



Contract number: 2009/205-215

**Project Title:**                    **Support to Civil Society in Transnistria**  
(Support to Confidence Building Measures, first package)

**Implementation period:**        01 May 2009 - 31 April 2011

**Implementing agency:**         UNDP Moldova

**Country:**                          Republic of Moldova

## SUMMARY

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## I. SUMMARY

Total duration of the action	<i>24 months</i>
Objectives of the action	<p>The <u>overall objective</u> of the project is to address the needs of Transnistrian communities by increasing their access to basic social and economic services, as well as to objective and diversified sources of information.</p> <p><u>Project specific objectives:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Support CBMs initiatives and actions (agreed with the EC Delegation to Moldova) that foster development of civil society in the Transnistrian region responding to pressing community needs and helping citizens solve their problems through common work and participation;</li> <li>- Support/promote contacts between two sides of the Nistru River, improving the flow of information and increasing the information space;</li> </ul>
Partner(s)	Bureau for Reintegration, international NGOs active in the Transnistrian region etc.
Target group(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Civil society organizations in the Transnistrian region of Moldova</li> <li>• Communities and community based NGOs.</li> </ul>
Final beneficiaries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Citizens in the Transnistrian region of Moldova</li> </ul>
Estimated results	<u>OUTPUT:</u> Improved capacities of the third sector in the Transnistrian region of Moldova and increased citizen action as a result of CBMs implementation
Main activities	<p>The above is tackled through the following <b>project component:</b></p> <p>Provision of grants to CSOs/NGOs focusing on practical improvements in areas relevant to the population, on information-sharing and on capacity building. The sub-projects could range from small infrastructure projects to resource mobilization and project management skills development. Support is provided for identified CBM projects oriented towards facilitation of the settlement and post-settlement period. Assistance could take various forms and cover areas line transport, infrastructure, environment, energy and many others.</p>

## II. CONTEXT

Approaching Transnistrian case from a development angle has been the recent focus accelerated in 2007 through the confidence building measures aimed to improve cooperation between Chisinau and Tiraspol. The implementation was however difficult especially in terms of working with civil society, which remains small, underdeveloped and overall, weaker than in the rest of Moldova.

In 2007, the leadership of Moldova proposed establishment of confidence-building measures (CBM) in order to contribute to the conflict settlement, country reintegration and improvement of relations between the people from the both banks. The CBM-related proposals range from economic and trade cooperation, infrastructural projects, transport, health care and social issues, education and science, demilitarisation, humanitarian aid and finally agriculture. The proposals were warmly welcomed by the international community, as they were a first step in the right direction and might help to overcome the huge amount of distrust of Tiraspol towards Chisinau. On the left bank the reactions were mixed, ranging from outward rejection from the Transnistrian leader (Igor Smirnov), towards a wait-and-see attitude from other interest groups within the region.

During the implementation period, the political situation in the Transnistrian region of Moldova was dominated by an electoral atmosphere: local elections were held on 28th of March 2010, elections to 'Supreme Soviet' (the local legislative body) in December 2010 and the forthcoming elections of the 'president' of the region in December 2011. The outcomes of the elections were extremely important for the future political negotiations and the ability of donors to continue development activities.

On the other hand, after 2009 elections in Moldova, the new government has decided to suspend the policy of isolating or ignoring Transnistria and started engaging the region across the board. It has left aside difficult political issues such as Transnistria's status and focused on small steps that could bring the sides closer to each other. It has tackled issues such as railways, economic cooperation, development projects (including social and health), trade and many others within the format of the CBM working groups.

As Moldova benefits from EU programmes with - assistance for political and economic reforms, visa facilitation, trade preferences, participation in educational, scientific and cultural community programmes, etc - Transnistrian residents remained unaware of these benefits and hence unable to use them. With the launch in 2009 of the EU confidence building projects, implemented by UNDP in Transnistria, covering among others access to basic health and social services; civil society/community development; business advisory services and business development initiatives; the situation changed and the EU-funded projects became popular among the civil society representatives in the region. The profile of EU experienced a positive ascending trend, the organisation becoming the main donor, supporting civil society initiatives in the Transnistrian region.

### **III. PROJECT BACKGROUND**

The **main goal of the project is to** address the needs of Transnistrian communities by increasing their access to basic social and economic services, as well as to objective and diversified sources of information.

In order to achieve the above mentioned goal grants were provided to NGOs focusing on practical improvements in areas relevant to the population, on information-sharing and on capacity building, as well as through support provided to the rebuilding and re-equipment of social institutions. Contacts between the two sides of the Nistru River, aimed at improving the flow of information and increasing the information space are also supported and promoted.

Further to a situation analysis, potentially feasible CBMs, joint actions and needs requiring assistance in the sectors of health care/social affairs, environment and educational one were identified; based on an evaluation of assistance needs on both sides and in view of contributing to country reintegration. As a result of this assessment mission and broader consultations with key stakeholders (Bureau for Reintegration (at that time Ministry), the Office of the EU Special Representative, the EC Delegation and other public institutions both from the Moldovan Government and Transnistrian administration, 16 project ideas were identified by a team of EC experts in February 2009, taken over by UNDP Moldova for further elaboration and detailing. Considering the sensitive context of the project, in line with the agreement of the EU Delegation representatives and Moldovan Bureau for Reintegration, four project notes in the field of education had to be withdrawn from the initial list, as the timing was considered premature for their implementation, as well as authorities in the region were reluctant to pursue these activities and accept externally funded projects within local universities. Instead, it was commonly agreed to reallocate the available funding for the projects in the field of health care, precisely the development of the Perinatal Centre in Tiraspol and the improvement of blood products safety in partnership with the Blood Transfusion Centers in Chisinau and Tiraspol.

The project factored in the experience of former and current relevant programmes and was closely coordinating work with other on-going initiatives in order to ensure synergy and avoid overlaps. As of November 2009, UNDP was chairing the Donors Coordination Meetings on Transnistria, this being another platform to coordinate donors activities and to share information. Additionally, specific coordination and information sharing meetings were organized every four months with key stakeholders, where the main topic for discussion was to present the achievements under the UNDP implemented project and as well discuss key issues/challenges along with identification of potential solutions.

### **IV. IMPLEMENTATION RESULTS**

During the implementation process, particular attention was paid to the specific context of working with civil society in the Transnistrian region. The Transnistrian civil society lacks the key elements for a proper functioning: cooperation between non-governmental organizations, openness from local public authorities. Most NGOs have been created in recent years with support from international donors and Moldovan counterparts, their activity being centred in the

main cities (Tiraspol, Bender and Dubasari), with only limited presence in rural areas. NGOs from the region lack capacities and possibilities to promote sustainable activities aimed at meeting their own needs. This situation forces NGOs to perform most of their activities in silence, promoting their activities only to a restricted circle of persons.

Following advice from the European Commission the final list of projects for implementation was agreed in October 2009. Thus, 12 projects have been initiated (Please see Annex 1 and Annex 2). The initial project ideas were developed into full-fledged project proposals by the UNDP project team, which prepared the technical project documentation, started work with the beneficiary NGOs, and was closely monitoring and evaluating the implementation of the sub-projects.

The 12 on-going projects were thematically divided into three main directions: health care, social affairs and environment. Synergies at the level of thematic groups were explored and ensured through dissemination of lessons learned between the implementing NGOs and organization of joint thematic meetings to share expertise and knowledge.

The project team has elaborated and put into place a system of project monitoring and evaluation and has set clear reporting guidelines. Jointly with recipient NGOs, a set of objective verifiable indicators were as well designed for each sub-project, thus allowing for a better monitoring of milestones and intervention in case of delays. Reporting guidelines and requirements, as well as clarified goals and targets for all projects have as well been developed.

## **V. RESULTS AS PER THE OBJECTIVES**

### **The project specific objectives:**

- Support CBMs initiatives and actions (agreed with the EU Delegation to Moldova) that foster development of civil society in the Transnistrian region responding to pressing community needs and helping citizens solve their problems through common work and participation;
- Support/promote contacts between two sides of the Nistru River, improving the flow of information and increasing the information space;

### **A snapshot of achievements under these objectives:**

The 12 sub-projects listed below, were successfully implemented, despite various impediments and a certain level of concern and suspicion on behalf of stakeholders in the region. The implemented initiatives succeeded to support capacity for provision of better services in the field of health and social support as well as environmental protection. The programme had a cumulative effect on the lives of **70,000 direct beneficiaries**, indirectly impacting the lives of the whole population of the Transnistrian region. These initiatives gave an unprecedented boost to supporting confidence among civil society, local authorities, experts etc. on both banks of the Nistru River.

Below are listed the quantifiable results per each implemented sub-project.

### **Health/Social support Sub-Projects:**

- 3,000 beneficiaries every year are offered better medical services in Cioburci village, Slobozia district (TN region), due to a cross-river cooperation of civil society organizations and local authorities (*Sub-project 1*);
- Professional exchanges and training organised for 138 beneficiaries on both banks (*Sub-project 1*);
- Awareness on HIV/AIDS issues promoted for about 15,000 persons that participated in activities held in Transnistria, conducted in partnership between Moldovan and Transnistrian NGOs (*Sub-project 2*);
- 65 young persons from 7 districts of Transnistria with good training and communication skills promoting the healthy lifestyle among their peers (*Sub-project 2*);
- 11 specialized institutions from both banks of the Nistru River created a Network of Day Care Centres for Children and Youth with disability in order to facilitate the exchange of experience and knowledge transfer on individually aligned and innovative methods of rehabilitation of children with limited abilities. (*Sub-project 3*);
- 130 workers from rehabilitation centers have improved their professional skills in working with children and youth with disability (*Sub-project 3*);
- 80 children and youth with disability were consulted on leadership, time management and increase of their individual capacities (*sub-project 3*);
- 260 medical doctors, midwives and nurses from Transnistrian mother and child hospitals aware of interventions recommended by the WHO in newborn care (*sub-project 4*);
- A 380,000 EUR modern batch of medical equipment for neonatal intensive care units is delivered to the Mother and Child Centers from Transnistrian region (Tiraspol and Bender), as well as comprehensive training delivered on the use of the equipment by Moldovan specialists (*sub-project 4*);
- More than 8,000 mothers and newborns are benefiting from significantly improved access to high-quality medical services at the Tiraspol and Bender perinatal centers (*sub-project 4*).
- 480 sq.m of space underwent full physical rehabilitation at the Blood Transfusion Center in Tiraspol as well as necessary IT equipment delivered and installed to launch a digital database of donors and blood products in Tiraspol (*sub-project 5*);
- 8,200 blood donors and 12,000 blood recipients are benefiting annually from more secure conditions and medical services (*sub-project 5*);
- Through a partnership of the Blood Transfusion Centers in Chisinau and Tiraspol, conditions prepared for an exchange of data on the availability of blood and blood products (*sub-project 5*);
- 62 children with various central nervous system affections from Singerei, Dubasari and Bender benefit of an individually adapted medical and social rehabilitation program, (*sub-project 16*).
- 8 specialists (speech therapists, psychologists, kineto-therapists and social assistants) have improved their skills in providing services to children with disabilities from Bender and Dubasari (*sub-project 15*).

