



THE
MOLDOVA
PROJECT

CULTIVATING EMPOWERMENT



ANNUAL REPORT
2023



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THE
MOLDOVA
PROJECT



ABOUT US

The Moldova Project is the organization that for 15 years has been providing multidimensional assistance to families in need, with the aim of protecting children and creating conditions conducive to a harmonious development. The mission of The Moldova Project is to prevent and counteract situations of risk for children, to help vulnerable families in the villages of the Republic of Moldova by identifying long-term solutions to the problems they face, so that they can build a safer and more independent life. We offer a wide range of services and products to each beneficiary family on a monthly basis, working closely with local and central public authorities, external and internal partners. The Organization's interventions are tailored to the needs of each family, and include: professional psychological and legal support, comprehensive and consistent material help, non-formal education services, training for parents, assistance in accessing free quality medical services, improvement of living conditions, art and play therapy activities, donations. Our interventions aim to empower all vulnerable family members, motivate and stimulate self-awareness and empowerment.





ABOUT US

Every year we increase the quantity and quality of our support services for vulnerable families with children, and since the outbreak of war in Ukraine our support program has been expanded to cover five placement centers for refugees from Ukraine.

The Moldova Project is a trusted partner of the State and international organizations operating in the Republic of Moldova in the fight against poverty, discrimination, domestic violence, mental health problems and other phenomena with a major destructive impact on children and society in general.

Our policies and the projects we develop contribute to combating the consequences of natural and social phenomena such as drought, war, pandemics, human trafficking and illegal migration.

24

FAMILIES SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED THE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM



26

NEW FAMILIES INCLUDED IN THE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

MORE THAN

120

RURAL FAMILIES RECEIVED MULTIDISCIPLINARY ASSISTANCE



OVER

500

CHILDREN



MORE THAN

3000

REFUGEE BENEFICIARIES RECEIVED MULTIDISCIPLINARY SUPPORT

OVER

50K



KM COVERED BY MOBILE TEAMS



37

LOCATIONS WHERE ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN, TEENAGERS AND ADULTS WERE REGULARLY CARRIED OUT

APPROX.



75%

CHILDREN



THE MOLDOVA PROJECT



ABOUT 2023

THE 15 YEARS OF ACTIVITY HAVE BEEN MARKED BY INCREASING THE NUMBER OF DIRECT AND INDIRECT BENEFICIARIES, DIVERSIFYING THE ASSISTANCE SERVICES OFFERED BY OUR TEAM, PROMOTING THE ASSOCIATION LOCALLY AND INTERNATIONALLY.



ABOUT 2023



The war in Ukraine and rising prices have maintained high levels of vulnerability in the country and have been more acute in rural areas. In 2023 we continued all the traditional projects of our organization directed to socially vulnerable families in 37 villages, 5 districts of the Republic of Moldova: Calarasi, Criuleni, Cimislia, Hincesti, Anenii Noi, mun. Chisinau and Transnistria region (donations for refugee families).

For the benefit of local people and refugees from Ukraine, accommodated in temporary placement centres, we offered a wide range of services, such as: group and individual psychological counselling, legal assistance, vouchers for medicines, hygiene packs, food packs, backpacks and school supplies, firewood and other material goods; socio-educational and recreational activities for children, creative workshops for children and adults, art therapy, trainings on various topics: bullying and juvenile delinquency prevention, financial education, digital education and online safety, reproductive health.

Education has been strongly supported quantitatively and qualitatively in our programme of work. We have organised dozens of training events for children and teenagers in all the districts where we operate and in a placement institution in Chisinau.

In September, we were happy to have with us, in our office in Chisinau, all the beneficiaries who graduated 9th grade in their home village. Under the guidance of our specialists, the teenagers pursued their studies in vocational schools in the capital or in other cities. This is an important achievement in our fight against the low level of schooling among vulnerable families.



ABOUT 2023

In 2023, we expanded our network of playrooms in the villages of Sipoteni, Calarasi district and in the village of Jevreni, Criuleni district. The 15 play and reading rooms, located in different localities of the country, as well as in the Temporary Placement Centers for refugees from Ukraine, provided socio-educational services for thousands of children from Moldova and Ukraine. Each playroom was equipped with games, toys and books specific to different age groups and interests.

Education was also supported by the opening of IT Labs or computer rooms, where Ukrainian refugee children can benefit from the possibilities of new technologies and develop digital skills.

During the activities organized by the psychologist, we have noted the increased interest of refugees from Ukraine, as well as women from our villages, for discussions about child and adolescent psychology, how to build a harmonious relationship with their own child.

The mental health and psycho-emotional well-being of beneficiaries has been the focus of research, analysis and the reason for a number of targeted measures in 2023. We have strengthened our and our partners' efforts to provide children and their parents with positive experiences, quality recreational and educational activities. Children from disadvantaged families and refugees from Ukraine were able to enjoy movies at the cinema, have fun in recreation centers, at the aquapark, in animation shows organized regularly in the locality, visited the menagerie and the circus in Chisinau. Both adults and children took part in creative workshops for recreational purposes, which were regularly organized in several localities of the country.

Beyond material, informational and psycho-emotional help, women who have fled the horror of war need security, including financial security. To support financial independence, develop women's entrepreneurial skills and stimulate interest in business, we have implemented the "Women with Vision - Strong Women, Leaders in the Community" project. In collaboration with several partners, we implemented this comprehensive project to inform and empower Ukrainian refugee women and local women who wanted to develop businesses in the Republic of Moldova. 122 women obtained a certificate in business start-up and 21 finalists presented business plans in various fields (education, beauty, textile industry, bakery, etc.) and received a grant of 4 or 5 thousand dollars each.

Our efforts in empowering and rehabilitating vulnerable families in Moldova have been supported by local and international partners, our community of Patrons, supporters and donors, as well as volunteers from Moldova and abroad.



ABOUT 2023





THE
MOLDOVA
PROJECT



IN 2023

OUR ASSISTANCE
PROGRAM REACHED:



135
RURAL FAMILIES

OVER
1000
CHILDREN

OVER
800
REFUGEE FAMILIES
FROM UKRAINE

APPROX.
1600
CHILDREN

6
DISTRICTS OF
MOLDOVA

37
VILLAGES

15
PLAYROOMS

7
REFUGEE
PLACEMENT CENTERS

6
PLACEMENT CENTERS
FOR CHILDREN



OBJECTIVES ACHIEVED:

Refugee
CHILDREN & CAREGIVERS
from Ukraine
socially integrated




Free socio-educational and recreational opportunities organized for local and refugee **CHILDREN**

CHILDREN

from disadvantaged families protected from possible risks (hunger, cold, disease, parental neglect, abuse)




CHILDREN & TEENS
trained in areas such as bullying and juvenile delinquency, financial education, digital literacy and online safety, reproductive health

Training courses for our team of **EXPERTS** in the fields of child protection, specialized social assistance, psychology, education, etc., according to international standards



WOMEN
from Ukraine and Moldova skilled in the field of business



Prevention and treatment of alcohol addiction among **CAREGIVERS**



Assistance for **TEENS** in distress

CĂLĂRAȘI

Călărași
Sipoteni
Sadova
Tuzara
Pitușca

Orhei

CRIOLENI

Mașcăuți
Răculești
Jevreni
Dubăsari
Criuleni
Dubăsarii Vechi

Interventions for local families

Interventions for refugees from Ukraine

Secăreni & Secărenii Noi
Noi
Ciuciuleni

Chișinău

Mălăieștii Noi

Bălăbănești

Cornești

Bobeica

Bălțata

Cimișeni

ANENII NOI

Lăpușna

Anini

Logănești

Chetrosu

Todirești

Ciobanovca

Tiraspol

HÎNCEȘTI

Lăpușna

Anini

Hîncești

Geamăna

Bender

Sărata Galbenă

Bozieni

Gura Galbenei

Ialpușca

Hîrtop

Grădiște

CIMIȘLIA

Cimișlia

Bogdanovca Veche

MOLDOVA



ON THE MAP

VICTORIA MOROZOV



FOUNDER, PRESIDENT

“The Moldova Project” Non-Profit Organization



All the projects implemented by The Moldova Project have registered a natural continuity in 2023, and the consistent, systemic, and thorough approach to each stage of implementation has driven the progress. Our team became better, bigger, and more active. We have managed resources and support services for over 1000 children in 37 villages across Moldova. The fact that year after year more and more doors and hearts are being opened wide to us shows our professional growth and the efficient use of our resources. Collaboration with international organizations in areas such as children's rights, safeguarding policies, diversification of support services, refugee crisis management, analysis of collected data and many others, have allowed us to adopt valuable practices successfully applied by the largest humanitarian organizations in the world.

