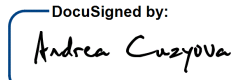
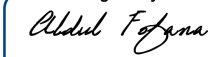

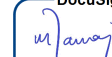
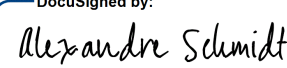
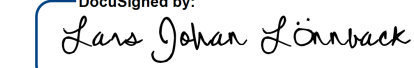
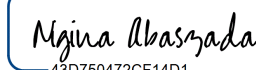


## One UN Joint Action to Strengthen Human Rights in the Transnistrian region of the Republic of Moldova (2022-2025)

### PROJECT DOCUMENT

<p>UNDP Moldova</p> <p>DocuSigned by:    <small>30A862C5300B4B4...</small>          Andrea Cuzyova,          UNDP Resident Representative a.i.</p>	<p>OHCHR</p> <p>DocuSigned by:    <small>Abdul Fofana...</small>          Chief Programme Support and Management          Section, OHCHR</p>
Date: 19-Jan-2023	Date: 23-Jan-2023
<p>UNAIDS Moldova</p> <p>DocuSigned by:    <small>3B17BFC490F5410...</small>          Svetlana Plamadeala,          Country Director</p>	<p>UNICEF Moldova</p> <p>DocuSigned by:    <small>DA5D011CD8DF45B...</small>          Maha Damaj,          Representative</p>
Date: 20-Jan-2023	Date: 20-Jan-2023
<p>UNODC</p> <p>DocuSigned by:    <small>B2A052776150473...</small>          Alexandre Schmidt, Chief Regional Section for          Europe, West and Central Asia, UNODC</p>	<p>IOM Moldova</p> <p>DocuSigned by:    <small>4277C7919F424B9...</small>          Lars Johan Lönback,          Chief of Mission</p>
Date: 24-Jan-2023	Date: 20-Jan-2023
<p>UNFPA Moldova</p> <p>DocuSigned by:    <small>43D750472CF14D1...</small>          Nigina Abaszada,          Resident Representative</p>	
Date: 20-Jan-2023	

**Project Title:** One UN Joint Action to Strengthen Human Rights in the Transnistrian region of the Republic of Moldova (2022-2025)

**Implementing Agencies:** IOM, OHCHR, UNAIDS, UNICEF, UNDP, UNODC and UNFPA

**Start Date:** 15 December 2022

**End Date:** 14 December 2025

**LPAC Meeting date:**

**Brief Description:**

The fulfilment of human rights in unrecognised territories is a huge challenge in any part of the world and Moldova makes no exception.

The precarious human rights context in the Transnistrian region is illustrated by the amplitude and interplay of multiple forms of inequalities in vulnerable groups, such as *inter alia* persons with disabilities, Roma, people living with and affected by HIV/AIDS, adolescents and youth, children in contact with the law, vulnerable women and girls, survivors of domestic violence, sexual violence, trafficking in human beings, and migrants in difficult situations, refugees, prisoners and former prisoners and people who use drugs, are encountering. The ability of vulnerable groups from the region to effectively exercise their rights is impaired by the human rights knowledge, capacity and authority gaps they face. The embryonic civil society environment with weak capacities to influence policymaking and to reach out to the most vulnerable ones, and low human rights awareness of the CSOs, professionals and the population at large are hindering the realisation of human rights in the region. Undeveloped and gender-blind specialised service provision, deriving from human and economic resources capacity gaps, the missing link between the CSOs and *de facto* structures and the absence of a comprehensive human rights framework is representing additional major contributing factors to this debilitating juncture.

Under **Output 1. Increased capacities of vulnerable right-holders to exercise their human rights** the Programme is expected to achieve the following results: enhanced human rights skills and knowledge of vulnerable rights holders, strengthened institutional capacity of CSOs and informal groups, and improved service delivery of CSOs; Under **Output 2. Improved systems and mechanisms for the respect, protection and fulfilment of human rights of vulnerable groups** - enhanced human rights compliant regulatory framework, strengthened human rights institutions and improved service delivery as a result of advocacy actions from CSOs and human rights defenders; and under **Output 3. Enhanced human rights culture in the Transnistrian region** - enhanced human rights capacity of the media and raised human rights awareness.

Total resources allocated:	
	<b>Donor: Sweden</b>
	<b>27 000 000 SEK</b>

**CONTENTS**

	ACRONYMS	3
I	Development Challenge	4
II	Strategy	7
III	Results and Partnerships	15
	Output 1. Increased capacities of vulnerable right-holders to exercise their human rights	15
	Output 2. Improved systems and mechanisms for the fulfilment of human rights of vulnerable groups	23
	Output 3. Enhanced human rights culture in the Transnistrian region	27
IV	Resources and Risks	29
V	Programme Management	32
VI	Multi-Year Work Plan	32
VII	Monitoring And Evaluation	32
VII	Governance and Management Arrangements	37
I		
IX	Legal Context	39
X	ANNEXES	39

**ACRONYMS**

AA	Administrative Agent
AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
ARV	Anti-retroviral treatment
CBM	Confidence Building Measures
CBOs	Community Based Organisations
CCM TB/AIDS	Country Coordination Mechanism on TB/AIDS
CME	Community Mobilisation for Empowerment
CPD	Country Programme Document
CRPD	Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
CSOs	Civil society organisations
DIM	Direct Implementation Modality
EEF	East Europe Foundation
EU	European Union
GFATM	The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria
GM	gender mainstreaming
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
HRBA	Human Rights based Approach
HR	Human Rights
IBBS	Integrated Biological and Behavioural Surveillance
IOM	International Organisation for Migration
LPAC	Local Appraisal Committee
LPAs	Local Public Authorities
LPSs	Local Public Structures
MICS	Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MPTF	Multi-Partner Trust Fund
MSM	Men who have sex with men
NGO	Non-governmental Organisation
OHCHR	Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
OST	Opioid Substitution Treatment
PLWH	People living with HIV
PrEP	Pre-exposure prophylaxis
PSC	Programme Steering Committee
PSEA	Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse
PST	Programme Support Team
PWDs	Persons with disabilities
PWUDs	People who use drugs
RAF	Results Assessment Framework
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SoPs	Standard operating procedures
SW	Sex Workers
TN	Transnistrian region
UCIMP	Unit of Programme Coordination, Implementation and Monitoring
UN	United Nations
UNAIDS	United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
UNCT	United Nations Country Team
UNDG	United Nations Development Group
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNICEF	United Nations Fund for Children
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
UNPF /UNDAF	United Nations - Republic of Moldova Partnership Framework
UORN	Harm reduction and drug users' rehabilitation in the North
USSR	Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
WHO	World Health Organisation
WUD	Women who use drugs

## I. DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGE

The collapse of the USSR in 1991 triggered a significant geopolitical reconstruction in Eurasia, replacing the socialist republics with newly funded aspiring democracies. Shortly after declaring its independence, the Republic of Moldova has been engaged in military clashes with forces from its breakaway Transnistrian region, situated on the left bank of the Nistru river and bordering to the East with Ukraine. The 1992 ceasefire agreement converted the conflict into a “frozen” one, generating more than two decades of conventional peace and ambivalent negotiations.

The Transnistrian region remains isolated, leading to a steady decrease in living standards there. Heavily affected by migration, a worsening economic and currency crisis, political uncertainty and a degrading of the quality of basic services, the decline in the region has led to a gradual erosion of local capacities for development and has impacted social cohesion and possible reconciliation.<sup>1</sup>

The fulfilment of human rights in unrecognised territories is a huge challenge in any part of the world and Moldova makes no exception. The realisation of human rights in this region is trapped between the *de facto* Transnistrian structures’ will and a void effect on this territory of any commitments of Moldova to the international human rights instruments, while there is recognition of human rights obligations of entities in *de facto* control of territories.

The interventions in the region may be hampered by the lack of accessible and reliable data on human rights. The process of human rights monitoring is fragmented and often has no continuity. The previous phase of the project supported the inclusive drafting of the first regional comprehensive human rights framework, which is pending approval by duty bearers. Further action will be required for the approval, as well as the setting up of an implementation and monitoring mechanism with active participation of independent CSOs in the Transnistrian region. Furthermore, actions of the development partners are to be seen as the first steps in promoting human rights in this region. One of the possible avenues for the promotion of the priorities envisaged by the programme could be the Working Group on Human Rights with involvement of sectoral experts from both banks of the Nistru river. Bureau for Reintegration Policies, as a member of the Programme Steering Committee, will be able to further communicate the raised human rights issues and Programme updates to the relevant Governmental bodies, including the Working Group on Human Rights. Civil society organisations do not benefit from full independence and autonomy in their activities. The authorities are continuously tending to shrink the civic space, and this has negative repercussions on the possible advocacy tools and interventions available for NGOs. Therefore, during the capacity building activities, the implementors have and will have to use approaches tailored to the socio-political context in the region in order to respect the principle of “doing no harm”. During the previous phase of the One UN Programme civil society in the Transnistrian region and human rights defenders who claim the rights of different vulnerable groups had its capacity increased and benefited from capacity building events organised. They, therefore, managed to successfully advocate for some amendments to regulatory frameworks to increase their compliance with international human rights standards, but still additional efforts need to be made to support the sustainability and implementation mechanisms for adopted changes.

The information related to the human rights situation in the region is steaming mostly from the reports of - independent experts and after the visits of various high-level representatives of the international organisations, mostly the UN.

The 2011 mission to Moldova, including to its Transnistrian region, of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Navi Pillay, provided the opening for in-depth follow-up, as well as acceptance of the need to increase the information available about human rights in the region showed by the *de facto* leadership. In February 2013, Thomas Hammarberg, in his position as *Senior UN expert on Human rights*, produced a report with 38 recommendations to redress the human rights situation in the region. The expert expressed his concerns regarding the violation of children’s rights by using excessive incarceration of juvenile delinquents, instead of considering deprivation of liberty sentences as a last resort for children in contact with the law and focusing on their social rehabilitation. He also highlighted the heavy institutionalisation of children and adolescents with disabilities and orphans and the exclusion of children with disabilities from mainstream education. Regarding the right to health, Hammerberg concluded that HIV prevention, treatment, access to HIV testing, stigmatizations of people living with HIV and people who use drugs (PWUD) are of major concern in the Transnistrian region. Another entanglement is the infringement of rights of adults with disabilities, including

<sup>1</sup> Republic of Moldova-United Nations Partnership Framework for Sustainable Development 2018-2022, p.37

their mass institutionalisation and the existing guardianship system, the medical approach to the determination of disability, inaccessible infrastructure, and their absence from the labour market. The violation of women's rights was tackled in Hammarberg's report from the domestic violence and trafficking of human beings' perspective, indicating that there was no regulatory framework on domestic violence and no available services for women victims of domestic violence. People in prisons and people released from prisons were also mentioned to be extremely vulnerable, especially to HIV and TB and these groups need specialised assistance. The lack of relevant and reliable human rights data was signalled as a crosscutting and important issue in Hammarberg's report. Furthermore, the expert identified the need to adopt a regional human rights action plan, mainstream human rights into education and into the work of professionals providing services to vulnerable groups, strengthen the capacity of the Ombudsperson to adequately exercise its mandate, establish effective complaint mechanisms and enact the cooperation between the civil society and *de facto* structures.

In May 2018 the *Senior UN Expert on Human Rights*, Thomas Hammarberg, had a follow-up visit to his 2013 Report on human rights in the Transnistrian region. In his follow-up report he observed a positive change in the perception of persons with disabilities, an increased legal awareness of their rights and an animated civil society platform of persons with disabilities, an improved access to health in the penitentiary institutions related to the identification and treatment of HIV and TB, as well as the progress made in the field of domestic violence by raising awareness of this human rights issue and by establishing the first crises centres and shelter for victims of domestic violence. The expert recommended further building on the existing progress in the region by developing a Transnistrian region human rights action plan, strengthening the human rights institutions and mechanisms, collecting disaggregated data, improving the capacity of duty-bearers and the media in the field of human rights, and mainstreaming human rights into education. Hammarberg also underlined those additional efforts should be focused on ensuring the social inclusion of persons with disabilities and Roma minority, as well as former prisoners, taking into account the multiple forms of discrimination they might face, and on creating an enabling environment for the development of the civil society in the Transnistrian region.

Following these recommendations, several UN entities, namely IOM, OHCHR, UNDP, UNAIDS, UNICEF and UNODC conducted permanent discussions prior to the previous One UN phase implementation and during the phase on key areas where *de facto* structures have expressed openness, and which were considered feasible for implementation: rights of persons with disabilities, Roma, women in vulnerable situations, PLWH, PWUD and women who use drugs, former detainees, and children in conflict with the law, strengthening capacities of institutionalised human rights structures from both banks, the importance of drafting Human Rights Action Plan and inclusion of CSOs in the process. Using the cross-river cooperation approach and building on previous UN interventions in the region, the joint UN initiative managed to develop the capacity and knowledge of service providers on disabilities, domestic violence, trafficking in human beings and HIV, of police officers from the right bank and *de facto* representatives from the left bank in their interaction with PLWH and PWUD, establishing cooperation between CSOs and police officers from the right bank and *de facto* representatives from the left bank, creating a mechanism of assistance and social reintegration of former prisoners, piloting deinstitutionalized services as well as provided support in increasing the human rights knowledge of human rights defenders, targeted vulnerable groups and increasing awareness on their rights.

The implementation of the One UN JA (2019-2022) was hindered by the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2019 and consequently Russia's invasion of Ukraine in early 2022, which led to the establishment of various security-related restrictions on movement across the demarcation line, as well as the organisation of events. Many Programme's staff members and beneficiaries were directly affected and could not be fully engaged. Nevertheless, the One UN JA adapted to the new realities, and used new instruments and technologies to achieve the most envisaged results.

The refugee crisis, which followed, has a significant impact on future activities of the Programme. According to the Moldovan MoIA 426.237 Ukrainians have crossed the frontiers of the Republic of Moldova since February 24th, out of which 82.260 remained on the territory of Moldova. Most of these people represent vulnerable groups, targeted by the Programme: women and girls, children and young people, people with disabilities, Roma, PLWH, PWUD, former prisoners etc. This in turn created additional challenges for the national authorities and UN implementing partners, but also required reallocation of resources and adjustments of the activities to address these new challenges.

The situation of the Ukrainian refugees on the left bank of the Nistru River is worse in comparison with the right bank of Nistru river, as they have almost no access to the support offered by the Chisinau authorities or international partners, including the cash and voucher assistance scheme implemented on the right bank of Nistru river. Though there is no possibility to obtain independently verifiable data on Ukrainian refugees on

the left bank, according to the data published and announced by the de facto structures in the meetings with the UN, circa 33500 people have entered the Transnistrian region since the beginning of the conflict until mid-May. Overall, 26700 persons have registered with the de facto structures and 1721 were accommodated in the refugee centres opened throughout the region. In the beginning of September the Programme beneficiaries shared information that the largest refugee accommodation center (RAC) in Tiraspol (based in the dispensary center “Tirotext”) will be closed by de-facto structures and all refugees placed there will be moved to Dnestrovsk RAC. Currently, there are around 200 refugees in these centres, of which 82 are children. Around 8000 refugees are staying in the Transnistrian region as of 15 May 2022. As it can be seen from these figures, the majority of the refugees were accommodated by relatives and friends and the exact number of people still remaining in the region is difficult to assess and verify. The Roma refugees, according to local NGOs, were not placed in the refugee centres and their number is around 250. The situation in Ukraine and on the left bank has also displaced people internally from the right to the left bank, 4 IDPs women and children have been assisted within the program in the crisis room for women from Anenii Noi.

The Programme will continue to work with the CSO partners from both banks of the Nistru river, aiming to expand their limited opportunities to influence the policymaking and to reach out to the most vulnerable ones, and low human rights awareness of the CSOs, professionals and the population at large are hindering the realisation of human rights in the Transnistrian region. It will aim at strengthening partnerships between CSOs and increase their meaningful participation in the process of development and implementation of a comprehensive human rights framework.

The One UN JA Phase II aims at piloting new community-based services, the foundation for which was laid in the previous phase of the Programme. It will continue to empower and develop the capacities of rights holders from the current target groups. Additionally, the youth-related human rights issues will be addressed by the new phase of the One UN JA, expanding the target population of the region and integrating the incoming refugees into local society.

