



# Harnessing the Power of Data for the Benefit of the Child

January 2020

## Background

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) works in countries around the world to improve the lives of the most vulnerable children in keeping with the objectives established in the U.S. Government strategy for Advancing Protection and Care for Children in Adversity (APCCA).

In support of country priorities and in line with APCCA objectives, USAID-funded activities advance partner countries on their journey to self-reliance (<https://www.usaid.gov/selfreliance>) by helping governments build and strengthen their capacities to support, manage, and finance their child protection and care systems, using best available data for decision making and employing research, implementation science, and programmatic learning to design evidence-based and evidence-informed policies, programs, and practices.

The USAID-funded Data for Impact (D4I) project builds on and reinforces current U.S. government support for priority countries to realize the power of data as actionable evidence that can improve policies, programs, and outcomes (<https://www.data4impactproject.org>). It also builds on the USAID-funded MEASURE Evaluation project's assessment of care system reform, recommendations to address priority needs, development of indicators, analysis of information systems, and provision of training and mentoring activities.

## Goal and Approach

The overall goal of “Harnessing the Power of Data for the Benefit of the Child” activity—implemented by D4I in the Republic of Moldova—is to strengthen the capacity of the government and its partners at national and subnational levels to collect, analyze, and use data to generate a positive impact on children in adversity. The activity will use a learning-centered approach to generate evidence, build skills and practices, ensure data quality, promote a data use culture, and prioritize the sharing of ideas and experience among stakeholders.

This activity will run for three years (2020–2022). During the first year, there will be two areas of work:

- Development and piloting of a longitudinal case management information system
- Capacity strengthening (encompassing indicator

development and piloting, improvement of data quality, and promotion of the use of information) and improvement of the governance of child protection and care reform through the use of data for decision making

## Project Implementation

The project will work with the USAID mission, government partners, and stakeholders to develop and strengthen country leadership in using data to accelerate national child protection and care reform for positive outcomes for children, especially children in adversity. The D4I country team will consist of a resident advisor co-located in the Ministry of Health, Labor and Social Protection and a local monitoring and evaluation associate co-located in the National Social Work Agency. They will provide ongoing mentoring to government partners and stakeholders. The U.S.-based project team—a systems developer, a governance advisor, and an activity lead—will make regular visits to Moldova to provide technical support and advance and oversee implementation. Other experts will be deployed as needed.

## Expected Outcomes

By the end of this three-year activity in Moldova, the following outcomes are expected to be achieved:

- Fully functional case management information system, able to generate reliable data and indicators needed to plan reform initiatives and support the decision-making process, facilitate case management, streamline coordination among actors, and track information longitudinally
- Strengthened country skills in collecting, analyzing, and using data of good quality to inform the planning and implementation of child protection and care reform at the national and subnational levels and effectively address the needs of children in adversity
- Established processes for regular communication and sustainable intersectoral collaboration among stakeholders to draw on the collective experience and expertise of all for the highest-quality results for children

