

**COMMITTEE ON THE
RIGHTS OF THE CHILD**

**WRITTEN REPLIES BY THE GOVERNMENT OF MOLDOVA CONCERNING THE
LIST OF ISSUES (CRC/C/Q/MOL/1) RECEIVED BY THE COMMITTEE
ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD RELATING TO THE CONSIDERATION
OF THE INITIAL REPORT OF MOLDOVA (CRC/C/28/Add.19)**

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CRC/C/RESP/14

Implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child in the Republic of Moldova

(responses to the 25 questions concerning the rights of the child)

Part I

A. Statistical Information

1. The statistical data below are grouped by gender, age, ethnic minority, urban and rural areas, and they refer to the interval 1999-2001, as follows:

a) numbers and percentages – children under 18 living on the territory of Moldova

Age	Year	Total			Urban			Rural		
		Both genders	Male	Female	Both genders	Male	Female	Both genders	Male	Female
under 1	1999	39354	20230	19124	13492	6983	6509	25852	13747	12615
under 5		222309	114011	108298	75904	39275	36629	14605	74736	71669
under 14		883502 (24.2%)	450837	432665	326464	167091	159373	557038	283746	273292
15-17		209633 (5.7%)	105959	103675	82016	41854	40162	127617	64104	63513
under 1	2000	37211	19175	18036	12721	6540	6181	24490	12635	11855
under 5		209654	107548	102106	71153	36794	34359	138501	70754	67747
under 14		847011 (23.3%)	432515	414496	308990	158291	15699	538021	274224	263797
15-17		216311	109529	106782	84095	42841	41254	132216	66688	65528
under 1	2001	36458	18917	17541	12420	6339	6081	24038	12578	11460
under 5		204039	104771	99268	68642	35455	33187	135397	69316	66081
under 14		828191 (22.8%)	423122	405069	299362	153495	145867	528829	269627	259202
15-17		219587 (6%)	111158	108429	84679	43034	41645	134908	68124	66784

Source: Department for Statistics and Sociology, Ministry of Health

b) numbers and percentages of children belonging to ethnic minorities

According to the census taken in 1989, the ethnic composition of the Republic of Moldova is the following:

Moldovans	- 2794749----	64.5%
Ukrainians	- 600366-----	13.8%
Russians	- 562069-----	13.0%
Găgăuz	- 153458-----	3.5%
Bulgarians	- 83419-----	2.0%
Jews	- 65836-----	1.5%
Belorussians	- 19608-----	0.5%
Rroma	- 11571-----	0.3%
Germans	- 7335-----	0.2%
Poles	- 4739-----	0.1%
Other minorities	- 27210-----	0.6%

At the beginning of the academic year 2001-2002, the **higher education institutions** in Moldova enrolled a total number of 86,414 students, with the following ethnic composition:

Moldovans	- 61392;
Ukrainians	- 7276;
Russians	- 11646;
Găgăuz	- 3245;
Bulgarians	- 1831;
Jews	- 264;
Rroma	- 11;
Other minorities	- 749.

If we classify students by the teaching language they use at school, we get:

Moldovan	- 55840 students;
Ukrainian	- 40 students;
Russian	- 26203 students;
Moldovan-Russian	- 483 students;
Găgăuz-Russian	- 0 students;
Bulgarian-Russian	- 0 students;
Russian-English	- 52 students;
Moldovan-English	- 0 students;
English	- 2224 students;
Moldovan-Ukrainian	- 66 students;
Spanish	- 36 students;
German	- 44 students;
French	- 1226 students.

As for the distribution of pupils in **primary, lower and higher secondary schools** by the ethnic minority they belong to, the situation is the following:

Total number of pupils	- 618387, out of which:
Moldovans	- 502520;
Ukrainians	- 38744;
Russians	- 31433;
Găgăuz	- 29462;
Bulgarians	- 10595;
Jews	- 996;
Rroma	- 1681;
Other minorities	- 2956.

If we use again the teaching language as a criterion, we have:

Moldovan	- 487362;
Russian	- 130203;
Ukrainian	- 222;
Bulgarian-Russian	- 181;
Russian-English	- 132;
Moldovan-English	- 205;
English	- 82.

In **vocational schools** there are a total number of 22999 pupils, out of which:

Moldovans	- 18194;
Ukrainians	- 1595;
Russians	- 1947;
Găgăuz	- 866;
Bulgarians	- 219;
Jews	- 25;
Rroma	- 26;
Other minorities	- 127.

According to the teaching language, we have:

Moldovan	- 17667;
Russian	- 5332.

There are 17004 pupils in **colleges**, out of which:

Moldovans	- 12918;
Ukrainians	- 1321;
Russians	- 1457;
Găgăuz	- 748;
Bulgarians	- 454;
Jews	- 32;

Rroma	-	8;
Other minorities	-	66.

According to the teaching language, we have:

Moldovan	-	12471;
Russian	-	3831;
Ukrainian	-	89;
Moldovan-Russian	-	175;
Găgăuz-Russian	-	235;
Bulgarian-Russian	-	203.

Source: Department for Interethnic Relations

List of refugee children registered with UNHCR Moldova

Country of Origin	1999		2000		2001	
	f	m	f	m	f	M
AFG			3	2	1	
AZE	4					
ARE		1				
GEO		1		1		
HRV		1				
IND		1				
IRN					1	
IRQ		3	5	4		
KGZ			4	3		
RUS	3	2	32	30	14	19
SUD			1	1		
SLE					1	
YUG	1	1				
Total	8	10	45	41	17	19
	18		86		36	
	140					

Sex/Age	Year		
	1999	2000	2001
F			
0-4	1	12	6
5-17	7	33	10
M			
0-4	2	14	9
5-17	8	27	11

Major locations: Chisinau

Source: UNHCR Moldova

c) child mortality and malnutrition rates

No.	Indicators	1999	2000	2001
1.	Perinatal mortality	13.8‰	15.2‰	14.7‰
2.	Infant mortality (under 1)	18.6‰	18.4‰	16.4‰
3.	Under-five mortality	23.6‰	23.2‰	20.4‰
4.	Child mortality (under 14)	13.6‰	13.3‰	12.5‰
5.	Malnutrition	8.0%	8.6%	8.01%

Source: Ministry of Health

Mortality rate among children under 17
(deaths per 1000 children in that age group)

