



# **From Drought to Prosperity through Community Development**



United Nations  

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MOLDOVA

**The Contribution of the United Nations and International  
Community to Drought Response in Moldova**

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## *Preface*

# **UN Project “Relief and Technical Assistance Response to the Drought in Moldova”**

The 2007 summer drought severely compromised the harvest in over 80 per cent of Republic of Moldova’s agricultural lands. Thus, the financial and food security of a great number of agricultural producers, families living in rural areas, and especially socially vulnerable citizens, was severely affected.

The Prime Minister of the Republic of Moldova addressed the UN Secretary General about the need for assistance in overcoming the drought, and the United Nations (UN) responded promptly by launching the “Relief and Technical Assistance Response to the Drought in Moldova” project in the fall of 2007.

Through this project, until May 2008, over 383,000 drought victims received wheat seeds, fertilizers, diesel fuel, fodder, corn seeds, and food packs. Also through this project, 22 villages in districts that were severely affected by drought received cash assistance to carry out public works to rehabilitate various facilities in these communities.

The projects implemented in those 22 villages helped about 47,000 residents. Notable results were achieved, including:

- Construction of central water supply systems with a total length of 5.770 metres
- Capital repairs of sewage systems with a total length of 2.135 metres
- Rehabilitation of 12 public springs and wells
- Construction of local roads with a total length of 18.6 kilometres
- Construction and/or renovation of 14 footbridges over brooks
- Sanitation in villages and destruction of unauthorised dumpsites on a total area of 65 hectares
- Land development and landscaping works on a total area of 10 hectares
- Planting of about 13.200 trees
- Repairs of thermal and electric energy distribution systems with a total length of 1,430 metres
- Repairs of 23 public buildings: 16 schools and kindergartens, 6 cultural houses, 1 mayor’s office.

6 million MDL were budgeted for the projects, of which 2 million MDL were contributed by local governments in the form of building materials, seedlings, etc.

About 2,000 citizens were involved in and benefited directly from the project, and over 42,000 residents from these villages benefited from these community initiatives.

The works carried out within the project were financially supported by the European Commission through its Directorate General for Humanitarian Aid (ECHO), Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA), Austrian Development Cooperation Agency (ADA), Ministry of Rural Development of Austria, Governments of Netherlands, Norway, Italy and Finland, Austrian Ministry of Agriculture, Forests, Environment and Water Management, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), and Soros Foundation Moldova.

The UN Project “Relief and Technical Assistance Response to the Drought in Moldova” was managed by the UNDP Moldova in partnership with FAO, UNFPA, UNICEF, other UN agencies, the Government of the Republic of Moldova, as well as the NGO sector and local public authorities that were implementing partners within this project.

# New trees will bloom each spring in Capaclia

*Everyone knows that the sanitary situation in villages leaves much to be desired. However, in recent years, this attitude has changed. And although reality did not change dramatically, some progress has been made in this area. Capaclia commune is a successful example of improved sanitation.*



CAPACLIA commune (village),  
CANTEMIR rayon (district)  
2,141 residents

Project title: **“Rehabilitation of sewerage system of social facilities from Capaclia village”**

Implementation period:

January 14 – March 19, 2008

Project cost – 123,836 MDL

Community’s contribution with local materials – 28,690 MDL

Number of people who received remuneration: 73 village residents

In Capaclia, among many other public works carried out under the UN Project “Relief and Technical Assistance Response to the Drought in Moldova”, the central sewage system of the kindergarten and the school was repaired.

As part of the same project, the area around the stadium was rehabilitated. For young villagers, this was a long-anticipated project. 1,325 metres of trenches alongside the central road were cleaned and renovated and 37 footbridges over the village brook were installed. A remarkable success of this initiative was the elimination of an unauthorised dumpsite from the village centre.

The planting of over 700 trees was a crowning touch of the project in Capaclia. The trees topped with flowers are another reminder about local

achievements. This will happen each spring from now on. These works prove that people’s concern for their environment are central to the community agenda.

Dumitru Butuc, the Mayor of Capaclia, stated, “Thanks to this project, resources were mobilized to clean the village from waste, mud, and residuals. And it is very important that aside from this benefit, people had an opportunity to earn some money, since last year’s drought turned many people’s lives into severe poverty.”

CASUNCA village,  
FLORESTI rayon (district)  
1996 residents

Project title: “Public works carried out by the residents of Casunca village”

Implementation period:

January 27 – March 11, 2008

Project cost – 250,270 MDL

Community’s contribution with local materials – 37,598 MDL

Number of people who received remuneration: 127 village residents



## Solid stone sign is symbol of progress in Casunca

*Months ago, if you were entering Casunca, Floresti, you could hardly tell which village you were in if you didn't stop and ask a villager. Years ago, someone stole the sign at the community's entrance that said, Casunca. Today, there is a splendid new sign, carved in stone, with big letters "Casunca" at the village entrance. This is a good, durable, and encouraging sign.*

The new sign was but one of the visible elements of the total changes that occurred in Casunca due to the “Relief and Technical Assistance Response to the Drought in Moldova” Project. In less than two months, the villagers eliminated three unauthorised dumpsites on an area of four hectares and arranged a special place for waste collection. Four road sections with a total length of two kilometres were repaired. Also, the water supply and sewage system in the kindergarten were repaired and a half-kilometre of central water supply pipe was installed. The village graveyard changed its appearance, after being carefully cleaned up by the residents. And the list of completed works in Casunca remains open for other community development projects.

“I haven't planted so many trees in my lifetime, as I have planted these days,” observed Vasile Strisca, a Casunca resident. He took a breath, and

then continued, “But I enjoyed working, and our village will be much greener in summer than ever before.” Those 3,500 trees planted here will give the village clean air, and a renewed appearance.

