

Public Transport in Moldova:

Integrating Gender, Disability and Climate Response

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Context

Women, older people and households without a car make most of their daily trips by public transport. But the transport budget does not measure what they get.

86%

City air

of air pollutants in cities such as Chisinau and Balti come from road traffic.

76.5%

Travel time

of the travel time of women is spent in public transport. For men it is 40.3%.

81.3%

Cars

of all registered cars belong to men: 633,374 cars against 146,251.

0

Budget

indicators by sex or disability in the transport budget of 4.04 billion MDL. The same result every year.

The money is spent, but nobody can check who gains from it.

Sources: OECD (2019); UN Women and UNDP (2017); Public Services Agency; state budget 2024.

Evidence

A 2024 survey of 1,100 people (582 women, 512 men). We tested the same data again: significance tests, one index, four domains.

+31.6%

Personal security

48.8% of women do not feel safe walking alone after dark.
For men: 29.3%.

+18.3%

Pavements, vehicles

35.1% of women say pavements are not at all accessible. For men: 21.5%.

+17.7%

Money for travel

68.4% of women depend on the family budget to pay for travel. For men: 48.6%.

+14.4%

Access to a vehicle

39.3% of women own no vehicle at all. For men: 25.4%.

Index: women 19.6% above men | 23 of 32 indicators differ | rural 14.1% above urban

Source: authors' calculations on the 2024 CAWI survey; Holm-corrected z-tests; equal-weight index.

Recommendations

We compared 12 possible measures on six criteria and ranked them. Rules and cheap works come first. The big projects come last.

1. Rules and data

2026 - 2027

- Gender budget statement for transport programmes (MoF, MIRD)
- Care-trip module in national travel statistics (NBS)

2. Stops and lighting

2027 - 2029

- Rebuild stops and kerbs so people can board at street level
- Light the stop and the path that leads to it

3. Fares and licences

2027 - 2030

- Accessibility standard in minibus licences (ANTA)
- One ticket, 90 minutes, free transfers
- Report channel for harassment, driver training

4. BRT and fleet

2029 - 2031

- A BRT line: bus lanes and lit stations
- Low-floor electric buses and trolleybuses
- Costs most, works slowest: it comes last

Best score: gender budget statement (0.618) | BRT and fleet: bottom half of 12

Source: AHP weights (consistency ratio 0.002) combined with TOPSIS; four weighting scenarios tested.

Key Takeaways

Main messages

1. The gap is measured now, not guessed. On the index, women are 19.6% more deprived than men.
2. Personal security is the widest gap. The same pavement feels safe by day and unsafe after dark.
3. Rules, kerbs and fares come first. A new fleet or a BRT line does not close the gap on its own.
4. Six indicators in the transport budget would make the progress visible from 2027.

19.6%

more deprivation for women, on the index

31.6%

the gap in personal security, the widest domain

0 → 6

from no indicator by sex today, to six in the transport budget from 2027

Thank you

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Malcoci, L., Gribincea, A. Gendered mobility deprivation and the climate transition in Moldovan public transport.