

Municipality of Cahul (Republic of Moldova) |
PROFILE 2023

MIGRATION

GOVERNANCE

INDICATORS

LOCAL



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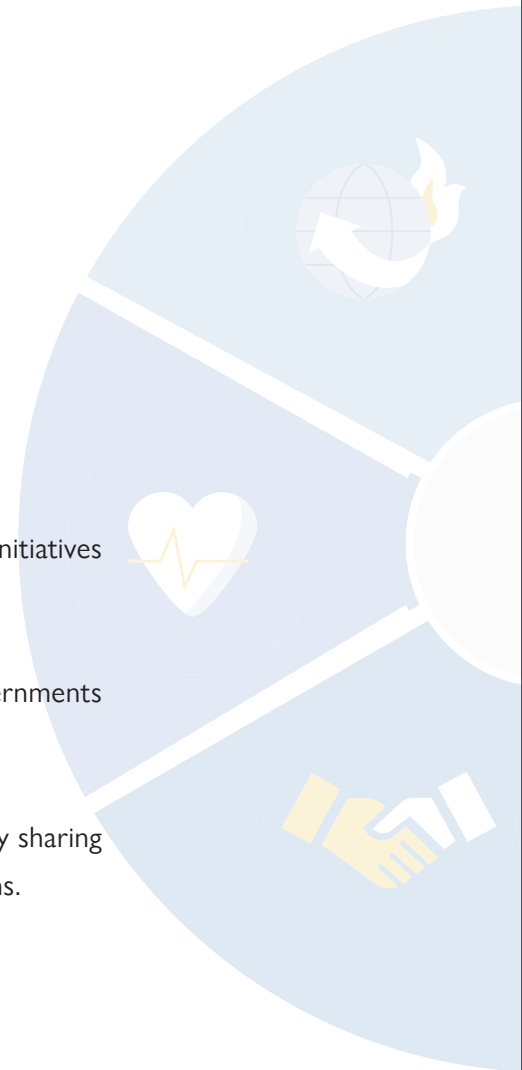
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OBJECTIVES

- 1 Help local authorities take stock of the migration initiatives they have in place.
- 2 Foster dialogue on migration between national governments and local authorities.
- 3 Enable local authorities to learn from one another by sharing common challenges and identifying potential solutions.



“Rapid urbanization continues to transform the demographic landscape of many countries around the world. Cities are already home to the majority of international migrants, driven by opportunity as well as necessity, and local authorities are becoming leaders in finding creative solutions for rapid social change, supporting communities through innovation.”¹

¹ António Vitorino, IOM Director General, *Report to the 109th Session of the IOM Council* (November 2018).

INTRODUCTION

The Migration Governance Indicators²

The need to maximize the opportunities and face the challenges that mobility brings has been recognized with the inclusion of migration in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and with the adoption of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration.³ The incorporation of target 10.7 into the 2030 Agenda created the need to define “planned and well-managed migration policies”. This is why, in 2015, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) developed the Migration Governance Framework (MiGOF). This Framework offers a concise view of an ideal approach that allows a State to determine what it might need to govern migration well and in a way that suits its circumstances. That same year, IOM in collaboration with Economist Impact developed the Migration Governance Indicators (MGIs), a set of almost 100 indicators that help States assess the comprehensiveness of their migration governance structures.

The indicators constitute a starting point to engage governments in a consultative process that allows them to identify areas that are well-developed and others that would benefit from further development, and most importantly, priorities that are in line with the specific challenges and opportunities that a given country is facing.

The MGIs are characterized by three main fundamental attributes:

1. The MGI process is a **voluntary** exercise: The MGIs are conducted in countries that have requested to be part of the process.
2. The MGIs are **sensitive to national specificities**: The MGIs recognize the different challenges and opportunities of each context, and therefore, do not propose a one-size-fits-all solution, but rather aim to spark a discussion on what well-governed migration can mean.
3. The MGIs constitute a **process**: The MGI process is not a static tool to collect data on countries' migration frameworks. It is rather the first step of a dynamic exercise that can enable governments to identify areas of their migration policy in need of further development, or that could benefit from capacity-building.

Migration Governance Indicators: From national to local

The role of cities and municipalities in migration governance⁴ has grown significantly in recent decades, given the rapid pace of urbanization and the importance of cities as destinations for all forms of migration and displacement. Researchers, policymakers and international development agencies have all highlighted the crucial role of cities and municipalities in both accommodating migrants and formulating sustainable responses to migration-related matters.

The role of local governments, not only in the management of migration at the local level, but also in realizing the urban dimensions of the 2030 Agenda, has been recognized in the New Urban Agenda at the Habitat III Conference in Quito (Ecuador), the Global Compact for Migration, and the Call to Local Action, to mention a few.

² All terms used in the report are defined in the IOM *Glossary on Migration* (2019).

³ “The *Global Compact* is the first inter-governmentally negotiated agreement, prepared under the auspices of the United Nations, covering all dimensions of international migration in a holistic and comprehensive manner. It is a non-binding document that respects States' sovereign right to determine who enters and stays in their territory and demonstrates commitment to international cooperation on migration. It presents a significant opportunity to improve the governance of migration, to address the challenges associated with today's migration, and to strengthen the contribution of migrants and migration to sustainable development.”

⁴ “Migration governance” refers to the system of institutions, legal frameworks, mechanisms and practices aimed at regulating migration and protecting migrants. It is used almost synonymously with the term “migration management”, although the latter is also sometimes used to refer to the narrow act of regulating cross-border movement at the State level.

To support the discussion between levels of governments on migration governance, IOM has adapted the MGIs⁵ to the local level. The local MGIs seek to offer a more comprehensive picture of a country's migration governance landscape by juxtaposing a local dimension to MGI national assessments. The [local MGIs](#) are based on a set of about 80 indicators helping local authorities take stock of local migration strategies or initiatives in place and identify good practices as well as areas with potential for further development. The aim of the exercise is to foster dialogue on migration between national governments and local authorities and enable local authorities to learn from one another by discussing common challenges and identifying potential solutions.

While the local MGIs retain the attributes of the national MGIs, they are also anchored in the notion that cities and local authorities have different capacities, competencies and added value when it comes to governing migration. Therefore, the methodology has been adapted to reflect the fact that the degree of fiscal and political autonomy of participating cities influences the kind of migration governance they can practically and legally engage in. Furthermore, new indicators of the level of autonomy and capacities have been added to give some context to the results of the assessment.

Given the differences outlined between the MGIs at the national and local levels, the purpose of the local MGIs is to be a tool for government authorities to use in taking an introspective look at the measures they have in place to manage migration, as well as to share their experiences. Furthermore, the local MGIs recognize that good practices can take different forms depending on the division of competencies between local and national authorities. Therefore, the local MGI analysis should not be interpreted as an invitation to change the division of competencies, but rather be understood as a catalyst to open dialogues on what cities can do with regard to migration within the scope of their mandate. A comprehensive picture of migration governance can be captured only by looking at the different levels of government.

The local MGI profile of the municipality of Cahul was reviewed, finalized and validated with the support and collaboration of local public authorities, territorial subdivisions of national institutions located in Cahul, local-level non-governmental stakeholders, as well as with consistent input from the Republic of Moldova's central public authorities.

This profile is the result of the implementation of the local MGIs in the municipality of Cahul (Republic of Moldova). It summarizes key examples of well-developed areas and areas with potential for further development of local migration governance. This report is complemented by the MGI national profiles of 2018⁶ and 2021⁷ as well as the local profile of Balti⁸ undertaken in parallel to Cahul.

⁵ The Migration Governance Indicators were developed in 2015 by IOM in collaboration with Economist Impact.

⁶ See the [2018 Migration Governance Snapshot for the Republic of Moldova](#).

⁷ See the [2021 Migration Governance Indicators Second Profile for the Republic of Moldova](#).

⁸ See the [2023 Migration Governance Indicators Local Profile for the municipality of Balti](#).

CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

MiGOF

IOM's MiGOF sets out the essential elements to support planned and well-managed migration. It seeks to present, in a consolidated, coherent and comprehensive way, a set of three principles and three objectives which, if respected and fulfilled, would ensure that migration is humane and orderly, and benefits migrants and society.

At the basis of

PRINCIPLES

1. **Adhere** to international standards and fulfil migrants' rights.
2. **Formulate** policy using evidence and a whole-of-government approach.
3. **Engage** with partners to address migration and related issues.

OBJECTIVES

1. **Advance** the socioeconomic well-being of migrants and society.
2. **Effectively address** the mobility dimensions of crises.
3. **Ensure** that migration takes place in a safe, orderly and dignified manner.



MGIs

WHAT THEY ARE

-  A set of indicators that offers insights on policy levers that countries can use to strengthen their migration governance structures
-  A tool that identifies good practices and areas that could be further developed
-  A consultative process that advances dialogues on migration governance by clarifying what "well-governed migration" might look like in the context of SDG target 10.7 and the Global Compact for Migration implementation*

Which support the measurement of

WHAT THEY ARE NOT

-  Not a ranking of countries
-  Not an assessment of policy impacts
-  Not prescriptive



Note: "The Global Compact is framed in a way consistent with target 10.7 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in which Member States committed to cooperate internationally to facilitate safe, orderly and regular migration."

The local MGIs are composed of approximately 80 indicators grouped under the six different dimensions of migration governance that draw upon the MiGOF categories:⁹



MIGRANTS'
RIGHTS
PAGE 23

Indicators in this category look at the extent to which migrants have access to certain social services such as health, education and social security. They also examine measures to ensure integration and access to work.



WHOLE-OF-GOVERNMENT
APPROACH
PAGE 26

Indicators in this category assess the institutional frameworks of cities, municipalities or states for migration. This area also examines the existence of migration strategies consistent with development objectives, as well as institutional transparency and coherence in migration management.



PARTNERSHIPS
PAGE 29

Indicators in this category focus on cities', municipalities' or states' efforts to cooperate on migration issues with the national government as well as other cities and relevant non-governmental actors, including civil society organizations and the private sector.



