



Progress Report

Progress Report No.: 7

Contract Number: ADA Ref. No.8364-00/2018 UNDP Project ID: 00111725
Title of the Intervention: Promotion of climate change and disaster risk reduction solution in the water and civil protection sectors for enhanced rural resilience
Project Period: 01 December 2018 – 31 March 2022

Reporting period:

<i>Reporting period: 01.12.2018 – 31.03.2022</i>	<i>Report submitted on (date): 30 June 2022</i>
<i>Due date: 30 June 2022</i>	

With funding from



**Austrian
Development
Cooperation**

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Acronyms and Abbreviations

ADA	Austrian Development Agency
ADC	Austrian Development Cooperation
APA	Republican Union of Agricultural Producers' Associations
BCI	Business Consulting Institute (Moldovan consulting company)
CBO	Community-Based Organisations
CC&DRR	Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction
CEDAW	UN Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women
CEI	Call of Expression of Interest
CALM	Congress of Local Authorities in Moldova
CO	Country Office
COVID-19	Coronavirus disease of 2019
CWG	Community Working Groups
EGSIM	Environmental, Gender and Social Impact Management
EGSS	Environmental, Gender and Social Standards
EIARMSP	Environmental Impact Assessment and Risk Management & Sustainability Plan
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GIES	General Inspectorate for Emergency Situations
ha	hectare (10,000 m ²)
LPA	Local Public Authority
MoE	Ministry of Environment
MDL	Moldovan leu
NDC	Nationally Determined Contributions
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
PMU	Project Management Unit
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme.
UNEG	United Nations Evaluation Group
USD	United States Dollars

Summary of the results of the intervention

This section provides a summary on the results achieved with reference to the project's impact, outcomes and outputs using the indicators included in the Results Framework of the intervention.

The impact indicator and target in terms of ***“Improved resilience of rural communities’ livelihoods in the face of climate change”*** was achieved through 4 established firefighting posts that are serving 65 communities with a total population of 60,219 people as well as the 9 water basins for agricultural purpose and flood prevention in the communities.

The outcome indicators and targets for ***“Strengthened local policies, capacities and infrastructure which enable climate and disaster resilient development at the community level”*** were achieved.

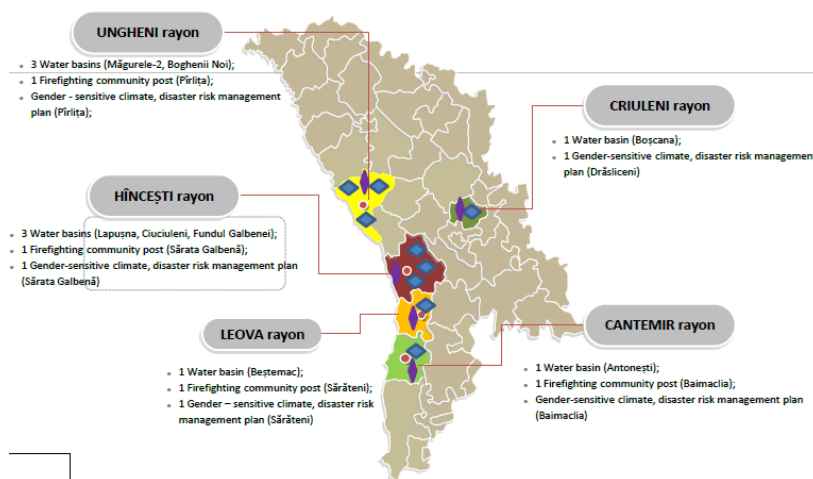
Specifically, LPAs from 5 communities (Sarateni, Drasliceni, Pirlita, Baimaclia, Sarata Galbena) have gender sensitive Climate and Disaster Risk Management Plans as an integrated part in the local development strategies. 9 water collection and storage basins from precipitation that have a total storage capacity of 119,150 m3 to irrigate and subsequently increase crop productivity on a total land area of 177 ha. One photovoltaic system for irrigation was installed as to decrease the costs for electricity and promote the use of renewable resources.

Community Working Groups (CWGs) were set up in each target locality (81 members in total, 49 women and 32 men) out of which the representation of the local authorities was 75%, farmers - 10%, civil society 15%. At the local level, 70 persons were trained to integrate inclusive and gender sensitive climate and disaster risk management.

Four new rescue and firefighting posts were established, properly equipped and corresponding local budgets were allocated for their operation to serve 65 neighbouring communities. According to the GIES, the response time within their respective communities is between 5 to 15 minutes, a period that effectively saves many houses on fire and particularly the houses belonging to the most vulnerable households.

36 permanent jobs (9 jobs per rescue/ firefighting unit) were created resulting in additional income for 36 families in Moldova. A curriculum for training the community-based firefighters was elaborated and adopted and 177 volunteers firefighters were trained in total by the GIES.

The Project mitigated the risks of household fires and fire-related household incidents through the provision of smoke detectors to 990 most vulnerable households situated in the 5 Project intervention districts of Moldova and contributed to raising awareness towards building a culture of safer living in poor rural households as well as for elderly people with reduced mobility by supporting the early national campaigns on fire prevention and preparedness in cooperation with GIES.



Background/context

During the overall implementation period and up until the final date of the Project, the following changes occurred with regards to framework conditions (*i.e., relevant governmental and sectoral policies, political support, the environment of the intervention or other*): early parliamentary elections, COVID-19 pandemic and other (*i.e., weather conditions*) and their impact on the implementation process:

- The COVID-19 outbreak had a significant impact on vendors and direct beneficiaries of the Project especially while performing the construction/technical endowment of the water infrastructures and firefighting posts in the target communities. In the reporting period, the pandemic situation has delayed the process of decision-making regarding funds allocation from the local budgets both for firefighting stations establishment and early maintenance. Moreover, since another effect of the pandemic situation were significant price spikes, it also affected the cooperation with farmers requiring their contribution of at least 20% of the costs for the construction of water infrastructures.
- Early parliamentary elections have impacted the project implementation as well, several risks have been identified around political factors at the local level, hence the Project activities were planned in a manner that allowed all local interventions to occur outside the election-related activities and processes. The project maintained a neutral profile in the regard; thus, it was not associated with any electoral or pre-electoral processes neither at local, nor district or national level.
- Weather conditions have impacted the project implementation, specifically on the activities that involve construction. The constructions require adequate climatic conditions to ensure safe infrastructures and compliance with the technical requirements. Due to registered heavy rainfall during the reporting period, several adverse effects set back construction activities that led to difficulties in the working process and by extent – delays. The technical engineers responsible for supervising the works and the project team, constantly monitor the progress and have adjusted the schedules as a measure of adaptation in case of natural risk factors, such as heavy rainfall.

The Project team has adapted to the above-mentioned conditions, and followed the rules and regulation imposed by the pandemic. The coordination/cooperation with local public authorities, actors and stakeholders was continued remotely via online communication channels and, when necessary, physical meetings were organized respecting the imposed sanitary measures. Project Board Meetings and discussions were conducted online as to approve the necessary adaptation measures provided in the next section of the report. All measures taken were highly regarded by project implementation partners and beneficiaries, as these secured smooth project implementation amidst the pandemic context.

Stakeholder analysis

Throughout the implementation period, the Project has ensured an effective stakeholders' engagement by setting up a strong coordination at the national and local lever as to achieve the expected results.

Specifically, among key stakeholders, the "Apele Moldovei" Agency (Moldova Water Authority) under the Ministry of Environment was engaged in the implementation process of the adaptation interventions in the water sector for agricultural purposes and flood management by providing necessary expertise related to water use, the NGO EcoContact was actively involved in activities related to local policy making on CC&DRR and overall has served as the bridge between the Project and civil society sector. The Congress of Local Authorities in Moldova (CALM) has been involved in community mobilisation at the local level and has contributed to promotion of the Project's results, especially relating to establishment of the community firefighting stations, and expanding the network/intervention and replication by other communities.

