CITIZEN'S BUDGET 2026
GENDER PERSPECTIVE

Gender equality and disability inclusion in the 2026 State Budget

KEY CONCEPTS

GENDER-RESPONSIVE BUDGETING

Treats the budget as an instrument for changing social relations, not only as a technical allocation of resources. In Moldova it is applied through programme budgeting and the Medium-Term Budgetary Framework, where the Ministry of Finance circular for 2026-2028 required pilot ministries to build the gender perspective into programme planning.

GENDER ASPECTS OF IMPACT

Shows how budgets that take account of the different needs and circumstances of women and men can raise employment and participation, improve well-being, reduce poverty and inequality, and support more inclusive growth.

CITIZEN'S PERSPECTIVE

Presents the official budget in simplified, accessible and visual form, showing how public spending affects women and men differently and which programmes are intended to close gender gaps.

GENDER INEQUALITY

Presents the official budget in simplified, accessible and visual form, showing how public spending affects women and men differently and which programmes are intended to close gender gaps.

DISABILITY INCLUSION

A budget is inclusive when a person with a disability can actually use what it pays for: the service, the building, the information, the job. In 2026, disability indicators cover 7.9% of expenditure, almost all of it in social protection. The other 92.1% is planned without them.

BASIC LEGAL FRAMEWORK

COVERING GENDER BUDGETING

Constitution, Art. 16

01 LAW ON PUBLIC FINANCE AND BUDGETARY-FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY, NO. 181/2014

02 LAW ON ENSURING EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES BETWEEN WOMEN AND MEN, NO. 5/2006

03 LAW ON PREVENTING AND COMBATING FAMILY VIOLENCE, NO. 45/2007

04 LAW ON ENSURING EQUALITY, NO. 121/2012

05 LAW ON SOCIAL SERVICES, NO. 123/2010

