Education for All – Fast Track Initiative in the Republic of Moldova:
an opportunity for change

Leonid Bujor, Minister of Education
Nadejda Velisco, Executive Director, EFA/FTI Grant
Larisa Virtosu, ECD Officer, UNICEF

EFA/FTI Board of Directors Meeting
May 6, 2010, Washington, DC, USA
Historical context

- EFA Strategy/EGPRSP/UNDAF/NDS (ECD-official part of national and international Agendas)
- Transition period (1990-2004):
  - Nr of pre-school institutions decreased by 28% (from 1774 to 1269)
  - Nr of children covered by pre-school education reduced by 57% (1992-1993)
  - Nr of the teaching staff decreased by 50%
  - enrolment ratio decreased significantly from 72% in 1990 to 48% in 2001.
- Moldova became eligible to EFA/FTI in 2006 (ECD-USD$8.8 mln).
EFA/FTI Grant objectives

- Increase the enrollment rate of children in preschool educational programs.
- Increase the access of children at risk to quality preschool education.
- Increase the quality of early child education.
- Training of the teaching and administrative staff from educational institutions in early childhood education.
- Consolidation of social partnership and involvement of local communities in Early Child Development programs.
Achievements

- Increase in enrolment: 66.1% in 2004 to 80% in 2009 (MDG/EFA)
  - rural: 51% - 65.2%
  - urban: 80% - 90.8%
- 2 Rehabilitation Centers for children SEN
- 40 Community Centers established
- 3 kindergartens-inclusive statute
Increase in enrollment rates

- Children aged 3-6
- Children aged 5(6)-7
Achievements (ctd)

- Changes in mentality of parents, teaching staff and representatives of administration regarding early education
  1. Community mobilization (circa 15-20% of financial contribution +in-kind)
  2. 89.7% of preschool institutions are applying new policy documents and using didactical materials distributed nationally
  3. Nearly 60% of preschool institutions elaborated plans for professional development
Achievements (ctd)

- Child Centered Curriculum for ECD/Guide
- Early Learning Development Standards (0-7)-validation
- Professional Standards for Teachers/Educators
- In-service/Pre-service Curriculum/Guides
- Regulations for CC/Guide for Local Public Administrations and CC Coordinators (Code of Education)
- Didactical and methodological materials inclusive of vulnerable groups
Achievements (ctd)

- Nearly 6000 (52,7%) of managers and didactical personnel were trained on CCM
- Nearly 600 institutions (42%), including 2 RC for children with SEN were endowed with furniture, didactical materials, toys, sports grounds etc
- 65 preschool institutions were renovated in every district (6,4%) (Knowledge hubs)
- Experience sharing (Kyrgyzstan, EFA/FTI International Conference)
- National/International media/ project’s web-site www.prescolar.edu.md
Kindergartens rehabilitated and opened in 2009
WC before and after rehabilitation works
MEc – Education Deprivation Index

- 166 – 279 (most deprived)
- 280 – 352
- 353 – 428
- 429 – 492
- 493 – 658 (least deprived)
- Missing Data
Lessons Learned

- **Strong alliances built around EFA/FTI**
  1. Central/local public authorities, parents and communities, academia, civil society and donors (UNICEF, WB, UNESCO)

- **Equitable Access**
  1. Children left-out of pre-school are the most vulnerable ones (eg. Roma, children with disabilities and migrant parents etc.)
Lessons Learned (ctd)

- Quality

1. Need to also focus on parenting skills

1. Increase in government’s funding in the ECD sub-sector should be accompanied by monitoring and evaluation of its efficient use.
Challenges

- Poorest country in Europe
- Most affected by the crisis in the region (IMF/WB)
- Reduced fiscal space and state budget
- Increased poverty
Challenges (ctd)

- Migration
- Difficulty to recruit young teachers
- Lack of parental knowledge and skills, especially among the most vulnerable
Future Steps

- Ensure universal access to ECD services (2015)
  1. Focus on the most vulnerable children increase cooperation between education and social protection
  2. Expand ECD services in 250 villages without kindergartens (through CC)
Future steps (ctd)

3. Diminish the discrepancy between rural and urban enrollment by 10% (2013)
4. Support parenting education

- Enhance quality
  1. Continue initial and lifelong training of teaching and managerial staff on CCM nationally
  2. Improve physical (W&S) and learning environment
  3. Promote inclusive education nationally
Future steps (ctd)

4. Consolidate partnerships around ECD. Increase parents’/communities’ participation/mobilization at local level

- Ensure the efficient use of funds and sustainability

1. Increase M&E
2. Develop strategy to take over cost of ECD in Moldova
“The Government of Moldova declares Early Childhood and Development a national priority and will support financially and morally all initiatives targeting the development of this sub-sector...”

Mihai Ghimpu, President a.i.

“In 1986, the last year of my presidency, Dariana began attending the kindergarten, her movements became more steady, she can jump and run now, she can also sing and has even started to talk...

I want her to go to school together with other children, because EDUCATION IS FOR ALL”,

Ana, grandmother of Dariana, 6 years old, diagnosed with Down Syndrome