The Local Public Authorities were actively involved and played a significant role in mainstreaming climate change adaptation into local development planning/policies, establishment and functioning of the community-based firefighting stations and water infrastructures and have actively promoted the project activities, especially the volunteering practice in firefighting

Moreover, beyond the anticipated cooperation, the project has achieved additional collaboration around Output 2 with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Estonia that contributed as much as 100 thousand Euro to increase the Project’s capacities to support enhanced support to communities in terms of infrastructure and equipment.

One of the project’s crucial stakeholders was the General Inspectorate for Emergency Situations (GIES) as the National Implementation Partner (NIP) which, in cooperation with the Project, has succeeded in community mobilisation and a high level of involvement of the Local Public Authorities in the 5 target districts in project implementation. The intent of this approach was to make sure that the local population has ownership of the outcomes. In partnership with GIES and through the territorial/rayonal Firefighting Units, the Project has managed to mobilize and bring on board 33 Local Public Authorities that ensured successful finalisation of the intervention and achievement of set objectives.

During the implementation period, the Project has undergone several changes regarding beneficiaries of the activities under Output 2 due to political factor at the local level. The 2nd Output of the CC&DRR Project envisaged establishment of 5 community-based rescue and firefighting brigades in cooperation with the Local Public Authorities (LPAs). The LPAs from the pilot area Drasliceni, Criuleni district, have not made a critical decision in the given timeframe to allocate the financial contribution for the construction of the firefighting post in this region despite the repeated efforts of the Project Team to engage with the district authorities. Given these circumstances, UNDP Moldova proposed to remove Criuleni district from the CC&DRR Project implementation plan. The National Implementing Partner – the General Inspectorate for Emergency Situations – has shared its consent with this decision in order not to jeopardize the overall implementation of the CC&DRR Project. As per approval from the donor the project has applied the necessary adaptive management process and the funds were equally distributed for technical endowment of the other 4 community-based firefighting stations.

Overview on the achieved numbers of direct beneficiaries:

Output	Indicator	Target numbers in line with the Project Document	Target numbers in line with the Revised Log frame Matrix no. 2 as of July 2021	Achieved numbers of direct beneficiaries
Output 1	Number of officials from LPAs, heads of public institutions and private sector (disaggregated by sex) with better knowledge of inclusive and gender-sensitive climate resilient local development planning	50	50	70 Among the participants, 36 were women, accounting for 51% of the total, and 34 were men, making up 49% of the total.
	Number of farmers (men and women) with enhanced understanding and knowledge to adapt to climate change and use of natural resources in a sustainable manner	50 (at least 15 women farmers)	50 (at least 15 women farmers)	50 (at least 15 women farmers)

Output 2	Number of rescue and firefighting staff (sex disaggregated) employed and professionally trained	50 staff (men and women)	40 permanent jobs created	36 permanent jobs created
	Number of persons from local population (men and women incl. vulnerable people) with better knowledge on climate and disaster risk reduction for resilient community development	4720 people (including 50% women and vulnerable people)	4720 people (including 50% women and vulnerable people)	4,720 people, including 50% women, were reached through climate and disaster awareness campaigns via capacity-building, material dissemination, and fire detector installations in beneficiary communities.

Achieved results

The results of the CCDRR Project implemented during December 1, 2018- March 31, 2022, are detailed below against the impact, outcome and outputs indicators and respective target values in line with the Logical Framework Matrix¹.

The impact indicator in terms of “**Improved resilience of rural communities’ livelihoods in the face of climate change**” responds to the long-term overarching objective of the National Development Strategy 2030 that acknowledges that drought and flood represent the most pressing climate change risks which require adaptation actions to reduce the vulnerability and exposure of rural communities of Moldova. The target was achieved, this is evidenced jointly by the established 4 firefighting posts that are serving 65 communities with a total population of 60,219 people as well as the 9 water basins for agricultural purposes and flood prevention in the communities.

Table 1 Impact Indicators and Targets

Impact	Indicator	Target
Improved resilience of rural communities’ livelihoods in the face of climate change	Number of men and women in 5 rural districts of Moldova effectively engaged in decisions over water-use efficiency and with strengthened resilience and adaptive capacities to climate-related hazards and disasters	19,860 people, including 51% women and 449 vulnerable households in Ungheni 11,411 people, including 51% women and 85 vulnerable households in Leova 9,206 people, including 50% women and 290 vulnerable households in Cantemir 1,607 people, including 51% women and 121 vulnerable households in Criuleni

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		8,276 people, including 50% women and 45 vulnerable households in Hincesti
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The outcome of the Project is “**strengthened local policies, capacities and infrastructure which enable climate and disaster resilient**” and was realised through two components as described further down in this report.

The outcome indicators and target values can be found in Table 2 for reference and detailed below.

The Outcome Indicator # 1 with target values for the number of rural people covered by appropriate climate and risk management plans was achieved. LPAs from all 5 target communities (*Sarateni, Drasliceni, Pirlita, Baimaclia, Sarata Galbena*) have gender sensitive Climate and Disaster Risk Management Plans and corresponding budgets as an integrated part in the local development strategies which contribute to the increased resilience of the local natural ecosystems.

Regarding Outcome Indicator # 2 that has the target value of at least 10 rural farmers, whereof at least 3 should be women, the intervention benefited 9 farmers, out of which 4 women and who have improved livelihoods through water storage basins. It should be noted that the project faced several challenges, such as adverse weather conditions and the pressure driven by the COVID-19 pandemic on farmers that were required to provide a contribution of at least 20% for construction works of the water storage basins. One of the 10 beneficiary farmers gave up participation in the project due to the significant increase in prices and the insufficiency of skilled labour which led him to sell part of his agricultural land, including the one dedicated to the construction of the basin. The Project team together with the beneficiary had several attempts to re-select another land but did not meet the hydro-technical parameters for this type of intervention. For this reason, the funds allocated for this farmer have been redistributed equally to equip other farmers with high-performance pumping equipment for drip irrigation.

Outcome Indicator # 3 measures the creation of appropriate climate change and disaster risk reduction infrastructure and capacity building for the populations. The targets were achieved by establishment of 4 community-based firefighting posts covering 65 beneficiary communities, awareness raising and capacity building activities at the local level.

Table 2: Outcome Indicators and Targets

Outcome	Indicator	Target
Strengthened local policies, capacities and infrastructure which enable climate and disaster resilient development at the community level	<u>Outcome Indicator # 1</u> Number of rural people (men and women incl. vulnerable people) covered by appropriate climate and disaster risk management strategies with costed actions plan, inclusive of drought, flooding and fire risks.	4,474 people, including 2185 women and 222 vulnerable in Pirlita 775 people, including 378 women and 12 vulnerable in Sarateni 2,603 people, including 1300 women and 87 vulnerable in Baimaclia 1,607 people, including 776 women and 185 vulnerable in Drasliceni 4,790 people, including 2371 women and 105 vulnerable in Sarata Galbena
	<u>Outcome Indicator # 2</u> Number of rural famers (men and women) with enhanced livelihoods and access to water for production needs due to water harvesting	At least 10 farmers (at least 3 women farmers)

	basins in place as a result of project interventions	
	<u>Outcome Indicator # 3</u> Number of rural people (men and women incl. vulnerable people) covered by appropriate climate and disaster risk reduction infrastructure and capacity in place	19,860 people, including 51% women and 449 vulnerable households in Ungheni 11,411 people, including 51% women and 85 vulnerable households in Leova 9,206 people, including 50% women and 290 vulnerable households in Cantemir 1,607 people, including 51% women and 121 vulnerable households in Criuleni 8,276 people, including 50% women and 45 vulnerable households in Hincesti