Year	Urban population			Rural population			Total population		
	Male	Female	Both Genders	Male	Female	Both genders	Male	Female	Both genders
1999	1.33	0.94	1.14	1.47	1.16	1.32	1.42	1.08	1.25
2000	1.22	0.86	1.04	1.53	1.00	1.27	1.41	0.95	1.18
2001	1.09	0.75	0.92	1.41	0.95	1.19	1.29	0.88	1.09

Source: Department for Statistics and Sociology

2. In light of art. 4 of the Convention, we present below detailed information on the budget amounts and shares allocated for children at the central and local level during the last 3 years (1999-2001), for:

a) education (various types of educational institutions - preschool, primary and comprehensive schools)

	1999		2000		2001	
	planned	achieved	planned	achieved	planned	achieved
Preschool education	126834.9	99754.5	114949	113520	179186.1	161508.3
State budget		2529.2				
Budgets of administrative territorial units	126834.9	97225.3	114949	113520	179186.1	161508.3
Primary education	9595.6	8238.8	11177.5	11598.4	17516.7	16472.9
State budget						
Budgets of administrative territorial units	9595.6	8238.8	11177.5	11598.4	17516.7	16472.9
Comprehensive education	355092.4	290911.9	422592.9	395157	549492.4	500378.6

State budget	40796.3	38638	45640.4	44678	58167.9	
Budgets of administrative territorial units	314296.1	252273.9	376952.5	350479	491324.5	447520.4

Source: Ministry of Finance

b) health care

In the Republic of Moldova, rehabilitative treatment is made available for children in sanatoriums and TB sanatoriums (Ciadâr-Lunga and Tîrnova).

Types of institutions	Achieved 1999 – thousands lei	Achieved 2000 - thousands lei	Achieved 2001 - thousands lei
Sanatoriums for children	4587	4915	3563
State budget	4587	4915	
Budgets of administrative Territorial units			
Consolidated budget	4587	4915	3563
Placement and rehabilitation centers for young children	3186	3894	5142
State budget	1935	2262	2617
Budgets of administrative territorial units	1251	1632	2525
Consolidated budget	3186	3894	5142
TB Sanatoriums	2207	3010	5142
State budget	2207	3010	5142
Budgets of administrative territorial units			
Consolidated budget	2207	3010	5142

Source: Ministry of Finance

According to art. 4, paragraph d) of Law no. 267-XIV on the minimum level of free health care services, guaranteed by the state since 3 February 1999, basic health care services are made available to pregnant women and children in the manner and volume approved in the budget law for the respective year under the chapter “Health Care”, while according to paragraph f) of the same law, health care services are offered to orphan children and children born with disabilities in day and night clinics.

c) programmes and services for children with disabilities

Categories of beneficiaries	1999		2000		2001	
	No. beneficiaries	Annual allocation	No. beneficiaries	Annual allocation	No. beneficiaries	Annual allocation

Social allowances for disabled children up to the age of 16*	348	267.6	10361	7299.6	11962	8421.6
Social pensions for disabled children up to the age of 16*	5947	3255.6	682	379.2	375	207.6
Nominal compensations for disabled children up to the age of 16*	-	-	3597	2451.4	6198	7791.4

* Financed from the state budget

Source: National Social Insurance House

d) family support programmes

Type of allowance	Payment source	1999		2000		2001	
		numbers	Annual amount	numbers	Annual amount	numbers	Annual amount
One-time allowance paid at birth (payments)	State budget/ social insurance budget	14792	1772.9	26903	3420.8	23804	4665.6
Monthly allowance for mothers who have children of up to 18 months in their care (children)*	State budget/ social insurance budget	22651	8287.5	34244	13112.9	48940	29364.0
Monthly allowance for mothers who have children between 18 months and 16 years in their care (children)*	State budget/ social insurance budget	88416	17188.0	93901	18254.4	122931	36879.6
Allowance replacing alimony (children)*	State budget	1175	70.8	1139	70.8	865	56.4

*the data also include single mothers

Source: National Social Insurance House

e) protection of children who require alternative care, including support given to institutions providing that type of care

Number of special boarding schools for children with physical or mental disabilities, as well as the number of institutionalized children and the amounts allocated for them

Indicators	Average number of institutions	Average number of children	Annual expenses (thou lei)	Average annual expenses per person (lei)
1. special boarding schools				
1998	37	5213	12035.2	2308.6
1999	36	5163	16181.3	3134.0
2000	35	5091	19757.1	3880.7
2001	37	5094	24371.3	4784.3

Source: Ministry of Finance

Institutions for orphans and children deprived of parental care

Indicators	Average number of institutions	Average number of children	Annual expenses (thou lei)	Average annual expenses per person (lei)
1. family-type institutions				
1998	31	187	236.0	1262.0
1999	31	154	206.6	1341.5
2000	29	143	231.0	1615.3
2001	24	122	269.4	2203.1
2. residential care institutions				
1998	3	195	558.0	2861.5
1999	3	180	1050.4	5835.5
2000	3	160	1076.4	6727.5
2001	3	140	1227.7	8769.2
3. comprehensive boarding schools				
1998	16	6550	15359.0	2341.8
1999	17	6585	22322.2	3389.5
2000	17	6663	25934.6	3891.3
2001	18	6530	32720.7	5010.8

Source: Ministry of Finance

Institutions for children with severe disabilities

thousand lei

Institutions	1999	2000	2001	2002
	Actual expenses	Actual expenses	Actual expenses	Planned expenses
1. Boarding home for children with mental disabilities in Orhei	1435	1373.7	2063.4	2975.7
2. Boarding home for children with mental disabilities in Hincești	857	1430.7	1121.0	2234.6
TOTAL	2292.0	2804.4	3184.4	5174.9

Source: Ministry of Finance

f) programmes and activities for preventing and protecting children from abuse, sexual exploitation and child labour

g) criminal activities among children

3. The data concerning children coming from vulnerable families or separated from their parents refer to the last 3 years

a) Separated children. Placement of children and adolescents deprived of parental care

	1999	2000	2001
Children and adolescents recorded as having been deprived of parental care			
Total	1362	1362	1578
out of which, placed in:			
placement and rehabilitation centers	59	66	64
residential care institutions	24	16	9
boarding schools for orphans	67	64	97
comprehensive boarding schools	107	53	92
families,	1061	1135	1243
out of which:			
under tutelage	653	880	929
patronage	76	108	149
adoption	332	147	165
educational institutions (high schools, colleges, etc.)	13	7	27
In the year 2001, 41 children were adopted by foreign citizens.			