06 MINISTRY OF FINANCE BUDGET CIRCULAR, MTBF 2026-2028

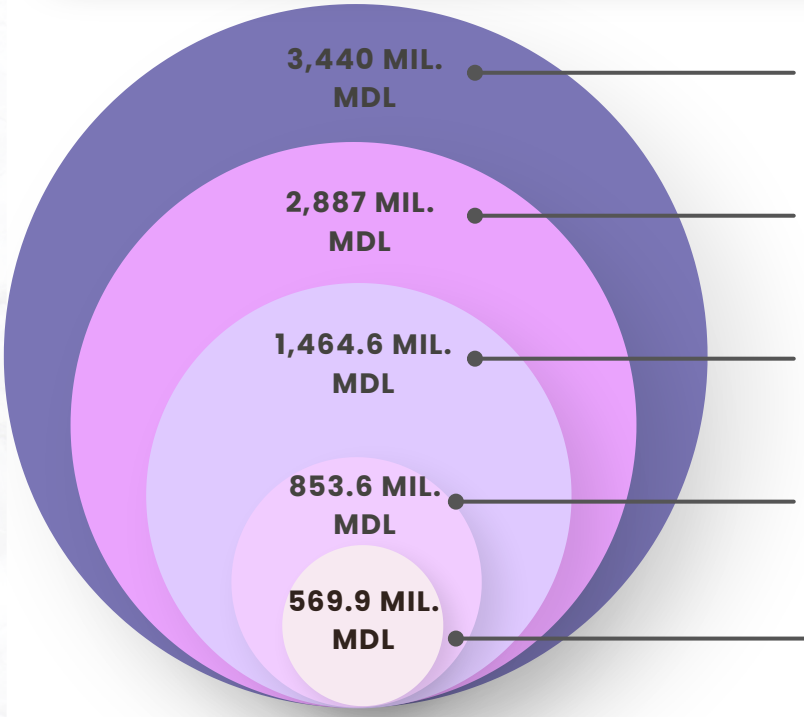
07 NATIONAL PROGRAM FOR EQUALITY BETWEEN WOMEN AND MEN 2023-2027

08 LABOUR CODE NO. 154/2003

09 LAW ON ACCESS TO INFORMATION OF PUBLIC INTEREST, NO. 148/2023

10 LAW ON SOCIAL INCLUSION OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES, NO. 60/2012

BUDGET ALLOCATIONS FOR GENDER- AND DISABILITY-RESPONSIVE PROGRAMMES BY SECTOR



AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

SOCIAL PROTECTION AND LABOUR

INFRASTRUCTURE AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

PUBLIC FINANCE AND CUSTOMS

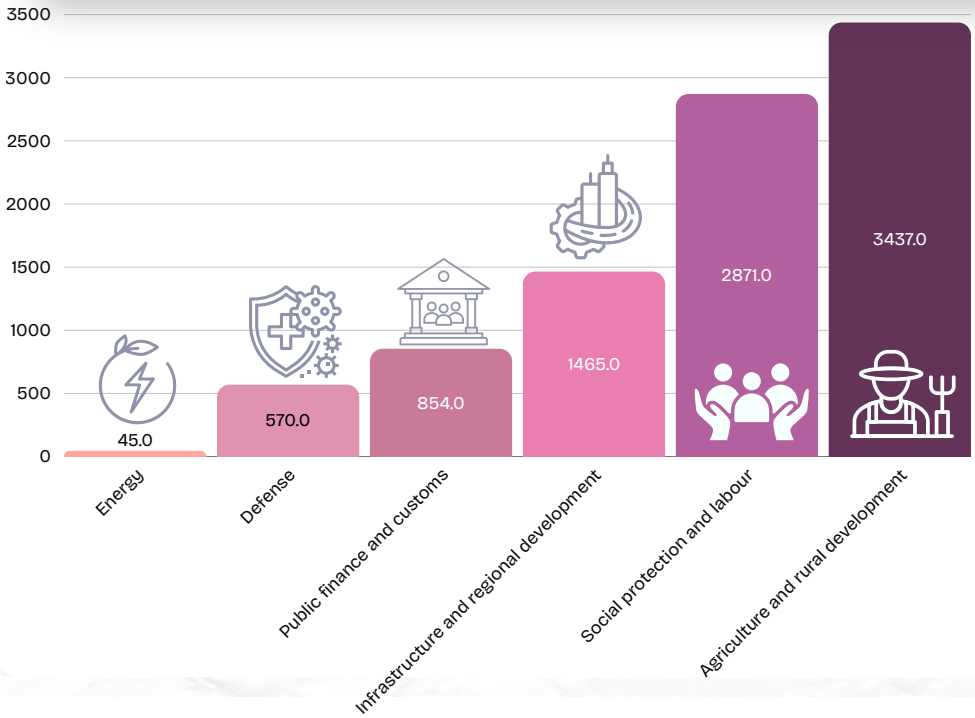
DEFENCE

Explicit gender-responsive budgeting indicators cover 3.5% of total 2026 expenditure. Sixteen subprogrammes across six ministries carry them.

Disability-related indicators cover 7.9% of total expenditure. Six subprogrammes across two ministries carry them, almost all in social protection.

88.6% of the 2026 budget is planned without either gender or disability indicators.

LEVEL OF GENDER INTEGRATION BY SECTOR, 2026



- Agriculture and social protection dominate because they are where the Ministry of Finance circular required action. Together they hold 6,327 million lei, roughly three quarters of all gender- and disability-tagged spending. Agriculture concentrates on women's access to subsidies, equipment and veterinary services; social protection covers employment, disability services, violence prevention and family support.
- Infrastructure is the sector that moved fastest: water and sanitation went from no gender-disaggregated data in 2025 to four indicators in 2026.
- Energy, defence and customs sit at the opposite end. Each has one or two indicators, limited to staff training or recruitment targets, with no measure of how spending changes outcomes for women and men.
- Energy holds 45.15 million lei, less than 1.5% of the agriculture allocation.