Every day our team is there for the children and their parents, thinking about how to make their lives better materially, educationally, and psycho-emotionally. Our mobile teams have traveled tens of thousands of kilometers on their way to beneficiary families in villages or temporary placement centers for refugees from Ukraine. We have come up with a prompt response to the vulnerable situation in which different groups find themselves, and the secret of our effectiveness lies in the quality and complexity of the intervention plan: psychological and legal counselling, recreational and educational activities, IT labs, monthly donations of food and hygiene products, free medical services, donations of livestock and more. I am very grateful to all those who gave us a helping hand when we were looking for funding to achieve our proposed goals. I am grateful to our international partners, local economic agents, donors, our Patreon community and all those who volunteered with our organization for their generosity, hard work and dedication, and for the unconditional love they give to vulnerable children.



OLGA PÎNZARI

PROGRAM MANAGER

"Health Education"

UN Population Fund



DENIS VALAC

PROJECT COORDINATOR

Women's Peace &

Humanitarian Fund



**UNITED NATIONS
MOLDOVA**



Through working with The Moldova Project, we have discovered a motivated, dedicated and professional team that puts a lot of heart into providing support to vulnerable families in Moldova. Through their efforts, young people in several rural communities have benefited from comprehensive reproductive and sexual health education programs. We are confident that these programs will help young people make more informed and responsible decisions about their own lives and health.



At the beginning of Russia's war against Ukraine in 2022 and the subsequent refugee crisis in Moldova, UN WOMEN played a key role in ensuring gender equality in refugee aid and in efforts to ensure that local women's organisations are involved and play a key role in the crisis response. The Moldova Project has been among UN Women and WPHF's most important partners, providing support for economic recovery and resilience, encouraging female entrepreneurship by enhancing the skills of refugee women as well as funding and monitoring business ideas. The project has enabled refugee women to integrate more easily into their communities (including the Transnistrian region), as initiated businesses will add value to the regional economic situation, increasing the welfare of local communities through new, high quality services, and contributing to local/national budgets by paying taxes and creating new jobs.

SILVIA BICENCO

HEAD OF PROGRAM
Plan International



Plan International is present in Moldova since March 2022. We have worked with 10 national organizations to strengthen local capacity rather than duplicate efforts. Our joint initiative with The Moldova Project covers a range of areas including education, child protection and livelihoods, providing support to both local and refugee children and caregivers. The Moldova Project has a special approach to children. The use of art therapy and non-formal education activities is so important and effective in supporting children, distracting their minds from negative experiences and supporting their educational needs. It is equally important to highlight the role that art therapy plays in the lives of adults, especially women, who can then find a safe space in the community for socializing and developing skills. Given our fruitful collaboration with The Moldova Project so far, we look forward to continuing this partnership in the future.



OLGA DOGA
QUALITY & SERVICES
DIRECTOR
Romstal Moldova



The concept of sustainability is a core element in our company's organisational culture and we are constantly concerned with maintaining a balance between our mission to be the main partner for installers and to benefit society as a whole. We were always looking for partners who would help us find effective solutions to help the people of the Republic of Moldova. The collaboration with The Moldova Project organization has been multidimensional, we have managed to financially cover non-formal education projects, material aid with food, hygiene products, firewood and backpacks with school supplies for hundreds of socially vulnerable families. We have funded several recreational activities involving hundreds of village children. Together with The Moldova Project team, we experienced beautiful moments, working side by side to empower disadvantaged families. Romstal employees packed backpacks, collected goods for children and adults from vulnerable families in specially designed boxes, and carefully monitored the impact of the jointly implemented projects. Our team was strongly touched by the work of The Moldova Project!

**DUMITRU
GODOROZEA**
DIRECTOR MicroClima



In 2023, we continued to be an active partner of The Moldova Project, having full confidence in the effectiveness of the projects they implement. We have chosen to financially support this cause, directing monthly donations to the association's essential activities, conscious of the many needs it addresses. In addition, we have become personally involved by offering free support for the installation and repair of air conditioners, essential in the playrooms opened by The Moldova Project in the villages. Aware of the challenges faced by vulnerable families, we aim to bring real and meaningful support to the lives of these children. In our belief that every child deserves a better future, our collaboration with The Moldova Project becomes a solid commitment to contribute to improving the quality of life of these young people. We are proud to be part of this initiative and to bring, together with other partners, a tangible change in the communities of Moldova. In a world where a family's vulnerability should not determine a child's future, we strive to be an example of solidarity and mutual aid. Together with The Moldova Project, we are convinced that we can build steppingstones to a more promising future for these children.



BRÎNZA LUDMILA

**HEAD OF THE GENERAL DIRECTORATE
OF SOCIAL ASSISTANCE,
CRIULENI DISTRICT**

Thank you for all your support and contribution to improving the quality of life of disadvantaged families with children by providing social assistance (methodological support, counseling, educational opportunities for both children and parents, humanitarian and financial aid) in Criuleni district. We appreciate the active involvement in supporting and mobilizing the community to prevent and solve difficult situations, the effort and, last but not least, the kindness you have shown despite the difficulties and daily problems. We believe that no work done from the heart is in vain. Both the beneficiaries and the Directorate thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your support and we hope that you will continue to ensure the sustainability of the collaboration in the hope of making dreams come true. You do wonderful work and we are deeply grateful for everything.



Sipoteni Town Hall has enjoyed a fruitful partnership with The Moldova Project for many years. Their team of specialists assists families in a wide spectrum for effective rehabilitation and social inclusion of all members. During the collaboration the organization has carried out various activities for both children and adults in our community involving them in educational projects, recreational events, and personal development opportunities... The whole community feels the support of The Moldova Project. Thank you and we wish many years of cooperation.

VASILE RAȚA

**MAYOR OF SIPOTENI COMMUNE,
CALARAȘI DISTRICT**





CHIRILOV OLEG

**LOCAL POLICE OFFICER
JEVRENI VILLAGE,
CRIULENI DISTRICT**

The Moldova Project is a team that knows how to identify the problems faced by at risk and socially vulnerable families in Jevreni village, Criuleni district. The mobile teams provide psycho-emotional, legal, material, medical, and educational support, the aim of their project being to ensure the protection of children and their rights, as well as the welfare of families in distress. Thus, The Moldova Project not only identifies the problems faced by the beneficiary families, but also applies measures for their solution.

BOGATU VERONICA

**COMMUNITY SOCIAL WORKER
JEVRENI VILLAGE,
CRIULENI DISTRICT**



Thanks to The Moldova Project, socially vulnerable families from the village of Jevreni, Criuleni, are assisted not only by me, as a social worker, but also by a multidisciplinary team of specialists, which brings a positive change and a much-needed progress within these families. The mobile team regularly visits the beneficiary families, engaging both the parents and the children in recreational and educational activities as well as psychosocial support sessions. At the same time, the families benefit from material donations necessary for a decent living, such as food, clothes, shoes, firewood for the winter, home repairs, and support in accessing quality healthcare services.



TODERAŞ IULIA
**PLAYROOM COORDINATOR,
LOGĂNEŞTI VILLAGE,
HÎNCEŞTI DISTRICT**

Thanks to The Moldova Project I discovered my passion for children, especially children from socially vulnerable families. As a member of this organization I feel motivated and confident in my own abilities to help and contribute to the personal development of each individual child. I am proud to be part of this wonderful team.

