

Ending GBV and Achieving the SDGs Project (2018-2020)

Information Form

This document serves to complement the Ending GBV and Achieving the SDGs Project's Implementation Guide, and requests more detailed information regarding pilots and initiatives supported by this project at the country level. It serves as a general planning and alignment tool, and the basis for the CoA agreements between HQ and country offices.

1. Contact Information:

UNDP Country Office: UNDP Moldova

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2. Project Information:

Title for the project or pilot initiative: Addressing violence against women in the Republic of Moldova: exploring and learning from local solutions

Short description of the project or pilot initiative, detailing how it directly contributes to the Global Project's outputs, as outlined in the Project Document (500 word max):

In Moldova 63.4% of women aged >15 suffered at least one form of physical, psychological or sexual violence during their lives. Rates in rural areas are even higher at 69% (the highest among CIS countries). One study demonstrated prevalence of physical violence in 50% of the interviewed men's families, and pointed at problematic traditional perceptions and stereotypes, and persisting gender inequality in families/society as root causes of violence: e.g. 27.7% of men/17.5% of women believe that a woman should tolerate violence to save the family, and 41.1% men/ 19.1% women believe that there are situations when a woman's beating is justified. The situation is worse in rural areas, and within certain ethnic groups.

Moldova adopted a series of documents to address the issue, such as the **National Strategy on Gender Equality (2017-2021)**, that calls for investments in social, psychological, legal, educational and economic services for women and girls, and a **National Strategy on Prevention and Combatting of Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence (2018-2023)**. It signed (February 2017) the **Istanbul Convention**, and introduced new legislation to align to its provisions. However, despite political will, little capacities are in place at national and, especially, at local level, to address Gender Based Violence Against Women (GBV). In particular, there are issues related to police capacity to address GBV at the local level, and to prosecute perpetrators, as well as the ability of other local actors to act in concert to prevent, reduce, and properly resolve GBV against women cases.

The aim of the proposed **pilot initiative** is, on one side, to help *localize* the 2018-2023 Strategy, by designing, implementing and evaluating a Local Action Plan to address GBV against women, in a selected multi-ethnic community. On the other, by using the lessons learned and the results of the pilot, to equip decision-makers with enhanced policy recommendations, as well as partners, at local, national and international levels, with new knowledge, skills and tools to reduce GBV. Thus, while the Moldova project would mostly focus on implementation of **Output 1** of the **Global Project**, it would also contribute to activities related to **Outputs 2 and 3**.

The proposed activities are based on UNDP's extensive experience in Moldova to work on VAW, including in complex environments ¹, in prevention and addressing GBV, and on issues related to gender equality, and local governance and development. UNDP will maximize the potential of the pilot initiative by building on its existing work in local development and violence against women and learning from the lessons of other programmes in the ECIS region (that have relevant models and methodologies to address violence against women).

Based on prior consultations with relevant stakeholders, the selected **community for the pilot initiative** is the **village of Chirsova**, in the region of Gagauzia² in the south of the country. Local authorities expressed their willingness to work on the subject, and has 2 potential facilities to house services for victims and survivors of VAW. As the community is at a short distance from Comrat city, this could present an advantage for getting necessary support and engagement from the sector representatives and CSOs at the central autonomous region's level. A partnership will be established with the Comrat-based Gagauzian Association of Mothers with many Children and Women-entrepreneurs "VESTA" - a non-governmental women-led organization established in 1998 to promote gender equality and develop gender-sensitive civic society and local communities in Gagauzia. The organization has good institutional capabilities and a solid track record in the field. The organization has recently become a member of the National Coalition of NGOs "Life without Violence".

To ensure Government buy-in, the initiative has been consulted already with stakeholders at the national level (Ministry of Labor, Health and Social Protection) and local authorities. A **National Working Group** will be established upon project kick off, consisting of Moldovan government and civil society partners, with national and municipal roles. The NWG will help ensure the activities are coordinated with other on-going processes, that relevant government entities are aware of the pilot activities, that there is coordination across government sectors in the pilot location, and that the advocacy materials are communicated to and are used by the relevant actors.

The pilot would tentatively focus on the following directions of action:

Component 1: A local adaptation of the National Strategy on Prevention and Combatting of Violence Against Women in Family 2017-2022 is piloted in the community of Chirsova, Comrat district

This component will design, test and cost a local plan for addressing VAW in adherence to national policies on VAW, gender equality and the Istanbul Convention. The learning from this pilot – including costing and evaluation results – will be used to advocate for scale up of

¹ For reference please see [Better Opportunities for Youth and Women project](#); [Joint action to strengthen Human Rights in Transnistria project](#), [Women in Politics project](#)

