

Partnerships for Every Child Annual Report

April 2012 – March 2013



FOREWORD

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Less than a year passed since the Partnerships for Every Child was officially launched. During this time we managed to secure productive collaboration with the central and local authorities and to expand the programs previously developed by EveryChild Moldova. If I could sum up the essence of all implemented activities in a couple of words, then I would say that the most important is what we offer to people, especially to the children around us. This refers to new approaches and attitudes that help to ensure a happier childhood to the children of our country, close to their parents and families. A new order, if you want, that gives priority to the consideration of human dignity, the person's responsibility for own life, for the child brought to the world, and for the neighbour. The essence of our actions is the creation of a generous, united, and participative community. When we say generosity, we refer to the help provided to a person through various formal and informal services, so that the person becomes self-helping. True generosity that we want is the form of help that mobilizes people to discover their ability to work and to self-affirm, gaining in this way respect and responsibility of themselves and of their neighbour.

The family, the children, the school, the work, and the faith are the core values that we rely on, because they generate trust, liberty, recognition, and hope. A community where every person has dignity and potential. We are aware that this vision can be achieved only through consequent and sustainable actions, by all actors involved into the process. However, the thoughts, the aspirations, and especially the experience that we managed to gain reinforce our certainty that the path we have chosen is correct. And we will walk confidently, together, till the end.

I am convinced that the expertise and resources provided by our team to the state authorities of the Republic of Moldova in the reform of the child social protection and care system, through commitment and mutual accountability, will transform the issues that seem to be impossible in obvious achievements. The safety of our fellow citizens and, especially, of our children depends on us. Together, we will build a future full of dignity and well-being that we deserve, as a country and as present and future citizens of our country – the Republic of Moldova.

Stela GRIGORAS
P4EC President

Official Launching of P4EC, May 24th, 2012

“I’m confident of the success of this partnership”

***Marian LUPU,
ex Speaker of the Republic of Moldova***

I greet the inauguration of the new association “Partnerships for Every Child”. We are witnessing an independent start of a new local organization, which is an evolution in the Republic of Moldova. This is period of coming into adulthood in your activity. During these years you did a big job in the improvement of the childcare system. We will continue to support this partnership in order to achieve with joint efforts the objectives of national interest. I am confident of the success of this partnership”.

“The reform should be continued”

***Vlad FILAT,
ex Prime Minister of the Republic of Moldova***

Moldova, supported by its development partners, managed to reduce by 50% the number of children in residential care, securing the reintegration of over 5 000 children into their biological families or alternative services that are of considerably better quality. The reform is an incontestable success, including at the regional level. But it should be continued, intensified, finalized in the most efficient manner. The Government will take all necessary action so that with time we definitively give up the residential placement of children under 3 years of age. I insist that this reform be among priority targets of our activity.

“Let us improve the reform’s coordination mechanism”

Maia SANDU, Minister of Education

Obviously, every child feels better outside the residential system, but we shouldn’t underestimate the risks they are exposed to at the exit of the system. We are half way through. The evaluation report of the national strategy and actions plan of the residential child care system reform formulates a series of lessons and recommendations for the improvement of the efforts coordination mechanism of the involved institutions, improvement of the form of financing and redistribution of savings towards community services. Besides, we have created a system monitoring the entry into institutions and exit from them, recommendations that we should analyse and apply.

“You have made residential institutions obsolete”

Mihail ŞLEHTIŢCHI, Presidential Advisor

We say categorical “NO” to separation from family. We insist on the child’s getting closer, and not separating from family. The promoters of these changes are the ones who yesterday created the team of EveryChild, and are today Partnerships for Every Child. They managed to break this wrong mentality and demonstrate that residential care is obsolete. Thus we can enumerate at least 10 projects of big impact that lead to the broad reform of the child-care system. They went to 26 raions to implement the reform in the territory. I appreciate the fighting spirit of the team that want to lead the change till the end.

We need further tight partnership in the civil society

***Valentina BULIGA,
Minister of Labour, Social Protection and Family***

About 4000 children left in institutions need increased actions within the reform, specifically concentrated on young children and on disabled children. Further efforts are needed, for the consolidation of families, creation of community support centres for families at risk and extension of the number of alternative family-type services. We are fully aware that the system reform in the residential child care and in social assistance is performed in tight partnership between the civil society and the authorities.

ABOUT US

The Non-Profit Organization Partnership for Every Child (P4EC) is the legal successor of EveryChild Moldova that was established as a result of the merger between these two organisations. It was created in order to consolidate, build upon and secure the sustainability of EveryChild's work in the Republic of Moldova. P4EC/EveryChild worked in Moldova since 1995 and has focused on preventing loss of parental care for children and ensuring that where children do have to leave the care of their fam-

ily, they are protected in a safe, secure family environment in keeping with the provisions of the UNCRC and other international instruments. At the moment P4EC is one of the few organisations working with LAs to implement programmes for reorganization of childcare, including large-scale institutions, as well with national authorities influencing social policy in this area. 10 residential institutions out of 15 covered within the reform were reorganised or closed by P4EC.



VISION

A world where every child enjoys the right to a childhood in a safe and caring family, free from poverty, violence and exploitation.

MISSION

We work to give vulnerable children who are, or risk being, separated from their family or community a safe and secure future. We empower children, their families, communities and authorities to create opportunities for a better life:

- We give children the chance to grow up in loving families and communities - we help to strengthen families to prevent children from being separated.
- We help children getting back into families - wherever we can, we re-unite children on their own with their families; when that is not possible, or not in a child's best interest, we help them get into alternative family-based care.
- We protect children from abuse, discrimination and exploitation - when children are living without the care and safety of a family, most at risk of violence, abuse or exploitation, we protect them with crisis care and support.
- We make sure children are heard - we help children, their families and communities speak for themselves, take part in decisions which affect their lives, and find lasting solutions to their problems.
- We learn to do better - we innovate to bring about lasting, positive change and then share what works with communities and governments to bring about lasting, positive change.



MAIN STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

Keeping families together. We give children the chance to grow up in loving families and communities. We help strengthening families' abilities to keep their children at home and offer them love, warmth and the best possible care and protection. We also support children and parents to reunite after a long period of separation.

Helping babies stay with their parents and making baby homes history. We help babies who are abandoned or at risk to be abandoned by their parents to continue to live in safe and secure own or alternative families. We support and encourage communities, authorities and civil society organisations to strengthen the capacities of young parents, build up their parental skills and put in place effective early intervention services to support babies' healthy development in a family environment.