TMP SPECIALISTS PARTICIPATED IN **OVER 25 MULTIDISCIPLINARY MEETINGS**

ON URGENT CASES REGARDING CHILDREN AT RISK

39
RECREATIONAL
ACTIVITIES

BENEFITING OVER
1000 CHILDREN

OVER **700** ART THERAPY SESSIONS

APPROX. **1000**
CHILDREN ENJOYED
THE SUMMER PROJECT

 **THE MOLDOVA PROJECT**

LINES OF ACTIVITY

PROTECTION OF VULNERABLE CHILDREN AND PREVENTION OF RISK SITUATIONS

OVER **700** PLAY THERAPY ACTIVITIES

OVER **1000** CHILDREN MADE HAPPY MEMORIES DURING THE WINTER PROJECT



The year 2023 brought us face to face with the same challenges specific to socially vulnerable groups in our villages, with an increased focus on cases of sexual abuse among minors, unwanted pregnancies, treatment of alcohol addictions and mental health issues. Assisting vulnerable families, with our physical presence in their homes, remains the most effective intervention and prevention tool. Every day (Monday-Friday) our organization's mobile teams, made up of a psychologist, social pedagogue, art therapist, lawyer and social worker, visit the beneficiary families in order to assess the real situation in the family and come up with the necessary support. Support and protection measures for children are individual, depending on the problems and needs identified. In the context that, on average, a family is on our radar for two years, during 2023 24 families successfully exited our program and 26 new families, which include 78 children, were welcomed.





THE
MOLDOVA
PROJECT

CHILD
PROTECTION

Child protection is the strategic objective of our work and is of a comprehensive nature. In fact, all the services and products we offer to our beneficiaries have the ultimate aim of preventing neglect and abandonment or institutionalisation of disadvantaged children. Serious cases, which require urgent intervention by the police or the social welfare directorate, have been coordinated with local and central authorities. Close cooperation with state institutions for the protection of children is essential for the prevention and resolution of serious cases. Our team has actively participated in dozens of multidisciplinary team meetings in various localities across the country and has managed to mediate complex situations for the benefit of the children in the families concerned. During 2023 we continued to provide protection services and educational and psycho-emotional support to refugees from Ukraine, especially those accommodated in temporary placement centres. With the help of international partners, we have provided training at the professional level in areas such as: policy and practice on the protection of vulnerable persons (safeguarding), including reporting and complaint response mechanisms; examples of good practice in child protection; psycho-social support for people in need; facilitating resilience at family and community level; physical and mental development of children; social and emotional learning; gender equality; reproductive health training techniques. The theoretical and practical approach to vulnerability has become more complex, with direct consequences for the quantity and quality of services provided to children and parents.

ART THERAPY



THE
MOLDOVA
PROJECT

CHILD
PROTECTION

Within our program of intervention and assistance, art therapy plays an essential role in preventing and detecting cases of abuse or risk situations for minors and adults. If art has the purpose of producing an artistic product, then art therapy is a form of communication, a process through which beneficiaries better understand their own feelings and inner conflicts. Over the past year more than 3000 group and individual art therapy sessions have been carried out with adults and children, including refugees from Ukraine. Regardless of their vulnerability, people at risk need protection and encouragement. The art therapy activities we have organized in village playgrounds, temporary placement centers for refugees from Ukraine, district centers or in the homes of our beneficiaries have aimed to provoke positive emotions, develop creativity, self-awareness, self-confidence, group cohesion, identify negative emotions and increase resilience to stress and trauma.





THE
MOLDOVA
PROJECT

CHILD
PROTECTION

Each art therapy activity is guided by a topic of dialogue and because we have witnessed the problem of poor care, neglect and violent attitudes towards dogs in the yard, we have initiated a new project. Our team made brand new cages and brought them to the children's yard so that together they could color them and write the name of their beloved pet on them. Turning a dog crate into a work of art excited the children and made them receptive to our messages about being tolerant and kind to animals. Thirty-six families participated in this creative outreach project.

Other topics addressed by art therapists were: supporting parent-child relationships, strengthening relational trust and interpersonal bonds; tactics to support children with relational and developmental traumas to detect, name, express, regulate their emotional feelings; supporting children and adolescents with nightmares and sleep difficulties. The increased interest of beneficiaries of all ages in such activities is a qualitative and quantitative indicator of effectiveness.



 **THE MOLDOVA PROJECT**

CHILD PROTECTION



PLAY THERAPY



Every child has the right to play and through play they learn and can be counseled. Toy therapy or play therapy is one of the most common forms of therapy that allows our specialists to identify problems faced by children. Our therapists use educational, informative or entertaining games to identify how children react, what behavior they develop, the specifics of their emotions. Over the year, through play, we have been able to identify the vast majority of trauma in children. We helped children to develop defense mechanisms in the face of suffering and negative emotions, we stimulated emotional expression, which allowed children to talk about their own emotions and better understand the emotions of others. Through play, either in The Moldova Project playgrounds or in the courtyard of the beneficiaries' homes or in the temporary placement centers for refugees in Ukraine, we encouraged children to think creatively and develop alternative approaches, to analyze in depth certain aspects of life. The process of socialization and integration became much easier, both in working with local communities and with refugee children from Ukraine, thanks to play therapy. This therapeutic method is effective at both individual and group level. The benefits of play therapy are recognized by several international organizations, which claim that it has a positive impact on over 70% of those who use it.





 **THE MOLDOVA PROJECT**
CHILD PROTECTION



RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES

The attention, communication and positive emotions that vulnerable children get from recreational activities are an immeasurable investment in their emotional health, as these children often feel marginalized and have far too many reasons to feel sad. Joy, optimism, well-being and self-confidence are qualities that The Moldova Project team develops in children. During the year we have carried out almost 40 recreational events, in which more than 1000 children participated.

Positive emotions have a profound impact on the general well-being of children and adults, which is why we use all our resources in this regard. Joy, excitement, satisfaction and curiosity provide mental and physical benefits and contribute to long-term psychological well-being.





THE
MOLDOVA
PROJECT



CHILD
PROTECTION

1. GASTRONOMIC WORKSHOPS

Our experience has demonstrated many times the importance and effectiveness of recreational and fun activities in the lives of children who are chronically stressed, such as those from socially vulnerable families. In 2023 we have been able to develop this line of activity quantitatively and qualitatively. More than a thousand children from Moldova and refugees from Ukraine participated in entertainment and relaxation programs organized by our team in 8 locations across the country.

With the arrival of sunny weather, we invited the children to picnics and gourmet workshops outdoors with music, games and fun. During these activities, the beneficiaries learned how to cook pancakes, salad, hot dogs, but the most exciting for them was the tasting. The gastronomic workshop included many outdoor games, socializing, and special interaction with our team members and other beneficiaries.

2. DAY TRIPS IN CHIȘINĂU



THE MOLDOVA
PROJECT

CHILD
PROTECTION

Traveling and excursions are another source of psycho-emotional well-being. If for vulnerable children and families in the villages they have an informative and practical role, of knowledge and adaptation, for refugee families from Ukraine they have an extremely important role in balancing emotions. For Ukrainian children and adults, the regular escapes from a closed, strictly regulated environment, typical of a placement center, have had a strong impact. We have received hundreds of thank-you messages and new requests from refugees who would like to travel more through Moldova and visit scenic places, cultural and tourist attractions or recreational centers. During 2023 we organized 23 trips attended by more than 800 children from our villages and refugee children from Ukraine. The children were impressed by the circus shows, the films they watched at the cinema, the visits to the Zoo and the entertainment centers in Chisinau to which they had access. Each day of relaxation in the city included an invitation to a restaurant, where pizza, dessert and other dishes were served. The priority for us was and remains the children's well-being and safety. The 2023 trips left nothing but fond memories and motivated us to develop this direction of our support program.





THE
MOLDOVA
PROJECT

CHILD
PROTECTION

3. THE SUMMER PROJECT

The 10th edition of the Summer Project has created unforgettable memories for 1000 children living in five temporary placement centers for refugees from Ukraine and children from underprivileged families in Moldovan villages, including children from a placement center in Chisinau. The Summer Project's special program included a day of fun at an aquapark near Chisinau, with pizza, ice cream, sweets and lots of good cheer. The project lasted 8 days, so that every child could experience the adventure of the water slide and water play. Our team and a group of volunteers carefully supervised the whole activity to avoid trauma and any risk situation. In a safe and friendly environment the children benefited from educational and recreational games and activities, they communicated easily and cheerfully with each other.



