PROJECT TITLE: Empowerment of Victims of Domestic Violence and Human Trafficking in the Transnistrian region of Moldova Project

IMPLEMENTING AGENCY: UNDP Moldova

PROJECT PERIOD: June 2014 – May 2016
### Reporting Period
June 2014 – December 2015

### Donor
Government of Liechtenstein

### Project Title
Empowerment of Victims of Domestic Violence and Human Trafficking in the Transnistrian region of Moldova Project

### Project ID
(Atlas Award ID)

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### Implementing Partner(s)
UNDP

### Project Start Date
2014

### Project End Date
2016

### Annual Work Plan Budget
Year 1 – 157,140 USD
Year 2 – 59,860 USD
Year 3 – 0 USD

### Total resources required
217,000 USD

### Revenue received

- Regular
- Other
  - Donor 217,000 USD

Total 217,000 USD

### Unfunded budget
n/a

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## I. Summary

### Overall Objective of the Project:
Enhancing Protection to victims and potential victims of human trafficking and domestic violence through a strengthened system and empowerment of individuals to prevent and address the problems at their roots in the Transnistrian region.

### Specific objectives:
- Provide support in the establishment, institutionalization and functioning of social reintegration/rehabilitation service, including the establishment of at least one shelter for the victims of violence and human trafficking
- Strengthen the capacity of key service delivery institutions to promote and protect women’s rights to life free from violence and those of the victims of the human trafficking
- Raise public awareness to support prevention and disclosure of DV and HT instances
- Support the ability of relevant civil society organizations and activists to advocate for a strengthened rules/protection framework for victims of DV, HT and other forms of violence against women, as well as of victims to stand and claim rights.
- Educate women from grassroots’ networks, as well as women from particularly marginalized communities, to understand and support the human rights standards to help fight gender-based violence and exert a positive impact on the lives of women and girls and, by extension, civilian communities as a whole.

### Project activities:
1. Support the establishment, institutionalization and functioning of social reintegration services/center (shelter) for the victims of violence and human trafficking
2. Strengthen the capacity of key service delivery institutions to promote and protect women’s rights to life free from violence and those of the victims of the human trafficking
3. Raise public awareness to support prevention and disclosure of the instances of VaW and HT and support the empowerment of victims

### Beneficiaries:
Victims of Domestic Violence (DV) and Human Trafficking (HT), pregnant women at risk, de-facto local authorities, local stakeholders, specialized public institutions

### Implementing Agencies:
UNDP, OHCHR, UNFPA, IOM

### Partners:
UN Women, NGOs, Liechtenstein Development Service, NGO Resonance, local and national authorities

### Expected results:
- A social reintegration service/center (shelter) to provide assistance to victims of DV and HT in the Transnistrian region established and functional
- A Network/empowerment group of victims enabled or, if not feasible, then victim empowerment services created for example via confidential online internet platform or closed social media group, as needed
II. Project Background and General Context

Transnistria is a territory located between Ukraine and Moldova. De jure a part of Moldova, it has had de facto independence since the early 1990s. In 1990, the region announced its intention to succeed from Moldova to become the so-called Pridnestrovian Moldavian Republic (PMR), with the capital in Tiraspol. Between 1990 and 1992 at least 700 people were killed in fighting between Transnistrian separatists and Moldova. In a 2006 referendum that was not recognized by the international community, 97 percent of the people in the region voted for independence and expressed support for a plan to eventually joining Russia. The population is approximately half a million, with 32% being Moldovan, 29% Ukrainian, 30% Russian, and 9% other ethnic minorities.

As a result of its disputed status, the Transnistrian region of the Republic of Moldova has been excluded from major human rights developments occurring within the international human rights system during the past two decades. None of the UN Treaty Bodies have received sufficient information on human rights in the Transnistrian region to include recommendations on Transnistria, as part of their roles as the arbiters and interpreters of international human rights law.