Source: Department for Statistics and Sociology

Boarding institutions for orphan children and children deprived of parental care

	1999	2000	2001
Placement and rehabilitation centers	4	4	3
no. of children hosted	463	479	415
Residential care institutions	3	3	3
no. of children hosted	166	153	143
Boarding schools*	6	6	6
no. of children hosted	1834	1717	1703

*Including the city of Bender

Source: Department for Statistics and Sociology

4. Number of children with disabilities, by gender and age: living with their families; in institutions; enrolled in mainstream schools; enrolled in special schools.

Year	Number of children with disabilities institutions			Age of the children			Number of children living with their families*	Number of children enrolled in mainstream school	Number of children enrolled in special schools
	Total number	girls	boys	3-6 years	7-11 years	12-18 years			
1999	5132	1268	3864	482	2672	1978	1062	264	4868
2000	5123	1261	3862	467	2675	1981	1035	283	4840
2001	5109	1253	3856	459	2668	1982	1018	276	4833

*The total number of children with disabilities living with their families is presented in A. Statistical Information, p. 2, c), the number given in the present table is included in the total number, but these children are enrolled in auxiliary schools while also living with their families.

Source: Ministry of Education

Apart from these, there are also 2 boarding homes for children with severe mental disabilities that are subordinated to the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection:

Boarding home in Orhei (for boys)

Year	Number of children with disabilities in the institution	Age of the children					
		4-6 years	7-10 years	11-15 years	16 years	17 years	18 years
1999	304	32	76	94	26	11	65
2000	294	32	69	89	16	26	62
2001	300	16	68	98	24	16	78
2002 (July)	318	16	66	98	24	16	78

Boarding home in Hîncești (for girls)

Year	Number of children with disabilities in the institution	Age of the children					
		4-6 years	7-10 years	11-15 years	16 years	17 years	18 years
1999	202	20	25	65	10	9	73
2000	202	25	32	47	16	9	73
2001	217	30	38	36	25	20	68
2002 (July)	223	32	40	38	27	24	72

Source: Ministry of Labour and Social Protection

5. Data on child abuse, grouped by age, gender, type of violation reported, concerning more particularly: (See item 9 in Part I)

- a) the number of individual complaints received per year during the last 3 years;
- b) the number and percentage of reports which have resulted in either a court decision or drafted by other relevant authorities.

6. Information (grouped by gender and age) for the period 1999-2001, concerning:

a) enrolment rates (in %) of the relevant groups in preschool, primary and comprehensive education

	1999	2000	2001
Rate of enrolment in education (percentage of the respective age group)			
Preschool (3-6 years)	47	47	52
Compulsory comprehensive (7-15 years)	95	94	94
Primary (7-10 years)	98	95	95
Lower secondary (11-15 years)	94	93	92

Source: Department for Statistics and Sociology

b) breakdown of pupils per grades and number of repeaters

	1999		2000		2001	
	total	including repeaters	total	including repeaters	total	including repeaters
Preparatory	3291	41	3252	22	2975	28
1 st grade	57900	987	55880	939	53317	704
1 st grade organized within preschool	1365	29	762	16	489	2
2 nd grade	60389	490	57905	580	55430	401
3 rd grade	62808	456	59108	537	57001	410
4 th grade	66440	615	61806	655	58258	482
5 th grade	69433	995	65532	1028	61136	867
6 th grade	68247	971	67923	1106	64185	883
7 th grade	67952	1131	66901	1297	66661	949
8 th grade	63487	1329	65771	1210	64826	816
9 th grade	62922	219	59000	223	62170	112
10 th grade	25446	26	30516	39	32658	23
11 th grade	28552	4	21886	11	28181	2
12 th grade	4899	1	13085	5	11100	6
Total	643131	7294	629327	7668	618387	5685

Source: Department for Statistics and Sociology

Number of pupils enrolled in primary and comprehensive schools

year	total no. of pupils	boys	girls	enrolled in primary schools		enrolled in comprehensive schools		Repeaters
				urban	rural	urban	rural	
1999	629259	315319	313940	12595	5831	242242	368591	7001
2000	611594	305577	306017	12099	7046	233575	358874	7708
2001	599599	299973	299626	12478	7003	226183	353935	5847

Source: Ministry of Education

c) enrolment and number of teachers per child

Preschool Institutions

	1999	2000	2001
Number of preschool institutions	1201	1135	1128
Number of places in preschool institutions, thou	152.4	143.7	145.6
Number of children in preschool, thousands	101.0	93.7	96.5
Teaching staff, thousands	9.8	8.9	9.0
Preschool institutions made available to the children, in percentages of the total number of children in that age group (1-6 years)	37	36	38
Places made available to the children (for 100 places there are ... children)	66	65	66
Number of children per teacher	10	11	11

Source: Department for Statistics and Sociology

Primary, Lower and Higher Secondary Schools

	1999	2000	2001
Primary, lower and higher secondary schools	1558	1566	1577
Pupils, in thousands	643.1	629.3	618.4
in primary schools	18.8	19.2	19.5
in lower secondary schools	144.6	150.4	146.5
in high schools	112.9	134.6	138.0
in middle schools	356.7	313.1	301.7
in schools for children with mental or physical deficiencies, classes organized within:			
- colleges	4.7	6.4	7.4
- universities	-	0.5	0.4
Teaching staff, in thousands	43.2	42.3	42.5
Number of children per teacher	15	15	15
Evening schools	7	7	7
Pupils, in thousands	2.1	1.9	1.9
Teaching staff, in thousands	0.1	0.1	0.1
Number of children per teacher	16	18	19

Source: Department for Statistics and Sociology

7. Statistical data by gender concerning the health status of adolescents, including early pregnancy, sexually transmitted diseases (STDs, HIV/AIDS, mental disorders, drug and alcohol abuse in the period 1999-2001)

	Indicators	1999			2000			2001		
		Total	boys	girls	Total	boys	girls	Total	boys	girls
1	Sexually transmitted diseases, including: syphilis gonorrhoea trichomoniasis	193 129 851	40 59 181	153 65 670	166 110 525	36 68 122	12 42 403	10 70 1051	23 39 134	80 31 917
2	Chronic alcoholism	3	1	2	3	2	1	2	2	-
3	Drug addiction	56	-	-	43	-	-	36	-	-
4	Drug abuse	233	-	-	188	-	-	172	-	-
5	Tuberculosis	65	-	-	59	-	-	60	30	30
6	Abortion	2910	-	2910	2741	-	2741	1695	-	1695
7	Mental disorders	790	-	-	760	-	-	720	-	-

8. Information (grouped by gender, age, type of crime) for the period 1999-2001, concerning the number of:

a) minors who perpetrated a crime, reported to the police

Offences perpetrated by or with the participation of minors total	Including							Offences perpetrated by minors in a group	Including		Year
	Homicide	Rapes	Burglaries	Robberies	Theft of personal property	Hooliganism	Grievous bodily harm		With the participation of minors (and adults)	Only minors in the group	
2622	15	12	35	32	1515	56	15	987	557	437	1999
52928	18	14	75	213	1681	75	17	1258	714	553	2000
2684	14	14	47	164	1647	75	11	1081	629	487	2001
1541	10	6	20	106	1005	58	4	496	231	265	2002 (6 mths.)

