

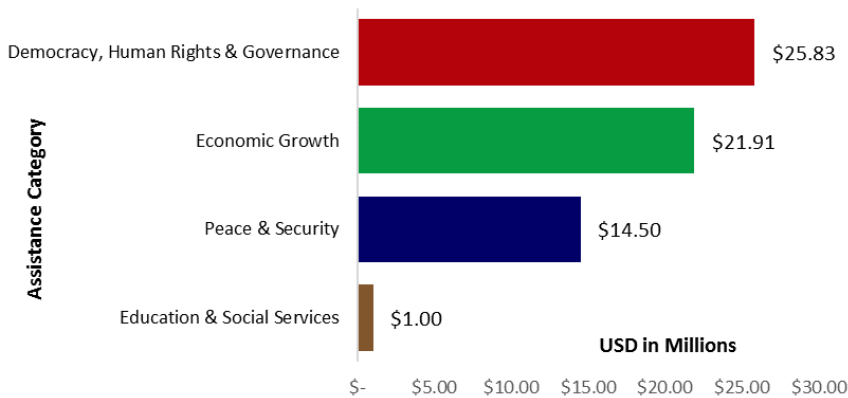


MOLDOVA

U.S. foreign assistance supports Moldova’s progress towards becoming a fully democratic, economically prosperous state fully integrated into Europe. It helps agricultural producers expand trade and strengthen Western market links, making the European Union (EU) Moldova’s largest trading partner. U.S. government (USG) assistance also strengthens transparency in public finances and policymaking, helps tackle corruption, improves public-sector effectiveness, and counters foreign malign influence. The frozen conflict in Transnistria and Russian influence in Gagauzia remain a threat to Moldovan sovereignty and security. U.S. assistance counters Russian propaganda and disinformation by promoting the development of independent, professional media that informs citizens via a variety of perspectives and fosters greater resilience to political and financial pressure. U.S. support reduces Moldova’s dependence on Russian energy by promoting energy-sector restructuring, interconnecting the country’s gas- and electricity-supply systems with the EU, and developing energy-efficient and renewable energy options. Civil society/democracy-sustaining activities strengthen citizen participation in local government decision-making, improve government transparency, and reinforce citizens’ ability to demand government action to address local issues.

over \$1.7 billion USG assistance since 1992	\$63.2 million State/USAID assistance for FY 2020*	\$7.7 million COVID-19 assistance**
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FY 2020 ACE-Coordinated State/USAID Assistance to Moldova by Category* (\$63.2m)



Source: ACE
*Does not include centrally managed funds or \$4.15 million in FY 2020 COVID supplemental funds.
**COVID assistance includes reprogrammed, supplemental, and other USG funds.

NOTE: The assistance highlights below are examples of results achieved by funding in each category in the chart.

CIVIL SOCIETY & POLITICAL PROCESSES ASSISTANCE HIGHLIGHT

The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) provided assistance in the lead up and during the November 2020 presidential elections in Moldova through its Inclusive and Participatory Processes Project, which supported election-observation and political-party training for all parties. USAID support to the Central Election Commission and its electoral management system allowed the public to track progress of the presidential election in real time, and the system also managed to withstand a cyberattack on election day. U.S. funding supported 25 TV and radio debates to educate voters and grants to promote voter participation. A U.S. government exchange program trained more than 500 young voters from around Moldova on the electoral process.

BUSINESS & TOURISM ASSISTANCE HIGHLIGHT

USG assistance has helped shift Moldova’s economic focus to opportunities in Western markets, and the change is dramatic: the EU is now Moldova’s largest trading partner. Transformative industries such as the IT and wine sectors are helping Moldova meet the prerequisites for economic growth through broader access to EU and other international markets, such as the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Bangladesh, and India. USAID’s “Wine Routes of Moldova” project integrated Moldova into the Council of Europe’s Iter Vitis European Culture Routes for the first time in 2020. Thanks to USAID’s High-Value Agriculture Activity, over 60 Moldovan agriculture producers are now GLOBAL G.A.P.-certified, including the first grower from the Autonomous Region of Gagauzia. GLOBAL G.A.P. is a food safety certification program for agriculture producers. Compliance with agricultural standards provided Moldova’s sellers access to buyers in high-paying markets, such as the EU and the Middle East, reducing dependence on the Russian market. USAID-supported Tekwill, Moldova’s first Digital Park originally opened in 2017, has successfully leveraged private-sector resources and burden-sharing and is expected to achieve total investment of more than \$35 million by 2025. Tekwill has already achieved \$14.02 million raised by startups.

