

Moldova Gender Profile

Since independence in 1991, Moldova has experienced one of the sharpest declines in income in the former Soviet Union. At the onset of transition, Moldova was a middle-income country, but today it is the poorest nation in Europe. Lack of meaningful economic reform and the economic impact of the Transnistria conflict has contributed to dramatically high levels of poverty. Social indicators have also worsened and gender inequalities have increased significantly. Moreover, the economic decline has led to alarmingly high levels of human trafficking, especially of young women and girls, to the commercial sex industry.

Poverty:

- Poverty level is very high with 35% of the population living in absolute poverty and 20% living in relative poverty.¹ Little evidence suggesting gender differences in poverty incidence
- Children make up one third of the poor and are one of the most vulnerable groups.²

Labor Market:

- Female employment as a percent of total number of employed persons has declined over the past decade (from 60% in 1990 to 50% in 2000).
- Women are disproportionately represented in lower paying social sector jobs.
- Female unemployment is high with women make up 68% of the total registered unemployed and the trend is increasing.

Health:

- Percentage of women at term with anemia is one of the highest in the region (45% in 2000).
- Maternal mortality rate is high but the trend is decreasing.
- HIV/AIDS growth rate has increased dramatically.

Demographics:

- Fertility rate has nearly halved over the past decade.
- The current ratio of 108.9 women per 100 men indicates male depopulation.
- Share of children born out of wedlock has nearly doubled over the past decade (from 11% in 1990 to 20% in 2000).
- Gender gap in life expectancy has increased over the past decade.

Education:

- Evidence of gender disparities in education enrollment rates are emerging at basic and secondary levels with the ratio of girls' enrollment rate to boys declining over the past decade.
- Girls have a higher enrollment rate than boys in higher education.

Human Trafficking:

- Moldova is a major country of origin of trafficked young women and girls for the purpose of sexual exploitation and the trend is increasing.³
- Desperate economic conditions, corruption of public officials and law enforcement, high profitability of trafficking, and lack of sufficient legislation to prosecute traffickers or provide protection for victims are some of the factors leading to widespread trafficking of women and girls.

¹ Moldova Poverty Assessment, World Bank 1999.

² Ibid

³ Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights, *Trafficking in Women: Moldova and Ukraine*, December, 2000.

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Western Europe**

Basic	1990	1995	2000	1990	1995	2000
Females per 100 males	109.9	109.4	108.9	105.9	105.0	104.3
Male-Female Gap in Life Expectancy (females minus males)	6.8	7.9	7.3	5.84	5.74	5.58
Mortality	1990	1995	2000	1990	1995	2000
Infant mortality rate (per 1,000 live births)						
<i>TMD</i>	19.0	21.2	18.3	7.8	5.9	4.9
<i>MICS 2000</i>	..	..	27			
Under 5 mortality rate (per 1,000 births)						
<i>TMD</i>	25.2	27.4	23.3	9.2	6.8	6.4
<i>MICS 2000</i>	..	..	34.0			
Maternal Mortality (per 100,000 live births)						
<i>TMD</i>	44.1	12.3	27.1	..	12	..
<i>EUPHIN</i>	44.1	40.8	28.6			
Reproductive Health	1990	1995	2000	1990	1995	2000
Total fertility rate						
<i>TMD</i>	2.39	1.76	1.43	1.61	1.44	1.43
Percent of pregnant women receiving some pregnancy consultations						
<i>TMD</i>	97.0	98.0	97.0	..	..	98
Percent of births attended by trained personnel						
<i>TMD</i>	100.0	100.0	98.0	..	..	98
Percent of women at term with anemia						
<i>TMD</i>	..	..	45.0			
Education	1990	1995	2000	1990	1995	2000
Ratio of girls' enrollment rates to boys in basic education						
<i>TMD</i>	1.00	0.98	0.96	1.01	1.00	1.00
Ratio of girls' enrollment rates to boys in secondary education						
<i>TMD</i>	1.09	1.04	1.00	1.01	1.07	1.11
Ratio of girls' enrollment rates to boys in higher education						
<i>TMD</i>	..	1.26	1.29	0.96	1.08	1.19
Labor	1990	1995	2000	1990	1995	2000
Females as % of estimated total number of employed persons (LFS)						
<i>TMD</i>	60.5	51.9	50.6	..	..	..
Female labor force participation rate (LFS)						
<i>ILO</i>	70.4	70.2	..	58.6	58.4	*60.3
<i>WB 2000</i>	71.3	71.0	..			
Male labor force participation rate (LFS)						
<i>ILO</i>	81.4	80.4	..	81.7	79.3	*79.5
<i>WB 2000</i>	82.8	81.7				
Female unemployment as a % of total (as registered by LFS)						
<i>TMD</i>	..	..	42.5			
<i>UNDP</i>	..	*62.7	*68			

Sources:

TMD = TransMonee Database

ILO = Key Indicators of the Labor Market 2002

MHBS = Moldova Household Budget Survey, 2000

MICS 2000 = Moldova Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey

UNDP 1999 = Status of Women in the Republic of Moldova

WB 2000 - country admin data (d) = Balancing Protection and Opportunity - A strategy for social Protection

Basic Education Enrollment (gross rates, % of relevant population) 7-15 year olds.

*Where no baseline data exist, the value for the closest year for which data exist was used

**Countries used to compute average for Western Europe include Germany, Greece, Italy, Sweden and United Kingdom.