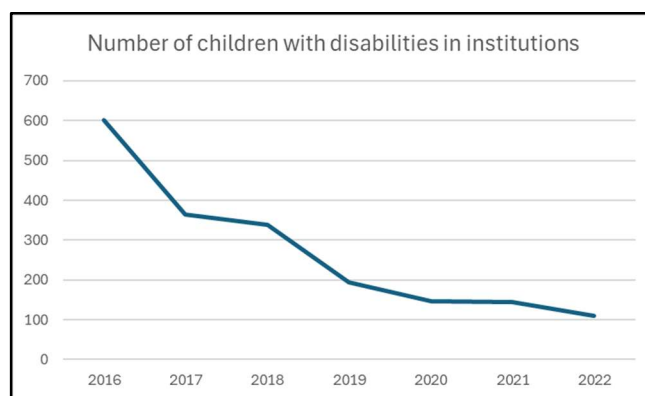
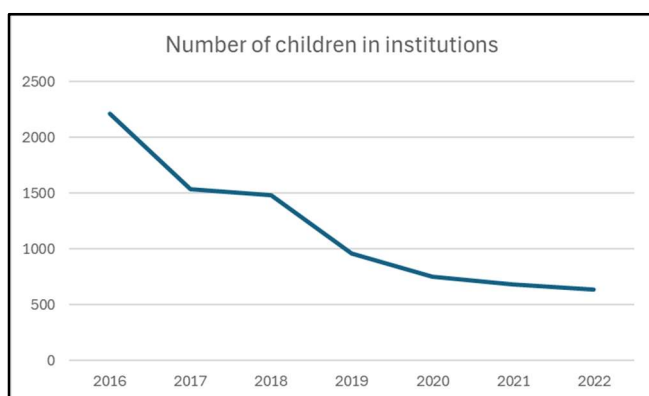




What are the key priorities facing child protection system reform in 2023/4 in your country?

- **Implementation of a moratorium on the admission of children aged 0 to 6 to institutions.**
- **In January 2024, The Ministry of Health transitioned two institutions for babies and young children under the supervision of the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection (MoLSP).**
- **There is an urgent need to prioritise specialised foster care piloting together with other stakeholders and work groups specially convened by the MoLSP.**



Data taken from:

https://msmps.gov.md/sites/default/files/raport_cer_103_pentru_anul_2019.pdf

<https://social.gov.md/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/Raport-statistic-anual-nr.-103-A-Copii-din-sistemul-rezidential-in-anul-2022.pdf>

https://social.gov.md/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/Raport-CER-103-A_Copii-din-sistemul-reziden%C8%9Bial_pentru-2021.pdf

<https://social.gov.md/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/Cer-103-A-pentru-anul-2020c.pdf>



The biggest positive change in the country over the last 12 months

Significant progress has been made in the field of child protection in recent months, with reforms in the regulatory framework such as the Child Rights Law.¹



The biggest negative change in the country over the last 12 months.

However, in 2021 and 2022 the socio-economic context has worsened due to post pandemic crisis and the effects of war (refugees, energy crisis, high inflation, Russia hybrid war against Moldova etc.). The rate of absolute poverty in Moldova is increasing from 24,5% in 2021 to 31,1% in 2022³. The vulnerable population, especially children, people with disabilities, and elderly have limited and unequal access to community social services. The existing services in communities do not cover the needs of vulnerable population.⁴

“CHILDREN SHOULD RECEIVE INFORMATION ABOUT THEIR RIGHTS, MAKING THEM ABLE TO REPORT WHEN A RIGHT IS VIOLATED. IN ALTERNATIVE CARE, IT IS IMPORTANT TO MONITOR AND EVALUATE SERVICES.”²

YOUNG MAN, 18–25, MOLDOVA

¹ https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=140710&lang=ro

² https://familyforeverychild.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/dgd_survey_report_web_en-2.pdf

³ Bureau of National Statistics, [Poverty indicators for 2021 – 2022](#)

⁴ MLSP, [The Social Assistance System Reform RESTART](#), 2022



What are the other headlines or issues that CCF/HHC are working on in terms of child protection system reform?

