

Terms of References

Migration Study/Desk Review

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Project background

The USAID/Moldova's Country Development Cooperation Strategy (CDCS) 2013-2020 is coming to an end and USAID is taking action into initiating the elaboration of the next 5-year CDCS (2021-2026). The CDCSs, according to their general purpose, provide a roadmap for how USAID will design and implement projects and activities, as well as define a Mission's chosen approach in a country, articulates the self-reliance trajectory and details the expected results. The purpose of this project is to provide USAID with evidence based, holistic and informed analyses, based on relevant data and information on the ground about the Government's priorities and donors' activities so as to properly anchor USAID programs and ensure their maximum efficiency and impact.

In order to ensure the effectiveness of USAID programs in Moldova, the new CDCS for 2021-2026 should take into account three key elements: (i) the most pressing development challenges, addressing of which could generate maximum development impact (e.g. development bottlenecks and accelerators); (ii) government's development priorities and commitments (e.g. national and sectorial strategies, Agenda 2030, Association Agreement etc.); and (iii) activities of other donors, coordination with and among them, as well as their competitive advantages, in order to avoid overlapping and ensure that USAID interventions are complementary. This approach is in line with requirements for the 2021-2026 CDCS (USAID/Moldova), as described in the RFQ that it should "promote the principles of aid effectiveness, including partner country ownership, strategic alignment with partner country or regional development priorities, harmonization with other donors, and mutual accountability."

Hence, the project will provide two key deliverables:

1. Donors mapping and assessment; and
2. The study on migration.

This document outlines the methodology and timeline for the implementation of both project deliverables.

Methodology

The RFQ foresees that the assignment is expected to result in two analyses: (i) a donors mapping and an assessment; and (ii) a migration study/desk review. Thus, the project will be implemented by carrying out activities under two work streams that are interconnected to the needed extent, taking into account that both activities have the purpose to inform the drafting of USAID/Moldova's Country Development Cooperation Strategy (CDCS), which will cover the period 2021-2026.

Work stream 2 - migration study/desk research

Expert-Grup will approach the methodology as required by the RFQ, being focused on social, economic and political drivers of out migration. The analysis will include how these factors intersect in individual decisions to leave Moldova (whether temporarily, or from starters, with plan to ensure a permanent stay abroad). In the analysis, there will be examined the trends and motivators within specific subgroups (also including a gender breakdown, a specific look at decisions made by the younger population that seek employment or higher education, as well as the elderly population (retired, who choose to leave their lives in the rural areas). An important aspect that will be analyzed will be the factors that motivate the diaspora representatives to return home.

The analysis will imply the following activities:

1. Desk research. There will be analyzed:

- National sectorial and inter-sectorial policies related to migration, demographics and population in Moldova;
- The main findings and conclusions of the 2014 national census;
- Reports and other informational materials drafted by donor-funded activities on issues as migrations and demographics (e.g. developed by United Nations, International Labor Organization, International Organization for Migration, World Bank etc.);

- Materials presented by main stakeholders (UNFPA, Parliamentary Commission on social protection, health and family, Ministry of health and social protection, Ministry of Education, National Center for Demographic Research) during the public consultation event for evaluating the progress of the RM in implementing the action plan of the International Conference for Population and Development (ICPD) - national commitments and actions based on international commitments on accelerating the realization progress of the ICPD@25¹ and of the SDGs.
- Other relevant studies conducted by independent organizations:
 - “Demography Matters: How Population Dynamics Impacts the Economy of the Republic of Moldova”, Expert-Grup and UNFPA, 2017: https://www.expert-grup.org/media/k2/attachments/An_Analytical_Report_on_National_Transfer_Accounts_for_the_Republic_of_Moldova_ENG_1.pdf
 - “Migration and Development, International Organization for Migration, 2017: http://iom.md/sites/default/files/publications/docs/Migra%C8%9Bie%20%C8%99i%20dezvoltare_aspecte%20politico-juridice.pdf
 - “Migration, Diaspora and Development”, 2016, Academy of Sciences of Moldova: http://iom.md/sites/default/files/publications/docs/Migra%C8%9Bie%20%C8%99i%20dezvoltare_aspecte%20politico-juridice.pdf
 - “Analysis of the Population Situation in Moldova”, 2016, Institute for Economic Research of Moldova: https://moldova.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/PSA_RO.pdf
 - “Study of Policies for Integration of Migrants in Moldova – MIPEX”, 2015, Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights: <https://www.osce.org/ro/odihr/201031?download=true>
 - Sociological surveys of the Institute for Public Policies (Barometer of Public Opinion), Association of Sociologists and Demographers, Civis, Magenta, IMAS and CBS Axa.

2. Focus group with relevant experts, CSOs, donors and policy makers. Preliminary list of interviewees:

- Bureau for Diaspora Relations;
- Ministry of Economy and Infrastructure;
- Ministry of Health, Labor and Social Protection;
- Parliamentary Committee for Economy, Budget and Finances;
- International Organization for Migration (IOM);
- International Labor Organization (ILO);
- UNFPA;
- UNDP;
- IDIS Viitorul;
- Center for Demographic Research;
- Institute for Economic Research;
- IMAS;
- Magenta Consulting;
- Civis;
- CBS-Axa;
- Institute of Public Policies;
- Institute for Strategic Initiatives;
- Institute for European Policies and Reforms.

3. Interviews with relevant experts, CSOs, donors and policy makers that will not be able to participate at the focus group or with whom more in-depth discussion will be needed.

4. Organizing online interviews and surveys with Moldovan diaspora representatives in the most important destinations of Moldovan migrants: Italy, Russia, Portugal, Greece, Spain, Cyprus, Israel etc.

5. Developing the draft report and consulting it with the relevant counterparts.

¹ <https://moldova.unfpa.org/en/news/whats-changed-moldova-after-25-years-icpd>

6. Finalization of the report and its public presentation to USAID.

Timeline of project activities

[illegible]

Annex A. Draft Protocol of the Meetings with stakeholders on the Migration study

- Each meeting will take approximately 60 minutes (on some occasions, it could be extended to 90 minutes).
- The meetings will be usually led by the key expert, who will be assisted by the non-key expert assigned for this task.
- Each meeting will be started by the key expert, who will present himself, the team, the project and the purpose of the meeting.
- It will be followed by a short presentation of the interviewee.
- Before proceeding to specific questions, the interviewer will mention that the discussion is confidential. The interviewer will take notes, but no reference will be made to the interviewees.
- The key questions to be discussed (this is a non-exhaustive list of questions, as additional ones will be added depending on the discussion and interviewee):
 - What are the main migration policies/researches/studies drafted/implemented by your institution and what are the main findings?
 - What are the main migration policies/researches/studies that are planned to be drafted and implemented in the upcoming future?
 - How do they tackle the demographic challenges Moldova currently faces?
 - What is your organizations position/view on the main social, political, economic etc. factors that lead to out migration?
 - What are the solutions that you find will respond best to the current national challenges?
 - Name the most important 3-5 lessons learned from your recent interventions in the field.
 - How do you assess the capacity of the Government (financial, human resources etc.) to respond to the demographic challenges?
 - How to you assess the quality of the results of donor implemented programs in this area? What could be improved?
 - To which extend the donor support in this field is correlated to the country's actual needs and priorities?
 - How do you see the potential partnerships/synergies with USAID interventions? Do you have any recommendations in this regard?
- Each meeting will end with the concluding statements and next steps on the project.
- The interviewer will express gratitude to the interviewee for the time and consideration. Also, the parties will agree to keep in touch and discuss by email any potential questions and/or clarifications that might be needed throughout the assessment.