Over 37,000 MDL were budgeted for this initiative by the Mayor's office for the procurement of various materials required for works. “But the most important,” said Mayor Eleonora Ciupac, “is that people who were involved in all these works were supported by the project, and some received 1,000 MDL, others – 2,000 MDL, depending on how much they worked. Thank you very much!”

***The road from the village Climautii de Jos, Soldanesti, was in a deplorable condition because of lack of funds. In some parts, the holes were so big that drivers used to get out of their cars to see whether it is better to try to go over them or turn around. Turning around is a sign of bad luck, as local people say, and everyone wants to go forward.***

At the time when the village was included in the UN Project “Relief and Technical Assistance Response to the Drought in Moldova”, the Mayor’s office listed the road repairs as a top priority among works needed for the community. Today, the road is covered with gravel. The villagers’ hearts were filling in with optimism while the trucks filled in the road with gravel. At the same time, two rain water discharge channels were dug. In addition, in Climautii de Jos, the driveways to the villager’s land plots, with a total length of over three kilometres, were fixed.

Also, as part of the community development project, other major works were carried out, including development of land around the cultural house, construction of a stone fence with wire mesh, planting of 400 trees, rehabilitation of two wells and the cleaning of one spring.

Another notable achievement was the elimination of unauthorised dumpsites which occupied several hectares close to the village. Now, the former dumpsite is a place where field flowers grow and sheep graze.

The Cot village, which is part of the Climautii de Jos commune, was also assisted. The central street of this village was provided with lights. “Well done,” smiled Nina Maciuca, a resident of Cot village. “In the past, we walked blindly because of darkness – not a single trace of light, except the lights from people’s windows. Now, although it is not like Las Vegas, there is light and it is good. Thanks to Mayor Sergiu Melnic and the project that provided funds!”

## A good road keeps **Climautii de Jos** moving forward



**CLIMAUTII DE JOS** commune,  
**SOLDANESTI** rayon (district)  
1,539 residents

Project title: “**Repairs and development works in Climautii de Jos village**”

Implementation period:

January 15 – March 23, 2008

Project cost – 259,215 MDL

Community’s contribution with local materials – 53,727 MDL

Number of people who received remuneration: 116 village residents

# Cocieri villagers clear the way for community development

**COCIERI** village, DUBASARI rayon (district)  
4,300 residents

Project title: **“Sanitation and development of Cocieri village”**

Implementation period:

January 7 – March 12, 2008

Project cost: 236,038 MDL

Community’s contribution with local materials:  
30,600 MDL

Number of people who received remuneration: 85  
village residents



*In Cocieri, Dubasari, tree planting is more than an activity that begins on the morning of Greening Day and ends in the evening. It is ongoing, and vital. Tree planting is associated with community involvement, concern for people and the environment, and is an important component in helping to prevent future drought.*

A new community spirit, fueled by young and old alike, helped overall-wearing residents accomplish great things in Cocieri. 1,000 trees were planted and fenced carefully by residents, a dumpsite was eradicated, and bumpy roads were finally paved with gravel.

Everything looked different in Cocieri once six hectares of illegal dumpsites were eliminated. The land, formerly clogged with paper and plastic bottles, could now breathe with ease. Despite the day’s hard work, Cocieri residents looked much happier. Even the clear sky reflected the villagers’ happiness, encouraging other communities to mobilize for the common good.

To head off future spontaneous dumpsites, residents organized a smaller authorized site for waste disposal. The only papers that can be seen now at the site of the old dumpsite in Cocieri are papers used

by local leaders who are sketching out plans for the future.

The residents also cleared the way for other community development projects by paving 1,210 meters of the village road with gravel.

“Mobilization of the 22 communities, including Cocieri, was valuable and beneficial for everyone,” said Alexandru Ursul, Manager of Community Development component of the Integrated Local Development Programme/ UNDP Moldova. “The success of the initiatives was primarily due to the involvement of some major local resources, supported by the external ones. Without the unity of the community, without people’s energy, without the contribution of external partners, no progress could be achieved. Now, these villages may inspire other communities through their example.”





CONSTANTINOVCA village,  
EDINET rayon (district)  
602 residents

Project title: “Repairs of the village road  
and social facilities”

Implementation period:

January 19 – March 26, 2008

Project cost: 254,384 MDL

Community’s contribution with local materials: 44,223 MDL

Number of people who received remuneration: 84 village residents

## Roads, kindergarten rehabilitated in Constantinovca

*The roads used to be white only when it snowed in Constantinovca. Now the road is always white, although no one will slide on it. Its 600 metres were covered with gravel from a local quarry. Some call this change a fairy tale; others, just a project.*

Thanks to this community development initiative, a number of village institutions changed their appearance for the better, and are thus better able to meet their social mission.

Now, the dreams of children from the kindergarten “Raduga” are much more likely to be colourful. That’s because the walls and ceilings of the kindergarten were painted, and its lighting system re-vamped. The school also has an upgraded electrical system. The gymnasium where kids burn off their energy is now in good condition. It was renovated and cleaned thoroughly. So now the only object that may be thrown in the basket here is ... the ball.

In fact, in Constantinovca, Edinet, the improvement, the boosting of authority of the local government, and the recovery in confidence in the

power of the community began with small things. The flooring in the Mayor’s office was replaced, then the doors were replaced with modern and durable doors. The renewal continued with the reconstruction of the heating system and the painting of walls and ceilings.

In the village, the works were extended to sprucing up two graveyards which needed care as well. “The kindergarten, the school, the Mayor’s office – all of them underwent changes. And our villagers – both those who work here, and their visitors – little children, pupils or elderly – are proud of this,” said Mayor Ala Reaboi.