## **Environmental Sub-Projects:**

- 10 specialists from the Transnistrian region went through several trainings organized by Moldovan and Dutch environmental specialists in the inventory and management of obsolete pesticides (OP) as well as performed the inventory of 2 storage locations with OP in the Transnistrian region (*sub-project 6*);
- Environmental NGOs Working Group created and trained in Transnistrian region to increase the awareness of the population on the risks of obsolete pesticides, and to monitor the cleaning up process (*sub-project 6*);
- About 550 persons - mayors, representatives of local services providers, NGOs, teachers and schoolchildren, aware of the importance of separate collection of solid municipal waste in Slobozia district (*sub-project 7*).
- 18,500 inhabitants of Slobozia town are benefiting from improved waste collection services and storage conditions (*sub-project 7*).
- 60 containers for the collection of municipal solid waste manufactured; 18 platforms for containers built; a specialized truck for collection and transportation of solid waste purchased and delivered to TN region (*sub-project 7*).
- Joint Moldovan-Transnistrian baseline situation study and evaluation of reconstruction and management of the Yagorlyk Natural Reserve in TN region conducted (*sub-project 8*);
- Joint Moldovan –Transnistrian practical works on endangered seeds collection and planting, eradication of alien and unnecessary species finalised in Yagorlyk Natural Reserve, TN region (*sub-project 8*);
- Expert recommendations and support provided to establish procedures for joint hydro-meteorological sampling of data by Chisinau and Tiraspol meteorological centres (*sub-project 9*);
- 2,500 inhabitants of Nezavertailovca village, Slobozia district (TN region) have access to clean drinking water. 476 pupils and 66 children in the two village schools and kindergartens use fully renovated sanitary units and have access to clean water (*sub-project 10*);
- 7 kilometres of aqueduct was fully renovated or installed, giving access to water to 960 inhabitants of Nezavertailovca village, that never had access to drinking water (*sub-project 10*);
- 50 environmental specialists from Moldova, including Transnistrian region and Ukraine involved in two joint Moldovan–Transnistrian seminars on the internationally recognized integral zone of the Lower Dniester (Nistru). A joint touristic management plan of the zone was developed (*sub-project 11*);
- 90 representatives from business, NGOs and authorities from the both Dniester (Nistru) banks participate in two public demonstrations of the pilot tourist routes (*sub-project 11*).

## **VI. FOLLOW UP TO ENPI MONITOR COMMENTS.**

Following the monitoring mission of the ENPI monitor the project team has received the recommendation to develop objectively verifiable indicators for the specific and overall

objectives of the projects, as well as to ensure the organization of sectoral meetings of the NGOs involved in the project.

The project team worked individually with beneficiary organizations in order to identify indicators as related to the project objectives. These indicators were used in monitoring the activities of the grantees and assessing the regular narrative and financial reports as laid out in the memorandums of understanding signed with each beneficiary.

The exchange of experience and sharing of lessons learned were ensured during sectoral meetings for NGOs implementing projects in the field of health/social and environment. Thus, during 2010, two inter-organizational meetings were organized. In April 2010 the meeting brought together the representative of the implementing partners in the environment area and, in October 2010, another experience sharing meeting was held with the grants beneficiaries from the health and social spheres. This exchange was complemented by a continuous exchange of ideas and results within the whole portfolio of projects and numerous meetings with each implementing organization.

The development context in the region will be continuously assessed and shall there be reduced risks, the project team will look at the possibility of organizing a final conference, towards the end of the second Confidence Building Measures project.

## VII. IMPLEMENTATION RESULTS PER SUB-PROJECT:

### **Sub-Project 1: “Never Alone: Restructuring of health and social services in Cioburci, Slobozia rayon”.**

**Implemented by:** Regina Pacis NGO.

#### 1 Before



#### **Partners in TN region and direct beneficiaries:**

The Italian Regina Pacis Foundation Branch in Tiraspol; Medical Ambulatory from Cioburci; Health Department Authorities from Tiraspol.

**Budget:** 113,300 EUR

**Timeframe:** September 2009 – October 2011

#### **Overall goals of the project:**

- Improvement of health and quality of life of children, pensioners, lonely elderly, disabled and persons with physical and motor disabilities by repairing/restructuring/supplying with equipment an inpatient ward and conducting information campaigns for target groups.
- Development and subsequent provision of local health care services in pediatrics, gynecology and therapy.
- Improvement of local medical personnel’s professional skills through trainings.

**Status:** Project activities were concluded. The final report was delivered on December 10, 2010; positively evaluated and approved. Project delivery: 100%

#### **Project results:**

##### *Renovation component*

Jointly with partners from the Cioburci village, Slobozia district, including local medical personnel and local village authorities, Regina Pacis NGO representatives determined the local needs for the rehabilitation of the village medical center. After a joint drafting of technical documentation, assisted by a UNDP engineering consultant, a tender selection process was organized to identify a construction company to execute the physical rehabilitation of the medical center, involving the Cioburci village medical representatives, UNDP project team representatives, engineering consultants, as well as Regina Pacis representatives. The contracted company (BIS SRL, Moldova) successfully finalised renovation works in May 2010, by fully renovating 400 sq. meters of space in the local medical center and a joint reception commission agreed that the construction contract was fully executed.

#### 2 After



The renovation works were followed by purchasing necessary medical equipment to complete the rehabilitation of the medical center and included equipment for: therapist, paediatrician, gynaecologist medical doctors; vaccination, day stationary, laboratory, registry cabinets. The Cioburci medical facility also received a computer, for a better management of medical services in the centre.

The renovation of the building, coupled with the procurement of a basic set of medical equipment provided better access to medical services for the local inhabitants, the annual coverage of patients by the renovated village center being now at the level of 3,000 patients.

#### *Training and Professional Exchange*

Several training sessions were organised for the local medical personnel in Cioburci village, in order to upgrade their skills in using the new medical equipment, as well as involve and exchange of experience with their colleagues from right-banks medical centers. With this goal in mind, Regina Pacis organised two visits for the Transnistrian medical personnel: one to Anenii Noi family medical center and one to the Botanica Territorial Medical Association in Chisinau. Each visit involved 18 representatives of the local medical center in Cioburci village who had a chance to see in action the organisation of medical work on the right bank as well as improve their medical skills.

This component also included the organisation of 4 seminars for youth from the village in the healthy lifestyle skills, involving raising awareness about provision and access to medical services in the local community.



#### **Sub -Project 2: “HIV prevention among school youth in Transnistria”.**

**Implemented by:** NGO AIDS Foundation East-West (AFEW)

**Budget:** 90,000 EUR

**Timeframe:** August 2009 – February 2010

**Beneficiaries:** Transnistrian youth, schools, mass media institutions of Transnistria (TN).

#### **Partners in the TN region:**

A local implementing partner NGO - Informational Center “Healthy future”; Tiraspol AIDS Center providing methodical support and facilitating cooperation with Transnistrian administration in the field of education.

#### **Overall goals of the project:**

- Contribute to the decrease of HIV/AIDS incidence among young people in the TN region of Moldova by involving them in prevention activities and linking them with the youth from other countries in the fight against HIV spread.
- Involve youth from the both banks in the implementation of the communication campaign: “Dance4Life”, which is in line with the principles and activities described in the Communication Strategic Framework in the field of HIV/AIDS/STIs that was adopted in Moldova in 2005.

**Status:** Project activities were concluded. Final report was submitted on 21 March 2011. The report was positively evaluated and approved. Project delivery: 100%

#### **Project results:**

**A pre and post campaign research was carried out.**

The results of the research showed that the percentage of myths about HIV transmission decreased due to the implementation of the project. Thus, only 11,7% of respondents consider that HIV is transmitted through saliva, compared to 33,3% during pre-campaign research. Four



times less respondents consider that HIV can be transmitting during coughing (5,8% compared to 20,9%), and misconception about HIV transmission via handshake decreased by 8 times.

More than 50% of respondents answered that they will behave the usual way with HIV positive persons, compared to 35% in the pre-campaign research etc.

The project's major outcome, as shown by the results of the conducted research, is

the increased level of young people's knowledge about HIV transmission ways and the methods of HIV prevention, while the HIV-related misconceptions decreased 3 times.

**Information/awareness raising campaigns** were conducted in Tiraspol, Bender, Slobozia, Ribnita, and Dubasari. Campaign launches included the presentation of the dance4life project by organizing heart connection tours, making it visible and understandable. Through these events the project activities were launched and the representatives of media and governmental institutions were informed about the campaign. These events were attended by at least 500 persons.

**Three dance4life teams were created within the project.**

**40 young people** from 7 regions of Transnistria (Tiraspol, Slobozia, Bender, Ribnita, Dnestrovsc, Grigoriopol and Dubasari) were trained on the organization of heart connection tours **during two training sessions** held in April 2010 and January 2011. **25 dance4life** trainers from Tiraspol, Chisinau, Cahul and Balti were prepared to conduct skills4life courses during a Trainer of Trainers event that took place in August 2010. During each of the 5-days training, participants have received detailed information on all aspects related to HIV and AIDS; developed their trainers' skills, and learned the dance4life drill.