WELL-BEING
OF MIGRANTS
PAGE 31

Indicators in this category assess cities', municipalities' or states' initiatives in terms of international student mobility, access to the labour market and decent working conditions for migrant workers. Aspects related to diaspora engagement and migrant remittances are also included in this domain.



MOBILITY DIMENSION
OF CRISES
PAGE 33

Indicators in this category examine the type and level of readiness of cities, municipalities or states to deal with aspects of mobility crises. The questions focus on the processes in place for citizens and non-citizens in relation to disasters and climate change both during and after disasters, especially whether humanitarian assistance is available for migrants and citizens.



SAFE, ORDERLY AND
REGULAR MIGRATION
PAGE 35

Indicators in this category look at the cities', municipalities' or states' approaches to migrant safety as well as return and reintegration policies and the fight against trafficking in persons.

⁹ IOM Council, Migration Governance Framework, 106th Session, C/106/40 (4 November 2015).



SUMMARY

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Migrants' rights

Migrants in the municipality of Cahul have access to Government-funded health services and public primary and secondary education based on national-level provisions. Ministry of Health Order No. 143 (2023) provides for a wide range of medical services to be provided free of charge for displaced persons from Ukraine. Regarding education, migrants under the age of 18 who are legally residing in the Republic of Moldova have the same access to education as Moldovan children as per Law No. 274 on the integration of foreigners (2011). In addition, migrants awarded international protection or political asylum in the Republic of Moldova have access to social housing through national integration programmes.

The Integration Centre for Foreigners Southern Regional Directorate (ICFS) established in Cahul in 2017, under the national General Inspectorate for Migration (GIM) (former Bureau of Migration and Asylum), serves as a local migration information desk and provides integration services to migrants in the municipality. Language and integration courses and extracurricular activities for migrants are provided by ICFS, the Cahul Municipal Town Hall and the Cahul Municipal Council. GIM has signed agreements with the Law Centre of Advocates, and its territorial representatives function as support units in legal counselling, information and training.¹⁰

The establishment of local mechanisms to provide migrants with legal services or advice; the development of a policy and campaigns to combat hate crimes, xenophobia, and exclusion and promote the integration and engagement of expatriated Moldovans and refugees from Ukraine in local development; and measures to assist those who wish to emigrate are considered areas with potential for further development.

Whole-of-government approach

Central-level authorities in the Republic of Moldova are responsible for developing national migration programmes/strategies, while local governments have the main responsibility of applying the adopted strategies. GIM is responsible for migration, asylum, statelessness, readmission and the integration of foreigners.

ICFS operates a hotline in Cahul to provide information to migrants and refugees, and provides brochures in multiple languages (Romanian, Ukrainian, Russian, English and French) on various migration-related topics such as migrants' rights. Furthermore, in coordination with IOM, local authorities operate an information centre in Cahul (2022), which advises and assists refugees, third-country nationals, and Moldovan citizens.

The formulation of a migration strategy vision defined in local planning and/or programmatic documents and the involvement of local authorities in the collection, utilization and publication of migration data, as well as establishing a coordination mechanism at the local level on migration issues are considered areas with potential for development.

Partnerships

The Cahul Municipal Town Hall engages with the Association of ReUnited Cahuleans on diaspora-related issues and has made efforts to engage civil society organizations in policymaking. The municipality cooperates on migration issues with United Nations agencies, for example, through the operation of the information centre in Cahul with IOM, and by co-leading the Cahul Local Refugee Coordination Forum with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

¹⁰ Information was presented by GIM upon request on 31 July 2023.

The municipality of Cahul does not have any bilateral programmes for city-to-city cooperation within the Republic of Moldova or internationally on migration-related issues. The establishment of mechanisms for formal and sustainable engagement with diaspora and migrant associations, the private sector or social partners when developing local policies and strategies is another area with potential for development.

Well-being of migrants

In response to the increase in the number of Ukrainian refugees arriving in Cahul since February 2022, the National Employment Agency has introduced measures in the municipality to help refugees get employment. For example, in March 2022, as a derogation from the general rule, it directed refugees to workplaces, the measure being promoted through the Commission for Exceptional Situations (CES) as a support measure.

The establishment of formal programmes at the local level that promote the ethical recruitment of migrant workers is an area for further improvement. Additionally, there are no assessments to monitor the local labour market demand for immigrants or the effects of emigration on the local labour market, and there are few local opportunities to validate and certify their skills/competences gained abroad. The provision of economic empowerment for small-business operations, measures to promote the ethical recruitment of migrants, and local community development projects supporting social infrastructure are considered areas with potential for development.

Mobility dimension of crises

There are communications systems in place to receive and distribute information during crises, operated by CES of Cahul and the Directorate of Emergency Situations Cahul. In February 2022,¹¹ CES of Cahul set up a Crisis Cell to manage the inflow of Ukrainian refugees, and this was still operational at the time of writing.

Cahul's emergency management framework includes general measures to provide assistance to the population during crises, but it does not contain measures to assist migrants. The development of an environmental/climate change policy that considers human mobility and the inclusion of measures in recovery-related strategies for the reintegration of displaced populations are considered areas with potential for development.

Safe, orderly and regular migration

The municipality of Cahul facilitated the orderly movement of Ukrainian refugees through the installation of the Cahul Crisis Cell. During its existence from February 2022 until March 2023, the Cell coordinated all aspects of managing the inflow of refugees, such as housing, food distribution and medical care.

Local authorities cooperate with the Livelihoods and Inclusion Working Group, set up in 2022 by the Government of the Republic of Moldova and UNHCR to facilitate the arrival of refugee populations under the jurisdiction of the Congress of Local Authorities from Moldova (Congresul Autorităților Locale din Moldova, CALM).

The regular implementation of programmes to train public servants and members of Cahul's police in issues related to migrant populations and their rights, and the implementation of measures to combat labour exploitation are considered areas with potential for development.

¹¹ More information on the Crisis Cell is available in this [article](#) from *Provincial*.



CONTEXT

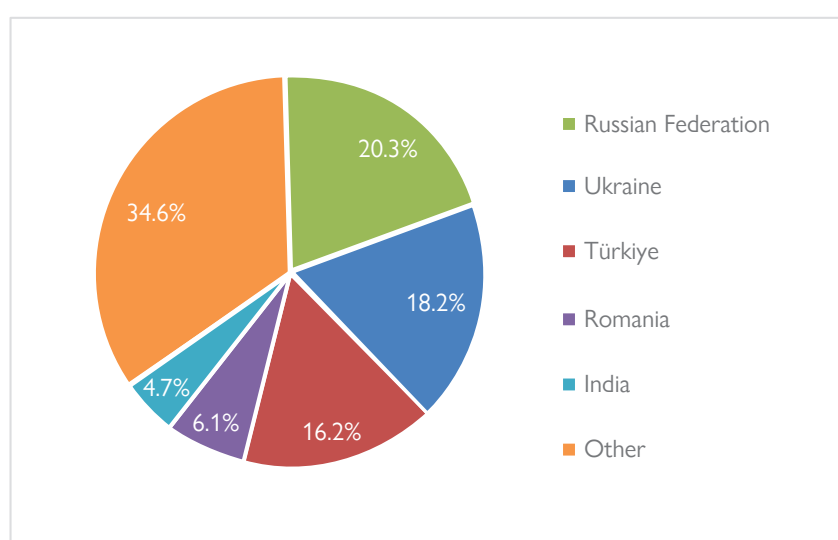
Migration trends

In the Republic of Moldova, there are two distinct methods of estimating migration. The first method focuses on international migration¹² and is undertaken by the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) using border-crossing data provided by the General Inspectorate of Border Police. The second method is based on authorized migration¹³ and is calculated based on information provided by the Public Services Agency. Immigration data in this approach are presented using data from the General Inspectorate for Migration (GIM)¹⁴ regarding residence permits issued to foreigners.

Accordingly, NBS estimated that there were 68,356 immigrants in the Republic of Moldova in 2021 (65,171 in 2020), constituting 2.6 per cent (2.5% in 2020) of the country's population (NBS, 2022). NBS does not provide statistics on the number of immigrants in the municipality of Cahul, but it gives the number of immigrants in Cahul District in 2020 as 2,279, representing 2.7 per cent of the district's population (ibid.).¹⁵

According to GIM data, there were 21,933 immigrants in the country at the end of 2021, as estimated based on the authorized migration approach, of whom 20,229 had residence permits: 7,818 permanent residence permits and 12,411 temporary residence permits.

Figure 1. Main countries of origin of immigrants arriving in the Republic of Moldova (2022)



Source: NBS of the Republic of Moldova.

GIM data show that in 2022, 5,928 immigrants arrived in the Republic of Moldova (4,186 in 2021) (see Figure 1 for the distribution of nationalities).¹⁶ According to the Bureau of Migration and Asylum's Extended Migration Profile 2017–2021, in 2021 64 per cent of them were men. Additionally, 60 per cent of immigrants

¹² "Emigrants" are people who emigrate abroad for a period of at least 12 months. "Emigration" is the action by which a person who previously had usual residence in the territory of the Republic of Moldova ceases to have usual residence in the territory of the country for a period of at least 12 months. "Immigrants" are people immigrating to the Republic of Moldova for a period of at least 12 months. "Immigration" is the action by which a person establishes their usual residence in the territory of a State for a period of at least 12 months, after having previously had their usual residence in another State. See the [National Bureau of Statistics \(NBS\) of the Republic of Moldova's glossary](#) for more information.

¹³ "Emigrants" are people who have withdrawn their residence visa and declared long-term or permanent emigration from the country, known in the country as "permanent emigration". "Immigrants" are foreigners (including stateless persons) who are residing in the Republic of Moldova with valid residence permits. See: Ministry of Internal Affairs, 2022a.

¹⁴ In January 2023, the Bureau of Migration and Asylum of the Republic of Moldova was reorganized into the General Inspectorate for Migration (GIM).

¹⁵ Cahul District includes the municipality of Cahul as well as numerous smaller settlements.