*Ironically, there is a gravel quarry near Corlateni village in the Riscani rayon, yet the roads of the community were deplorable because there was no equipment or labour available to fix them. Initiative and funds were lacking, and the weather was uncooperative. The state of the roads was going from bad to worse. Nobody knows how many more wheels and shocks and axles would have been broken. Then came the project “Relief and Technical Assistance Response to the Drought in Moldova”.*

The Mayor’s Office reacted immediately and submitted a project proposal with the request for funds for building local roads and improving sanitation in the village. As a result, six sections of village roads with total length of 2.5 kilometres were repaired. Gravel from the local quarry was used. To continue the project to its logical finish, rainwater drains were built by digging out 720 cubic metres of soil. Towards the end of the project, an unauthorized waste disposal site, occupying 1.2 hectares, was eliminated, a new footbridge was built, and seven older footbridges were repaired.

Children were involved in easier and less dangerous works, such as waste collection. Where strong physical force or use of equipment was needed, the adults worked. Aside from the repairs, then, the project fostered public participation and social cohesion.

Where there is mud, there is despair which can be easily read on children’s faces late in autumn, when the rainy season starts. On the other hand, improved roads are a sign of hope. In Corlateni, through local initiative and the support of foreign partners, the people’s confidence in the future has emerged alongside the recent improvements.

The Mayor of Corlateni, Victor Gordila, recalled that when he had found out that the village was eligible for the UN project, he immediately convened the local council to make a quick decision on necessary projects. “Then, I realized that there were no totally desperate situations and that the project was needed. The project gave us hope that, finally, difficult situations may be overcome,” noted the Mayor.

## In Corlateni, improved roads pave way to better life

**CORLATENI** village,  
**RISCANI** rayon (district)  
5,600 residents

Project title: “**Improvement of sanitation and building of local roads in Corlateni village**”

Implementation period:  
January 21 – March 10, 2008

Project cost: 272,943 MDL

Community’s contribution with local materials: 32,699 MDL

Number of people who received remuneration: 115 village residents



# Cotovscoe village appreciates international support

*Cotovscoe village, step to the winner's podium. If medals were being given out for the most effort expended during the UN Project "Relief and Technical Assistance Response to the Drought in Moldova", you would definitely qualify, especially in the "roads repaired" category.*



**COTOVSCOE** village,  
Gagauzia autonomous territorial unit  
981 residents

The Project "**Rehabilitation of the village and major repairs of roads in Cotovscoe**"

Implementation period:

January 20 – March 20, 2008

Project cost: 247,100 MDL.

Community's contribution with local materials: 41,600 MDL

Number of people who received remuneration: 125 village residents.

The outcomes speak for themselves: in Cotovscoe, 2.5 kilometres of roads were repaired by layering local gravel; 8 hectares (!) of unauthorized waste dumps were erased; 1,100 trees were planted in two parks on an area of nearly two hectares; two public wells were repaired, and the graveyard was tidied up.

Mud-slinging vehicles represent the past, and more modern roads, the future. Roads are crucial for a town's development. It is not mere poetry that "the road comes and goes across the crossroad, heated vehicles arrive, which are also thirsty..." (Aurel Ciocanu). Everywhere, roads convey to people a sense of security and hope.

Wells are also vital, convening a sense of purity and welfare.

Dedication was needed by village leaders and residents to organize works for the benefit of Cotovscoe community. The 125 villagers who contributed to the development project were pleased to be paid for their work. "It was for the first time that I have worked for the benefit of the village and have also got remuneration for it," said a grateful villager, Elena Izbas. "It was like a remunerated subotnik (traditional community work days when people don't get paid)," she noted.

"The drought of 2007 brought many of the village people close to poverty," observed the Mayor of Cotovscoe village, Gheorghe Palic. "However, the international community did not leave us alone in our predicament. We appreciate it."

CRASNOE village,  
GRIGORIOPOL rayon (district)  
295 residents

Project title: “**Reconstruction of potable water supply system**”.

Implementation period:

March 10 – June 15, 2008

Project cost: 188,350 MDL

Community’s contribution with local materials: 74,638 MDL

Number of people who will receive remuneration: 40 village residents



## Improved water pipeline keeps life flowing in **Crasnoe**

*The community development initiative implemented by villagers in Crasnoe seems to be technical, and can be expressed in cubic metres, in the power of a pump or in characteristics of electric power equipment. The most important statistic, one that is harder to measure, is how much the development project benefited the community.*

Anywhere in Moldova, water means life, and Crasnoe village is no exception. Water shortages or lack of potable water are not only inconvenient, but are hazardous to both hygiene and health. Lack of water is also a risk factor for poverty. Therefore, the number one priority in Crasnoe

was reconstruction of a 15 cubic meter capacity potable water tower, and the renovation of a water pipeline using 1.5 kilometres worth of polyethylene pipes. These public works were carried out by Crasnoe residents with the support of a number of national and international partners. This project’s goal was to mitigate the consequences of the summer 2007 drought.

In Crasnoe, the protection zone around the well was restored and electrical power equipment, including a transformer and an automated pump, were installed as part of the water supply project. Now, the water runs through a pipeline, and thus, life goes on.

“What was destroyed by time or indifference was restored by the people. In older times, everything depended on others. Now everything depends only on us,” observed Ion Ciolac, Vice Chairman of the Grigoriopol administration.