Getting children into safe alternative families. We support central and local authorities to help children who lost the care of their parents to find new caring and safe families.

Ensuring institutional care is used as a last resort. We support local and central authorities to assess a number of large-scale institutions to establish and implement transformation or closure plans. In the recent years we have supported the closure of 6 institutions and transformation of one institution into a community-based social services centre.

Ensuring social inclusion of children. We support central and local government, civil society and other stakeholders' efforts to bring about greater social inclusion of marginalized children and their families, ensuring those who are excluded due to different reasons are able to exercise their rights.

Building child participation. Children are the experts of their lives. They now best what support should be developed and delivered to them and their families. Till now many professionals in Moldova are reluctant to listen to young people in care and don't see the need for it. The more we start to build a movement for the children in care, the better in terms of reaching policy makers and pushing on for innovative policy and practice.

Commitment to protect children from violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation. We encourage the authorities to bear primary responsibility for preventing and responding to violence against children, to implement actions in all sectors. Establish and maintain a child safe environment is the main consideration in all of our activities, including in all the services that are developed at local level for children and families. We help central and local authorities and civil society to improve the understanding of the problem, to build the evidence base on this phenomenon, and devise multi-disciplinary and inter-sectorial strategies, services and policies to confront family violence, child abuse, neglect and exploitation.

OUR PEOPLE

Human resources are the most valuable resource of the organization. Total number of staff is 22 persons. P4EC has a consolidated team with vast experience, known to local and international stakeholders. The team has strong image created on the market of the Republic of Moldova, as an organisation that implemented important reform projects, provides consultancy, as well as deliver services to children and families. The team has solid relationships of collaboration with local and central government authorities and has a positive reputation among international agencies. The team is one of the main players in the civil society, being the founders/active members of different Alliances.

PARTNERSHIPS

- P4EC's partners includes: the Ministry of Labour, Social Protection and Family, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Finance,
- Local authority partners: Chisinau Municipal Department of Child's Rights Protection, raion Councils of Cahul, Calarasi, Falesti, Orhei, Ungheni, Telenesti and Singerei.
- Local and International organisations and NGOs: UNICEF, Terre des Homes, Lumos, CCF Moldova, Keystone Human Services International, CNPAC, CRIC, Alliance for the Protection of Children and Families

DONORS

Apart from permanent UK donors, such as Every-Child UK, the programs, promoted by the organization, were financially supported by USAID, European Commission, Norwegian Embassy, World Childhood Foundation, Oak Foundation, East-Europe Foundation, Medicor Foundation, Vitol, and other donors.

Among local donors and supporters are a number of private companies, such as Union Fenosa, Metro Cash&Carry, Fourchette and others;

Important assistance comes from private donors, private persons who permanently support P4EC through their donations into boxes, placed in shopping networks.

It is very important to mention the partnership between P4EC and Moldovan mass-media, who has supported P4EC's activity as devoted media partners (for example, Teleradio Moldova public company, Pro TV, TV 7, EURO TV, MIR company, Saptamina newspaper, and INFO Prim NEO news agency.



OUR HISTORY

1990s

- 1995** The year when EveryChild started to work in the Republic of Moldova, namely in the Municipality of Chisinau, implementing an EU-funded project (Overture).
- 1997** The Directorate for Protection of Children's Rights was set up as a first structure of this type in Moldova as a result of the EU project, implemented in collaboration with Chisinau City Hall.
- 1998** The first team of 15 social workers were recruited and trained to pilot Family Support and Reintegration Services in Chisinau Municipality.
- 1999** The first Small Group Home for children with disabilities without parental care in Chisinau. EveryChild extended its activity to Cahul and Tiraspol to replicate family support and reintegration services.



2000s

2000 The first Foster Care Service pilot was launched in Chisinau, in collaboration with the Municipal Child's Rights Protection Department;

2002 The first Day Care Center for children with disabilities was opened in Cahul, in collaboration with UNICEF and Cahul local authorities.

EveryChild programme extended to the 4th region - Ungheni raion, implementing, in collaboration with UNICEF and Ungheni Council, a programme for the development of integrated social services for children and families.

2003 The Republican Centre for street children was reorganized into a child-friendly service. EveryChild started to implement a large EU –funded Tacis Project “Capacity building in social policy reform”.

2004 EveryChild programme extended to the 5th region - Orhei raion. Gate-keeping legislation and methodology was developed in collaboration with the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, and tested in 3 regions – Cahul, Orhei and Ungheni.

2005 A successful awareness raising and advocacy campaign on the need to reform the child care system was implemented, with the motto “Call Your Future Back Home”.

First 3 institutions were assessed and strategies were developed at local level to reform child care system.

Expenses Analysis of Residential Care of Children in the Republic of Moldova and Cost Analysis of Residential Care and Community Services were carried out; the findings presented to the national government to influence changes in the system.

2006 The national reform on reorganisation of the residential child care was launched by the President of the country at a national conference organised by EveryChild, in collaboration with UNICEF and President's office.

A comprehensive package of gate keeping and family-based alternative services were developed in 3 regions and lessons learned disseminated to 50% of regions from Moldova, 2432 children from 3 raions were prevented from institutionalization, 245 children were reintegrated with their parents and 55 children were placed in foster care.

EveryChild programme extended to the 6th region – Soroca, supporting the local authorities to develop an integrated system of social services for children and families.

2007 The first residential institution was closed in Cahul, as a result of EveryChild's advocacy campaign. The Gate-keeping and Foster Care regulations were approved by the government. This legislation facilitated the reduction of the number of children in residential care.

A National Strategy on reorganisation of the residential child care system and Plan of action were developed and approved by the Government.

The implementation in Chisinau and Ungheni of a programme to prevent abandonment of children at birth was launched. The second residential institution in Cahul started the transformation process.

EveryChild in collaboration with Oxford Policy Management GB started a project funded by DFID and SIDA "Support to the development of effective and efficient social assistance services" to support the Ministry of Social Protection, Family and Child to implement social assistance reform.

2008 The National Programme for the Development of the Integrated System of Social Services and Foster Care Quality Standards were approved by the Moldovan Government.

The Law and Regulations on Social Aid (means-tested benefit) was approved by the Parliament. Other 9 regions established gate-keeping as a result of the approval of the national legislation.

2009 The Law on Social Services was approved by the Parliament. Social Aid is implemented nationally; monthly around 16,000 households (majority of them being families with children) received financial support under the new legislation.

Parent-and-Baby Units established in Ungheni and Chisinau become fully operational providing specialized support to babies and their parents to prevent abandonment.