The 2023 Summer Project brought together children from different social groups, ethnicities and cultures for a dream party. The project, which has become a tradition, has proven its effectiveness over time. The children's colorful memories have a positive and lasting impact on their mood and general outlook on life. For one day, the children were in a totally different, extraordinary and extremely pleasant environment, which helped them forget about isolation, sadness, poverty, discrimination, fieldwork and many other negative worries and emotions. Such experiences offer new perspectives on life and encourage them to understand that they are worthwhile and that they can truly have a different reality from the one they are living in now.





THE MOLDOVA PROJECT
CHILD PROTECTION



THE
MOLDOVA
PROJECT

CHILD
PROTECTION

4. THE WINTER PROJECT

The winter project is the largest and most complex, as it involves both our responsibility and that of Santa Claus. Initially, we launched the "Being Santa is Simple" campaign in collaboration with an international retail company. 2.5 tons of food, hygiene products and toys were collected from donations made by shoppers to our beneficiaries. All donated goods were sorted and distributed according to the requests and needs of vulnerable families.



Between 22-31 December we managed to wish happy holidays to all our beneficiaries, bringing them gifts and a special Christmas program for the children.

For 10 days we organized parties in 10 different locations: district centers, villages and a placement center for children in Chisinau. More than 1,000 beneficiary children received a special gift from Santa Claus and enjoyed a fun Christmas show provided by a magician and a team of professional entertainers. And, after three hours of fun, the beneficiary families received bags of food for a festive meal at home. At all stages of the project we had volunteers and reliable partners who helped us to come up with individualized gifts for each child, according to their age and wishes.

This year too, the Winter Project brought magic into the lives of children from Moldova and refugees from Ukraine, and marked a positive and energetic end of the year.





THE
MOLDOVA
PROJECT

CHILD
PROTECTION



1400

CHILDREN RECEIVED SCHOOL BACKPACKS AND SCHOOL SUPPLIES

APPROX.

500

TEENAGERS PARTICIPATED IN NON-FORMAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS



INCLUDING REFUGEES

4

IT LABS



2

NEW PLAYROOMS

[15 IN TOTAL]



30



TRAININGS FOR THE TMP SPECIALISTS



THE MOLDOVA PROJECT

EDUCATION

LINES OF ACTIVITY

SOCIAL AND EDUCATIONAL INTEGRATION OF VULNERABLE GROUPS

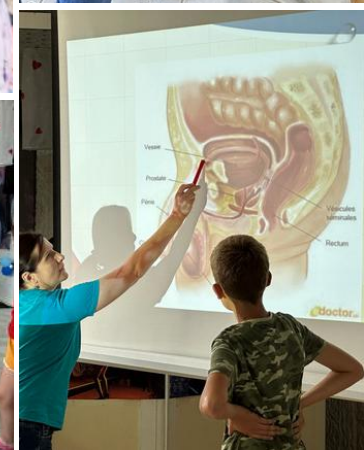
[PLAYROOMS, IT LABS, PARENTAL EDUCATION, TRAINING PROGRAMS FOR AT RISK TEENS]

The fate of people on the edge of survival is extremely difficult, marked by marginalization, stigmatization, violation of rights, bullying. The problem also stems from the way of life, the values that the vulnerable family has taken over from the family of origin, and the phenomenon of vulnerability, especially extreme poverty, tends to be perpetuated from generation to generation. Breaking the vicious chain that is damaging thousands of children and their parents requires a sustained and long-term effort on the part of NGOs, authorities, international organizations and, of course, the beneficiaries. In 2023 we continued to consider relations with local and central public authorities in the field of social assistance and education, so as to speed up the process of rehabilitation and empowerment of families in need. Discussions have been held at the level of the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection, the town halls of all the districts where we operate, the district councils and the town halls of communes and villages. We have also intervened in emergency cases, requesting the intervention of the responsible bodies and the organization of multidisciplinary team meetings. The socio-educational integration of disadvantaged children is a complex process that we undertake and successfully carry out through the PLAYROOM project, the Mobile Team support service and educational and recreational events.



THE MOLDOVA PROJECT

EDUCATION





THE PLAYROOM

THE PERFECT PLACE FOR PLAYING, READING AND CREATING

In 2023 we managed to extend this socio-educational service to 2 other locations in the country: the village of Sipoteni, district of Calarasi and the commune of Jevreni, district of Criuleni. In total, the 15 play and reading rooms, coordinated by The Moldova Project, have provided non-formal education services to over 3000 children from Moldovan villages and 500 refugee children from Ukraine and their parents or guardians. In a friendly and safe environment, children had access to board games and toys, watched films and cartoons, participated in creative workshops and sports games. The attention and care given by the playground coordinators (playworkers) and our team of specialists increased the interest of children of all ages. Many children regularly continued to do their homework at the playroom. For pupils of all ages the playroom remained the preferred place to play after school and during the holidays.



PLAY AND READING ROOMS FOR REFUGEE CHILDREN FROM UKRAINE

In the 8 playrooms active in the Ukrainian refugee accommodation centers, daily activities with and for children were organized and adults were regularly invited to creative workshops and discussions on parenting. Refugee mothers and grandmothers took an active position and were fully involved in the program of activities proposed by our team. Social and educational integration have been and remain our major goals which we are confidently pursuing, based on the questionnaires we regularly conduct with refugees of all ages. Analyzing the impact of the support provided in quantitative and qualitative parameters gives us a clear picture of the needs of refugees from Ukraine and helps us to update the range of support services.





THE
MOLDOVA
PROJECT

EDUCATION

PREVENTION AND DETECTION OF RISK SITUATIONS

The educational and recreational activities organized for children in all The Moldova Project playrooms, beyond the direct benefits on the emotional state of children, offer the opportunity to closely observe the behavior and general condition of the children, to identify cases of abuse or other risk situations. During 2023, all the playworkers went through training and refresher courses to be able to come up with a prompt response in case of an emergency situation.





EDUCATION

IT LABS

In the 4 IT labs we have set up during 2023 in or near refugee accommodation centers from Ukraine, dozens of Ukrainian and local children have free access to online schooling, digital resources for homework preparation, and digital skills training. Guided by a teacher, children learn to use various programs, create projects, participate in programming and robotics classes, English language classes and other specialized development activities. The children show a keen interest in digital education and are curious to discover new opportunities in this field. Some parents join the activities in the IT room to gain digital skills and study English.



THE
MOLDOVA
PROJECT

EDUCATION

For students studying online in Ukrainian institutions, IT-labs replace the classroom and are an important generator of resources and tools for study. These rooms are also frequented by students from the community and Ukrainians studying in local educational institutions.

For all the beneficiaries, the IT-Lab is the place where they can write a paper by easily surfing the internet, make a presentation, get information on any topic. At the same time, each coordinator or teacher in charge of the IT-Lab has included in the program a relaxation hour or free surfing on the internet.





PARENTAL EDUCATION

One of the most ambitious directions in the field of educational inclusion in 2023 has been interpersonal, relationship and family relations, and in particular the parent-child relationship and vice versa. We organized more than 100 sessions for different groups of parents, both in the localities of the Republic of Moldova and in placement centers for refugees from Ukraine. Our specialists outlined the specifics of each vulnerable group and came up with targeted support according to the needs present. The difficult relationship with a teenage child was approached differently for women from socially vulnerable families and those who are part of the Ukrainian refugee community.

Women from disadvantaged groups needed more information and guidance to understand the basic processes underlying adolescent behavior. Because stereotypes dominate in rural areas and the population in general is marked by an archaic mentality, the perception of social values and norms is specific. We also held discussions with beneficiary mothers on other topics, such as:

- alcoholism and the consequences of this condition, personal hygiene, children's nutrition, the importance of a correct diet and the consequences of improper nutrition.
- domestic violence, child sexual abuse, combating juvenile delinquency.
- credit, bank cards, fraud; children's health problems, malnutrition, educational neglect; the importance of children's oral hygiene; sham marriages, cohabitation, and many other topics of interest to this target group.