*Works needed for next winter should be done in the spring. If the kindergarten is warm, children have better chance to grow up healthy. These are the reasons why the residents of Dubova village, Dubasari, started building a heating unit for the village kindergarten during the first month of spring and put it into operation in May. The efforts of local leaders are part of a community development project, one of the largest in the recent history of this village of several hundred people, situated on the left bank of Nistru river.*

In Dubova, kindergartners and their teachers will now learn and work in warmth, thanks to a heating unit/heat generating equipment installed by a number of local and foreign partners. The rest of the villagers are benefiting from the construction of a 159 meter long gas pipeline. Both projects were a part of the UN Project “Relief and Technical Assistance Response to the Drought in Moldova”.

As in the other 22 villages that took part in this initiative, including six communities in Transnistria, local public authorities obtained all the necessary technical assistance, including expert advice on environmental, legal, economic and social issues. Those who were most affected by the drought of 2007 were beneficiaries of extensive public works.

Villagers from Dubova also spruced up the yard of the kindergarten so that their children can play and



grow safely. “Thus, the children grow, and so grows the community spirit and the community itself. We have now other, additional plans for the future,” said Mayor Maria Topor.

## **Dubova** gets jump on kindergarten rehab project



**DUBOVA** village,  
**DUBASARI** rayon (district)  
684 residents

Project title: “**Gas supply and rehabilitation of grounds of “Gvozdica” kindergarten**”

Implementation period:

March 10 – June 15, 2008

Project cost: 325,640 MDL

Community’s contribution with local materials: 102,208 MDL

Number of people who will receive remuneration: 55 village residents.

# Frunza villagers think, act in sustainable way

FRUNZA village, SLOBOZIA rayon (district)  
2,700 residents

Project title: “Capital reconstruction of potable water supply and sewerage systems of some buildings of Frunza village”

Implementation period:

March 10 – June 15, 2008

Project cost: 384,514 MDL

Community’s contribution with local materials:  
160,914 MDL

Number of people who will receive remuneration:  
85 village residents



*For people of Frunza village in the Slobozia rayon (district), “sustainable” means carrying out capital repairs, building solid buildings, and making lasting renovations. Frunza villagers think sustainability whether they’re talking about a water supply pipeline, or about their own lives. Using the resources provided by a community development project, local people mobilized themselves to renovate the water supply and sewerage systems, starting with water towers and ending in the basement of some residences.*

The public works to improve life in Frunza were supported by local, national, and international partners. Projects included repair of the sewage system in two basements of two residential blocks of apartments with 18 and 22 apartments in Andriasevca Noua village as well as renovation of a 40 meter long external water drainage channel. In addition, 10 meter high water towers in Prioziornoe and Novocotovsc will be reconstructed so that potable water can be available to residents.

“Spring means renewal. This spring, we carried out cleaning and repair works in the basement and have restored the systems for water supply and sewerage for the entertainment centre of the village,” said the Mayor of Frunza, Valentina Nedova. “We were lucky to have good weather and dedicated people.”





HILIUTI village, RISCANI rayon  
2,243 residents

Project title: “Nature’s health is our health”

Implementation period:  
January 7– February 27, 2008

Project cost: 237,196 MDL

Community’s contribution with local materials: 31,696 MDL

Number of people who received remuneration: 105 village residents

## A tree is planted for each resident of Hiliuti

*Hiliuti, Riscani, has gone green. Their recent project, “Nature’s health is our health”, included planting a tree for each resident of the village. Residents from Hiliuti engaged in the development of their own community during the first months of 2008 while demonstrating their understanding of the strong relationship between the environmental fitness and the health of members of the community.*

Residents planted 2,300 trees in Hiliuti and eliminated two unauthorised dumpsites on an area of 16 hectares. They also demolished a derelict warehouse. The garbage and seepage caused by harmful materials can be seen all over Moldova, and are pollution sources of agricultural lands that threaten people’s health. In Hiliuti, solving environmental problems is everyone’s priority.

“We do less separately. For good things to happen we need the participation of villagers – their work and understanding as well as external support, that of donors,” noted Mayor Valentin Sanduleac. “We think that the achieved results represent only the beginning. We shall go on to renew.”

This renewal can be seen in community institutions. Through the contribution of the local development project, the cultural house of Hiliuti has a new roof, the kindergarten has a new fireplace,

city hall has a new sidewalk, and the damaged building of the old kindergarten has been demolished. The left over building materials from these projects weren’t just dumped into an unauthorised dumpsite, as they were previously.

Other important projects were undertaken by Hiliuti villagers and their development partners. They repaired the levee of the lake at Reutelul Nou village and carried out repairs to the heating unit of the gymnasium. Thus, the UN project “Relief and Technical Assistance Response to the Drought in Moldova” benefited all residents of Hiliuti. The fireplace in the kindergarten is for younger children, while the bigger children will benefit from the renovation of the heating unit of the gymnasium and the roof of the cultural house, and everyone will benefit from newly planted trees and the elimination of illegal dumpsites.

*In Kuzmin village, Camenca, the community agenda includes key concepts seen in other parts of Moldova: rehabilitation, repair, and green areas. In Kuzmin, villagers put their own spin on these concepts. Where a garbage dump was, green grass now grows. In the graveyard, where there were a lot of weeds, it is clean and raked now. Gates were installed and the graveyard of the village was enclosed with a metal fence.*

What unites the residents of Kuzmin with those from other rural areas included in the UN's community development initiative is the fact that villagers weren't content to leave things as they were. They chose instead to act.

“At the entrance of our cultural house, which has two floors, we have repaired the stairs. We serviced the heating system of the school first of all in the gymnasium,” said Mayor Victor Melnic. 500 trees and bushes were also planted, which demonstrate how involved citizens can spur development in their own community.