The Programme will continue to address the infringements of human rights of the vulnerable rights holders in the Transnistrian region, which impedes their access to resources and opportunities, underscoring “*the ability of a person or group to participate in social, economic, political and cultural life*,”<sup>2</sup> the social exclusion being considered a cause and also a vulnerability factor of poverty.<sup>3</sup> The *Republic of Moldova United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2023-2027 (UNSDCF)* reiterates “*a stronger emphasis on the empowerment of right holders while building capacities of duty-bearers to respond to their claims in order to enable people to become active participants in development processes and help the country speed up economic recovery and achieve the ambitious 2030 Agenda, especially, for those who were identified by the Common Country Analysis as most vulnerable and marginalized*”<sup>4</sup> in all the priority areas by reducing inequalities, strengthening social inclusion and cohesion so that no-one is left behind.<sup>5</sup> UNSDCF expresses the commitment of the Government of the Republic of Moldova and the UN to work together to enable Moldova to address its major development challenges and meet its international human rights commitments. Guided by the overarching vision of NDS Moldova 2030 of a country where people want to live, where all people fully exercise their human rights and where people enjoy a better quality of life in a more inclusive and resilient society, the UNSDCF 2023-2027 puts a strong emphasis on the transformative nature of the SDGs. It integrates options to boost inclusive, diversified and job-intensive economic transformation while promoting the advancement of human rights, gender equality and the well-being of all people of Moldova, underpinned by enhanced inclusion and resilience, peace and security and a sustainable environment. The UNSDCF Theory of Change is based on the premise that better quality of life for all people of Moldova can only be achieved if the country’s prosperity is shared among all people and the most vulnerable and marginalized are empowered to exercise their human rights and participate meaningfully in all spheres of life. Particularly relevant in this context are UNSDCF Outcome 1 By 2027, institutions deliver human rights-based, evidence-informed and gender-responsive services for all with the focus on those who are left behind and Outcome 2 By 2027, more accountable, and transparent, human rights-based and gender-responsive governance empowers all people of Moldova to participate in and to contribute to development processes.<sup>6</sup> The work on redressing the human rights situation in the Transnistrian region is aligned with a number of SDGs: SDG1 (no poverty), SDG3 (good health and wellbeing), SDG4 (quality education), SDG5 (gender equality), SDG10 (reduced inequalities),

<sup>2</sup> “*Social Exclusion*”, available at: <http://www.poverty.ac.uk/definitions-poverty/social-exclusion> (last visited on June 28, 2018)

<sup>3</sup> “*Poverty, social exclusion and the role of a comprehensive human rights framework*”, Malika Ramachandran, ILI Law Review, Summer issue 2016, p.25

<sup>4</sup> Republic of Moldova - United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2022-2027

<sup>5</sup> Ibidem.

<sup>6</sup> Ibidem.

SDG16 (peace, justice and strong institutions).

The Programme also will aim to contribute to the implementation of the National Human Rights Action Plan 2023-2027, currently under development and support integration of human right development challenges into the new policy document. Considering the role of the Bureau for Reintegration Policies in identifying and including human rights priority issues on the negotiation agenda<sup>7</sup>, the Programme will periodically update the Bureau for Reintegration Policies during the Programme Steering Committee meetings and ad-hoc when needed regarding the developments in the human rights field generated with the support of the Programme and the human rights situation in the Transnistrian region in general. The Bureau for Reintegration Policies will further communicate the raised issues and updates to the relevant Governmental bodies, including the relevant working groups. The Programme will also contribute to enhancing the monitoring of the human rights situation in the Transnistrian region. The exchange of good practices between the banks will continue in the next phase of the Programme at the level of specialists and non-governmental institutions.

UN human rights engagement in the Transnistrian region has led to continuous attention and actions on specific human rights issues, hence having strong prospects for inaugurating a good practice that can be replicated in other similar situations, not only in Europe, but worldwide.

---

## II. STRATEGY

The Programme's Theory of Change is aligned to the results-based management cycle, building on the context, situation analysis and strategic prioritization of interventions. The program intends to foster commitment at the level of the decision-makers in the Transnistrian region for human rights-oriented reforms in general and particularly in the area of disability, child's and youth's rights, Roma, rights of people living with and affected by HIV, rights of prisoners, and people in prisons, vulnerable women and rights of people who use drugs, facilitating the establishment of multidimensional cooperation, cross-river knowledge exchange and development based on best practices existing on both banks.

**Lessons learned** from previous human rights UN interventions in the Transnistrian region show that duty bearers, including service providers at multiple levels have insufficient knowledge of human rights of the vulnerable ones and implementation capacity, encountering human and economic resources capacity gaps. Additionally, there is a reluctance from their side to actively engage with the CSO representatives in the decision-making processes. The rights holders are not sufficiently aware of their rights and do not have sufficient instruments and opportunities to participate in the decision-making processes, affecting their lives. Hence, the involvement of the civil society in developing regulatory frameworks, in changing perceptions, in developing and piloting transferable services to the *de facto* structures, in monitoring the implementation of human rights commitments of the duty bearers and advocating for ensuring the social inclusion of the most vulnerable ones is imperative. It is of paramount importance to enhance the capacity of organizations from both sides for joint Programme work, as it is quite limited, based on priorities and development needs of both sides of the Nistru river, that are not imposed, but closely coordinated with them.

The standpoint of the intervention is premised on the evidence that *vulnerable rights holders in the Transnistrian region don't fully exercise and claim their human rights in line with international human rights standards*, resulting in an alternation of hindering consequences: violation of the rights of vulnerable groups in the region, followed by their social exclusion, poverty and fragile social cohesion.

Building on the previous UN agencies' human rights interventions in the Transnistrian region and the recommendations provided by the UN Senior Expert and relevant UN Human Rights Mechanisms, the Programme will contribute *to reducing inequalities for women, men, children and youth in the Transnistrian region (Impact) by ensuring that vulnerable human rights holders are empowered to exercise their rights and duty bearers respect, protect and fulfill human rights to a larger extent (Outcome).*

The Programme's **Theory of Change** logic is based on the following summarising statement: *If human rights mechanisms are established, CSOs are empowered to meaningfully participate in the promotion of the respect, protection and fulfilment of Human Rights in the region, in line with international human rights standards, if vulnerable rights holders are aware of their rights and are effectively tapped into the decision-making in full compliance with the principle "Nothing for us without us", if accessible, available, acceptable and quality services are provided and if the perception of vulnerable groups is improved, then vulnerable rights holders*

---

<sup>7</sup> National Human Rights Action Plan 2018-2022, Chapter 16, Objective 1, Strategic target B, 1.1



*will claim their rights and duty bearers will respect, protect and fulfil human rights in the Transnistrian region, because the human rights holders are empowered and human rights are mainstreamed into the community development and local services.*

### **Implementation approaches:**

The **Human Rights Based Approach (HRBA)** is the key normative and conceptual basis of the Programme. The Programme will follow the principle of **leaving no one behind and reaching the furthest behind first** by meaningfully involving beneficiaries, and by addressing challenges of those facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination. The Programme will encourage the beneficiary CSOs to employ, develop internship programs, and involve in their activities persons from vulnerable groups. The 2030 Agenda requests particular attention *inter alia* to vulnerable groups facing inequalities and discrimination based on income, sex, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location, or other characteristics. The action will emphasise the responsibility of the duty bearers to respect, protect and fulfill human rights and cooperate with international human rights mechanisms. An equally important consideration will be given to ensuring that rights-holders are capacitated to know and claim their rights. Activities under this Programme could facilitate the activation of UN human rights instruments and ensure sustained and systematic involvement of Special Procedures Mandate Holders of the Human Rights Council and coordinated follow-up. Human rights engagement has a significant potential not only to address human rights issues but also in a wider sense to open the space and support interrelated political, security, development and humanitarian efforts.

As part of a broader HRBA, more specifically, the **community mobilisation for empowerment<sup>8</sup> (CME)** of women and vulnerable groups methodology will be applied, as a tool for stimulating the emergence of CSOs in the most deprived areas and empowering the right holders to take action and to be “heard” by decision-makers and by the community in addressing human rights violations.

### **Gender Mainstreaming**

The Programme envisages meaningful participation of representatives from all beneficiary vulnerable groups in all of the Programme’s phases, starting with planning and finalising with monitoring and evaluation of the Programme’s results, ensuring an equitable benefit of the results of the Programme. Both gender targeted and gender integrated initiatives, but also gender-sensitive, are considered to provide a holistic response to complex social and cultural dynamics that perpetuate gender inequality in the Transnistrian region. Ascertaining that different categories of professionals are unequally represented by women and men (e.g. social and health workers are mostly women; police and IT-specialists are mostly men) the Programme will strive to balance their involvement in knowledge transfer, service provision and monitoring.

### **Confidence Building**

Supporting Confidence Measures and building bridges between the people of both banks will further support the advancement of human rights in the Transnistrian region and strengthen overall social cohesion. Building on experience, the Programme will continue to encourage the creation and development of partnerships and collaboration among duty bearers and CSOs in a multi-disciplinary manner from both banks in such areas as rights of vulnerable groups, social inclusion, healthcare, and human rights monitoring. The importance of the confidence building approach will be promoted and all activities will be planned and implemented in an impartial manner, focusing on concrete improvements in the lives of people on both banks. Bureau for Reintegration Policies, representing the Government of the Republic of Moldova will be a member of the Programme’s Steering Committee and will be provided with regular updates on the Programme’s activities. The Bureau for Reintegration Policies will further communicate the raised human rights issues and Programme’s updates to the relevant Governmental bodies, including to the sectoral working groups in the conflict settlement process, especially the working group on human rights. The *de facto* structures will be also kept abreast of the Programme’s activities, ensuring coordination with the relevant entities. Technical meetings with relevant specialists will be organized on a regular basis. Planning of the activities will be discussed in coordination with offices of political representatives in conflict settlement process. Additionally, the Programme will contribute to establishing good practices and ways of addressing human rights in protracted conflicts (expected to be further developed under this Programme) that will be shared with key regional and global partners both within the UN and more broadly.

**Conflict Sensitive Approach.** The Programme will be conflict sensitive in the implementation of its interventions, mindfully monitoring the changing context to ensure that all Programme activities “do no harm”.

---

<sup>8</sup> Community Mobilization for Empowerment methodology was piloted by UNDP-Moldova in partnership with UN Women and led to empowering women and men from vulnerable groups to become equal partners in local development and enhanced their role in local decision-making.



**One UN approach.** At the request of the Government (2011), Moldova is a Delivering as One country which seeks to capitalize on the strengths and comparative advantages of the different members of the United Nations family to increase the United Nations system's impact through more coherent programs, reduced transaction costs for governments, and lower business operations costs.<sup>9</sup> The United Nations has an undisputable comparative advantage in several relevant Programme thematic areas: human rights and governance, combating poverty, efficient service provision, health and reproductive rights, inclusive education, gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, combating inequality and the promotion of social inclusion.<sup>10</sup> The United Nations is also considered to be impartial, which is a crucial comparative advantage that will be used to continue engagement in dialogue in the Transnistrian region and build on the experience to date.<sup>11</sup> The Programme employs the comparative advantages of the involved UN agencies and builds on the synergies and complementarities between their respective mandates, operational capacities and competency areas. The collaboratively used knowledge and expertise will lead to the common results underpinned by the Programme's common Theory of Change. Moreover, in order to ensure a One UN implementation approach, the Programme team will undergo joint brainstorming exercises when the Annual Working Plan is elaborated and before each steering committee meeting. These events will address both capacity building but also team work to develop a joint approach to monitoring, reporting, assessing, and data using to follow the concrete indicators provided by RAF. This will take place in addition to regular coordination and monitoring activities to create better linkages and synergy between implemented interventions and deliver the same principles and messages.

**Cooperation with constitutional authorities** Under the UNSCDF Moldova *Priority Area 2: Participatory Governance and Social Cohesion* a relevant action for this Programme is the empowerment of rights holders, including the most marginalized, to participate in public and civic life and to react against violations of human rights, intolerance or discrimination<sup>12</sup>. The Bureau for Reintegration Policies has the mandate to promote the Government's policy of territorial, political, economic and social reintegration of the Republic of Moldova, under the leadership of a Deputy Prime minister for Reintegration, who is also representing Chisinau as chief negotiator. The bureau, as the main institution in charge of reintegration policies, is conducting consultations and negotiations to resolve the Transnistrian conflict, develop the legislative framework and provides the necessary assistance to the Deputy Prime Minister. Bureau for Reintegration Policies will be the main national counterpart and active member of the Programme's Steering Committee, thus will be consulted and informed on a permanent basis regarding the Programme development. It will further communicate the raised human rights issues and program updates to the relevant Governmental bodies, including the Working Groups in the formal settlement process, especially the working group on human rights.

**Inclusive and meaningful participation of civil society in decision making and public life.** The Programme will seek innovative ways to further strengthen the participation mechanisms to ensure inclusive and meaningful engagement of CSOs in decision making and sustainable dialogue on both banks by involving them in joint discussions and coordination platforms seeking human rights-oriented solutions together with CSOs, vulnerable groups and Bureau for Reintegration Policies. The program will support the organization of periodic thematic human rights meetings, capacity building activities and cross river experience and knowledge sharing for the relevant CSOs and informal thematic groups. The meetings of the thematic groups will be aimed at identifying the relevant human rights issue. The groups will synthesize solutions to address the issues and will create space for partnerships and cooperation among the CSOs working in the same field on both banks of the Nistru river. The Programme will contribute and support empowerment of CSOs in drafting and implementation of human rights policy documents (i.e. the National Human Rights Action Plan in the Republic of Moldova 2023-2027 and the Human Rights Action Plan in the Transnistrian region) aimed to address systematic human rights issues and recommendations done by UN Human Rights Treaty Bodies, UN Special Procedures, the Universal Periodic Review and UN human Rights experts. Meaningful participation of CSOs in this mechanism will be facilitated by the Programme by organising regular and ad-hoc meetings and providing capacity building and trainings. Additionally, based on the platforms already created, the Programme will seek to cement the foundations of the Sustainable (Community) Development Platform to ensure the addressing of the human rights issues highlighted in Hammarberg's recommendations .

The Programme will also consider the specific political and security settings that will exist in the region at the

<sup>9</sup> Republic of Moldova-United Nations Partnership Framework for Sustainable Development 2018-2022, p.9

<sup>10</sup> Idem p.17

<sup>11</sup> Ibidem

<sup>12</sup> Republic of Moldova-United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2023-2027, p.76

moment of implementation. The implementation of the activities will be planned and approached with caution, including the timing, visibility, and presentation issues. All program's activities will remain non-political. The importance of confidence building approach will be explained and all activities will be planned and implemented in an impartial manner, focusing on concrete improvements in people's lives.

### Communication

During Phase I of the One UN JA it was learned that it is important to have a coordinated, "one voice" of the Programme. It was ensured by the Communication and Media Consultant. In Phase 2, the same approach will be used and a comprehensive communication strategy will be developed. The communication strategy will ensure the selection of different channels, actors and tools for the dissemination of Programme's results at the local, regional and national levels. The Programme plans to continue to develop the human rights knowledge and capacities of media representatives, with a focus on youth media specialists and students from the Faculty of Journalism in Tiraspol, as well as bloggers, vloggers, and communicators from CSOs, from both banks of Nistru river, as well as cooperate with them for ensuring a wider communication of the Programme's results.

The Programme will use the Communication for Social Change approach, emphasising the notion of dialogue as central to the development and the need to facilitate vulnerable people's participation and empowerment. This participatory communication approach stresses the importance of *"horizontal communication, the role of people as agents of change, and the need for negotiating skills and partnerships"*.<sup>13</sup>

Eliminating all forms of discrimination against women and girls and achieving gender equality are central elements of the HRBA and are prioritized by UNCT Moldova. The results of the Programme will mandatorily reflect the impact of the Programme's interventions on women and men. Media representatives, bloggers, vloggers and communicators from CSOs will be trained on HRBA and GM, ensuring their understanding of gender equality concepts and issues, and their further reflection on their media products.

The dialogue will be used as a tool for changing social and cultural attitudes to remove barriers to women's participation in wider society. Women and girls, beneficiaries of the Programme's interventions, will be provided with space to voice their needs and interests through the human rights platforms supported by the Programme, as well as by participating in the development and implementation of the awareness campaigns planned by this Programme. A louder echo of women's and girls' beneficiaries' voices will be ensured by the participation of media representatives at these events.

The Programme will work with all stakeholders, but mainly with civil society, to create opportunities for women, men, youth and children by empowering them to be able to advocate for change, promoting equality and stimulating collective action to overcome prejudice and inequity, coupled with the media involvement, which has the power to influence the positive change of vulnerable groups' perception, including of expectations and assumptions about gender roles.<sup>14</sup>

The Programme will ensure the use of a consistent "voice" when communicating with the public, using mass media to increase awareness on the development issue tackled by the Programme and informing about the results of the Programme.

The stakeholders will be periodically informed about the results of the Programme by ensuring their participation in the Programme's strategic decision-making processes, in the Programme's activities where relevant and through the communication channels addressed to the public. Bureau for Reintegration Policies will be a member of the Programme's Steering Committee and will be provided with progress reports on the advancements made by the Programme to further decide on the applicability of this information.