In Cahul the first phase of the reorganization of the institution finalized: all children (together with teachers) were integrated into mainstream schools; 47 children out of 131 were reintegrated with biological and extended families a small scale family-type placement centre was established and fully operational.

Other 9 regions were covered by EvC by providing technical assistance to local authorities in developing Foster care service and gate keeping system.

2010s

2010 A model of inclusive education for children with special needs who were placed in residential care in Falesti and Ungheni was piloted; 144 children from 3 special schools were assessed; 91 children were reintegrated with families or placed into alternative family care and integrated into mainstream schools; 148 headmasters and deputy-headmasters of 74 community schools were trained in inclusive education; one institutions was closed and other two were prepared for closure in 2011.

80 hours' training to 800 community social workers and 220 employees of the Community Social Assistance Service and Domiciliary Care Service nationwide were provided with DFID support in collaboration with OPM and Ministry of Labour, Social Protection and Family

Other new 8 regions were covered by providing technical assistance to local authorities in the development of foster care and gate-keeping system.

EveryChild started to implement the USAID-funded Project "Protecting children of Moldova from family separation, violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation", in collaboration with the Ministry of Labour, Social Protection and Family and local authorities in Calarasi, Falesti and Ungheni, working in 7 residential institutions for children and developing gate-keeping and family based alternatives.

2011 An Action Plan on the implementation of International Guidelines on alternative child care was developed on the basis of the analysis of national legislation and integrated in governmental action plan. A Child Friendly version of the International Guidelines on alternative child care was developed by children, published and distributed among children.

P4EC extended its programme on residential care reform and development of community family type based services to other 2 new regions: Singerei and Telenesti.

5 out of 8 residential institutions in 4 regions where P4EC is working were closed. 4 residential institutions with 372 children were assessed; 322 children were reintegrated with their families or placed into alternative family care. In addition, 112 children in the institution for children with hearing impairments and 126 children from the health facility for children infected or affected by tuberculosis have been assessed and care plans have been established.

77 schools from the three target sites were supported to pilot the inclusive education model for children with special educational needs.

In Cahul a Community Centre for Children and Young People was established. It includes Social Apartments for care leavers and Vocational workshops: sewing, cooking/confectionery, carpentry

and computer literacy. A “Life Skills Educational Programme” and a Vocational Programme were developed. The capacities of the centre’s staff were built in provision a permanent support to children and youth in the re/integration process in the family, school and community.

Other new 9 regions were covered by providing technical assistance to local authorities in developing foster care and gate-keeping system. A model of short-break foster care for children with disabilities was developed and tested in two project sites – Orhei and Chisinau.



AREAS OF ACTIVITY AND THE MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2012 – 2013

P4EC continued promoting the right of the child to grow up in a loving family or in a family-like environment. Our priorities continue to be the reduction of the use of residential institutions for children in difficulty by implementing alternative social services, mainstreaming inclusive education and demonstrating the efficiency of family support in the community and consolidating the capacity and confidence of children and the community in their own forces to control their own future.

In the past year, as a direct effort of the P4EC:

- The Law on Special Protection of Children at risk to be separated from their families or separated was developed, widely consulted with civil society and successfully passed the first reading in the Parliament.
- Foster care Regulations and quality standards were revised in line with International Guidelines on alternative child care and are with the MLSPF to be promoted for governmental approval; Family support Regulations was developed, widely consulted with civil society and sent to the Government for approval.
- Regulations on the Retargeting of Financial Resources from Residential Care to Community Social and Educational Services was developed in collaboration with LUMOS Foundation and Ministry of Finance and approved by the Government.
- Local authorities from 5 regions were assisted to mainstream the inclusive education programme, establish the Psycho Pedagogical Assistance Services and resource centres and utilise the financial resources allocated from the national budget for inclusive education. All-in-all, 133 schools were supported to implement the inclusive education for children with special education needs.
- 183 children from 2 auxiliary schools from Singerei and Telenesti regions were assessed and care plans were established. 51 children were reintegrated with their families or placed in alternative family care. Other 26 graduates were supported in the community and family integration.
- 161 social workers from 5 regions built their capacities in the provision of family support and reintegration, gate-keeping system, foster care and supervision and referral mechanisms.



- Short-break foster care for children with disabilities was developed and integrated into the local child protection systems of two regions of the country—Orhei and Chisinau.
- The draft Instruction on the inter-sectorial cooperation to protect children and families in difficulty at the local level was produced by the P4EC and integrated into the Instruction on the inter-agency collaboration mechanism for the assistance and

monitoring of child victims and potential victims of abuse, neglect, exploitation, and traffic. This instruction was produced and finished by the MLSPF's working group, with the participation of P4EC, Tdh, CNPAC and CRIC. The instruction was consulted with the local authorities, decision-makers, and specialists working in healthcare, police, social assistance, and education in three regions and piloted in one region.

PROJECTS IMPLEMENTED IN 2012 – 2013

1. Supporting local authorities of Moldova to provide alternative family based-care to children without parental care (year 3), funded by World Childhood Foundation.

This project is an extension of the project launched in 2010 and was working to achieve the following objectives:

1. By March 2015 local authorities throughout Moldova improve their capacities to develop and provide high quality foster care services to children without parental care.
2. By March 2015, local and national authorities, civil society organizations have capitalized on the experience in developing foster care services, have adjusted the national policy accordingly and have established a sustainable professional foster care body.

In the financial year 2012-2013 the project continued its activities focusing on strengthening the role of foster care service as an alternative family based substitute service throughout the Republic of Moldova. The project activities were directed at the establishment of the functional model of the foster care service as well as the gatekeeping system at the local public authorities' level nationwide. The capacity of the community social

workers as a key staff in provision of primary family support services at the community level to prevent child family separation as well as in the provision of the foster care were built during the year.

Key achievements:

During the last year the project strengthened the capacities of 9 local authorities of the Republic of Moldova (Singerei, Telenesti, Soldanesti, Cahul, Dubasari, Criuleni, Nisporeni, Anenii Noi and Gagauzia) to plan, develop and deliver effective alternative care and gate-keeping services to prevent child-family separation and provide appropriate care to children separated from their families. In doing so, the project targeted all-in-all 325 child care and child protection professionals: 283 community social workers, 28 decision-making specialists and 14 foster carers, by means of formal initial trainings and follow-up support field visits. In the project regions, local budgets for 17 more foster carers were approved and 10 more children were placed into foster care in the reporting period.