## **Kuzmin** is a role model for other communities

**KUZMIN** village,  
CAMENCA rayon (district)  
870 residents

Project title: **“Repairs of the school heating system and village rehabilitation activities”**

Implementation period:

March 10 – June 15, 2008

Project cost: 232,544 MDL

Community's contribution with local materials: 34,198 MDL

Number of people who will receive remuneration: 73 village residents





# Public works benefit **Porumbesti's** young generation

***F**or many years the school canteen in Porumbesti village, Cantemir, was in an unenviable condition. The sewage system didn't work. The floors of the corridors were so worn by the shoes of Porumbesti's youngsters that bare spots began to appear. The reason for the problems? There was no money for renovation.*



**PORUMBESTI** village,  
**CANTEMIR** rayon  
1,646 residents

Project title: **“Renovation of social and cultural facilities in Porumbesti village”**

Implementation period:

January 7 – February 28, 2008

Project cost – 355,515 MDL

Community's contribution with materials – 151,950 MDL

Number of people who received remuneration: 91 village residents

The village's cultural house was in the same decrepit condition. One could break his or her legs on the stage, and the ceiling was ready to collapse on the actors and audience. And even the library in Porumbesti village presented a big danger for the lives of visitors and for its books: the floor was completely rotten, and could hardly support any weight.

The project “Relief and Technical Assistance Response to the Drought in Moldova” served as an incentive for the authorities and for the village residents to start doing something. Soon the canteen, the library floor, and the sewage system were fixed. The ceiling of the library and cultural house were boarded and the stage repaired. An exquisite fence was built to enclose the city hall and the grounds around the school and city hall were beautified.

“This project is a very useful one and it started at the moment when we needed a big help from the outside,” observed Tudor Munteanu, the Mayor of

Porumbesti. “By the help of this project we achieved two goals: the activities carried out were useful for the community, and people who worked were satisfied because they could bring their families some money.”



**RASCAIETI** village,  
**STEFAN VODA** rayon (district)  
3,878 residents

Project title: “**Renovation of social and cultural facilities in Rascaieti village**”

Implementation period:

January 7 – March 10, 2008

Project cost – 345,300 MDL

Community’s contribution with materials – 141,900 MDL

Number of people who received remuneration: 125 village residents



## Rascaieti villagers escape persistent flooding

*On April 22, 2008, residents of Rascaieti village celebrated the end of their public work project by inviting guests like mayors from neighbouring villages, district public authorities, representatives from the donor community, and mass-media to village.*

When it rained, the central road of the village became a big stream of water. Then, as part of the project, villagers cleaned 1800 metres of the road/stream of mud and garbage. The road became passable, and they even found that under the thick layer of mud the road was paved. Today, people’s houses are no longer flooded – the water makes its way down the village through the cleaned channel.

During the local development project, the graveyard of the village was policed and the fence around it was fixed. Father Danila, the priest of the “St. Mihail and Gavriil” church of Rascaieti, was very satisfied with the project. He told the village residents that “it would be great that we by ourselves bring contribution to the prosperity of our village, with own initiative and wish and not waiting for the others to clean our household.”

Other improvements include renovating six wells in the village, cleaning of five artesian wells,

installing two water tanks and painting two water towers, building two footbridges over the stream that flows through the village, and installing windows at the cultural house.

Parascovia Grosu, the Mayor of Rascaieti, noted that, “This project was as a spark setting our enthusiasm on fire. We found additional resources and people of Rascaieti became more confident in their own abilities, that they also can do something for their village, unconstrained by anybody, at their own wishes.”



*In order to draft a successful and useful project, the Salcia mayor's office identified a number of projects as part of the UN project. In one important project, villagers repaired 3.5 kilometers of road.*

Two footbridges over the stream flowing through the village were also built. This connected two neighbourhoods to the rest of the village. At the same time, a stream in the region of the central spring was cleaned of garbage and landscaped, and over 100 trees were planted on both sides of the stream. And the activities did not stop there.

As part of the same project, pasture land was cleaned of garbage and bushes. People flocked to these activities like it was a holiday, although they were not wearing suits. These activities served as an opportunity for the villagers to socialize and at the same time to earn some money for their families. Today, the pasture land looks clean and healthy, and people breathe the smell of flowers growing instead of the garbage that was once there. Resident of Salcia village Nina Ticmeister said, "Before, when passing near the pasture land, I was full of shame for my village: the whole area was covered with plastic bags, papers, glass and plastic bottles. No one was

available to mobilize people to clean, shoulder to shoulder, the field. We needed a person from outside to come and make us open our eyes and gather us to do this. I guess this was the first step that awakened our conscience of being careful and hard-working villagers."



## **Salcia's** pasture now looks clean and healthy



**SALCIA** village,  
SOLDANESTI rayon (district)  
1,050 residents

Project title: **"Rehabilitation of Salcia village and repairs of local roads"**

Implementation period:

January 25 – March 30, 2008

Project cost – 509,490 MDL

Community's contribution with local materials – 303,990 MDL

Number of people who received remuneration: 116 village residents

# Drought helps **Samurza** residents learn to value water

**SAMURZA** village, **CEALIC** commune, **TARACLIA** rayon (district)  
278 residents

Project title: “**Capital repairs of water supply system in Samurza village, Cealic commune**”

Implementation period:

January 28 – April 20, 2008

Project cost – 340,771 MDL

Community’s contribution with local materials – 46,800 MDL

Number of people who received remuneration: 96 village residents



*The small village of Samurza in the Cealic commune had reduced access to water. The water supply system was installed long ago, and it didn't seem as though there would be any opportunity to install a new one. Also, the few existing wells weren't enough to completely satisfy completely demands of the village's 78 households, most of which house elderly residents whose strengths are as modest as their incomes.*

„The Mayor of Cealic commune, Veaceslav Cambur, observed, “The drought last year made people learn to value water. That’s why, finding out that our village got on the list of UN project, residents and then city hall decided to submit the project for capital repairs of the water supply system in Samurza.” After it was accepted, the project was implemented in less than three months. On April 20, 2008, the new 3.1 kilometre water supply system in Samurza was inaugurated.