UN human rights engagement in the Transnistrian region is centred around Hammarberg's recommendations with a low probability of being contested by relevant actors. This engagement has led to continuous attention and actions on specific human rights issues. As such, it has strong prospects for inaugurating good practice. The UN will promote the Programme's results through different channels, including by using the grounds of international *fora* dealing with conflict prevention and resolution, with a view to replicate good practices from this Programme in other similar contexts, not only in Europe, but worldwide. The Programme will ensure that its results will be reflected in public statement tweets, web-stories in Geneva and in public reports to the UN Human Rights Council by UN Special Rapporteurs.

<sup>13</sup> Report from the 8th UN Inter-Agency Round Table on Communication for Development, pp. 44-51

<sup>14</sup> Communication for development, UN, 2011, p.7

## Environmental sustainability

While the nature of this Programme does not pose specific environmental risks, the program will be implemented in ways that minimize environmental harm. In the initiation of the Programme, environmental and social screening will be conducted. Should any environmental risks be identified, risk mitigation measures will be proposed. During the implementation, special attention will be given to activities involving catering or procurement of equipment. Environmental clauses will be a part of the grant agreements signed with the CSOs, imposing obligations on promoting green events and implementing a green office culture. Additionally, capacity building programs will include environmental capacitation for CSOs to support organisations in understating key elements of green offices and organization of green events.

The main assumptions the Programme is relying on the commitment of the *de facto* structures to continue to work on the expansion of the results achieved in the 1<sup>st</sup> Phase of the Programme and on the implementation of Hammarberg's recommendations, to adopt the Human Rights Action Plan aimed to address all of the majority of human rights recommendations from UN Treaty bodies, UN special rapporteurs and Thomas Hammaberg's reports, as well to ensure and strengthen cross-river cooperation and exchange of good practices, experience and knowledge, and cross-sector human rights capacity development.

The Programme's integrated approach targeting to work at the individual, institutional and community levels by *increasing the capacities of rights holders to exercise their rights (Output 1), improving systems and mechanisms for the respect, protection and fulfilment of human rights of vulnerable groups (Output 2) and enhancing the human rights culture in the Transnistrian region (Output 3)* will lead to creating an enabling environment for an effective exercise of human rights of vulnerable groups in the Transnistrian region. Thus, the Programme is contributing to achieving Outcome 1 and Outcome 2 of the UNSDCF.

**Theory of change Output 1** Increased capacities of vulnerable rights holders to exercise their human rights: *If based on the confidence building measures, human rights, gender mainstreaming, conflict sensitivity and One UN approach, if the human rights trainings for the rights holders and their CSOs are delivered, if trained human rights defenders are mobilised, enabled to effectively identify human rights issues and advocate for the rights of vulnerable groups in line with international standards. and if service provision, advocacy and institutional building training and grants for the CSOs and informal groups of rights holders are provided, then vulnerable groups in the Transnistrian region will have increased capacities to exercise their rights, because the human rights knowledge of the rights holders and their CSOs is enhanced, the rights holders have an enhanced capacity to participate in the decision-making processes affecting their lives and advocate for their human rights, including the most vulnerable ones, to advance accessible, available, acceptable and quality services for the vulnerable groups.*

Building the capacity of rights holders on human rights leads to better recognition of a right's violation, an increased capacity to claim that right, better access to available services and enhanced participation in the decision-making processes affecting their lives. CSOs play an essential role in representing the rights holders and improving their status.

According to the National Human Rights Action Plan of the Republic of Moldova<sup>15</sup> the development of the civil society on the left bank of the Nistru river is necessary and the duty bearers are bound to ensure an enabling environment for the development of civil society in the region and support the organizations attempting to carry out human rights promoting activities in the region.

The involvement of the civil society in developing regulatory frameworks, in changing perceptions, in developing and piloting transferable services to the *de facto* structures, in monitoring the implementation by the duty bearers of human rights commitments and advocating for ensuring the social inclusion of the most vulnerable ones is imperative. Consequently, building a strong and vibrant civil society in the Transnistrian region requires attention to their self-sustainability, more specifically to their institutional capacity, but also to their knowledge capacity pertaining to general and specific human rights issues. The cementation of an inter-mutual operation strategy of the CSOs in this breakaway region will reinforce their role in the human rights decision-making processes.

---

<sup>15</sup> National Human Rights Action Plan of Republic of Moldova 2018-2022, Section III, Observance of human rights in the regions on the left bank of Nistru River.

The Programme proposes to apply a vertical and a horizontal approach to building the capacities of CSOs. On the vertical, the Programme will continue providing support in developing the human rights knowledge of vulnerable groups and their CSOs in order to enhance their expertise on specific relevant human rights issues, but also on general ones such as discrimination, gender equality, and applying HRBA. This approach will enable CSOs to reach out and provide quality assistance to the beneficiaries who face multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination. Additionally, in order to ensure the inclusiveness of the vulnerable groups in the program's activities, the programme will introduce a mandatory clause in the grant agreements signed with CSOs to implement an internship for their target beneficiaries. The thematic groups of human rights defenders (representing vulnerable groups, medium and low-level staff of CSOs) established under the previous phase of Programme will contribute to identifying and initiating advocacy activities to address human rights issues and inequalities for representatives of vulnerable groups. Members of four thematic groups (Roma, survivors of domestic violence, people living with HIV, persons with disabilities) have delivered their human rights expertise and managed to propose first advocacy actions as a result of participation in the 12-months Human rights capacity building Program and expressed its willingness to continue joint advocacy actions. The thematic CSOs groups the consolidation of which is envisaged by the programme will also bring together organisations working in the same field to create referral networks for their beneficiaries and act as safety nets in increased vulnerability situations. The service provision capacity building intervention of the Programme aspires to enable and sustain CSOs to provide accessible, available, acceptable, and quality services for their beneficiaries, applying the good practices shared by CSOs from the right bank of Nistru and from the other parts of the world. Ultimately, the intent is to pilot the transfer of build-up services to the local *de facto* structures, ensuring their sustainability, but also shaping an augmented engagement between CSOs and LPSs. The Programme also foresees the establishment of new thematic working groups such as Roma and other ethnolinguistic minorities that will become part of the Platform for Sustainable (Community) Development that was established in the previous phase of the programme. The aim of these thematic working groups is to enlarge the field of expertise and intervention of the existing platform and aggregate the CSOs in the Transnistrian region working in the same field to identify common knowledge and capacity gaps. It is important to further address them including through the knowledge and experience transfer from the CSOs located on the right bank, as well as to ensure the connection of the left bank's CSO to the development agenda on the right bank. These thematic working groups will represent the result of a mapping exercise of the existing CSOs and CBOs working in a specific field from the left bank performed by the program, allowing the group with the needed capacity building support to act in terms of service provision as a referral mechanism for their beneficiaries. These thematic working groups will be conveyed periodically functioning based on their strategic frameworks developed with the support of the program. They will also become members of the wider, already established Sustainable (Community) Development Platform. They will also contribute to the development, implementation and further monitoring of the comprehensive human rights framework in the Transnistrian region by providing valuable inputs based on the identified human rights issues and constraints within their thematic area.

On the horizontal, the Programme envisages building the institutional capacity of CSOs and CBOs in order to strengthen their sustainability and create synergies between the civil society organizations on the left bank of the Nistru river, aiming to establish the foundation for a vibrant, strong and "one voice" civil society advocating for social change in the Transnistrian region.

The Programme will continue working with previous CSOs partners, while seeking to identify new ones, especially for the new program's target group which is adolescents and youth. Young people are seen as accelerators in society's development. However, they face a series of challenges that influences their transition to adulthood. By investing in their health and education, local structures can support young people's engagement in society, ensure their wellbeing, and help them achieve their full potential. Positioned at the crossroads of education and health, the realization of sexual and reproductive health and rights by young people contributes to health outcomes and gender equality. Like elsewhere, adolescents and youth (10-24 years) from the Transnistrian region counting 15% of the total population, needs to be equipped with knowledge and skills that will empower them to make informed decisions about their body and live and build demographically resilient societies in the long run. Limited access to information and education on human rights, sexual and reproductive health, and rights in schools, families, and communities have caused serious misconceptions about gender equity and sexuality and increased risky behaviours among young people. The undermining of the right of adolescents and youth to access age-appropriate, rights-based information on sexual and reproductive health and rights resulted in high teenage pregnancy<sup>16</sup> and abortions among youth, increased incidences of STIs, including HIV.

<sup>16</sup> In Moldova (without left bank of Nistru) adolescents' birth rate (per 1000 girls aged 15-19) was 26.2 in 2021, which is 3 times higher than the EU rate of 8.6. It is also 4 times higher in rural area than in urban. (Source: National Bureau of Statistics)

Efforts will be made to support the capacity building of Roma CSOs which plays a crucial role in promoting rights of Roma and advocacy for the sustainability of Roma community mediators' institution. Furthermore, the capacity building exercise will foresee mentoring CSOs with weaker institutional capacity from the left bank by institutionally stronger CSOs from the right bank during the Programme implementation. The thematic groups will provide ground for identifying the partnering organizations, as well as for weighing their institutional capacities.

Additional efforts will be canalized to build the institutional capacity of informal women's associations and enhance the representation of women in the decision-making bodies and processes of CSOs. As a result of the Soviet legacy, informal women's associations such as women's committees organized within different professions or at different levels of de facto local structures, as well as women's cultural/entertainment associations are still active at the community levels. The programme aims to identify them and develop their institutional and knowledge capacities, and further introduce them to the relevant thematic groups. Also, participation of women in the decision-making processes within the CSOs will be a subject tackled as a part of the institutional capacity building, further aspiring for the adoption of specific measures by the CSOs to ensure an adequate representation of women in their leadership institutions. Moreover, the adolescents and youth will be a cross-cutting group to ensure that left behind youth are reached out. CSOs working with different groups of populations will be trained on how to better address the developmental needs of young people so they can better tailor their response and support and refer youth to existing services. The good practices from the right bank of Nistru in the youth area will serve as a learning platform for civil society and as good practices to be scaled up.

The cross-river cooperation between the CSOs is an essential factor for engineering this kind of cooperative and coordinated habitat for CSOs on the left bank of the Nistru river. A good practice will be built on the Platform for Sustainable Community Development of 39 CSOs and initiative groups, established and strengthened with the support of the previous Programme, the platform of CSOs working in the field of domestic violence and of people, who use drugs in the Transnistrian region.

**Theory of Change for Output 2 Improved systems and mechanisms for the respect, protection and fulfilment of rights of vulnerable groups:** *If based on the confidence building measures, human rights, gender mainstreaming, conflict sensitivity and ONE UN approaches, if human rights mechanisms are established and if CSOs and human rights defenders are empowered to claim and advocate for the human rights, then human rights monitoring mechanisms are established and regional human rights agenda based on recommendations produced by UN Human Rights mechanisms, because the human rights knowledge of the human rights CSOs and human rights defenders is enhanced, human rights CSOs and human rights defenders have strengthened capacities to monitor the implementation of human rights compliant regulations and to produce qualitative human rights reports, to cooperate with human rights CSOs from the right bank, to meaningfully participate in the decision-making processes affecting their lives and to identify, consider and advocate for the needs of the most vulnerable ones.*

Inclusive and meaningful participation in the process of implementation and monitoring of a strategic human rights framework in the Transnistrian region requires a deep understanding of human rights standards, theories, and concepts, as well as HRBA principles, taking into account the needs of vulnerable groups. The Programme foresees increasing participation of CSOs in decision making. Furthermore, advocacy through raising awareness initiatives of CSOs on human rights will lead to the elimination of stigma and discrimination among the service providers.

The Programme intends to support CSOs initiatives to advocate for inclusive service provision by duty bearers on both banks of the Nistru river to enable them to reach out to the most vulnerable ones and deliver available, accessible, acceptable, and quality services in a gender sensitive manner. Based on the already established, but limited expertise of some CSOs, the Programme will pilot the service transferability and procurement of services modalities from the CSOs to the duty bearers. Additionally, the Programme will support joint advocacy initiatives of CSOs for changes in regulatory frameworks to ensure quality services by duty bearers on the left bank.

UN initiated the process of drafting the Human Rights Framework in the Transnistrian region with inclusive and meaningful participation of thematic CSOs during the previous phase of the Programme. The first draft of the HR Framework is expected to be finalized by the end of autumn 2022. As a result of joint group work among CSOs and respective duty bearers, the HR Framework was sent for review to duty bearers.

Additional efforts should be made by CSOs to advocate for the adoption of the Human Rights Framework in line with recommendations of UN Human Rights mechanisms and Hammarberg's reports.

Availability and reliability of data are important preconditions for strategic human rights reforms. The Programme aims to encourage and support the establishment of a system of collecting, organizing and disseminating relevant and reliable disaggregated data, including on gender, in line with international standards by promoting the adoption of specific actions in this regard within the comprehensive human rights framework, but also by encouraging the establishment of the complementary data collection systems by CSOs, especially important due to lack of the official statistics related to human rights data.

**Theory of Change for Output 3 Enhanced human rights culture in the Transnistrian region:** *If based on the confidence building measures, human rights, gender mainstreaming, conflict sensitivity and ONE UN approaches, if human rights awareness raising campaigns are conducted, if training for the rights holders are delivered and if exchanges of experience across Nistru river for human rights holders are organised, then the human rights culture in the Transnistrian region will be enhanced, because the human rights awareness will be raised improving the perception of vulnerable groups.*

The deeply rooted stereotypes and prejudices in the collective conscience coupled with the low human rights awareness of the media and education influencers are perpetuating the discrimination and the social exclusion of the most vulnerable ones in the Transnistrian region. Following its integrated approach, the Programme aims to promote a societal transformation by nurturing a culture of human rights in the region.

The role of media in shaping an unbiased image of the vulnerable groups and reporting human rights violations is crucial because it increases public awareness and provokes actions to ensure better protection of human rights, including accountability. The Programme intends to build the capacity of media representatives from both banks on the human rights of the vulnerable groups. The right bank's experience in mainstreaming human rights into media will be shared with media representatives, journalism students and bloggers through exchange programs.

The awareness raising campaigns, around international human rights related days, contribute to a greater understanding of human rights issues by the general population, reducing stigma and discrimination against the most vulnerable once, preventing and reporting the violation of human rights. Aiming to positively change the attitudes and beliefs of society the Programme proposes to raise awareness about the human rights of the vulnerable groups, including people living with HIV, children, people who use drugs and women who use drugs, prisoners and former prisoners, persons with disabilities, refugees with children and Roma. Awareness raising initiatives planned by the Programme rely on the increased human rights knowledge of CSOs and their strengthened institutional capacity enabling them to conduct such activities in an effective manner. The Programme will also include the transfer of knowledge across all stakeholders including community organizations, media, school children, youth, law enforcement professionals, social workers, probation services, health personnel and teachers.

This initiative will contribute to convening, facilitating, and providing a safe and neutral space for multi-level and multi-stakeholder dialogue, supporting the strengthening of the human rights platforms and networks for dialogue and collaboration in the region and across the banks of the Nistru river.

Creating a human rights culture by addressing human rights in the media and in the society at large together with increasing the capacities of the duty bearers to protect, respect and fulfil human rights in the region will in the end generate an enabling environment for the empowered rights holders to claim their rights.

---

### III. RESULTS AND PARTNERSHIPS

#### ***Expected Results:***

The integrated intervention at the individual, institutional and societal levels of the Programme is responding to the articulated authority and human rights knowledge capacity gaps of rights holders, human rights CSOs and human rights defenders, is improving systems and mechanisms for the respect, protection and fulfilment of rights of vulnerable groups, as well as to the widespread intolerance and discrimination persistent in the Transnistrian region. Increased human rights knowledge of the rights holders and their CSOs together with an enhanced human rights awareness of the general public in the region are the envisaged results of the Programme expected to create an enabling environment for the rights holders to exercise their rights and for

the duty bearers to respect, protect and fulfil human rights, ultimately aiming to reduce inequalities and ensure the social inclusion of vulnerable groups.

The Programme will contribute to achieving results under UNSDCF Outcome 1 related to the provision of human rights-based, evidence-informed and gender-responsive services for all; and under UNSDCF Outcome 2 referring to the empowerment of people from both banks of the Nistru River to participate in and to contribute to development processes.

The Programme's work is constructed around three outputs and relevant objectives (short-term outputs) as follows:

### **Output 1. Increased capacities of vulnerable right-holders to exercise their human rights**

#### **Objective 1.1. Enhanced human rights skills and knowledge of vulnerable rights holders**

##### **Activity 1.1.1 Support cross-river exchanges and contacts via various thematic groups of CSOs and individuals vulnerable to human rights violations**

An approach to cultivate vibrant civil society is to focus on common human rights issues the CSOs are working on both banks. Visible signals of thematic aggregation of formal and informal organizations from both banks are already emerging.

A Platform for Sustainable (Community) Development that includes 39 CSOs and initiative groups from both banks of the Nistru river working with various vulnerable groups was established with the support of previous UN intervention in the Transnistrian region. It will be completed with new member organizations which work with adolescents and youth and cover sexual and reproductive health and rights areas. Another active regional platform of CSOs is in the field of domestic violence. Based on the progress achieved in the previous phase, the Programme will provide support to the functioning of existing thematic working groups within the Platform, organised both by targeted vulnerable groups, as well as the areas of interest.