**140 presentations and workshops** were conducted in the period of April 2010 - April 2011 in Tiraspol, Dubasari, Ribnita, Slobozia, Dnestrovsk, Bender, Grigoriopol.

The aim of the activity was to attract young people's attention, to engage them in activities and motivate them to take part in the next component of the project - skill4life. **14,493** young people were covered by these activities.

The activities were conducted in the summer camps from Dubasari, Merenesti, Popenchi; 25 schools from Tiraspol, Bender, Slobozia, Dubasari and Ribnita; Youth Friendly Clinic; NGO "Healthy Future", public places in the city of Tiraspol and Slobozia, Interregional University from Tiraspol, and Medical Colleges.

**A total of 89 teachers and 24 activists** from various educational establishments from Bender, Slobozia, Ribnita, and Tiraspol were reached through **10 individual meetings**, aimed at gaining the teachers' support in HIV prevention activities in schools. In fact, these particular meetings facilitated the organization of the presentations and workshops in the schools represented at these meetings.

**Two social events promoting HIV prevention messages** were conducted: 1st event was dedicated to the World AIDS Day (01.12.2009) and the 2<sup>nd</sup> event was dedicated to the AIDS

Memorial Day (16.05.2010). During these events HIV messages and info materials were distributed to participants, thematic contests and dance4life presentations took place; memory walls, concerts, and a candles ceremony were organized.

**Two exchange of experience events** between most active HIV prevention volunteers from both sides of the Nistru River were carried out.

The first meeting with volunteers was held in June, 2010. They distributed informational materials, organized contests (questions and answers related to HIV) among youth. It was estimated that about **1,800** people were covered by this event.



The second event was organized in November 2010, (last Saturday before the World AIDS Day) during dance4life Annual Event in Moldova. Over 2,000 Moldovan young people from both sides of the Nistru River gathered to dance together with tens of thousands of young people from 27 countries around the world, to make a statement against HIV and AIDS.

#### **Annual Event for most active HIV prevention volunteers.**

Around 500 young people from Tiraspol, Slobozia, Bender and 15 from Chisinau attended the annual event that took place in Club Plazma in Tiraspol. The most active volunteers involved in HIV prevention activities in Transnistria were mentioned with diplomas and prizes.

**Joint round table** for project results presentation for health and education authorities from both sides of the Nistru River was held on 25 February, 2011 in Tiraspol. **22 persons** participated at the event, including representatives of AIDS Center from Tiraspol, of Ministry of Education, police, journalists, teachers, Youth Friendly Clinic, AFEW in Moldova, dance4life volunteers. The agenda of the round table included presentations on HIV/AIDS situation in Transnistria, HIV prevention activities implemented by Youth Friendly Clinic, and presentation of the project results.

Participants agreed on the necessity of project continuation because the activities are interactive and interesting for youth. Teachers present at the event stressed the need to organize these activities in rural areas, where youth is not aware of HIV/AIDS, along with their concern towards the fact that these activities are accepted for Tiraspol and Bender, but almost prohibited in rural areas.

#### **Constraints and Lessons Learned**

Project “HIV prevention among young people in Transnistria” also encountered various barriers in the development and implementation of activities. The refusal of the authorities to provide access to schools, delays in the approval of campaign materials and late start-up of the project are just some of the encountered problems. In some cases, the beneficiary had to bypass the central authorities from Tiraspol and establish individual relations with local authorities and school principals which, in the end, allowed the implementation of project activities.

Another issue relates to the quality of experts. Local authorities are more open to accept trainers and speakers from Russia rather than from Moldova or from western countries. During the

activities with youth and school teachers some participants refused to sign attendance lists or to make photos, because of the specific security situation in the region.

### **Sub-Project 3: “Network of Day Care Centers for Children and Youth with Disabilities”.**



**Implemented by:** NGO Hilfswerk Austria in Moldova

**Budget:** 99,938 EUR

**Timeframe:** August 2009 – February 2011

#### **Beneficiaries:**

Children with disabilities from 5 to 18 years old (cerebral spastic infantile paralysis, epilepsy, heart diseases, down syndrome, etc.); families with children with limited abilities.

#### **Partners in Transnistrian (TN) region:**

Day Care Centre for children with disabilities in Dubasari, which is the local partner in Transnistria, responsible for the local project management, methodological guidance and liaison with similar centers in TN region.

**Overall goal of the project** is to improve the living conditions of children and youth with disability on both banks of the Nistru River.

#### **Specific objectives:**

- Optimizing the work of rehabilitation centers through training, facilitation of the exchange of experience, and creation of a network of rehabilitation centers on both sides of the Nistru River.
- Developing a complex rehabilitation system for children and youth with disability by applying individually aligned and innovative methods of rehabilitation.
- Raising awareness among population on the importance of social integration of children and youth with limited abilities.

**Status:** Project activities concluded. Narrative final report was submitted on 26 May 2011. The financial report was submitted on 25 August 2011. The report was positively evaluated and approved. Project delivery: 100%

#### **Project results:**

- Within the component '***Social-psychological rehabilitation seminar-cycle***' – were carried out professionally oriented trainings and workshops for specialists working with children and youth with disability in all centers of the network:
  - **16 workshops** and seminars regarding social psychological rehabilitation of children and youth with special educational needs (SEN).
  - **8 organizational development and strategic planning workshops.**
  - Network logo developed and promoted.
  - Methodological guidebooks elaborated<sup>1</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> “Организация деятельности с семьей, воспитывающей «особого» ребенка”, “Специфика организации работы в учреждениях для детей с ограниченными потребностями жизнедеятельности”.

- Approximately **130 workers** from the rehabilitation centres were trained within this component
- Within the **"Development school"** component, the sub-project aimed at creating individual education and rehabilitation plans for children and youth with disabilities. Activities under this sub-component included:
  - 11 events targeted towards improvement of individual rehabilitation and education plans for children and youth.
  - 112 children with disabilities and their families from Dubasari, Rybnitza, Bender, Tiraspol and Rezina participated at the *Talents' Festival* organized in Dubasari. The festival aimed at promoting tolerance and respect towards children and youth with special needs and public awareness rising regarding their main problems; Festival included an art exhibition "My world", a photo exhibition "We live for you" as well as a concert delivered by children.
  - 18 children and 10 family members participated at the 3-days summer theatre "World of Joy" organized in Dubasari. Activities included the team building, leader skills development etc, as well as cultural and recreation activities for children with disabilities and their families. The participants had also the opportunity to discuss the problems they face, as stigma, discrimination, socialization, education, health issues and legislation related to their protection.
  - Approx. 80 children and youth were consulted on leadership, time management and as a result have increased their individual capacities.
  - 63 individual education and rehabilitation plans for children with special needs elaborated and/or adjusted in compliance with new approach and therapy.
- The **'Medical health improvement programme'** sub-component conceived to provide individually aligned rehabilitation services for children and youth with disability, based on their diagnosis was developed and implemented, the following activities being conducted:
  - Thematic seminars on kinetotherapy and multifunctional rehabilitation held among network members, master classes organized and successfully conducted;
  - Mobile diagnostic group of specialists in TN formed and trained.
  - Important medical diagnostic equipment METATRON purchased.



Within the public awareness activities the following was achieved:

- wide spread of information for the public about the nature of disabilities, psychological illnesses and traumata as well as necessity to support the families with children with disability or, generally, families at risk among society by organized meetings and round tables.
- 9 articles published in written press, including in TN region.
- 7 internet postings about network activities in both TN and Moldova.
- 2 issues of information newsletter for parents published and disseminated.
- 3,000 information flyers elaborated and disseminated.
- 1,000 individual stickers for each network member elaborated and used.

Press releases were developed for each activity and distributed through various media channels.

### **Constraints and Lessons Learned**

From January 1, 2011, a “Law on external assistance” was enacted, which foresees the obligatory registration of all technical/humanitarian projects with the Coordination Council and the Humanitarian Commission. To get this registration the beneficiary in TN has to present an officially signed memorandum/contract with the external partner to the Coordination Council, with all details on activities, budgets, transfers etc. Afterwards, when the funds are transferred to TN, it has to go through Humanitarian Commission for approval and only then the beneficiary can get the funds.

Among all grant beneficiaries, Hilfswerk Austria was the only organization, at that moment, asked by the TN central bank and custom authorities to present the written confirmation that the project undergone the above mentioned procedure, i.e. to present a certificate from the Register of foreign technical projects in TN. As result, the last instalment of MDL 50,000 was blocked and did not reach the local partner’s account. The blocked amount was recalled and reached the Hilfswerk’s account on 17 May 2011, in totality. Alternative legal solutions had to be identified and payments were executed to right-bank accounts of the local partners.

### **Sub-Project 4: “Development of a Perinatologic System in Transnistria”**

**Implemented by:** UNDP Moldova and the Perinatal Association of Moldova

**Budget:** 60,000 EUR (training) + 466,000 USD (re-equipment of the Tiraspol and Bender Perinatal Centres)



**Timeframe:** January 2010-November 2010

**Partners in TN region and direct beneficiaries:** Tiraspol Perinatal center; medical staff from 7 district maternity hospitals: Ribnita, Camenca, Dubasari, Grigoriopol, Slobozia, as well as Tiraspol and Tighina municipalities.

**Overall goals of the project:**

- To strengthen the perinatal service in the TN region
- To train the medical staff from maternity hospitals as well as build professional relations between specialists on both banks of the river.
- To implement in perinatal care system of the TN region cost-effective and evidence-based interventions recommended by WHO for mother and child hospitals

**Status of the training component:** Activities concluded. Final report submitted 02 February 2011. The final report was positively evaluated and approved. Delivery 100%.

### **Project’s results:**

During the period of May-October 2010, **ten theoretical-practical seminars** were conducted by lecturers / specialists from the Medical University "N. Testemitanu" and the Mother and Child Research Institute from Chisinau for their colleagues from the Transnistrian region. During these seminars **260 of medical doctors, midwives and nurses from district level mother and child**

**hospitals**, out of which 78 obstetricians, 42 midwives, 94 neonatologists and 32 nurses have been trained. The district level distribution of the specialists trained is the following: Tiraspol – 75, Bender - 63, Slobozia – 21, Dnestrovsc - 18, Grigoriopol – 23, Dubasari - 21, Rybnitsa 21 and Kamenka - 18. The post-training evaluation showed that the average level of knowledge of staff increased from 34% to 83% (nearly by 50 %).