The outcome of the Project was realized through two components, i.e., Output 1. “*Adaptation interventions in the water sector for agricultural purposes and flood management demonstrated and local climate change related policy frameworks in place in a selected number of districts*” and Output 2. “*Community-level climate and disaster management capacities improved for disaster risk reduction, prevention and timely response*” and respective results of the actions against set indicators are detailed below. For easy reference the results are listed in Table 3. *Table 3 Output indicators and target values*

Output 1 indicator	Target	Result
Output 1 Indicator 1: Number of rural communities with mainstreamed and costed gender sensitive climate and disaster risk management priorities in local development strategies	1.1: LPAs from five communities have gender sensitive climate and disaster risk management priorities Integrated into approved local development strategies	LPAs from 5 communities (Sarateni, Drasliceni, Pirlita, Baimaclia, Sarata Galbena) have gender sensitive Climate and Disaster Risk Management Plans as an integrated part in the local development strategies.
Output 1 Indicator 2: Area of agricultural land with access to water for irrigation as a result of constructed precipitation accumulation basins.	1.2: 120 ha of irrigated land producing high value agricultural crops	1.2 and 1.2.1: 177 ha. 1.2.2: 9 water basins were constructed with a total storage capacity of 119,150 m ³ to irrigate a total land area of 1 Photovoltaic system for irrigation installed
Output 1 Indicator 2.1: Volume of precipitation and run-off water (m3) for irrigation conserved as a result of construction of water retention infrastructure	1.2.1: At least 120 ha of agricultural land with increased capacity to withstand droughts 1.2.2: Precipitation water storage capacity of 120,000 m3	Beneficiaries' perception of the quality of their production and their capacity to withstand severe drought conditions is increasingly positive compared to baseline situation and based on the successful completion of the irrigation infrastructure and the
Output 1 Indicator 2.2: Number of hectares of agricultural land with increased resilience to drought due to stored run-offs for irrigation.		

Output 1 Indicator 2.3: Increased agricultural productivity and resilience due to enabled access to irrigation as a result of project intervention	1.2.3: Beneficiaries' perception of the quality of their production and their capacity to withstand severe drought conditions is increasingly positive compared to baseline situation.	training provided to the beneficiary farmers.
Output 1 Indicator 3: Number of officials from LPAs, heads of public institutions and private sector (disaggregated by sex) with better knowledge of inclusive and gender sensitive climate resilient local development planning	1.3: 50 officials from 5 LPAs, heads of public institutions and private sector including women and men, with capacity to integrate inclusive and gender sensitive climate and disaster risks into the local development strategies.	Community Working Groups (CWGs) were set up in each target locality (81 members in total, 49 women and 32 men) out of which the representation of the local authorities was 75%, farmers - 10%, civil society 15%.
Output 1 Indicator 4: Number of farmers (men and women) with enhanced understanding and knowledge to adapt to climate change and use of natural resources in a sustainable manner	1.4: 50 (at least 15 women farmers) farmers benefit from capacity development on adaptation solutions in the agriculture and water sectors and sustainable use of natural resources.	70 persons (36 women/51% and 34 men/49%) were trained to integrate inclusive and gender sensitive climate and disaster risk management
Output 2 Indicator 1: Number of rescue and firefighting posts established and properly equipped to respond timely to man-made and natural disasters	2.1 4 new rescue and firefighting posts established, properly equipped and corresponding local budgets allocated and inclusive prevention plans	Four new rescue and firefighting posts established, properly equipped and corresponding local budgets allocated and inclusive prevention plans
Output 2 Indicator 2: Number of communities benefitting from increased protection from natural and man-made disasters due to capacitated rescue and firefighting teams including inclusive prevention measures	2.2 55 communities (and their population) from 4 districts benefit from increased protection from natural and man-made disasters due to capacitated rescue and firefighting teams.	65 communities and 60219 people
Output 2 Indicator 3: Number of rescue and firefighting staff (sex disaggregated) employed and professionally trained	2.3 40 permanent jobs (10 jobs per rescue/firefighting unit) created resulting in additional income for 40 families of Moldova. 2.3 40 persons (women and men) benefitted from professional capacity development trainings in the area of climate change and disaster risk prevention and response	36 permanent jobs (9 jobs per rescue/ firefighting unit) created resulting in additional income for 36 families in Moldova. 177 volunteers firefighters were trained in total by the GIES
Output 2 Indicator 4: Number of persons from local population (men and women incl. vulnerable people) with better knowledge on climate and disaster risk reduction for resilient community development	2.4 4720 people (including 50% women and including vulnerable people) involved in the public awareness raising campaign on climate and disaster risk reduction	4,720 people, including 50% women, were reached through climate and disaster awareness campaigns via capacity-building, material dissemination, and fire detector installations in beneficiary communities.

Under this output, the Project carried out two main activities, the results of which are detailed as follows:

Activity 1.1 Mainstream climate change adaptation and disaster risk management priorities into local development planning frameworks in a participatory and gender-sensitive manner

This activity was conducted by the Business Consulting Institute (BCI) that resulted with 5 gender sensitive Climate and Disaster Risk Management Plans (CDRMP) as an integrated part in the local development strategies and in Sarata Galbena (Hincesti), Sarateni (Leova), Pirlita (Ungheni), Baimaclia (Cantemir), Drasliceni (Criuleni)) communities. To perform this activity and ensure its completion, Community Working Groups (CWG) composed of 81 members in total as the key driver in the mainstreaming process were formed in each target community.

Table 4: Composition of Community Working Groups

Locality	Date	Target Group	Participants	Women	Men
Sarateni	24.08.2020	CWG	17	5	12
Drasliceni	2.09.2020	CWG	24	20	4
Pirlita	9.09.2020	CWG	15	9	6
Baimaclia	7.10.2020	CWG	12	6	6
Sarata Galbena	14.10.2020	CWG	13	9	4
TOTAL			81	49	32

The CWGs were involved in the process of drafting the Climate and Disaster Risk Management Plans through data provision, pro-active participation in strategic planning workshops, community profile validation, participation in public consultations and are further responsible for monitoring of the implementation process of the plans. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and restrictions imposed on the organization of public events during the implementation of this activity, the public consultation was done virtually – the community members were able to access the draft via the official page of the Mayorality as presented in the table below:

Table 5: Public consultation of the CDRMP

	Community	Web page	Nr. of views / consultations
1	Pirlita	https://www.facebook.com/primaria.pirlita.77/posts/337397327594161	62
2	Baimaclia	https://www.facebook.com/Biblioteca-Publica-Baimaclia-543440022485711	163
3	Drasliceni	http://drasliceni.md/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Pr-nr.17-din-_-Plan-riseuri-elimatice-2-files-merged.pdf	26
4	Sarata Galbena	https://www.facebook.com/dinsaratacudrag/	26
5	Sarateni	https://www.facebook.com/Biblioteca-Public%C4%83-S%C4%83r%C4%83teni-Leova-938894766198770	107

CWGs and local authorities benefited from two 1-day capacity-building trainings (between August and October 2020 for 70 representatives) that have increased the level of knowledge on climate change and disaster risks and improved the capacities to mainstream and implement the CDRMPs. The structure of the participants in the workshops and trainings was the following:

Table 6: Structure of participants at capacity-building trainings

	Community	Date	Total ps.	Gender		Sector		
				W	M	LPA	CSO, citizens	Private Sector
1	Sarata Galbena	04.06.20	7	3	4	6	0	1
2	Sarateni	09.06.20	26	11	15	15	4	7
3	Pirlita	11.06.20	12	10	2	9	1	2
4	Baimaclia	17.06.20	10	5	5	8	1	1
5	Drasliceni	18.06.20	15	7	8	12	2	1
Total			70	36	34	50	8	12
Proportion (%)			100%	51%	49%	71%	11%	17%

Activity 1.2 Pilot water storage infrastructures in 5 districts of the country to enhance adaptation to climate change in the water and agriculture sectors

Sub-activity 1.2.i. Identification of at least 10 agri-producers (including women agri-producers)

Sub-activity 1.2.ii. Identification & analysis of water storage sites (including evaluation of potential impact on gender equality)

Sub-activity 1.2.iii. Conduct capacity development activities for agri-producers

Sub-activity 1.2.iv. Construction of water storage basins.