The Programme will ensure building strong partnerships among CSOs by sharing good practices of thematic working groups with CSOs from both banks in a specific thematic field, developing joint mechanisms and interventions, developing common strategic visions, and creating "one voice" advocacy initiatives to promote and claim for human rights in policy-making in the Transnistrian region.

These thematic groups will continue to be conveyed periodically, functioning based on their strategic frameworks developed with the support of the Programme. The representatives of the thematic groups will be exposed to the organizational development experience of their sister right bank platforms and establish new partnerships.

The groups gathered under the umbrella of the Platform for Sustainable (Community) Development will also contribute to the establishment of the comprehensive human rights framework in the Transnistrian region for the implementation of the UN Senior Expert on Human Rights recommendations. They will provide valuable inputs based on the identified human rights issues and constraints within their thematic area. The common civil society platform will be initially conveyed to strategically advocate for the implementation of Hammarberg's recommendations, followed by periodic meetings to assess the progress made on their implementation and tackle important human rights issues in the Transnistrian region.

The activity of these groups is currently gaining pace, following the initial trainings provided for their members, but there are significant expertise gaps, which will have to be addressed in the upcoming phase by providing external (outside of SCDP) knowledge and skills.

The next phase of the Programme envisages continued support for the functioning of the Secretariat of the SCDP, given its important role in the coordination of the interaction between the SCDP's members and the Programme, as well as in ensuring members' mobilization, outreach and visibility for the SCDP's activities and actions.

CSOs experienced in working on HR on the left bank, will be selected to provide support, establishment and coordination of the thematic groups, mentor their strategic organizational functioning, and build and strengthen partnerships with CSOs from the right bank. Selected CSOs will facilitate the work of the thematic working groups and the capacity building of their members. One of these CSOs will have a role of capacity building



and secretariat connecting the Platform for Sustainable (Community) Development. The strategic vision of the Platform and its functioning will be supported by a platform governing board.

The lessons learned from the previous UN intervention in the Transnistrian region show that joint activities such as study visits, trainings, and exchanges involving stakeholders from both banks of the Nistru river create bridges for confidence building. Thus, these activities will be promoted and implemented both for thematic working groups and the Platform for Sustainable (Community) Development.

**Activity 1.1.2 Support advocacy initiatives of human rights defenders to claim human rights and promote international HR standards**

The previous UN intervention in the Transnistrian region exposed that the rights holders lack information about mechanisms through which they could claim for their rights, as well as relevant advocacy skills and knowledge on how to build alliances and partnerships among them.

The National Human Rights Action Plan of the Republic of Moldova 2018-2022 includes one of its objectives on “reducing human rights violations”. As part of and in the conclusion of the Human Rights Capacity building Programme provided to human rights defenders during its previous phase, various human rights advocacy actions were discussed and some were implemented. Four advocacy papers and one video material were produced by human rights activists and CSOs staff working with and for four underrepresented groups on human rights issues - alumni of the Programme claiming the human rights of vulnerable groups - which were submitted to duty bearers in 2021 and 2022. Some smaller scale initiatives related to the claiming human rights by underrepresented groups have achieved successful results. Other initiatives require more support and specific technical expertise that will be provided in the next phase of the Programme.

Additionally, trained human rights defenders of the group working for the rights of persons with disabilities and members of SCD Platform will continue to advocate for the implementation of recommendations made in the context of the analysis of a CRPD compliant regulatory framework (developed in the previous phase of the Programme). They will design advocacy efforts for the transferring of community-based services from donor-funding to de-facto institutional budget funding and continue to promote international standards in the field of CRPD.

The Programme proposes to further increase the human rights knowledge of the vulnerable rights holders and their CSOs, building their capacity on human rights standards relevant for each targeted vulnerable group, including by tackling relevant human rights of those facing multiple forms of discrimination from that particular group, addressing the UN Senior Human Rights Expert Hammarberg and UN human rights mechanisms’ recommendations. The Programme will target vulnerable rights holders’ beneficiaries of CSOs, including those working with the Programme.

The Programme foresees the establishment of local mentors’ network for informal groups of vulnerable people to ensure information exchange and providing support, as well as organization and follow up of activities under the Programme.

**Objective 1.2. Strengthened institutional capacity of partner CSOs and informal groups**

**Activity 1.2.1 Support to CSOs in institutional capacity building**

Building a dynamic, forceful and vocal civil society able to advance human rights is inconceivable without considering their internal organizational infrastructure and processes. The lessons learned from the previous interventions in the Transnistrian region show that the civil society organizations in the region do have certain capacities, but they still require strengthening, particularly in terms of institutional development. CSOs are encountering difficulties in adequately planning at a strategic level and transforming the planning into specific operational goals. Their staff members generally lack the skills to plan strategically and transfer strategies into corresponding operational activities. The weak internal operating processes and systems, characterized by poor monitoring and evaluation capacities, including by the absence of internal and external audit mechanisms, and formal policies and procedures for daily operations, are representing additional obstacles to their effective functioning. Noticeable challenges occur in the area of sustainability and resourcing of Transnistrian region’s CSOs. Furthermore, there is a need to diversify their sources of financing, to foster networking and strengthen their influence on public policymaking.

The Programme will continue to build the institutional capacity of all the program's beneficiary civil society organizations working on advancing the human rights of persons with disabilities, Roma and other ethnic-linguistic minorities, children in contact with the law, adolescents and youth, people living with and affected by HIV, people who inject drugs, prisoners and ex-prisoners. The institutional capacity building of CSOs will consist of a continuous process throughout the whole duration of the Programme. "*Learning by doing*" approach will be used in order to ensure a practical application of the received theoretical knowledge.

Following the activities implemented in this area during the previous UN intervention, it becomes clear that there is positive progress registered by the SCDP's member-CSOs in this area, however in order to become a developed CSO, which is efficient and independent, they need more support in form of practical workshops and masterclasses, using real-life examples adapted for their specific context. This becomes especially apparent in the process of implementation of small grants, provided by the One UN JA, particularly in the area of cross-river cooperation and role distribution in their respective consortia, as well as in the framework of SCDP's activity.

Through supported joint initiatives of the CSOs from both banks of the Nistru River, the right bank CSO will also provide guidance to the left bank CSO on cementing the internal processes as part of the capacity development exercise. This will greatly contribute to the sustainability of these initiatives, as will ensure proper functionality of the CSO - actors promoting human rights in the region.

In order to ensure an equitable representation of women in the CSOs and make their voices heard and their interests and needs to be taken into account the programme will encourage and support the establishment and development of women CSOs and of informal women's associations within the existing Transnistrian CSOs, promoting women in the CSOs decision-making bodies and processes. The programme will also facilitate the connection of women's organizations from the left bank with the ones from the right bank.

The above interventions will be complemented by a grant programme for human rights initiatives, to be developed and implemented by 4 consortia of CSOs from both banks. The grants will be based on the methodology of community mobilisation for empowerment and will offer the 'learning by doing' - experiential learning for grass roots CSOs, to be empowered to address human rights issues, including at the community level, in a sustainable manner.

Another aspect related to the strengthening the capacities of individual SCDP's members is related to their activity in the area of service provision. So far there is little institutionalisation/standardisation of the provided services by different CSOs, even though the services provided are similar, i.e. psychological or legal support for vulnerable groups. In most cases, the provision of these services is project dependent and varies from one organisation to another. This is strongly connected with the activity of the thematic working group on the Development of social services, which has the objective of institutionalising a number of social services on the left bank of the Nistru River, such as Personal Assistants for persons with severe disabilities, Roma Community Mediator etc.

One new element for this component, proposed for the next phase, is related to the piloting of community-based services for persons with intellectual and psycho-social disabilities, including community centres and protected homes. This is a novelty for the left bank of the Nistru River, but the awareness on these types of services has been raised, as the members of the SCDP from the region have been familiarised with these services during the previous phase of the Programme.

Last but not least important element of this component is related to the digital transformation of the CSOs, particularly from the left bank of the Nistru River. The implemented small grants, as well as the activity of the One UN JA during the COVID-19 pandemic, showed a significant existing gap in the area of computer literacy among the representatives of the SCDP's members and their beneficiaries. This was partially addressed by a number of capacity building activities in this respect and developed manuals, but the problem is nowhere near being solved. A more systemic approach is needed in order to increase the level of computer and digital literacy of the vulnerable groups and transform the way in which the CSOs, which represent and work with them, are operating. The proposes to improve the online presence of the members of the SCDP and how the information provided by them reaches their beneficiaries - vulnerable people. Also, another important aspect of digital transformation, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic is related to the possibility of these CSOs, providing their services in an online format, but also to the capacity (knowledge and skills) of the representatives of vulnerable groups to access the existing online services, provided by both CSOs and the de facto structures.

***Activity 1.2.2. Increase the capacity of CSOs to address the sexual and reproductive rights of their young beneficiaries.***

Sexual and reproductive rights (SRR) are human rights that have to be ensured for all groups of the population, despite their sex, age, and vulnerabilities. Nevertheless, adolescents and youth face significant barriers that undermine their sexual and reproductive health and rights, which are much more prominent for young people from different vulnerable groups (young people with disabilities, Roma youth, young people living with HIV, etc.). Because of failures to enable and empower adolescents to access comprehensive reproductive health care - including contraception, abortion, and maternal health care - one in four adolescents has an unmet need for contraception and seven million adolescents give birth each year globally. In addition, early pregnancy and childbearing pose unique risks to adolescents' health and well-being.

To combat stigma and discrimination around SRR of adolescents and youth, the right-defenders should have a clear understanding and support in that sense. The evidence shows that limited knowledge of stakeholders working with and for young people about SRR can create barriers to further SRR realization. Although there is a strong stigma and stereotypes around SRR of young people from vulnerable groups - their families, caregivers, CSOs working with and for them should serve as key supporters who will refer them to professional health services, and family planning services if the case. Supporting young people in fulfilling their sexual and reproductive rights will empower them for bodily autonomy and to prevent gender-based violence and sexual abuse.

UNFPA will organize learning programs for CSOs and informal groups on sexual and reproductive health and rights of young people, extending to the comprehensive healthy and safe development of boys and girls at different stages of their physical and psycho-emotional development. The learning programs will build connections with similar successful experiences from the rights bank of Nistru River and will include study visits and further peer support.

**Objective 1.3. Improved service delivery of CSOs**

***Activity 1.3.1 Support institutionalisation of Roma community mediators' network in the Transnistrian region and extend cooperation of community mediators on both banks of Nistru river***

Roma are one of the most stigmatized and marginalised groups in the Transnistrian region. Widespread xenophobic attitudes were also observed during the capacity building activities organized for journalists and persons with disabilities by the previous phase of the Programme. Roma also faces discrimination from people belonging to other vulnerable groups.

In 2020, an assessment of the situation of Roma communities in the Transnistrian region was drafted for the piloting the Roma community mediators' institution in the Transnistrian region, similar to the existing network on the right bank. According to the assessment data:

- 31% of Roma had no secondary education, and Roma women being more affected;
- Poverty and preservation of traditions were reported as the main reasons of the low level of education among Roma and drop out of schools, 51% and 33% respectively mentioned these as the causes;
- 57% of Roma apply for medical assistance only in case of severe illness, in other cases the majority prefers to stay home and treat by traditional medicine (herbs and teas);
- 62% of Roma respondents mentioned that they did not have permanent or temporary employment. Out of the 38% employed, 21% marked as informal employees with no social guarantees;
- 33% of respondents mentioned they have a family member with a disability and 10% mentioned that these family members do not receive disability social benefit due to the lack of information and complicated procedure for disability determination;
- 62% marked that they heard hate speeches and faced discrimination from different people (62%) and from officials (25%);
- 70% of Roma mentioned that they were not assisted to resolve issues they faced.

The report of the field visits gave an insight into the inequalities faced by Roma in their access to education, health facilities, employment, social protection, housing and documentation and has served as a basis for the development of a draft Roadmap and Action plan for establishing the first Roma community mediators' institution in the Transnistria region. In 2021, during the previous phase of the Programme, the results of the report and the Road map were successfully presented and consulted at the round table with the participation of Roma CSOs from both banks, Roma community leaders and duty bearers from the left bank.

It is important to provide support and strengthen the newly established Roma community mediators' institution in order to continue efforts on ensuring access to education, health, social security, housing, documentation, labour market for Roma on the left bank of Nistru river. This will be done by providing capacity building training to Roma mediators, including joint training with community mediators from the right bank, facilitating partnerships between mediators and Roma CSOs on both banks, to strengthen Roma community mediators network to become sustainable, systematically monitor the human rights situation of Roma and effectively claim for and defend their human rights.

Efforts on ensuring social integration of Roma in the Transnistrian region could be futile if social distance between the general population and the Roma community was not reduced. Advocacy actions to transfer the services of Roma community mediators to de facto structures will be a priority in all initiatives and consultations with key stakeholders similar to the experience of the right bank of the Nistru river. This will be done by providing support to the Roma CSO "Shatior over Nistru". Furthermore, an institutional capacity building program will be conducted for "Shatior over Nistru" on effective coordination of Roma mediators' activities and project design with a view to implement recommendations of UN senior expert (T. Hammarberg) and UN Human Rights monitoring mechanisms (UN Treaty Bodies, Universal Periodic Review and Special procedures). All activities will include experience exchange with Roma community mediators' network from the right bank of the Nistru river.

***Activity 1.3.2 Scale through NGOs gender specific services for women who use drugs, refugees and IDPs and children on both banks***

Women and girls who inject drugs in Moldova account for 10% percent or 3,220 of the total number of 30,000 IBBS estimated drug users on both banks. Regular maternal centres or other temporary shelters do not accept women who are in active drug or alcohol use, often this being the main barrier why WUD cannot initiate and continue drug dependency treatment. Vulnerable women such as women who use drugs are usually excluded from services such as needle syringe programs, drug dependency treatment, reproductive health services, perinatal care, and social support services and pushed back into the circle of vulnerability<sup>17</sup>. In addition, there is a lack of services that aim at setting up self-support networks, child-care facilities, and development of leadership skills.

During the 2019-2020 One UN Programme gender sensitive services for women who use drugs and their children were usefully initiated and piloted by 3 CSOs active in the field of drug users' support UNESC - Balti, Positive Initiative - Anenii Noi and Trinita - Ribnita. 3 Crisis rooms at the facilities of the CSOs were refurbished and equipped to permit temporary shelter for women who use drugs (WUD) and their children who are subject to domestic violence. The 3 rooms became operational in December 2021 and since then a total of 62 women, 2 men and 28 children have been hosted in Ribnita, Balti and Anenii Noi. Due to the war in Ukraine a big number of refugees have arrived in Moldova and the free crisis rooms have also accommodated and provided psycho-social support to refugee families, mostly women and children. 39 WUD and 15 children and 26 refugees/IDPs and 13 refugee children/IDPs have been accommodated and provided support in the crisis rooms. WUD, refugees, IDPs and their children were provided medical and psycho-social support, shelter for 10 days (longer in the case of refugees/IDPs), in addition to employment opportunities, support to their children who needed school and kindergarten enrolment. The successful piloting of the gender specific services will be scaled in the upcoming program to cover more women and children in need of specific assistance. CSOs from both banks will continue to receive yearly grants to cover WUD and their children subject to domestic violence. Jointly with partner UNAIDS, UNICEF and OHCHR technical expertise will be provided to CSOs and local structures to establish a mechanism of integrated gender specific services while ensuring the ownership of the services. The implementation of services and the mechanism have been already coordinated with UN Women and the GBV mechanisms and coordination groups at the level of the UN Moldova. Dialog with the LPAs and stakeholders will help throughout the Programme to provide the transition from donor driven funding of services to local sustainability plan.

***Activity 1.3.3 Counselling and protection services for victims of domestic violence, sexual violence and victims of trafficking in human beings and migrants in difficult situation.***

As recognized by Mr. Thomas Hammarberg during his visit as follow-up to the 2013 report, even if a broadening acknowledgement of domestic violence as a human rights violation was observed, the phenomenon in the Transnistrian region is still widely spread. Nevertheless, according to Hammarberg's preliminary

<sup>17</sup> Assessment, Women, Harm Reduction and HIV, 2009, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Russian and Ukraine, [https://www.opensocietyfoundations.org/sites/default/files/wmhreng\\_20091001.pdf](https://www.opensocietyfoundations.org/sites/default/files/wmhreng_20091001.pdf)

statement, the improvement of services for this vulnerable group in the last few years gives hope for further progress in the prevention and combating of domestic violence. The preliminary statement recommended to widening and strengthening the role of NGOs, that in fields such as domestic violence in the Transnistrian region are also often providers of direct assistance. Mr. Hammarberg's recommendation for women's rights and gender equality is also focused on the efforts in countering the trafficking of human beings as a most serious problem and measures against this form of slavery should be given high priority.