Parents and guardians from the Ukrainian refugee community were particularly interested in topics such as: mental health, child psychology, specifics of puberty, conflict relief, alternative methods of education, self-awareness, personality tests, overcoming stress, career guidance. More than a year after the outbreak of the war, most of the Ukrainian refugee beneficiaries admitted that they had overcome the crisis and adapted to the new conditions, which helped to balance relationships between family members.





TRAINING PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN AND TEENS

Missing or insufficient information can have a destructive impact on the growth and development process of adolescents, leading to a lack of conceptualization and role-taking in society. Children from vulnerable families need more attention from state institutions and specialists from the non-governmental sector. Correct and prompt information remains the most effective method of preventing risk situations and therefore delinquent behavior.

In order to provide information support and mentoring services to adolescents from at-risk groups, we organize annual training on various topics. The first series of training was organized for more than 200 young people from all 37 villages where we operate. For three days, in different localities, teenagers studied and carried out practical exercises on: bullying and juvenile delinquency prevention, financial education and digital education; online safety. The courses were moderated by trainers with extensive experience and advanced knowledge in the respective fields.

They managed to capture the attention of young people and encourage them to actively engage in dialogue. At the end of the training, each participant completed a satisfaction and feedback form and the results generated show that the topics covered are current and important for their personal and professional development. The second series of trainings was dedicated to reproductive health, information on: sexuality, contraceptive methods, physiological changes, male and female anatomy, sexually transmitted diseases, personal hygiene, consent and many other important topics. The 14 seminars, which took place in different localities, including Chisinau, were attended by 90 adolescents from vulnerable groups, including adolescents placed in temporary placement centers for children. Lasting 3 days, each training session provided children with extensive information about their own bodies, the stages of development, responsible attitudes towards themselves and others, and the most important aspects of a healthy sexual life. The trainings were moderated by a specialist obstetrician gynecologist and three members of The Moldova Project team, who graduated from a specialized training course conducted by the UNFPA Moldova team. As facilitators, The Moldova Project specialists played a direct role in the successful organization of this educational program. They helped young people acquire the knowledge and skills they need to make "healthy" decisions and conscious choices. The interactive, participatory activities generated interest and facilitated the learning process. The trainers used modern and engaging methods to capture the attention of teenagers and stimulate interest in participation. In an interactive and dynamic environment, the children were fully involved in the activities to review theoretical knowledge.



In sessions on reproductive health, students and young people learned how to respond to incidents of sexual harassment and abuse. They have a deeper understanding of their own bodies, gender identity, awareness of the importance of personal hygiene, methods of protection against sexually transmitted diseases. The experts spoke to them and invited them to an open discussion about condoms, adult life and healthy choices that can save our lives. As a result of this intense information and awareness raising exercise, five teenagers requested individual counselling and spoke to us about attempted rape, harassment and other risky situations and traumas they had experienced.

The trainings were organized within the framework of the UNFPA Global Program on Comprehensive Reproductive Health Education for Adolescents and Young People, implemented with the financial support of the Government of Norway. We have witnessed the direct and practically instantaneous impact of the training sessions, and the next step planned by our specialists is to organize similar seminars with adults, as knowledge and attitudes towards reproductive health are formed in the family. Another important issue concerns gender stereotypes and preconceptions that prevail especially in village communities.



EDUCATION



THE
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PROJECT

EDUCATION

**I'D LIKE TO GET MARRIED AT 19 AND
I'D NEVER EVER ALLOW ANYONE
TO HIT ME.**



Valeria, 14

PRECONCEPTIONS AND THE CHAIN OF GENDER STEREOTYPES

THE CONFESSIONS OF VALERIA, A TEENAGER WHO GREW UP WITHOUT A FATHER.

As a 14-year-old, Valeria never knew what a father's love was, what a family living in complete harmony should look like, without worrying about tomorrow and always having a piece of bread on the table. Because her older sister is seriously ill, a good part of the family's income covers the medicine they need, with the needs of the other three children taking second place. As a child, she takes care of her sister and helps her mother with everything, including caring for her younger brothers, aged nine and one respectively.

At school, in grade 9, many things are explained to them, but some topics are not discussed at all, as they are considered taboo in society. Her mother and no other family member has ever talked to her about her intimate life, the peculiarities of puberty, the facts, emotions and thoughts that can cause chaos and anxiety. She witnesses many traumas of women in her village, but also in other localities: women who are left alone, those who run away from their husbands for fear of being hit, those who cry themselves to sleep at night thinking of the hardships of tomorrow, those who continue to make mistakes in their relationships, and, most importantly, in their relationships with themselves. But how can this harsh reality, which seems to be repetitive and destructive, be avoided?

Together with other friends and classmates, Valeria received an invitation from The Moldova Project to attend a training course on reproductive health. Valeria didn't know exactly what would be discussed, but she was happy to go because she knew some friends from the village would be there.

"Three days we talked, we played, it was interesting and totally different from what we do at school. I really liked that we could communicate openly, that we were all like friends. I learned a lot about my body, what is healthy and what is harmful for me. Now I know I want to do better in school, have a profession, and be able to lead an independent life. I won't spend time with the wrong people, people I don't trust." Valeria confessed enthusiastically.



EDUCATION

Valeria's wish is to become a cook and work in a restaurant in Chisinau, which is why, after graduating the ninth grade, she will attend a vocational school in the district center or in Chisinau. Even though she understands that she needs a profession and financial independence can help her make good and healthy choices, Valeria believes that her future cannot be entirely different from that of the women in her home village. She will marry at 19 and have children, "as many as God wills".

"During the course I attended I sometimes had different ideas in my mind: how to do well in the future, with whom I could create a family, how I would like my future husband to be. I don't have a boyfriend and so far I haven't had any serious relationships. But if it happens, I think it will be a boy raised in the village, so we can get along better. Respect and caring for each other is very important. I will never allow anyone to hit me, I will say 'NO' without fear," says Valeria.

Discussions about online safety were very lively and Valeria actively participated. Being present on several social media sites, Valeria admitted she was unaware of the many risks she was exposing herself to and even accepted a questionable invitation from a stranger.



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EDUCATION

"That's it, I'm not going to make the same mistakes. I'm very careful and check every person I communicate with. I know the people in the village very well and anyhow I am careful about what and how I write, what files I send", Valeria confessed.

For her and her colleagues, the series of trainings organized by The Moldova Project in partnership with UNFPA Moldova was a very special, interesting, and exciting event. Dozens of students and young people had the opportunity to discuss freely and ask questions on topics considered "embarrassing" or even "indiscreet", but which are of vital importance for physical and emotional health.

70 FAMILIES

BENEFITED FROM DONATIONS FOR
HOUSEHOLD DEVELOPMENT

1800 

DOMESTIC ANIMALS AND POULTRY

4 

GREENHOUSES

21
GRANTS

**GIVEN TO WOMEN FOR
BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT**

 **THE
MOLDOVA
PROJECT**

SUSTAINABILITY

LINES OF ACTIVITY



**EMPOWERMENT FOR
ECONOMIC INDEPENDENCE
AND RESILIENCE**

[THE SPRING PROJECT, TMP MENTORING, LEGAL AID, WOMEN WITH VISION PROJECT]

Financial independence and a positive psycho-emotional climate is an indicator of the well-being of every family. All our services offered to beneficiary families over a period of up to 24 months are directed towards self-fulfillment and financial independence. Day after day we invest time, effort and resources to train and strengthen the sustainability capacity of socially vulnerable families to be responsible. We have encouraged and provided opportunities for them to work, learn to generate income, manage a budget and aim to overcome dependency on benefits and welfare services. We have encouraged and continue to help recipients to take responsibility for their own problem-solving and to understand the risks and consequences of their choices. And in 2023, our multi-disciplinary program to support families on the edge of subsistence included several projects dedicated to economic empowerment and resilience.



THE
MOLDOVA
PROJECT

SUSTAINABILITY





THE SPRING PROJECT

Every spring, The Moldova Project provides vulnerable families with domestic animals, seeds, fruit trees, greenhouse construction materials to give them more opportunities to support themselves and generate income. The project has a long-term impact and is an effective solution for developing new skills and interests. In previous years, the project has funded vocational courses for teenagers and adults. By learning a trade, parents from socially vulnerable families can more easily find a job and earn a stable income.