Professionals in the area, from the whole country, participated at a high profile 1-day national foster care conference organized by the project, including 110 foster care-givers and 60 specialists in child and family protection. Simultaneously, the children's conference was held, encountering 45 children placed in foster care. Both specialists and children came up with comments and recommendations for the foster care service improvement, including that of extending Short Break Foster Care in the whole country.

It has to be mentioned the children's conference had an aim to promote child participation in policy and practice development, incorporating their views and opinion in further improvement of foster care delivery in the country. The children had unique opportunities to meet other children with similar care experience, to share achievements, problems and their wishes, by means of different interactive activities. At the end of the event they came up with a number of suggestions for the improvement of foster care delivery, which were presented to the decision-makers, specialists, foster carers.



Children's recommendations presented at the Foster Care Conference:

Adults should strictly follow the procedures for the child's placement in foster care, so that the children are properly informed about the exact reasons for their placement, period of placement, and what will happen to them after the placement;

Authorities should increase the salaries of foster carers, as well as payments for the child's support, because their needs are big and the expenses much exceed the amount they are given by the authorities;

Children should be involved more often and more actively in trainings, conferences, so that they are given opportunities to express their views and actively participate in community life;

The society should be informed about children in difficulty, more fostering families should be recruited, to give warmth and love to life-beaten children;

Responsible adults should help children in foster care to establish a youth-in-care network that will help children and young people with care experience to communicate and support each other.



Foster carer's recommendations presented at the Foster Care Conference:

Foster carers are able to provide a range of foster care placements, but they need more support, training and communication to increase their skills and knowledge;

Children in foster care have complex developmental needs, and meeting these needs requires an improved assistance that also depends on the size of the allowance each child receive from the state – that are very low and do not cover the basic children's needs; the national authority should revise the existing norms so that children are provided with allowances that better cover their needs and foster carers are provided with better remuneration for the challenging job that they do;

Foster carers want to be part of a professional body that promotes foster care development in Moldova and they recommend that National Foster Care Association is established and all interested people have access to join the organisation; this will allow Moldovan foster carers and children to communicate with similar associations in other countries.

Foster carers also had a unique opportunity to spend time together, discuss common issues and identify and propose recommendations for the improvement of the foster care service run by local authorities. They also presented their recommendation at the final plenary.





Outcomes for children in foster care

P4EC carried out a research on the outcomes for children placed in foster care starting with 2001. According to the methodology the FC assessment was carried out at three levels: the level of FC approach in the context of the child social protection system, analysis at the level of the FC service itself, analysis at the level of an individual and the progress registered in the children development.

The field work was performed in Chisinau municipality, Orhei, Ungheeni, Calarasi, Cahul, Falesti and Soroca local authorities. In total 68 interviews with 76 persons were

carried out: 41 children were interviewed, including 23 children who are currently in FC service, 18 children who are already out of FC service and 2 children in short-break foster care. 23 interviews were performed with foster carers who have or have had children in FC placement, 9 interviews with parents of the children who were provided FC service, 4 interviews with the teachers of the pupils-children placed in FC. Also there were performed interviews with the specialists of the local authorities from the regions included in the research.

From the research report

The views of children and other respondents showed very clearly that the quality and dedication of foster carers is very impressive. The care and secure family type environment provided in the families of the foster carers contributed to the advancement in child's development as a whole and in particular it was observed that: the behaviour of children has become less challenging, more balanced; the child's school progress results considerably improved when in FC placements; the self-confidence as well as the statute among children has grown; state of health among children having health problems has registered improvement.

The findings of the research emphasized the need for continuous support and training for foster carers to enhance their capacities to work with very difficult children. Many of the children in care have violence, neglect or long-term institutionalization in their backgrounds and the effects of these are significant. Foster carers need knowledge and skills to work with these children, as well as to actively participate in the planned reintegration of children with their parents. There is a need to increase the methodological support for foster carers. Local authorities should identify additional human and financial resources to provide an increased on-going support, supervision and training to foster carers.

2. Developing short-break foster care for children with disabilities in the Republic of Moldova, funded by EU Delegation, EIDHR Programme

Project Purpose

Short Break Foster Care model for children with disabilities is developed and tested in 2 regions of Moldova and integrated into local level service provisions and national level policy debate by the end of the project.

Project results and activities

1. Local authorities and NGO service providers in Chisinau and Orhei, have an increased capacity to ensure the rights of children with disabilities to quality family-based care by the end of the project.
2. By the end of the project professional and public attitudes have shifted towards supporting children with disabilities and their families to prevent family separation and use of short-term substitute family based care as opposed to residential care for children with disabilities.
3. By the end of the project, national authorities (Ministry of Labour, Social Protection and Family) support the implementation of models of short break care for children with disabilities and promote this practice for nationwide replication.



Key achievements

As result of the project implementation the short-break care model has been integrated into the existing foster care service models in the two target regions, being fully accepted by local commissions, child protection leadership, and department managers and specialists as part of the foster care service package offered.

The regional foster care teams have fully accepted responsibility for current and future implementation of short-break model as part of their teams' responsibilities and service attributes. Foster care teams at the regional level in the two target regions have the capacity and skills necessary to continue to implement the short-break model, including foster carer training, case monitoring and supervision.



During the project life:

36 children benefited from the short break foster care placement;

36 parents benefited from respite time;

48 informational sessions with 79 parents and their children were held;

27 foster carers were approved and received training in short-break foster care;

22 social work specialists, 18 members of Gate Keeping commissions, 8 decision makers and specialists in child protection and family were trained short-break foster care;

6 specialists received a training for trainers, becoming a national training resource;

Curriculum and support materials were produced for the 35 hour speciality training.

Local foster care regulations revised to incorporate short-break and approved by the councils;

National regulations and standards of care were revised to incorporate short-break care;

Proposals for revised financial norms developed with MLSPF and Ministry of Finance.

From the Final project evaluation:

Child and Family Impact

All birth families described serious economic difficulties as the biggest challenge facing their family. This theme emerged as well from interviews with officials, focus groups with specialists and site visits. Economic challenges are deeply affecting many families in Moldova. The care for a child with disabilities is an additional burden: all families visited were single women; they didn't have any employment opportunities because they needed to be at home with their child; and social welfare benefits, when/if received, were not enough to meet the families' basic needs.

The connection to a support service seems to be empowering some families and they feel supported to maintaining family stability. Their empowerment is reflected in comments regarding being active participants in decisions around care, advocacy for services and education of their children, and pride in child accomplish-

ments and success in parenting. Important and supportive connections were being developed between parents and short break care providers.

