



OSCE



ABOUT THE PROJECT:

“Protection and Empowerment of Victims of Human Trafficking and Domestic Violence in Moldova”

The citizens of the Republic of Moldova suffer daily from political conflict, corruption, poverty, unemployment, inadequate public services, high rates of emigration, and increasingly, a breakdown of social and family structures. In many cases, vulnerable women and children are the most affected by these social and political ills. It is not surprising then, that many of these vulnerable women and children fall victim to violence: at home in the form of domestic violence and at large in the form of trafficking in human beings. Both domestic violence and human trafficking are fundamental violations of human rights and serious threats to human security, and they are occurring in epidemic proportions in Moldova.

This Project is the result of an intensive collaboration between the participating agencies — UNDP, UNFPA, IOM, and OSCE— beginning in early 2007, who are currently involved in protecting and promoting human rights in Moldova. Collectively they have identified the related problems of domestic violence and human trafficking as priority areas of intervention to address actual and pressing human security needs in Moldova. The project was elaborated in close coordination with the Government of the Republic of Moldova and specifically with the key implementing partners: the Ministry of Social Protection, Family and Child, the Ministry of Local Public Administration and the Ministry of Reintegration. While not officially invited to participate in the formulation meetings, other key partners in the anti-trafficking and gender communities in Moldova were consulted on specific aspects of the Project by the participating agencies

The **Overall Goal** of this Project is to improve the ability of the Government of Moldova, in partnership with civil society, local communities, and other service providers, to provide its vulnerable citizens with a life free from the threat or experience of domestic violence and human trafficking, as well as to improve the access of these vulnerable citizens to quality, comprehensive, necessary services (medical, psychological, social, legal, employment, and housing) to achieve and sustain such a life.

Relying upon both UN and OSCE commitments and priorities relevant to Moldova, the participating agencies have designed this Project to attack the human security issues of domestic violence and human trafficking from two inter-connected perspectives: enhancing Protection to victims through a strengthened system (a top-down approach in partnership with appropriate governmental institutions) and encouraging Empowerment of local communities and individuals to prevent and address the problems at their roots (a bottom-up approach in partnership with local officials, civil society, and the media).

Focusing on the **Protection Component** of the project, IOM will play a leading role in implementing this component as this part of the Project grows out of anti-trafficking activities (namely development and implementation of the National Referral System) that IOM has been supporting in Moldova. IOM has been the key player in providing protection and assistance (repatriation, rehabilitation and/or reintegration) to victims of trafficking in Moldova. UNFPA will offer its expertise and experience in all activities related to expanding the NRS thematically to meet the needs of victims of domestic violence. A critical partnership with the MSPFC will compliment this systemic approach to improving identification, protection, and assistance to victims of human trafficking and domestic violence throughout Moldova.



The Empowerment Component of the project will be lead under the supervision of UNDP as UNDP has extensive experience in developing the capacities of community actors and authorities in Moldova to prevent trafficking in human beings as well as to promote gender equality. The OSCE Mission will offer its support to the Project, especially vis-à-vis working with civil society and local authorities in the unstable geographic areas neighbouring the region of Transnistria and the autonomous territorial unit of Gagauzia, to promote security and human rights. The Mission, jointly with UNDP, will manage the small grants part of the Empowerment component in order to ensure that it is implemented in a complimentary manner to the Mission's Anti-Trafficking and Gender Programme. In this way, efficiency and multiplier principles will be ensured.

"To promote human security requires concentration of policy and action on two concepts: people at risk, and democratic empowerment. The people at highest risk from human security threats are usually the least powerful members of any society—the poor, marginalized and excluded. Democratic empowerment reduces human security risks, and makes everyone safer" (see *Empowering People at Risk: Human Security Priorities for the 21st Century*, Working Paper for the Helsinki Process on Globalization and Democracy, Track on "Human Security"). Accordingly, this Project has been designed simultaneously to strengthen the capacity of Moldovan Governmental institutions, in partnership with civil society, to identify, protect, and assist victims of human trafficking and domestic violence, as well as to empower communities, civil society, and individuals to address these human security issues at their roots in communities and families. Following the Projects conclusion, the Government of Moldova will be better equipped to meet its international human rights commitments, and the vulnerable citizens of Moldova will be less likely to fall victim to human trafficking and domestic violence.

This Project, "Protection and Empowerment of Victims of Human Trafficking and Domestic Violence", is formulated within the **United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF)** for the period of 2007 to 2011, which was agreed upon between the Government of Moldova and the UN Country Team, including UNDP, UNFPA, and IOM and is in line with the priorities set in the **National Development Strategy of the Republic of Moldova (NDS)** and the **Millennium Development Goals**.

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