The 2023 edition registered 70 beneficiary families, established in several locations in five districts of the country. We distributed: poultry, materials for building vegetable greenhouses, goats, cows, pigs. The total value of the project was over 250 thousand lei. The responsibility towards the animals received as a gift, the management of the resources obtained, the ability to obtain income from the products marketed are important criteria leading to development. Through this project, some parents have learned to be homesteaders, to manage assets so that they can provide for themselves, feed their children and improve their living conditions over time.





SUSTAINABILITY

MENTORING

Every person needs a social network of support (friends, neighbors, colleagues, etc.), which can provide emotional support, necessary information, material or financial support, encouragement and support in what is important to them and gives them a sense of security. Parents feel protected and confident when they have someone with whom they can share the joy, pain, and anxieties of parenthood. Our beneficiaries feel a sense of connection when they have people around who care for them, who have supported them through difficult times and from whom they can ask for help. The Moldova Project team facilitates the creation and expansion of the social support network by being directly involved in counseling and support services.

The Moldova Project's psychologist and multidisciplinary specialists responded to all requests received from beneficiaries, including in the resolution of legal and financial issues. Our specialists document and provide verified information about the possibility of accessing credit, microfinance, loan, inheritance, etc. Vulnerable people are more at risk of becoming victims of fake news and information, scams.

Over a year, we manage to prevent dozens of fraud situations and inform beneficiaries about legal and correct solutions to obtain sources of funding. We guide them to be economical and pragmatic in managing the modest resources they have so that they are not burdened by debt and penalties. The most important aspect of knowledge building is to encourage parents to take concrete action, to be aware of the need for changes in attitude or behavior. This task has been carried out consistently by the psychologists of The Moldova Project team.



LEGAL ASSISTANCE

Socially vulnerable families are exposed to legal problems, primarily due to a lack of information about their rights and responsibilities. Often, our beneficiaries do not know about the importance of legal paperwork, documents, signatures, personal information, etc. The lack of civic education, understanding and acquiring of the practices that underpin the community and the whole system in which we live, makes it difficult for them to integrate and claim their rights.

Throughout the year, the association's lawyer provided assistance to 21 beneficiary families and attended dozens of court hearings. Legal advice is a much sought-after and appreciated service, as it is difficult to access in rural areas and at no extra cost. The legal interventions carried out during 2023 mainly denote the settlement of civil disputes. Another level in the field of legal assistance was dedicated to refugees from Ukraine. Our lawyer provided guidance and useful information about the rights of persons with refugee status in the Republic of Moldova. Individual legal consultations were held upon request.



"WOMEN WITH VISION" PROJECT



POWERFUL WOMEN, LEADERS IN THE COMMUNITY

Beyond material, psycho-emotional and legal assistance, vulnerable women, including those who have fled the ravages of war, need financial security. To support women's financial independence, develop their entrepreneurial skills and stimulate their interest in business, we implemented the Women with Vision project - Strong Women, Leaders in the Community. As a result, 122 women, mostly from Ukraine, but also from the Republic of Moldova, participated in training and mentoring courses to start or develop their own business. The key regions where the Women with Vision project took place are Chisinau, Calarasi, Ungheni and the Transnistrian region of Moldova.

Twenty-one participants each won a grant of up to five thousand dollars - a first step towards starting or growing a business. Twelve women from Ukraine and nine women from the Republic of Moldova benefited from the grant, the vast majority of whom had little experience of entrepreneurship. The participants' fields of activity range from English language courses to photographic services and tailoring workshops. The common interest remains to start a successful business, compliant with all legal rules and competitive on the Moldovan market.

One of the cornerstones ensuring sustainable development, material and psycho-emotional well-being is financial independence. For women fleeing the ravages of war, many of whom were forced to close their businesses in Ukraine, the Women with Vision project offered viable opportunities for a new start.





THE
MOLDOVA
PROJECT

SUSTAINABILITY

ANNA PAVLOVA, ENTREPRENEUR ODESSA, UKRAINE

For a long time, I have been analyzing the market here, trying to understand what I could do to help the Ukrainian community in Moldova. I have a degree in pedagogy, and I chose to create a company offering English language courses in Ukrainian and Russian. The four thousand dollars earned will be spent on technology, computers to be able to produce promotional and teaching material and to start the first online courses.



854

LOCAL AND REFUGEE
FAMILIES ASSISTED



FOOD



OVER
2K

FOOD AND
HYGIENE
PRODUCTS



491

WITH VOUCHERS



PHARMACEUTICAL



245

MEDICAL
INTERVENTIONS

FOR CHILDREN AND ADULTS



+ 28

FAMILIES



RECEIVED FIREWOOD
FOR THE WINTER PERIOD

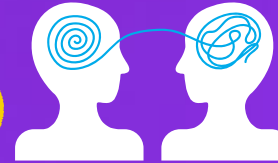


THE
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PROJECT

QUALITY
OF LIFE

APPROX.

950



PSYCHOLOGICAL COUNSELLING
AND THERAPY SESSIONS



FAMILIES BENEFITED FROM
ESSENTIAL HOME REPAIRS

LINES OF ACTIVITY

IV

IMPROVING THE QUALITY
AND SECURITY OF LIFE

10+
DOG HOUSES



[HEALTHCARE PROJECT, PSYCHO-EMOTIONAL ASSISTANCE, BUILDING PROJECT, MATERIAL ASSISTANCE]



THE HEALTHCARE PROJECT

[TREATMENTS FOR ALCOHOLISM, MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES, DENTAL, OPHTHALMOLOGY, TREATMENTS FOR CHILDREN WITH INFANTILE CEREBRAL PALSY, GENERAL MEDICINE]

Like the other projects in the spectrum of assistance provided by our association, the Healthcare Program is active throughout the year. Our aim is to ensure access to quality health care for vulnerable people and to facilitate the success of treatment by providing the necessary material and psycho-emotional resources. We encourage beneficiaries to have a responsible attitude towards their own health and that of their loved ones. With the help of our partners in the medical sector: broad-based private clinics, dental clinics, laboratories, private hospitals, state medical institutions, and the entire community of supporters, we have scheduled and assisted our beneficiaries with thousands of consultations and laboratory tests.

In 2023 we funded medical interventions of different complexity for over 200 children and adults from disadvantaged families. Our team has been tasked with connecting beneficiaries to professional medical services when they cannot or do not have the resources to do so. The spectrum of medical services included: pediatric, gynecological, kinesiological, orthopedic, dermatological, ophthalmological, dental, surgical, and post-operative rehabilitation, alcohol addiction treatment, mental health services. Also, this year we suspected cases of malnutrition, pediculosis, scabies and other diseases and called in specialists for help. We assisted beneficiaries at all stages of treatment and monitored the recovery period, establishing a trusting partnership with all beneficiaries.

This year we continued the treatment of children diagnosed with infantile cerebral palsy who were operated on last year using the Ulzibat method, a minimally invasive surgical technique that allows gentle correction of structural muscle tissue. This treatment has been successfully practiced in the Republic of Moldova for more than 10 years and allows radical changes in the children's ability to walk or move, reducing spasticity. By accessing the Ulzibat treatment method, we have been able to achieve remarkable results: two children, who were at risk of remaining bed-bound for life, have taken their first steps and are moving more and more confidently towards their great desire to go to school and play like other children in the village. Treatment can take several years and includes surgery, physiotherapy, procedures, and exercise.



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SERGIU'S STORY



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Sergiu is a kind, smart 5-year-old boy who dreams of being able to play just like his twin brother. To romp around the house and yard at ease, to be able to run along the village roads like his village friends. Through The Moldova Project's healthcare program, Sergiu has undergone Ulzibat surgery and regular rehabilitation. Every day we see tangible results and believe in achieving our common goal: Sergiu to become independent, to develop the ability to walk, to move easily and safely. Together with his mother and our team members, he achieved his first victories and together we have enjoyed every success. Only with ambition, determination and effort Sergiu will be able to overcome his illness to have a dignified life with many possibilities. During the whole year Sergiu has learned all possible tricks to be able to move around the yard without help. It wasn't easy at all, as last year he was carried only in arms and was totally dependent on the help of his siblings or parents. Now he can stand on his own feet and take steps, but to move forward he must face pain, fear, fatigue and can only do so if guided by his mother's gentle gaze and the doctor's instructions.