No parent expressed regret or concern in regard to having their child at home, or expressed thoughts of institutionalizing their child. However everyone expressed the need for on-going support services, most importantly financial or material support. Generally families did not report connecting with other families with children with special needs in a formal way. They did not report to attend support groups; rather they described informal relationships that they had developed with friends, neighbours or other family members that also had children with disabilities. This was described as a tremendous support. It seemed to be more typical for families in urban settings to make these connections. Social isolation seemed to be more acute in rural settings.



In all those cases, it was the first time that families caring for children with disabilities received any kind of service. They reported complete satisfaction with the short break model, however were also deeply affected by the lack of services (social, therapeutic, educational and family support) in their communities. This includes services such as access to basic education, availability and access to equipment, and environmental supports such as accessibility adaptations in homes. Families did report increased knowledge of where to turn to for help, and an improved perception of the resources and support avail-

able through local authorities. They reported satisfaction with the support provided by social workers and felt that the care providers were extremely professional. It mattered to the families that the care provider be accessible. For families with children with physical disabilities, accessing and negotiating transportation was an issue. In rural areas, a sense of trust came from knowing that the care provider was a known and trustworthy person from the same community. In rural areas transportation issues make the need for care providers in the same communities as the families of utmost importance.



Participants' Quotations

"When I first heard, I could not believe that this would be for me. No one ever offered me any help before. It changes life"

Parent Beneficiary

"She is becoming like a mother to me – when I need something or have a question or just need someone to talk to I call her. It's much more than a break for me – it's someone who cares"

Parent Beneficiary

"I would never leave my grandchildren to an institution, but it helps that now there is someone to help take care of them. It is so hard alone"

Grandparent Beneficiary

"It does not matter what my neighbours say, these are children and they need our care – all children need our care regardless of their abilities"

Professional Foster Carer

Capacity Impact

Partners expressed the importance of the practical capacity building aspects, described as the combination of training, experiential exchanges, workshops, discussions, meetings and professional support at all levels – having “someone to call on when we have questions about what to do”. This has included P4EC’s role in supporting legislative policy development and advocacy for policy change at the national level.

Partners stated that there have been significant changes in attitudes and mentalities. This has been supported through the holistic capacity building approach and the combination of practical and theoretical support, as well as partnership models of advocacy and public awareness at all levels. Regions and local authorities feel that their “voices” are an important part of the dialogue and are proud of their successes. They stand ready to share their experience with other regions. The officials and specialists strongly believe in the model that has been piloted and see it as their own. They show great pride in the work their region is accomplishing. This sense of ownership is vital to both sustainability and replication.



Participants’ Quotations

“We were not sure it would work, we realized quickly that all of us needed to understand better disabilities and equal rights for all children and we needed to move forward together with professionals, and parents, and the general public”

Staff of P4eC

“Capacity building and training, but not just training, practical experience has been perhaps the most important contribution of this project. Our professionals, including social workers, specialists, and foster parents are better able to provide services to families with children with disabilities”

**Social Assistance
and Family Protection Directorate Orhei**

System impact

Models have been adapted at the regional level for regional context, particularly urban and rural differentiations. They are in following with UNCRC, UNGACC and the National Strategies for Child Welfare Reform and Integration of People with Disabilities. Regions are proud of the models developed.

National, regional and local officials and professionals recognize the importance of support services for children with disabilities and acknowledge this major service gap. They showed a commitment to continued reform and improvement of service packages. They recognized the need for reform of the foster care provider remuneration system, and expressed commitment to continued reform in this area, to include respite foster care.

Local and National Officials' Quotations

"That Partnerships for Every Child has stood beside the Government of Moldova since our child protection reforms began has been very important and significant. The ground was prepared way ahead of this project, but the project has brought assistance to local authorities in a very practical and direct way, and more importantly it has brought publicity about children with disabilities and their families. The experience will allow us to replicate a proven successful model at the national level"

Mrs. Viorica Dumbraveanu,
Head of the National Directorate for Child Protection

"We intend to continue the model as part of our foster care services. Already the Commission has approved budget allocation for next year and we hope to increase the number of providers and placements with the same high quality as exemplified under this pilot project"

Svetlana Chifa,
Head of Chisinau Directorate for Child Protection



3. Establishing child protection systems at local level to ensure the protection of children from abuse, neglect and exploitation in the Republic of Moldova, funded by Oak Foundation and implemented by P4EC and There des homes

Project purpose

By December 2013, 2000 vulnerable children and their families in Falesti and Ungheni have improved access to family support and child protection services, including systems to prevent and protect them from family separation, violence, abuse, and neglect.

Project objectives:

By December 2013, models of child protection mechanisms have been designed, tested, and capacities built to integrate these models into the child protection system in Ungheni and Falesti regions.

By December 2013, professional and public attitudes are shifted towards supporting vulnerable families and children to prevent child neglect, abuse, and exploitation.



Key achievements:

Child and Family Impact

1371 cases of children identified as suffering from abuse or neglect were reported by 77 trained social assistants, compared with 671 cases in the first year of the project. Out of these, 372 were successively solved. In intensively assisted communities, 78 children were identified as being at high risk, which implied coordination with the supervisors, countersignature on reference card, and defining solutions at district level.

1367 children were involved by 74 trained teachers into 2746 group activities in 47 schools. Among these children, 316 were from vulnerable families. At the same time, 3330 families (parents/caregivers) were involved in 1247 group activities in 45 schools.

651 calls were received by the Child Help Lines (CHL) in Falesti and Ungheni. Out of 56% relevant calls 2/3 - were informational and counselling reasons, while 1/3 of calls were related to ANET, in the following way: 34% were cases on child neglect, 30% - physical abuse, 11% - school drop-out, 7% - sexual abuse, 6% - emotional abuse, 12% - labour exploitation, human traffic, suicide attempts, and begging.

Training and Capacity Building

A Training Strategy and Program was finalised.

A set of curricula for various target groups were developed: for social assistance specialists and social services providers, for specialists from related areas: education, public order, health, children, and the general public and LAs representatives. Initial and on-going training curriculum was developed for the staff of the Child's Helpline service. All trainings performed within the project were based on a single format and accompanied by training materials and assessment of the implemented trainings.

Informational meetings on ANET were provided to a number of stakeholders in different stakeholders: 77 community social assistants, 51 local decision-makers, specialists in child protection, and heads of community social assistance service, 48 staff employed by community centres, 1721 staff employed by educational institutions (schools and kindergartens), 123 medical nurses and doctors, 97 police officers and 66 mayors.

