

# Support in mitigating war-related impacts for water supply and sanitation in the border region of Moldova and Ukraine (WASSER)

## The challenge

The ongoing military conflict in Ukraine has significantly worsened the already precarious situation regarding water supply and wastewater management in the region. With over 450,000 internally displaced persons and numerous industrial enterprises relocating to the upper Dniester basin, the demand for water has sharply increased, exacerbating pollution in the Dniester River. This is compounded by the contamination of drinking water, primarily due to impaired wastewater treatment and the leakage of hazardous substances. Additionally, ongoing Russian air strikes and power outages in Ukraine disrupt sewage treatment operations, further contributing to water pollution. As a result, both Ukraine and Moldova face significant challenges in managing water and wastewater services. Municipalities and water suppliers are overwhelmed, with insufficient resources to address the growing demands and deteriorating infrastructure. Conflicts over water distribution are intensifying, further complicating the situation.

## Our approach

The project aims to strengthen the capacity of local authorities and municipalities in both Moldova and Ukraine to effectively manage water and sanitation services during this crisis. By fostering cross-border knowledge exchange and reinforcing institutional capabilities, the project will ensure that water supply and wastewater management systems remain operational. Building on existing partnerships between Moldova, Ukraine and Germany, and supported by the Dniester River Basin Commission, the project seeks to enhance regional cooperation and improve resilience in

water and sanitation management during ongoing and future crises.

Project name	Support in mitigating war-related impacts for water supply and sanitation in the border region of Moldova and Ukraine (WASSER)
Commissioned by	Federal Foreign Office
Project region	Moldova-Ukraine along a segment of the River Dniester
Lead executing agency	State Chancellery of Republic of Moldova
Duration	01.2025 – 12.2027

## The benefits

The projects will bring significant benefits to the targeted border region by strengthening the capacity of authorities and municipalities to manage water supply and wastewater services during crisis situations. Through comprehensive infrastructure assessments and the development of resilience measures, key stakeholders will gain access to essential information and actionable plans to stabilize services in emergencies. Capacity development initiatives will enhance the professional skills of staff, ensuring they are better prepared to respond effectively. Awareness-raising activities, including gender-responsive approaches, will engage and prepare civil society for potential disruptions in drinking water services. Furthermore, the cross-border exchange of experience will foster stronger cooperation between Ukraine and Moldova, promoting joint crisis prevention efforts and increasing resilience to climate impacts in the water and sanitation sectors.

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