Sergiu and many other children in Moldova suffering from infantile cerebral palsy need consistent, long-term treatment and lots of assistance to gain new skills.





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MENTAL HEALTH AND PSYCHO-EMOTIONAL CARE

[INDIVIDUAL AND GROUP PSYCHOLOGICAL COUNSELLING; ART THERAPY FOR ADULTS]

Mental health and psycho-emotional support services play a strategic role in the empowerment and rehabilitation of disadvantaged families. Mental health is a fundamental human right, but unfortunately people from vulnerable groups are marginalized and sometimes even deprived of this right. We consistently strive to empower people in need so that they can enjoy all the rights that they are entitled to: the right to be protected from discrimination, the right to access quality care, the right to freedom and dignity, including the right to choose.

Regrettably, in recent years we have seen an increase in the number of beneficiaries requiring specialized mental health care. Among mental disorders, depression is common among teenagers and young people, including mothers with children.

The collaboration with the Mental Health Centre in Chisinau (Botanica) and the Institute of Community Mental Health "PSINCLUSION" allowed us to diagnose and come up with solutions for the treatment of several cases of mental disorders.

The first aid or the "ambulance" in the field of mental health, which often has a prophylactic or corrective role in social behavior, is provided by the association's team of psychologists. Particular attention has been paid to assessing and identifying the main triggers of family conflicts and developing better interpersonal relationships. At the same time, serious problems of abuse and socio-educational integration of children in distress were addressed during the year.



INDIVIDUAL AND GROUP PSYCHOLOGICAL COUNSELLING

The mobile psychological assistance allowed us to identify and intervene promptly, both in our work with families in our villages and with refugees from Ukraine in temporary accommodation centers. Both categories of beneficiaries have had access to group and individual counselling on request or and when required. The needs of families on the edge of subsistence are different from those of refugee families and in each situation, for each group, psychologists followed a specific intervention program.

The individual and group counselling attended by adults and children from disadvantaged families in rural areas was analyzed and documented by professional psychologists. As a result, personal and interpersonal problems, shortcomings in terms of empowering parents to build life skills and norms, educational shortcomings, cases of sexual and physical abuse, different forms of violence and bullying among children were identified. A lot of work has been done with both children and parents to reduce conceptual and behavioral rigidity, to establish needs and to define the psychosocial pathway.



Refugees from Ukraine participated in more than 1050 individual counselling sessions and 320 group counselling sessions, all of which had provided information and psycho-emotional assistance. The importance of the assistance group and its functioning, psycho-behavioral changes developed during the stay in the Republic of Moldova, effective time planning, goal and objective orientation were highlighted. Refugees were informed about the mechanism of social protection, assistance services, medical services, to which they can turn free of charge at national level.



ART THERAPY FOR ADULTS

If art is about the goal of an artistic product, then art therapy is a form of communication, a process through which we better understand our own feelings and inner conflicts. In over 2000 art therapy sessions for adults from socially vulnerable families and those with refugee groups, the following goals have been achieved: improved mental health in the context of different traumas, better management of addictions and other problematic behaviors; resolution of conflicts in the community or collective; improved interpersonal and self-harmony skills.

Each art therapy session was based on a discussion theme, a topic of broad interest that was discussed and analyzed. Parents and guardians from both groups of beneficiaries (locals and refugees) actively participated in discussions about: intercultural relations, social integration, reproductive education, personal hygiene, sexually transmitted diseases, financial education, budget planning, tapping the educational potential of teenagers, safety rules, parenting.

Each discussion topic was naturally inserted with the creative workshop, where the participating adults were free to express their own emotions and feelings.



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ANA, 41, SINGLE MOTHER OF 3 CHILDREN

I express deep gratitude for the art therapy activities. Thanks to the creative activity, we were able to relax, forget about worries, and receive spiritual satisfaction. We discovered new, interesting techniques that we didn't even know existed.

**NATALIA 35, MOTHER OF 2 CHILDREN
REFUGEE FROM ODESSA**

**Dear The Moldova Project team,
I want to thank you enormously for your hard work! I discovered a lot of new things for me in these activities. You always surprise us with something new and I think this has required a lot of effort and dedication. Art therapy is a good source of inner peace and positive emotions. Thank you! You are always welcome here!**



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THE BUILDING PROJECT

Every child has the right to dignified living conditions, to a house that protects them from cold and damp, provides heat, access to water and many other utilities. Most of our beneficiaries have inadequate living conditions for raising and educating children: dilapidated houses, damaged roofs, broken stoves, old doors and windows, lack of thermal insulation, unreliable electrification systems and much more.

Every year, we provide assistance for several families to improve the living conditions of children and their parents. In 2023 we provided better living conditions for 7 families. In two families the stove was rebuilt, in three other families - doors and windows were changed, and two other families received repair materials, mats, cables for the renewal of the electrical network in the house.

We have seen tangible results in the work done with each beneficiary family, the following changes serving as valid indicators:

BETTER LIVING CONDITIONS

HIGHER INVOLVEMENT AND RESPONSIBILITY OF BENEFICIARY FAMILIES

IMPROVEMENT OF FAMILIES' CAPACITY TO MANAGE NEW MATERIAL RESOURCES

In the project we have a proactive approach, being important the initiative and direct involvement of the beneficiary family. Together with representatives of our team, the families in question carried out the project, found craftsmen, made calculations, and were directly involved in carrying out the repair and renovation work. It is important that the beneficiary comes up with their own contribution, financially and/or through physical labor.

The work took place over the summer, but the completion of the refurbishment took place in October. During the winter, all the families who benefited from the assistance had better thermal conditions, which led to a significant increase in living standards. Indirectly, the project impacts not only housing but also all spheres of social interaction. More than 20 children have better conditions to do their homework, the socio-psychological climate in the family has become much more positive.



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THE STORY OF THE ALBU FAMILY



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Maria and Ion come from modest families and all they ever wanted was to be united and for their children to walk confidently towards achieving big dreams. Their fate has not been easy and today the young family of three children live in a very old house inherited from their parents' grandparents. Their house is always clean and well cared for, and they use what little money they have, to make cosmetic repairs. The husband and wife's health problems and lack of jobs are a real challenge for them. Maria is a housewife, and the only income in the family comes from Ion who works seasonally in the fields. They saved penny by penny to buy new doors and windows, but the amount they saved was far too small. Even though the stove is functional, in the cold season the temperature in the house was always low because of the cold that came through the cracks in the doors and windows. They had to cover the windows with blankets in winter, which prevented natural light from getting inside. Changing the door and windows was an urgent necessity, so the family, lacking financial resources, intended to borrow money.



To avoid the imminent aggravation of their financial situation that would have been brought by a loan, we decided to intervene. Together with Ion and Maria, we assessed the situation and installed a door and three double-glazed windows, with all the costs being covered by the organization. The children and the whole family had a warm winter and the payment of the bills, despite the increase in energy prices, decreased. By supplementing basic needs by creating favorable conditions for living and development, we "built" new opportunities for this family.





MATERIAL ASSISTANCE: ESSENTIAL LIFE SUPPLIES

[FOOD, HYGIENE PRODUCTS, HOUSEHOLD APPLIANCES, CLOTHES, FOOTWEAR, BACKPACKS, FURNITURE]

Soaring prices have hit vulnerable local families hard as well as those in temporary accommodation centers. Throughout the year, on a monthly or quarterly basis, in the form of one-off or repeated donations, we have provided assistance in the form of material goods and vouchers for the purchase of products to all our beneficiaries. In terms of quantity, approximately 60% of the assistance provided consists of food and hygiene products, which were distributed monthly to all beneficiary families in 37 localities across the country. The other 40 percent are items of basic necessity, including vouchers for the purchase of medicines. Tons of clothes, shoes, furniture, household appliances, books, toys, backpacks, and school supplies were donated on a targeted basis according to the needs of each beneficiary.