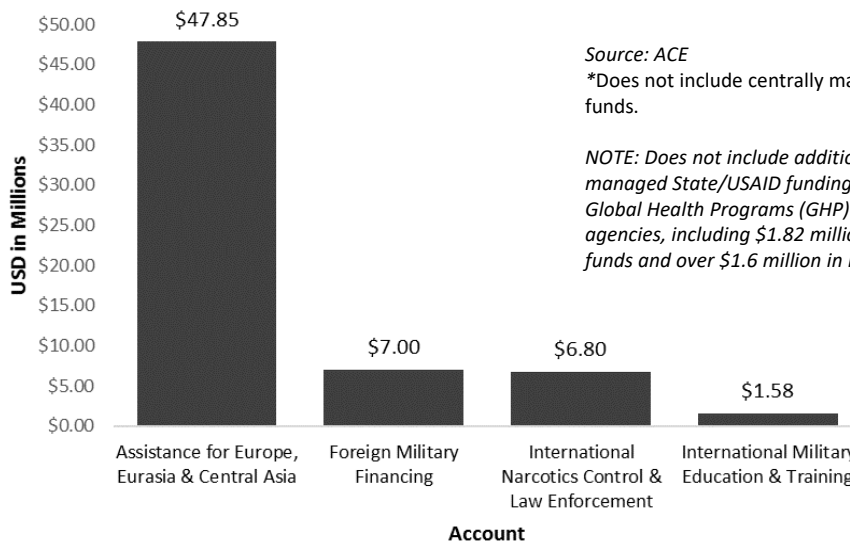
LAW ENFORCEMENT & MILITARY TRAINING ASSISTANCE HIGHLIGHT

Following sustained support from the State Department’s Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL), the first group of 50 police officers graduated from the new four-month basic training course offered by the Joint Law Enforcement Training Center (JLETC) in December 2019. This marked a major milestone in reforming and modernizing the police force and was a central element in the 2016-2020 Police Development Strategy. The INL Bureau supported the renovation and restructuring of several local police stations to become public-oriented community policing stations. INL’s implementing partner PH International developed a civics curriculum that is being co-taught by police officers and teachers in 20 pilot schools in Moldova as of 2020. As part of a United Nations Development Program (UNDP)-implemented project, INL is supporting the establishment of a modern police testing and recruitment center that also includes considerable Moldovan government financial support. Leadership capacity-building efforts include supporting Moldovan police in training programs at the FBI National Academy, the International Association of Chiefs of Police, and events to promote the role of women in law enforcement.

International Military Education and Training (IMET) helps improve the Moldovan Armed Forces’ ability to present a credible deterrent in support of national sovereignty and helps anchor Moldovan military ties with U.S. and European partners, thereby reducing the ability of foreign state actors to exert malign influence in the region. Moldova’s IMET graduates occupy positions of prominence, including State Secretary (Undersecretary of Defense equivalent), the Chief of Defense, and the Moldovan Defense Attaché in Washington, D.C.



FY 2020 ACE-Coordinated State/USAID Assistance to Moldova by Account* (\$63.2m)



Source: ACE

*Does not include centrally managed funds or COVID supplemental funds.

NOTE: Does not include additional FY 2020 assistance from centrally managed State/USAID funding, including approximately \$3.15 million in Global Health Programs (GHP) funds, and funding from other USG agencies, including \$1.82 million in Department of Defense section 333 funds and over \$1.6 million in Peace Corps funds.