During the mission of United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Navi Pillay, to the Republic of Moldova in November 2011, a broad range of parties, including the Government of the Republic of Moldova, the de facto authorities from the Transnistrian region, as well as civil society representatives emphasized the need for further particular attention to the human rights situation in the region. The UN High Commissioner stressed the overarching goal of promoting human rights for all; hence the necessity to have access to and work with all those who are in effective control of a territory in order to reach out to people in need. A major breakthrough was achieved in October 2013 when the UN was able to facilitate participation of NGOs from the Transnistrian region in the shadow reporting in Geneva on CEDAW, and for the first time in a UN Treaty Body recommendation, to ensure recommendations mainstreamed Transnistria throughout.

The High Commissioner’s visit in late 2011 provided the opening for in-depth follow-up, including acceptance by a broad range of parties – the Government, de facto authorities and civil society on both banks, on the need to increase the information available about human rights in the region. That was reiterated when new de facto leaders entered power in December 2011. In March 2012, Thomas Hammarberg (then recently-retired Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights) was hired by the UN Resident Coordinator Office as Senior UN expert. In February 2013, he produced a report with 38 recommendations, based on four missions to the Transnistrian region. A principal finding of the Hammarberg Report lay in the fact that 20 years of isolation had left significant weaknesses in knowledge of human rights among Transnistrian actors.

Following up to the Hammarberg report, the Moldovan Prime Minister Iurie Leanca officially called to address these recommendations in his speech to the UN General Assembly in September 2013. At the same time, in November 2013, de-facto TN authorities issued an Action Plan on the implementation of the Hammarberg recommendations, where responding to the domestic violence problem appeared as one of nine approved priorities. Additionally, the idea of creating a shelter was suggested as a top priority by at least 20 NGOs across the conflict divide following participatory discussions and needs assessments2. The Hammarberg report also mentioned the need to establish readily accessible physical shelter with capacity to receive a victim on short notice, alone or with children, matching a need of those who have to flee an abusive family member.

Detailed consultations followed with key stakeholders from both sides, including de-facto authorities in health, social protection, interior, local authorities and experts. The seriousness of this issue prompted the need for a comprehensive approach that would provide concrete and sustainable benefits for vulnerable women from a breakaway region, threatened in their livelihood and dignity.

Violence against Women (VAW) is still a widespread phenomenon in Transnistria. Though there is no official data available on prevalence rate on violence against women, studies indicated that 35.7 percent of women in Transnistria experienced physical domestic violence, 22 percent were beaten by their current husband/partner, 10.7 percent were beaten publicly, and 5.2 percent were sexually abused by their partner.

As the project began in 2014, there were no frameworks designed to prevent and halt this phenomenon. Victims of violence were not able to benefit from assistance since there were no emergency shelters and relevant services, except the ones carried out by NGOs. Victims were frequently left without any psychological support and legal assistance. Enforcement personnel were often not prepared to handle cases of VAW in the interest of the victim. The region was also considered a “source area” for victims of forced labour and commercial sexual exploitation. Despite the existence of regulations consecrated to combating trafficking there are problems with implementation. Preventive and counselling efforts run by local NGOs were insufficient to deal with this form of slavery.

III. Key Project Results

Since the project start in July 2014, and till December 2015, the project team succeeded to make important advancements in all key areas: the shelter was established and started to provide basic services, along with partnerships between de-facto administration and local NGOs; public awareness on the issue of Domestic Violence was raised.

The project team has managed to reach important milestones that would help ensure the sustainability of the achieved results: a local NGO (Rezonans) with sufficient capacity and robustness to continue carrying on the relevant activities was identified, and provided with a grant, that enabled it to start running the Center; the newly established shelter staff (6 specialists and 3 guards) was selected and trained, a continuing dialogue with the de-facto authorities was

2 [http://www.md.undp.org/content/dam/moldova/docs/Project%20Documents/Blueprint%20social%20and%20humanitarian%20aid.pdf](http://www.md.undp.org/content/dam/moldova/docs/Project%20Documents/Blueprint%20social%20and%20humanitarian%20aid.pdf)
initiated. In the reported period, the Women Support Center offered **assistance to 92 beneficiaries (61 women and 31 children)**, who received **616 consultations of specialists**. The public awareness campaign allowed to communicate anti-DV messages to 160,000 men and women from the Transnistrian region, with the number of calls to the dedicated hotline increased with around 30%.