Sub-activity 1.2.i. Identification of at least 10 agri-producers (including women agri-producers)

The beneficiaries of this activity were carefully selected by the Project as a result of a Call of Expression of Interest (CEI) which was disseminated strategically across five target districts of the Project.

To note that the CEI content underwent revisions and was further adjusted into accessible language for potential beneficiaries.

To effectively disseminate the CEI, the team adopted a well-structured approach. Information visits were scheduled with all five District Councils, and district-level information seminars were conducted. The team leveraged various communication channels, including social media, radio stations to reach the target audience. Throughout the process, the team provided consultations and guidance to potential applicants.

Upon the completion of the Call period, the Project team diligently conducted a review of 25 received applications. The selection process involved a careful assessment of the CEI forms submitted by the applicants, considering various criteria such as completeness of the application package, land ownership, hydrology analysis, social analysis, and production experience.

The evaluation process led to the identification of 10 farmers, out of the 25 applicants, who were deemed feasible beneficiaries of the Project support package. This selection was thoroughly reviewed and approved by the Project Committee. The chosen beneficiaries demonstrated their capability and alignment with the Project's objectives, indicating their potential to contribute effectively to high-value agricultural production and irrigation in their respective areas. To note that the Project has concluded with signed Memorandums of Understanding with each selected farmer.

The MoUs served as a formal agreement to ensure continued support and collaboration between the Project and the beneficiaries. These signed MoUs underscored the Project's commitment to providing sustained assistance and securing the active contribution of the beneficiaries to the action plan outlined in the next section.

Sub-activity 1.2.ii. Identification & analysis of water storage sites (including evaluation of potential impact on gender equality)

The applicants' evaluation process included field visits, hydrological calculations and engineering prospects and considered all rigors set forth in the Project Document and annexes, including social, gender and environmental criteria. The assessment aimed to identify potential water storage sites that could effectively contribute to disaster risk reduction, flood management, and alleviate water scarcity challenges.

The Project team embarked on a thorough survey of potential locations, meticulously considering geological conditions, hydrological characteristics, and topography. Hydrological studies were conducted to evaluate the water accumulation capacity at each site, ensuring that the selected locations had the potential to mitigate flood risks and efficiently store water. The technical evaluation prioritized the feasibility of implementing water storage infrastructure at each selected site. Factors such as site location, construction feasibility, environmental sustainability, and cost-effectiveness were rigorously assessed to ensure long-term resilience against disasters and effective water management.

Overall, strategically placing the water storage sites in valleys, where water accumulates from precipitations, aimed to optimize water distribution across agricultural areas, thereby addressing water scarcity challenges and fostering agricultural productivity for the benefit of both men and women in the community.

Sub-activity 1.2.iii: Conduct capacity development activities for agri-producers

Moreover, the Project completed a comprehensive needs assessment among the project beneficiaries. The needs assessment report provided valuable insights and recommendations, serving as a solid foundation for the subsequent capacity development activities.

Based on the findings of the needs assessment, the expert diligently designed and developed training modules tailored to the specific needs of the agri-producers. These modules were thoughtfully crafted to address key areas crucial for enhancing agricultural productivity and water management practices.

To facilitate seamless knowledge dissemination, the expert organized and delivered online seminars for selected beneficiaries. The seminars covered essential topics such as soil and water quality, soil management, irrigation methods and rules, as well as irrigation systems and equipment.

Throughout the capacity development process, the Project expert ensured that the training content was accessible, engaging, and practical. The objective was to empower the agri-producers with the necessary knowledge and skills to make informed decisions and adopt modern agricultural practices.

In addition to the training sessions, the Project's team of experts provided ongoing individual consultations for each beneficiary. Specifically, it was offered personalized guidance and recommendations to help agri-producers maximize their crop yield and optimize resource utilization. These consultations were aimed at addressing specific challenges and opportunities faced by each farmer, fostering a more efficient and productive farming approach.

Sub-activity 1.2.iv: Construction of water storage basins.

Furthermore, the Project including farmers contribution (distribution detailed below) has resulted in 9 water basin infrastructures in place and technically equipped in the target communities with a total storage capacity of 119,150 m³ as to irrigate a total area of 177 ha as presented in the table below and supported by several pictures. Moreover, as an additional measure for adaptation to climate change and promotion of clean energy in the agriculture sector, one photovoltaic panel system for operating irrigation pumps with a capacity of 24 kW was installed that allows the farmer to streamline the costs of growing vegetables in greenhouses and other agricultural activities.

Beneficiary: Grand Depot Ltd., Antonesti, Cantemir



Beneficiary: GG Prim Ltd., Fundul Galbenei, Hincesti



To ensure the sustainability of the intervention and beneficiaries' engagement, the Project signed Memorandums of Understanding with farmers proving ready to co-finance at least 20% of the total cost of the water infrastructure that resulted in an additional total contribution of \$118,046. Moreover, as per the Memorandums of Understanding with the farmers, the water basins have an access road and were equipped with water pumps for the community-based firefighters to cover the needs for water to quickly respond in the event of fires in the rural area.

Therefore, the water storage basins are beneficial to the recipients and improve their economic security, but also increase the community security as well in the face of disasters such as vegetation fires.

Table 7 Water basins capacity and beneficiary contribution

Water basin, operational	Irrigation area (ha)	Storage m ³	Crops	Beneficiary	Contribution, (USD)
Antonesti (Cantemir), 2021	28.2	4,200	vegetables (green house)		\$5,145
Bestemac (Leova)	23	10,310	fruits: cherry, sour cherry, plum,	Woman co-proprietor	\$11,310
Ciuciuleni (Hincesti), 2022	32.6	16,000	corn, vegetables (green house)		\$7,600
Fundul Galbenei (Hincesti), 2020	5	5,220	cherry		\$17,825

Lapusna (Hincesti), 2022	20	12,800	cereals	Woman co-proprietor	\$11,618
Boghenii Noi (Ungheni), 2021	27	15,430	vegetables (carrots, onions, cabbages)		\$25,700
Magurele (Ungheni), 2021	1 6	25,000	vegetables,		\$23,191
Magurele (Ungheni), 2021	2 5.08	25,000	vegetables, strawberries, cherry, plum	Woman co-proprietor	\$9,457
Boscana (Criuleni), 2022	30; pluvial	5,160	sour cherry, grapes	Woman-led	\$6,200
Total	177	119,150		4	\$118,046

The construction of the water storage basins was designed, implemented, and monitored on the grounds of the Environmental Impact Assessment and Risk Management & Sustainability Plans elaborated by the Environment Consultant of the Project that ensured strict adherence of project implementation to donor rigors and domain-specific requirements.

In terms of capacity building of the farmers, the Project expert on Soil and Irrigation, has conducted a comprehensive needs assessment exercise among the project beneficiaries including recommendations and based on it, the expert has delivered online seminars (considering the restrictions due to COVID-19) for selected beneficiaries covering the topics on soil and water quality, soil management, irrigation methods and rules, irrigation systems and equipment.

Quality assurance for the construction activities was ensured by certified project engineers, while overall contract management by the Project Manager and Cluster Lead. The project engineers and representatives of the beneficiaries monitored the whole process through regular on-site visits.