For disadvantaged families, the basic necessities have helped to reduce stress levels, helped to improve conflictual relationships in the family, and provided the minimum necessary for existence. The individual approach addressed at the policy and strategy level requires specialized assistance, tailored to the needs of the beneficiaries. Throughout 2023 we have been by the side of the beneficiary families even at special moments in their lives, such as the birth of a child or any other reason for hospitalization.

According to our organization's vision, true protection does not consist in transforming the problematic individual, the family or the disadvantaged group into a socially assisted person, but in transforming them, through empowerment, into active partners who participate in solving their own problems and improving the general social situation. To achieve this goal, we provide targeted and monitored services and material assistance to avoid parasitic behavior, self-marginalization, and social self-exclusion.



THE MOLDOVA PROJECT

QUALITY OF LIFE





**CULTIVATING
EMPOWERMENT** 

SUCCESS STORY

3 years ago, Maria had a completely different life, living with her husband in another village, as a dedicated and obeying mother and housewife. One day, when her aggressive husband threw another fit and told her to leave the house, she decided she couldn't take it anymore. She collected her most important possessions and, together with her 3 children, left to another village, where she hoped to find a new place to live. She had very little money, only a few possessions, and no plans for the future. Her wish was that she could live in peace and that her children would no longer see her abuse and misery. Not having enough money for rent, fate brought her to the "Pro-Femina" Maternal Center in Hîncești, where the center's team contacted Victoria Morozov, the founder of The Moldova Project, in the hopes that she would find a long-term solution for Maria and her children.

In just a few days, Maria stepped into her new home, purchased by our organization. The new village and the new start in life did not scare her. She was determined to fight for a better future for her children, in which there was no fighting and swearing, and where her sons could peacefully attend school and make new friends. "I don't think I'll ever accept a new partner, at least I don't think so now. It's too difficult for me to trust anyone anymore. My greatest desire is to see my boys content, have everything, and live well", Maria told us one day.

Housing Maria and the children marked the beginning of our collaboration which is much more complex than meeting material needs. After learning all the details of Maria's situation, we helped her to officially divorce her husband and find the resources within herself to adapt to the new life. We offered her all the support she needed in order to integrate more easily into her new community. The children started attending school and kindergarten in the village and the entire family was helped with new clothes, shoes, and household appliances. It wasn't easy for Maria to accept all that help and we often saw her shy and withdrawn, but with time she understood that she had a trustworthy friend in us. In her previous life she had been accustomed to work hard for everything she had and we were truly surprised to find out that, in just a few weeks in the new village, she was already working as a caretaker of an elderly neighbor. And, shortly, Maria's and her children's quality of life started to visibly improve.



CULTIVATING EMPOWERMENT



As part of the Spring Project, Maria's family was gifted a cow. The woman was overjoyed when she understood that from now on, she would have a real household, with animals in her yard and resources to live on. "If I have milk, cheese and sour cream it's much easier. Porridge, a mush with cheese, I can make everything for the children. We'll always have something to eat, and thank God for that!", Maria says with a smile. It's everything she could dream of: having her own household and healthy children.

In 2023, Maria found a job in Chisinau, with a decent salary, managing to save up the equivalent of a third of the cost of the house she was offered for use. Maria told us that she would like to buy the house, even though she had a much smaller amount than the value of the property. We gladly accepted to help her, as this is a sure sign of financial independence. All the help we offered her had been directed towards well-being, social and educational integration, emotional balance, and empowerment for an independent life.

Marian, Denis and Dan participated in all the educational and art therapy activities organized by The Moldova Project, visited Chisinau, amusement parks, went to aquapark, cinema, circus and menagerie. The children were given free dental treatment, medical consultations, medicines, and medical procedures. Our team has been and continues to always be available for Maria's family and the care we provide them bring a lot of new hope and ambition to their lives. There are already plenty of beneficial changes in the family's life: all of the members have adapted very well to the new village, the children are successful at school and in the summer of 2023, Marian, who graduated 9th grade, even went for the first time in his life in a school trip to Romania, organized by the Ministry of Education. He was offered this opportunity for outstanding merit in school. Recently, Marian told us that he would like to study abroad in IT and his mother is supporting him wholeheartedly. Denis is the most energetic, always with new ideas and very curious. The youngest, Dan, enjoys kindergarten, and although he has friends in his group, his best playmates are still his older brothers.



CULTIVATING EMPOWERMENT



Asked by a journalist about her new life, Maria said, visibly excited:

The Moldova Project is always taking care of us, they bring us food, backpacks for school, hygiene products, everything. It's a huge help. I also have a cow from the organization and that's so wonderful. I thank them so much for the house, for everything they gave me with so much love. I've finally managed to save some money thanks to their help. They have been a sister and a brother to me; they were there for me during the hardest time of my life.



The young mother is currently saving up for other goals: she plans to build a bathroom inside the house, repair the roof, and fix the kitchen. Courageous and a visionary, Maria prioritizes her children's needs and does her best to provide them with good living conditions and access to education. Maria has managed to break out of the vicious circle of victimhood and, like a hardworking bee, will persevere and bring value to her family through everything she does. She is happy in her own home, with her children and those who have become her friends.



**CULTIVATING
EMPOWERMENT**





"LONGING FOR MOLDOVA" FESTIVAL

February 2023



FUNDRAISING



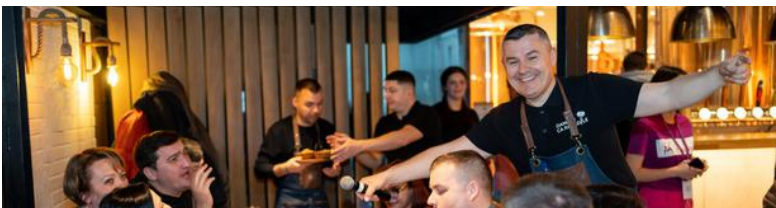
"THE EASTER BASKET" FUNDRAISER

April 2023



"A CUP OF TEA WITH VICTORIA" NETWORKING EVENT

December 2023



TMP TEAM CAROLING

December 2023



"DINE AND DONATE FOR CHRISTMAS" FUNDRAISER

December 2023



"IT'S SO EASY TO BE SANTA" CAMPAIGN

December 2023





MASS - MEDIA APPEARANCES

29

WRITTEN
ARTICLES

37

TV
APPEARANCES

3

RADIO
APPEARANCES

VICTORIA MOROZOV ON THE MOLDOVA PROJECT'S
MISSION & ASSISTANCE PROGRAM - VIDEO INTERVIEW

ON POVERTY AND OVERCOMING STEREOTYPES -
WRITTEN ARTICLE

A SUCCESS STORY - VIDEO REPORT

VICTORIA MOROZOV ON THE 2% MECHANISM - STUDIO
INTERVIEW

A SPECIAL EXPERIENCE ON WOMEN'S DAY FOR
BENEFICIARY MOTHERS - TV REPORT

"THE EASTER BASKET" FUNDRAISER - TV REPORT

THE INAUGURATION OF THE PLAYROOM IN JEVRENI
VILLAGE - STUDIO INTERVIEW

THE SPRING PROJECT 2023 - TV REPORT

THE SUMMER PROJECT 2023 - TV REPORT

THE „WOMEN WITH VISION” PROJECT - STUDIO INTERVIEW

“DINE AND DONATE FOR CHRISTMAS” FUNDRAISER - TV
REPORT

PATRONS

Adriana
Alexandra
Alexandra Luca
Alexandrina Crudu
Alexandru
Alexandru & Tatiana Dragalin
Alina
Alina Rusu
Ami
Ana Cirja
Ana Virlan
Ana Vizir
Ana Yenake
Anatolie
Andriana Mereuta
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Botnaru
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Catalina Trohin
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Daniel Prodan
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Donna Janes
Dumitrita
Dumitru Botnaru
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**SPECIAL
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Corina Dolghier	Gandrabor Elena	Maria and Jerry Sweetnam	Osadciuc Tatiana	Vlada Luca
		Mariana Malcoci		
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PARTNERS



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 OFFICE@THEMOLDOVAPROJECT.ORG

 0680 98 222