Despite a highly challenging regional and local context, compounded by an impending economic crisis and political instability, a solid foundation for providing a safe spot for women affected by domestic violence has been laid down. Furthermore, resources have been mobilized to support the future work of the shelter: a permanent, rent-free location was identified as the current solution relies on a rented space. Within the EU-UNDP Support to Confidence Building Measures Programme, the new location will be reconstructed and adapted to the needs of the shelter, while the local authorities committed to provide it rent-free for at least the next 10 years. Additionally, with the support of the Swedish Government, the Center will continue to be run and further capacitated, along with 2 regional centers, providing improved services to DV victims.

**IV. Key Project Activities**

**Selection of the local partner NGO, to run the shelter (Women Support Center)**

In order to meet this goal, the «Strengthening Human Rights in Transnistrian region of Moldova» Project announced an Expression of Interest on **21 July 2014**, inviting non-profit organizations from the left bank of Nistru River to submit their applications until **11 August 2014, 16.00 pm**.

Therefore, on **October 20, 2014**, based on final individual evaluations by Selection Committee members, **the NGO Centre Resonance from Bender was recommended for approval** to the «Strengthening Human Rights in Transnistrian region of Moldova» Project Board.

At the distance of one month after selection, time in which the project team and the selected partners were involved in a negotiation process regarding following activities and the budget, on **November 26, 2014**, the Grant Agreement was signed.

**A temporary shelter (Women Support Center) was established and started to assist victims.**

As the local authorities found it difficult to identify a rent-free location to be used on a permanent basis as a shelter, the project team has elaborated an intermediary step, allowing to start work with survivors of Domestic Violence and to achieve the assumed outputs. The idea consisted in renting an adequate house from the private sector (which would become a “temporary” shelter, until the building for the permanent shelter was identified, retrofitted and finally commissioned to the local partners. Starting with February 2015, one house from the private sector (photo) and in very good condition was rented in Bender, for a period of 18 months. This Women in Dangerous Situation Support Center (hereinafter
the Center) has the role of temporary shelter and allows assisting in a residential regime at least 5 survivors of Domestic Violence, with their children. Therefore, this allowed the project and partners to (i) start the process of assisting beneficiaries in need the soonest and (ii) to gather the necessary experience till the core shelter would be opened.

**Enabling the security system of the Center.**

Video surveillance systems and a panic button were purchased and installed; the button allows calling in the police agents from any point in the Center and within a radius of 100m around it. The Center set up agreements with the Ministry of Interiors for security services. Video surveillance system allows playback and recording around the Center and the adjacent territory.

![The video surveillance system is operational](image)

**Provision of technical equipment for the Women Support Center.**

In the reported period, a number of necessary acquisitions has been made to ensure the full operation of the Center. The following items were purchased and delivered to the Center: tableware, fridge, furniture, linen, iron, ironing board, cleaning products and other essentials.

**Selection and training of the Employees of the Center.**

In the reported period, the following specialists were recruited to work at the Center: A Center Director, 2 psychologists, 2 social assistants, a service coordinator and 3 security guards. Left bank specialists took part in study visits to crisis centers on the right bank of the Dniester River: Drochia, Edinet, Balti, Chisinau and Causeni. Two specialists (a psychologist and a social assistant) took part in a two-week internship in Drochia.

A number of documents were developed and approved, which help with managing the cases of beneficiaries: totally, 24 templates were developed, along with a Center regulation (in Annex). They comply with the Practical Guidelines aimed to improve the activity of the centers of social reintegration, as well as with the samples of documents offered by the colleagues from the right bank, yet are localized, i.e. adapted to meet the specific working circumstances of the Center.