¹⁶ See the NBS web page on [immigrants by country of emigration, year and purpose of arrival for 2021](#).

have completed secondary specialized studies or higher education or held scientific degrees. The main reasons for their arrival are work opportunities or to reunite with family, which account for approximately 80 per cent of immigrants (Ministry of Internal Affairs, 2022a and 2023). A total of 97 immigrants arrived in Cahul District in 2022 (129 in 2021), 45 of them female and 52 of them male; and 65 of the 97 immigrants resided in an urban area, i.e. in the municipality of Cahul.¹⁷

The negative migration balance in the Republic of Moldova, estimated by NBS, increased in 2021 with -45,413 people (-7,196 people in 2020).¹⁸ In 2021, the number of emigrants registered was 113,769, estimated at 4.4 per cent of the population with usual residence¹⁹ (in 2020, 72,367²⁰ people emigrated from the country, representing 2.8 per cent of the country's population (NBS, 2022), and down from the 2019 figure of 153,286 (ibid.)). The Republic of Moldova has one of the highest emigration rates in the world, with the population of Government-controlled areas decreasing from 3.3 million to 2.8 million between the 2004 and 2014 censuses (NBS, 2017). IOM estimates that more than a quarter of Moldovan citizens live outside the country.

There were 2,535 emigrants from Cahul District in 2020 according to NBS estimations, down from 5,325 in 2019, and representing 3 per cent of the district's population (NBS, 2022).²¹

In 2021, 1,103 internal migrants arrived in Cahul District, while 1,189 internal migrants left. Also in 2021, there were 46,919 internal migrants in the Republic of Moldova, based on changes in domicile.²² Internal migration balance is positive in the municipality of Cahul and negative in the rural localities of the district (NBS, 2022:41–43).

Data on authorized emigration show that in 2022, 3,271 emigrants left the Republic of Moldova (1,618 men and 1,653 women). It should be noted that this number refers to the Moldovan emigrants who changed their permanent domicile abroad, which is a small portion of other categories of Moldovan emigrants. The main destination countries (arranged based on decreasing percentages) were Germany, the Russian Federation, the United States of America and Israel.²³

Immigration into the Republic of Moldova was negligible from 1991 until 2022, before the war in Ukraine prompted large numbers of Ukrainians to enter the country (Dunmore and Odobescu, 2022). Between February 2022 and July 2023, more than 880,976 people entered the Republic of Moldova through the Moldovan–Ukrainian State border (it should be noted that over 2,400,000 foreign citizens entered the Republic of Moldova through all border sectors during the mentioned period). A part of those who entered through the Moldovan–Ukrainian State border stayed in the country temporarily; as of July 2023, there were 93,154 Ukrainian refugees in the country.²⁴

GIM reported that during the period from 1 March 2023 to 31 July 2023, there were 15,700 people who pre-registered for temporary protection, with 9,619 identity documents issued to beneficiaries of temporary protection (including 3,204 minors). Out of the total number documented, 7,002 were Ukrainian citizens – specifically, 3,412 had the right of permanent residence, and 3,590 were Ukrainian citizens with temporary residence rights. By 31 July 2023, a total of 1,599 individuals were registered in the asylum system: 199 were refugees, 308 were beneficiaries of humanitarian protection, and 1,092 were asylum-seekers.²⁵

¹⁷ In Cahul District, there was only one urban settlement – Cahul. See: NBS, 2022:9.

¹⁸ The year 2020 was not typical because of the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2019, the negative migration balance was 37,093.

¹⁹ See the NBS web page on [international migration by age groups, backgrounds and sexes, 2014–2021](#).

²⁰ This refers to the number of Moldovan citizens who left the Republic of Moldova in 2020 alone (based on the usual residence methodology, i.e. their absence from the Republic of Moldova for at least 12 months).

²¹ No gender, age or destination country data are available.

²² The data are not disaggregated based on gender or age, and there are no internal migration stock data. See: NBS, 2022.

²³ See the NBS web page on [emigrants by year, country of destination, gender and age group for 2021](#).

²⁴ This is from GIM statistical data on the number of foreign persons who entered the Republic of Moldova in the period 24 February 2022 to 23 July 2023, presented for report upon request on 31 July 2023. The border sectors are Moldovan–Ukrainian, Moldovan–Romanian and air.

²⁵ See the [GIM weekly statistics for 1 March 2023 to 31 July 2023](#).

According to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), in 2022 the Republic of Moldova had 105,374 refugees under UNHCR's mandate and 3,620 asylum-seekers, compared to only 349 and 56 respectively in 2021.²⁶

No public data on the number of Moldovan migrants returning to Cahul was available from NBS²⁷ or other relevant sources (IOM, 2021).

Administrative structure

The territory of the Republic of Moldova is organized, from an administrative perspective, into administrative–territorial units at different levels: villages (communes) and towns (municipalities) constitute the first level, while districts, the municipality of Chisinau and the municipality of Balti constitute the second level – with the autonomous territorial unit of Gagauzia having a special level of administration. A village is an administrative–territorial unit that includes the rural population, while a commune is an administrative–territorial unit consisting of two or more villages. A town is an administrative–territorial unit where the majority of the workforce is engaged in non-agricultural activities, with a diversified level of facilities and equipment; some towns can be designated as municipalities. A municipality is an urban-type locality with a distinct role in the country's economic, sociocultural, scientific, political and administrative life. It features significant industrial and commercial structures, as well as institutions in the fields of education, health care and culture (see the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova's Law No. 764 of 27 December 2001). Districts and municipalities contain both cities and villages.^{28,29} The Republic of Moldova is divided into 32 districts,³⁰ 13 municipalities (including Balti and Cahul)³¹ and 2 regions with special status.³²

The 32 districts and 2 of the municipalities (Chisinau and Balti) constitute the second level of local government authority. These units are divided into first-level territorial units (towns and villages), which liaise with their respective second-level units regarding budgeting and other financial issues.³³

According to Article 59(1) of Law No. 436 on local public administration (2006, updated in 2022), the deliberative body of the public administration of the municipality of Cahul is the Municipal Council; executive power is held by the Mayor of Cahul. The “town hall” is defined as a structure that assists the mayor in executing their duties. According to Article 5, local public authority bodies subject to local autonomy are the councils as deliberative bodies and mayors as executives. Article 59(2) states that the Municipal Council coordinates the working of the constituent settlements' councils.

The municipality of Cahul is the centre of Cahul *Rayon* (district), which has a separate District Council, Municipal Council and Municipal Town Hall. The municipality of Cahul – the focus of this MGI assessment – is the only urban settlement in the district.³⁴

²⁶ See: UNHCR, 2022.

²⁷ See the NBS web page on [population and demographic processes](#).

²⁸ Read more on the [administrative–territorial organization of the Republic of Moldova](#) on its official website.

²⁹ See the European Committee of the Regions' page on the [Republic of Moldova](#).

³⁰ These are Anenii Noi, Basarabasca, Briceni, Cahul, Calarași, Cantemir, Causeni, Cimislia, Criuleni, Donduseni, Drochia, Dubasari, Edinet, Falesti, Floresti, Glodeni, Hincești, Ialoveni, Leova, Nisporeni, Ocnita, Orhei, Rezina, Rișcani, Singerei, Soldanești, Soroca, Stefan Voda, Straseni, Taraclia, Telenesti and Ungheni.

³¹ These are Balti, Bender, Cahul, Ceadir-Lunga, Chisinau, Comrat, Edinet, Hincești, Orhei, Soroca, Strășeni, Tiraspol and Ungheni.

³² These are the autonomous territorial units of Gagauzia and Transnistria.

³³ See footnote 28 (official website of the Republic of Moldova).

³⁴ See the Cahul District Council's web page on the [passport of the district](#).

Competencies of the local government of Cahul

<p>Level of decentralization of local authorities</p>	<p>In 2012, the Government of the Republic of Moldova published a National Decentralization Strategy; and decentralization and ensuring local autonomy are objectives of the Strategy for the Reform of the Public Administration in the Republic of Moldova 2023–2030.^{35,36}</p> <p>Section 2, Article 14 of Law No. 436 on local public administration states that the Cahul Municipal Council has responsibility for setting deadlines and ways to pay local taxes; the administration of local government properties and public services; making decisions on local infrastructure; creating local institutions, companies and non-governmental organizations; cooperating with other local authorities to conduct internal audits, as well as with domestic and foreign local authorities; deciding its own organigram and salaries; and setting the statute of the settlement. Other competencies include making decisions concerning the local budget, ensuring that gender equality is respected in policies and decisions, approving studies and programmes for socioeconomic and other developments, contributing to public order and social assistance, deciding on setting up community mediators where compact or mixed Romani communities exist, deciding on the specialist for children’s protection, and organizing public consultations on local decisions.</p> <p>According to Article 5 of the same Law, the local public authority bodies subject to local autonomy are the councils as deliberative bodies and mayors as executive bodies. The “town hall” is defined as a structure that assists the mayor in executing their duties. Article 6(3) states that, except where the law states otherwise, there is no subordinated position between local and central authorities and between first- and second-level administration.</p>
<p>The competencies of municipal authorities in relation to migration</p>	<p>While local authorities – mayors and local councils – are not specifically responsible for migration-related policymaking,³⁷ they play a role in implementing migration policy at the local level through the delivery of public services to the general public, including migrants. They provide social services, social assistance, housing and health care to the general public, including migrants, though the Law on local public administration does not explicitly assign them any policymaking competencies in relation to migration.</p> <p>Article 29 of Law No. 436 tasks mayors with organizing studies on social services, then developing and proposing programmes to develop these social services. Article 14 discusses the competencies of local councils, including the construction and maintenance of social and medical infrastructure, the implementation of protection and social assistance measures, ensuring the protection of children’s rights, deciding on the registration of socially vulnerable persons in need of improved housing conditions, and setting up and ensuring the functioning of charitable institutions of local interest. The Law does not explicitly mention migration as a distinct sector of the local public administration’s responsibility; however, migrants are covered by the local legislation as part of the general population.</p>

³⁵ See the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova’s Law No. 68 of 5 April 2012 to know more about the 2012 National Decentralization Strategy.

