
Moldova

**Total area:**

33,846 km²

Population:

3,547,000 (2017)

Literacy:

97%

Official languages:

Moldovan Romanian

GDP (PPP) per capita:

\$5,697 (2017 est.)

Life expectancy:

69 years

Religions:

93% Eastern Orthodox, 3% Agnostic or Atheist, 2% Protestant, 2% other religions

Prayer points

Helping young people not to be trafficked

Moldova is the poorest nation in Europe, with almost three quarters of the population living below the poverty line, and/or unemployed. Thousands leave annually, seeking work throughout Europe, leaving children to be raised by one parent or their grandparents. It is estimated that 1% of the population has been trafficked. Moldovan victims have been identified in over 40 countries. Sex trafficking dominates the trade, but labour trafficking is also common. Pray for 'Beginning of Life', a Christian organisation working in schools and with young people to build resilience to help them avoid becoming victims of trafficking. Pray also for children abandoned or trapped in poverty to find their future and hope in Christ, the Holy Spirit to transform lives, and for Christian leaders to remain in Moldova to share the gospel and strengthen the church. (Transform Europe Network (TEN) - June 2019)

Single mothers in Moldova

Deprived, vulnerable single mothers and their children are at risk of exploitation and abuse in many parts of Moldova. For most of these women, their partners abandoned them when they became pregnant. Kindergarten fees are very expensive in Moldova, so the mothers must leave their children at home with older siblings or with neighbours, while they go to work. This puts the children at risk of exploitation or they end up on the streets where they are taken advantage of by criminal gangs. Please pray for the single mothers and their children who are suffering in these circumstances, that through the work of our partner Beginning of Life, they would receive the support, care and spiritual guidance that they need. (WorldShare - February 2019)

Young people exploited

Moldova is the poorest country in Europe and lack of opportunities has led to mass migration over the last decade. Many children are left behind without parental care or proper education. Those still living with parents often experience domestic abuse, and neglect. These young Moldovans quickly become vulnerable to the risks of human trafficking and sexual exploitation. The Beginning of Life ministry runs preventative programmes as well as providing support for victims and encourages participation in their church programme. Please pray for vulnerable young people in Moldova, for protection against trafficking and exploitation. Also pray for the victims, that through Jesus, they receive healing and hope. (WorldShare - July 2018)

Intensive Business Courses

For 70 years private enterprise was forbidden in the small country of Moldova in the former Soviet state. This has resulted in unemployment as high as 80 per cent in some towns, but God has not forgotten its people. In 2006, OM launched an intensive business course for Moldavians, involving a business plan proposal from each student and a start-up loan for those that met investor approval. Mihael, a farmer, used his loan to establish several greenhouses, hiring additional staff. "As a Christian, my goal is to work for God," he says. "I believe you can do this through your normal work and your money. My dream is that, with part of what I am making in my business, I will be able to invest in the spread of the gospel." Pray for the spread of the gospel in Moldova. (Operation Mobilisation - November 2017)

Beginning of Life

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Bibles For the Blind

Please pray for Torch's international work with blind and partially sighted people. Recent examples include sending MegaVoice audio Bibles to Moldova, taking advantage of MegaVoice's new and timely dual-language technology to provide both Romania and Russian in the same package. A real desire for these was shown during Torch CEO Gordon Temple's trip to Moldova with blind pastor Tibor Miklos. Please pray for Tibor's ongoing work among blind people in Moldova. (Torch Trust - September 2016)

Integrity When No-one's Watching

Maria was asked to pay a bribe to a judge so that the outcome of the criminal court case would be found in favour of her client. She successfully encouraged her client not to pursue this option, only for her client to change his mind a week later. Having no other Christians lawyer in her home country, the LCF encourage lawyers like Maria to persevere, have integrity, stand firm on God's Word and to be salt and light within their community. (Lawyers Christian Fellowship - July 2016)

Anti-trafficking international awareness

In May 2015, WorldShare's growing anti-trafficking partner Beginning of Life is hosting a major international conference on 'Changed Realities of Human Trafficking, Exploitation and Migration.' The 200 delegates meeting in Chisinau will include speakers from South Africa, India, Germany, Switzerland and the UK, politicians, lawyers, police and representatives of NGO's from around the world. Please pray with us that increased international awareness and co-ordination on this issue will result in more people being successfully rescued and rehabilitated from trafficking and exploitation, and, crucially, many more prevented from becoming victims in the first place. (WorldShare - May 2015)

Gone without trace

It is estimated that 30,000 women from Moldova have gone missing without trace - many will have ended up in the sex trade. About £1300 or less buys a young girl for the rest of her unhappy life. Worldshare partner with Beginning of Life, a local organisation that provides essential anti-trafficking education in schools across the country and last year reached over 21,000 young people. They also provide refuge, counselling, medical care, vocational training and careful reintegration into a life apart from the sex trade. Pray for their work and an end to the evil of human trafficking. (WorldShare - January 2015)

Attitudes towards women

Beginning of Life is an organisation working in Moldova to rescue girls from being trafficked for the sex trade. Their ministry involves looking at every aspect of this problem. One key element is the attitudes of Moldovan men. Drink, drugs and domestic violence are widespread among men, and their attitudes towards women are often very exploitative. *Beginning of Life* has now started a programme for young men from Moldovan villages, promoting positive Christian values, and positive regard for women. Pray for a change the attitudes of men in Moldova so that the tragic hold that the sex trade has on country may be overcome. (WorldShare - November 2012)

Treasures in heaven

Moldova may be Europe's poorest nation, but citizens there are increasingly building treasures in heaven. From the capital to the countryside, Christian workers in this mostly rural nation are finding fertile ground for the gospel. Short-term mission workers regularly assist those permanently based in the country to help organise activities ranging from playground evangelism to community assistance. (Operation Mobilisation - May 2010)

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