In consideration of Mr. Hammarberg's recommendations, as well as of the situation in the region and specific vulnerabilities of the population, the Trust Line 0-800-99800 run by the NGO "Interaction" will be supported as one of the most important tools for the dissemination of domestic violence prevention messages and for the identification of victims in the region, including victims of sexual abuse.

As a result, it is envisaged that all identified victims of human trafficking, domestic violence, sexual violence, GBV and social exclusion, migrants in difficult situations and refugees will receive comprehensive services compliant with international and national standards. The recommendations on sexual violence will be proposed to be used as guidelines for de facto structures and non-state actors, who identify victims of sexual violation and will be piloted through the training for relevant specialists. The One UN JA will advocate with the de facto structures to take over this service and cooperate with local CSOs on equal bases in the framework of a referral mechanism within the region.

Even if most of the service users are women victims of violence, access to the Trust Line and connected services will be guaranteed equally to male beneficiaries too. Furthermore, domestic violence perpetrators may also address the Trust Line in search of assistance towards their rehabilitation. This will contribute to achieving gender equality in the Transnistrian region, by facilitating the identification and protection of victims of domestic violence, as well as by referring perpetrators to available services to reduce their potential for harm.

To improve the quality of services for people experiencing domestic violence in the region, the capabilities of professionals working in the main NGOs active to prevent and combat domestic violence, human trafficking and related crimes will be developed. Consequently, trainings on the prevention of emotional burnout syndrome will be delivered to foster knowledge, skills and habits to preserve and strengthen professionals' psychological health, through mastering the ways of mental self-regulation and activation of personal resources, and through the provision of information on the concept of emotional burnout syndrome, its causes, symptoms and consequences.

The NGO "Interaction" has extensive experience in counselling by phone and providing assistance to victims of domestic violence, potential victims and victims of trafficking, as well as for migrants in difficult situations and undocumented people facing extreme vulnerability. Trust Line operators coordinate and refer incoming requests of callers and SOS cases to non-governmental organisations and regional/local de facto structures, with whom "Interaction" have worked closely for more than a decade, applying a multidisciplinary approach to case management. The NGO "Interaction" works in cooperation with the authorities of the Republic of Moldova such as Public Services Agency, the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration, when renovation or issuing personal documents are needed for victims of domestic violence, migrants found in difficult situations, homeless people, and for victims of trafficking and their children. To resolve problems with issuing or renovation of personal documents may involve more than ten institutions in the Republic of Moldova and in other countries.

The initiative to tackle domestic violence issues was developed by the NGO "Interaction" as a preventive measure within the IOM counter-trafficking programme and mechanism applied in the region. The NGO "Interaction" is one of IOM's main and long-standing partners implementing counter-trafficking projects in the Transnistrian region. Comprehensive counter-trafficking services have been available in Transnistrian region since 2004, when the NGO "Interaction" began providing reintegration assistance to victims. In addition to opening the Trust Line for domestic violence in 2009, since 2006 "Interaction" has operated a Hotline for counter-trafficking and actively works to raise awareness of these issues via mass media. It unceasingly developed the counter-trafficking programme in Transnistrian region, considering international standards as well as the experience and approaches developed in the right-bank, both on prevention measures in counter-trafficking and on assisting victims. Since the launching of the Trust Line, it has received more than 17239 calls, 6414 of which have been anonymous phone counselling for victims of domestic violence and their families and 3910 of which have been calls related to 1067 open SOS cases.

The Trust Line also represents one of the few tools available in the Transnistrian region, with which to estimate the situation in relation to domestic violence such as with regard to the root causes of this phenomenon as well as public opinion regarding the influence of domestic violence on the development of the region. Data analysis is provided via the Trust Line database on domestic violence. The database is continually being updated and is used by Trust Line operators to prepare quarterly statistical reports on domestic violence issues which provide definite data reflecting the situation that makes it possible to establish a “full picture of the victims”. The NGO “Interaction” adapted the existing instrument of counselling to emergency situations without losing the quality of the provided services both during the Covid-19 pandemic period and during the evolving Ukraine refugee crisis. The NGO “Interaction” develops new tools and brought in co-financing to improve the response to the emerging situation.

IOM’s previous experience in supporting the operation of the Trust Line in the Transnistrian region, and its long-standing partnership with the NGO “Interaction” serve as strong arguments for IOM to further coordinate and implement support to the operation of the Trust Line in the frame of this Programme.

#### ***Activity 1.3.4 Support scaling-up of HIV, TB and drug dependency services for prisoners and people after release from prisons***

All medical and social services available in the community should be available for prisoners and the continuation should be ensured after their release from prison. This is a follow up component from the previous One UN project directed piloting CSO and df prison to support HIV positive prisoners, by scaling the services from HIV testing to adherence to treatment services for all prisoners with communicable diseases on both banks. In the upcoming program UNODC will continue with building the capacities and enhancing the dialogue between prisons, CSOs and other relevant stakeholders. Program UN partners will be involved to advocate and promote implementation in practice of the HIV standard operating procedure.

Under the prison component, following Hammarberg recommendations there was a scope to pilot services of rehabilitation and social reintegration of prisoners upon their release. CSOs Trinita, Positive Initiative and CRPC/NDivetro have been subcontracted to pilot the package of services for prisoners after release. The services were developed and implemented based on UNODC 2018 specific guidance “*Introductory Handbook on the Prevention of Recidivism and the Social Reintegration of Offenders*”. 87 people (including 14 women), from both banks, released from prisons have been covered with the same package of 6 services within 6 months after release, including (1) 50% have been supported with job market re-entry assistance and vocational trainings; (2) 50% of all beneficiaries required lodging and 100% financial assistance (half-way or temporary accommodation, food support/parcels, basic hygiene packages, including women hygiene); (3) 80% of former offenders need accompanying and access to health care and social security; (4) 60% required mediation and family reintegration support; (5) 40% required substance abuse interventions; (6) all 87 prisoners benefited from offenders’ monitoring and supervision. In Ribnita a half-way house, a transitional house from prison into the society for 12 people has been refurbished near a local factory providing for an employment opportunity and in Chisinau a Training centre for former prisoners has been set. The training curricula includes modules on employment seeking opportunities and changing the criminal mindset. Almost half of the beneficiaries have required and benefited from computer literacy classes. 8 project beneficiaries have benefited from ISO qualified Welder courses and have been immediately employed. After 6 months all 87 project beneficiaries remain in the community and have not returned to prison. 20% have become volunteers in the organisations. According to services providers support for women former prisoners is more complex and requires more services and especially with the psycho-emotional state, including family reintegration, yet when the psycho-emotional needs are met women show more responsibility and commitment to employment and monitoring and supervision goals.

Under the new program, former prisoners will continue to be supported through CSOs Trinita, Positive Initiative, CRPC/Share and mechanisms of referral and assistance for former inmates will be developed and institutionalised, involving UN partners, CSOs, LPA, justice, prisons, probation, police, health, occupational and social services. Additional CSOs, AFI from Chisinau (specialised in the assistance of prisoners and former prisoners with Tuberculosis) and CSO Aliaz Zdoroviya from Tiraspol specialised in assisting PLHIV, PWUD, SW from community and from prisons will become part of the CSOs working with prisoners and former offenders. Evidence shows that in the first 6 months after release from a detention facility people find themselves as being the most vulnerable to acquiring a disease, overdose (in the case of drug users) and criminal reoffense. On the mechanism of referral and social reintegration of services after release, on both banks desk review assessment of the existent services will be done. During the technical meeting de facto executive exponents and de facto structures and CSOs have emphasised the need to better coordinate and integrate the existing services to cover the full set of services provided by the UNODC guidance. Experience

exchange workshops between service providers from both banks on prisoner services and post release services will continue also in the new phase of the Programme. Regular joint meetings with CSOs from both banks will be organised with the monitoring scope, exchange of experience, while ensuring that services for prisoners on both banks are provided based on the same standards and

***Activity 1.3.5. Support the development and implementation of out of school comprehensive sexuality education programmes for adolescents and youth.***

Access to comprehensive sexuality education gives young people the tools they need to have healthy lives and relationships and helps them navigate life-changing decisions about their sexual and reproductive health. Yet, many young people receive a range of scientifically incorrect, conflicting and confusing messages about sexuality and gender on a daily basis. This can lead to serious risks to their health, well-being, and dignity. As a result, poor sexual and reproductive health outcomes are a reality for many young people today. This points to the urgent need to ensure that the young generation has access to comprehensive sexuality education in schools and out-of-school settings. The formal and non-formal programmes do not exclude each other, however, in settings where comprehensive sexuality education is not taught in schools, the out of school (non-formal) programmes have a crucial role in supporting young people.

UNFPA will build on its extensive global and national experience in supporting the delivery of comprehensive sexuality education (CSE). The process will be also guided by the UNFPA Global Guidance on Out of school CSE programmes.<sup>18</sup> Local CSOs will be supported to develop and implement the CSE programme for adolescents and young people aged 10 - 24 years but also refer them to sexual and reproductive health services. The implementation will include delivering a youth-friendly and age-appropriate non-formal CSE programme to adolescents and young people both on CSOs premises and through outreach modality. The Programme will be developed for all adolescents and young people, however, it will be also adapted to the needs of left-behind youth with a focus on young people with disabilities and Roma youth.

To facilitate better quality implementation, UNFPA will facilitate learning opportunities from CSOs and institutions delivering similar programmes on the right bank of the Nistru river. Learning visits will be organized for CSOs from the left bank of Nistru to the right bank.

**Output 2. Improved systems and mechanisms for the respect, protection and fulfilment of human rights of vulnerable groups**

**Objective 2.1. Enhanced CSOs and human rights defenders advocacy actions on human rights monitoring and implementation of international human rights standards at local level**

***Activity 2.1.1 Facilitate inclusive and meaningful participation of CSOs in development and provide support to CSOs in conducting advocacy initiatives for adopting and inclusive implementation of the Human Rights Framework (HRF)***

Thomas Hammarberg in his reports stated that the development of a Transnistrian human rights action plan, strengthening human rights institutions and mechanisms, collection of disaggregated data are among key prerequisites for substantial improvement of human rights situation. During his visit in 2018 in Transnistrian region, de facto structures pledged to consider Mr. Hammarberg's proposal to develop a plan for human rights implementation based on his 2013 report and the forthcoming report as useful instruments in this endeavour. In autumn 2015, de facto structures communicated in writing to UN Moldova their openness to cooperate, both on the implementation of the recommendations of Mr. Thomas Hammarberg and on other relevant UN projects of mutual interest. The de facto structures have accepted the initiative of UN Human Rights Office (OHCHR) to develop a document following the recommendations of Thomas Hammarberg.

During the previous phase of the Programme, UN made significant efforts to make a progress on drafting a Human Rights Framework. Thus, this resulted in the first draft of the Human rights framework with 6 thematic chapters focused on results-based approach in addressing recommendations of Thomas Hammarberg and UN human rights monitoring mechanisms. The process of development was facilitated by the Programme ensuring participation of 13 CSOs from the left bank that reviewed and consulted 137 recommendations received from UN HR monitoring mechanisms and Thomas Hammerberg reports in relation to the Transnistrian region during 34 thematic sub-working groups meetings. In its final stage the Programme will continue facilitating inclusive and meaningful participation of CSOs in its development of the document and will provide support to CSOs advocacy initiatives to ensure inclusive participation in the process of implementation and monitoring

<sup>18</sup> UNFPA Guideline on out of school CSE Programmes [https://www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/Out\\_of\\_School\\_CSE\\_Guidance\\_with\\_References\\_for\\_Web.pdf](https://www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/Out_of_School_CSE_Guidance_with_References_for_Web.pdf)



of the Human Rights Framework. In this context, the Programme will support coordination meetings and capacity building with CSOs to strengthen their position to advocate for the establishment of a multi-stakeholder Coordination Unit with engagement of CSOs and institutionalised structures, including human rights structure. The Coordination Unit will monitor, evaluate and report on implementation of the plan, among other activities. The Programme will assist the organization of working sessions on the implementation of the plan and provide capacity building for participating CSOs and representatives of vulnerable groups.

### ***Activity 2.1.2 Support in ensuring a human rights compliant HIV regulatory framework***

#### ***a) Support to ensure the community-based monitoring of the human rights fulfilment among people living and affected by HIV***

To enable the rights holders living with and affected by HIV to exercise their right to health it is imminent to have an aligned regulatory framework to the international human rights standards in the field. The previous UN intervention in the region was focused on the revision of the Transnistrian HIV related regulatory framework from a human rights and gender equality perspective. 50 policy documents were made part of the initial assessment, which identified the required adjustments or changes, so that the normative framework is aligned to international human rights standards (2018). A road map that identified the priorities on the policies adjustments/and revision was developed with the support of UN experts, discussed and validated by stakeholders on the left bank.

The first ten policies were adjusted and approved, as the result of the first phase of Program implementation. The documents are envisaging the abolishment of HIV related travel restrictions and of criminal liability for donors, exclusion of HIV from the list of most dangerous diseases, restrictions related to work and regular check-ups, RH, child protection and the right to adopt children. A package of several policies related to the provision of Hepatitis C treatment in Transnistrian region were adopted with the project support and ensured the access to about two thousand people to that treatment starting 2022 (it involves the development of the clinical protocol for Hepatitis C treatment, testing and diagnosis guidelines, M&E related documentation).

Those excellent results were ensured due to the advocacy strategic approaches for their approval, like inter alia creating strong partnerships with the UN agencies, public structures and civil society and community representatives. The Programme organized large joint ad-hoc policy dialogues, with relevant stakeholders (public and CSOs, depending on the policy to be advocated for) and follow up meetings to ensure that the need for harmonizing the regulatory framework with the international standards in the field is acknowledged and pursued. The actual phase of the programme will mostly focus on strengthening community monitoring efforts so that to ensure that all those normative-related changes that were obtained are properly implemented and people living and affected by HIV are fulfilling their rights. The modus operandi envisages engaging local consultants, as well as UNAIDS human rights experts from the headquarters and in-house UN support. The left bank CSOs working in the field of HIV (Zdorovoie budushcee, the Health Alliance, Trinity, Miloserdie, Reforme Medico-sociale) will be twinned with the organizations on the right bank like “Initiativa pozitiva”, IDOM, AFI, Tineri pentru Dreptul la Viata and Adolescentul. Those organizations are recommended to be twinned, as they are the only ones on the left bank to provide HIV human rights related activities. Those on the right bank, are HIV human rights umbrellas organizations which were capacitated during the other previous phases of the programme, as well as by other development partners and provide similar types of activities. Small grants once per year will be provided to CSOs from both banks to ensure the efficient implementation of the activity, especially to cover the capacity building needs (as transport, food and accommodation if needed) and expertise used to develop the programme and moderate it/facilitate it. We'll continue to build on the progress achieved and, on the lessons learnt, to ensure that the regulatory framework that was approved is properly implemented and the community-based mechanisms will be developed and strengthened to ensure that normative provisions are implemented, and the human rights are fulfilled.

### ***Activity 2.1.3. Increase children's access to more friendly, effective, gender-equitable procedures.***

In his 2013 Report, Thomas Hammarberg concluded that there is no separate justice system related to minors in the Transnistrian region; no specialized “juvenile courts or judges, prosecutors, lawyers and police officers” specially assigned to juvenile cases. Children in conflict with the law are faced with the same procedures as adults and therefore the process can be lengthy. Investigations and interviews should be conducted in a manner, which consider the age of the child. In his follow-up, 2018 Report, Mr Hammarberg highlighted the necessity to establish a proper, child-friendly justice in the Transnistrian region with an accent on social rehabilitation rather than incarceration of children offenders.

With a view to consolidating the friendly justice system for children in the Transnistrian region, two complex assessments were conducted in 2020. Both scrutinize compliance of the regional framework with international standards and norms as well as point out the gaps in policies and processes that need to be consequently addressed.

The Programme has empowered and supported the local NGOs to advocate for harmonisation the de facto regulatory framework compliant with international human rights standards in the field of child-friendly justice. Technical support was provided to develop the adjustments to the region material and procedural normative framework in the field of crime fighting. (To ensure that the most vulnerable children from the left bank of the Nistru River can benefit from the same child-friendly procedures as the children from the right bank, Programme will provide support to CSOs to promote and successfully implement the previously developed Roadmap for child rights in the Transnistrian region (currently in the draft status). This policy document will establish robust mechanisms for implementation of child-friendly approach, assuming and sharing responsibilities among de-facto structures, as well as empowering professionals with knowledge and skills to act for children's benefit. To ensure observance of the rights of children in custody, namely children placed in "Makarenko" institution, the adjustments to the Internal Regulation and a new Code of Conduct have been developed and proposed for approval. Advocacy efforts will be taken to institutionalize the new developed SOPs. "Makarenko" staff have been capacitated on positive interaction with children in custody and for applying the Preparation for release programme. Additionally, a post-release programme will be developed and tested to facilitate the social reintegration of children into their community. It is proposed to extend the applicability of the Preparation for release and post-release programmes for children in detention, namely children in the custody of Alexandrovca penitentiary.