Source: Ministry of Internal Affairs

b) convicted minors, type of punishment or sentence

Offences	As of 1.01.2000		As of 1.01.2001		As of 1.01.2002	
	boys	girls	boys	girls	Boys	girls
Homicide	14	1	16	2	15	-
Grievous bodily harm	1	-	-	-	1	-
Rape	14	-	22	-	8	-
Theft	12	2	20	-	29	2
Robbery	5	-	11	-	20	-

Burglary	12	2	11	-	15	2
Felony involving the appropriation of private property	4	-	1	-	2	-
Hooliganism	-	-	2	-	-	-
Drug-related offences	-	-	1	-	3	-
Other offences	3	-	3	-	3	-
total	65	5	87	2	96	6

Source: Department for Penitentiary Institutions

Characteristics by age

	As of 1.01.2000		As of 1.01.2001		As of 1.01.2002	
	boys	girls	boys	girls	Boys	girls
Under 15 years	1	-	6	-	-	-
16 years	25	-	27	-	2	1
17 years	29	2	40	-	19	5
18 years	10	2	14	2	31	-
19 - 21 years	-	1	-	-	44	-
Total	65	5	87	2	96	6

Source: Department for Penitentiary Institutions

c) places of detention for young offenders and their capacity

In Moldova there is only one place of confinement for male juvenile offenders, a rehabilitative penitentiary institution located in Lipcani, with a capacity of 200 places.

As of 1.01.2000	As of 1.01.2001	As of 1.01.2002
65 boys	87 boys	96 boys

Source: Department for Penitentiary Institutions

Female juvenile offenders are held in penitentiary for women in Rusca.

1999	2000	2001
5 girls	2 girls	6 girls

Source: Department for Penitentiary Institutions

d) minors held in detention centers for young offenders and minors held in adult detention centers

There are no adult detention centers that are also used to hold juveniles.

e) minors held in custody awaiting trial and the duration of their detention

Minors who are under investigation awaiting trial are held in preventive custody in detention centers, in cells separated from adult convicts.

As of 1.01.2000, there were 113 juveniles in the 5 detention centers of the Department for Penitentiary Institutions. As of 1.01.2001, the same institutions held 114 juveniles, while at 1.01.2002 they counted 174 juveniles. According to the latest count, as of 25.07.2002, there were 163 juveniles awaiting trial in these detention centers, 7 of whom were female. Following preliminary investigation, the relevant authorities decided to pursue the case for 53 juveniles. Following trial in court, 25 juveniles were given sentences between 6 and 12 months, while 12 minors were given sentences exceeding 12 months.

f) cases of child abuse and maltreatment reported during preventive custody and imprisonment

9. The information below refers to the special protection measures taken in the interval 1999-2001, grouped by gender and age, as follows:

a) number of children involved in sexual exploitation, including prostitution, pornography and trafficking

Year	Rape		Sexual intercourse with young persons under the age of 16		Obtaining sexual satisfaction by resorting to perversion		Perverting young persons under the age of 16	
	boys	girls	Boys	girls	boys	girls	boys	girls
1999	4	75	3	12	15	17	5	3
2000	2	72	-	9	4	18	3	10
2001	4	42	-	11	3	10	3	3
2002 6 mths.	1	29	-	5	10	6	2	2

Source: Ministry of Internal Affairs

b) number of children involved in sexual exploitation who have received rehabilitative treatment.

c) number of children under 16 involved in child labour

The new Law on Labour Inspection came into force as of 1 January 2002. According to this law, Labour Inspection, as a body of the central public administration, supervises the observance of labour-related legal provisions, acts and norms in companies, institutions and organizations, whatever their form of ownership and legal status. In the first quarter of 2002, the Labour Inspection conducted a number of 2448 on-site checks for compliance with labour

legislation, which resulted in the identification of several cases of child labour involving children under 16 years of age.

(Source: Labour Inspection)

c) number of street children

The Temporary Placement Center in the city of Chişinău recorded a number of 1034 street children in **1999**. In **2000** they enrolled 1007 children, out of which 280 were girls, and 727 boys, while according to age 639 children were aged between 3-4, 198 between 14-15, and 170 between 16-17. In **2001** the Center counted 1309 children, out of which 1072 were detained for vagrancy, 361 for begging in public places, 933 of them being aged between 3 and 14. During the first 5 months of **2002** 569 children were brought to the Center, 437 being detained for vagrancy and 132 for begging.

Source: Ministry of Internal Affairs

B. General Implementation Measures

1. Measures for the implementation of the Law on Child Rights of 1994.

a) This law was the first document to lay down the duties parents have concerning the protection of their children's health. Based on this law, the Moldovan Government adopted the "State Programme on Ensuring Child Rights" (06.10.1995), stipulating a set of measures meant to ensure the respect of those rights. Some of these measures have already been implemented, while others are under way:

- There is a compulsory medical check-up for all those who wish to get married. The check-ups are carried out according to the instructions of the Ministry of Health and are meant to identify any diseases that may be transmitted from parent to child.
- There is a Genetic Center that performs all the necessary examinations and tests for families who are at risk of being carriers of hereditary diseases and congenital malformations.
- Maternity hospitals now offer appropriate conditions for rooming in, they support universal breastfeeding and, if necessary, they supply the required milk substitutes.
- Thorough medical examinations are carried out in maternity hospitals on all new-born infants for any hereditary diseases they may be carrying: phenylketonuria, hypoterosis, mucoviscidosis.
- Special curative food supplies are made available to children suffering from hereditary diseases (such as phenylketonuria, celiac disease, etc.).