³⁶ Read more on the Strategy for the Reform of the Public Administration in the Republic of Moldova 2023–2030 in this [article](#) on the website of the State Chancellery of the Republic of Moldova.

³⁷ It should be noted that local authorities are part of the policy consultation process through the Congress of Local Authorities from Moldova (CALM).

Migration-related laws, strategies and plans are created at the national level, as migration-related policymaking falls under the competence of the national Government, as stated in Clause O of Article 4 of Law No. 136 of 7 June 2017. Related issues, such as health and education, are not delegated to the local level either. Clause C of the same Law preserves health care for the national Government, while clause G does the same for education.

Government Decision No. 808 (2022), adopting the Programme on Managing Migration Flow, Asylum and the Integration of Foreigners for 2022–2025, assigns responsibility for its execution to the Ministry of Internal Affairs. The main goal of the Programme is to facilitate the development of an integrated system for the management of migration, outlining four main objectives: regulating migration flows, strengthening and adjusting the asylum and statelessness system, implementing and strengthening the mechanisms for the integration of foreigners, and strengthening the State's response capacity to the increased influx of people at the State border.

Agencies working on migration issues at the local level are territorial subdivisions of national institutions and are not local authorities. These include the South Regional Directorate of GIM located in Cahul, known until January 2023 as the Bureau of Migration and Asylum (an administrative authority under the Ministry of Internal Affairs, responsible for ensuring, within the bounds of the law, the implementation of State policies in the fields of migration, asylum, statelessness and foreigner integration, as well as the application of relevant legislation pertaining to these domains³⁸), the Cahul territorial subdivision of the National Employment Agency, and the southern subdivision of the Border Police.^{39,40}

Additionally, the Territorial Houses of Social Insurance, which are structural subdivisions of the National Social Insurance House,⁴¹ are decentralized public services that provide social insurance services and serve the population at the local level. These decentralized public services also include the territorial agencies and services of the National Health Insurance Company, with responsibilities for organizing, implementing and directing the compulsory health insurance process, all of which are included in the unified programme of mandatory health insurance.⁴²

The Bureau for Diaspora Relations is the national body operating under the State Chancellery that coordinates diaspora-related policy.⁴³

³⁸ See Government Decision No. 16 of 11 January 2023 on the organization and functioning of GIM.

³⁹ See the National Employment Agency's web page on its subdivisions.

⁴⁰ See the Border Police of the Republic of Moldova's web page on its southern subdivision.

⁴¹ See the National Social Insurance House's web page on the Territorial Houses of Social Insurance.

⁴² More information is available on the website of the National Health Insurance Company.

⁴³ More information is available on the website of the Bureau for Diaspora Relations.

<p>Local financing mechanisms and the restrictions on their use</p>	<p>Article 6 of Law No. 397 on local public finances (2003, updated 2021) states that local (village and city) budgets receive financing from real estate tax; business licences; income tax from retail, local and special taxes; and direct income from the authority's own real estate. In addition, some personal income tax can be retained by the local authority: in the case of villages and cities, the whole sum is retained by the local authority, while municipalities and cities that are district seats can keep 50 per cent. Other sources of income are general and special-purpose transfers from the State budget, grants to sustain the local budget, and external grants given for specific projects.</p> <p>Article 11 of the same Law states that personal income tax money not withheld locally flows into a national fund, with the goal of sustaining local authorities, which serves as the base for general-purpose transfers. Article 12 regulates special-purpose transfers and stipulates that these finance education (preschool, primary, general secondary, special and complementary), road network infrastructure, competencies delegated to the local level, capital investments and other special measures. Special-purpose funds not used for their respective purposes must be returned to the State budget or will be deducted from the next annual special-purpose transfer.</p>
<p>Local participation in the formulation of migration policy</p>	<p>The Programme on Managing Migration Flow, Asylum and the Integration of Foreigners for 2022–2025⁴⁴ is based on the Ministry of Internal Affairs' 2022–2030 Internal Affairs Development Strategy⁴⁵ and replaced the National Strategy on Migration and Asylum 2011–2020 (2011). The Programme was developed by the Ministry of Internal Affairs, with input from GIM, including its territorial directorates, but the document does not mention other local participation in the formulation of the policy.</p> <p>Local authorities are part of the Republic of Moldova's Inter-institutional Coordination Committee on Migration and Asylum (established in 2010 and updated in 2018 and 2022)⁴⁶ and the Inter-institutional Coordination Committee on Diaspora, Migration and Development (established in 2017),⁴⁷ and they also participate in the policy consultation process through the Congress of Local Authorities from Moldova (CALM).⁴⁸</p>

⁴⁴ See Government Decision No. 808 of 23 November 2022 on the approval of the Programme on Managing Migration Flow, Asylum and the Integration of Foreigners for 2022–2025.

⁴⁵ See Government Decision No. 658 of 23 September 2022 on the approval of the Internal Affairs Development Strategy for the years 2022–2030.

⁴⁶ See Government Decision No. 947 of 3 October 2018 on the establishment of the Commission for coordinating activities in the field of migration and asylum (updated in 2022).

⁴⁷ See Government Decision No. 725 of 8 September 2017 on the Coordination Mechanism of State Policy in the field of diaspora, migration and development.

⁴⁸ More information is available on the web page of CALM.



KEY

FINDINGS



1

ADHERE TO INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS AND FULFIL MIGRANTS' RIGHTS

1.1. Migration governance: Examples of well-developed areas

Migrants in the municipality of Cahul have access to Government-funded health services based on national-level provisions. The Cahul District Hospital operates directly under the Ministry of Health. Law No. 411 on health protection (1995, updated in 2023) establishes the competences of local-level authorities, which include naming the leaders of local hospitals, organizing awareness campaigns, health-care assistance, approving and implementing local strategies to develop health-care services and provide health-care programmes, and taking measures to save lives during extraordinary situations, among others (Article 6).

Foreign citizens and stateless persons holding temporary residence who are employed or have residency for family reunification, studies, or humanitarian, voluntary or religious activities have the same rights and obligations regarding compulsory health insurance as Moldovan citizens, unless international treaties indicate otherwise. They must pay fixed annual fees, or individual health insurance contributions, as they apply to become citizens of the Republic of Moldova. Foreign nationals also benefit from free prehospital emergency medical care, regardless of their health insurance status. This is stipulated by Article 84(3) of Law No. 200 on the regime of foreigners (2010, updated in 2020). Furthermore, according to Article 19 of Law No. 274 on the integration of foreigners (2011, updated in 2022), migrant minors are entitled to the same level of access to medical services as Moldovan minors, and according to Article 16(2), beneficiaries of international protection who are participating in an integration programme obtain, during the course of the programme, the status of an insured person in the compulsory medical assistance insurance system.

Access to health care of beneficiaries of temporary protection is regulated by Ministry of Health Order No. 143 on medical services provided to beneficiaries of temporary protection (2023). This Order provides that a wide range of medical services is free for displaced persons from Ukraine at the request of the person or at their first consultation. Additionally, Order No. 142/54 (2023) establishes that registration can happen at the request of the person or at their first consultation, the person should live in the area for which the given doctor is responsible, and the right to medical services lasts as long as the temporary protection.⁴⁹

Migrants under the age of 18 who are legally residing in the Republic of Moldova have access to public primary and secondary education in the municipality of Cahul. Minors who do not possess all the necessary documents at the time of their enrolment in an educational institution are registered with the requirement to submit the necessary documents by their parents or legal representatives within a reasonable period, but no later than two months from the registration date. Minors who have obtained international protection receive, if necessary, for one school year, a free introductory course in the Romanian language for the purpose of integration into the education system, organized by the local public administration authorities. Therefore, their access is based on national-level provisions laid out in Article 19 of Law No. 274. Persons under international protection are exempt from this requirement. According to Order No. 178 (2022) of the Ministry of Education and Research of the Republic of Moldova, Ukrainian refugee minors have the right to education. The national Programme on Managing Migration Flow, Asylum and the Integration of Foreigners for 2022–2025, approved by Government Decision No. 808 (2022), has an objective (No. 4.3.3) of “[e]nsuring access to health, education and the labour market for displaced persons from Ukraine”, with the first quarter of 2024 as the deadline. In addition, the Programme has earmarked funding from the State budget and from participating authorities, including the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Education and Research.

⁴⁹ Both orders explicitly refer to Government Decision No. 21 on granting temporary protection to displaced persons from Ukraine (2023).

There have also been local initiatives to facilitate migrants' access to education in the municipality of Cahul, such as providing a suitable environment and infrastructure (access to rooms in schools with supervision and tools such as computers and the Internet) for Ukrainian refugee children taking part in online education through the Ukrainian education system. The General Directorate of Education of Cahul is the local competent authority in education matters. The Education Code of the Republic of Moldova, approved by the Parliament as Code No. 152 (2014, updated in 2022), details the competences of local government authorities in the field of education, which include ensuring that the legislation is respected, managing and monitoring local institutions, ensuring cooperation among the institutions, adding to schools' funds, delimiting circuits and making decisions on personnel (Article 142).

Language and integration courses and extracurricular activities for migrants are provided in the municipality of Cahul. The Integration Centre for Foreigners Southern Regional Directorate (ICFS), which sits in Cahul and falls under the national General Inspectorate for Migration (GIM), serves as a local immigration information desk and provides integration services to migrants in the municipality. ICFS was established in 2017, through Government Decision No. 553 (2017), and acts as a reception and information point for foreigners who have obtained a residence permit or a form of protection in the territory of the Republic of Moldova. Foreigners have access to integration measures, being able to request activities or inclusion in the programme depending on the category: sociocultural accommodation sessions (training in national values and traditions, and the political–administrative system of the Republic of Moldova); language courses; information on how to access the labour market, medical services and social protection measures; and guidance and professional training services in order to facilitate economic integration. Furthermore, according to Law No. 274, Article 19, minors have access to a one-year initiation programme into the Romanian language, free of charge and organized by the local school. Finally, since July 2022, the Luceafarul Children's Creation Centre, subordinated to the Cahul Municipal Town Hall and to the Cahul Municipal Council, has organized extracurricular activities for refugee women and children in the municipality, such as arts, handicrafts and sports.