The Ministry of Finance circular for 2026-2028 made agriculture and social protection the two pilot ministries for gender-responsive budgeting. Agriculture moved from 8 gender indicators in 2025 to 19 in 2026. Infrastructure introduced sex-disaggregated data in subprogramme 7503, which had none in 2025. Dedicated disability indicators exist in only two of the six sectors: social protection and infrastructure.

AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT
3,440 mil. MDL

Agriculture is one of the two pilot ministries for gender-responsive budgeting under the Ministry of Finance circular for 2026-2028. Rural women face barriers to land ownership, which is the main collateral for credit and the main condition for subsidy eligibility. The 2026 budget answers this with targets on women's access to subsidies, equipment and veterinary services. Gender indicators in the subsidy programme rose from 8 in 2025 to 19 in 2026.

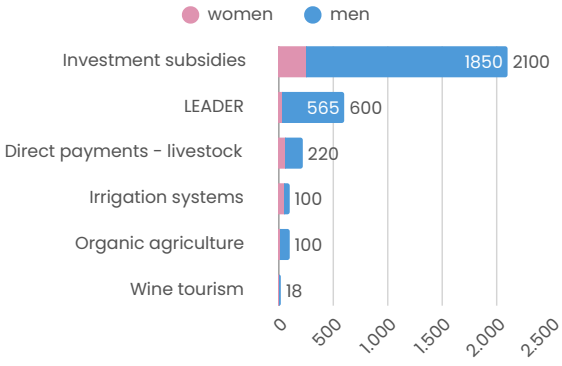
Women among beneficiaries of agricultural subsidies, 2026



425 women out of about 3,180 planned beneficiaries (13.4%) across all subsidy mechanisms under programme 5105

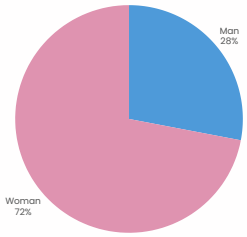
Gender chart on

Planned subsidy beneficiaries by scheme and gender, 2026



SOCIAL PROTECTION AND LABOUR
2,887 mil. MDL

The Ministry of Labour and Social Protection is the second pilot ministry for gender-responsive budgeting and holds the largest portfolio of programmes affecting women, persons with disabilities, families and victims of violence. The "Restart" reform centralised the financing of social services through the Territorial Social Assistance Agencies (ATAS) and moved it to the state budget. Eight subprogrammes carry gender or disability indicators, five of each. This is the only ministry where the 2026 budget reaches a gender-transformative level, in active labour market measures and in violence response.

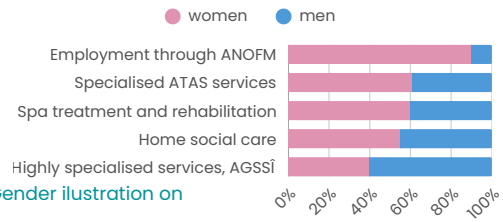


Beneficiaries of MLSP services with published gender data, 2026

36,324 women out of 50,727

Gender chart on

Beneficiaries by programme and gender, 2026

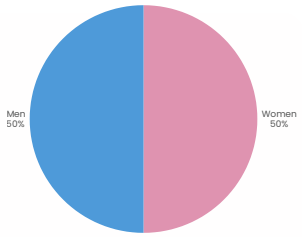


Gender ilustration on

Women are the majority in four of the five programmes, for different reasons. In employment services the imbalance is extreme: 90% of people placed in jobs through ANOFM are women, most of them returning after childcare leave. In social services the share reflects longer life expectancy and caregiving roles, with women at 60.8% of specialised ATAS beneficiaries and 60% of spa treatment beneficiaries. Highly specialised services are the only case where men are the majority, at 60%. Subprogramme 9010 publishes these differences but attaches no corrective measure to them, and the budget contains no indicator on women with disabilities or on informal carers.