- Free vaccines are administered to all children suffering from severe infectious diseases, according to a calendar approved by the Ministry of Health.
- The curriculum for lower and higher secondary schools now includes a special 30-hour annual training programme for children on topics related to hygiene, human physiology, preparing for family life.
- Prophylactic medical examinations are conducted for all children, students in schools and universities. Based on the results of those check-ups, measures are initiated for their appropriate treatment and, as the case may be, rehabilitative care in sanatoriums.

The Law on Reproductive Health and Family Planning was adopted in 2001. It contains provisions meant to improve population access to family planning services, and it regulates the right of access to information and medical consultation.

Several National Programmes have been elaborated, detailing the strategies to be undertaken to improve the current state of things, to conduct prophylactic actions in relation to a number of diseases, and to improve the overall level of health care services. These National Programmes address issues such as the improvement of health care services for pregnant women and new-borns, the prevention of genetic diseases in children, the improvement of child nutrition, immunization, the combating of infectious diseases (tuberculosis, hepatitis, etc.).

The National Programme for the Improvement of Perinatal Medical Care for the Period 1997-2002 has been adopted by Decision of the Moldovan Government; the objectives of the programme include the reduction of perinatal mortality, of early neonatal mortality and maternal mortality, the establishment of a regional system for perinatal health care, the implementation of cost-effective systems at all levels, etc. Several training seminars for medical staff were organized with support from UNICEF Moldova. With the same support, appropriate educational material was made available to the information and education units for perinatal care. A grant offered by the Japanese Government was used to purchase adequate obstetrical and neonatal equipment for all the county-level perinatal care centers in the country. As part of the implementation of this programme, with support from UNICEF Moldova, collaboration was initiated with the Center for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta US, which is a WHO center for collaboration on issues of reproductive health.

The problem of rational nutrition of children is still high on the agenda of the relevant institutions. The Ministry of Health has sought to identify various potential modalities for implementing the National Programme on "Child Nutrition" (Decision of the Moldovan Government no. 1236 of 22.12.1998),

particularly in order to provide solutions for the nutrition of children under 1 year of age. Promotion and support of breastfeeding is an ongoing process; moreover, during the last 3 years, 15 maternity hospitals in the country have been organized and evaluated as "child-friendly hospitals". Special nutritional supplements have been made available to children suffering from celiac disease, to supplant their gluten deficiency.

In order to rationalize and optimize the health care system in the domain of family planning and reproductive health, Government Decision no. 527 of 08.06.1999 approved the National Programme for assistance in the planning and protection of reproductive health for the interval 1999-2003, the main strategy being the reorientation of activities according to necessities, particular attention being paid to adolescents and singles, to avoiding abortions performed in risky conditions, etc. This programme also included a series of Information, Education, Communication activities related to reproductive health. Several lesson cycles were organized on topics such as "Education for Family Life", "No Chance for AIDS", "Youth for Youth" etc. with the participation of adolescents and young people. The "Neovita" Youth Health Care Center has been recently opened in the city of Chişinău, in cooperation with UNICEF. The center will provide services for adolescents, and it will pursue the following priorities: providing health care services for young people, organizing Information, Education, Communication activities for young people on topics such as education for health, healthy lifestyles, preventing sexually transmitted diseases and HIV/AIDS in the family, psychological and legal counseling.

This sector is also supported by the Education and Health Care Center for Women in the city of Chişinău, the Health Care Centers for Women in Drochia and Cahul, the family planning wards within medical institutions, which contribute to a large extent to providing health care services for women, including women belonging to risk groups.

The practical medical investigations performed under the National Programme for improving medical and genetic assistance and the new technologies being implemented are meant to secure appropriate protection for the population and to preserve the genetic stock of the nation.

The principle providing medical care free of charge, guaranteed in principle by the state, is frequently violated, and the population, including the children, need to pay for the medical services supplied to them. Expensive medication restricts the access to adequate treatment for the vast majority of the population. Because of the limited financial resources available, children who would otherwise have access to various facilities cannot benefit from these rights. Moreover, the

provision of the programme referring to the right of children under 3 to be offered treatment in outpatient clinics free of charge also fails to be observed.

- b) The children and young people belonging to ethnic minorities are provided with all the conditions they need to express, preserve and develop their national identity. One of these conditions is the possibility children have to study in their mother tongue at school (see Part I, A). The Department for Interethnic Relations also contributes to creating these conditions. During 2001, a "Lithuanian school for the study of Lithuanian language and history" was organized on a community basis, classes being held on Saturdays and Sundays. A course for the study of the Polish language was organized in the same conditions. At present, the Polish language course continues to be offered at the premises of the Polish Consulate in Moldova, classes being held twice a week.

The organization of ethno-folkloric festivals for children has already become a tradition. Some of the most important events held during these last years are: the festival dedicated to the International Children's Day on 1 June 2001, "Christmas 2001", "Cultural Kaleidoscope", a festival dedicated to the street children "A Flower in Spring".

- c) The Department for Youth and Sports organizes annual programmes where children are given the possibility to express their opinions freely, which contributes to the development of their intellectual and creative abilities, as well as programmes meant to promote healthy lifestyles, to prevent domestic violence, and to reintegrate marginalized children and young people. Some of these programmes are: the Children's Parliament, "Say Yes for Children", "Let's Grown Up Without Tobacco", "Young People and Violence, Preventing Domestic Violence" - conference, "A Family Without Violence" - graffiti competition.
- d) Children are also granted the right to freedom of association, as evidenced by the existence of several associations of children and youth active in Moldova, such as the:
- Union of Young Roma in the Republic of Moldova "Tărnă - Rom";
 - Association "Terminatango - Roma";
 - Union of Young Lithuanians in the Republic of Moldova;
 - Union of Greek Youth "Parfenon";
 - League of Russian Students, etc.
- e) Children are granted the right to be educated free of charge, and all children have access to free lower secondary education. Currently there are 1500 pre-

university institutions in the country, enrolling 599600 pupils, 109 being primary schools and 688 lower secondary schools.

One of the essential measures aimed at supporting the schooling and adequate health of children is the provision of food. During the school year 2001-2002, free meals were offered for a number of 121620 pupils (34%). In 976 schools, the free meals were organized under the humanitarian assistance programme "Products for Education" offered by the US Government.