- 1. Closing institutions for babies and young children through direct work with families to prevent separation and ensure a prepared reintegration process.** There are three institutions for babies and young children aged 0-6. Two of them are currently being transferred from the Ministry of Health to the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection while another institution is under the Chisinau Municipal Council. So far, this has presented a challenge, as, in the past, the Child Protection Department was only declaratively supporting deinstitutionalization. In early 2024 the situation has changed and a new MoU with Chisinau CP Department was signed, including as a step, the assessment of all children who are placed in the residential institutions for babies and young children 0-6. In 2024-2026 CCF/Hope and Homes for Children Moldova will focus on the first two institutions and when the moratorium will be established with a clear date when placing children 0-6 will be illegal, Chisinau Child Protection Department will be required to align with the policy.
- 2. Supporting the authorities to develop the necessary social services;** in 2023-2024 - a social nursery and in 2024-2025 a small group home/apartment for young care leavers with disabilities; in addition, Hope and Homes for Children/CCF Moldova will provide advisory services to the authorities as needed for needs assessment and service planning and development.
- 3. Diversifying and piloting specialist foster care for the most vulnerable groups of children, including children aged 0-6 and children with severe disabilities;** The Assessment of 184 children in six institutions was conducted in 2021, showed that ~64% of children placed there will need specialised foster care in order to transition from institutions. At public events, representatives of Ministry of Labour and Social Protection were stating that the system needs in addition to those children approximately another 400 foster carers and family-type homes, with an additional 150-200 foster carers during the 2022-2026 national programme implementation. Annually, HHC/CCF contribute to foster care development by adding up to 30-40 new foster carers and by training existing ones (in-service training and mentoring). In 2024, within the CTWWC social initiative, CCF/HHC will pilot together with other stakeholders in four counties, specialist foster care for children with disabilities; Based on lessons learned, the experience will be documented, shared and prepared for scaling.



What is the main thing CCF/Hope and Homes for Children Moldova wants the government or international donors to know about in 2023?

- The National Program for Child Protection 2022-2026⁵ is a national strategy committing to deinstitutionalisation. The specific objective 3.4 includes activities focusing on closure or reorganisation of all old-style residential institutions (from 18 institutions in 2020 to 0 institutions in 2026). The children from institutions will be reintegrated into families or placed in other alternative care services. The Program has an approved Action Plan with estimated funding from the State Budget and from development partners (WorldBank, USAID, UNICEF, CoE). However, the State will allocate funding depending on the existing resources.
- The National Development Strategy “European Moldova 2030”⁶ was approved in 2022. The strategy has objectives committing to improve the quality of social services and ensure a child protection system that responds promptly and efficiently to the needs of each child.

Latest developments, e.g., Laws, policy, and moratoria

Positive

1. The National Program for Child Protection 2022-2026 is a national strategy committing to deinstitutionalisation. The specific objective 3.4 includes activities focusing on closure or reorganisation of all old-style residential institutions (from 18 institutions in 2020 to 0 institutions in 2026).
2. In 2023, the Child Rights Law was revised and aligned with UNCRC and all three optional protocols.

Negative

1. Limited services for children with disabilities and their families.
2. Limited availability of inclusive education services in preschool (this also refers to children with disabilities).
3. There is a significant lack of funding available for both for state funded child protection programmes as well as for NGOs working in the sector.

⁵ <https://gov.md/sites/default/files/document/attachments/subiect-02-nu-325-mmps-site -.pdf>

⁶ <https://gov.md/ro/moldova2030>



<p>Hope and Homes for Children/CCF Moldova calls on the government to:</p>	<p>Hope and Homes for Children/CCF Moldova calls on the European Union/ international donor community to:</p>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Prioritise the child protection system reform in central budget allocations to implement the 2022-2026 National Child Protection Programme and Action Plan. 2. The Ministry of Labour and Social Protection to prioritise the development of family strengthening services. 3. MLSP to prioritise the transition from institutional to family-based and community-based care. 4. MLSP to enforce a legal moratorium on institutionalisation of children 0-6. 5. MLSP to prioritise the diversification of family type alternative services. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Continue monitoring care reform in Moldova and addressing progress in the annual Enlargement Reports. 2. Support financially the implementation of the 2022-2026 National Child Protection Programme and Action Plan. 3. Encourage the enforcement of a legal moratorium on institutionalisation of children 0-6. 4. Encourage meaningful civil society and self-advocates/service users' engagement in the completion of care reform for children. 5. Share European positive practices and expertise on diversification of family type alternative services.
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About our country factsheet

This country factsheet provides an overview of the work of Hope and Homes for Children in Ukraine. It is intended to inform policymakers, donors, and the wider public about the scope of child protection system reform in each country, highlighting efforts to transition from institutions (orphanages) to family- and community-based alternatives.

Each country snapshot outlines both the strengths and weaknesses of current policies and actions within the child protection system. It provides a summary of publicly available data that we have been able to source, alongside our expert analysis of this information as it pertains to overall child protection reform. We also offer key recommendations for future interventions to drive continued improvement.

These insights are based on over 30 years of experience from Hope and Homes for Children. While significant progress in child protection reform is possible, challenges remain, especially in gathering comprehensive data and aligning definitions. Where applicable, definitions and programmes discussed are based on local legal and policy frameworks. For this reason, they are not readily comparable to country factsheets, produced by us for another country or jurisdiction.

Data disclaimer

The data is primarily sourced from official state sources. The situation with children in alternative care is dynamic, and changes may not necessarily be captured in present data set. All reasonable efforts have been made to ensure the accuracy of the data presented herein compiled. However, Hope and Homes for Children provides this data as the guidance only and cannot guarantee its accuracy, timeliness, or completeness. Nor can we be held responsible for its use.

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Hope and Homes for Children is on the Transparency Register of the European Union,
Identification number in the register: 035163533684-92

Organisation in special consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council since 2019.

An NGO in participatory status with the Council of Europe as of 2021.

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