During the liability period, several minor deficits were identified in some of the water infrastructures. These deficits were promptly brought to the attention of the construction company by the project engineer. One such deficit was related to the dam structure, which required attention to ensure its proper functioning and compliance with national legislation.

Upon notification, the construction company took immediate action to address the identified issues and rectify the deficits.

All 9 water infrastructures were finally completed and commissioned as per Final Acceptance Certificates issued by the commissioning body in line with the national legislation and are put in-service.

Output 2 Community-level climate and disaster management capacities improved for disaster risk reduction, prevention and timely response

Under this Output the Project has selected the pilot regions of the intervention based on the vulnerability and exposure risk to fire disaster risks, willingness to contribute from the local (1st level) and regional (2nd level) authorities and the recommendations from the GIES based on the Governmental Decision no. 202 from 2012 that aims to establish a network of community firefighting posts as to reduce the response time to disaster in the rural areas, in which fires occur with a significantly higher frequency.

Therefore, the selected locations for the firefighting posts within the Project have a response time within their respective communities between 5 to 15 minutes, a period that effectively saves many houses on fire and particularly the houses belonging to the most vulnerable households.

Furthermore, under this output, the Project carried out two main activities, the results of which are detailed as follows:

Activity 2.1 Establish Community-based rescue and firefighting brigades in the most vulnerable and risk exposed districts of the country

The project screened five geographic areas covering more than 80 local communities for the firefighting posts: Pirlita (Ungheni) with 18 local communities, Baimaclia (Cantemir) with 22 local communities, Sarata Galbena (Hincesti) with 8 local communities, Sarateni (Leova) with 17 local communities and Drasliceni (Criuleni) with 5 local communities. However, the Criuleni target region had to be dropped, due to significant delays in the local and regional decision-making process to participate and to provide the required financial contribution.

Under this activity, the project has resulted in 4 newly established community-based firefighting stations in Pirlita, Baimaclia, Sarateni and Sarata Galbena villages. 65 communities with a total population of 60219 people benefit from their services and are therefore less exposed to disaster risks and damage/losses associated with them.

The community mobilization process done by the Project team in cooperation with GIES resulted in 33 regional and local authorities on board that agreed on the cost-sharing, thus the final amount for the construction of the firefighting stations under the Cost-Sharing Agreements with the participating authorities was 188,035.30 USD in total. Moreover, the stations were properly equipped with intervention vehicles and equipment for the brigades/staff to perform their duty.

To ensure the sustainability of the action, the Project team has provided as well technical support to the beneficiary LPAs to allocate necessary funds from local budgets for early maintenance of the stations. In this regard, the Project team in cooperation with the GIES have drafted the Inter-Community Association Agreement and prepared the annual budget estimates (approximately 500,000 MDL per community) to facilitate LPA's budgetary planning. The estimated sum of approximately 500,000 MDL per annum per community/station was carefully calculated to ensure the sufficient funding required for the smooth functioning and maintenance of the stations throughout the year. This agreement was used and signed by participating LPAs and GIES to ensure that the posts have an adequate operations budget.

The construction process of the firefighting stations as well, was designed, implemented, and monitored on the grounds of the Environmental Impact Assessment and Risk Management & Sustainability Plans elaborated by the Environment Consultant of the Project that ensured strict adherence of project implementation to donor rigors and domain-specific requirements.

Quality assurance for the construction activities was ensured by certified project engineers, while overall contract management by the Project Manager and Cluster Lead. The project engineers and representatives of the beneficiaries monitored the whole process through regular on-site visits.

All 4-firefighting stations were finally completed and commissioned as per Final Acceptance Certificates issued by the commissioning body in line with the national legislation and are put in-service.

To note that during the liability period, some minor deficits were identified in certain firefighting stations, including minor deviations such as issues with windows and doors. Additionally, improvements were

required in the security systems to enhance the overall safety and protection of the firefighting stations. The project engineer promptly notified the construction company about these minor issues, and they worked collaboratively to remedy the identified deviations and ensure all security features were up to standard.

One of the critical aspects that received careful attention and prompt action was the proper functioning and implementation of the smoke evacuation system. The project team paid special attention to ensuring that exhaust gases from the firefighting vehicles' exhaust pipes were effectively and safely removed from the station's premises. This meticulous approach ensured that the smoke evacuation system met the necessary safety standards and regulatory requirements, contributing to the overall safety and efficiency of the firefighting stations.

Moreover, the four firefighting posts established by the Project are now part of the GIES emergency response network and hence fully integrated into the national services in the field. For reference, please see the evidence pictures and the table below that presents in detail the information on LPAs' participation, cost-sharing and population covered by the intervention.

Community-based Firefighting Station in Baimaclia, Cantemir



Table 8: Community-based firefighting posts

Location	Participating communities, population	Population covered	Employed (trained) staff	Financial contribution, thousands MDL
Pirlita (Ungheni)	18 in total = Pirlita (6,000), Alexeevca (1,200), Busila (1,788), Chirileni (1,749), Negurenii Vechi (1,814), Radenii vechi (1,614), Todiresti (4,250), Agronomovca (943), Tescureni (1,030) together with satellite communities	20.388 people in Ungheni region (51% women, 449 vulnerable),	9 to be employed and 47 trained	Ungheni regional Council (550), Pirlita (170), Alexeevca (34,1), Busila (50,8), Negurenii Vechi (51,4), Radenii vechi (45,9), Todiresti (120,8), Agronomovca (26,8) = 1,050
Baimaclia (Cantemir)	22 in total = Baimaclia (3,093), Chioselia (2,128), Ciietu (1,232), Cirpesti (2,325), Cisla (650), Costangalia (962), Tartaul (1,866), Ciobalaccia (3,033),	18.646 people in Cantemir region (50% women, 290 vulnerable)	9 to be employed and 27 trained	Cantemir regional Council (500), Baimaclia (127), Chioselia (87,3), Ciietu (50,6), Cirpesti (111), Cisla (29,9), Costangalia (39,5),

	Enichioi (1,807), Lingura (1,550) together with satellite communities			Tartaul (79,8), Ciobalaccia (75), = 1,100
Sarata Galbena (Hincesti)	8 in total = Sarata- Galbena (5,334), Mereseni (2,510), Caracui (2,394),	10,338 people in Hincesti region (50% women, 45 vulnerable)	9 to be employed and 17 trained	Sarata-Galbena, Mereseni, Caracui (in kind contribution, technical equipment)
Sarateni (Leova)	Sarateni (979), Cneazevca (978), Tomaiul Nou (762), Orac (1,193), Ceadir (1,181), Colibabovca (997), Vozneseni (1,212), Saratica Noua (985), Bestemac (948), Covurlui (1,612)	10,847 people in Leova region (51% women, 85 vulnerable)	9 to be employed and 50 trained	Leova Regional Council (700), Sarateni (36), Cneazevca (36), Tomaiul Nou (28), Orac (44), Ceadir (43,6), Colibabovca (36,8), Vozneseni (44,7), Saratica Noua (36,3), Bestemac (35), Covurlui (59,4) = 1,100
Total	65 communities	60,219 people	36 employed and 141 trained Total volunteers: 177	3,250,000 MDL or 188, 035.30 US dollars

Activity 2.2 Conduct capacity development for climate and disaster response local teams and raise awareness towards building a culture of safer living especially for most vulnerable households and persons (men and women)

Sub-activity 2.2.i: Strengthening the professional capacities of the community-level rescue/firefighting staff from the selected communities

The volunteering practice was actively promoted by the LPAs in their respective communities, resulting in the selection of 36 individuals, both men and women, for employment, and the training of 141 persons as volunteers to ensure timely response in case of disasters. Therefore, a mixed system was adopted as an approach that includes 9 permanently employed firefighters at each station, working in shifts and responsible for maintaining the assets, supported by assigned volunteers.