The inadequate sanitary conditions, the low temperatures in the classrooms in winter, the lack of appropriate nutrition for most pupils (free meals are provided only to 30% of the pupils enrolled in primary school) are so many causes contribute to the children's poor health status, the increasing number of dropouts, and a poor overall level of protection of children's rights.

f) In 2002, a number of 54 summer camps for rest and recreation were organized for children, which required an investment by the local public authorities amounting to 872.5 thousand lei.

Every year, over 2500 orphans or children deprived of parental care can spend their holidays in camps, while 200 children are sent for care and treatment to a sanatorium at Sergheevca (Ukraine).

The regulations for the organization of admission exams to higher education institutions have been completed to include a provision that allows children leaving high school who have been orphaned or deprived of parental care to continue their studies in higher education, 10% of the total number of places being reserved for such cases.

Measures for the Implementation of the Law on Youth Adopted in 1999

On 24 July 2000, the Government of Moldova issued Decision no. 736 approving the "Priority Action Plan for the Implementation of the Youth Law during the Interval 2000-2002", which includes three sections:

- Creating the economic and social premises necessary for the development of young people
- Providing information to young people, capitalizing on their creative potential, and creating the necessary conditions for their physical and spiritual development
- Stimulating associative life and promoting international relations among young people.

Only 32% of the actions in this programme could be achieved so far, because of the lack of appropriate financial resources. The Government of the Republic of Moldova is currently planning to establish an intersectoral committee for youth-related issues. This committee will be in charge of drafting the National Action Plan for Youth (for the following five-year period), including the financing strategy for the action plan, by the end of 2002.

(Source: Department for Youth and Sports)

In this context, the Department for Interethnic Relations organized a round table entitled "Educating the younger generation in the spirit of tolerance" and honoured the International Day for Combating Racial Discrimination.

Elements Related to Juvenile Justice and Specific Institutions in Charge of Judicial Affairs

According to the information made available by the Ministry of Justice, Moldova's national legislation contains specific provisions concerning the serving of justice in cases involving juvenile offenders, both during preliminary investigations, and when the cases are taken to court. These matters are regulated by several important legislative acts: the Constitution of Moldova, the Criminal Code, the Criminal Procedure Code, the Code concerning Administrative Contraventions.

For the moment, it is difficult to establish a separated juvenile justice system, because the legal text that currently applies is par. (2) under art. 18 of the Law on Judicial Organization, no. 514-XIII of 6 July 1995, according to which specialized courts can be convened to try cases involving specific matters or specific categories of persons, as the case may be.

2. The information below refers to the National Council for Child Rights Protection, established in 1998, and it provide supplementary details on membership, authority, financial and human resources, as well as national coordination.

The National Council for Child Rights Protection is a governmental body in charge of monitoring child rights and the development of policies for protecting children and families at risk. The Council also benefits from UNICEF support, by the function of "children's ombudsman" it maintains. The local public authorities have established County Councils for Child Protection whose main objective is to ensure respect for child rights in the territory. The Council includes representatives of several ministries, such as the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health, Ministry of the Economy, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Internal Affairs, as well as of the Department for Youth and Sports and the

Department for Statistics and Sociology, the UNICEF representative for Moldova, a representative of the Center for Human Rights and the organization "Save the Children". The President of the Council is Mr. Valerian Cristea, Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Moldova. The Council is guided in their activities by the Constitution of Moldova, the Law on Child Rights, as well as other laws and acts related to child rights. The Council represents Moldova in its relations with the international organizations working in the domain of children.

The basic **duty** of the Council is to secure compliance with the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and to elaborate the Government policy in the field. The **tasks** of the Council include domains such as: drafting the policy for improving the children's quality of life, monitoring the activities of central and local bodies from the perspective of child rights, elaborating draft laws, creating strategies for updating the legislative and institutional framework in order to bring it in line with the requirements laid down in the Convention on the Rights of the Child, coordinating collaboration between central and local bodies, conducting research and analysis to provide material for future reports, creating a data base to reflect the actual situation in the field, providing managerial support for local public administration bodies, implementing child protection programmes in cooperation with non-governmental institutions.

The **functions** of the Council are assigned as follows: the President of the Council coordinates all activities, and can delegate his functions to the Vice-president. The Presidents fulfils the following functions: he supervises the fulfillment of the Council's duties, assigns tasks among Council members, convenes and heads meetings, signs protocols and other Council acts, represents the Council in relation with other institutions. The Council meets on a quarterly basis. The decisions of the Council are binding for both public bodies and individuals. A secretary has been appointed to organize the day-to-day activities of the Council.

Tasks of the Local Councils: to improve the children's living conditions, to coordinate child support activities, to develop child support actions, to collect information about the current state of Moldovan children, to supervise the activities of the decentralized services in the territory (health care, education, social protection, etc.)

During these last 3 years, NCPCD has organized joint activities with the local public authorities for training and improving the quality of specialists working with children.

In May 2002 NCPCD concluded a memorandum of collaboration with the international organization AGAPEDIA, which plans to provide support to the Republic of Moldova in the development of community services for children in difficulty.

At present, the basic partners of the Council among non-governmental organizations are "Save the Children", DFID (the Department for International Development of the British Government), "Every Child", SIDA (the Swedish Agency for International Development), the Association of Non-governmental Organizations Involved in Social Work.

County Councils for Child Rights Protection have been established in all the counties and towns of Moldova. Their membership includes representatives of the local authorities, as well as of the non-governmental organizations in that area.

These councils work toward finding solutions to the problems facing the children in the counties they are responsible for.

The independent body that is authorized to receive and address individual complaints made by children is the **Center for Human Rights** – parliamentary lawyers. The Center is an independent legal institution, and the task of the parliamentary lawyers who work for the Center is to ensure the human rights and freedoms guaranteed in the Constitution are fully respected. The lawyers examine the complaints filed by citizens of the Republic of Moldova, by aliens who reside permanently on the territory of Moldova, as well as by stateless persons concerning the violation of their legitimate rights and interests in Moldova (Moldovan Law on Parliamentary Lawyers, no. 1349-XIII of 17.10.1997).

3. Information on the poverty reduction measures undertaken by Moldova, also in cooperation with, *inter alia*, the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and UNICEF.