In addition, 3300 parents and 18100 children were informed about ANET. The children were informed not only on the definitions of ANET forms and features, but also on the need and way of reporting of these cases. Specific attention was given to the new service – the Child Help Line.

Training and supervision of staff working in Social Assistance and Family Protection:

77 social assistants and their supervisors received training and practical support in professional supervision and feedback, to help them better understand supervision concept, how to apply techniques and tools in professional supervision and provide feedback focused on case management; Community social workers were also provided a 5-day training on case management;

78 social assistants, 2 supervisors and resources persons and 7 Tdh and P4EC staff received specially designed four 1- day complementary practical workshops on how to facilitate the activity of the MDTs.

The Child Help Line teams (8 people) in Falesti and Ungheni were provided further 2-day on-going training and mentoring to deal with the variety of calls coming up and using referral mechanism for solving the ANET cases.



Training of professionals from Education:

23 Deputy Directors of educational institution were given a Training of Trainers Programme specially designed to carry out psychosocial group activities with parents; the trainees conducted in their schools workshops on “Implementing group activities with parents”, involving 220 teachers-class masters.

40 participants-teachers from both target raions participated in two basic trainings on “Implementing Group activities with children” involving; the trained people acquired knowledge to enhance child resilience, and help the development of personal and social skills of children through psychosocial group activities.

76 managers of educational institutions improved their skills in monitoring the psycho-social activities with children and families at the community level.

Local Government:

47 communities in both target raions received coaching and/or logistic support: the implementation of the parent group activities were supported through 77 field coaching missions, including participation in parents meetings; consultancy and feedback was offered to about 700 school professionals; the children group activities were supported through an overall of 136 field visits, in 10 communities equipment and materials were

purchased to support the launching of group activities for children and parents. Meanwhile, an intensive field support and coaching was offered to both rayons’ social assistance workers and members of the MDTs, through the 253 visits of national and local teams of experts.

Local councils for child’s rights protection received 6 workshops in child protection; the capacities of 74 participants were improved in joint-up working as members of multidisciplinary teams at community level.

Intersectorial capacity building:

196 professionals from Falesti rayon (health- 33 managers of health institutions, social assistance- 39 social workers and managers of social services, education- 55 managers of educational institutions, police- 36 public security officers and local public administration- 33) received a capacity building programme aiming at increasing their knowledge and practice in implementing the intersectorial mechanism in their daily work. Further on, at the community level, 188 members of Multi-Disciplinary Teams (MDTs) of Falesti benefited from 11 workshops in practical modelling and application of intersectorial mechanism. Out of them, 80- teachers, 35- social assistants, 14- doctors, 16- community police officers, 15- mayors and 29- other local service providers.

Stakeholder and Inter-agency collaboration

The draft Instruction on the inter-sector cooperation to protect child and family in difficulty at the local level, produced by the project in the first year of the implementation, was integrated into the Instruction on the inter-agency collaboration mechanism for the assistance and monitoring of child victims and potential victims of abuse, neglect, exploitation, and traffic, produced and finished by the MLSPF's work group, with the participation of P4EC, Tdh, CN-PAC and CRIC. The instruction was consulted with the local authorities, decision-makers, and specialists working in healthcare, police, social assistance, and education in the pilot raions. At the request of the MLSPF, the sustainability of functioning of this inter-sector cooperation mechanism was piloted in Falesti region.

From the Evaluation of the inter-sector collaboration mechanism efficiency:

The piloting data confirmed once again that the Instruction is a useful tool for mobilization of local actors in the view of identification and assistance in cases of victims or potential victims of children's abuse, neglect, exploitation and traffic (ANET). The implementation of the inter-sector cooperation mechanism offers the local actors a single framework to work on the basis of clearly defined procedures, with the division of responsibilities between sectors, and within each involved sector.



Opinions

„The inter-sector cooperation mechanism is strictly necessary. All decision makers will constitute a whole for the child’ (deputy head of rayon on social issues);

‘The instruction is a necessary and useful instrument for all actors involved in child protection’ (main specialist on children’s rights protection);

‘It is a good thing for the improvement of the social situation in the community regarding neglect on behalf of parents’ (mayor);

*‘We acquire new skills for cooperation’
(family doctor);*

“In the past, I could tell about a case in the community because I am sociable and I am not indifferent to what is happening in the community, now I am also obliged to do so” (social worker);

‘We have at our disposition a detailed instruction, a working group, a well-thought action plan, activities distributed by possibilities, the will to solve the emerged problem, we are working in cooperation” (deputy school principal on education).

Within the piloting, 61 (100%) report forms were filled by the collaboration partners and sent to community social assistants.

There were mentioned positive changes at the level of involvement in the evaluation and solution of ANET cases. The most visible effects deal with the involvement of groups of specialists in this process, and not only the community social assistant, which increases the amount of professional competencies in cases solution.



Opinions:

„Having an MDT in the locality, it is very easy to intervene in cases solution, because each member has suggestions in the drafting of individualized assistance plan, takes part in the complex assessment and we try to take on each of us the responsibility for the solution of the existing problem” (community social assistant);

“It became much easier to solve the cases” (community social assistant);

“We got involved until now as well, but we did not document it” (mayor);

“Previously, there were social problems in the locality and all the existing problems needed to be solved by a single specialist, but now we work with a team of specialists and each member is responsible for the solution of the problem” (community social assistant);

“The child’s situation is much more visible” (head of nursery). “Previously identified cases of abuse were solved more easily (orally), having, accordingly, an “easier” specifics, now cases are more complicated, and their solution requires a more insistent activity and sometimes not only the expected result” (deputy school principal on education).

„Until now, a single specialist assumed the responsibility for a case solution, but working in a team, each member know his/her responsibilities, it is easier, because not only one specialist bears the burden and the responsibility, but the whole team” (community social assistant);

„Yes, because we receive the support and the designed activities are more realistic and efficient, we receive support from all sectors of the community” (deputy school principal on education).

The quantitative data show that community social assistants, teachers and medical workers were the most active in the identification of ANET cases and filling in of the reports. Quantitative differences could also be explained by the fact that, beyond social assistance, other sectors, according to the Instruction, have the possibility to solve less severe cases within the system itself. Consequently, these data show only the most severe cases that required multidisciplinary intervention and could not be solved within the system itself. Moreover the implementation of the inter-sector cooperation mechanism does not imply a strive for as many referrals as possible, which could lead to over-diagnostics, i.e. signalling of cases that cannot be qualified as ANET cases.