² Gagauzia is the least developed territory of Moldova, mainly agricultural and vulnerable to climate change and lack of water resources. It is populated mainly by ethnic Gagauz – a Turkish-speaking Christian-Orthodox minority, as well as other ethnic groups, and has an autonomous status. Chirsova is situated at 107 km to the South from the capital city Chisinau and at 7 km from Comrat – the capital of Gagauzia. According to the latest General Population Census of 2014, it has an ethnically mixed population of 6,293 people (3,063 men and 3,230 women), out of which 2,882 (45,8%) are Gagauzians, 3,020 (48%) Bulgarians; 147 (2,3%) - Moldovans, 115 (1,82%) Russians, 79 (1,25%) Ukrainians, 7 (0,1%) Roma, and 43 (0,63%) others.² With a population of 6,293 people (3,230 women), Chirsova is one of a very few localities in Gagauzia where both Gagauzians and Bulgarians live together – the absolute majority of villages and towns in Gagauzia are mono-ethnic Gagauz. A rigid ethnic divide between these two main ethnic groups has kept over centuries. There was very limited communication between two groups, while inter-ethnic marriages used to be prohibited, though both groups exercise the same religion. Even the traditional Youth «khoros» gatherings were organized separately, and there were violent inter-ethnic fights. Currently, the ethnic divide is somewhat blurred, but still persists. Other ethnic groups represented are Moldovans, Russians, Roma, Ukrainians, Azeri, Armenians. The District Police Inspectorate confirmed quite high level of domestic violence incidence, though unreported due to fear and predominant patriarchal traditional culture. Only in 2017 the Police registered 7 family aggressors and opened 6 domestic violence cases.

the promising activities, and/or to replicate localized plans in other parts of the country. The municipal led VAW action plan will be shaped by existing local level data, experience of partners and through participatory planning processes. The plan will be informed by regional and global evidence of what works to prevent and respond to VAW.

The consultation processes to design the pilot will bring together UNDP, government and community actors including civil society, the private sector, and traditional leaders, etc. The process will also address, to the extent possible, groups with specific needs, including Roma population, among others.

Indicative activities include:

1. Designing a municipal level VAW action plan for prevention and response aligned with the national policies in Moldova in a participatory manner. This activity will include:
 - Organizing a participatory design process, getting stakeholders together to discuss and agree to strategies and activities of the action plan, using innovative tools and design-thinking methods;
 - Updating the assessment on situation of survivors of VAW, providing recommendations on their protection, rehabilitation and reintegration;
 - Planning for the enforcement of service provision for VAW survivors: strengthening systems of service provision – health services, shelters, legal and psychological counselling;
2. In cooperation with local partners, and in line with national policies and the local action plan, develop and pilot local response and referral mechanisms:
 - Mapping and review of capacities and tools to improve local governance of VAW issues, coordinate, design and apply models for local level inter-institutional coordination/collaboration mechanisms to prevent VAW;
 - Develop sectoral referral mechanisms including standard operating procedures (SOPs) for community police, local governments and local social service providers for cases of VAW, describing the roles of each and ensuring a coordinated and a joined-up approach;
 - Apply and formalize the introduced referral/response mechanisms.
3. Apply UNDP's SDG localization tools, public expenditure review tools and functional assignment processes and other tools/processes in the pilot site;
4. Implement, evaluate and cost the respective referral mechanism and local action plan to support replication and scale up;
5. Explore the possibility to implement specific activities for various groups (e.g. Roma community, including guidance to Roma community mediators to address and respond to cases of VAW);

Component 2: Advocacy for implementation of policies and laws on VAW in Moldova

Based on the learning, costing and evaluation results from Component 1, and in partnership with local civil society and government counterparts, this component will **tentatively** include:

1. Advocacy for the ratification of Istanbul Convention and alignment of national policy framework;
2. Advocacy for design, implementation and monitoring mechanism of the Law on Domestic Violence;
3. Advocacy for the scale up and adaptation of local action plans at the national level on VAW including:
4. Promote the uptake of methodologies and protocols for the investigation of VAW by police and prosecutors and guidance to judges;
5. Promote the establishing of effective mechanisms for the implementation of emergency protection orders at the national level;
6. Strengthening the State Legal Aid system to provide timely and quality legal support to the victims;
7. Actions for the primary prevention of violence against women

The project will maximize the available resources from the Global Project and reduce operational and implementation costs by: a) linking activities with ongoing projects which have entry points with national and local authorities and institutions, and CSO networks, b) investing the funds in areas where UNDP is also putting financial and human resources, and c) by using extensive multi-stakeholder platforms at local and national levels to leverage the lessons and outcomes of the pilot.

Which of the following describes the pilot's **primary** approach (check only 1):

- Leave no one behind (pilots in specific locales of high prevalence of GBV, and/or which prioritize highly vulnerable groups)
- Integration of GBV prevention and response into large-scale sectoral programme (if yes, please name the programme here and attach relevant documents: Project Document, Annual Work Plan, etc.)
- Planning and paying for localized GBV action plans**

If applicable, describe synergies with other UNDP projects or initiatives and/or proposed partnerships with sister UN organisations.