The Assessment of the existing training programmes for pre-service and in-service professionals that work with "children in contact and conflict with the law" points out the insufficiency of specialized bodies and structures working with children and the limited number of child rights specialized professionals. Additional support will be provided for scaling up the applicability of previously developed training programmes, including e-learning for pre-service and in-service professionals working with and/or for "children in contact with the law".

A specialized and gender-responsive juvenile "justice system", with dedicated professionals, trained personnel, child-oriented procedures and environments, would promote a child-friendly "justice" for "children in contact with the law" and would safeguard children's rights and dignity via resocialization and reintegration into productive roles in their communities.

## **Objective 2.2. Improved existing service delivery systems**

### ***Activity 2.2.1 Improve access to essential, inclusive and gender-sensitive services for children at risk or experiencing violence.***

To avoid and minimize the contact of children with the "justice system", the child protection system plays an essential role by offering primary and essential support to children, victims of violence. There are no available analyses in the Transnistrian region to assess the child protection response against violence. Identifying the gaps and challenges, describing intersectoral frameworks for identification, referral, monitoring, and follow-up for children who experience violence, as well as carrying out a comprehensive mapping of services for children at risk or experiencing violence would pave the ground to fundamental improvements.

All sectors, including but not limited to social, education, health, "law-enforcement and justice sectors", are responsible for strengthening an effective response to violence against children. In the Transnistrian region, there is no functional cross-sectorial mechanism to identify, refer, assist and monitor children, victims of violence. This type of mechanism is applied on the right bank of the Nistru river and may be adapted and replicated on the left bank.

Building the knowledge and skills of specialists in working together as a team is key to providing essential protection to children at risk or experiencing violence. Integrating all-sector and sector-specific approaches to violence awareness, and gender-based violence would improve the early identification, referral, assistance, and monitoring of violence against children-related cases.

Child-friendly approach seeks to protect child victims and witnesses from duress and secondary victimization and to efficiently gather and evaluate evidence in cases involving children. This should minimize the risk of harm while maximizing the chances of perpetrators' liability. Girls continue to be more affected by crimes, including as victims of sexual abuse and exploitation. This points to the necessity for more gender-responsive interventions across the "justice system" for children.

Concurrently, boys more often became perpetrators. Many of them come from disadvantaged or marginalized communities or were themselves victims of violence. These children may be assisted by efforts to interrupt the cycle of violence through gender-transformative measures, prevention and rehabilitation services.

A number of different actors have a duty to protect the rights and well-being of the child. They include de facto social services, medical and mental health services and "law enforcement". These different services must work together to ensure a comprehensive and well-coordinated response to the child's situation. Strengthening their cooperation and working together, under "one roof" is in the best interests of child witnesses and survivors of violence. The programme will offer support for the development of child-friendly procedures for victims of violence, including victims of crime. The created infrastructure for child-friendly interviewing will allow to test the new procedures and promote the Barnahus type services for children victims/ witnesses of crime in the Transnistrian region, based on the practice on the right bank of the Nistru.

***Activity 2.2.2: Advancing multidisciplinary-policing approach while ensuring referral of PWUD and PLWH to harm reduction services on both banks.***

Based on the positive dialogue which was established with police officers from the right bank and with de facto structure representatives from the left bank and results achieved during the previous program there is a need to further enhance this successful cooperation on both banks and continue building the capacities of police officers from the right bank and representatives of the de facto structures from the left bank.

A total of 202 police officers, 22% of which women, from right bank (Chisinau, Balti, Cahul, Drochia, Glodeni, Rezina, Anenii Noi) and 212 representatives of the de facto law-enforcement structures (Dubasari, Ribnita, Camenca, Tiraspol, Slobozia, Grigoriopol and Bender)" have improved their awareness on TB, HIV and developed their capacities in referral of vulnerable groups to medical and psychosocial services. In the context of COVID-19 the info-sessions were provided in a mixed format online and off-line, as 5 days webinars. Up to 82% of all participants have significantly improved their knowledge during the trainings, as shown by the online Pre and Post training scoring, answering correctly to 3 out of 4 groups of questions related to safety and security at the workplace, referral mechanisms and interaction with the vulnerable groups. Up to 96% of all participants have reported the information provided during the training as very practical and useful for their daily work. Participants included police representatives from public order, drug control, patrol and public order, minors' affairs, human resources and traffic control structures from both banks. During the webinars/training the referral mechanism from police to CSOs and medical services was further developed.

As a follow up to training 3 rayons, from the right bank, Cahul, Balti and Chisinau (centre) were selected to pilot referral schemes from police to CSOs on the right bank. During the period 2019-2022, over 800 PWUD, SW and homeless people, from both banks were tested for HIV, TB, STDs and viral hepatitis, and were referred by police from both banks to services provided by CSOs and medical institutions. The right bank started piloting referral schemes in Chisinau, Balti and Cahul as of September 2021, and by the end of the Program 184 people were referred by police to medico-social services. From September 2021 to June 2022, 27 joint visits police CSOs were organised to vulnerable communities and homes, a total of 98 PWUD, 37 SW, 3 MSM, 46 homeless were referred by police to CSOs and covered with a minimum of 3 essential services including HIV, TB and ITS screening. Screening shows a big concentration of communicable diseases in the vulnerable communities, including, 17 new VHC cases, 14 STDs cases, 9 new TB confirmed cases, 1 HIV positive person. Identifying these people and enrolling them into treatment and social assistance programs was only possible due to police's participation. CSOs jointly with police mapping vulnerable localities, such as abandoned buildings, stadiums, vulnerable houses and apartments and conduct joint visits with the scope of assisting these people. Due to this activity the dialogue and the trust between "law-enforcement" structures, the civil society organisation and communities has considerably improved, while police is translating in practice the communitarian policing approach. The CSOs involved in referral schemes are: Trinita (Ribnita), Miloserdie (Bender) and Alians Zdoroviya (Tiraspol), UORN (Balti), Pas cu Pas (Cahul), Positive Initiative (Chisinau), AFI (Chisinau) and Genderdoc M (Chisinau).

The new phase of the program will continue with building the capacities of police officers from the right bank and representatives from the left bank de facto structures and will further scale the model of referring vulnerable people to psycho-social and medical services provided by CSOs and medical institutions. The big emphasis will continue to be placed on building the cooperation and relation between law enforcement and CSOs on both banks, while ensuring the translation into practice of the communitarian policing concept.

***Activity 2.2.3. Increasing knowledge of health care providers on delivering youth-friendly sexual and reproductive health services for all young people, including those vulnerable.***

Despite the global agreements on adolescents' and youth' sexual and reproductive health and rights, access to and utilisation of these services among the youth/adolescents remain unsatisfactory. The key structural barriers are the negative attitude of health workers and them being unskilled about delivering youth friendly sexual and reproductive health services (YFSRHS), but also lack of knowledge among youth regarding their right to access sexual and reproductive health services.

The evidence-based solutions show that interventions focusing on implementing YFSRHS should aim at intensive training of health workers and put in place quality implementation standard guidelines in clinics to offer services according to youth's needs and preferences. In addition, educating the youth through community outreaches and comprehensive sexuality education programs can facilitate utilisation and scale up of the service. This double-sided approach will be supported by UNFPA interventions in the current programmes. It's crucially important that knowledge young people will acquire through non-formal CSE programmes (Output 1) can be applied and referral to youth friendly health services can be done in the Transnistria region.

Under this activity, UNFPA will train health care providers from the Centre of Reproductive Health from Tiraspol and raional primary health facilities on delivering youth-friendly health services, based on Moldova (right side) extensive experience<sup>19</sup>. UNFPA will ensure learning from Moldova's experience in delivering similar services through the National Network of 41 Youth-Friendly Health Centres funded from the public budget. Study visits will be organised for the left right bank specialists for better learning outcomes. UNFPA will advocate for scaling up the model of Youth-Friendly Health Centre in the Transnistrian region and will stand ready to further guide local health care providers in developing the regulatory framework.

### **Output 3. Enhanced human rights culture in the Transnistrian region**

#### **Objective 3.1. Enhanced human rights capacity of the media**

***Activity 3.1.1 Human rights capacity building for media representatives from both banks of the Nistru river.***

Media has the role to increase awareness on human rights and capacity to identify, analyse and report on human rights violations of the general public, acting as a human rights watchdog and triggering actions leading to protection of human rights and accountability.

The Programme will provide training for media representatives on human rights of vulnerable groups, including and specifically on human rights of persons with disabilities, considering Hammarberg's recommendations and highlighting the multiple forms of discrimination persons with disabilities are facing on both banks. A specific focus of the trainings will be on human rights-based approach in developing media products, including journalism ethics. Additionally, the Programme foresees organising cross-river events on sharing knowledge and experience among mass-media professionals, including bloggers and journalism students. Also, the journalists and other media professionals will be invited to participate in capacity building activities for CSOs. Organisation of Human Rights Media Academies with participation of media professionals, bloggers and journalists from both banks will serve two major goals: to ensure cross-river communication and cooperation among journalists and professional exchange.

The programme will be focused to increase the knowledge and skills of journalists to apply the child-friendly and ethical approach in developing media products. The programme activities will promote previously developed training packages, including e-learning courses, maintain the network of mass media interested in the child rights thematic and exchange the experience from both banks of the Nistru river in the area of child rights.

<sup>19</sup> In the Republic of Moldova, for 20 years already is functioning the National Network of Youth Friendly Health Centres (41 Youth Clinics based in all districts of the country)

The role of media in addressing unconscious bias, prejudice and negative stereotypes towards vulnerable groups is crucial in increasing public awareness about human rights. The Programme will continue conducting thematic human rights media brunches for journalists, media specialists from CSOs, bloggers, influencers from both banks and students of journalism faculty in Tiraspol that will ultimately contribute to producing human rights focused media products. Focus will be put on human right education and human rights compliant media by involving students from the journalism faculty from Tiraspol University, young bloggers and media specialist from youth CSOs in media trainings.

### **Objective 3.2. Raised human rights awareness**

#### ***Activity 3.2.1 Support human rights awareness raising initiatives on both banks of Nistru river***

Development of human rights culture is essential for building inclusive society, strengthening the voice and meaningful participation of rights holders and civil society in public life, and constructing a basis for ensuring security and peace. The Programme aims to raise human rights awareness and support initiatives on promoting human rights culture among public, rights holders, media as an overarching goal to be embodied in all activities under the Programme.

Awareness raising campaigns will be focused on supporting human rights initiatives of artists, journalists, and human rights defenders and widely shared on social media and TV media, with the purpose of raising awareness of population on both banks of Nistru river. The campaigns will be designed around international human rights days contributing to a greater awareness on human rights issues by the general population, countering stigma and discrimination of most vulnerable groups, and amplifying community voice through artists, journalists, and human rights defenders in preventing and reporting human rights violations.

#### ***Activity 3.2.2 Support for the development and the implementation of a behaviour change communication campaign for people living and affected by HIV, health staff and general population***

Preliminary findings of the stigma index study 2022 documented experiences of stigma and discrimination among people living with HIV in the Republic of Moldova, including its Transnistrian region. Although, the trends in stigma and discrimination show that there have been improvements in key indicators, still it remains difficult for the beneficiaries to communicate with the medical staff and to ensure the maintaining of confidentiality, which remains a serious obstacle to accessing the services. At the same time, there are higher values of reporting on mandatory / forced HIV testing and medical procedures and reported internalised stigma. Aiming to amplify the results of Stigma index 2021-2022 (research) on both banks, which was mainly implemented by people living with HIV, the Programme intends to renew the existent comprehensive roadmap on PLWH de-stigmatisation and supporting its implementation. The plan will focus on three different distinct public targets: 1) people living with HIV (PLWH) for addressing self-stigma, with the focus on women 2) health staff and 3) the general public.

**a)** The need to address the self-stigma is derived from the results of the Stigma Index research (2021-2022) on both banks. The stigmatization is a recognized barrier in accessing services and enjoying the full range of rights. Jointly with the representatives of community of PLWH, and key populations as sex workers, men who have sex with men, a peer program for self-stigma reduction was already developed and piloted with the focus on women. The program, which used the mentoring approach includes well-defined algorithms for psycho-social and legal services. Based on the previous excellent experience in implementing the mentoring programme, which was recognized as a best practice in the region (136 persons from both banks were trained in the period 2020-2022), other at least 100 men and women living with or vulnerable to HIV are planned to be empowered through the raising awareness on human rights, decreasing self-stigma, increasing their self-esteem, and developing skills to recognize and correctly manage GBV and economic empowerment. Sub-grants will be provided for the organisations addressing the needs of PLWH. By the end of the program a guideline on mentoring programme will be developed and disseminated through organisations active in the field, in order to ensure the sustainability of the programme in the future.

**b)** The health staff is an especially important target group of the envisaged awareness interventions. The right to health is estimated as one of the most violated rights in Moldova<sup>20</sup>. The Stigma Index for both banks revealed that it still remains difficult for the beneficiaries to communicate with the staff of the medical institutions and to ensure the maintaining of confidentiality, which remains a serious obstacle to accessing the services. The Programme proposes to continue the processes initiated in the previous phase on the collaboration with the

<sup>20</sup> Perceptions on human rights in the Republic of Moldova, study, 2016  
[http://md.one.un.org/content/dam/unct/moldova/docs/pub/eng-raport\\_do\\_final\\_pentru\\_tipar.pdf](http://md.one.un.org/content/dam/unct/moldova/docs/pub/eng-raport_do_final_pentru_tipar.pdf)

College of Medicine “Raisa Pacalo” and for the State University of Medicine and Pharmacy “Nicolae Testemiteanu” to ensure the revision and adjustment of all the curricula from the human rights and efficient interpersonal communication perspectives and training of all the staff. As, those are national health education institutions, the initiative has a nation-wide impact. Also, it is planned to share this experience with the left bank and work further based on the same approach. The NGOs from Transnistrian region will be the main partner in implementation of this activity. UNAIDS developed clear generic tools and models of free HIV stigma health institutions, which will be used as an entry point for the development of this criteria and standard.

c) To reduce stigma and discrimination among the general public, it is intended to continue the organization of communication and awareness campaigns aiming to change behaviours and attitudes, reduce myths and stereotypes related to HIV on both banks of the river as integral part of the above-mentioned roadmap, which includes aspects of communication. General public on both banks is the third distinct public to be addressed. A lesson learned from previous projects, is that the strategy of involving public structures, CSOs from both banks and public notorieties succeeds to produce resonance and at the end, impact positively the population's perceptions on or about people living with HIV and HIV problem itself. It is thought to combine technical expertise, in-house skills, as well as to provide grants to CSOs as the *modus operandi* of the entire activity.

---

## IV. RESOURCES AND RISKS

### ***Resources Required to Achieve the Expected Results***

To improve the approaches used by the *de facto* structures and to offer a universal fundament to the human rights-based approach, the Programme will employ reputable international experts. National experts from the right bank will also play a key role in transferring the knowledge and good practices ensuring that there is an equal understanding on both banks of the Nistru river on the importance of human rights for development, security, cooperation and mutual benefit.

### ***Partnerships***

The initiative will seek to complement and build synergies with other projects and initiatives in the field. UNDP is currently ending the 5<sup>th</sup> phase and will be soon launching the 6<sup>th</sup> phase of the EU-funded *Support to Confidence Building Programme* and will build on the experience in cooperating with the left bank civil society organisations and local *de facto* structures. The present initiative will complement the capacity building efforts from the SCBM Programme, by helping generate new ideas and fostering a network of trendsetters who will champion cooperation.

Synergies with other Swedish-funded and EU-funded initiatives in the field of confidence building and promotion of human rights (including social entrepreneurship) in the Transnistrian region, such as EEF, will be sought, ensuring that there is complementarity and excluding overlap through continuously informing and consulting each other on the initiatives planned.

Creating conditions and advocacy for the implementation of Mr. Hammarberg's recommendations is central for human rights work in the Transnistrian region. The strategy developed in Geneva to engage UN human rights tools in the region is fully in line with the approach and activities under this project proposal therefore these synchronized approaches will reinforce each other and will maximize the impact on the ground.

UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, in his global update to the United Nations Human Rights Council in June 2018, referred to the access given to UN to the Transnistrian region. He called for even deeper engagement with the UN and encouraged others in a similar context, in Europe and worldwide, to review and build on these good practises. This will give an additional impetus to a sustained and coordinated approach from UN human rights mechanism to the Transnistrian region.