During the implementation period, the Project resulted in a curriculum for volunteer and community level firefighters and rescuers incorporating the specifics for this non-professional intervention group, in close cooperation with the national implementing partner (GIES), based on which 177 volunteers from the target communities were trained as firefighters.

To note, EcoContact, a valuable partner with strong legal expertise and extensive experience in local Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), played a significant role in closely collaborating with the Project to develop the specialized training curriculum for community-based rescue and firefighting teams. Their valuable insights on environmental issues, human rights, and existing experience were coordinated and integrated into the curriculum development process.

The training curriculum was adopted and subsequently delivered by the lecturers from the Republican Training Center of the GIES that is an institution accredited by the Ministry of Education and combined a

series of theoretical lessons and practical simulation and handling the firefighting equipment. For reference, pictures are provided below.



Training of volunteer firefighters (theory), Pirlita community post, Ungheni district



Training of volunteer firefighters (practice and simulations), Saratenj community post, Leova district

Sub-activity 2.2.ii: Conduct awareness raising and empowerment campaign on timely prevention of disaster risk reduction for most vulnerable households

The Project also has contributed to raising awareness towards building a culture of safer living in poor rural households as well as for elderly people with reduced mobility by supporting the early national campaigns on fire prevention and preparedness in cooperation with GIES.

This activity aimed at mitigating the risks of household fires and fire-related household incidents through the provision of smoke detectors to the most vulnerable households situated in the 5 Project intervention districts of Moldova. In this regard UNDP has organized and successfully conducted two tenders for: (i) procurement of smoke detectors; (ii) elaboration and production of awareness raising materials and (iii) production of a video-spot to raise the awareness of population on the importance of smoke detectors for increased household safety. UNDP procured and handed to GIES 990 high quality smoke detectors. Information and awareness raising materials were produced. Among these, UNDP and GIES produced calendars containing information on smoke detectors, leaflets and a short publication on the household risks associated with the cold period of the year accompanied by instructions and mitigation measures, notebooks, pens, special impermeable bags and reflective vests for primary-school aged children.

Evidence can be found at [“Safe House Saves Lives” – a life-saving campaign initiated in five Moldovan districts | United Nations Development Programme \(undp.org\)](https://www.undp.org/campaigns/safe-house-saves-lives) including the photo library available for access.

Risk Management

Risk Register (risk assessment at the time of reporting)			
Description of the risk ² (concrete event, its cause and possible negative impact)	Likelihood ³	Possible impact ⁴	Risk management measures
Delays in project implementation due to political events such as local level elections in 2019, early parliamentary elections	Low	Moderate	The project took proactive measures to avoid crucial decision-making processes during elections and political events to prevent any potential delays in implementation.
Failure to secure funding for the firefighting staff	Moderate	Budget constraint and delay in project activities	The project team liaised closely with the local authorities from the selected communities and the General Inspectorate for Emergency Situations (GIES) to secure funding for firefighting staff from local and raional budgets.
Weak capacity of implementing partners	Moderate	Weaker project impact and delays	The UNDP addressed these risks by providing ongoing capacity development to Local Public Authorities (LPAs) and private sector partners/farmers.
Possible overlapping with ongoing projects	Low	Duplicated works and inefficiencies	The project ensured close coordination and synergy with ongoing programmes and projects (<i>such as the Red Cross Austria Project 'Provice' implemented in partnership with EcoContact</i>) by identifying cooperation activities and developing joint initiatives. Through this approach, the project aimed to maximize the impact of its interventions and leverage the resources and expertise available from other initiatives.

² For the purpose of risk management in the context of projects and programmes, ADA defines risk as the danger of an event occurring that has a negative impact on the achievement of the goals of the respective project/ programme, or those of the implementing organisation or ADA. For reference, the ADA Risk Catalogue with standard risks that can arise in the context of projects and programmes is available online and can be consulted (on a voluntary basis) for the identification and description of risks. (<https://www.entwicklung.at/mediathek/downloads>)

³ Enter a value: (1) very unlikely, (2) unlikely, (3) likely, (4) very likely.

⁴ Enter a value: (1) insignificant, (2) significant, (3) major.

An ADA staff guidance on assessing likelihood and impact is available online (<https://www.entwicklung.at/en/media-centre/downloads>) and can be used on a voluntary basis for this reporting exercise.

<p>Environmental pollution from some construction works</p>	<p>Low</p>	<p>Pollution of surface run-off and environmental damage</p>	<p>During the project implementation, the project applied Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Risk Management and Sustainability Plan (EIARMSP) according to national legislation. The EIA was carefully conducted as part of the risk mitigation plan to identify and address potential environmental risks and impacts.</p> <p>Additionally, the project included specific environmental safeguarding measures in the Terms of Reference (ToRs) for engineering design and civil works. These provisions ensured that construction activities and civil works adhered to the necessary environmental standards and regulations to minimize any adverse environmental effects.</p> <p>To oversee and manage the environmental aspects of the project, a dedicated project expert was assigned. This expert's role was to monitor and evaluate the implementation of environmental safeguards and ensure that the project activities were conducted in an environmentally responsible manner, in line with the EIARMSP. Through these measures, the project aimed to achieve its objectives while prioritizing environmental sustainability and risk management.</p>
<p>Co-financing failure from Local Public Authorities and private sector in the selected communities</p>	<p>Moderate</p>	<p>Deficit of co-financing and budgetary constraints</p>	<p>Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs) and Cost-Sharing Agreements (CSAs) were signed with farmers and beneficiary LPAs, respectively. However, in cases where</p>

			MoUs/CSAs were not signed, alternative beneficiaries were selected as replacements. This approach ensured that the project's objectives were still achieved, and collaboration with willing participants was prioritized to foster successful implementation.
Lack of culture of local communities' participation	Low	Low level of awareness regarding climate and disaster risk reduction	The project used best practices and lessons learned to demonstrate tangible benefits from other similar contexts. It worked on changing attitudes and behaviors and empowered communities, Community-Based Organizations (CBOs), and citizens to fully participate in the adaptation process to climate change.
Removal of Drasliceni, Criuleni district from the project implementation plan	High	Disruption in project implementation in the affected area	Considering the political sensitivity and failure to secure funding, the project made a decision to remove Drasliceni district from the project implementation plan. This step was taken to mitigate any risks associated with political factors and financial constraints, and to ensure the overall smooth implementation of the project.

Project visibility

The Project's visibility objectives aimed at (i) presenting the progress and results of the activities, (ii) contributing to creating a culture of safer living and (iii) promoting adaptation and disaster reduction measures such as water storage basins and volunteering firefighting practice at the community level.

In this regard, the Project produced visibility products such as a success story on the water infrastructure and firefighting stations construction progress and results including a dedicated story on firefighting featuring a woman volunteer as to promote both the concept of volunteering and the initiative among other communities and encourage women for this practice. The success stories were accompanied by a video reportage available in Romanian and English as well and were widely distributed by the media.

The Project had (and still has) a presence in the social media, an example being the success story on the water infrastructure built in Fundul Galbenei, Hincesti which has an organic impact of 357,000 and a total number of 385,580 views.

