



Launch of the "Stay healthy, wherever you are" campaign in Chișinău, September 2010 (Photo:IOM)

## Summary

Migration of skilled health workers present a challenge to the management of the Moldovan healthcare system. To overcome this challenge, there is need for capacity building within the healthcare system to increase the efficiency of human resources management.

In this context, the Ministry of Health (MoH) of Moldova requested IOM's support from its 1035 Facility to develop a database with information on health workers and students of medical/pharmaceutical or other relevant institutions that could be used to strengthen the capacity of the Ministry's planning and policy work.

In addition to responding to the emigration of health workers there is also a need to address health vulnerabilities of irregular Moldovan migrants. Improving the health of these irregular migrants lessens the burden on the public healthcare system of Moldova and destination countries.

To this purpose, the project conducted a survey among migrants leaving and returning the country to assess their socioeconomic working and living conditions that affect their health and access to healthcare.

*IOM IS COMMITTED TO  
THE PRINCIPLE THAT  
HUMANE AND ORDERLY  
MIGRATION BENEFITS  
MIGRANTS AND SOCIETY*

## MANAGING THE IMPACT OF MIGRATION ON THE HEALTHCARE SYSTEM OF MOLDOVA

Besides the capacity building component and the survey, the project launched a campaign highlighting the health risks of migration in order to prevent risks related to irregular migration and to improve the health of migrants.

These activities are in line with the MoH 2009-2011 Institutional Development Plan and the Healthcare System Development Strategy for the period 2008-2017 as they improve the public healthcare services, as well as reduce the health vulnerabilities of Moldovan migrants leaving the country.

### Background

Moldova is a country undergoing significant migration. When still part of the USSR, Moldova experienced various forms of workforce migration. At present, Moldova is one of the countries most affected by migration of its workforce—whether its seasonal or for a longer term.

Official figures estimate that at the beginning of 2008 as many as 335,600 Moldovan citizens had moved abroad for work.

This number does not include irregular migrants. Approximately one third of Moldovan migrants reside in their host countries without legal status.

These significant migration flows of Moldovan nationals have played a crucial role in the way the health sector in Moldova has developed. Even though migration represents a substantial source of income for Moldova through remittances, the Moldovan authorities are concerned about the impact that migration of health professionals is having on the healthcare system and more generally on the health of the nation.

Based on these concerns, on 29 August 2008, a roundtable was organised by IOM and the MoH on the theme "Impact of migration on Moldovan Healthcare System and Public Health". Crucial issues and concerns were raised which pointed to the need for implementing concrete measures.

As a result, the MoH requested IOM's support for assistance in order to develop tools which should be used for developing policies in the healthcare and migration sectors.

**For further information, please contact:**

Simion Terzioglo  
Project Officer  
IOM Moldova

Tel: +373 2 223 2940  
iomchisinau@iom.int /www.iom.md



IOM International Organization for Migration  
OIM Organisation internationale pour les migrations  
OIM Organización Internacional para las Migraciones

## Objective

The objective of the project is to contribute to the improvement of the healthcare system in the Republic of Moldova and Moldovan migrants' health by providing reliable data on Moldovan health workers along with data and information on the health implications of the socioeconomic welfare of migrants for developing sound public health and migration policies.

## Outputs

At the end of the project the following three outputs have been achieved:

- 1) A database of health workers;
- 2) Survey on the health vulnerability of migrants; and
- 3) Information campaign of health risks of migration

## Database of Health Workers

IOM, in collaboration with a local IT company, developed a database on Moldovan health workers and students of medical/ pharmaceutical and other relevant institutions. The database offers relevant authorities information and data on Moldavian human resources in the health field and should become an efficient instrument for the development of sound policies for an enhanced management of human resources for health in Moldova.

The database was developed locally and in collaboration with the Government to ensure ownership and sustainability after the project period.

## Survey on the health vulnerabilities of migrants

A survey was conducted among migrants leaving and returning to the country to assess their socioeconomic working and living conditions that affect their health and access to healthcare. The findings will be used to support the MoH to develop sound public health policies and strategies. The study was done in Romanian language and translated into English after which both versions were printed and distributed to the MoH and other relevant national and international counterparts.

The findings showed the main health problems related to migration, including HIV and AIDS and other sexual transmitted diseases as well as possible social implications of some misconceptions regarding HIV and AIDS.

## Information campaign on the health risks of migration

IOM and the MoH conducted an information campaign on health risks targeting vulnerable groups of potential migrants, especially youths in rural areas. Different information materials (leaflets, pocket calendars, and posters in Romanian and Russian) were printed as well as video and audio spots.

In September 2010, the campaign "Stay healthy, wherever you are!" was officially launched, which is followed by a series of distribution and broadcasting activities carried out during October and November 2010.

Particularly, trainings were held in 55 secondary schools in nine rural districts with the highest migration rate. During the trainings printed and video/audio materials were presented and distributed.

The materials were also distributed at main international border crossing points.



**Fii sănătos,  
oriunde te-ai afla!**



Banner as part of the IEC campaign "Stay Healthy Wherever You Are" (Romanian "Fii sanatos, oriunde te-ai afla")

*IOM's Migration Health Division (MHD) aims to meet the needs of Member States in managing health related aspects of migration, and to promote evidence-based policies and comprehensive preventive and curative health programmes which are beneficial, accessible, and equitable for vulnerable migrants and mobile populations.*

*The Migration Health Division works in five interconnected strategic functions to address the migration health challenges throughout the migration process: Advocacy; Health Policy Development; Health Service Delivery, Capacity-Building and Research and Dissemination*