In order to achieve the tasks formulated by the Coordinating Council for the implementation of measures contained in the action matrix for the policy of economic development (SAC III), by Decision no. 524 of 24 April 2002, the Government of Moldova approved the "Preliminary Strategy for Poverty Reduction". The priority objective of this programme is to alleviate poverty among children by means of concrete measures to provide an adequate level of food security and child protection, as well as social protection to children at risk. The Government is currently working with several donor organizations (UNICEF, the European Trust Fund for Children and SIDA) on programmes for

creating alternatives to institutionalization. The effort is also receives World Bank support, by means of the projects financed from the Social Investment Fund. There are already several placement centers operating in the Republic of Moldova. Some examples in point are the Center for Abandoned Children and Street Children "Așchiuță", supported by the organizations "Save the Children" and AIBI (Italy); the Center for Disabled Children in the district Botanica of Chișinău; the Community Center for Children and Adolescents with Disabilities, supported jointly by UNICEF Moldova, the Municipality of Chișinău and "Every Child"; the Placement and Rehabilitation Center "Preafericitul Iosif" (Saint Joseph), supported by the Monastery of "Hîncu".

All these activities will soon acquire a legislative foundation, since the Draft Law on the Child in Difficulty has reached its final stage of elaboration. The draft law contains provisions introducing alternative child protection services replacing institutionalization. (See section 4 in the current chapter)

By Decision no. 611 of 15 May 2002, the Government approved a Strategy for Employment, whose main objective is to improve conditions on the labour market, by improving the employment rate and reducing unemployment, also among young people.

In order to create the legal basis for providing social protection to street children, as well as in order to prevent this phenomenon, the Government approved Decision no. 233 of 28 March 2001 on "Measures Aimed at Reducing the Phenomena of Beggary, Vagrancy and Street Children", which includes a set of measures meant to involve institutions of the local public administration and charitable organization in the attempt to find solutions to these problems.

In order to secure the transparency of allowance payments, which is in fact one of the prime objectives in the reform of social assistance, as well as in order to substantiate the need for assistance being granted to Moldova as part of the European Commission Programme for Food Security, allowances for children whose parents are employed shall no longer be paid by the parents' employers, but by the National Social Insurance House.

The Department for International Development of the British Government (DFID) finances a Project for the Development of Social Assistance Capacities for the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection. The standard procedures were observed and, following a tendering process undertaken for DFID and an assessment by the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, the contract was granted to PE International. The Project (covering the period 2001-2004) came as a continuation of the work done in three previous projects in 2001 – the first

addressed the need for the Development of the Budget Programming Capacity for Social Protection, the second referred to the Creation of Social Assistance Mechanism at a Local Level, while the third targeted the Reform of Social Benefits for Children and Families.

The association "Juvlia Romani" was established basically to promote Rroma interests, and its major objectives are to conduct research on the problems facing the Rroma community, to improve the educational level and living standard of the Rroma, etc. For that purpose, the association has implemented several projects financed by the Council of Europe, the Soros Foundation, UNDP, CORDAID, MRG.

4. Information on the content, implementation, coordination monitoring and evaluation of the National Concept on Child and Family Protection, approved in 2002.

In the Legislative Domain

A first legislative action meant to assist the further fulfilment of the objectives laid down in the **National Concept on Child and Family Protection** (Government Decision no. 51, of 23.01.2002) as well as to support the implementation of the provisions contained in the 2002 Action Plan attached to the concept, was to operate several modifications in the Law on Child Rights that had to do, among others, with the declarative content of that law. In the same context, the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection was assigned to draft the new Law on the protection of children in difficulty. An Inter-ministerial Working Group has been organized with support from UNICEF Moldova to decide on the final text of the draft law and to define the priority lines of action for implementing the ideas and concepts contained in the law. The Working Group receives logistical assistance from an international expert with valuable experience in the domain of child rights protection.

This draft law will reflect the children's needs, the children's right to grow up and develop in a normal family and, if that is impossible, the right to benefit from an alternative type of protection, in a family-type environment.

The draft law will also become the normative framework for the reform of the child protection system, by means of the following measures:

- creating professional social services made available to children and families at risk;
- creating family-type placement centers, and providing legislative coverage for the centers already established;
- creating a primary network of parental assistants;

- giving priority to the protection of children in families, by granting actual support to their natural families, or protecting them in substitute families;
- involving the civil society in child protection activities;
- creating local councils for child rights protection.

In order to develop and implement new alternative services; to institutionalization, it is necessary to re-evaluate and define new unique quality standards to be observed when granting children various forms of care and protection. The Inter-Ministerial Working Group established with UNICEF Moldova support is working on the final form of the draft Quality Standards for Day Care Centers for Children with Disabilities. According to the draft standards, the services provided are to be adapted to the children's needs, to their age, gender, level of development, problems they are facing, disabilities, etc. All these elements are needed to elaborate for every child an individualized programme for recovery and reintegration into a natural or substitute family, or in the community.

Considering that non-insured categories cannot be covered by social assistance budgets, but they still need support and assistance from the state in order to be able to provide appropriate care to their children, the authorities have started working on a **Law on state allowances for families with children**. The draft law provides for the granting of state allowances for families with children, but it also tightens up the conditions for granting those allowance, in order to avoid wasting cash resources, and to allow increasing the amount allocated according to the number of children.

(Source: Ministry of Labour and Social Protection)

According to the Action Plan attached to the present Government Concept, as well as to Government Decision no. 1104-XIV of 4 May 2001, the legislation in force involved in the implementation of the Family Code was amended and completed as required. This involved the Criminal Code, the Criminal Procedure Code, the Civil Procedure Code, the Code on Administrative Contraventions, the Law on Child Rights, the Law on Minimal Medical Assistance Guaranteed by the Law. Another legislative piece currently under revision is the Regulation of the tutelage and guardianship authorities in the SSR of Moldova, approved by the Soviet of Ministers of SSR Moldova under no. 458 of 11 December 1972.

By decision no. 997 of 24 July 2002, the Moldovan Government also approved the Draft Law on Social Assistance that is to be sent for examination to the Parliament.

In the Institutional Domain

The membership of the Secretariat to the National Council for Child Protection is currently being selected in a competitive system.

Human Resources

Specialists are trained in Summer Schools organized on an annual basis by the UNICEF Representation in Moldova.