Moreover, the Project had several visibility events related to monitoring of the progress, launching of the infrastructures, trainings, awareness raising events that are provided below:

“Safe house saves lives” – national campaign

- [“Safe House Saves Lives” – a life-saving campaign initiated in five Moldovan districts | United Nations Development Programme \(undp.org\)](#)

Success stories article on rainwater collection and storage issued in Romanian and English languages:

- ENG: [Innovation tastes like cherries in Hincesti | UNDP in Moldova](#)
- ROM: [La Hîncești, inovația are gustul cireșelor | PNUD în Moldova \(undp.org\)](#)
- [Cristina Gaibu, volunteer firefighter from Sărăteni: “There are no differences between men and women when a human life must be saved” | United Nations Development Programme \(undp.org\)](#)

Lunching events of the water storage basins and firefighting stations

- [A rainwater collection and storage basin was launched into operation in Antonești, with ADA and UNDP assistance | United Nations Development Programme](#)
- [A community volunteer rescuers and firefighters post inaugurated in Pîrlița village, Ungheni district | United Nations Development Programme \(undp.org\)](#)

Social media posts on water infrastructure:

- [La Hîncești, inovația are gustul cireșilor \(facebook.com\)](#) – video.

The Facebook post reached an organic impact of 357,000 and a total number of 385,580 views:

- [Innovation tastes like cherries in Hincesti - YouTube Video posted on UNDP's Youtube account \(English subtitles\)](#)
- [UNDP Moldova - La Antonești a fost dat în exploatare un bazin de acumulare a apei din precipitații | Facebook | By UNDP Moldova | Fermierul Vasile Culicovschi a beneficiat de asistență tehnică și un grant în valoare de până la 30.000 dolari SUA pentru construcția unui bazin de...](#)

The stories were widely circulated online as well, few media clippings are listed below:

1. [232.\[.moldova.un.org \] Innovation tastes like cherries in Hincesti](#)
2. [FOTO Inovația are gustul cireșelor. La Hîncești a fost dat în exploatare un bazin care asigură IRIGAREA unei livezi - Realitatea.md](#)
3. [AGORA - Inovație cu gust de cireșe la Hîncești. Doi frați au creat o livadă ca în povești \(VIDEO\)](#)
4. [http://tvr Moldova.md/social/datorita-unei-tehnologii-moderne-de-irigare-doi-frati-din-localitatea-fundul-galbenei-se-pot-landa-cu-o-livada-moderna/](#)
5. [FOTO // Un fermier din Antonești va IRIGA peste 30 de hectare de legume cu apă de ploaie: Bazin de acumulare, construit cu sprijinul Agenției Austriece pentru Dezvoltare \(ziarulnational.md\)](#)

Update on Environmental, Gender and Social Standards

The submitted progress reports provided an update on recommendations 1-3 that have been fully considered and implemented accordingly by the Project during the reporting period. Hence, the final report provides an update on Environmental, Gender and Social Standards (assessment) regarding the integration of the last recommendations, i.e., 4th and 5th as follows.

Environmental sustainability:

During the reporting period, the Project has carried out the monitoring under the EIARMSPs both at the water basins' sites and firefighting stations as to identify the potential social and environmental risks as well as to mitigate them by applying the proposed feasible options accordingly.

On the 4th recommendation received from the project donor, referring on abiding sustainability and resource efficiency criteria during procurement processes specifically, the following measures were taken by the Project:

- List of materials and machinery proposed for usage by contractors assigned for construction underwent an assessment and clearance process by the assigned engineer of the project before commencing the construction;
- Engineering solutions provided by the certified architects and project engineers were proposed to enhance such as: thermal capacity of the firefighting posts using installation that would lead to cost-efficient usage of electricity and water during posts' operation;

On the 5th recommendation received from the project donor, referring to application of resource efficiency and pollution prevention management measures along all project and organizational levels, the following measures were taken by the Project:

- All project activities related to constructions are carried out considering national environmental requirements including received recommendations under ecological expertise where necessary and EIARMSPs; thus the project did not make any changes in land use and no interventions were executed in the protected areas.
- Construction works' sites underwent an assessment and clearance process by the project engineer/technical supervisor and project manager to ensure that: all necessary permits and authorizations are in place, LPAs and community citizens are informed on upcoming construction activities, sites are protected (fenced) where necessary to prevent entrance or any loss/damage to the construction and materials/equipment to be used have a designated storage facility.
- The project implemented measures to address the potential destruction of soil structure and loss of the fertile layer during excavations. To conserve and reuse topsoil, proper practices were employed to carefully remove and store the fertile layer during excavation activities, ensuring its later reapplication to the treated areas.;
- To tackle waste management and prevent soil and water pollution, the project established strict guidelines for contractors. These guidelines emphasized proper waste storage and disposal procedures to prevent any harmful substances from polluting the soil or water sources.;
- Quality of materials used for construction underwent an assessment process by the assigned engineer of the project as to avoid any high risk of pollution/contamination.
- Physical project activities planned such as meetings, consultations with stakeholders, partners and beneficiaries were done mainly remotely via phone or zoom platform except official events (handover, monitoring visits, launching) and training of the firefighting brigade in which rational use of resources and pollution prevention was also applied such as shared means of transportation, catering service to avoid food waste, etc.
- Communication process and visibility materials were produced mainly in digital/online format.

Gender equality and empowerment of women and girls:

During the implementation period, the Project and its stakeholders actively encouraged women's participation specifically in the policy making/decision making process at the local level, training and education process and become a volunteer firefighter.

Human rights and social standards:

During the reporting period, inclusion of vulnerable and marginalized groups specifically in planning and initiating the community service organization of firefighters and rescuers brigades was encouraged.

Lessons learned and perspectives

Among the identified lesson learned and perspective, UNDP has highlighted the following key ones:

- The initial assumption regarding the scarcity of financial resources at local level was well grounded. The mayoralities within the village clusters involved in project implementation went through difficulties identifying finances for covering the contribution to the project implementation. However, motivating district authorities to contribute to the infrastructure part of the project turned out critical for a smooth project implementation. It is advised that district authorities are more actively involved in project implementation from the very beginning, as there is persistent interest and available financial resources to help clusters of rural settlements gather finances for large infrastructure projects.
- The active and permanent involvement of GIES (General Inspectorate for Emergency Situations) at both central and district level played a pivotal role in the successful project implementation. The GIES representatives at district level, significantly contributed to guiding and supporting the district councils and village clusters in effectively executing the projects and implementing the proposed approaches. Their valuable input and guidance were essential in navigating the implementation process and promoting the project's objectives and successfully secure and allocate the necessary funds for stations establishing and further maintenance.

Annexes of the progress report

Annex 1: Filled in matrix with the detailed description of the achievement of outcome and outputs indicators measured against baseline and target values and reflecting the quantitative and qualitative dimension of the achievement

Annex 1: Matrix with the detailed description of the achievement of outcome and outputs indicators measured against baseline and target values and reflecting the quantitative and qualitative dimension of the achievement.

Impact: Improved resilience of rural communities' livelihoods in the face of climate change

Indicator 1: Number of men and women in 5 rural districts of Moldova effectively engaged⁵ in decisions over water-use efficiency and with strengthened resilience and adaptive capacities to climate-related hazards and disasters

	Baseline	March 2022
End of project target (planned)	0	19860 ⁶ people, including 51% women and 449 vulnerable households in Ungheni 11411 people, including 51% women and 85 vulnerable households in Leova 9206 people, including 50% women and 290 vulnerable households in Cantemir 1607 people, including 51% women and 121 vulnerable households in Criuleni 8276 people, including 50% women and 45 vulnerable households in Hincesti
Achievement	60,219	20,388 people, including 51% women and 449 vulnerable households in Ungheni 10,847 people, including 51% women and 85 vulnerable households in Leova 18,646 people, including 50% women and 290 vulnerable households in Cantemir 0 people in Criuleni 10,338 people, including 50% women and 45 vulnerable households in Hincesti
Comparison (e.g. in %)	119.64%	

Outcome. Strengthened local policies, capacities and infrastructure which enable climate and disaster resilient development at the community level

⁵ Defined as the opportunity to voice their concerns, participate and make LPAs more accountable in the process of development and implementation of local policies and programs related to climate and disaster resiliency.

