focused on a selected area of interest	Consultants' reports, including the online dashboard and the digital registry created and available to the Government; all collected data placed

EXPECTED OUTPUTS	OUTPUT INDICATORS[19]	DATA SOURCE	BASELINE		TARGETS (by frequency of data collection)	DATA COLLECTION METHODS & RISKS
			Value	**Year**		
producers affected by the compound crises						onto the dashboard(s). Risks are mentioned in the risk log.
	2.1.3. Number of farmers which are part of the Registry of Farmers	Government, UNDP Reports	0	2022	Pilot phase: 90 - 100 thousand ha of agriculture areas in 9-12 villages from 3-4 regions/ raions of Moldova, will be integrated into the Farmers Registry, at least 5,000 small producers covered	Granular data on the agricultural producers collected
	2.1.4. Number of MSMEs with enhanced capacity to comply with food safety and other standards	Government, UNDP Reports	30	2022	40 companies (additionally 10 companies)	Minutes of the meetings Field visits reports
	TOTAL number of beneficiaries for Specific Objective 2				**5,000 beneficiaries**	
Specific Objective 3 To enhance community security by capacitating the police service and community actors to deliver on the principles of social cohesion and peaceful coexistence	3.1.1 Number of communities with main social tensions drivers identified	UNDP reports	0	2022	10 communities	The data collection will be done by the project based on the level of implementation of the mechanism.
	3.1.2.a. Number of awareness and information tools/interventions developed and implemented to promote the use of STMM generated data.	UNDP reports	N/A	2022	2 digital tools developed 2 awareness rising and information campaigns implemented	The data collection will be done internally, part of the ongoing monitoring of the implementation of the project.
	3.1.2.b. Number of capacity building activities and coordination dialogues facilitated by the project.		N/A	2022	At least 10 training sessions for central and local public authorities on how to use the Social Tension Monitoring Mechanism data.	

EXPECTED OUTPUTS	OUTPUT INDICATORS[19]	DATA SOURCE	BASELINE Value	BASELINE Year	TARGETS (by frequency of data collection)	DATA COLLECTION METHODS & RISKS
	3.2.1. Average police's response time to a 112-emergency call in targeted districts	Government reports	TBD	2022	Reduce the average police's response time to 112-emergency calls in targeted districts by 2 min	Data collected from MIA/Police public reports
	3.2.2. Number of police staffers from districts with high number of settled refugees across the country using body cameras to properly detect and document public order violations	Government, UNDP reports	0	2022	At least 100 police staffers from 10 districts with high number of settled refugees across the country use body cameras to properly detect and document public order violations	Field visits
	3.3.1. Number of police staffers from districts with high number of refugees settled equipped fit-for-purpose mobile devices to pilot functionalities of the new e-Contraventions system	Government, UNDP reports	0	2022	At least 100 police staffers from 10 districts with high number of refugees settled use fit-for-purpose rugged mobile devices to pilot implementation of the e-Contraventions system	Post-training surveys
	3.3.2. Number of police teams equipped and trained to use smart policing tools to address emerging public security threats and road safety incidents	Government, UNDP reports	0	2022	At least 6 police teams across the country (North, Centre and South districts) equipped and trained to use smart policing tools to address emerging public security threats and road safety incidents	Field visits Police reports
	TOTAL number of beneficiaries for Specific Objective 3				**60,000 people**	

VI. MONITORING AND EVALUATION

In accordance with UNDP's programming policies and procedures, the project will be monitored through the following monitoring and evaluation plans:

Monitoring Plan

Monitoring Activity	Purpose	Frequency	Expected Action
Track results progress	Progress data against the results indicators in the RRF will be collected and analyzed to assess the progress of the project in achieving the agreed outputs.	Quarterly, or in the frequency required for each indicator.	Slower than expected progress will be addressed by project management.
Monitor and Manage Risk	Identify specific risks that may threaten achievement of intended results. Identify and monitor risk management actions using a risk log. This includes monitoring measures and plans that may have been required as per UNDP's Social and Environmental Standards. Audits will be conducted in accordance with UNDP's audit policy to manage financial risk.	Quarterly	Risks are identified by project management and actions are taken to manage risk. The risk log is actively maintained to keep track of identified risks and actions taken.
Learn	Knowledge, good practices and lessons will be captured regularly, as well as actively sourced from other projects and partners and integrated back into the project.	At least annually	Relevant lessons are captured by the project team and used to inform management decisions.
Annual Project Quality Assurance	The quality of the project will be assessed against UNDP's quality standards to identify project strengths and weaknesses and to inform management decision making to improve the project.	Annually	Areas of strength and weakness will be reviewed by project management and used to inform decisions to improve project performance.
Review and Make Course Corrections	Internal review of data and evidence from all monitoring actions to inform decision making.	At least annually	Performance data, risks, lessons and quality will be discussed by the project board and used to make course corrections.
Project Report	A progress report will be presented to the Project Board and key stakeholders, consisting of progress data showing the results achieved against pre-defined annual targets at the output level, the annual project quality rating summary, an updated risk long with mitigation measures, and any evaluation or review reports prepared over the period.	Annually, and at the end of the project (final report)	

Monitoring Activity	Purpose	Frequency	Expected Action
Project Review (Project Board)	A progress report and a final report will be presented to the Project Board and key stakeholders, consisting of progress and final data showing the results achieved against pre-defined targets at the output level, the annual project quality rating summary, an updated risk log with mitigation measures, and any evaluation or review reports prepared over the period.	Bi-annually	Any quality concerns or slower than expected progress should be discussed by the project board and management actions agreed to address the issues identified.

Evaluation Plan

Evaluation Title	Partners (if joint)	Related Strategic Plan Output	UNSDCF/CPD Outcome	Planned Completion Date	Key Evaluation Stakeholders	Cost and Source of Funding
Final project evaluation				February 2024		USD 25,000

VII. MULTI-YEAR WORK PLAN (SEE THE ANNEX 1)

VIII. GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS

The structure of the project will be the following:

Project Board (PB) will be responsible for making decisions, in particular when guidance is required by the PM. The Board will play a critical role in project monitoring and evaluations by assuring the quality of these processes and associated products, and by using evaluations for improving performance, accountability and learning. The PB will ensure that required resources are committed. It will also arbitrate on any conflicts within the project and negotiate solutions to any problems with external bodies. PB meetings are to be organized at least twice per year or to be convened upon necessity (as stipulated in the ProDoc). The Project Coordinator (PC) is responsible for the organization of the Board Meetings, with the support of the assistant.
Specific responsibilities of the PB should include:
  – Provide overall guidance and direction to the project, ensuring it remains within any specified constraints;
  – Address project issues as raised by the PC;
  – Provide guidance on new project risks and agree on possible countermeasures and management actions to address specific risks;
  – Agree on PM's tolerances as required;
  – Review the project progress and provide direction and recommendations to ensure that the agreed deliverables are produced satisfactorily according to plans;
  – Review combined delivery reports prior to certification by the implementing partner;
  – Appraise the project's budget revisions, annual review report, make recommendations for the next annual work plan, and inform the outcome group about the results of the review;
  – Provide ad-hoc direction and advice for exception situations when PC's tolerances are exceeded;
  – Assess and decide to proceed on project changes through appropriate revisions.