Through Decision No. 21 (2022), the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection has set up the rules to operate temporary placement centres for refugees, including norms, rules connected to costs of operation, and forms to be filled for the beneficiaries. In February 2022, the Cahul District Council announced on its website that accommodation for 340 people was available in the municipality of Cahul for Ukrainian refugees.⁵⁰

In response to the increase in the number of Ukrainian refugees since February 2022, the Republic of Moldova has taken steps to ensure that existing child protection laws are applied to Ukrainian refugee children. A government website set up to help Ukrainian refugees⁵¹ includes a section on children, which lists existing legislation that also applies to refugee children. It states that Law No. 140 on special protection for children at risk and children separated from their parents (2013) applies to children irrespective of citizenship. The provisions are applied nationally, including in the municipality of Cahul, and are an addition to pre-existing national legislation, including Law No. 270 on asylum in the Republic of Moldova, Article 14 (2008), which stipulates that minors who request asylum, enjoying international protection, temporary protection or political asylum, are protected and have to be offered all the rights of children, regardless of whether they are accompanied or not.

⁵⁰ More information on the accommodation centres is available in this [article](#) from Accent TV.

⁵¹ Visit the portal dopomoga.gov.md for more information.

1.2. Areas with potential for further development

There are measures in place to help only individuals who wish to emigrate from Cahul to Bulgaria, Germany or Israel, based on the provisions of the three bilateral labour agreements implemented by the National Employment Agency (see details under [Section 4.1](#)). National bodies are responsible for providing support for emigration, but formal assistance is lacking for those who wish to emigrate. GIM has a web page on emigration, with a list of the required documents.⁵² Additionally, the Portal of Public Services, operated by the Electronic Governance Agency, which works under the State Chancellery, provides information on the required documents, tariffs, waiting time, process of appeal, and penalties.⁵³

Migrants in Cahul are provided, in an ad hoc manner, with legal services or advice. ICFS, together with the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, in 2017 organized a workshop in Cahul in order to instruct public officials of regional authorities on migrants' rights. ICFS also provides an English-language flyer of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the public association Law Centre of Advocates (Centrul de Drept al Avocaților, CDA), which sets out information about their legal assistance and counselling services for refugees, asylum-seekers and stateless persons.

CDA plays an active role in this context. GIM has three agreements signed with CDA, focusing on legal counselling regarding the asylum procedure, statelessness, temporary protection throughout the country, encompassing rights, obligations, interview preparation, court proceedings, etc.; monitoring operations at the State border; and assistance with the family reunification procedure. Additionally, starting in 2023, CDA has operated support units for the integration of foreigners in the integration centres in Balti, Cahul, Chisinau, Comrat and administrative line offices; and in localities where there are no GIM regional subdivisions, foreigners are informed through territorial representatives of CDA. Furthermore, CDA and GIM jointly provide ongoing training courses for the General Inspectorate of Border Police employees, judges and lawyers, along with distributing informative brochures about the asylum procedure, statelessness, legal status and more.

Furthermore, Law No. 200 states that where they are declared undesirables or are expelled, migrants housed in temporary placement centres for foreigners have the right to receive legal assistance. Article 84(13) of the same Law states that foreigners have the same rights and access to free legal counsel as Moldovans in judicial procedures, as regulated by Law No. 198 on legal aid guaranteed by the State (2007). This Law does not state whether local authorities have a role in offering legal services.

At the national level, Law No. 270 establishes the legal status of asylum-seekers and beneficiaries of international protection, temporary protection and political asylum, as well as the procedures for granting, terminating and cancelling protection. The development of a local policy or campaign against xenophobia and exclusion and promoting acceptance towards migrants and social cohesion is an area for further improvement. ICFS has the tasks of helping to reduce intercultural and interconfessional conflicts, and organizing sensitivity training involving the local public administration, according to the website of GIM. However, there is no indication that such training or similar measures have been implemented.

⁵² Visit the General Inspectorate for Migration's web page on [emigration](#) for more information.

⁵³ Visit the [Portal of Public Services](#) for more information.



2

FORMULATE POLICY USING EVIDENCE AND WHOLE-OF-GOVERNMENT APPROACH

2.1. Migration governance: Examples of well-developed areas

Central-level authorities in the Republic of Moldova are responsible for developing national migration programmes/strategies, while local authorities are consulted during the process and have the main responsibility of applying the adopted strategies at the local level.⁵⁴ National-level bodies with a local presence in Cahul include the Integration Centre for Foreigners Southern Regional Directorate (ICFS), the Border Police's branch for the southern region and the National Employment Agency's territorial subdivision. The Programme on Managing Migration Flow, Asylum and the Integration of Foreigners for 2022–2025 was developed by the Ministry of Internal Affairs with input from the General Inspectorate for Migration (GIM) (2022), including its territorial directorates and subdivisions. The National Strategy on Migration and Asylum 2011–2020 (2011) does not foresee responsibilities of local-level authorities. However, Objective I – under Article 27 on “Informational assistance” – mentions providing informational assistance to authorities, including local ones, to help in efficient management “in the domain of migration and asylum”.

The national Programme clearly states in two of its strategic objectives the role of local authorities in implementing migration policy. Consequently, the third objective, which focuses on integrating foreigners, outlines specific actions for Regional Integration Centres for Foreigners (operating in Balti, Cahul and Comrat) to actively promote various integration activities. These activities include providing services, collaborating with central and local public administration authorities as well as civil society, establishing partnerships, engaging with host communities and creating a regional profile of the foreigner (Objective No. 3.3.2). Information sessions are also mentioned, aimed at both foreigners and representatives of central/local public administration authorities and civil society, as well as host communities.⁵⁵ Furthermore, the fourth objective of the Programme focuses on strengthening the State's ability to respond to the influx of people at the State border. In this context, the Programme aims to foster cooperation with local public administration authorities in order to address the socioeconomic, health and educational needs of displaced persons from Ukraine and promote their inclusion within the country (Objective No. 4.3.2).⁵⁶

Local authorities in Cahul participate in the formulation of migration and diaspora policies through their involvement in the Congress of Local Authorities from Moldova (CALM), where the Mayor of Cahul serves as a member of the board of directors.⁵⁷ This body represents the interests of the local public authorities and is regularly consulted during the policy development process in various fields, including in the field of migration. CALM is a member of both the Inter-institutional Coordination Committee on Diaspora, Migration and Development (DMD) and the Inter-institutional Coordination Committee on Migration and Asylum. Moreover, Cahul District actively participates in the implementation of the DMD concept; according to the Coordination Mechanism of State Policy in the field of DMD,

⁵⁴ The current trend is to mainstream migration in local plans, appointing focal points for migration and development, and supporting the formulation and implementation of migration-relevant measures. Visit the website of the [National Employment Agency](#) for more information.

⁵⁵ These sessions aim to promote cultural diversity, facilitate the integration process, identify common benefits, prevent intolerance and xenophobia, and ensure public order and national security (Objective No. 3.3.5).

⁵⁶ See Government Decision No. 808 of 23 November 2022 on the approval of the Programme on Managing Migration Flow, Asylum and the Integration of Foreigners for 2022–2025.

⁵⁷ The Congress of Local Authorities from Moldova (CALM) has been active from December 2020 until the time of writing. The mandate of the vice president of CALM begins from the moment of their appointment until the appointment of the new vice president under the terms of the CALM statute, with the exception of resignation and termination of the locally elected mandate before the term, in accordance with the provisions of the law. See [Article 24](#) of the CALM statute for more information.

approved in 2017, it has designated focal points at the policy and technical levels.⁵⁸ Cahul District is part of the government programmes,⁵⁹ and it successfully implements DAR 1+3 projects both in the district⁶⁰ and in the municipality of Cahul.⁶¹

Cahul's local authorities offer information to migrants. ICFS was set up in part "to provide long-term support to foreigners in the integration process, representing a single point for receiving applications for integration measures ... as well as a service oriented towards the majority local population in the long term" (see Government Decision No. 553 of 2017). ICFS is managed by GIM and operates a hotline to provide information to migrants and refugees, and provides brochures in multiple languages (Romanian, Ukrainian, Russian, English and French) on various migration-related topics such as migrants' rights and integration into Moldovan society. With IOM's support, Cahul operates an information centre in its municipality (established in 2022), which advises and assists refugees, third-country nationals and Moldovan citizens. In addition, the town hall, EU4Moldova: Startup City Cahul, and Bogdan Petriceicu Haşdeu State University operate a computer centre in Cahul that provide Internet access to refugees. Information is also available on the national website of GIM in Romanian and Russian (with limited information in English).⁶²

There are efforts to enhance vertical policy coherence on migration issues in Cahul, including through consultations with different levels of government. Law No. 239 on decisional transparency (2008, updated in 2016) states in Articles 11–12 that the authority responsible for the development of a decision-making project must consult with relevant parties, including citizens and associations. Consultations can take the form of public debates, public consultations, polling, referendums, expert advice, and permanent or temporary working groups.⁶³ Additionally, Cahul's ICFS is tasked with providing inter-institutional coordination in the region, as well as organizing information sessions for central and local government authorities. There is vertical consultation in GIM. The General Inspectorate periodically carries out trainings and consultations at the local level with the involvement of the actors responsible for the integration of foreigners, including for teachers of the Romanian language, sharing best practices with its territorial subdivisions. The Coordination Mechanism of State Policy in the field of DMD states that its fifth fundamental principle is horizontal and vertical coordination between all levels of government.