INFRASTRUCTURE AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT
1,464.6 mil. MDL

Infrastructure shows the clearest year-on-year progress in the 2026 budget. Water supply and sewerage, subprogramme 7503, had no gender-disaggregated data in 2025 and now has four gender-sensitive outcome indicators, while its budget rose from 600.4 million lei to 1,349.8 million lei. Water and sanitation is the sector where a budget line translates most directly into women's unpaid work time in rural households. Social housing, subprogramme 7504, carries the disability dimension instead, as an alternative to long-term institutionalisation.

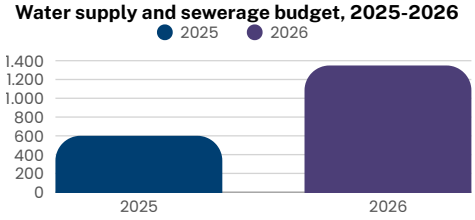


People gaining access to water and sewerage systems, 2026 target

100,000 women out of 200,000

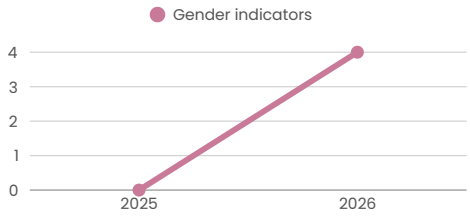
Gender chart on

Water supply and sewerage budget, 2025-2026



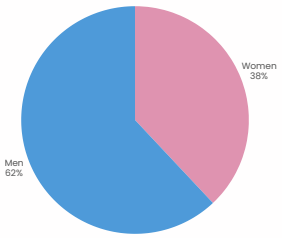
Gender statistics in

Gender indicators in water and sanitation



PUBLIC FINANCE AND CUSTOMS
853.6 mil. MDL

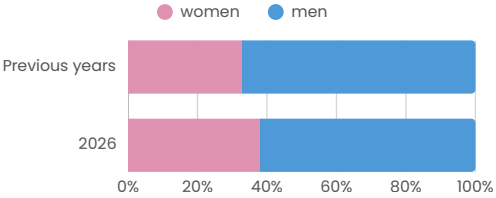
Public finance affects gender equality through two channels. Customs and tax administration are workplaces traditionally dominated by men, and the 2026 budget sets a recruitment target there. Digitalisation of tax services is the second channel: submitting declarations online removes the need to travel to a service counter, which matters for people with reduced mobility and for those in rural areas. The entire gender and disability content of the Ministry of Finance portfolio sits in one subprogramme, 0502, Public Revenue Administration.



Women in customs personnel 2026 target, up from about 33%

Gender chart on

Customs personnel by gender, baseline and 2026 target



The 38% target is a recruitment objective, not a policy on how customs and tax rules affect women and men differently. Nothing in the subprogramme measures who pays, who claims, or who is audited. Revenue administration is treated as gender-relevant only as an employer.

Digital access is treated the same way. Persons with disabilities benefit from online declarations, but indicator R24 counts electronic submissions in general, without measuring their access and without an accessibility standard attached to the new systems. The Ministry of Finance is classified as gender-aware in the intersectoral comparison: it acknowledges the dimension without programming for change.

7.9%

of 2026 expenditure carries disability indicators. Six subprogrammes, two ministries

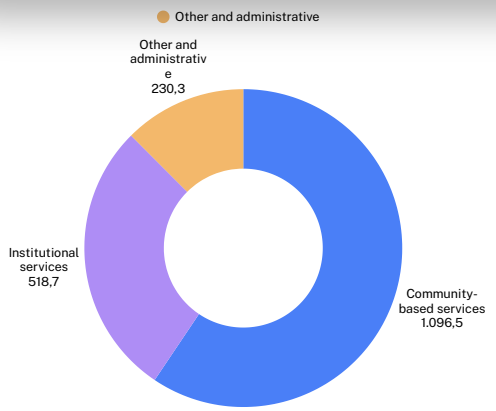
0.25%

of the disability subprogramme funds the transition out of institutions: 4.8 million lei