PB decisions shall be made in accordance with international standards that shall ensure management for development results, best value for money, fairness, integrity, transparency, and effective international competition. Members of the PB will consist of key national government representatives as Ministry of Regional Development, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ministry of Agriculture, State Chancellery, UNDP senior official, representative from Civil Society Organization (CSO), the donor – Government of Japan and other relevant stakeholders. Potential members of the PB will be reviewed and recommended for approval during the Local Project Appraisal Committee (LPAC) meeting. The final composition of the PB will be decided at the outset of project operations and presented in the Inception Report. New members into the Board or participants into the Board meetings during the project implementation can be invited at the decision of the Board, by ensuring, however, that the Board will remain sufficiently lean to facilitate its effective operation. The PB will contain of three distinct roles:
Executive Role: Representing the project ownership and chairs the PB.
Senior Supplier Role: This requires the representation of the interests of the funding parties for specific cost sharing projects and/or technical expertise to the project. The Senior Supplier's primary function within the Board will be to provide guidance regarding the technical feasibility of the project.
Senior Beneficiary Role: This role requires representing the interests of those who will ultimately benefit from the project. The Senior Beneficiary's primary function within the Board will be to ensure the realization of project results from the perspective of different stakeholders and beneficiaries.
The Project Implementation Unit (PIU) will be established and will comprise of an International Programme Coordinator (PC), three thematic Component Leads per each of thematic components, namely Community Security, Energy Security, Food Security, two Finance and Administrative Assistants and two Procurement Assistants and a Communication Officer (UNV). The programme implementation team will benefit from wider support services of the Operations Team of UNDP Moldova, including Procurement, Human Resources and other operational aspects. The PIU will be

headed by the PC who will be recruited on a competitive basis. The PC will run the project on a day-to-day basis on behalf of UNDP within the constraints laid down by the Board. The PC's prime responsibility is to ensure that the project produces the results specified in the project document, to the required standard of quality and within the specified constraints of time and cost. Development and consolidation of work plans, preparation of quarterly/annual progress reports, supervision the work of the project thematic experts, etc. are major responsibility of the PC.

IX.   LEGAL CONTEXT

This project document shall be the instrument referred to as such in Article 1 of the Standard Basic Assistance Agreement between the Government of (country) and UNDP, signed on (date).   All references in the SBAA to "Executing Agency" shall be deemed to refer to "Implementing Partner."

This project will be implemented by UNDP ("Implementing Partner") in accordance with its financial regulations, rules, practices and procedures only to the extent that they do not contravene the principles of the Financial Regulations and Rules of UNDP. Where the financial governance of an Implementing Partner does not provide the required guidance to ensure best value for money, fairness, integrity, transparency, and effective international competition, the financial governance of UNDP shall apply.

X.   RISK MANAGEMENT

1.   UNDP as the Implementing Partner will comply with the policies, procedures and practices of the United Nations Security Management System (UNSMS.)

2.   UNDP as the Implementing Partner will undertake all reasonable efforts to ensure that none of the [project funds][20] [UNDP funds received pursuant to the Project Document][21] are used to provide support to individuals or entities associated with terrorism , that the recipients of any amounts provided by UNDP hereunder do not appear on the United Nations Security Council Consolidated Sanctions List, and that no UNDP funds received pursuant to the Project Document are used for money laundering activities. The United Nations Security Council Consolidated Sanctions List can be accessed via https://www.un.org/securitycouncil/content/un-sc-consolidated-list. This provision must be included in all sub-contracts or sub-agreements entered into under this Project Document.

3.   Social and environmental sustainability will be enhanced through application of the UNDP Social and Environmental Standards (http://www.undp.org/ses) and related Accountability Mechanism (http://www.undp.org/secu-srm).

4.   UNDP as the Implementing Partner will: (a) conduct project and programme-related activities in a manner consistent with the UNDP Social and Environmental Standards, (b) implement any management or mitigation plan prepared for the project or programme to comply with such standards, and (c) engage in a constructive and timely manner to address any concerns and complaints raised through the Accountability Mechanism. UNDP will seek to ensure that communities and other project stakeholders are informed of and have access to the Accountability Mechanism.

5.   In the implementation of the activities under this Project Document, UNDP as the Implementing Partner will handle any sexual exploitation and abuse ("SEA") and sexual harassment ("SH") allegations in accordance with its regulations, rules, policies and procedures.

6.   All signatories to the Project Document shall cooperate in good faith with any exercise to evaluate any programme or project-related commitments or compliance with the UNDP Social and Environmental Standards. This includes providing access to project sites, relevant personnel, information, and documentation.