The meetings organized by the Diaspora Relations Bureau (Biroul Relații cu Diaspora, BRD) with district representatives can serve as practical examples of such vertical coordination efforts: the first retreat of local public authorities, beneficiaries of the DAR 1+3 programme;⁶⁴ the meeting of the Local DMD Committee in Cahul, with the participation of local public authorities (*autorităților publice locale*, APL), central public authorities, CALM and IOM representatives;⁶⁵ and the information session of APL representatives regarding the call for the launch of the DAR 1+3 Grants Programme in Cahul.⁶⁶

2.2. Areas with potential for further development

The integration of migration considerations in the local development strategy and sectoral plans in Cahul is an area with potential for development. The Urban Revitalization Programme of Cahul Municipality 2022–2025 (2022) mentions migration only in relation to the workforce in terms of emigration – especially among the working-age population – being a challenge to the city. The Local Operational Plan for the Development of Cahul as a Growth Pole 2022–2027 (2022) also discusses migration only in terms of it

⁵⁸ See this [article](#) from the Diaspora Relations Bureau (BRD) on the meeting of the Local Diaspora, Migration and Development Committee in Cahul.

⁵⁹ See BRD's web page on the [DOR \(Diasporă, Originii, Reveniri\)](#) programme.

⁶⁰ See this [article](#) from BRD on a new project implemented as part of the Diaspora Engagement Hub programme.

⁶¹ See this [article](#) from BRD on a mural project implemented through the DAR 1+3 programme.

⁶² The [website](#) provides details about entering the Republic of Moldova and lists rights and obligations of foreign citizens in the country.

⁶³ According to Article 11(2) of the Law, the consultation can be initiated by the proponent authority or by other authorities based on their competence, citizens and associations.

⁶⁴ See BRD's web page on [the first retreat of local public authorities, beneficiaries of the DAR 1+3 programme](#).

⁶⁵ See footnote 58 (BRD).

⁶⁶ See BRD's web page on [the information session of APL representatives regarding the call for the launch of the DAR 1+3 Grants Programme](#).

posing a demographic challenge. The draft Socioeconomic Development Strategy for Cahul District for 2023–2030 (2023) refers to migration only as a challenge for the district in the form of an emigrating workforce and decreasing population.

Government Decision No. 725 on the Coordination Mechanism of State Policy in the field of diaspora, migration and development (2017) set up the national Inter-institutional Coordination Committee on DMD as well as a network of the focal points to coordinate ministries, and conduct coherent and participatory monitoring and evaluation processes related to the diaspora and development.⁶⁷ According to Government Decision No. 725, such committees were recommended to be organized at the local level. The objectives of these committees are to ensure coherence between national and local policies in the field of DMD, to standardize them in accordance with the national framework of the existing procedures for the development as well as monitoring and evaluation of local policies in the field of DMD, and to strengthen the capacities of local public authorities to develop policy/strategy documents on sustainable local development with the integration of the DMD concept. In 2021, the Committee had 2 national-level meetings and 10 local ones, including in Gagauzia and in Taraclia District. The DMD's 2021 activity report does not mention the municipality of Cahul. Yet the involvement of the municipality of Cahul in such coordination mechanism is an area for further development.

The involvement of local authorities in the collection, utilization and publication of migration data is another area with potential for development. To produce data on migration, the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) collects administrative data from the General Inspectorate of Border Police related to the State border-crossing points and the Public Services Agency. NBS (2022) published *Territorial Statistics 2022*, including the number of immigrants in Cahul District in 2020 compared with 2019, by urban and rural locations, as well as local-level data on emigrants from Cahul District. There is no data available for the municipality of Cahul (*ibid.*) and no gender or country of origin disaggregation. NBS operates the Regional Centre for Statistics South, based in the municipality of Cahul and serving the whole southern region. These estimations have improved the National Statistical System's data quality and accuracy in measuring international migration. However, further integration of local authorities into the data production, as well as strengthening cooperation on data exchange among institutions managing migration databases remain as areas with potential for further development.

⁶⁷ See this [article](#) from BRD on the meeting of the Inter-institutional Coordination Committee on Diaspora, Migration and Development.

3

ENGAGE WITH PARTNERS TO ADDRESS MIGRATION AND RELATED ISSUES

3.1. Migration governance: Examples of well-developed areas

Local authorities engage with members of the diaspora in the implementation of development programmes and policies and have made efforts to engage with civil society organizations. In collaboration with international partners, a hometown association (HTA) called ReUnited Cahuleans was established in 2020 to engage the diaspora originating from Cahul in local development.

The town hall and international partners support the Association of ReUnited Cahuleans, aiming at engaging the diaspora originating from Cahul in local development. In partnership with the local community and local public authorities, this HTA from Cahul actively contributes to the conceptualization and implementation of local development projects, and to setting development priorities and organizing various events in the municipality. For instance, in November 2022, a project named Homesickness involved creating a 1,000 m² mural at the entrance to the town to try to attract the diaspora home. It was funded by the Government, the Cahul Municipal Town Hall, local residents, members of the diaspora, the Association of ReUnited Cahuleans and the Swiss Government.

The Association was also consulted during the formulation of the Development Strategy of the Youth Sector of Cahul Municipality 2023–2028 (2022). Furthermore, *Cahul: The Cultural–Creative Capital of the Republic of Moldova 2022–2030* (2022), adopted by the Cahul Municipal Town Hall, mentions Cahul’s diaspora as a partner for a project titled “Stimulating economic agents within the Gala of Laureates for the most valuable sponsorships and investments in the development of the cultural sector”.

The municipality of Cahul cooperates on migration issues with IOM and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). As mentioned before, with the support of IOM, local authorities operate an information centre in Cahul, which advises and assists refugees, third-country nationals and Moldovan citizens. In 2022, employees from the General Inspectorate for Emergency Situations in Cahul participated in the workshop “Mass Shelter Capability” organized by IOM. Also, with IOM’s support, local authorities in Cahul implement several workstreams to address some of the refugees’ needs, such as temporary accommodation; dissemination of relevant information and referrals; and distribution of vouchers or direct cash assistance, non-food items, and livelihood and integration services for refugees, third-country nationals and local communities. With the onset of the Ukrainian refugee crisis in 2022, the Cahul Municipal Town Hall introduced the Cahul Local Refugee Coordination Forum in cooperation with UNHCR. The Coordination Forum has a Protection Working Group intended to provide documentation and strengthen access to rights and services for refugees in the country. It meets on a monthly basis and is co-led by the Cahul Municipal Council and UNHCR.

3.2. Areas with potential for further development

Formal engagement with migrant associations, the private sector or social partners when developing local policies and strategies is an area with potential for development. There is no mention of cooperation with these stakeholders on migration-related policy in the Urban Revitalization Programme of Cahul Municipality 2022–2025 (2022), the Local Operational Plan for the Development of Cahul as a Growth Pole 2022–2027 (2022), the Vision, Strategic Development Directions and Action Plan of Cahul Municipality 2019–2025 (2019), or the Development Strategy of the Youth Sector of Cahul Municipality 2023–2028. Nonetheless, there is cooperation with the private sector through the territorial subdivisions of national institutions, such as the General Inspectorate for Migration (GIM) and the National Employment Agency (NEA).

For example, following the increase in the number of Ukrainian refugees in Cahul after February 2022, job fairs were organized by the territorial subdivision of NEA in Cahul, supported by GIM.

The establishment of bilateral cooperation programmes on migration between the municipality of Cahul and other cities/municipalities within the Republic of Moldova is another area for further development. There have been some collaboration initiatives – for example, in December 2021, representatives of the southern region towns of Leova, Cantemir, and Cimislia and the village of Salcuta visited the municipality of Cahul as part of a programme called “Inform, empower and act! Civil society for better budgetary governance in the Republic of Moldova”, which was active between February 2019 and January 2022 and funded by the European Union and the Konrad Adenauer Foundation.⁶⁸

The municipality of Cahul is not yet involved in bilateral programmes for city-to-city international cooperation on migration-related issues. Nevertheless, Cahul has collaboration agreements with municipalities in other countries such as Iasi and Constanta in Romania, Port-sur-Saône in France, and Carmagnola in Italy,⁶⁹ but the agreements do not cover migration-related issues; they mainly focus on economic development and governance. Another example of international city-to-city cooperation was implemented by the Cahul Business Incubator,⁷⁰ a public institution founded in 2017 that organized a study visit in July 2022 to the Bulgarian city of Dobrich, then subsequently received a delegation from Dobrich. The objective was to strengthen business relations between the cities.

⁶⁸ Read more on the programme's [website](#).

⁶⁹ See the [full list of cities](#) on the website of the Cahul Municipal Town Hall.

⁷⁰ The [Cahul Business Incubator](#) is a public institution, overseen centrally by the Organization for Entrepreneurship Development of the Ministry of Economic Development and Digitalization, which manages a local network of business incubators in the Republic of Moldova. Though serving the local population, it does not depend on local authorities.



4

ADVANCE THE SOCIOECONOMIC WELL-BEING OF MIGRANTS AND SOCIETY

4.1. Migration governance: Examples of well-developed areas

Immigrants with the required documentation can apply for jobs at the Cahul territorial subdivision of the National Employment Agency (NEA). At the same time, Government Decision No. 808 (2022) provides for the revision of the mechanisms for the integration of foreigners, including those sensitive to gender, until the end of 2025. The General Inspectorate for Migration (GIM) officials visit companies, including those based in Cahul where migrant workers are employed, and inform them about their rights, obligations and integration opportunities. In 2021, NEA set up an online module on labour migration on the web platform dedicated to employment in the Republic of Moldova.⁷¹ The module serves as an open and reliable source of information addressing Moldovan labour migrants' information needs. The web platform provides relevant information in Romanian and Russian on the conditions of entry, stay, and employment in and departure from the over 40 countries of destination for Moldovan migrants.⁷² There are active bilateral labour agreements concerning temporary work permits for Moldovans in place with Bulgaria (2018), Germany (2021) and Israel (2013).⁷³ Additionally, NEA offers assistance and pre-departure support to those wishing to work abroad temporarily through the Agency's local offices around the country.