“It was difficult without water till now,” said Nina Cegodar, a beneficiary of the water supply system installation project. “I am not young and it is difficult to carry buckets of water from the well. Now I have running water in the yard.”

201 volunteers also planted trees in the village park. Work related to installing of pipes and connecting the water supply was performed by 96 villagers who were also the beneficiaries of the water supply system upgrade. Their work was remunerated from

the project grant. The remuneration was a partial compensation for losses suffered due to the summer 2007 drought.

Along with building the water supply system during the local development initiative, 300 trees were also planted in the village park.





**SCORTENI** village,  
**TELENESTI** rayon (district)  
2,843 residents

Project title: “**Environment improvement measures and repairs of bridge on the central road in Scorteni village**”

Implementation period:

January 7 – March 11, 2008

Project cost – 231,067 MDL

Community’s contribution with local materials – 30,800 MDL

Number of people who received remuneration: 104 village residents

## **Scorteni’s foresight, hard work help village escape flood**

***T**he 2008 spring rains validated the decision to repair the lake’s levee at Scorteni village, Telenesti. Certainly, floods didn’t seem possible after the drought of 2007. But if the levee wasn’t repaired, who knows how many households would have been flooded this year*

The project was performed with the financial support of the United Nations as part of its “Relief and Technical Assistance Response to the Drought in Moldova” project. More than 100 village residents were involved in these activities. The United Nations united into a joint effort all the residents of Scorteni village.

Besides the repairs on the levee, people worked hard and selflessly to clean 2.8 kilometres of road and two footbridges of mud and to clean 700 metres of stream bed. A channel for rainwater drainage in the Chetroasa neighbourhood was also built, and four unauthorised dumpsites which occupied an area of 3.2 hectares were eradicated. In this newly free space, villagers planted 3,850 trees.

Because people from the village scraped by last year without any income because of the drought, the money provided for work on the project was

indeed welcome. “People worked hard,” observed Mayor Daria Ureche. “Today, many people ask me whether a project like this is going to come as there are a lot of things to do in our village! I tell them, it’s enough, maybe now it is time we start doing something by ourselves, not just wait for others to come and support us doing things.”



***“If you are the sponsor, then may God bless you with good health! the Mayor of Slobozia, Anatol Zavalisca, said at the first meeting with Ignacio Artaza, Deputy Resident Representative of UNDP Moldova. People of the village are very satisfied!”***

Both people who were paid for their work and those benefiting from the results of these projects are satisfied. A series of useful projects for the community were performed. First, residents repaired 1.3 kilometres of the central road of the village. During one day of the work, you couldn't see anything because of the dust raised by the bulldozers.

Each resident of Slobozia, Stefan Voda, who worked as part of the project was paid 1.000-2.000 MDL, depending on the amount of work done. Zinaida Lascarati and Valentina Iurco participated in repairs of the playgrounds in the village kindergarten and painted the footbridge built over the local stream. “We are very satisfied they offered us work,” they said in unison. “We do not have a permanent job. We work more with the hoe on our fields. We earn our income by selling agricultural products grown in our gardens. As the last year's drought, we did not have anything to sell. It was very difficult...”

200 young trees were planted during the project, and the older trees were whitewashed. Let them grow healthy and protect our land and people from sun and drought.



## **Slobozia's Mayor: “The people of the village are very satisfied”**

**SLOBOZIA** village,  
**STEFAN VODA** rayon (district)  
4,023 residents

Project title: **“Capital repairs of the central road and playing pavilions of the kindergarten”**

Implementation period:

January 25 – May 15, 2008

Project cost – 230,032 MDL

Community's contribution with local materials – 79,801 MDL

Number of people who received remuneration: 60 village residents



# Warmth and comfort returns to Speia

*The efforts made and the impact achieved in the community development project in Speia village, Grigoropol rayon, are much more than one can simply presume from the bland name of the project, “Capital repairs of the heating system...”.*



**SPEIA** village,  
**GRIGORIOPOL** rayon (district)  
2,800 residents

Project title: **“Capital repairs of the external heating system of the cultural house”**

Implementation period:

March 10 – June 15, 2008

Project cost: 151,467 MDL

Community’s contribution with local materials: 41,578 MDL

Number of people who will receive remuneration: 55 village residents

210 metres is a lot of heating pipes. Yet, this is the length of the external heating system that was renovated by the residents of Speia village that will reach, without significant heat loss, the gym and city hall, bringing a long-anticipated level of comfort. The important thing here, of course, is not just pipes and BTU’s, but the impact on people.

So, let the people talk. “Prepare the sleigh in the summer and the cart in the winter. This is what a smart villager does. During the current spring, we repaired the heating system in order not to freeze in the winter,” said one participant in the project. “What will we do during winter? We will find something, because we have so many things to do ...”

Mayor Andrei Manoilov said, “It is extremely important that villagers take part in the repairs of the heating system. Thus, they are helped to earn some money and the works are done.”

The UN project “Relief and Technical Assistance Response to the Drought in Moldova” supported

Speia, like the other 21 localities in the country, to carry out activities for the benefit of the community and to help mitigate the effects of the summer, 2007 drought.