7.   UNDP as the Implementing Partner will ensure that the following obligations are binding on each responsible party, subcontractor, and sub-recipient:
a.   Consistent with the Article III of the SBAA [or the Supplemental Provisions to the Project Document], the responsibility for the safety and security of each responsible party, subcontractor and sub-recipient and its personnel and property, and of UNDP's property in such responsible party's, subcontractor's and sub-recipient's custody, rests with such responsible party,

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[20] To be used where UNDP is the Implementing Partner

[21] To be used where the UN, a UN fund/programme or a specialized agency is the Implementing Partner

subcontractor and sub-recipient. To this end, each responsible party, subcontractor and sub-recipient shall:

    i. put in place an appropriate security plan and maintain the security plan, taking into account the security situation in the country where the project is being carried;

    ii. assume all risks and liabilities related to such responsible party's, subcontractor's and sub-recipient's security, and the full implementation of the security plan.

b. UNDP reserves the right to verify whether such a plan is in place, and to suggest modifications to the plan when necessary. Failure to maintain and implement an appropriate security plan as required hereunder shall be deemed a breach of the responsible party's, subcontractor's and sub-recipient's obligations under this Project Document.

c. Each responsible party, subcontractor and sub-recipient (each a "sub-party" and together "sub-parties") acknowledges and agrees that UNDP will not tolerate sexual harassment and sexual exploitation and abuse of anyone by the sub-parties, and other entities involved in Project implementation, either as contractors or subcontractors and their personnel, and any individuals performing services for them under the Project Document.

d. (a) In the implementation of the activities under this Project Document, each sub-party shall comply with the standards of conduct set forth in the Secretary General's Bulletin ST/SGB/2003/13 of 9 October 2003, concerning "Special measures for protection from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse" ("SEA").

e. (b) Moreover, and without limitation to the application of other regulations, rules, policies and procedures bearing upon the performance of the activities under this Project Document, in the implementation of activities, each sub-party, shall not engage in any form of sexual harassment ("SH"). SH is defined as any unwelcome conduct of a sexual nature that might reasonably be expected or be perceived to cause offense or humiliation, when such conduct interferes with work, is made a condition of employment or creates an intimidating, hostile or offensive work environment. SH may occur in the workplace or in connection with work. While typically involving a pattern of conduct, SH may take the form of a single incident. In assessing the reasonableness of expectations or perceptions, the perspective of the person who is the target of the conduct shall be considered.

f. In the performance of the activities under this Project Document, each sub-party shall (with respect to its own activities), and shall require from its sub-parties (with respect to their activities) that they, have minimum standards and procedures in place, or a plan to develop and/or improve such standards and procedures in order to be able to take effective preventive and investigative action. These should include: policies on sexual harassment and sexual exploitation and abuse; policies on whistleblowing/protection against retaliation; and complaints, disciplinary and investigative mechanisms. In line with this, sub-parties will and will require that their respective sub-parties will take all appropriate measures to:

(i) Prevent its employees, agents or any other persons engaged to perform any services under this Project Document, from engaging in SH or SEA;

(ii) Offer employees and associated personnel training on prevention and response to SH and SEA, where sub-parties have not put in place its own training regarding the prevention of SH and SEA, sub-parties may use the training material available at UNDP;

(iii) Report and monitor allegations of SH and SEA of which any of the sub-parties have been informed or have otherwise become aware, and status thereof;

(iv) Refer victims/survivors of SH and SEA to safe and confidential victim assistance; and

(v) Promptly and confidentially record and investigate any allegations credible enough to warrant an investigation of SH or SEA. Each sub-party shall advise UNDP of any such allegations received and investigations being conducted by itself or any of its sub-parties with respect to their activities under the Project Document, and shall keep UNDP informed during the investigation by it or any of such sub-parties, to the extent that such notification (i) does not jeopardize the conduct of the investigation, including but not limited to the safety or security of persons, and/or (ii) is not in contravention of any laws applicable to it. Following the investigation, the relevant sub-party shall advise UNDP of any actions taken by it or any of the other entities further to the investigation.