In response to the increase in the number of Ukrainian refugees arriving in Cahul since February 2022, the Government of the Republic of Moldova has introduced measures to help refugees find employment. In March 2022, NEA directed refugees to workplaces and listed 177 workplaces for Ukrainians, while the Ministry of Internal Affairs dropped the requirement for a temporary residence permit. A job fair organized in Cahul in December 2022 by NEA, with support from GIM's Integration Centre for Foreigners Southern Regional Directorate, included refugee participants. More than 480 vacancies were available during the fair, and 650 visitors attended. NEA also provides refugees with information on workplaces, employer contact information, and guidance and support regarding the employment process. To support refugee integration in the Republic of Moldova, including in Cahul, since 2022 IOM has disseminated information about available jobs, training and business opportunities, financial support for vocational training in skills with high market demand, grants for small enterprises and businesses that are planning to expand and create new jobs, grants for communities hosting refugees, microgrants for people who are planning to be self-employed, and financial support for learning new professional skills. For example, in April 2023, NEA published information for employers on how to notify the Agency when employing Ukrainian refugees. According to the data available from the beginning of the period of the exceptional situation in the Republic of Moldova on 17 August 2023, NEA received notifications from economic agents about the employment of 1,145 citizens from Ukraine, of which 826 are women and 319 are men.⁷⁴

In addition, there are some measures in Cahul District to promote access to employment. In 2019, the International Labour Organization (ILO) – in partnership with the Cahul District Council, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, the National Confederation of Employers and the National Trade Union Confederation – launched in Cahul District the Local Employment Partnership (LEP) initiative. LEP Cahul envisages the involvement of about 20 public and private partners at the national and local levels to create and formalize jobs and start-ups in sectors with job-creation potential.

⁷¹ Visit the portal www.angajat.md for more information.

⁷² Each country of destination has an individual profile with relevant information on the online platform, which is generated upon the user request depending on the selected country profile and provides information on emigration.

⁷³ See a list of these [signed bilateral labour agreements](#) on the website of the National Employment Agency (NEA).

⁷⁴ See this [article](#) from NEA on updated information about the notifications of economic agents regarding the employment of citizens of Ukraine.

There are national programmes promoting access to work for returning migrants. Between 2020 and 2021, NEA and ILO ran a project called “Reactivating social dialogue for an effective response to COVID-19 in Moldova and applying it to job creation through Local Employment Partnerships”, which focused on the unskilled returning migrant workforce along with another target group. In addition, the draft National Programme Facilitating the Return and Reintegration of the Citizens of the Republic of Moldova Involved in the Migration Process 2022–2026 is currently being developed by the Bureau for Diaspora Relations. As part of its objectives, the Programme aims to promote the integration of returnees and their families into the community by ensuring access to education, health and employment support services, with the local office of NEA playing a primary role.

4.2. Areas with potential for further development

There is no local-level assessment for monitoring the local labour market demand for immigrants or the local labour supply and the effects of emigration on the local labour market. NEA and its territorial subdivisions operate directly under the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, without local authority involvement. The Cahul territorial subdivision of NEA does not have public regional statistics or monitoring. The labour immigration of foreigners takes place according to the needs of the national economy for skilled labour. Monitoring is based on Law No. 200 on the regime of foreigners (2010, updated in 2020), according to which the Government has to maintain a list of priority occupations. However, this list is not disaggregated according to regional levels, as shown by the most recent edition (2018).⁷⁵

The involvement of the local government in applying measures that promote ethical recruitment for migrant workers is an area with potential for development. There are national regulations applying to the municipality of Cahul, such as Law No. 105 on the promotion of employment and unemployment insurance (2018), that promote the ethical recruitment of migrant workers, advocating the safe, orderly and regular labour migration of Moldovan citizens. Articles 57–63 establish new rules for private recruitment agencies and provide terms under which these agencies can operate. The Law also includes measures to protect citizens during the entire migration cycle by mandating the State Labour Inspectorate to monitor the recruitment practices of private recruiting agencies and apply penalties for non-compliance with ethical recruitment regulations.

The implementation of local programmes to promote the financial inclusion of migrants and their families, particularly when they are remittance senders/receivers, is another area with potential for development. There are national programmes in place with focus on Moldovans living abroad, but the local administration does not have an active role. For example, since 2014, the Moldovan and Italian postal services have had an agreement that makes sending remittances home cheaper (Moldovan Post Service, 2014). The Programme for Attracting Remittances to the Economy (PARE 1+1) was called for by Government Decision No. 972 (2010), seeking to incentivize investing remittances by matching funds sent home. Furthermore, the national Diaspora Succeeds at Home Programme (*Diaspora Acasa Reuseste*, or DAR 1+3) funding opportunity was approved by Government Decision No. 801 (2018) for the diaspora and local stakeholders. The 2023 edition of DAR is also directed to local governments of villages and cities in cooperation with organizations and members of the diaspora, both living abroad and returnees.

⁷⁵ The criteria regarding the types of employment to be included do not include regions, only national indicators: “1) the number of vacancies registered at the National Employment Agency exceeds 100, and replacement cannot be satisfied within one month; 2) the ratio of the number of registered vacancies and the number of unemployed registered in these professions is at least 2:1” – meaning that for an occupation to become a priority occupation nationally, the number of such vacancies has to be over 100 in total, and they have to be unfulfilled for more than a month. At the same time, these vacancies have to exceed twice the number of qualified people looking for employment in these fields in NEA’s database. See Government Decision No. 115 of 31 January 2018 on the approval of the list of priority occupations.



5

EFFECTIVELY ADDRESS THE
MOBILITY DIMENSIONS OF CRISES

5.1. Migration governance: Examples of well-developed areas

The municipality of Cahul's has communications systems in place to receive and distribute information during crises. The Commission for Exceptional Situations (CES) of Cahul, established in 2017,⁷⁶ which is responsible for preventing and liquidating the consequences of natural calamities, accidents and catastrophes, as well as protecting the life and health of the population, material values and the environment in the event of the occurrence of exceptional situations in the territory, is presided over by the Mayor of Cahul. Article 18 of Law No. 271 on civil protection (1994, updated in 2017) states that the Republic of Moldova's CESs are responsible for the administration of civil protection; and according to Article 10, Clause E, the local authority is responsible for informing the public of dangers, how to behave and how to act. CES of Cahul responds to the General Inspectorate for Emergency Situations of the Republic of Moldova, which operates under the Ministry of Internal Affairs. The Directorate of Emergency Situations Cahul is the emergency service that conducts operations to deal with disasters. It is part of the national General Inspectorate for Emergency Situations. If a crisis surpasses the local level, higher-level (regional or national) disaster-response mechanisms are deployed and integrate the local-level communications systems in order to cope with the challenges.

5.2. Areas with potential for further development

The Republic of Moldova's national authorities has internal communications systems to receive information on the evolving nature of a crisis. But there is no early warning system in place that alerts the general population's smartphones in Cahul or the Republic of Moldova, although there are plans to develop one.

According to Law No. 93 on the General Inspectorate for Emergency Situations (2007, updated in 2020), the Civil Protection and Emergency Situations Service (now the General Inspectorate for Emergency Situations of the Republic of Moldova) has the responsibility of informing the population of predicted or current exceptional situations and their consequences.⁷⁷ It does so through an automated centralized notification system intended to alert the population about radioactive or chemical threats, natural disasters and other high-risk situations. The system is available via radio and television, and in 2019 the General Inspectorate for Emergency Situations considered it outdated and requiring modernization.⁷⁸

In September 2022, an agreement was signed with Romania for the creation of the new population alert system.⁷⁹ In the event of crises, the General Inspectorate for Migration is tasked with informing migrants in Romanian and Russian – and where possible, in other languages through translators. It keeps records of migrants' addresses and contact numbers and can contact them by phone via a crisis unit created when such an event occurs. A Crisis Cell was set up in 2020 to help emigrants with the challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic, with a website and a phone number for calls made in the Republic of Moldova. Information is distributed through local mass media and the websites of the relevant institutions. Donations to fund assistance for refugees are also collected and handled by the Crisis Cell. The Directorate of Emergency Situations Cahul is responsible for managing the Cell.

⁷⁶ See the Cahul District Council's web page on its [main activities for the period 15–20 May 2017](#).

⁷⁷ Population notification is carried out through the siren-type alert system, confirmed during the Cahul consultation event on 17 August 2023.

⁷⁸ See this [article](#) from the Press Agency (*IPN agenția de presă*) on how the population alert system is outdated and needs serious modernization.

⁷⁹ See this [article](#) from AGORA on the implementation of the new population alert system.

The municipality of Cahul has a local-level emergency management framework that addresses displacement impacts, though it lacks specific measures to provide assistance to migrants. Emergency management frameworks exist for every settlement (from villages to cities, districts, regions and the national level) in the Republic of Moldova, but these frameworks are confidential. Law No. 271 also does not include measures specifically targeted at migrants. The National Security Strategy of the Republic of Moldova, approved by Decision No. 153 (2011), and the National Development Strategy “Moldova 2030”⁸⁰ do not discuss measures for migrants, displaced people or refugees. Adequate planning, as well as the implementation of an integrated multi-stakeholder approach at both central and local levels are areas for further development.

With IOM’s support, in 2022 the Moldovan Government mainstreamed migration considerations into the final draft of the National Climate Change Adaptation Programme 2 and the National Strategy for Agricultural and Rural Development 2023–2030. At the local level the Vision, Strategic Development Directions and Action Plan of Cahul Municipality 2019–2025 (2019) has a chapter on environmental protection, but it does not discuss human mobility and its nexus with the environment and climate change, which is an area for further development – in particular, recognizing and valorizing migration potential as an adaptation measure to climate change.

The municipality’s currently ongoing development and recovery-related strategies do not contain measures regarding displacement or the reintegration of migrants who have fled during crises. There are still no measures regarding displacement in the Urban Revitalization Programme of Cahul Municipality 2022–2025 (2022), the Local Operational Plan for the Development of Cahul as a Growth Pole 2022–2027 (2022), the SMART City Cahul Programme 2022–2025 (2023), or the Vision, Strategic Development Directions and Action Plan of Cahul Municipality 2019–2025.

⁸⁰ See Law No. 315 of 17 October 2022 on the approval of National Development Strategy “Moldova 2030”.