**Three training modules** necessary for conducting the seminars, - "Essential newborn care and breastfeeding", "Essential care at birth" and "State of emergency in neonatology"; were developed and published. For the seminar "Resuscitation of newborns" a module with the same name, developed by the American Academy of Paediatrics, was translated into Russian. The published modules / guides were distributed to participants during each specialized training.

**Clinical protocols in obstetrics and neonatology** have been developed and a guide with the same name was published. Medical care and care of mother and newborn in district level hospitals from the Transnistrian region was assessed by multidisciplinary teams from Chisinau counterpart institutions, using the methodology for assessing the quality of perinatal care, developed by the World Health Organization.



The implementing partner describes the changes in TN region mother and child hospitals as modest, stressing the fact that by end of project there was no any official document issued by the local health authorities, approving the proposed interventions and that, in the end, will not allow a proper implementation of acquired knowledge and skills.

Nevertheless, some of the results of the evaluation process, reflected in the indicators, are promising:

- percent of cases in which the baby was applied to the mother's belly after birth, the skin to skin contact increased by 38% (from 35% to 73 %),
- percent of cases when child is with his mother grew by 16% (from 54% to 70%),
- cases of early breast feeding of children grew for 1.5 times.



Additionally to the training activities, a set of audio-visual equipment for future trainings (laptop and digital projector) was purchased and donated to the Mother and Child Center from Tiraspol.

#### **Re-equipment component.**

An internationally selected medical consultant, in partnership with the EUD project manager for health projects, assessed the necessary upgrades in terms of medical equipment and infrastructure rehabilitation of the assigned sites and recommended the extension of the re-equipment to the mother and child center in Bender as well. The consultant's review concluded that the available equipment in Tiraspol and Bender centers is obsolete, out of

order or functioning without patient monitoring parameters provided by the manufacturer, excepting 2 incubators, 3 reanimation/resuscitation tables with heating module, 3 phototherapy lamps, and 3 infusion pumps donated in 2009 by UNICEF, but insufficient for patients treated by the hospital. There was no monitoring system for patients with affected vital functions or for blood gases and ions analysis. However this equipment is strictly necessary for ventilated patients and/or those with perfusions. After discussing with local professionals, a priority list of medical equipment was developed. It included the items strictly necessary for normal functioning of a regional perinatal centre, which is supposed to serve the most severe cases from the whole region. The recommended list of equipment included: neonatal ventilators; a CPAP system with hydrostatic adjustment of pressure; intensive care monitors; basic incubators; pulseoxymeters; phototherapy lamps; oxygen hoods; laryngoscopes; an anesthesia machine; blood gases analyzer; chemical blood analyzer and hot air sterilizer, among other small items necessary to upgrade the medical centers capacity to deal with complicated cases.

Following a series of negotiations with counterparts in TN region the project team succeeded to agree on a reallocation of funds in order to cover the re-equipment of two perinatal centers (Tiraspol and Bender) instead of only one initially envisaged (Tiraspol). The expert prepared the necessary technical specifications for the procurement of the equipment for the two centers and an international tender for the supplying of the respective equipment was announced and finalized according to all UNDP procedures. TN health authorities took responsibility for establishing a centralized system of oxygen distribution at the Perinatal Center in Tiraspol, thus creating all necessary conditions for the installation of the equipment. The Tiraspol center also took over the responsibility for all repair works at the center in Tiraspol to concentrate on the rehabilitation of the intensive care unit and its insulation, which will include the EU-funded contribution for the changing of windows and doors.

Procurement and installation of medical equipment, as well as the rehabilitation of the premises finalised in December 2010. The public launch of the renovated and re-equipped Mother and Child centers took place on January 21, 2011, with the participation of EUD management and UNDP representatives.

**Sub-Project 5: “Improvement of safety of blood and blood products”. Implemented by the Blood transfusion centers in Chisinau and Tiraspol.**

**3 Before (conditions within the Tiraspol Blood Center)**

**Implemented by:** UNDP Moldova

**Partners in TN region and direct beneficiaries:** Tiraspol Blood Transfusion center; medical staff from the center, blood donors from TN region

**Budget:** 90,000 EUR (repair works) + 30,000 EUR (equipment and creation of IT database of blood products)

**Timeframe:** January 2010 - December 2010



**Overall goals of the project:**

- Create conditions to ensure the safety of blood donation and put into place control procedures for blood donation in Transnistria. Ensure the information exchange on security of blood products between Moldova’s and Transnistria’s blood transfusion systems.
- To strengthen the security of blood and blood products.
- To rehabilitate the Blood Transfusion Center building in Tiraspol.

**Status:** All sub-project activities finalized and evaluated. Both reconstruction and re-equipment sub-components successfully implemented.

### **Renovation component.**

The first two floors of the Tiraspol Blood Transfusion Center, housing the laboratories and, the previously donated equipment through a World Bank project, were renovated. The two floors were in a very poor state and the equipment provided could not be used under existing conditions. The UNDP project team has assessed the technical details of necessary repairs at the Center and in partnership with TN counterparts proceeded with preparing technical specifications and a bill of quantity for the repair works. Following a tender procedure, announced by the administration of the Blood Center in Tiraspol, under the close supervision of the UNDP engineering officer, a local company was selected.

4 After (reconstruction in the center finalized)



5 After

The repair of the first two floors enabled the use of the existing equipment and ensured that the laboratories are in line with specific technical requirements and that the premises are available for the computerized database of donors and blood products. The repair, on a total surface of 480 sq.mt, included the replacement of electrical wiring, sewage systems, heating systems, internal furnishings, installation of new windows and doors, sanitary units' reconstruction, fire security and ventilation reconstruction and the creation of a technically compliant server room. The repairs were directly supervised by the UNDP, in order to prevent possible losses and ensure timely and accurate implementation. The renovation works of the center were finalized in April 2011 and received by local technical services, included in the reception committee and was evaluated as qualitative and in line with all technical requirements.

### **Creation of the digital database.**

The experts from the Chisinau Blood Transfusion Center have been, as well, involved in assisting the center in Tiraspol in the creation of the digital database containing all information on blood and blood products available at the Center. The database is to, as well, provide conditions for a future exchange of relevant data between Chisinau and Tiraspol specialized agencies in blood transfusion. The main IT expert of the Ministry of Health, Alexandru Rosioru, who was previously responsible for the creation of the digital blood products database in Chisinau, designed the necessary requirement for the creation of a similar database in Tiraspol. Following expert's recommendations, UNDP purchased a batch of IT equipment, which included 2 modern servers, 20 computers, 20 printers, 13 thermal printers, 13 optical scanners and other necessary IT infrastructure equipment for the creation of the database. The procurement and delivery of equipment was finalized in April 2011.

Currently all works and procurement is finalized and the next step, proposed to be included in further projects in the region, is to design a localized version of the database software, officially developed by the Moldovan Ministry of Health and used at the Blood Transfusion Center in Chisinau. Due to the refusal of Transnistrian authorities to use the existing version of the software in Romanian, it was deemed as necessary to design a Russian version of the database software as well as provide for its integration with the version used in Chisinau. Due to the lack of additional funds for the development of this software, this part of the project will be reviewed and implemented in 2012.



**Sub-Project 6: “Confidence-Building through Elimination of Obsolete Pesticides in Transnistria”.**

**Implemented by:** NGO Milieu Kontakt International (MKI)

**Budget:** 99,136 EUR

**Timeframe:** August 2009 – September 2010 (term extended until 11 November 2010)

**Partners in TN region and direct beneficiaries:**

Environmental NGOs from TN region; Authorities in the field of environment; Specialists in the field of environmental protection and dangerous chemicals; People living near pesticide stores in the TN region of Moldova; Groups of skilled workers that have experience in working with dangerous chemicals and obsolete pesticides; Local authorities.

**Overall goals of the project:**

- Reduce exposure of risks of obsolete pesticides for human health and environment.
- Transfer knowledge to raise the skills for survey, risk assessment and cleaning up of sites, of already existing human resources in Transnistria to international UN standards.
- Significantly contributing to the solution of the problem of obsolete pesticides in Transnistria through development of multi stakeholder cooperation on the both banks of Nistru river.
- A local campaign, disseminating popularized knowledge, raising awareness on the risks and giving citizens new knowledge for dealing with the risks of obsolete pesticides.

**Status:** Activities concluded. The final report was submitted on 19.04.2011. During the examination of the final financial report, unauthorised expenditures were observed, as well as expenditures not related to project activities. As outcome of the evaluation, the MKI was requested to return the amount of EUR 6,245.91. Project delivery: 95%.

**Project’s results:**

Within the implemented project, a Clean-up Team (CuT) was formed and trained on performing the inventory, on using the FAO’s Pesticides Stock Management System and on doing risk assessments; 2 sites with OPs were inventoried; a training for NGOs on monitoring and evaluation of technical projects was provided; a study visit to Ukraine was organized for local stakeholders; two round tables with the participation of the representatives of the central and local authorities, NGOs, business and media; informative materials were designed and disseminated to project beneficiaries.

According to the project proposal, MKI planned to have the CuT including both representatives of the so-called TN Ministry of Environment (MNEC) and Ministry of Health, and NGOs representatives. But since the MNEC chose to appoint the members of the CuT, and NGOs were not allowed to be part of it, it was decided to train these teams separately.



Therefore, the following activities were carried out for the Clean-up Team.

- A **training on Risk and Cost Analysis**, aimed at developing the understanding of why obsolete pesticides must be eliminated; the advantages of data management with PSMS and using PSMS specialised software as a tool during a safe and effective inventory;

- Two **trainings on inventory**, aiming at developing the understanding of obsolete pesticides; preparing members of the CuT for performing a safe and effective inventory; providing methods of safe work with pesticides, knowing the hazards, and the classification system. The second training was focused on learning specific methods and tips of inventory, where participants filled in the inventory forms, and used the PSMS system.