TRIFAUTI village,  
SOROCA rayon (district)  
1,026 residents

Project “Repairs of the social facilities in the village”

Implementation period:

January 7 – March 20, 2008

Project cost: 373,543 MDL

Community’s contribution with materials:  
168,425 MDL

Number of people who received remuneration: 80 village residents



## Trifauti villagers skillfully construct the future

*Brick by brick, carefully and skilfully, the qualified workers built two fireplaces in Trifauti, Soroca Rayon (district), one of them in the kindergarten and the other in the gymnasium. They built them to provide a better life and some warmth for their children and grandchildren. Being concerned with their children, they are building a future through a community development project called, “Repairs of the social facilities”.*

The only thing missing in the project title is the people of Trifauti village and their hard work, enthusiasm, efficiency, and precision. As a symbolic and practical way of opening up new opportunities, the project began by replacing 13 doors, five in the gymnasium and eight in the cultural house.

Now, the kindergartners nap snugly in their newly heated room. The children have a fireplace, the furniture is repaired, the windows have a new glazing, and the fence looks like a fence again. Pupils of the gymnasium have also some reasons to be joyful. The ceilings in six classrooms were fixed, the interior walls were finished and the doors and windows were painted. Gymnasium students won't have to sit in coats and hats in their classroom anymore. At the same time, the cultural house also experienced a big transformation. Villagers repaired the windows, roof, and the lighting system.

The changes that occurred in Trifauti village could be seen at daylight, too. During the UN initiative “Relief and Technical Assistance Response to the Drought in Moldova” the monument in the village and two wells were reconstructed. Here, like in other project locations, there are fewer monuments to carelessness and more examples of engaged people, responsible local authorities, and nongovernmental organisations that were able to organize, without the Government’s support, activities for the benefit of their community.

“Almost half of the project’s cost represented community’s contribution with different materials: stone, bricks, sand, dyes and tools. Of the same importance was the engagement of Trifauti people, together with the village council and Mayoralty,” Mayor Ivan Focsa said.



*The gravel would have remained in the quarry for a long time was it not for the villagers from Varancau and Slobozia-Cremene, Soroca rayon. But the villagers did want to improve their lives, so they gathered the gravel, and a few tractors, and went to work repairing several sections of road in their town.*

Villagers patched 836 metres of road in Varancau and 450 metres in Slobozia-Cremene as part of the community development project. It's easy to measure the effort in metres. But there is another dimension of the project. This dimension includes the satisfaction with the work they have done; deeper involvement by those who brought with them tractors, shovels, hoes and rakes; the practice of talking less about mud and doing something to climb out of the muck. Even though this is more difficult to measure, the village council of Varancau still gave it a name: integrated local development.

The same community effort, supported by the UN, included the rehabilitation and cleaning up of graveyards in Varancau, Slobozia-Cremene and Slobozia-Varancau villages, as well as eliminating unauthorized dumpsites on an area of four hectares. One hectare adjacent to the cultural house and family doctor's office was also cleaned up, and the roof of city hall was reconstructed.

This is how the residents demonstrated their respect for the past while looking optimistically toward the future: for the past, they rehabbed the graveyards, and for the future, they repaired the roads.

“What can I say? It was not easy, but now it is beautiful and people can see it,” noted Ion Levco, the Mayor of the village.



## **Varancau** rescues graveyards, rehabs roads



**VARANCAU** village,  
SOROCA rayon (district)  
3,973 residents

Project “**Sanitation of Varancau commune and repairs of roads**”

Implementation period:  
January 7 – March 27, 2008

Project cost: 274,691 MDL

Community's contribution with local materials and voluntary work: 74,853 MDL

Number of people who received remuneration: 113 village residents

# Vihvatinti projects changed people “from the inside”

VIHVATINTI village,  
RIBNITA rayon (district)  
1,260 residents

Project title: “Works for rehabilitation of  
Vihvatinti village”

Implementation period: March 10 – June  
15, 2008

Project cost: 256,167 MDL

Community’s contribution with local mate-  
rials: 33,540 MDL

Number of people who received remunera-  
tion: 88 village residents



*What are a footbridge and road? These are part of each locality in Moldova where there is a river or a gully. Almost every village has them. For the residents of Vihvatinti village, Ribnita rayon, the footbridge and road aren't just abstractions on rural living, they are important parts of everyday life. The newly repaired footbridge and road represent a reason to be proud and a place where they can take pictures to send to their relatives, or to submit for a community development grant.*

Residents of Vihvatinti can now also take pictures with a nice background of 675 trees and bushes they planted during a social mobilization project supported by UN project “Relief and Technical Assistance Response to the Drought in Moldova”. Villagers are waiting for the trees to grow bigger and develop. Like the trees, the community spirit begins to blossom here, too. The villagers’ community spirit was also evident as they rehabilitated areas adjacent to the cultural house, music school, and local market.

However, the project’s most successful activity was the repair of the school together with rehabilitation an area used for kindergarten. Thinking about the future, residents of Vihvatinti take care of their children’s present.

“You should know that, at a first glance, it doesn’t seem to be a big deal. We just did what we had to

do. However, with these activities accomplished and the new things that can be noticed, something changed inside the people. Now we want more, because we can do more,” said Ina Mamei, head deputy of the village administration.

With the footbridge rehabilitated by villagers, with the section of renovated road and areas planted with young trees, the residents of Vihvatinti changed for the better on the inside. They are rightfully proud of themselves. The village advances together “to a qualitatively new development stage,” observed Iurie Curca, a beneficiary of the project.