6

ENSURE THAT MIGRATION TAKES PLACE IN A SAFE, ORDERLY AND REGULAR MANNER

6.1. Migration governance: Examples of well-developed areas

Since 2022, the municipality of Cahul has taken steps to facilitate the orderly movement and welfare of Ukrainian refugees. The Crisis Cell, operational from March 2022 until March 2023, under the remit of the Commission for Exceptional Situations of Cahul, coordinated refugee welfare by relying on existing measures – for example, by using housing services that were planned for internal forcibly displaced populations. The Cell was set up to coordinate all aspects of managing the inflow of refugees, such as housing, food distribution and medical care. In January 2023, the Moldovan Government approved the granting of temporary protection to Ukrainians displaced by the armed conflict and certain third-country nationals (Government Decision No. 21 of 2023), with the General Inspectorate for Migration (GIM) and its territorial subdivisions being responsible for implementing the temporary protection. According to the approved Decision, the beneficiaries of temporary protection have the right to remain in the territory of the Republic of Moldova until March 2024, with the possibility of extension if needed; access to temporary accommodation centres for persons in need; access to emergency and primary health-care services according to a list of medical services established by the Ministry of Health; and the right to work, as well as to receive guidance and employment-related information from the local offices of the National Employment Agency (NEA). Access to the temporary protection status is facilitated through an online pre-registration platform managed by GIM, which is then followed up by an interview with GIM representatives from the regional subdivisions. With the support of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and other international partners, including IOM, the local offices of GIM are implementing a communication campaign to popularize the benefits of the temporary protection status through online and offline means, such as leaflets, animations, posters, FAQs and social media cards.

GIM is responsible for implementing refugee policy at the central and local levels; this is regulated through Article 3 of Law No. 200 on the regime of foreigners (2010, updated in 2020). Local authorities cooperate with the Livelihoods and Inclusion Working Group, set up in March 2022 by the Government of the Republic of Moldova and UNHCR to facilitate the arrival of refugee populations under the jurisdiction of the Congress of Local Authorities from Moldova.⁸¹ Meetings are organized on a regular basis to understand the challenges in the employment of refugees and to facilitate their economic integration.

The National Strategy on Preventing and Combating Human Trafficking for 2018–2023 (see Government Decision No. 461 of 2018, updated in 2022) identifies as its goal the development of a national prevention and combating system through the 4P paradigm: prevention, protection, punishment and partnership. The National Strategy mentions local authorities as partners in executing measures such as distributing promotional materials, supporting the professional formation of specialists and implementing reintegration measures, but not in developing policies or plans. Cahul District has a Territorial Commission for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, which is responsible for the coordination of activities in the district. In 2017 the Commission published an action plan for combating human trafficking, which detailed activities on public awareness, training and intersectoral coordination mechanisms.

All local-level public authorities including Cahul have a multidisciplinary team that interacts with the National Referral System, a cooperation framework for fostering the prevention of human trafficking and the protection and assistance of victims of trafficking in human beings, launched in 2006. According to Government Decision

⁸¹ Other participants of the Working Group include central and local institutions and stakeholders in the context of the Ukraine refugee crisis, such as the State Chancellery of the Republic of Moldova, the National Employment Agency and the Congress of Local Authorities from Moldova.

No. 228 on the approval of the Regulation on the activities of the territorial multidisciplinary teams of the National Referral System (2014, updated in 2018), the territorial multidisciplinary team is a coordinating body created at the first or second level of administration to ensure a systematic approach to the protection and assistance of victims and potential victims of human trafficking. Besides the Mayor or Deputy Mayor, other members of the team include a social assistant, a police officer and a general practitioner physician. For second-level authorities (districts and municipalities), the members are representatives of the Directorate of Social Assistance and Family Protection, the General Directorate of Education, district medical institutions, the Regional Section of the Centre for Combating Human Trafficking, the civil status office and the Territorial Employment Agency.

6.2. Areas with potential for further development

The implementation of programmes to train local-level public servants and members of Cahul's police in issues related to migrant populations and their rights is an area with potential for development. Nationally, the Moldovan Police provides its officers with training related to discrimination and equality in general,⁸² not focused on migration-related issues. Training for public servants is organized at the regional or national level; for example, in order to discuss the lessons learned from the first year of the Bilateral Labour Migration Agreement with Germany (2021),⁸³ the 39 local offices of NEA benefited from a peer-to-peer exchange event organized by IOM and the United Nations Development Programme in September 2022, with the participation of representatives from the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection and the NEA Central Office and partners from Germany.

In addition to national policies and initiatives facilitating migrant reintegration, setting up local programmes is an area for further development. The National Strategy Diaspora 2025 (2016) discusses reintegration and mentions local governments as actors that, together with the national Government, should have a focal point responsible for migration and diaspora issues. Action 4.5 (Objective 4) aims to diversify programmes to support innovative and business initiatives of the diaspora and return migrants. The draft National Programme Facilitating the Return and Reintegration of the Citizens of the Republic of Moldova Involved in the Migration Process 2022–2026 has been in consultation phase since April 2022 and is currently being examined by the Government.⁸⁴ Among its objectives are strengthening the institutional and policy framework as well as national coordination with regard to the return and (re)integration of emigrants, and promoting the integration of returnees and their families into the community by ensuring access to education, health and employment support services. In addition, there are national-level initiatives that the diaspora and returning migrants can benefit from at the local level, such as the *Livada Moldovei* (the Republic of Moldova's Orchard), a credit line offered by the European Investment Bank to the Republic of Moldova, promoted in the 2022 Diaspora Days in Chisinau.⁸⁵

The design and implementation of local-level measures to combat migrant labour exploitation is another area with potential for development. The National Strategy on Preventing and Combating Human Trafficking for 2018–2023 does have measures pertaining to improving communication on and awareness of legal employment, for both future employees and employers; the legal framework; the monitoring of work (including recruiters for foreign countries); and the reintegration of victims of forced labour.

⁸² For instance, in December 2022, 1,200 police officers received two months of training in concepts of non-discrimination, gender equality and correctly handling crimes related to prejudice, as part of the Council of Europe's project entitled "Consolidating Diversity and Equality in the Republic of Moldova".

⁸³ See a list of [the Republic of Moldova's signed bilateral labour agreements with other countries](#) on the website of the National Employment Agency.

⁸⁴ Its development is coordinated at the central level, with input from the local level and migrants, and local stakeholders will contribute to its implementation at the local level once adopted. To support the virtual engagement of the diaspora in the development at the national and local levels, the Diaspora Relations Bureau has developed and is maintaining the online platform [eMoldovaTa](#).

⁸⁵ It offers preferential credit to businesses as well as tax relief, zero VAT, and import relief through exemption from customs duties and procedures, and excise duties on imports of machinery or services.

The concept of an online complaint mechanism to support ethical recruitment practices and dignified working conditions and promote workers' welfare for all labour migrants was developed with IOM's expertise and endorsed at the central level by the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection. An area for further development would be the designing and pilot testing of the tool, as well as engaging central and local authorities to promote its reliability in assisting migrant workers in resolving complaints related to unethical recruitment practices and poor working conditions.

After the MGI assessment

IOM would like to thank the local authorities of Cahul for their engagement in this process. IOM hopes that the results of this assessment can feed into the local authorities' internal reflection on migration governance and contribute to positive policy change. In particular:



The MGI report can be used to inform policy work with the support of IOM (if desired).



The findings can feed into capacity-building activities, which may connect to other IOM initiatives.



A follow-up assessment can be conducted after three years to verify progress.



Governments can exchange best practices and innovative solutions with other governments that have conducted the MGI process.



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- 2018a Government Decision No. 115 of 31 January 2018 on the approval of the list of priority occupations.
- 2018b Government Decision No. 947 of 3 October 2018 on the establishment of the Commission for coordinating activities in the field of migration and asylum (updated in 2022).
- 2018c Government Decision No. 801 of 1 August 2018 on the approval and implementation of the “DAR 1+3” Diaspora Succeeds at Home Programme.
- 2018d Government Decision No. 990 of 10 October 2018 on the organization and functioning of the National Employment Agency (updated in 2021).
- 2018e Government Decision No. 1145 of 21 November 2018 on the organization and functioning of the General Inspectorate of Border Police (updated in 2022).
- 2018f Government Decision No. 461 of 22 May 2018 on the approval of the National Strategy on Preventing and Combating Human Trafficking for 2018–2023 and the action plans for its implementation (updated in 2022).
- 2022a Government Decision No. 808 of 23 November 2022 on the approval of the Programme on Managing Migration Flow, Asylum and the Integration of Foreigners for 2022–2025 (updated in 2023).
- 2022b Government Decision No. 658 of 23 September 2022 on the approval of the Internal Affairs Development Strategy for the years 2022–2030.
- 2023a Government Decision No. 16 of 11 January 2023 on the organization and functioning of the General Inspectorate for Migration.
- 2023b Government Decision No. 21 of 18 January 2023 on granting temporary protection to displaced persons from Ukraine.

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Republic of Moldova

- 2022 The EU and UNDP support socio-economic inclusion efforts for refugees through “Mayors for Economic Growth” initiative. 5 October.



ANNEX

The MGI process



1 Launch of the local MGI process

The first step of the process is to explain to key national and local government officials what the local MGIs entail, in order to ensure full understanding of the project and complete buy-in at both levels.



2 Data collection

The second step of the process is to start the collection and analysis of data based on adapted indicators from the MGIs. A draft local migration governance profile based on analysis of the findings is then shared with the government counterparts.



3 Multi-stakeholder discussions on the results of the MGIs

The third step of the process is to convene a consultation where local and national government officials and other stakeholders discuss the good practices and main gaps identified in the draft local migration governance profile. It is also an opportunity for them to comment on and provide suggestions to the draft profile.



4 Final report

The last step is to finalize the local migration governance profile, obtain final validation from the local authorities, and publish a printed version of the report as well as an online version on the [Migration Data Portal](#) and upload it on the [IOM Publications Platform](#).



www.migrationdataportal.org/mgi

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