Within the practical lessons, the participants did a real inventory at pesticide stores in Slobozia district, where they filled in forms about the site and the pesticides found there. During both trainings special protection equipment was used. 2 sites (Crasninscoe and Voroncovo villages) were inventoried. As a result, on the sites where it was expected to have about 500kg of OPs, the inventory showed an amount of more than 2000kg of OPs and contaminated soil. MKI assisted the Clean-up Team in drawing up a list of goods necessary for the inventory of all OP sites and OPs from Transnistria.

**“Monitoring and evaluation of technical projects”** training was conducted for environmental NGOs, aiming to strengthen the knowledge and abilities of participants in monitoring of technical projects on environmental issues, which they can apply as partners or observers in projects implemented by specialized companies or authorities.

**A Study visit to Ukraine** for both the members of the CuT and NGO representatives was organized. Within the study visit participants visited the Center for management of toxic substances (this institution coordinates the work on OP related issues in Ukraine), where participants observed how work is organized at district level, and the central storage, which helped the participants to see and understand what the requirements for the central storage are.

#### **Activities aiming at reducing the exposure to risks from obsolete pesticides for human health and environment:**

A **survey** on 105 people living in close vicinity to obsolete pesticides store was conducted to identify the level of knowledge of the population and thus design the necessary awareness activities for follow-up projects. The results of the survey revealed the following: Citizens consider air contamination and illegal dumping places as a main ecological problem, and only 12% of respondents indicated contamination by chemicals as a problem. 35% of people know some facts about OPs, while only 5% can exactly tell some facts about their influence on human health and environment. And only five people mentioned concrete examples of contamination.

**A workshop for teachers** from Bender city was organized. Teachers got information about the risks from pesticides, the influence on health and environment and received a pack of informational materials to be used during classes. Also, a **series of informative seminars for students** were organized at the Department of Natural Geography from Tiraspol State University on the impact of OPs on health and environment; the precautionary measures during working with chemical substances; the process of eliminating acute risks from OPs precaution. Participants got printed materials and leaflets to have the reference materials on DVD.

During the implementation of the project, **two leaflets** were designed and disseminated within the events organized in Transnistria region: **Risk from OPs** (500 copies) and **Technical leaflet for the inventory** (500 copies).

#### **Activities aiming at fostering the cooperation between stakeholders**

**A platform meeting** was organized in the last stage of the project, aiming at providing more information at district level; establishing contacts with local authorities by explaining what are the risks for health and environment from OP; presenting the steps in the process of eliminating OPs (inventory, repacking, labelling, transportation, temporary storage and elimination); and stressing the importance of establishing partnerships with NGOs in order to solve environmental issues.

An important aspect of this event was to involve a new stakeholder - real estate administrators. In Transnistria a process of privatization of kolkhoz started and in each kolkhoz a real estate administrator was nominated who has the responsibility to decide about each element of property of the kolkhoz and to transfer /sell goods, buildings, tools, equipment etc. Cases that such persons decided to use sites and ordered workers to bury OPs in a stone mine or sell storage to private persons are already registered.

For these reasons, the second platform meeting (round table) was organized at district level, in Ribnita. The event was attended by representatives of local authorities, real estate administrators, local NGOs, business and mass media.

#### **Constraints and Lessons Learned**

The Milieukontakt International representatives, the trainers from the Dutch engineering company TA UW, and the interpreter stayed in Chisinau and had to travel to Tiraspol each day, because the Transnistrian authorities have a long procedure of allowing foreigners to stay in Transnistria. During preparation of trainings MKI received refuses to visit all OP sites; however this was important and necessary for proper evaluation of OP sites from risks and cost point of view and to elaborate the criteria. Consequently, this was not done, and the criteria were discussed only based on examples from other countries, but not on real cases of Transnistria.

From the logistical point of view, the implementation process was very difficult, because OPs are declared in Transnistria as security sensitive issue; and the decision to what store and when the participants will go is taken by the MNEC and approved by the so-called Ministry of State Security. Filming (photo or video) is prohibited and everything participants saw should be kept secret.

The results of inventory on two sites showed that there is a big difference between the amounts of OPs expected to be found (according to official data) and existing, which were found to be four times higher than expected. This is to say that without a proper inventory, using international standards and guidelines, it will not be possible to plan the repacking, transportation, and final destruction of OPs in Transnistria.

### **Sub-project 7: “Improvement of Municipal Solid Waste Management in Slobozia, Moldova.**



**Implemented by:** the Regional Environmental Center (REC) Moldova

**Budget:** EUR 100,000

**Timeframe:** August 2009 - February 2011

**Partners in TN region and direct beneficiaries:**

NGO “Ecospectrum” from the TN region; Territorial organizations of the Ecological Movement of Moldova; local population; local authorities in Slobozia (local mayoralty and specialized departments) in partnership with Falesti mayoralty;

Specialized departments from these districts.

**Overall goal of the project:** Improvement of the solid municipal waste management in the Slobozia town, TN region of Moldova.

**Specific objectives of the project are:**

- Promotion and organization of a system of separate collection of glass, PET Bottles and paper.
- Construction of 20 new platforms for solid waste collection and manufacturing of 60 new containers;
- Raising public awareness on the necessity and ways of separate collection of paper, glass and PET bottles, elaboration of recommendations on manure collection under household conditions.
- Establishment of the partnerships between local and district authorities of Slobozia and other districts of Moldova.



**Status:** Project activities concluded. Final report was submitted on 23 May 2011. The report was evaluated and approved. Project Delivery 99 %. EUR 1105 were reported as unspent funds and reimbursed to UNDP.

**Project results:**

19 working meetings on solid waste management held in Transnistria, resulting in the approval of the management plan for handling solid waste in Slobozia town, TN region. 16 informative seminars on the importance of separate collection of solid municipal waste were held in Slobozia district, with the participation of mayors, representatives of communal services, NGOs and schoolchildren. A system of platforms and containers for the waste management system was established. 60 containers for the collection of municipal solid waste were manufactured; 18 platforms for containers were constructed; a specialized truck for collection and transportation of solid waste was purchased and delivered to TN region.

Within the **awareness raising component**, the following activities were carried out:



- 16 informative sessions (circa 550 persons) targeting different groups of beneficiaries: mayors and counsellors of the State Council, representatives of the Communal Services, teachers and schoolchildren, were organized in Slobozia. The sessions aimed at raising the public awareness and promoting the importance of separate collection of solid municipal waste and organic waste collection.
- a brochure on separate waste collection was developed and published in Romanian and Russian languages, and distributed during the public awareness activities carried out within the project.

awareness activities carried out within the project.

### **Sub-Project 8: “Ecological Reconstruction of the Yagorlic Natural Reserve”**

**Implemented by:** Eco-Tiras NGO

#### **Partners in TN region and direct beneficiaries:**

Environmental NGOs of Transnistria and Moldova; local population of villages surrounding the reserve; the Research Institute of Ecology and Natural Resources of Transnistria; Academy of Sciences of Moldova; Scientific communities of Moldova, including Transnistria region.



**Budget:** 72,000 EUR

**Timeframe:** August 2009 – February 2011

#### **Overall goals of the project:**

- Conservation of the unique biodiversity of the “Yagorlic” Natural Reserve in the frames of the realization of international International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Countdown 2010 Initiative which has the goal to stop the losses of world biodiversity until 2010.
- Restoration of autochthonous vegetative communities.
- Preservation of fish diversity and creation of better conditions for reproduction of autochthonous fish species.
- Public awareness and educational measures among local villagers for their involvement to conservation of the reserve biodiversity.

**Status:** Project activities concluded. Report submitted on May 18, 2011. The report was positively evaluated and approved. Project Delivery 100 %

#### **Project results:**

The implementing partner has identified the specific sites to be reconstructed, the plant species to be eradicated, hired specialists for the reconstruction and eradication and prepared a bio-diversity conservation plan. Several coordination meetings have been conducted and the existing baseline information has been updated. Due to delays in implementation, project activities have

been largely shifted to spring 2010. The key risk was that the initial project objective of totally reconstructing biodiversity of the natural reserve was over-ambitious, because it was found to be unfeasible and unrealistic. The implementing partner was assisted by the UNDP project team in defining updated goals, objectives and indicators, as well as assess a feasible timeline for achieving the outcomes.

#### **Engaging partners in Transnistrian region.**

To realise the project objectives the project implementation unit initiated the creation of the Project Steering Committee with participation of Transnistrian local environmental authorities. This SC approved the composition of a joint TN-MD Working Group which was dealing with the practical realization of the project activities. The joint working group of scientists and specialists has evaluated the current biodiversity status of the Yagorlik Reserve.



#### **Development of a management plan for the reserve and practical works in the field.**

The Reconstruction and Management Plan was discussed and approved by the Technical Council of the local environmental authorities. It allowed to start the implementation of the practical measures on the reconstruction of the reserve. Eight reserve parcels, with specific features, in terms of soils, plant species diversity, and other characteristics were selected, carefully studied, and then reconstructed. For that, numerous plants (trees, bushes) of alien or aggressive species were eradicated and species characteristic to these biotopes were planted. Special efforts were taken to restore fish diversity. To mention a few, in places where phytophagous fish species placed their eggs, fish nests were constructed. Incubation in natural conditions on artificial substrate was successful, which permitted to get substantial number of larvae.

#### **Capacity building and awareness raising**

To improve technical capacities of the reserve staff, Eco Tiras purchased the necessary equipment: a small boat, night vision goggles, binoculars and echosound installations, and a laptop for the region's institute of ecology.

To raise awareness of local rural population and its ecological education, 5 seminars for the population from surrounding villages were organised. In order to raise the importance of the reserve in front of decision makers, academics and general public they were several activities conducted including a presentation at the international conference on the Nistru River held in Tiraspol (October 2010), a brochure about the reserve, a poster and a leaflet on ecological routes for visitors.

#### **Sub-Project 9: "Development of Regulations on Environmental Monitoring in the Nistru River Basin"**

**Implemented by:** NGO Environmental Institute, Slovakia

#### **Partners in TN region and direct beneficiaries:**

Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of the Republic of Moldova; so-called Ministry of Natural Resources and Ecological Control in Transnistria; State Hydro-meteorological Service of the Republic of Moldova; Republic Hydro-meteorological Center, Tiraspol.