**Beneficiaries-victims of domestic violence and human trafficking enjoy high-quality services of the Center.**
In the reported period, the Women Support Center offered assistance to **92 beneficiaries** (61 women and 31 children), who received **616 consultations** of specialists.

Women and their children received the following services:

a) Psychological counseling offered to 49 beneficiaries, total 343 consultations;

b) Legal services offered to 45 beneficiaries, total 110 consultations.

c) Social assistants offered 453 consultations to all beneficiaries. They focused on examination of living conditions, accompanied beneficiaries to various institutions, helped looking for vacancies, trained budget planning skills, etc.;

d) “Social home” service was used by 17 beneficiaries (including 7 children).

e) Various types of charity aid offered to 61 beneficiaries (including 31 children):
   - Food products received: 59 beneficiaries (including 29 children);
   - Personal hygiene products received: 46 beneficiaries (including 24 children);
   - Medicines received: 15 beneficiaries (including 3 children);
   - Clothes received: 31 beneficiaries (including 29 children);
   - Medical examination: 7 beneficiaries (including 2 children);
   - State fees paid: 1 adult beneficiary;
   - Invoice payable to the kindergarten paid: 1 adult beneficiary.

f) Professional training courses were attended by 11 beneficiaries (3 women are trained to be hairdressers and stylists, 4 women – shop-assistants, other 2 women attended the pastry course and 2 more learn to be office managers). Material assistance was offered to 9 beneficiaries during their training;

g) Seven beneficiaries have been employed. Women were helped to prepare their CVs and send them to potential employers looking for potential vacancies.

h) Beneficiaries set up an informal peer support group. Beneficiaries help each other (a beneficiary had his child’s hair cut free of charge by another beneficiary who attends hairdresser’s training; another beneficiary, who is a speech-therapist, coaches a child with some speech defects, etc.)
Establishment of Regional hub services for victims of domestic violence and human trafficking:

Women’s Safety & Prevention Services (non-residential, regional hubs) - provide non-residential support of any kind (psychosocial counselling, legal or other information and advice, practical support, court accompaniment, etc.) to women victims of gender based violence and their children. These services identify, assess and redirect severe cases of violence to the temporary shelter and also provide advocacy and counselling to women that not need accommodation but requires other specialist support and advocacy.

Three such regional hubs in Transnistria, in Rybnita, Slobozia and Grigoriopol were created in the second half of 2015 to ensure outreach to local communities, identifying, assisting and referring cases of domestic violence. Besides direct assistance to victims, the Women’s Safety & Prevention Services are involved in disseminating information regarding the domestic violence phenomenon through Mobile Teams which go once per week in one of the district’s locality. The advantages of such type of services is that on the ground level, the specialists:  

i) reach remote areas;  

ii) inform population and authorities about existing services;  

iii) train other local specialists to identify signs of violence and to intervene; and  

iv) refer cases to the shelter and/or other services.

Regional Women Support Center, Ribnita.

The Mobile Team conducted 7 field trips (3 in Ribnita, 1 in Erjova, 1 in Molochis, 2 in Butuceni) which were attended by 76 people.

The specialists offered consultations to 26 beneficiaries, with a total of 39 consultations;

Regional Women Support Center, Grigoriopol.

The Mobile Team conducted 9 field trips (Delaca, Crasnaya Gorka, Glinoe, Speya, Kolosovo, Tocmazeya, Carmanovo, Teya, Shipca) which were attended by 270 people.

The specialists offered consultations to 28 beneficiaries, total 98 consultations;

Regional Women Support Center, Slobozia (placed into the Women Support Center and with coverage of entire Slobozia rayon).

The Mobile Team conducted 4 field trips which was attended by 88 people.