Key recommendations:

- The inter-sector cooperation mechanism should be integrated in the child protection system at all its aspects and levels: at the level of drafting of child protection policies, at the level of identification and approach to each particular case, at the level of collection and record keeping of data, as well as monitoring the situations of children victims or potential victims of ANET.
- The responsibility to identify and report cases of children's ANET and to get involved, in the limit of their responsibilities, in their solution, should be included in the functional obligations of all specialists involved in the inter-sector cooperation.
- The implementation of the inter-sector cooperation mechanism should be accompanied by a capacity building process for the application of case management, case referral, and connection to families and children services, which is efficient to be implemented via professional supervision of community social assistants.
- For the strengthening of cooperation practices and improved quality of work upon cases, it is necessary to offer professional support to MDT at community level, at the same time, it is desired that this support is offered for a longer period (for instance, 6 months), so that experience-based working practices are formed.

4. Protecting children in Moldova from family separation, violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation funded by USAID

The overall **goal** is that 100,000 vulnerable children in Moldova will have improved access to quality social protection services, including systems to prevent and protect them from family separation, violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation.

The project **purpose** is to enable the social protection system to comprehensively address the needs of vulnerable children and their families in Moldova for quality social services, including systems to prevent family separation and protect children without parental care by the end of July 2013.



The **intended outcomes** are that, by the end of July 2013:

1. National authorities are committed and actively support the implementation of the UN Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children in Moldova;
2. 5,000 vulnerable children and their families in Calarasi, Falesti and Ungheni have improved access to high quality family support and family substitute services integrated in the wider social protection context;
3. 1,100 specialists in Calarasi, Falesti and Ungheni have an increased capacity to prevent family separation and provide effective protection to children without parental care;
4. Local authorities in Calarasi, Falesti and Ungheni prioritize meaningful child participation as a means to consult, monitor and evaluate their local child welfare policies, and
5. Professional and public attitudes have shifted towards supporting vulnerable families and children to prevent separation and use of family based care as opposed to residential care for children without parental care.

Key achievements:

The Law on Special Protection of Children, which was developed with the project support, successfully passed the first reading in the Parliament in March 2013.

Foster care regulations and quality standards, family support regulations and quality standards and temporary placement centre's regulations have been finalised and are with the MLSPF to be promoted for governmental approval. The Law on amending other legal acts in line with the new Law on special protection of children is under development to be presented to the parliament when the main law passes the final reading.

The Regulations on reallocation of financial resources from residential care to community social and educational services supported by the project were approved by the Government of Moldova on the 29th of May 2012. As a result for the financial year 2013 – 2014 each region received around 6 million lei for the establishment of the Psycho-Pedagogical Assistance Service, Resource Centres and salaries of the teaching support staff.

The project continued to support local authorities to improve child and family social services, placing a special focus on prevention work delivered at the community level by community social workers. 1199 children in the 3 project regions were provided with primary family prevention by community social workers in order to prevent their separation from the families; 225 children out of them and their families were included into the Family Support Service

With project support, local authority partners devised Early Intervention Strategies and Inter-sector Action Plans that were approved by Raion Councils. These plans emphasize the commitment of local authorities to invest in prevention; Early intervention programmes/models were considered by the local authorities and planed for the development starting with January 2014.

Work continued on deinstitutionalisation of children in pilot regions. 9 children from Falesti boarding-school were deinstitutionalized; the remaining 30 children attend mainstream schools in the community. No children from the project pilot sites are placed in Cornesti institution at the moment. 21 children placed in Cornesti institution from Ungheni and Calarasi regions were reintegrated in their families. The project supported the local authorities of Cantemir, Nisporeni and Telenesti regions to deinstitutionalize 10 children (7 from Nisporeni, 1 child from Cantemir and 2 from Telenesti) whose placement had exceeded the maximum legal term and were not receiving any treatment at the Cornesti institution. The project team and the local authorities continue the preparation of the reintegration of the other 8 children from Stefan Voda, Straseni and Chisinau regions. On the basis of requests sent to the local authorities, the social workers assessed the families and are working on the reintegration plans. In the meantime, the project has taken a decision to strengthen the gate keeping mechanism to prevent new entries from the project regions. In this

regard, Rayon Councils from the whole country were requested to adopt a decision according to which no child could be placed into Cornesti institution without the approval of the gate-keeping commission.

Capacity building in inclusive education continues with follow-up training for 74 support teachers and key persons in inclusive education from Ungheni region; other 57 support teachers and key persons in inclusive education from Ungheni, Calarasi and Falesti mainstream schools received 8-days practical consultation on developing Individual Educational Plans provided by a practitioner

16 supervisors, 72 social workers and 6 specialists from SAFPD were supported in the development of an efficient professional supervision. As a result of the trainings and support provided to social workers through supervision meetings in the last project year the number of cases solved at the community level has considerably increased. Moreover the procedures of reporting, registering, referring and handling the cases are clear, structured and known by all professional in social assistance and in the other areas related to child protection. The referral mechanism is well perceived and enforced by the social workers by involving professionals from the social assistance field and from other fields at the 1st and 2nd levels of local authorities. In case the project is able to continue providing support to the pilot sites in the future, the pro-



professionals and social workers would like to be supported in solving cases of child abuse, neglect, exploitation and trafficking, disseminating the Instructions on interagency cooperation on cases of child abuse, neglect and exploitation.

The work on Monitoring and Evaluation framework for the system of child and family social services started from a local need to strengthen the mechanisms for data collection, analysis and integration into the national system; it will include prevention as well as protection services.



From April 2012 to March 2013:

- 37 deinstitutionalised children, from the residential institutions of Ungheni, Calarasi and Falesti placed into foster care and temporary placement centres, **were reunited** with their biological families; other 49 children separated from their families and placed in foster care or temporary placement centres in 3 regions were reunited as well with their families
- 9 children from Falesti boarding-school were reintegrated into biological families;
- 21 children residents of Cornesti institution from Ungheni and Calarasi regions were reintegrated with their families; Other 10 children placed into this institution from other regions were deinstitutionalised: 8 children were reintegrated with their families in Nisporeni and Cantemir regions, other 2 children were placed into Foster Care in Telenesti region;
- 312 reintegrated children from the residential institutions of Ungheni, Calarasi and Falesti were monitored;
- 125 reintegrated children integrated into mainstream schools benefited from support of teaching support staff.
- All in all 891 professionals have been trained to date.

One of the most empowering actions for children as well for adults implemented within the project is the activity of the **Advisory Boards for Children (ABC)** in three regions.