⁶ The source for the number of people in all districts and communities where the project will intervene is from the respective LPAs.

Indicator 1: Number of rural people (men and women incl. vulnerable people) covered by appropriate climate and disaster risk management strategies with costed actions plan, inclusive of drought, flooding and fire risks.

	Baseline	March 2022
End of project target (planned)	0	4474 people, including 2185 women and 222 vulnerable in Pirlita 775 people, including 378 women and 12 vulnerable in Sarateni 2603 people, including 1300 women and 87 vulnerable in Baimaclia 1607 people, including 776 women and 185 vulnerable in Drasliceni 4790 people, including 2371 women and 105 vulnerable in Sarata Galbena
Achievement	0	4474 people, including 2185 women and 222 vulnerable in Pirlita 775 people, including 378 women and 12 vulnerable in Sarateni 2603 people, including 1300 women and 87 vulnerable in Bai 1607 people, including 776 women and 185 vulnerable in Drasliceni 4790 people, including 2371 women and 105 vulnerable in Sarata Galbena
Comparison (e.g. in %)	0	100%

Indicator 2: Number of rural farmers (men and women) with enhanced livelihoods and access to water for production needs due to water harvesting basins in place as a result of project interventions.

	Baseline	March 2022
End of project target (planned)	0	At least 10 farmers (at least 3 women farmers)
Achievement	0	9 farmers (4 women farmers)
Comparison (e.g. in %)	0	90%

Indicator 3: Number of rural people (men and women incl. vulnerable people) covered by appropriate climate and disaster risk reduction infrastructure and capacity in place

	Baseline	March 2022

End of project target (planned)	0	19860 people, including 51% women and 449 vulnerable households in Ungheni 11411 people, including 51% women and 85 vulnerable households in Leova 9206 people, including 50% women and 290 vulnerable households in Cantemir 9961 people, including 51% women and 121 vulnerable households in Criuleni 8276 people, including 50% women and 45 vulnerable households in Hîncești
Achievement	0	19860 people, including 51% women and 449 vulnerable households in Ungheni 11411 people, including 51% women and 85 vulnerable households in Leova 9206 people, including 50% women and 290 vulnerable households in Cantemir 9961 people, including 51% women and 121 vulnerable households in Criuleni 8276 people, including 50% women and 45 vulnerable households in Hîncești
Comparison (e.g. in %)	0	100%

Output 1: Adaptation interventions in the water sector for agricultural purposes and flood management demonstrated and local climate change related policy frameworks in place in a selected number of districts

Indicator 1: Number of rural communities with mainstreamed and costed gender sensitive climate and disaster risk management priorities in local development strategies

	Baseline	June 2021
End of project target (planned)	No gender sensitive climate and disaster risk management measures integrated into the local development strategies; no budget allocation for these needs	5 local communities
Achievement	0	5 local communities
Comparison (e.g. in %)	0	100%

Indicator 2: Area of agricultural land with access to water for irrigation as a result of constructed precipitation accumulation basins.

	Baseline	March 2022

End of project target (planned)	No of land in the pilot districts is irrigated from precipitation water accumulation basins within the project beneficiaries' agricultural plantations.	120 ha
Achievement	0	177ha
Comparison (e.g. in %)	0	147.5%

Indicator 2.1: Volume of precipitation and run-off water (m3) for irrigation conserved as a result of construction of water retention infrastructure.

	Baseline	March 2022
End of project target (planned)	No existing water accumulation infrastructure with capacity to store precipitation and run-off water for irrigation purposes.	120,000 m3
Achievement	0	119,150 m3
Comparison (e.g. in %)	0	99%

Indicator 2.2: Number of hectares of agricultural land with increased resilience to drought due to stored run-offs for irrigation.

	Baseline	March 2022
End of project target (planned)	Very limited areas of land within the project beneficiaries' agricultural plantations have drought resilient capacities as a result of available irrigation solutions and practices.	120 ha
Achievement	0	177ha
Comparison (e.g. in %)	0	147.5%

Indicator 2.3: Increased agricultural productivity and resilience due to enabled access to irrigation as a result of project intervention.

	Baseline	March 2022
End of project target (planned)	Project beneficiaries unsecure in current conditions and unable to conduct qualitative and resilient agricultural production.	Beneficiaries' perception of the quality of their production and their capacity to withstand severe drought conditions is increasingly positive compared to baseline situation.

Achievement	0	177ha
Comparison (e.g. in %)	0	100%

Indicator 3: Number of officials from LPAs, heads of public institutions and private sector (disaggregated by sex) with better knowledge of inclusive and gender sensitive climate resilient local development planning

	Baseline	March 2022
End of project target (planned)	0 officials from LPAs, heads of public institutions and private sector have understanding and knowledge of inclusive and gender sensitive climate and disaster risk management as well as capacity for building climate resilient communities	50
Achievement	0	70
Comparison (e.g. in %)	0	140%

Indicator 4: Number of farmers (men and women) with enhanced understanding and knowledge to adapt to climate change and use of natural resources in a sustainable manner

	Baseline	March 2022
End of project target (planned)	Farmers have limited or no knowledge on adaptation solutions in the agriculture and water sectors and sustainable use of natural resources	50 (15 women)
Achievement	0	50 (15 women)
Comparison (e.g. in %)	0	100%

Output 2: Community level climate and disaster management capacities improved for disaster risk reduction, prevention and timely response

Indicator 1: Number of rescue and firefighting posts established and properly equipped to respond timely to man-made and natural disasters

	Baseline	March 2022
End of project target (planned)	0 rescue and firefighting posts in Pirlita, Sarateni, Baimaclia, Drasliceni and Sarata Galbena Cost for prevention, preparedness and response	4

	actions to climate and man-made disasters are not foreseen in local budgets	
Achievement	0	4
Comparison (e.g. in %)	0	100%

Indicator 2: Number of communities benefitting from increased protection from natural and man-made disasters due to capacitated rescue and firefighting teams including inclusive prevention measures

	Baseline	March 2022
End of project target (planned)	Limited rescue/firefighting brigades at district level resulting in increased response time, subsequently leading to considerable increase in loss of life and material damages	55 communities
Achievement	0	65 communities (60219 people)
Comparison (e.g. in %)	0	118%

Indicator 3: Number of rescue and firefighting staff (sex disaggregated) employed and professionally trained

	Baseline	March 2022
End of project target (planned)	No professional staff available in rural areas to respond timely to man-made and natural disasters	40 permanent jobs (10 jobs per rescue/ firefighting unit) created resulting in additional income for 40 families in Moldova. 40 persons (women and men) benefitted from professional capacity development trainings in the area of climate change and disaster risk prevention and response
Achievement	177 professional staff available in rural areas to respond timely to man-made and natural disasters	36 permanent jobs (9 jobs per rescue/ firefighting unit, 9 men and 0 women) created resulting in additional income for 36 families in Moldova. Additionally, 141 volunteer positions have been established as part of the project's initiatives.

		177 persons (5 women and 172 men) benefitted from professional capacity development trainings in the area of climate change and disaster risk prevention and response
Comparison (e.g. in %)	0	100%

Indicator 4: Number of persons from local population (men and women incl. vulnerable people) with better knowledge on climate and disaster risk reduction for resilient community development

	Baseline	March 2022
End of project target (planned)	Community members have limited or no knowledge and capacities to prevent, prepare and respond to climate and man-made disaster	4720 people (including 50% women and including vulnerable people) involved in the public awareness raising campaign on climate and disaster risk reduction
Achievement	4,720 community members have increased knowledge and capacities to prevent, prepare and respond to climate and man-made disaster	4,720 people, including 50% women, were reached through climate and disaster awareness campaigns via capacity-building, material dissemination, and fire detector installations in beneficiary communities.
Comparison (e.g. in %)	0	100%