The specialists offered consultations to 17 beneficiaries, victims of Domestic Violence;

Interaction with de facto authorities.

During the mentioned period, the project team in close collaboration with NGO Rezonans, cooperated-s with the de-facto Ministry of Social Protection and Labor (agreement of cooperation signed by NGO partner in October 2014); also held a number of meetings with the representatives
of de-facto Ministry of Health and Deputy Minister of Health, as well as a number of meetings with the de-facto Ministry of Interiors and the de-facto Ministry of Exteriors of Transnistrian region.

Cooperation with the de-facto Ministry of Social Protection and Labor helped to write a letter with requirements to the future location of the Center, which was sent to other public authorities. As a feedback, 4 official responses were received, suggesting potential premises for the future Center (from Tiraspol Administration, Bender Administration, from the de-facto Ministry of Health and of Education).

In order to establish a long-term and efficient cooperation and improve quality of services, the partner NGO Rezonans submitted a letter to the de facto Ministry of Health, where it presented the services rendered under the Project. In the same letter, the NGO asked for access to medical examination at "Bender Center of Outpatient-Polyclinic Aid" to be offered, on confidential and favorable terms, to the beneficiaries of the Center, subject to the latter’s referral (and accompanied by a social assistant). Beneficiaries of the Center will require such examination before being admitted to the Center. Particularly, access to services of the following specialists can be required: therapist, dermatovenerologist, psychiatrist, narcologist, gynaecologist, photofluorographist.

In response to this letter, the de-facto Minister of Health personally signed and disseminated a circular to Chief Doctors of all public health and medical institutions, with the full list of services rendered by the Center's specialists. As well, the letter specified the request that, should any of these public health and medical institutions admit women with typical beatings, traumas and signs of sexual abuse, they should offer these women information on services they can benefit of if they address to the Women in Dangerous Situation Support Center, by calling the Free Infoline on domestic violence 0 800 44000.

To enable partnership and common understanding of project goals and objectives by the parties, as well as in order to find a building for the long-term crisis Center, the Rezonans Center team initiated a steering meeting with the de facto Ministry of Interior Affairs on the issues related to identification and approval of the premises, which the public authorities agreed to offer for the Center. The meeting was attended by representatives of the de facto Ministry of Exteriors of Transnistria, de facto Ministry of Health, UNDP and Rezonans Center. The participants managed to reach a preliminary consent, whereas a section of the Children Hospital in Tiraspol was offered for the future Center.

In September 2015, Iulia Abramova, leader of Rezonans Center, met de facto minister of Health T. Skripnik. They discussed the issues of further cooperation regarding reconstruction of the former Children Hospital in Tiraspol, which will house a Women Crisis Center, and the issues of trainings for medical workers on how to work with women-victims of domestic violence who addressed for help to public health and medical institutions of the country (by regions). The de facto minister assured that these trainings would be interesting and useful to the medical workers, especially employees of maternities, hospitals, trauma units, etc. She suggested that, to start with, a personal meeting with heads of these medical institutions (Chief Doctors) needs to be organized, to discuss the topics of the trainings.

One more agreement was reached during this meeting, concerning free access of women-victims of domestic violence to medical examination at the Public Institution ‘Bender Center of Outpatient-
Polyclinic Aid’, when they address the Center and come from other regions of the republic, as well as to ensure pediatric services for their infant and older children.

In addition to the above, the team of the Rezonans Center, while working on one beneficiary’s case, interacted with the Public Education Department in Bender, to which it addressed two requests about seats in kindergarten for the beneficiaries’ kids.

**Establishment of referral system and interaction with partner non-commercial organizations.**

Aiming for the establishment of this system of referral of beneficiaries, the partner NGO Rezonans initiated a meeting of the Platform to Combat Domestic Violence in March 2015. During this event, the ‘social home’ service and other activities of the Women Support Center were presented. Also, during this meeting of the Platform, its members approved some general forms for referral of clients and discussed further mechanisms for referral of clients.