Re-qualification courses are offered to specialists in the field both from the central and the local public institutions at the Public Administration Academy organized under the auspices of the Government:

- Between 8-16 April 2002 a training course was organized for specialists from the County Directorates for Social Assistance and the Social Assistance Offices in charge of elderly people and people with disabilities.
- Between 20-24 May 2002 a training course was held for specialists from the County Directorates for Social Assistance and the Social Assistance Offices in charge of families with children at risk.
- Between 3-7 June 2002 a training course was delivered for specialists from the County Directorates for Social Assistance and the Social Assistance Offices in charge of equal opportunity matters.
- On 15.03.2002 a seminar was held on the "Development of Social Assistance at a Local Level Using the French Experience", organized by the Orhei County Directorate for Social Assistance and the Department for Social Assistance.

On 27 February 2002 a conference was organized to inform the staff of the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection on "Elements of Equal Opportunities".

Activities meant to promote the profession of social worker:

- In the media: specialists from the Department for Social Assistance within the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection were invited to participate in several talk shows on TV on topics such as: "Tolerating domestic violence and potential consequences", "Social assistance services provided to people with disabilities", "Providing social services to the population".

The Department for Social Assistance and the Center for the Prevention of Trafficking in Women have organized jointly a trainer training course on

“Eradicating trafficking in human beings”, with the participation of specialists from the County Directorates for Social Assistance and the Social Assistance Offices.

The Department for Social Assistance in partnership with the women’s organization “Civic Initiative” of Moldova delivered a training course on the “Prevention of Domestic Violence”, with the participation of specialists from the County Directorates for Social Assistance and the Social Assistance Offices.

The Department for Social Assistance organized a seminar on “Methods for Combating Domestic Violence and Sexual Harassment”.

5. Information on the measures taken to improve the Convention-related knowledge and training level of the Governmental authorities, of the professionals working with or for children, as well as of the population at large, including children.

The Parliament of the Republic of Moldova ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child on 12 December 1990, and the document came into force on 25 February 1993. However, the Convention was not published in Moldova’s Official Gazette after it was ratified by this country. Three editions of the Conventions have been published so far in Moldovan and Russian, and thousands of copies have been distributed by UNICEF and Save the Children Moldova, with support from the Soros Foundation and the Swedish organization “Radda Barnen”. Various non-governmental organizations have drafted, printed and distributed informative materials on the Convention, which include three different versions of the Convention adapted for children of different ages, as well as a brochure for adults, calendars and posters.

The House of Nations created under the auspices of the Department for Interethnic Relations operates its own methodological and information center, equipped with a small library with a stock of 1000 books on child rights, among them the Convention for the Rights of the Child.

Seminars and round tables are organized on child protection issues at national, county and local levels.

UNICEF organized 2 training sessions for the media, providing journalists with the necessary tools for approaching and investigating phenomena related to children and the provisions of the Convention. The National Television Station, in collaboration with UNICEF, have produced along the years several programmes within the initiative International Day for Child Broadcasts, thus promoting child rights and child participation. Several weekly magazines

published series of articles on the Convention and organized competitions for children on that topic.

The Convention has been integrated in the school curriculum.

Cooperation between governmental and non-governmental institutions:

The Government of Moldova and UNICEF have concluded a Country Programme of Cooperation for the period 2002-2006. The Master Plan of Operations of this Programme focuses on issues related to early child care and development, child protection, health care, development and participation of young people.

Similarly the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection and the Social Investment Fund in Moldova have concluded a Memorandum of Collaboration. The purpose of the Memorandum is to promote collaboration between the two parties in order to create conditions favouring the development of community services for children at risk (orphans, children at risk of being abandoned, children with behavioural disorders, children with disabilities, etc).

Part II

Copies of the Convention on the Rights of the Child in Moldovan and Russian are attached to the present document (see annexes)

Part III

New Acts and Laws:

Government Decision no. 75 of 30.01.2001 was approved. It contains "Amendments to previous decisions of the Moldovan Government on the social protection of families with children", and it provides for an increase by at least 50 per cent of the child allowances as stipulated in Government Decision no. 456 of 15 May 1997 on supplementary measures of social protection for families with children. Government Decision no. 384 came into force on 01.04. 2002, as yet another modification of Government Decision no. 456 of 15.05.1997. The new decision provides for an increase of the allowances granted to insured mothers when giving birth and during the first 18 months.

Considering the difficult situation of families that include persons suffering from severe disabilities, the relevant authorities also elaborated and forwarded to the Government for examination the Draft Law amending and completing the Law

on state social allowances for some categories of citizens, no. 499-XIV of 14 July 1999, which regulates the allowances to be granted to valid persons who have in their care children under 16 suffering from severe disabilities or children who were born with severe disabilities. The law was adopted by the Parliament on 18.04.2002 under no. 987-XV.

Government Decision no. 873 of 8 July 2002 on approving the regulations concerning the social rehabilitation of persons who have suffered a terrorist attack stipulates that these victims will be granted social assistance by the territorial social assistance unit they belong to, and more concretely by a social worker.

The Government of Moldova also issued Decision no. 937 of 12 July 2002 on approving the Internal Regulations of family-type institutions for children, which is one of the alternatives to institutionalization.

Other regulations issued:

The Order of the Ministry of Education of 14.02.2001 and the Order of 02.01.2002 on the creation of groups of trades and professions.

Order of the Ministry of Education no. 138 of 25.04.2002 on the organization of special education for children with auditory disabilities.

Order of the Ministry of Education no. 63 of 24.01.2002 on the organization of groups of professions in comprehensive boarding schools.

Decision of the Ministry of Education and Ministry of Finance no. 10/14 of 02.01.2002 on increasing the daily meal allowances for children in boarding schools to 11 lei per day per child.

Newly Created Institutions

Section for the Protection of the Rights of the Child within the County Councils, established by Decision of the Moldovan Government no. 893 of 9 July 2002.

Department for Social Assistance within the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, established by Decision of the Moldovan Government no. 127 of 16 February 2001. The decentralized territorial structures of that department were established by the same decision: at the county level, they are the General Directorates for Social Assistance, while at district level, they are the Offices for Social Assistance.

New Policies Implemented

Development of community services targeting families and children;
De-institutionalization policies.

New Programs and Projects Implemented and their Scope

“Orphan Children” and “Children with Disabilities” are two pilot programs drafted and implemented based on Decision no. 4 of 15.02.2002 of the Coordinating Council for Elaborating Moldova’s Strategy for Poverty Reduction.

The Executive Boards of these programs are called upon to coordinate the activities related to the protection of orphans and children with disabilities, as well as to encourage alternative methods of protection instead of institutionalization, by identifying ways to provide support for families who are at risk concerning abandonment and institutionalization.