0

intersectional indicators on women with disabilities anywhere in the budget

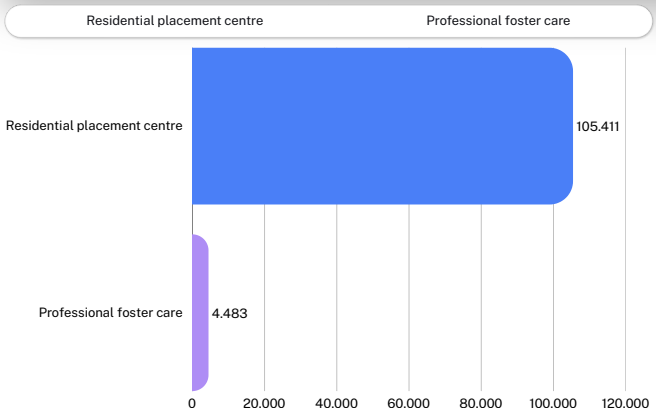
Allocation inside the disability subprogramme, 2026 (million lei)



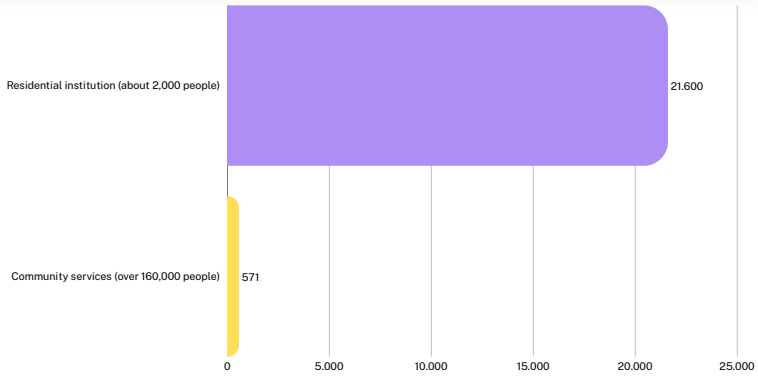
Two thirds of the direct care budget goes to community services and one third to institutions. The institutional third serves about 2,000 people. The community two thirds must cover more than 160,000.

Personal assistance alone accounts for 699.3 million lei, the largest single line in the subprogramme. Protected Housing and Respite, the two services that make leaving an institution possible, receive 2.7 and 2.1 million lei.

Monthly cost per beneficiary, institutional against community care (lei)

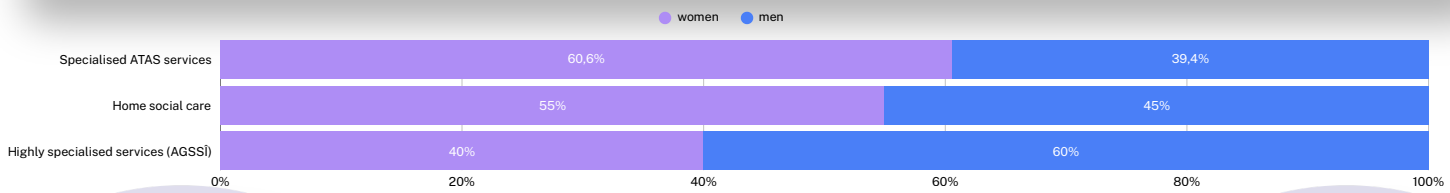


Children, subprogramme 9006: ratio over 23 to 1



Adults, subprogramme 9010: ratio 38 to 1

Women among beneficiaries of disability services, 2026 (%)



What the budget funds

- 9,000 hours of sign language interpretation, 12.72 million lei
- 6.8 thousand lei average subsidy per adapted job
- 498 potential beneficiaries of social housing, 57.38 million lei
- 73.2 million lei for rehabilitation of children with disabilities

What the budget cuts or leaves out

- Technical assistance for services for children with special needs, cut from 9.3 to 2.16 million lei
- Transition out of institutions, against a target of 10% of residents moved out in 2026 and 20% by 2028
- Any indicator on poverty reduction, autonomy or actual transition to independent living
- Disability indicators in agriculture, defence and energy, which have none

WHAT CHANGES WERE MADE IN THE BUDGET IN 2026?

