



IN BRIEF...

Social Exclusion and Public Health

The Moldovan system of social care services, which is largely based on residential care provided by the state, is costly, in-human and inefficient. Moreover, residential care contributes to the social exclusion of vulnerable groups in the society. There is an urgent need to continue the reform of the system of social care services and to develop alternatives to residential care.

Social Assistance

Sida has supported a World Bank project, which addressed the need to reform the system of social care. It has been very successful, but due to the severity of the problem, the needs for assistance are far from being met. Therefore, the World Bank launched a second project during 2004. Sida will provide substantial support also to the second programme which will focus on social assistance and alternatives to residential care and community based initiatives.

Child Protection

Through UNICEF Sida has provided assistance to the national institutional framework for a more efficient, inclusive and integrated child and family protection system. During 2004 a National Action Plan on Child and Family Protection was elaborated and approved by the government as a result of joint and well-coordinated measures among donor organisations and Moldovan counterparts. Sida will continue to provide assistance for the implementation of the action plan in

collaboration with the government and UNICEF to improve a national integrated protection system. This will strengthen the legal framework, promote local social safety nets for children and families at risk and

create a more inclusive environment for the most excluded groups of children, such as children with disabilities.

Public Health

The health care system in Moldova has collapsed due to lack of equipment, medicines and technology, caused by inefficient allocation of scarce public funding mainly oriented towards the hospital sector. Since 1998 the health care system is undergoing a big structural reform where primary medical care, a system of family doctors and obligatory state medical insurance has been introduced.



Boys playing outside a home for children with disabilities. Photo: Bengt af Geijerstam

Infectious diseases, such as tuberculosis and HIV/aids are rapidly spreading in the country.

HIV/aids has been given high priority by the Moldovan government, something that also is reflected in the government's poverty strategy policy. As a medium term objective Sida has previously funded the national HIV/aids programme via a World Bank project. Sida has, in close cooperation with the Ministry of Health, the World Bank, UN agencies, local NGOs, etcetera, developed a pro-

gramme for communication and social campaigning on HIV/aids. The international NGO, Aids Foundation East West, will implement and co-ordinate the programme.

The Moldovan government has requested Sida-assistance to maternity and infant care. A fact finding mission was undertaken during the spring 2004 to assess the maternal and prenatal health services in Moldova in order to recommend Sida a strategic intervention on the basis of the identified needs.

Halving poverty by 2015 is one of the greatest challenges of our time, requiring cooperation and sustainability. The partner countries are responsible for their own development. Sida provides resources and develops knowledge and expertise, making the world a richer place.



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