ANTI-CORRUPTION, RULE OF LAW & GOOD GOVERNANCE ASSISTANCE HIGHLIGHT

For the past five years, INL implementer, Freedom House, and its local partners provided training and mentoring to Moldovan investigative journalists. Journalists began providing more coverage of justice sector reforms and governmental anticorruption efforts. Their increased attention to these issues resulted in several integrity investigations and asset verification actions.

Since the piloting of a USAID-supported video conferencing system in 2018, courts have held over 8,500 remote court hearings, leading to a cost savings of over five million Moldovan lei (almost \$300,000 USD). The addition of an electronic Judicial Statistical Module to the Integrated Case Management System (ICMS) digitized judicial functions, which are now generated in a matter of seconds. This advancement enables court managers to instantaneously produce 155 statistical reports generating performance data to identify bottlenecks and allocate resources to improve efficiency and better serve Moldovan citizens. USAID also supported significant updates to the National Courts Web Portal to increase citizen's access to court information and improve transparency and accountability of the Moldovan judiciary.

As a result of USAID's Comunitatea Mea initiative to advance decentralization policy reforms, over 250 representatives of local and central public authorities, civil society organizations, and development partner organizations participated in public policy discussions on decentralization and local autonomy issues. Over 670 citizens from 46 partner communities participated in prioritization workshops to identify main areas of concern. As a result, 70 percent of proposals submitted by citizens were integrated in official municipal strategies. With the outbreak of COVID-19, activities quickly adapted to the new conditions and trained partner communities to use virtual platforms to connect with citizens, the central government, and development partners. To facilitate regular virtual outreach to citizens, the program helped 17 mayors create Viber Communities, engaging over 4,500 citizens.



INDEPENDENT MEDIA & COUNTERING DISINFORMATION ASSISTANCE HIGHLIGHT

USAID's Media Enabling Democracy, Inclusion and Accountability in Moldova (Media-M) activity promotes the development of independent, professional media to provide citizens alternative perspectives and create a media sector that is more resilient to political and financial pressure. One of the program's beneficiaries, an independent Russian-language outlet named NewsMaker, became the most visited news site in Moldova and among the top-visited websites by page views. One fourth of all registered Internet users in Moldova accessed the outlet, registering 1.8 million views on the website. Media-M grantee investigative newspaper ZdG received seven professional awards from the Moldovan independent Press Association (API), including first, second, and third place for best journalism in investigative reporting in national media. ZdG has raised its subscriber base by 15%, building self-sustainability. Journalism projects supported by the U.S. Embassy's Public Diplomacy Section include "anticoruptie.md," which investigates Russian sources of corruption and malign influence, including disinformation, in cooperation with other nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) and outlets in countries around the region.



ENERGY ASSISTANCE HIGHLIGHT

USG assistance focuses on improving Moldova's energy security by reducing Moldova's near-complete reliance on Russian natural gas for its heating and electricity needs; promoting investment in domestic energy generation and resources, including renewables; and facilitating physical and market integration of Moldova's energy sector with Europe. With USAID assistance, Moldova developed 61 laws and by-laws to better align its legal and regulatory framework with the EU's Third Energy Package. USAID has also supported Moldova's and Ukraine's transmission-system operators (MoldElectrica and UkrEnergo, respectively) with the planning needed to integrate into the European continental grid, accelerating their integration timeline by over a year. Additionally, USAID provided support to national energy regulator, ANRE, to develop new methodologies for monitoring electric and natural gas utility performance to improve reliability of service to customers and households, while also increasing transparency and reducing the opportunity for corruption.



SOCIAL SERVICES & COVID-19 ASSISTANCE HIGHLIGHT

USAID is strengthening the Moldovan Government's capacity to build, finance and manage its child protection and care systems to reach children in adversity. Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, the USG has provided approximately \$7.7 million in COVID-19 mitigation assistance to Moldova, consisting of \$4.15 million in USAID COVID-19 supplemental assistance, approximately \$ 913,000 in existing State resources, over \$1 million in USAID existing resources, approximately \$1 million in FY 2020 bilateral funds, and over \$561,000 in other USG COVID-19 assistance. For example, the U.S. Embassy donated more than 30 computers and peripherals to the COVID-19 triage center at MoldExpo, helping to manage patient records and emergency administration.