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD INDUSTRY

Gender indicators more than doubled

The subsidy programme 5105 went from 8 gender-sensitive indicators in 2025 to 19 in 2026. For the first time the budget sets quantified targets on women's access to subsidies: 25% of declared investments, 250 women beneficiaries, 25 million lei per year for women-managed businesses and a further 50 million lei in investment subsidies dedicated to women farmers.

GENDER-RESPONSIVE BUDGETING PILOT MINISTRY

MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL PROTECTION

Active labour market measures grew almost six times in 2026

Subprogramme 9008 rose from 34.1 million lei in 2025 to 196.13 million lei in 2026, driven by the new activity "Strengthening Active Labour Market Measures" (162 million lei) and the expansion of vocational training vouchers. It carries the first explicit parity objective in the budget: at least 50% of people employed after voucher-based training must be women.

Not every line moved up. Technical assistance for services for children with special needs (code 70378) fell from 9.3 million lei in 2025 to 2.16 million lei in 2026.

MINISTRY OF INFRASTRUCTURE AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Water and sanitation, from no data to disaggregated targets

Subprogramme 7503 had no gender-disaggregated data in 2025. In 2026 it includes four gender-sensitive outcome indicators and a target of 200,000 people gaining access to water and sewerage systems, of whom 100,000 women. Its budget rose from 600.4 million lei to 1,349.8 million lei.

WATER AND SANITATION ACCESS

HOW CAN CITIZENS PARTICIPATE MORE?



Moldova has moved from piloting gender-responsive budgeting to embedding it in programme budgeting and the Medium-Term Budgetary Framework, but citizen-centred participation is still thin. Indicators are set inside ministries and reported upward, not co-designed with the people they concern. Three entry points already exist in the 2026 architecture: gender statistics and reporting, digital public services, and institutional capacity. All three are unevenly developed, and each offers a concrete way for citizens to take part.

GENDER STATISTICS AND DATA



The 2026 budget creates reporting obligations that citizens can use. Subprogramme 9008 requires one annual report on gender gaps in access to active labour market measures. The VioData system will automatically generate the first three statistical reports on domestic violence. Subprogramme 9010 already publishes beneficiaries disaggregated by sex. The step still missing is to publish these datasets alongside the programme budgets on the Ministry of Finance portal, in open format, so that gender statistics become a shared evidence base for advocacy rather than internal compliance reporting.



DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION

Digitalisation in the 2026 budget is oriented toward service delivery, not toward participation. Subprogramme 0502 targets 18% of citizen reports submitted electronically and rolls out the Electronic Customs Decisions System, which removes physical barriers for people with reduced mobility. VioData digitalises case management. None of these systems has a feedback channel. The foundations exist for participatory modules that let women, people with disabilities and rural communities rank gender-sensitive investments and comment on programme performance, but they have not yet been built.

CONSISTENT SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

The budget funds the skills that make participation possible: 50 civil servants trained annually in gender analysis at the Ministry of Agriculture (about 0.3 thousand lei per participant), 100 staff per year in the energy sector, and training for ATAS employees, of whom 89% are women. Citizens currently take part mainly through CSOs and thematic networks rather than directly. Two additions would open the process: publishing ex-post gender impact evaluations for subprogrammes above 100 million lei on the Ministry of Finance budget portal and submitting them to Parliament, and holding public hearings on programme fiches before the budget is approved.

