Challenges and support measures for the older people during the COVID-19 pandemic

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Moldova’s Ageing Outlook

• With a resident population of 2.7 million people, projected to shrink until 2035 to around 2.3 million

• 21.8% of the population is over 60 years old, projected to increase to 30% by 2030

• Relatively low life expectancy, 67 years for men and 75 years for women.
Challenges

- Restrictions and limitations established during the pandemic period
- Insufficient staff in the fields of primary health and social care
Support measures

- Amendments to the Law on the Population Support Fund, which approved the increase of revenues and expenditures of the Population Support Fund to supplement the number of personal assistants by about 2600 units.

- Amendments to the Regulation on the registration and distribution of rehabilitation/recovery tickets granted to the older people and those ones with disabilities, in the context of offering the right to people with pulmonary fibrosis, as a consequence of COVID – 19, to rehabilitation services in the first 9 months after illness.
Training courses were organized for employees of medical and social institutions, on: *Organization of medical and social services for home care and safe palliative care in the pandemic circumstances*

During the state of emergency, the family doctors provided primary medical consultation by telephone, including for the older people.

Extending the term of disability for persons whose degree of disability has expired during the state of emergency.
Support measures

- Granting the single financial support in the amount, to the beneficiaries of small pensions
- Increasing the minimum guaranteed monthly income for the granting of social aid for more beneficiaries, including the older people
- Additional employment of 2600 personal assistants for persons with disabilities, due to the increasing incomes and expenses to the Fund for support of the population, by 71000,0 million lei/3,500 million €
- State pensions and social allowances were distributed at home for older people who do not have bank cards
Support measures

- A total of 2921 social assistants and workers help the older people to overcome isolation, pain and loneliness.

- Local public authorities, CSO, economic agents, and development partners have been providing assistance in the form of food and hygiene products to people in difficulty.
Support measures

300 women and men over the age of 65 received packages of hygienic products and essential food, as well as information materials on protection measures against COVID-19 as part of an action launched by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) in Moldova in partnership with the Ministry of Health, Labor and Social Protection.
Support measures

Older people received emotional support from a team of 15 young volunteers from Youth Centers and the National Youth Council Network.
Project „Rethink Your Life! Connecting Socially and Digitally Young and Old People in Moldova”

Implemented by HelpAge International, supported by the UN Population Fund and the Ministry of Health, Labour and Social Protection
Small Grants Program in the field of active aging, 2020 edition

The Ministry of Health, Labor and Social Protection funded the projects of 6 NGOs that organized actions for social inclusion of the older people, promoting healthy living, leisure activities, in compliance with the health protection rules, psycho-emotional support, facilitating intergenerational dialogue.
Thank you for your attention!