Refugee Documentation Centre (Ireland)
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Moldova - Researched and compiled by the Refugee Documentation Centre of Ireland on 7 October 2011.

Information on Moldovan Orphanages

The *United States Department of States* annual report on Moldova states:

> "Conditions for children in orphanages and other institutions remained generally very poor. Underfunding caused major problems such as inadequate food, "warehousing" of children, lack of heat in winter, and disease. NGOs estimated that approximately 25 percent of the children in orphanages had one or two living parents but were abandoned when their parents left the country in search of employment. Observers estimated that approximately one-third of children lived in households where one or both parents had left the country in search of work. Such children often lived in poverty, and were particularly vulnerable to trafficking and labor exploitation.
>
> Various government ministries ran their own orphanages and boarding schools. The Ministry of Labor, Social Protection, and Family maintained two boarding schools with a population of 675 children with disabilities and three asylums providing temporary shelter (for up to one year), counseling, and other assistance to up to 110 children from socially vulnerable families. The Ministry of Education oversaw 19 boarding schools with 5,932 students, and two orphanages with 137 children. The ministry reported that 35 percent of the children in its care were orphans or abandoned. The other 65 percent came from socially vulnerable families in which parents were unable to maintain even basic living conditions. The ministry also supervised 42 institutions for children with disabilities, housing up to 5,487 children.
>
> On August 13, Minister of Education Leonid Bujor announced that the number of children placed in residential institutions had dropped by 32.6 percent since 2007, following implementation of a National Action Plan for the Reform of the Residential Care System for Children. According to Bujor, 7,087 children lived in 56 institutions run by the Residential Care System for Children and, of those, 17 percent were orphans. He also noted the existence of 76 family homes for children, 87 professional foster parents, 102 daycare centers, two social-medical rehabilitation centers, and 31 temporary placement centers for families with children facing difficulties." (United States Department of State (8 April 2011) *Moldova, Republic: "Country Report on Human Rights Practices 2010"*)

A *UN Human Rights Council* report on Moldova states:

> "UNCT stated that while the number of children in residential institutions had decreased, the rate of child institutionalization remained high.129 CRC expressed concern at the large number of children placed in institutions, many of whom were not orphans, and that children in those institutions were not provided with proper care and basic services.130 61. UNCT reported that children with disabilities continued to account for over half of the population of institutionalized children, and that services to reintegrate

> those children into families, schools and communities were lacking.131 UNCT noted insufficient progress in the efforts to reintegrate children with disabilities into family environments.132 CESCR recommended that the Government ensure the full implementation of the reform of the residential care system for children, focusing especially on the re-integration of children with disabilities." (UN Human Rights Council (25 July 2011) *Moldova, Republic: "Compilation prepared by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in accordance with paragraph 15 (b) of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 5/1; Republic of Moldova [A/HRC/WG.6/12/MDA/2]"*)

A report on Moldova from *the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child* states:

> "The Committee acknowledges the approval of the National Strategy and the Plan of Action on reforming the system of child residential care (2007-2012) as well as the implementation in some districts of a model system for "preventing institutionalization". However, the Committee expresses serious concern at the large number of children placed in institutions, many of whom are not orphans. It further notes with concern that children in those institutions are frequently neglected and ill-treated and, due to a lack of resources, are not provided with proper care and appropriate basic services. The Committee is also concerned about the difficulties faced by children who leave institutional care at the age of 16, in particular with regard to their right to access education and to an adequate standard of living." (UN Committee on the Rights of the Child (20 February 2009) *Moldova, Republic: "Consideration of Reports submitted by States Parties under Article 44 of the Convention; Concluding observations: Republic of Moldova [CRC/C/MDA/CO/3]"*)

References

UN Human Rights Council (25 July 2011) *Moldova, Republic: "Compilation prepared by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in accordance with paragraph 15 (b) of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 5/1; Republic of Moldova [A/HRC/WG.6/12/MDA/2]"*
http://www.ecoi.net/file_upload/1930_1314625400_a-hrc-wg-6-12-mda-2-moldova-e.pdf
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UN Committee on the Rights of the Child (20 February 2009) *Moldova, Republic: "Consideration of Reports submitted by States Parties under Article 44 of the Convention; Concluding observations: Republic of Moldova [CRC/C/MDA/CO/3]"*
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United States Department of State (8 April 2011) *Moldova, Republic: "Country Report on Human Rights Practices 2010"*
http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2010/eur/154439.htm
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This response was prepared after researching publicly accessible information currently available to the Refugee Documentation Centre within time constraints. This response

is not and does not purport to be, conclusive as to the merit of any particular claim to refugee status or asylum. Please read in full all documents referred to.

Sources Consulted:
Amnesty International
European Country of Origin Information Network
Human Rights Watch
Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada
Online newspapers
Refugee Documentation Centre Library
Refugee Documentation Centre Query Database
UNHCR Refworld
US Department of State