

## **2022-2023 Anti-Trafficking Action Plan for Moldova**

Below please find recommendations for specific goals and objectives to further the Government of Moldova's anti-trafficking efforts over the next year:

1. Vigorously investigate, prosecute, and convict traffickers, including complicit officials.
2. Eliminate selective prosecution and hold corrupt officials accountable by sentencing complicit officials to significant prison terms and ensure they serve those sentences in practice.
3. Implement measures to address corruption in the judicial sector and law enforcement community.
4. Proactively identify victims, particularly among vulnerable groups, such as children in state institutions.
5. Implement formal victim identification and referral mechanisms for victim assistance throughout the country, especially in rural areas.
6. Ensure all identified victims receive state-funded assistance, including long-term assistance, regardless of their participation in court proceedings, particularly long-term reintegration support, such as education, counseling, and job-placement.
7. Exempt all victims from the requirement of in-person confrontations with their accused traffickers and ensure specially equipped interview rooms for child victims align with international standards.
8. Ensure consistent use of laws and regulations designed to protect victims during trial and prosecute perpetrators of witness tampering and intimidation to the full extent of the law.
9. Adopt and implement the new National Referral Mechanism (NRM).
10. Empower authorities to conduct on-site announced and unannounced labor inspections, regardless of whether authorities receive written complaints or a risk assessment that indicates an emergency or imminent threat.

11. Amend the law to allow authorities to inspect facilities when they have suspicions or visual evidence of businesses' involvement in child labor, including forced child labor.
12. Correctly and fully inform all victims about the assistance available at the national and local levels.
13. Train police, judges, and prosecutors on a victim-centered approach to investigations and prosecutions.
14. Train relevant authorities, particularly social workers in regions outside of the capital, on understanding trafficking and assisting victims.
15. Formalize government oversight of private employment agencies, including monitoring for and penalizing any recruitment fees charged to applicants.
16. Conduct national awareness campaigns targeting vulnerable populations.