From project results to sustainable public systems – 20 years of Swiss TPH partnership in the Republic of Moldova

Position paper

For 20 years, Swiss TPH has worked with institutions, professionals and communities across the Republic of Moldova to strengthen health and social systems, build local capacities, and improve people's health and well-being.

On 27 October 2026, an anniversary event marking two decades of cooperation brought together partners from the Republic of Moldova, Switzerland and Romania to reflect on achievements, lessons learned and opportunities for continued collaboration.

Beyond the results of individual technical assistance projects, this partnership has contributed to stronger institutions and capacities, and helped embed professional practices and collaborative mechanisms that continue to deliver benefits at both national and community levels.

Among the achievements highlighted at the event were a 29% reduction in infant mortality between 2006 and 2020 and a marked increase in the survival of babies born prematurely. Access to youth-friendly health services rose from less than 5% in 2011 to 25% in 2020, while today 92% of primary health care facilities apply protocols for managing noncommunicable diseases (NCDs).

These results illustrate the contribution of long-term cooperation to stronger public systems and underline the importance of investing in institutions, professional skills and services responsive to people's needs. Strong public systems and healthy communities are, in turn, essential to resilience, economic development and social cohesion.

Nevertheless, the Republic of Moldova continues to face structural vulnerabilities: geographical and socioeconomic inequalities in access to health and social services, population ageing, labour migration, a high burden of NCDs, and limited institutional and financial capacities. These challenges are compounded by regional instability, economic and energy pressures, and the need to ensure equitable access including to refugees from Ukraine.

Against the backdrop of continuing needs, discussions focused on sustaining progress, embedding results in public policies and institutional resilience, with the following four areas emerging as priorities:

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1. Predictable investment in quality public services

Continued financing for public services, including those developed and coordinated by local public authorities, is essential to reducing inequalities and improving access. It is important to maintain a people-centred focus, while strengthening institutional capacities, embedding effective practices in routine operations, and developing sustainable arrangements for service organisation and financing.

2. Evidence-based policies and interventions

Interventions need to be informed by data and evidence and should stimulate further scientific inquiry in partnership with national universities and research institutions. Systematic monitoring and evaluation, stronger research collaboration, and the practical use of findings can help adapt public policies and services to people's needs.

3. Trusted partnerships and long-term cooperation

Trusted, sustained partnerships among public authorities, academic institutions, civil society, and international partners remain more important than ever. Two decades of cooperation have demonstrated the value of shared responsibility, knowledge transfer and institutional ownership in sustaining results for impact.

4. Integrated health and social services for more resilient communities

Developing integrated services focused on prevention, equitable access and the needs of vulnerable people is a priority for community resilience. This requires closer cooperation among health and social service providers, local authorities and communities, alongside practical mechanisms for coordination and continuity of care tailored to local contexts.

Looking ahead: A partnership for the future

Twenty years of cooperation have demonstrated that sustained investment, combined with local capacity development and institutional ownership, can deliver lasting change. The results provide a strong foundation for future cooperation, and Swiss TPH reaffirms its commitment to work in support of Moldova's reforms and to accompany the country on its European journey.

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