g. Each sub-party shall establish that it has complied with the foregoing, to the satisfaction of UNDP, when requested by UNDP or any party acting on its behalf to provide such confirmation. Failure of the relevant sub-party to comply of the foregoing, as determined by UNDP, shall be considered grounds for suspension or termination of the Project.

h. Each responsible party, subcontractor and sub-recipient will ensure that any project activities undertaken by them will be implemented in a manner consistent with the UNDP Social and Environmental Standards and shall ensure that any incidents or issues of non-compliance shall be reported to UNDP in accordance with UNDP Social and Environmental Standards.

i. Each responsible party, subcontractor and sub-recipient will take appropriate steps to prevent misuse of funds, fraud, corruption or other financial irregularities, by its officials, consultants, subcontractors and sub-recipients in implementing the project or programme or using the UNDP funds. It will ensure that its financial management, anti-corruption, anti-fraud and anti-money laundering and countering the financing of terrorism policies are in place and enforced for all funding received from or through UNDP.

j. The requirements of the following documents, then in force at the time of signature of the Project Document, apply to each responsible party, subcontractor and sub-recipient: (a) UNDP Policy on Fraud and other Corrupt Practices (b) UNDP Anti-Money Laundering and Countering the Financing of Terrorism Policy; and (c) UNDP Office of Audit and Investigations Investigation Guidelines. Each responsible party, subcontractor and sub-recipient agrees to the requirements of the above documents, which are an integral part of this Project Document and are available online at www.undp.org.

k. In the event that an investigation is required, UNDP will conduct investigations relating to any aspect of UNDP programmes and projects. Each responsible party, subcontractor and sub-recipient will provide its full cooperation, including making available personnel, relevant documentation, and granting access to its (and its consultants', subcontractors' and sub-recipients') premises, for such purposes at reasonable times and on reasonable conditions as may be required for the purpose of an investigation. Should there be a limitation in meeting this obligation, UNDP shall consult with it to find a solution.

l. Each responsible party, subcontractor and sub-recipient will promptly inform UNDP as the Implementing Partner in case of any incidence of inappropriate use of funds, or credible allegation of fraud, corruption other financial irregularities with due confidentiality. Where it becomes aware that a UNDP project or activity, in whole or in part, is the focus of investigation for alleged fraud/corruption, each responsible party, subcontractor and sub-recipient will inform the UNDP Resident Representative/Head of Office, who will promptly inform UNDP's Office of Audit and Investigations (OAI). It will provide regular updates to the head of UNDP in the country and OAI of the status of, and actions relating to, such investigation.

m. UNDP will be entitled to a refund from the responsible party, subcontractor or sub-recipient of any funds provided that have been used inappropriately, including through fraud corruption, other financial irregularities or otherwise paid other than in accordance with the terms and conditions of this Project Document. Such amount may be deducted by UNDP from any payment due to the responsible party, subcontractor or sub-recipient under this or any other agreement. Recovery of such amount by UNDP shall not diminish or curtail any responsible party's, subcontractor's or sub-recipient's obligations under this Project Document.

n. Each contract issued by the responsible party, subcontractor or sub-recipient in connection with this Project Document shall include a provision representing that no fees, gratuities, rebates, gifts, commissions or other payments, other than those shown in the proposal, have been given, received, or promised in connection with the selection process or in contract execution, and that the recipient of funds from it shall cooperate with any and all investigations and post-payment audits.

o. Should UNDP refer to the relevant national authorities for appropriate legal action any alleged wrongdoing relating to the project or programme, the Government will ensure that the relevant national authorities shall actively investigate the same and take appropriate legal action against all individuals found to have participated in the wrongdoing, recover and return any recovered funds to UNDP.

p. Each responsible party, subcontractor and sub-recipient shall ensure that all of its obligations set forth under this section entitled "Risk Management" are passed on to its subcontractors and sub-recipients and that all the clauses under this section entitled "Risk Management Standard Clauses" are adequately reflected, *mutatis mutandis*, in all its sub-contracts or sub-agreements entered into further to this Project Document.

XI. ANNEXES

WORK PLAN AND BUDGET