**Budget:** 24,000 EUR

**Timeframe:** September 2009 – April 2010

**Overall goals of the project:**

- To facilitate exchange of monitoring data between the State Hydro-meteorological Service in the Republic of Moldova and the Tiraspol Hydro-meteorological center.
- To assess potential for technical upgrade of the monitoring network.
- To support implementation of the environmental monitoring programme.

**Status:** Project activities concluded. Report submitted on July 27, 2010. The report was positively evaluated and approved. Project Delivery 100 %

**Project results:**

Given the present political situation, official contacts between the specialists of the State Hydro-meteorological Service of the Republic of Moldova in Chisinau (SHS) and Hydro-meteorological Center in Tiraspol (HC) were rather limited. Since 2007, there has been no transfer of environmental monitoring data from Tiraspol to Chisinau.

The experts, representing the Environmental Institute, Slovakia, had several meetings with TN representatives in the field of environmental protection, as well as officials in the Moldovan Ministry of Environment. The project also included the procurement of two ultra-portable laptops to enhance the capacity of the Hydro-meteorological Service of the Republic of Moldova in monitoring and use of hydrological data received during field trips in the Nistru River basin.

During several experts' missions to both Tiraspol and Chisinau, the project concluded that data exchange mechanism between the SHS and HC is in place and working at the level of technical experts, however, there is a need to bring it to higher level with the political support from the Transnistrian environmental authorities. Such readiness is not in place because of the difficult political situation. The TN counterparts were reluctant to give any promises on the start of the joint sampling, pointing at the fact that this work is tackled in the joint environmental working group as part of the negotiations process between the two sides.

The Republic of Moldova is able to fulfil most of its international obligations even without environmental data received from Transnistria. Most of the present efforts towards more intense data exchange between the SHS and HC are directed to the improvement of protection of the population in Transnistria in the areas of drinking water quality, flood protection and protected areas development.

Similar to all major rivers in Europe, the Nistru River Basin Management Plan should be developed for the entire river basin following the principles of the EU Water Framework Directive accepted *i.a* by all EU Member States, Ukraine, Moldova and Russia. A part of this plan has already been implemented in the Lower Dniester Ukrainian part of the basin (EuropeAid project *Technical assistance for the Lower Dniester River Basin Management Planning*, TACIS CBC 2003).

An unambiguous recommendation from the project is to provide no financial support to the Transnistrian authorities in the area of environmental monitoring and upgrade of its laboratories, unless firm commitment is signed and proven by prior practical actions (e.g. permission to take

samples and accomplish measurements on the left bank of the Nistru River by the SHS experts, which is prohibited at the moment).

The future projects suggested for immediate financing are:

- Development of typology and delineation of water bodies (SW and GW);
- Technical support for the development of the River Basin Management Plan of the Nistru River basin
  - Extension of the methodologies and approaches developed within the Technical assistance for the Lower Nistru River Basin Management Planning project on the territory of Moldova and Ukraine (Upper Nistru).
- Biological monitoring of Moldova
  - Development of methodologies for monitoring of Biological Quality Elements;
  - Setting up reference conditions, joining inter-calibration process in Europe;
  - Carrying out biological monitoring of Moldova for at least two years with assistance by external experts.
- Programme of pollution reduction
  - Identification of Moldova river basin specific pollutants via screening of all pollution sources;
  - Establishment of Environmental Quality Standards and emission limit values;
  - Establishment of inventory of pollution sources (E-PRTR).

An ample document including the expert recommendation, shortly presented above, were presented to both sides for future implementation.

**Sub-Project 10: “Drinking water network rehabilitation in Nezavertailovca village, Slobozia district, TN region”.**



**Implemented by:** Renasterea NGO, from Talmaza village.

**Partners in TN region and direct beneficiaries:** NGO Aquavita, local communities in Nezavertailovca village, TN region and Talmaza village, Moldovan side.

**Budget:** 68,383 EUR

**Timeframe:** December 2009 – July 2010

**Overall goals of the project:** rehabilitate the public network of water distribution in Nezavertailovca village and provide water to 50% of households and social institutions.

**Status:** Activities finalized. Project activities concluded. Report submitted on 29 October 2010. The report was positively evaluated and approved. Project Delivery 100 %

**6 Before**



**Results of the project:**

The project goal was to provide circa 50% of the inhabitants of Nezavertailovca village with high quality drinking water, to increase the awareness of the villagers on the need to store and rational use of natural resources, including drinking water, and to develop civil society capacity to solve specific problems in partnership with local authorities and NGOs from other regions.

7After



The NGO „Renasterea” from Talmază village, Ștefan-Vodă district (Moldova), in partnership with local authorities and local association „Akvavita” from Nezavertailovka village, Slobozia district (TN region) have managed in less than one year to repair water and sewage systems from Nezavertailovca village, providing drinking water for more than half of the villagers. The project included capital repairs of the aqueduct and sewerage systems in two local schools and kindergartens, the cafeterias, kitchens and bathrooms in the schools being also renovated. As a result, 476 pupils and 66 children from Nezavertailovca have permanent access to drinking water and use modern toilets and washstands with warm water. Thus, the degree of illness of children with infectious diseases is reduced significantly.



The NGO „Renasterea” in partnership with public authorities and local NGOs have also renovated five water towers in the village, installing an aqueduct with a length of 7 km on seven streets in the village. Proper functioning of the artesian wells allows the provision of high quality water to the population of the village, the total pumping capacity being of 12,600 cubic meters of water per day. As a result,

the number of water consumers increased two-fold, while the volume of water provided to population tripled.

As a result of project implementation, 2,500 inhabitants of the village or 54,2% of the total population benefited from the rehabilitation works. 960 inhabitants were connected to the water network, as they did not have access to water distribution networks at all.

### **Sub-Project 11: “Common Building of Future for the Internationally Recognized Integral Zone of the Lower Dniester (Nistru) and Upstream”.**

**Implemented by:** Biotica Ecological Society

**Budget:** 100,235 EUR

**Timeframe:** September 2009 – February 2011

#### **Partners in TN region and direct beneficiaries:**

“Ecumena” Ecological Club (Bender); “Stels-Tera” NGO (Ternovka Village); “Rodoliubets” NGO (Parcani Vilage); “Renasterea” NGO (Talmază Village, Ștefan Voda District); Central environmental authority in Tiraspol; Central environmental authority in Chisinau; Forest authorities on the both banks of the Nistru River; Environmental authority of the Odessa Region in Ukraine; Local communities; Local tourist businesses.



#### **Overall goals of the project:**

- Support the harmonization of environmental legislation and planning on both sides of the Nistru River.

- Build capacity of Transnistrian environmental specialists in conservation management planning and sustainable development.
- Provide local stakeholders with an assessment of opportunities for tourism and economic viability on both sides of the lower Nistru Delta.
- Practice the new knowledge of Transnistrian partners in planning of the Transnistrian sector of the Pan-European Ecological network.

**Status:** Project activities concluded. Report submitted on February 21, 2011. The report was positively evaluated and approved. Project Delivery 100 %

### **Project results:**

#### **Education and capacity building**

- **26 tourism representatives** and NGOs from both sides of the Nistru River, as well as from the Nizhnednestrovski national Park (Odessa oblasti, Ukraine) participated at the **Regional Coordination Seminar**, during which a *Working Group* was created, aiming at ensuring the interaction among project beneficiaries and promoting further activities within the project. The seminar was held in November 2009, in Chisinau and its main purpose was to make participants aware of the tourism industry opportunities and the importance of cooperation for a successful development of tourism activities.

- **27 representatives** of science, NGOs from both banks, as well as representatives of the Ramsar Site “Lower Dniester” participated at the **Training on ecological legislation**, focused on **international and** national legislation; programmatic decisions; biodiversity evaluation and ecological network planning. The training was held in November 2009. For experience sharing purposes, the training also has as invitees the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) program officer and Ukrainian specialists from Chernivetska oblasti and Kiev.

**26 experts** from both sides - specialists in natural biological and landscape diversity, tourism and tourism economy, nature-historical heritage, environmental law and protected areas, conservational methodology, GIS and representatives of local stakeholders were involved in project activities. Experts were assisted and provided with information and support materials, including national and international legislation, relevant guidelines, methodological tools aiming to facilitate their field work.

**Project partners were provided with office equipment** (3 computers) and some office consumables; their office maintenance and communication costs were also partially covered.

**Specialized equipment** and materials were purchased for field and technical studies:

- 5 GPS devices for the field positioning and mapping; 2 were transferred to the TN partners, and 1 for common use;
- an inflatable boat and bogs for field studies;
- a small notebook with extended battery for registering the field data;
- official geographical maps.

**Technical studies and field expeditions** carried out on both banks of the Nistru River resulted in the creation of necessary layers for the Ramsar Site GIS system, thus the GIS of ecological network extended to cover the Transnistrian region. 22 probable core areas were assessed in TN, many of them for the first time; all the areas were drawn on a map. As result 2 territories are assessed as core areas of international importance, 9 – as core areas of local importance, bound with corridor elements of Transnistrian sector. **GIS of the Ramsar Site** is operational and zoning

is attributed; basic map and zoning map are created and verified according to the pre-final zoning.



### **Studies and planning of tourism for Ramsar Site 1316**

Developed tourist products include (briefly): 4 terrestrial routes, 3 water routes; maps of 7 major routes; annotated list of 74 visitor points for nature observation, map of visitor points; map of observation objects – views of landscapes, forest and secular trees, wildlife etc., linked with the 74 visitor points, as well as places of major archaeological findings; list of the best 21 visitor objects that form a brand – **Emerald Necklace of the Lower Dniester**; reference costs of major services and

average cost of local routes; local legends and history; model texts for 2 excursions; list of operational hotels and of local houses where local dwellers may receive guests; information about kinds of vineyards and wines producing companies.

The product is accompanied by economic assessments of tourist potential that show increase of coefficient from the left bank to right bank, to Ramsar Site total and the Site plus adjacent area on the left bank. This information was included in the DVD “Unknown Moldova, Emerald Necklace of the Lower Dniester”.