During the previous UN intervention in the Transnistrian region Prof. Kazatchkine, UN Secretary General special envoy on HIV/AIDS, has paid twice visits to the Republic of Moldova travelling to both banks of the country. After visiting the Transnistrian region Kazatchkine has raised the high concern about the region fast growing epidemics in terms of HIV and TB and has brought in some calculation according to which left bank has now 2nd fastest growing HIV/AIDS epidemics in the world and the 1st fastest growing MDR-TB epidemics in the world. Although the epidemic is concentrated in the three key groups, people who use drugs, sex workers and men who have sex with men, prof. Kazachkine has also concluded that the epidemics on the right bank are very fragile and special attention should be paid to prisons where Harm Reductions services are dropping down.

## Risks and Assumptions

### ***Risks:***

Tensed political and security environment, subject to unforeseen and sudden changes. The Programme will consider the specific political setting that will exist in the region at the moment of implementation. The implementation of the activities will be planned and approached with caution, including the timing, visibility, and presentation issues. In case of significant changes in the context, and impossibility of implementation of activities on the left bank, interventions will focus on the right bank, while involving beneficiaries from the left bank.

Security related threats across the border with Ukraine and in the Transnistrian region. Military operations in Ukraine and the threat of terrorist attacks in the region pose additional risks for the implementation of Programme's activities.

Refugee and internally displaced crisis and deeper social divide, as well as declaration of a status of occupied territories, can pose additional challenges for the implementation of the Programme.

The increased pressure on civil society organisation caused by the local context and the conflict in Ukraine. A number of CSOs have reported that they are losing significant number of staff, who are leaving the region due to security situation. This in turn will jeopardise their capacities to implement new initiatives and deliver services to their beneficiaries.

Activities may be delayed due to the regional context, and perception towards confidence building approach. The Programme's team will ensure that the local administration is informed on an on-going basis about the aims and the activities planned, including inviting them to the events. All activities have to remain non-political. Formalization of the participation of Transnistrian organizations should be kept to a minimum in order to avoid potential problems and remain non-contentious. The importance of the confidence building approach will be explained and all activities will be planned and implemented in an impartial manner, focusing on concrete improvements in people's lives.

Inconsistent engagement on behalf of Transnistrian stakeholders. Prior consultations were in place to guarantee a buy-in on behalf of Transnistrian beneficiaries. Continuous engagement with key stakeholders will be ensured, as well as mobilisation of local resources to promote the local ownership of the results of the implemented action. The partner NGO will ensure improved reach out and encourage participation.

Limited interest from *de facto* structures to implement joint confidence building activities. When planned activities for joint cooperation cannot be implemented, other collaborative opportunities will be explored, in full accordance with principles of responsiveness and flexibility.

Difficulties to working with NGOs taking into account the adoption of the new "legal" initiative on "foreign agents". The Programme will highlight the non-political character of the work and ensure local buy-in through local permanent consultations. The activities implemented in partnership with local NGOs are to be coordinated with regional focal points.

Corruption risks during activity implementation. The implementation team will manage all processes that could be affected by corruption in accordance with anti-corruption policies of the UN agencies involved, including with regards to procurement activities, as well as through monitoring and quality assurance of grants provided to NGOs, etc.

Reluctance to accept the soft interventions and focus on hard investments and cash transfers.

Different financial systems in the Transnistrian region. Financial flows to Transnistrian region's "banks structures" for TN NGOs and social institutions have facilitated delivery of activities. UN Agencies will continue to further explore the issue of higher incurred costs for transfers and currency exchanges.

Impossibility to implement joint actions due to sensitive political institutions such as work with prison administration and "law enforcement" structures jointly from both banks. The programme will only tackle "soft" aspect both in prisons and in police however bringing together prisons and "LEA" personnel from both banks might be less possible in some instances. The *de facto* "justice" and prison structures are invoking the security context to refrain/postpone the implementation of agreed actions.



Reluctance of the media to reflect the activity of the CSOs can be overcome through regular information of the local partners about the Programme scope and activities. Engagement of non-traditional media, including blogging, when non-journalist but proactive members of the society write and sensitise the community of about different topics of public interest and value will be tested. This might be one of the relatively innovative (for the region) but powerful intervention focused on increasing the public engagement, particularly encouraging people, as right holders, to write and inform others about their vision, concerns, priorities, observations of the public affairs etc. A mixed capacity development approach of professional journalists and non-professional journalists but future bloggers might generate sufficient interest and boost the initiative. Also, bloggers will be encouraged to collect data on some human rights related topics.

The sensitivity around sexual and reproductive health and rights and the risk of perceiving wrongly the purpose of youth access to comprehensive sexuality education and services. To address this risk, the Programme will apply practices and strategies that were effective on the right bank of the Nistru river, but also in other countries with stronger patriarchal and restrictive social norms. Unfolding the benefits and content of comprehensive sexuality education is very important to increase the key stakeholders' understanding and support. At the same time, less sensitive language will be used to present and describe sexual and reproductive health and rights, for example, the “comprehensive sexuality education” formulation will be replaced with “health education and/or education about reproductive health”. The Programme will also integrate sexuality education through a holistic approach in regard to youth's healthy and safe development, by addressing not only aspects related to sexuality but also mental health, prevention of gender-based violence and bodily autonomy, and building resilience and capacity to take critical and informed decisions. The experience proved important working with parents to increase their literacy and support, and this strategy will be also applied in the region.

#### ***Assumptions:***

- CSOs from the Transnistrian region are willing and ready to work with similar organizations on the right bank of the Nistru river.
- CSOs in Transnistrian region are well connected to the rights holders and are ready to improve their institutional and operational capacities, as well as increase their human rights knowledge.
- *De facto* structures understand the importance of developing a strategic human rights framework and are willing to engage with CSOs in achieving concrete improvements along the lines offered by Hammarberg's recommendations.
- There is a dialogue between the *de facto* structures and CSOs on improving the services for the most vulnerable ones and a genuine willingness to bring the cooperation on a new level.
- The involved UN agencies have the resources and are prepared to act and speak as one in the Transnistrian region, advancing equitably the human rights agenda on the entire territory of their country mandate.

#### ***Stakeholder Engagement:***

The intended beneficiaries of the Programmes are the rights holders and their CSOs representing the vulnerable groups such as the Roma and other ethnic-linguistic minorities, persons with disabilities, adolescent and youth, children in contact with the law, vulnerable women, persons living and affected by HIV, people who use drugs and people in prisons. Additionally, the Programme will work on developing the capacities of the duty bearers, including the Human Rights focal point on the left bank of the Nistru river Regional Human Rights Representative, local structures and service providers. Other targeted beneficiaries are the media and education human rights enablers, as well as the public in the context of human rights awareness initiatives planned by engaging all stakeholders. UN will use its convening power and expertise to promote human rights culture, dialogue, participation of vulnerable groups, constructive engagement with civil society and inclusive human rights framework and tools for human rights monitoring, promotion and protection.

The Programme engagement strategy will ensure the participation of stakeholders in the entire program cycle with the possibility to contribute with their input to the outcomes of the intervention at all stages. The aim is to enhance communication, collaboration and commitment in all stages of the development cycle starting from needs assessment through planning, implementation and monitoring and evaluation. The Programme will use such engagement tools as meetings, online platforms, workshops, focus groups, info-session, debate clubs, social media, reports and proposals. To reach out to the most vulnerable ones, the Programme will seek to identify the specific barriers they are facing and find tailored solutions.

#### ***Knowledge***

As a precondition to delivering the trainings and consultations, the educational materials and awareness raising tools will be tailored to the Transnistrian region's context and disseminated in a targeted manner as appropriate

during, ahead or after specific events or info/sessions (most of the materials are already translated into the Russian language, where necessary, translation into other minority languages will be ensured). These include but are not limited to compilation of all recommendations on the Transnistrian region provided by UN human rights mechanisms; 70 the Anniversary of UDHR materials; “ABC: Teaching Human Rights”; UNDP-OHCHR Toolkit for collaboration with Human Rights Institutions; a human rights based approach to data collection guidance note in the context of SDGs; a relevant chapter of a publication on Human Rights Indicators; Civil Society Space and UN Human Rights System and A Practical Guide for Civil Society.

A number of assessments, roadmaps and guidance documents will be produced to explain human rights of and protection tools for vulnerable groups; to support the Moldovan Ombudsman to work and cooperate with the Human Rights focal point on the left bank of the Nistru river regional focal points; to facilitate dialogue both within the Transnistrian region and in terms of cross-river contacts; and to support the development and implementation of a human rights framework for the implementation of Mr. Hammarberg’s recommendations.

### ***Sustainability and Scaling Up***

The thematic CSOs cooperation platforms and service-based connections that the Programme will create are set to continue serving the functional human rights framework on both banks of the Nistru river beyond the program’s timeframe. By strengthening the structural and operational capacities of the CSOs in the Transnistrian region, the Programme will contribute to establishing influential and permanent advocacy machinery able to impulse the *de facto* structures to improve its regulatory and service provision framework for the most vulnerable groups. The Programme will help identify and showcase individual, structural and partnership role models to incentivize the multiplication and spill over effect.

### ***Communication and transparency***

The programme will follow a One UN Communication Strategy, which will be updated in line with new arrangements (increased number of UN implementing agencies). The Programme will ensure that the information about the donor’s contribution will be visible and transparent. A single visual concept will be used by the programme team (all UN agencies) to communicate about the Programme and Programme’s results. The results of the Programme will be communicated through different information channels (video, articles, long readings, human based stories, etc).

---

## **V. PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT**

### ***Cost Efficiency and Effectiveness***

The proposed strategy is expected to deliver maximum results while making the best use of available resources. The program’s team will look for synergies with other projects that might allow for joint activities and for cost-sharing of the activities to achieve higher value for money, as well as involve the cost-saving Long-Term Agreements with certain categories of service/goods providers available for UN Country Team agencies due to existing arrangements within the UN Moldova Country Office.

UNDP Country Office (CO) will provide support services to its project implementation team (such as payments, disbursement and other financial transactions; recruitment of staff, project personnel and consultants; procurement of services and goods) on a cost-recovery base according to UNDP Universal Price List and Local Price List based on actual CO staff costs.

### ***Programme Management***

The Programme will be implemented as a joint One UN Joint Action, involving UNDP, UNICEF, UNODC, UNAIDS, UNFPA, OHCHR and IOM. It employs the comparative advantages of the involved UN agencies/entities and builds on the synergies and complementarities between their respective mandates, operational capacities and competency areas.

The Implementing Partners will be entirely responsible and accountable for managing the Programmes as per their mandates and dedicated budgets, including the monitoring and evaluation of interventions, achieving results, and for the effective use of resources, in accordance with the agreed project document and work plans. Management of programme funds including budget revisions, disbursements, record keeping, accounting, reporting, and auditing will follow UN rules and procedures.

A broad coalition of partners, including vulnerable rights holders and their civil society organizations, human rights enablers and decision-makers, will be meaningfully engaged and coordinated throughout the

implementation of the intervention on both banks of the Nistru river.

---

## **VI. MULTI-YEAR WORK PLAN**

The budget breakdown is provided in the Annex 1 “Multi-Year Work Plan/ Budget “. The Programme’s Steering Committee is responsible for approving detailed Annual Work Plans.

---

## **VII. MONITORING AND EVALUATION**

This involves a much closer cooperation, communication and decision making among the partners throughout the entire programme management cycle, i.e. joint planning, joint implementation, joint monitoring, joint data collection and joint reporting.

Due to the security situation in the Transnistrian region, caused by the conflict in Ukraine and the following restrictions, imposed by the de facto structures, the Programme was forced to postpone the final evaluation of the previous phase. In agreement with the donor, the Programme has reallocated the necessary resources for the current phase, thus the evaluation of the previous phase of the One UN JA will be conducted in the first 6 months from start of the Programme. The results and recommendations of this evaluation will be used to adjust the current phase of the Programme.

To monitor and evaluate the impact of the joint intervention, during the first 3 months of the Programme a detailed plan for monitoring and evaluation will be developed through an inclusive process, based on the submitted RRF through the RBM approach. Subsequent development of templates for data collection and reporting toward performance indicators will ensure a unique methodology of data collection and M&E for all the involved agencies. Accordingly, each agency and local implementing partners will adopt the same data collection tools and templates, contributing to jointly analysis and results reporting and presentation.

The above will be complemented with capacity development on RBM to the involved UN agencies’ staff and main local partners will be provided, focused on knowledge and skills on how to: identify, plan, manage, capture and report changes generated by their interventions and use of adjusted RBM tools.

Monitoring tools that will be respected by all UN agencies according to a singular methodology: One joint M&E framework, field visits (followed by Travel report); consultations and reviews with stakeholders; Joint annual (and quarterly) Programme Reports; and the Joint Annual Programme Review Report.

Monitoring and evaluation will be one of the main responsibilities of the Programme Manager, who will plan these processes and will ensure that Thematic Area Coordinators of other UN agencies components will participate, according to a joint methodology. He/she will:

- Lead the setting up of a systematic monitoring framework and ensure that the M&E framework is up to date
- Ensure the quality of monitoring and evaluation work and provide guidance as needed
- Assess the relevance of the M&E framework on a regular basis based on emerging development priorities and changing context
- Meet regularly with other UN agencies staff involved in the programme, as well as the donor and key partners and stakeholders to assess progress towards achieving the results
- Conduct joint field monitoring and evaluation missions to assess achievements and constraints
- Identify any lessons or good practices and ensure that the results are being communicated widely
- Identify additional capacity development needs among stakeholders and partners
- Reporting regularly and seeking opportunities to influence policy and decision-making processes

**Draft Monitoring Plan**

<b>Monitoring Activity</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Expected Action</b>	<b>Partners (if joint)</b>
<b>Track results progress</b>	Progress data against the results indicators in the RRF will be collected and analysed to assess the progress of the programme in achieving the agreed outputs.	Quarterly, or in the frequency required for each indicator.	Slower than expected progress will be addressed by programme management.	Programme Manager Thematic Area Coordinators
<b>Monitor and Manage Risk</b>	Identify specific risks that may threaten achievement of intended results. Identify and monitor risk management actions using a risk log.	Quarterly	Risks are identified by programme management and actions are taken to manage risk. The risk log is actively maintained to keep track of identified risks and actions taken. The risks monitoring will be reflected in the annual narrative reports and discussed during each steering committee meeting.	Programme Manager Thematic Area Coordinators
<b>Learn</b>	Knowledge, good practices and lessons will be captured regularly, as well as actively sourced from other projects and partners and integrated back into the programme.	At least annually	Relevant lessons are captured by the programme team and used to inform management decisions.	Programme Manager Thematic Area Coordinators
<b>Annual Programme Quality Assurance</b>	The quality of the programme will be assessed against UN's quality standards to identify programme strengths and weaknesses and to inform management decision making to improve the programme.	Annually	Areas of strength and weakness will be reviewed by programme management and used to inform decisions to improve programme performance.	Programme Manager
<b>Review and Make Course Corrections</b>	Internal review of data and evidence from all monitoring actions to inform decision making.	At least annually	Performance data, risks, lessons and quality will be discussed by the Programme Steering Committee and used to make course corrections.	Programme Manager
<b>Programme Report</b>	A progress report will be presented to the Programme Board and key stakeholders, consisting of progress data showing the results achieved against pre-defined annual targets at the output level, the annual programme quality rating summary, an updated risk long with	Annually, and at the end of the programme (final report)		Programme Manager Thematic Area Coordinators

	mitigation measures, and any evaluation or review reports prepared over the period.			
<b>Programme Review (Programme Steering Committee)</b>	The programme's governance mechanism (i.e., programme board) will hold regular programme reviews to assess the performance of the programme and review the Annual Work Plan and the RAF to ensure realistic budgeting over the life of the programme. In the programme's final year, the Programme Steering Committee shall hold an end-of programme review to capture lessons learned and discuss opportunities for scaling up and to socialize programme results and lessons learned with relevant audiences.	Specify frequency (at least twice per year)	Any quality concerns or slower than expected progress should be discussed by the Programme Steering Committee and management actions agreed to address the issues identified.	Programme Manager

### Evaluation Plan

Evaluation Title	Partners (if joint)	UNSDCF/CPD Outcome	Planned Completion Date	Key Stakeholders	Cost and Source of Funding
External independent evaluation of the Phase I of the One UN JA	UNDP, UNAIDS, UNICEF, UNODC, OHCHR and IOM	UNDAF Outcome 1 and Outcome 4	Q4 2022	Constitutional authorities and <i>de facto</i> structures, donors, community organizations, media, law enforcement professionals, social workers, probation services, health personnel and teachers.	15 000 USD, Government of Sweden

Final external independent Evaluation	UNDP, UNAIDS, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNODC, OHCHR and IOM	UNSDCF Outcome 1 and Outcome 2	November 2024	Constitutional authorities and <i>de facto</i> structures, donors, community organizations, media, law enforcement professionals, social workers, probation services, health personnel and teachers.	8 000 USD, Government of Sweden
--	--	-----------------------------------	---------------	---	------------------------------------

## VIII. GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS

The Programme will be managed as a Joint UN program, involving UNDP, UNAIDS, UNODC, UNICEF, UNFPA, OHCHR and IOM, using the pass-through fund management modality within the “Towards Unity in Action” Multi-Donor Trust Fund in Moldova.