The initiative will **synergize with other development initiatives** implemented by UNDP at the local level, such as the [SARD project](#), [MiDL project](#), as well as other UN Agencies (UN Women, UNFPA, UNICEF) and development partners, to further explore intersections of reducing VAW and achieving the SDGs.

What are the main risks associated with this pilot and what mitigating measures will you take to reduce these risks?

Risk: Lack of will at the local/regional level to support project activities. Mitigation strategy – clear commitment from all stakeholders involved was secured from the start of the pilot implementation; stakeholders are involved in the National Working Group and in all stages of implementation to ensure ownership.

Risk: Low local capacities for delivery and financial operations. The pilot will address these risks by providing on-going training, coaching and mentoring to local stakeholders and sub-contracted organizations, if the case.

Risk: Lack of capacity and expertise of local authorities in developing partnerships and developing services. The pilot will use best practices, techniques and expertise to show tangible results and sustainable impact and will work on identifying and strengthening synergies with other interventions.

Risk: Delays in pilot implementation due to local elections in 2019. Clear commitment will be sought from all stakeholders involved from the start of the programme implementation; as activities will seek to involve the whole community, the outcomes of the election should not pose high risks with regards to their implementation

How will the pilot team ensure buy-in from local and/or national government partners?

- This pilot is integrated into a UNDP-funded project which has a government endorsed Project Document
- The local or national government is informed and has endorsed through a channel other than a Project Document
- Other strategy (please detail)

3. Staffing and Technical Needs:

Please indicate the following for all staff that will work on the project: title, name (if already known), percentage of time devoted to the project and timeline for recruitment (if applicable). It is advised that all pilots have a project coordinator based in the pilot site and management support within the UNDP CO.

The pilot would to employ a full-time **Project Coordinator**, who will be based or travel frequently to the community (SB 4.2). The Coordinator will be recruited through open competition in April 2018. The Coordinator will: 1) oversee day to day operations and implementation; 2) contribute to monitoring reports; 3) convene and serve as secretariat to the national working group, and; 4) serve as a liaison between external technical advisors and national partners.

Additionally, the Coordinator would be supported by a project associate from another intervention focused on the local level (30%, SB 3.3.). Quality assurance, strategic support, and guidance will be provided from within the UNDP Moldova Country Office (Victor Dragutan, Programme Analyst, Inclusive Growth Cluster, NOB, 10% time allocation, and Elena Darii, Programme Associate, G7, 10% time allocation). Individual consultants, national or international, would be recruited upon need, in implementing the specific project activities. This team, consisting of external VAW advisors/researchers will support the pilot design of a localized coordinated action plan based on global and regional good practice, and research support to cost and measure the impact of the pilot. A partnership with the CSOs Coalition “Life Free of Violence” will be established for additional expert support and advocacy activities as needed. The technical advisors, along with a global communications and advocacy consultant, will also support the production of advocacy strategies and materials with national partners.

What kind of support is expected from the global pool of GBV experts, researchers and project staff?

It is expected the technical team from the global project will provide support for participatory planning process, as needed, and recommendations for the overall design of the local plan combining appropriate prevention and response activities. The technical team will lead the monitoring, evaluation and costing of the pilot. And support will be required for researching scale up and financing options for additional action plans.

Communications and advocacy support will be requested for developing the set of materials and advocacy strategy for the replication/scaling up of the model at national/international level, as well as providing communications support.

It is also expected the project team in New York will provide timely disbursement of funds and support for reporting requirements.

4. Budget Information:

Please complete the table below, bearing in mind the following instructions:

- Add rows for activities as you see fit
- The 3-year total cannot exceed \$400K

Output 1: Approaches for reducing GBV using evidence are documented, tested and integrated in selected country initiatives

Activities	Requested Budget		
	Y1	Y2	Y3

Component 1: A local adaptation of the National Strategy on Prevention and Combatting of Violence Against Women in Family 2017-2022 is piloted in the community of Chirsova, Comrat district	30000	120000	60000
Component 2: Advocacy for implementation of policies and laws on VAW in Moldova	10000	20000	20000
<i>Subtotal Activities</i>	<i>40000</i>	<i>140000</i>	<i>80000</i>
Project Coordinator SB4.2 (100%)	24544	24544	24544
Project Associate SB3.3 (30%)	5362	5362	5362
Programme Analyst NOB (10%)	4496	4496	4496
Programme Associate G7 (10%)	2927	2927	2927
<i>Subtotal Human Resources</i>	<i>37329</i>	<i>37329</i>	<i>37329</i>
Travel	3833	3833	3833
Office rent	2400	2400	2400
Other costs (office supplies, tel/internet, maintenance, translation, visibility, etc.)	2800	2800	2800
<i>Subtotal office cost and other costs</i>	<i>5200</i>	<i>5200</i>	<i>5200</i>
Annual Totals:	86363	186363	126363
PROJECT TOTAL:	399,088		
Please list any additional funding or cost-sharing sources:			