The NGO Rezonans maintains steady cooperation relations with the “Vzaimodeistvie” (Interaction) NGO and “Zhenskie Initsiativy” (Women Initiatives) NGO. These two NGOs already referred a few women-victims of domestic violence to the Women in Dangerous Situation Support Center: “Vzaimodeistvie” – 1, Zhenskie Initsiativy – 4. Four of these women were offered accommodation in the shelter and other services of the Center. Public institution "Bender Board for Guardianship and Curatorship and support to families from the risk group" also referred to the Center 1 mother of 6 children in the reported period. The "Children Center ‘Petrushka’ ” referred to the Chenter 1 beneficiary with a 10-year-old daughter, who was accommodated in the shelter and received psychological and legal services, and who has already left the center because she was offered a place to live in.

In June 2015, the team of “Zhenskie Initsiativy” NGO initiated a meeting, in the offices of the Center, of different specialists in the matters of cooperation and referral of clients. Thus, particularly, they discussed the division of responsibilities, in case when employees of both NGOs have to help the same referred client. As a result, they reached a verbal agreement on having joint sessions of specialists to plan individual support measures and also agreed to exchange information between specialists of different organizations on new circumstances in a client’s case.

In June 2015, an IOM and UNDP initiative established a working group to develop rules of referral between NGOs dealing with domestic violence. Specialists of the NGO Rezonans were the members of this working group. These sessions were completed with the signing of a trilateral agreement on the referral of beneficiaries, and with drafting instructions on how to do it correctly.

**Looking for a rent-free place for the crisis center (shelter).**
UNDP specialists together with representatives of the partner NGO Rezonans had three rounds of visits to various locations while looking for premises, which could house the Women Support Center. Altogether, 19 buildings were examined in Bender, Tiraspol and Suclea. The following 3 buildings were examined in detail: Block B of the Mother and Child Center in Bender; The building of the Railway Hospital in Bender; and The building of the Children Hospital in Tiraspol.

The technical examination of the buildings made the specialists to conclude that the Children Hospital in Tiraspol would be the most suitable place to house the Center, in the long run.

Along with looking for premises, UNDP representatives, together with Rezonans, initiated a number of meetings with representatives of public authorities, in order to discuss the best suitable option and further renovation activities. As a result, the representatives of the de facto Ministry of Exteriors, de facto Ministry of Health and de facto Ministry of Social Protection and Labor achieved a preliminary verbal agreement on establishment of a long-term Center in a section of the Children Hospital in Tiraspol.

At present, lawyers are seeking solutions to transmit the management of identified building from hospital, to the partner NGO for a period of minimum 10 years, while the respective building is set to be reconstructed with the support of the EU-UNDP Support to Confidence Building Measures Programme.

**Awareness raising campaign**

The awareness campaign was planned simultaneously with the campaign “16 days against violence”, which took place in late November 2015. As part of that campaign, two videos with the topic of combating domestic violence have been translated and adapted for TV channels from the Transnistrian region. The spots were offered by the NGO “La Strada”, and were adapted in Russian by the Moldova Film and Sergiu Prodan studios. The spots were running on 4 channels with the coverage of entire region, for a period of 3 months. The estimate number of viewers is around 160 000 men and women from the Transnistrian region. Our partners noted that after first month of running, the number of calls increased with around 30%, from 15 to 20 calls per month.

V. **Lessons Learned and Conclusions**

**De facto central public administration**

De facto authorities from the region have taken an initial passive position related to the phenomenon of domestic violence. For the time being, only NGOs supported by international organisations provide some support and actions to address the issue. Domestic violence remains a controversial issue for political and religious groups, and the rigid hierarchical nature of public affairs management makes it difficult to work at the technical level, as even the participation of public servants in trainings needs high-level. The presence of an action plan on combating domestic violence, developed by the de facto central administration based on Hammarberg Report did not end yet with the adoption
of a law on combating domestic violence or creation of some specialized institutions for the domestic violence victims. As a reason, the de facto authorities say that the population does not request measures related to domestic violence, respectively they do not have a basis to undertake actions in this respect.