The UNDP Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office will act as the Administrative Agent (AA). Donor’s contributions will be channelled for the programme through the AA. Each participating UN organization receiving funds will sign a standardized Memorandum of Understanding with the AA.

The Administrative Agent will:

- Establish a separate ledger account under its financial regulations and rules for the receipt and administration of the funds received from the donor(s) pursuant the Administrative Arrangement. This Joint Project Account will be administered by the Administrative Agent in accordance with the regulations, rules, directives and procedures applicable to it, including those relating to interest;
- Make disbursements to Participating UN Organizations from the Joint Project Account based on instructions from the Steering Committee, in line with the budget set forth in the Joint Project Document. The MPTF Office will charge administrative agent fee of one per cent (1%) of the total contributions made to the Joint Program. The Participating UN Organizations will:
  - Assume full programmatic and financial responsibility and accountability for the funds disbursed by the AA.
  - Establish a separate ledger account for the receipt and administration of the funds disbursed to it by the Administrative Agent.
  - Each UN organization is entitled to deduct their indirect costs on contributions received according to their own regulation and rules, considering the size and complexity of the program. Each UN organization will deduct 8% as overhead costs of the total allocation received for the agency.

UNDP, UNAIDS, UNODC, UNICEF, UNFPA, OHCHR and IOM will be the Implementing Partners of this Programme and will be responsible for producing outputs and use of resources. As such, they will bear the overall accountability for delivering the Programme in accordance with their applicable regulations, rules, policies and procedures. The Government Coordinating Agency will be represented by Bureau for Reintegration Policies of Moldova.

UNDP will act as the Programmatic Lead Agency in the program. UNDP will coordinate activities related to the Programme and will be responsible for the submission of consolidated Program’s narrative annual and final reports based on submissions received from UNODC, UNAIDS, UNICEF, UNFPA, OHCHR and IOM. The reports will be submitted to the Administrative Agent after receiving clearance by the Programme Steering Committee. Annual uncertified financial reports will be provided by each agency to the donor by 31 July, after the end of the programme year.

The Direct Implementation Modality (DIM) will be used. According to this modality the Programme is implemented using Implementing Partners’ (UN Agencies) operating, procurement, human resources and other procedures that are compliant to the best international standards and contain sufficient safeguards against potential corruption or misuse of funds. The implementation and monitoring of the Programme activities will be carried out by each agency in accordance with its applicable regulations, rules, directives and procedures.

To ensure ownership and sustainability of the program, the UN through UNDP, UNICEF, OHCHR, UNODC, UNAIDS, UNFPA and IOM will work in close partnership with vulnerable groups and their civil society organizations, and the decision-makers from both banks of the Nistru river. The main Program’s authority will be the Program Steering Committee (PSC) that will take all decisions on Programme resources and amendments to the Programme Activity Plan, as necessary. The PSC will be responsible for providing strategic guidance to the Programme, overseeing progress, reviewing and approving of the Annual Programme Reports, Programme Work Plans, as well as the final Programme Report. The PSC will be convened at least twice per year and will comprise of the representatives of at least one civil society representative from each bank, UNDP,



UNODC, UNICEF, UNAIDS, UNFPA, OHCHR, IOM, Bureau for Reintegration Policies, the representative of the Ombudsman central office, project donor, European Union Delegation to Moldova, and observers, such as OSCE, the East European Foundation, Ministry of Justice and others, as might be required.

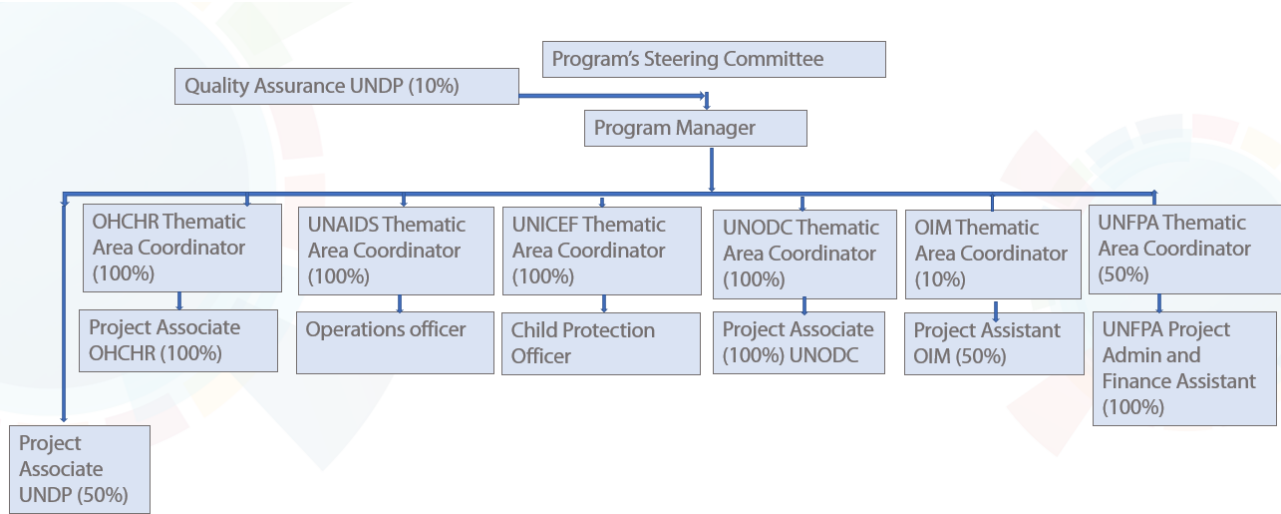
Programme operations will be implemented through a Programme Support Team (PST) that will ensure effective and efficient implementation of the Programme. The PST will be led by a Programme Manager to ensure overall coordination, coherence and programme management on behalf of the UNDP, UNODC, UNICEF, UNAIDS, UNFPA and OHCHR. He/she will be selected through open competitions and selected by a recruitment panel comprising of UNDP, UNODC, UNICEF, UNAIDS, IOM, UNFPA and OHCHR. Subject to internal procedures, the donor representatives will be invited to take part in the selection process as observers. Each agency will ensure adequate staffing for programme implementation, comprising of Thematic Area Coordinators and Programme Assistants as members of the PST. For efficiency purposes, Programme Manager will also be the Thematic Area Coordinator, on behalf of UNDP. Dedicated consultancy for communication, capacity development etc. will be employed, as required.

The PST will ensure close coordination of the Programme activities with other relevant programs, projects and initiatives to avoid possible duplication. The PST will ensure HRBA and GM compliant results-based program management and successful implementation of the Programme, close monitoring and evaluation of Programme’s progress, observance of procedures, transparency and efficient use of funds, quality of works, and involvement of national and local stakeholders in the decision-making processes.

The PST will have to complete a one-day joint workshop when the Annual Working Plan will be elaborated and one-day joint workshop before each steering committee meetings. These events will address both capacity building but also team work to develop a joint approach in monitoring, reporting, assessing and data using to follow the concrete indicators provided by RAF. External but also in-house facilitators could be involved. These activities will be reflected in the narrative reports as capacity building and coordination of the PST.

In addition, during the first three months of employment, each member of the Programme Support Team will be obliged to pass the UNDP On-Line training course on Anticorruption to learn about the standards, rules and procedures, which will strengthen the awareness and willingness to work proactively to prevent, detect and deal with corruption, the On-line training course on Ethics addressing the issues of staff integrity and conflict of interest and the UN On-line training course on Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA)<sup>21</sup>. The detailed Terms of References of the core staff will be developed and annexed to the Implementation Plan.

Organizational Structure of the Programme



<sup>21</sup> The Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) e-learning course is mandatory for all UN Funds and Programmes Personnel including volunteers and contractors, whether at Headquarters or at other duty stations.

---

**IX. LEGAL CONTEXT**

This project document shall be the instrument referred to as such in Article 1 of the Standard Basic Assistance Agreement between the Government of (country) and UNDP, signed on (date). All references in the SBAA to “Executing Agency” shall be deemed to refer to “Implementing Partner.”

This programme will be implemented by implementing Partners in accordance with its financial regulations, rules, practices and procedures only to the extent that they do not contravene the principles of the Financial Regulations and Rules of UNDP. Where the financial governance of an Implementing Partner does not provide the required guidance to ensure the best value for money, fairness, integrity, transparency, and effective international competition, the financial governance of UNDP shall apply.

---

**X. ANNEXES**

- 1. Problem Tree and Solution Tree**
- 2. Theory of Change diagram**
- 3. Annual Work Plan**
- 4. Risk Log**

**Certificate Of Completion**

Envelope Id: 61F89080D8F141058F7C9F15335D1A07

Status: Completed

Subject: Please DocuSign: One\_UN\_JA\_Phase\_II\_ProDoc\_final

Source Envelope:

Document Pages: 38

Signatures: 2

Certificate Pages: 5

Initials: 0

AutoNav: Enabled

Enveloped Stamping: Enabled

Time Zone: (UTC-08:00) Pacific Time (US &amp; Canada)

Envelope Originator:

Liliana Samburschii

One United Nations Plaza

New York, NY 10017

liliana.samburschii@undp.org

IP Address: 84.232.236.94

**Record Tracking**

Status: Original

1/23/2023 8:14:36 AM

Holder: Liliana Samburschii

liliana.samburschii@undp.org

Location: DocuSign

**Signer Events**

Abdul Fofana

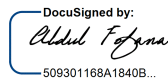
abdul.fofana@un.org

Chief ProgrSupport&amp;MgmtServices

OHCHR, Chief of PSMS

Security Level: Email, Account Authentication  
(None)**Signature**

DocuSigned by:



509301168A1840B...

Signature Adoption: Pre-selected Style

Using IP Address: 193.239.220.249

**Timestamp**

Sent: 1/23/2023 8:16:31 AM

Viewed: 1/23/2023 9:24:30 AM

Signed: 1/23/2023 9:24:37 AM

**Electronic Record and Signature Disclosure:**

Accepted: 5/26/2022 4:13:56 AM

ID: 4f63157d-d880-4ab9-8d43-5bc7be8a182a

Alexandre Schmidt

alexandre.schmidt@un.org

Security Level: Email, Account Authentication  
(None)

DocuSigned by:



B2A052776150473...

Signature Adoption: Pre-selected Style

Using IP Address: 193.138.94.10

Sent: 1/23/2023 8:16:31 AM

Resent: 1/24/2023 6:15:25 AM

Resent: 1/24/2023 7:45:33 AM

Viewed: 1/24/2023 9:15:30 AM

Signed: 1/24/2023 9:15:43 AM

**Electronic Record and Signature Disclosure:**

Accepted: 12/14/2020 3:59:00 AM

ID: a95d43b0-fcc1-450d-8cef-55aba4122c46

**In Person Signer Events****Signature****Timestamp****Editor Delivery Events****Status****Timestamp****Agent Delivery Events****Status****Timestamp****Intermediary Delivery Events****Status****Timestamp****Certified Delivery Events****Status****Timestamp****Carbon Copy Events****Status****Timestamp****Witness Events****Signature****Timestamp****Notary Events****Signature****Timestamp****Envelope Summary Events****Status****Timestamps**

Envelope Sent

Hashed/Encrypted

1/23/2023 8:16:31 AM

Certified Delivered

Security Checked

1/24/2023 9:15:30 AM

Envelope Summary Events	Status	Timestamps
Signing Complete	Security Checked	1/24/2023 9:15:43 AM
Completed	Security Checked	1/24/2023 9:15:43 AM
Payment Events	Status	Timestamps
Electronic Record and Signature Disclosure		

## **ELECTRONIC RECORD AND SIGNATURE DISCLOSURE**

From time to time, United Nations Development Program (we, us or Company) may be required by law to provide to you certain written notices or disclosures. Described below are the terms and conditions for providing to you such notices and disclosures electronically through the DocuSign system. Please read the information below carefully and thoroughly, and if you can access this information electronically to your satisfaction and agree to this Electronic Record and Signature Disclosure (ERSD), please confirm your agreement by selecting the check-box next to 'I agree to use electronic records and signatures' before clicking 'CONTINUE' within the DocuSign system.

### **Getting paper copies**

At any time, you may request from us a paper copy of any record provided or made available electronically to you by us. You will have the ability to download and print documents we send to you through the DocuSign system during and immediately after the signing session and, if you elect to create a DocuSign account, you may access the documents for a limited period of time (usually 30 days) after such documents are first sent to you. After such time, if you wish for us to send you paper copies of any such documents from our office to you, you will be charged a \$0.00 per-page fee. You may request delivery of such paper copies from us by following the procedure described below.

### **Withdrawing your consent**

If you decide to receive notices and disclosures from us electronically, you may at any time change your mind and tell us that thereafter you want to receive required notices and disclosures only in paper format. How you must inform us of your decision to receive future notices and disclosure in paper format and withdraw your consent to receive notices and disclosures electronically is described below.

### **Consequences of changing your mind**

If you elect to receive required notices and disclosures only in paper format, it will slow the speed at which we can complete certain steps in transactions with you and delivering services to you because we will need first to send the required notices or disclosures to you in paper format, and then wait until we receive back from you your acknowledgment of your receipt of such paper notices or disclosures. Further, you will no longer be able to use the DocuSign system to receive required notices and consents electronically from us or to sign electronically documents from us.

### **All notices and disclosures will be sent to you electronically**

Unless you tell us otherwise in accordance with the procedures described herein, we will provide electronically to you through the DocuSign system all required notices, disclosures, authorizations, acknowledgements, and other documents that are required to be provided or made available to you during the course of our relationship with you. To reduce the chance of you inadvertently not receiving any notice or disclosure, we prefer to provide all of the required notices and disclosures to you by the same method and to the same address that you have given us. Thus, you can receive all the disclosures and notices electronically or in paper format through the paper mail delivery system. If you do not agree with this process, please let us know as described below. Please also see the paragraph immediately above that describes the consequences of your electing not to receive delivery of the notices and disclosures electronically from us.

### **How to contact United Nations Development Program:**

You may contact us to let us know of your changes as to how we may contact you electronically, to request paper copies of certain information from us, and to withdraw your prior consent to receive notices and disclosures electronically as follows:

To contact us by email send messages to: [olivier.simah@undp.org](mailto:olivier.simah@undp.org)

### **To advise United Nations Development Program of your new email address**

To let us know of a change in your email address where we should send notices and disclosures electronically to you, you must send an email message to us at [olivier.simah@undp.org](mailto:olivier.simah@undp.org) and in the body of such request you must state: your previous email address, your new email address. We do not require any other information from you to change your email address.

If you created a DocuSign account, you may update it with your new email address through your account preferences.

### **To request paper copies from United Nations Development Program**

To request delivery from us of paper copies of the notices and disclosures previously provided by us to you electronically, you must send us an email to [olivier.simah@undp.org](mailto:olivier.simah@undp.org) and in the body of such request you must state your email address, full name, mailing address, and telephone number. We will bill you for any fees at that time, if any.

### **To withdraw your consent with United Nations Development Program**

To inform us that you no longer wish to receive future notices and disclosures in electronic format you may:

- i. decline to sign a document from within your signing session, and on the subsequent page, select the check-box indicating you wish to withdraw your consent, or you may;
- ii. send us an email to [olivier.simah@undp.org](mailto:olivier.simah@undp.org) and in the body of such request you must state your email, full name, mailing address, and telephone number. We do not need any other information from you to withdraw consent.. The consequences of your withdrawing consent for online documents will be that transactions may take a longer time to process..

### **Required hardware and software**

The minimum system requirements for using the DocuSign system may change over time. The current system requirements are found here: <https://support.docusign.com/guides/signer-guide-signing-system-requirements>.

### **Acknowledging your access and consent to receive and sign documents electronically**

To confirm to us that you can access this information electronically, which will be similar to other electronic notices and disclosures that we will provide to you, please confirm that you have read this ERSD, and (i) that you are able to print on paper or electronically save this ERSD for your future reference and access; or (ii) that you are able to email this ERSD to an email address where you will be able to print on paper or save it for your future reference and access. Further, if you consent to receiving notices and disclosures exclusively in electronic format as described herein, then select the check-box next to 'I agree to use electronic records and signatures' before clicking 'CONTINUE' within the DocuSign system.

By selecting the check-box next to 'I agree to use electronic records and signatures', you confirm that:

- You can access and read this Electronic Record and Signature Disclosure; and
- You can print on paper this Electronic Record and Signature Disclosure, or save or send this Electronic Record and Disclosure to a location where you can print it, for future reference and access; and
- Until or unless you notify United Nations Development Program as described above, you consent to receive exclusively through electronic means all notices, disclosures, authorizations, acknowledgements, and other documents that are required to be provided or made available to you by United Nations Development Program during the course of your relationship with United Nations Development Program.