

Capital: Chisinau
Population: 4.5 million (2006)
GDP (purchasing power parity, est. 2005): \$8.175 billion
Population below national poverty line: 29% (2005)
GDP per capita (current US\$): \$541 (2005)
GDP per capita (purchasing power parity): \$1,800 (2005)
Religion: Eastern Orthodox 98%, Jewish, Baptist, others
Language: Moldovan (official), Russian, Gagauz
President: Vladimir Voronin
Ambassador to US: Nicolae Chirtoaca



National Interest: The United States has a national interest in ensuring security in Moldova and regional stability. The self-proclaimed Transnistrian state remains a barrier to sovereignty and economic development. Its weakly controlled borders threaten US and regional interests by providing opportunities for weapons proliferation, smuggling, transnational crime and human trafficking. In addition to promoting a resolution to the Transnistria issue, the US has an interest in strengthening democracy and a free market in Moldova. Moldova has been a strong supporter of the war on terror, granting the U.S. overflight and basing rights.

OVERVIEW OF USAID'S FOCUS IN MOLDOVA

FY07: Total FSA - \$15 million, USAID Total - \$11.6 million

Private Enterprise Development (FY06 \$6.38 million, 44%):

The USAID Private Enterprise Development program in Moldova is made up of two components: Agricultural activities and private enterprise support. The activities under this goal include assisting the government in generating new jobs and higher income. Assistance focuses on improving agricultural production and distribution systems to develop various small and medium-sized agribusiness enterprises, linking private farmers to new supply stores and markets, expanding the role of small and medium enterprises in the economy, and improving the country's investment climate.

Democratic Transition (FY06 \$6.57 million, 46%):

The USAID Democratic Transition program in Moldova is currently made up of three components: Technical assistance to local government to improve fiscal autonomy, municipal services, and democratic governance; support to increase citizen action and participation in civil society organizations, including independent media and political institutions; and advancing the rule of law by informing citizens of their legal rights and responsibilities, providing pro bono legal assistance, and increasing the capacity of legal professionals and the legal system.

Social Transition (FY05 \$1.5 million, 10%)

USAID's Social Transition Program includes three components: Strengthening tuberculosis control; preventing the transmission of priority infectious diseases such as HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis B and C, working in conjunction with other donors; and reducing trafficking in persons, focusing on economic empowerment for women, public awareness and advocacy campaigns, establishing halfway houses, providing health and psychological assistance and reintegrating at risk or trafficked individuals.

Cross-Cutting Objective: USAID administers a two-year \$24.7 million Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCCC) Threshold Program to combat corruption in government. Anti-corruption measures are also integrated across the USAID portfolio and complement the MCC Threshold anti-corruption program.

USAID/Ukraine: Earl Gast, Mission Director (011-380-44-537-4600), 19 Nizhniy Val 04071 Kiev, Ukraine

USAID/Moldova: John Starnes, Country Coordinator (011-373-22-20-1800)

USAID/Washington: Aleksandra Braginski (202-712-0961)

USAID/Moldova website: www.usaid.kiev.ua