**Three pilot demonstration of tourist routes** (March, October, November 2010), for tourist operators, representatives of state institutions, NGOs and other stakeholders, including Ukrainian partners. The study tours gathered **146 participants** and aimed at establishing partnerships between tourist organizations and operators from both banks of the Nistru River and included a complex program with elements of commercial, historical, ecological and rural tourism.

As result of the pilot tours, new tourist routes including sites from the both banks of Nistru opened again (since the beginning of 90<sup>’s</sup>).

**A round table for tourist operators** was held in Chisinau in February 2011 and gathered **about 60 participants** – mainly tourist agencies and their associations, but also business representatives from the both banks. Discussions mainly focused on the content of the DVD *Unknown Moldova, Emerald Necklace of the Lower Dniester*, which contains all tourist products developed within the project.

Another **round table for the presentation of the Management Plan** and tourist products was held in **Stefan Voda** on 08 February 2011 and gathered about **50 participants** - representatives of district authorities of Stefan Voda and Causeni, mayors, local businesses and NGOs, as well as representatives of Moldsilva Forest Agency. Officials and business representatives were very surprised by the rich biodiversity and numerous tourist objects in their region.

### **Constraints and Lessons Learned**

The lack of an overall managerial body for the implementation of the Management Plan, along with the deficient civil society and total lack of inter-sectoral cooperation, constitutes the major constraint, in Biotica’s view. These facts impede the coordination with stakeholders; building of international relations, including the adjacent Nizhnednestrovskiy (Lower Nistru) Natural National Park. As a result, the needed publicity and international promotion, as well as the specialized fundraising for the Protected Area, is practically impossible. The team has as well

concluded that the political constraints were growing, compared to the time period the project was launched.

### **Sub-Project 15: “Transfer of Best Practices on Working with Children with Disabilities among Moldovan and Transnistrian NGOs”**

**Implemented by:** NGO Caritas

**Budget:** 75,000 EUR

**Timeframe:** November 2009 – February 2011

**Partners in TN region and direct beneficiaries:** “Alyie Parusa” NGO in Dubasari; “Dobroe serdtse” NGO in Bender; children with disabilities in TN region and Moldova and their parents

**Overall goal of the project:** Improve medical and social rehabilitation of children with limited abilities on both banks of the Nistru River.

#### **Specific objectives are:**

- Strengthen the capacities and skills of personnel working with children with disabilities from Transnistrian partner organizations.
- Ensure multifunctional rehabilitation for children with disabilities through individual approach (care and education activities at home; extension of services provided by Transnistrian rehabilitation centres; increasing public awareness about families with children with special needs);
- Building confidence relations and establishing partnerships between organizations working with children with limited abilities from both banks.
- Facilitate the access to information and resources for families with children with special needs from Transnistrian region of Moldova.



**Status:** Project activities concluded. Final report submitted on 04 July 2011. The report was positively evaluated and approved. Project Delivery 100 %

#### **Project results:**

Within the current project, Caritas Moldova facilitated and coordinated the transfer of knowledge and good practices from the Rehabilitation Centre “Luminita” toward two organizations from Transnistrian region, i. e. “Alye Parusa” from Dubasari and “Dobroe Serdtze” from Bender, as well as implemented activities aimed at capacity building of these two partner organizations.

Thus, a series of thematic trainings, followed by exchange of experience visits were organized in all project localities. Within the work program, each time, home visits were organized by multidisciplinary teams in order to provide a comprehensive diagnosis and recommendations for parents. This way, local partners from TN were able to observe and learn in practice the work from the experienced partners from the Rehabilitation Centre “Luminita” (Singerei).

**Specific outputs:**

- **62 children** with various central nervous system affections from Singerei, Dubasari and Bender benefit of an individually adapted medical and social rehabilitation program, which also included home visits and consultancy or recommendations for parents; their families were given the possibility to consult a speech therapist, a psychologist, kineto-therapist and a social assistant.
  
- **8 specialists**, members of partner organizations in Bender and Dubasari (speech therapists, psychologists, kineto-therapists and social assistants) have improved their professional skills and equipped with necessary materials and templates to be used in working with children with disability.
  
- **a resource centre for children with disabilities** and their families was opened, renovated and endowed with furniture, office equipment and didactic materials in Bender;
  
- the partner organization from Dubasari was endowed with equipment for trainings (printer, laptop and projector); didactic materials and a set of furniture – table and chairs.

## VIII. VISIBILITY AND COMMUNICATION. KEY RESULTS

The Communication Strategy of the project “Support to Confidence Building Measures” (SCBM), included a series of activities aimed at raising public awareness on two sides of the Nistru River regarding the implementation of the SCBM project. Still, the project team had to take a cautious approach to visibility in the region, in order not to provoke backfire on project activities, taking into account the region’s authorities unwillingness to cooperate and the general state of suspicion.

Thus, the usage of different efficient communication and media tools for promotion of project activities and results was considered, such as TV and Radio reportages and interview, newspaper articles etc. The media coverage was directed to environmental and health projects, rehabilitation of social infrastructure etc. The non-political aspects of these development interventions were highlighted areas and the relevance of these projects to the needs of the population, as well as SCBM project activities and achievements, ensuring visibility and communication, and promotion of the beneficiaries’ results.

In correspondence with the action plan included in the strategy, the media activities included:

1. **Publication on <http://undp.md/projects/Transnistria.shtml> of the basic information about the project.** The information included a short description of the project, objectives, budget, expected results and the impact of the project. Also, the information about the project was dissemination to the NGOs and mass-media for information.
2. **Drafting and dissemination of press releases** about the activities implemented by the beneficiaries with support of SCBM (the press release were sent to national and local media and placed on [www.undp.md](http://www.undp.md) web- page and NGOs web sites.
3. **Publication of articles, news and TV and radio reportages about the following topics:**
  - activities in the field of pesticide storage and removal;
  - rehabilitation and supply of equipment to the health centre in Ciobrucii, Slobozia district;
  - the launch of “REC Moldova” project on solid waste management system in Slobozia, supply with new equipment (containers and garbage collection vehicle);
  - the rehabilitation of day care facilities for children with special needs;
  - the launching of touristic itinerary in Ramsar „Lower Dniester”.

All the articles included the details about the benefits of the project, impact for people, result and information about the SCBM project and donors. These activities were covered by:

**a) 21 thematic articles about the project results and activities were published in print and on-line media and news agencies:**

- <http://www.olvia.idknet.com/ol119-05-10.htm>
- <http://www.km.press.md/index.php/pridnestrovye/1940-2010-05-20-20-08-49.html>
- <http://www.point.md/News/Read.aspx?NEWSID=111846>
- <http://www.nr2.ru/inworld/283389.html>
- <http://www.azi.md/en/story/11603>

- <http://unimedia.md/?mod=news&id=19815>
- <http://www.presa-basarabia.com/2010/05/ue-previne-o-catastrofa-ecologica-in.html>
- <http://www.zdg.md/stiri/catastrofa-ecologica-in-transnistria>
- <http://info-prim.md/?x=&y=30214>
- <http://www.timpul.md/articol/benderul-redeschis-pentru-turisti-9455.html>
- <http://www.stiri.md/ro/article/93688/liber-la-turism-n-zona-benderului>
- <http://www.politik.md/?view=articlefull&viewarticle=3295>
- <http://www.hotnews.md/articles/view.hot?id=2226>

**b) Thematic articles about the project results and activities published in the UN in Moldova magazine**

- [http://www.un.md/key\\_doc\\_pub/un\\_magazines/2010/Revista\\_UNU\\_1\(42\)\\_19-04-2010\\_Final\\_TOTAL.pdf](http://www.un.md/key_doc_pub/un_magazines/2010/Revista_UNU_1(42)_19-04-2010_Final_TOTAL.pdf)

**c) 6 thematic radio interviews about the SCBM activities and results, inclusively with SCBM manager, Victor Munteanu, were broadcasted by radio channels.**

Radio station “Europa Libera” (<http://www.europalibera.org/content/article/2201226.html>). Radio “Europa Libera” broadcasted an interview with Victor Munteanu, SCBM project manager, about the programme. The interview was also focused on the benefits and impact on the activities implemented by the project “Support to Confidence Building Measures”, funded by the European Union and implemented by the United Nations Development Programme.

In other radio reportages was presented the information about the activities implemented by the NGOs with support of SCBM project.

- <http://www.893fm.ru/main/193-17-maja.html>
- <http://www.radionoroc.md/stiri/2614>
- <http://voceabasarabiei.net/index.php/stiri/social/8551-uniunea-europeana-contribuie-la-solutionarea-problemelor-ecologice-din-raionul-slobozia>
- <http://www.voceabasarabiei.net/index.php/stiri/social/8034-liber-la-turism-in-zona-benderului>

**d) 4 TV reportages about the results of the SCBM project were broadcasted by TV channels.** All the reportages present the results of the activities implemented by the NGOs with support of SCBM project, the impact of the project on the lives of the citizens from the Transnistrian region.

- <http://www.nr2.ru/inworld/283389.html>
- <http://www.tv-pmr.com/news.php?id=8437>
- [http://www.publika.md/dupa-aproape-20-de-ani-de-interdictie--turistii-pot--in-sfarsit--vizita-orasul-bender\\_30741.html](http://www.publika.md/dupa-aproape-20-de-ani-de-interdictie--turistii-pot--in-sfarsit--vizita-orasul-bender_30741.html)
- <http://tv7.md/?page=news&id=21143&lang=ru&list=1>

**e) 13 news posts were published on the relevant NGOs web sites.** Project results, activities implemented by NGOs with support of SCBM project and the contribution of EU, were presented.