## Communities which received cash assistance within the UN Project “Relief and Technical Assistance Response to the Drought in Moldova”

| Community   | Project title   | Implementation period         | Project cost | Community's contribution with local materials | Number of people who received remuneration |
|---|---|-------------------------------|--------------|---|--|
| CAPACLIA commune (village), CANTEMIR rayon (district)<br>2,141 residents    | “Rehabilitation of sewerage system of social facilities from Capaclia village”                            | January 14 – March 19, 2008   | 123 836 MDL  | 28 690 MDL                                    | 73 village residents                       |
| CASUNCA village, FLORESTI rayon (district)<br>1,996 residents               | “Public works carried out by the residents of Casunca village”  | January 27 – March 11, 2008   | 250 270 MDL  | 37 598 MDL                                    | 127 village residents                      |
| CLIMAUTII DE JOS commune, SOLDANESTI rayon (district)<br>1,539 residents    | “Repairs and development works in Climautii de Jos village”   | January 15 – March 23, 2008   | 259 215 MDL  | 53 727 MDL                                    | 116 village residents                      |
| COCIERI village, DUBASARI rayon (district)<br>4,300 residents               | “Sanitation and development of Cocieri village”   | January 7 – March 12, 2008    | 236 038 MDL  | 30 600 MDL                                    | 85 village residents                       |
| CONSTANTINOVCA village, EDINET rayon (district)<br>602 residents            | “Repairs of the village road and social facilities”   | January 19 – March 26, 2008   | 254 384 MDL  | 44 223 MDL                                    | 84 village residents                       |
| CORLATENI village, RISCANI rayon (district)<br>5,600 residents              | “Improvement of sanitation and building of local roads in Corlateni village”                              | January 21 – March 10, 2008   | 272 943 MDL  | 32 699 MDL                                    | 115 village residents                      |
| COTOVSCOE village, Gagauzia autonomous territorial unit<br>981 residents    | “Rehabilitation of the village and major repairs of roads in Cotovscoe”                                   | January 20 – March 20, 2008   | 247 100 MDL  | 41 600 MDL                                    | 125 village residents                      |
| CRASNOE village, GRIGORIOPOL rayon (district)<br>295 residents              | “Reconstruction of potable water supply system”   | March 10 – June 15, 2008      | 188 350 MDL  | 74 638 MDL                                    | 40 village residents                       |
| DUBOVA village, DUBASARI rayon (district)<br>684 residents                  | “Gas supply and rehabilitation of grounds of “Gvozдика” kindergarten”                                     | March 10 – June 15, 2008      | 325 640 MDL  | 102 208 MDL                                   | 55 village residents                       |
| FRUNZA village, SLOBOZIA rayon (district)<br>2,700 residents                | “Capital reconstruction of potable water supply and sewerage systems of some buildings of Frunza village” | March 10 – June 15, 2008      | 384 514 MDL  | 160 914 MDL                                   | 85 village residents                       |
| HILIUTI village, RISCANI rayon (district)<br>2,243 residents                | “Nature's health is our health”   | January 7 – February 27, 2008 | 237 196 MDL  | 31 696 MDL                                    | 105 village residents                      |
| KUZMIN village, CAMENCA rayon (district)<br>870 residents                   | “Repairs of the school heating system and village rehabilitation activities”                              | March 10 – June 15, 2008      | 232 544 MDL  | 34 198 MDL                                    | 73 village residents                       |
| PORUMBESTI village, CANTEMIR rayon (district)<br>1,646 residents            | “Renovation of social and cultural facilities in Porumbesti village”                                      | January 7 – February 28, 2008 | 355 515 MDL  | 151 950 MDL                                   | 91 village residents                       |
| RASCAIETI village, STEFAN VODA rayon (district)<br>3,878 residents          | “Renovation of social and cultural facilities in Rascaieti village”                                       | January 7 – March 10, 2008    | 345 300 MDL  | 141 900 MDL                                   | 125 village residents                      |
| SALCIA village, SOLDANESTI rayon (district)<br>1,050 residents              | “Rehabilitation of Salcia village and repairs of local roads”   | January 25 – March 30, 2008   | 509 490 MDL  | 303 990 MDL                                   | 116 village residents                      |
| SAMURZA village, CEALIC commune, TARACLIA rayon (district)<br>278 residents | “Capital repairs of water supply system in Samurza village, Cealic commune”                               | January 28 – April 20, 2008   | 340 771 MDL  | 46 800 MDL                                    | 96 village residents                       |
| SCORTENI village, TELENESTI rayon (district)<br>2,843 residents             | “Environment improvement measures and repairs of bridge on the central road in Scorteni village”          | January 7 – March 11, 2008    | 231 067 MDL  | 30 800 MDL                                    | 104 village residents                      |
| SLOBOZIA village, STEFAN VODA rayon (district)<br>4,023 residents           | “Capital repairs of the central road and playing pavilions of the kindergarten”                           | January 25 – May 15, 2008     | 230 032 MDL  | 79 801 MDL                                    | 60 village residents                       |
| SPELA village, GRIGORIOPOL rayon (district)<br>2,800 residents              | “Capital repairs of the external heating system of the cultural house”                                    | March 10 – June 15, 2008      | 151 467 MDL  | 41 578 MDL                                    | 55 village residents                       |
| TRIFAUTI village, SOROCA rayon (district)<br>1,026 residents                | “Repairs of the social facilities in the village”   | January 7 – March 20, 2008    | 373 543 MDL  | 168 425 MDL                                   | 80 village residents                       |
| VARANCAU village, SOROCA rayon (district)<br>3,973 residents                | “Sanitation of Varancau commune and repairs of roads”   | January 7 – March 27, 2008    | 274 691 MDL  | 74 853 MDL                                    | 113 village residents                      |
| VIHVATINTI village, RIBNITA rayon (district)<br>1,260 residents             | “Works for rehabilitation of Vihvatinti village”  | March 10 – June 15, 2008      | 256 167 MDL  | 33 540 MDL                                    | 88 village residents                       |



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