At the same time, avoiding the contacts with de facto administration and exclusive focusing on collaboration with local NGOs would be counterproductive: the involvement of the de facto representatives of de facto ministries in different actions may contribute to changing the vision and the actions in relation to this phenomenon.

**Orthodox Church**

Even though, the project has no contact, via its activities, with the church representatives, the influence of church on the public speech regarding domestic violence is significant: there is a rigid opposition to any approach related to combating this phenomenon, considering it to be an interference in the family environment, as well as an interference with Christian values. This position has a significant impact on population. Moreover, it is also supported by some local politicians, who build their political capital based on this topic. This combination between the position of the priest and that of the politicians influences significantly the decision-making process within ministries, hindering active measures on their behalf to fight DV.

**Representatives of civil society**

The representatives of the NGOs from the Transnistrian region, especially the ones from the human rights’ protection area, are interested in finding solutions for the major social challenges, such as irregular migration, domestic violence, child rights, persons with disabilities’ rights, etc. In case of the Transnistrian region, the local NGOs are like some social barometers indicating the pressure of certain problems in the society. Based on this, we can recognize the magnitude and the seriousness of some social phenomena. The majority of them are open for collaboration with international organizations, as well as with organizations from the right side of the River Nistru. They implement joint projects with their colleagues from the right side of the River Nistru and are open to take over the experience from the right bank. They participate in joint social and cultural events, if they are not impeded by the de facto administration. They are perceived ambiguously in the society: they do not have a positive or negative consolidated status, they are rather perceived as agents of foreign influence than agents of change, although the population in need calls upon their services. Due to the anti-NGO speech at the level of the official mass-media, they have have fewer opportunities to promote their image. Projects in the area of developing and consolidating the image of the NGOs as agents of change are necessary.

One of the problems encountered by the local NGOs refers to human resources: because of the economic crisis in the region, the small number of jobs, the lack of funds and projects, specialists from the NGOs leave abroad to look for a job. It is difficult to find specialists, especially in the area of social assistance and psychology, as well as in the area of project development and administration.

As the biggest cities in the region – Tiraspol and Bender – are also the most prosperous as compared to the rest of the districts, the number of NGOs is actually bigger namely in these localities. This situation together with the reduced funds leads to a visible competition and difficult collaboration
among the NGOs active in the same sector. It is recommended when implementing some projects to involve two-three NGOs, attributing to them different tasks for a common goal, so as to create better cohesion and cooperation among the NGOs. Indirectly, this may contribute also to improving the NGOs' image among the population of the region.

**The Population and its attitude to the domestic violence phenomenon**

Per ensemble, the population is affected by the public speech dominated and modelled by politicians, analysts, and church representatives, who perceive all the actions of the international organizations as “an interference with the state’s values, family, and Orthodox religion”. This mix, alongside other clichés, influences negatively the effort to appeal to the larger public., who still perceives domestic violence as a private issue which should not be taken out in the public.

To change this, more awareness campaigns at the regional and local levels, involving public personalities with a positive image would be necessary.

**VI. Future Plans**

In partnership with local and national stakeholders, UNDP has managed to mobilize additional resources to support the continuation and strengthening of the domestic violence shelter system in the Transnistria region. Within the EU-UNDP Support to Confidence Building Measures Programme, the new location for the permanent shelter will be reconstructed and adapted to the needs of its services, allowing the possibility to work with and host a larger number of beneficiaries concomitantly, while the local authorities committed to provide the space rent-free for at least the next 10 years. Additionally, with the support of the Swedish Government, the Center will continue to be run and further capacitated, along with 2 regional centers, providing improved services to DV victims.

**VII. Annexes**

- Center for Assisting Women in Situation of Danger Profile
- Professionals’ Training Plan
- Center Regulation (Russian)