[http://www.civic.md/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=9222&Itemid=200005&utm\\_source=feedburner&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=Feed%3A+civic%2Fnou+%28Monitorul+Civic+%7C+DailyAlert%21%29](http://www.civic.md/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=9222&Itemid=200005&utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+civic%2Fnou+%28Monitorul+Civic+%7C+DailyAlert%21%29)

[http://www.civic.md/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=9144&Itemid=200005&utm\\_source=feedburner&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=Feed%3A+civic%2Fnou+%28Monitorul+Civic+%7C+DailyAlert%21%29](http://www.civic.md/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=9144&Itemid=200005&utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+civic%2Fnou+%28Monitorul+Civic+%7C+DailyAlert%21%29)

<http://ong.md/index.php?mod=home&hmod=postbyid&id=3907>

<http://www.civic.md/anunturi/arhiva-anunturilor/8877-uniunea-european-contribuie-la-dezvoltarea-unei-reele-de-centre-de-reabilitare-pentru-copii-cu-dizabiliti-din-republica-moldova-i-regiunea-transnistrean.html>

<http://initiativa.wordpress.com/2010/05/06/ue-si-centrele-de-reabilitare-pentru-copiii-cu-dizabilitati-din-rm/#more-371>

[http://www.youth.md/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=973%3Auniunea-european-contribuie-la-dezvoltarea-unei-reele-de-centre-de-reabilitare-pentru-copii-cu-dizabiliti-din-republica-moldova-i-regiunea-transnistrean-&catid=1%3Aultimile-stiri&Itemid=50&lang=en](http://www.youth.md/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=973%3Auniunea-european-contribuie-la-dezvoltarea-unei-reele-de-centre-de-reabilitare-pentru-copii-cu-dizabiliti-din-republica-moldova-i-regiunea-transnistrean-&catid=1%3Aultimile-stiri&Itemid=50&lang=en)

<http://popsanatatea.freeforums.org/problema-pesticidelor-invechite-in-transnistria-t38.html>

<http://ong.md/index.php?mod=home&hmod=postbyid&id=3727>

<http://www.basarabeni.ro/stiri/stiinta/tighina-i-dechide-uile-dup-o-pauz-de-18-ani-1445/>

<http://www.tur.md/rom/tourismnews/2806/>

<http://www.cuvintenoii.ro/sus%C8%9Binerea-societa%C8%9Bii-civile-%C8%99i-cladirea-increderii-pe-ambele-maluri-ale-nistrului/>

**4. Publication of the supplement OBIECTIV, edited by Association of Independent Press, in 4 pages, A3 format, distributed as insert to local and national newspapers from Moldova and Transnistrian region.**

Articles about the activities implemented by NGOs with support of SCBM programme, were published in the supplement, including the cooperation between NGOs from Transnistria and Moldova, thematic interviews etc. The projects' activities and results were presented through analytical articles and through human stories. OBIECTIV was distributed as insert to 15 local and national newspapers from the Republic of Moldova, including the Transnistrian region, in 80,000 copies, in Romanian and Russian languages.

The main activities covered in the supplement: the trainings on pesticide storage and removal for transnistrian officials and experts; the rehabilitation and equipment supply to the health centre in Ciobrucci, Slobozia district; the perinatal center in Tiraspol (repair works and supply with medical equipment); the AIDS prevention project for youth; the rehabilitation of the blood transfusion center and the creation of the donors blood database; the launch of "REC Moldova" on solid waste management system in Slobozia and supply with new equipment (containers and garbage collection vehicle); the rehabilitation of day care facilities for children with special needs; the reparation of a water supply system in Nezavertailovka village, Slobozia region; the intention to open business school in Transnistria.

## IX. PROJECT RISKS, ISSUES AND ACTIONS TAKEN

The start of implementation of the “Support to Confidence Building Measures” programme was met with great suspicion and unwillingness to cooperate by the de-facto authorities of the separatist Transnistrian region of the Republic of Moldova. Having in mind the growing political struggle between the sides and the disrupted political process of negotiations, the announcement of this programme was seen as an instrument of destabilization within the region, thus the Transnistrian security services launched a close following of all activities, preventing meetings between the project team and the beneficiaries. This created un-expected obstacles to the implementation, which necessitated swift reactions and a continuous “shuttle diplomacy” process.

Several cycles of elections in the region (“parliamentary” elections in spring 2010 and preparations for the “presidential” elections in spring 2011) coincided with the launch and the implementation of the SCBM programme and generated a dismissal of EU-sponsored activities, while the project team was prevented on several occasions to access the region, being refused entrance and moreover, being closely followed by representatives of Transnistrian special services.

Meetings of the project team were each time followed by meetings of the special services agents with civil society beneficiaries in order to prevent their involvement in EU-sponsored programs. This situation needed an unexpected time and effort in order to convince NGOs to pursue their initiatives.

At the end of 2010, in order to create even more barriers to the EU-funded activities in the TN region, the de-facto authorities, adopted a special “Law on external assistance” that prevented any organization from the region to implement projects and receive funds on bank accounts in the region without a special permission of a “Coordination Council” under the control of the region’s special services. This law created another un-expected barrier that necessitated strong pressure and a lot of discussions with various counterparts in order to alleviate the suspicions and de-block the project implementation.

Despite an initial acceptance by TN region authorities of the list of pre-selected projects during talks with representatives of the EU Delegation, almost each workplan and every project had to be agreed once again with region’s administration in the respective field. This shuttle diplomacy practice postponed the launch of some projects or endangered the implementation of pre-agreed work plans. Despite these hurdles, UNDP succeeded to launch, implement and close all 12 projects, swiftly reacting to all issues by maintaining an efficient permanent dialogue with counterparts in the region.

A risk table below is clearly describing existing risks and approaches towards mitigating those risks:

Description of risk	Type and Category	Risk management actions during implementation
Volatile political and security environment, subject to unforeseen and sudden changes	Political/ High	The project team took into account the specific political setting that exists in the region at the moment of implementation. The implementation of the activities were planned and approached with caution, including

		the timing, visibility and presentation issues. The project team worked under the close guidance of UNDP Moldova and EU Delegation office. Using its vast network of connections in the region, the project team succeeded to alleviate political obstacles in the way of several projects and had numerous meetings with representatives of regional authorities to explain the non-political nature of the action and to make possible the launching and implementation of the projects according to agreed schedules.
Activities may be delayed due to the regional context	Operational / Medium	The project team ensured that the local administration is informed on an on-going basis about the aims and the activities planned, having regular meetings with them and involving them in the activities of the projects.
Different financial systems in the Transnistrian region	Operational / Medium	The UNDP worked through accounts on the right bank where possible, while transfers to the left bank beneficiaries were closely monitored in order to make sure that money is not blocked in TN region.
Low capacity of civil society in the Transnistrian region to implement and absorb the assistance	Operational / High	To avoid this risk, a mixed approach in the implementation of activities was taken. Beside grants programmes, direct support to proposal development, as well as preparation for all technical information was provided to the implementation partners. Permanent support was provided in terms of performance indicators tracking and actual implementation process.

## IX. Annexes:

### ANNEX 1. TABLE OF PROJECT PROPOSALS

No	Project title	Budget	Budget from other sources (EUR)	Sector	Implementer	Comments
1	Restructuring of outpatient health care services in Cobrucu health centre	113.300		Health/ social	NGO Foundation Regina Pacis	<a href="#">Project concluded.</a> Actual contract value: 113,300 EUR.
2	HIV prevention among school youth in Transnistria	90.000		Health	NGO AIDS Foundation East-West (AFEW)	<a href="#">Project concluded.</a> Actual contract value: 90,000 EUR.
3	Network of Day Care Centers for Children and Youth with Disabilities	99,938		Health/ social	NGO Hilfswerk Austria in Moldova	<a href="#">Project concluded.</a> Actual contract value: 99,938 EUR.
4	Development of perinatal centre in Tiraspol	60,000 (training) 415,000 (equipment)	Total reallocated budget from education projects:  EUR 355,000	Health	NGO Association of Perinatal Medicine	<a href="#">Project concluded.</a> Training actual contract value: EUR 60,000 Re-equipment actual contract value:
5	Improvement of safety of blood and blood products	130,000		Health	National Center of Blood Transfusion	<a href="#">Project concluded.</a> Actual contract value
6	Elimination of pesticides in TN	99,136		Environment	Milieu Kontakt International (NL, MD), MD and TN NGOs	<a href="#">Project concluded.</a> Actual contract value: 99,136 EUR,
7	Establishment of municipal solid waste management system in Slobodziya rayon, TN	100,000		Environment	REC Moldova (MD), Ecospectr (TN)	<a href="#">Project concluded.</a> Actual contract value: 100,000 EUR.
8	Sustainable Management of Iagorlyk Natural Reserve	72,000		Environment	Eco-TIRAS (MD)	<a href="#">Project concluded</a>

						Actual contract value: 72,000 EUR.
9	Elaboration of agreement on hydrometeor. data exchange procedure between Hydro meteorological service in Chisinau and Tiraspol	24,000		Environment	Environmental Institute (SK)	<u>Project concluded</u> Actual contract value: 24,000 EUR
10	Drinking water network rehabilitation in villages Cobruci and Nezavertailovka, TN	68,383		Environment	Vozrozhdenie NGO (MD)	<u>Project concluded</u> Actual contract value: 68,383 EUR
11	Common building of the future for the internationally recognized integral zone of the Lower Nistru	100,235		Environment	Biotica NGO (MD), Ecumena, Eco-Dniestr NGOs (TN)	<u>Project concluded.</u> Actual contract value: 100,235 EUR.
12	Furtherance of the Bologna Process in Higher Education	100.000		Education	Moldova State University, with partners from UK and State University in Tiraspol	<b>As recommended by EU Delegation, cancelled for the moment.</b>
13	Development of participation in ERASMUS programme	75.000		Education	State University with Specialist input from EU and more open application information to develop Information seminars on both sides	<b>As recommended by EU Delegation, cancelled for the moment.</b>
14	FuturEd – University exchange programme Phase 1	90.000	in Phase 2	Education	Moldova State University with partners in Independent Institute for Law and Civil Society, Tiraspol and Ulster University, Belfast	<b>As recommended by EU Delegation, cancelled for the moment.</b>
15	“Transfer of Best Practices on Working with Children with Disabilities among Moldovan and Transnistrian NGOs”	75.000		Education	CRM Caritas Moldova, in partnership with NGO “Alye Parusa” from Dubasari, NGO “Dobroe Serdze” from Bender, and Day Care Centre from Singerei.	<u>Project concluded.</u> Actual contract value: 75,000 EUR.
16	Multilingual News paper for NGOs	90.000		Education	Independent Journalism Centre with partners in TN	<b>As recommended by EU Delegation, cancelled for the moment.</b>
	<b>Total Budget</b>	<b>1.436.300</b>				