In the last year ABCs were supported to build their competences in **monitoring of child care social services** and planning and undertaking monitoring of the children placed into Foster Care, Family Type Children's Homes and attending day care services for children with disabilities. Monitoring reports were produced by children and presented to the Social Assistance and Family Protection Directorate staff. The findings of these reports were taken seriously by decision makers and were used in planning measures to improve the quality of the services provided to children.

Members of ABCs were involved in July 2012 in a **summer school** aiming to build their competences in monitoring of abuse and neglect cases in their local areas, promoting the use of the Child Help Line by children in need and be involved into the process of monitoring of the rights of children in alternative care.

2 children from Calarasi ABC participated at the **international conference** where they presented to the adult audience GACC, according to the child-friendly version developed by them.

The **National Council for the Protection of Children's Rights** invited 3 children from ABC Ungheni, alongside other 18 children from other 6 regions of Moldova, to participate at the meeting of the Council, where they shared with the policy makers (ministers) their findings in the process of monitoring the implementation of the rights of children.

"I have never had the opportunity to meet a person with such a high official position. I was very excited. The trainings with ABC have enabled me to express myself easier, use a more professional language, have more arguments for the subjects being discussed".

Cristina Diaconu,
member of ABC, Petresti, Ungheni

"We talked to Mrs. Buliga (Minister of Labor, Social Protection and Family), and made jokes with her".

Lucian Golubcov,
member of ABC, Valea Mare, Ungheni

"It is good to have meetings like this where children meet ministers and tell them about the problems they face. I studied in a boarding-school and know better than the others the challenges we face after graduation of the institution".

Irina Rusu,
member of ABC Alexeevca, Ungheni.

Members of ABC from Falesti, and Ungheni raions were invited as well to **participate in the development of the priorities of the National Child and Family Protection Strategy**. Children shared their visions with representatives of the Government, international organizations, and civil society. The children proposed at the meeting that the Government included the fol-

lowing priorities of child and family protection interventions: to modify legislation in a way that it provides for more severe punishment applied to persons who abuse and neglect children; to monitor how the budget allocated for children is distributed and used; to develop community services for children-victims of abuse, neglect, and exploitation; to train professionals in providing secure and non-violent environment to children, in organizing informative activities, in the identification, analysis, and referral of abuse and exploitation cases; to create a data base that registers all children, especially those exposed to forms of abuse, neglect, and exploitation; to train parents to provide emotional support to their children, exhibit non-violent behavior to their children, and protect them against abuse and neglect; to inform all children and parents about the rights of children, so that they understand and are able to overcome risk situations.



From the project mid-term review report:

The project has caused beneficial and sustainable changes in the lives of children supported to leave institutional care. Through the focus groups with children and life mapping exercise it became clear that children have hope and dreams for their future lives. Many envision future professions and families with children of their own. They expressed positive feelings around their deinstitutionalization and return to family care. Families overwhelmingly expressed joy at having their children home and generally seemed to feel supported in caring for their families. Many described not having a choice when their children were placed into residential care. This description ranged from “no one asked me” or “they told me it was the best option for my child” to “the community school forced me to place my child” and “I knew it was not best for my child but I did not have any say in the matter”.

The situation has improved for families and children. Family members realize the benefits of the reintegration and are happy to have their children home despite communicating clearly ongoing challenges for their families, particularly economic. No parent expressed regret or concern in regard to having their child at home. Children understand the role of family (described through words and pictures) and they do not want to relive the experience of being separated. Children are attending community schools. School results are positive. Children are less isolated according to both family members and teachers. In spite of initial fears around both school and community social inclusion expressed in earlier focus groups, children reported feeling supported by classmates, and having made friends both in school and within their communities.

5. Prevention of child abandonment at birth ; the social apartment for parent and baby couples, funded by Norwegian Embassy in Bucharest

The Project was implemented by P4EC in collaboration with the Republican Maternity Hospital, Municipal Hospital, Chisinau Municipal Child's Rights Protection Department, and Raion Social Assistance and Family Protection Departments.

The project goal:

Contributing to the reduction of the number of child abandoned at birth in Chisinau by the end of 2012.

The Project Objectives:

1. By the end of 2012, 12 parents placed into Social Apartment for Parent and Baby Couples (Parent and Baby Unit) have acquired positive parenting skills and are able to form secure attachments with their children, thus ensuring a protective and supportive environment for their babies' harmonious development.
2. By the end of 2012, at least 12 parent and baby couples placed in Unit are reintegrated with their families and communities of origin thus ensuring the children's right to live and grow up in safe and secure families

Key achievements:

The project directly targeted a total fourteen mothers and their 15 children. One parent had one more child who also stayed within the Social Apartment for parent and baby couples.

The support provided to the beneficiaries of the Parent and Baby Unit has helped fourteen parent beneficiaries during the project life to improve their abilities in positive parenting, developing communication skills and developing life perspective.

Ten parent and baby couples were successfully reintegrated with their families and communities as a result of Social Apartment activity in the settlement of relationships with the biological family from the beneficiary's community of origin. Four couples continue to benefit from the Social Apartment services; the work is being carried out for their successful reintegration.

The Parent and Baby Unit staff and service beneficiaries increased their professional capacity in positive parenting, addressing children's needs according to their age and child's healthy nutrition thus contributing to the reduction of the child at birth abandonment cases.

The service contributed to forming secure attach-

ment of the new parents to their babies. The parents gained confidence in their own forces by means of proper coaching and support in acquiring good parenting skills. The staff of the Parent and Baby Unit ensured the transfer of the knowledge acquired in the provision of specialized support to the beneficiaries, as a result of the capacity building activities. All this helped to prevent the abandonment of 15 new-borns in Chisinau by the end of 2012

During the service life and during the project implementation the Social Apartment has become known throughout the country as one of the most efficient services in terms of keeping children with their parents, strengthening the relationship with the biological family and building the skills of the beneficiaries for the future independent living.



6. Supporting the National Participation Council – Working Group for Social, Educational, Youth and Health Policies, funded by East European Foundation and Pontis Foundation

The project goal:

Establishing the culture of civil society consultation and participation in developing, monitoring and evaluating governmental policies.

The project objectives:

- The agenda and governmental strategic decisions are influenced by the National Participation Council with the exclusive aim to foster public interest and consultation with key stakeholders;
- The sector expertise of member organizations is strengthened with a view to influence key governmental decisions.

Key achievements:

At least 25 governmental policies proposed for approval were changed as a result of intervention and expertise provided by the Working Group for Social, Educational, Youth and Health Policies of the National Participation Council (WG); 10 public hearing meetings were organized for consultation of different policies developed by the relevant ministries, 15 meetings and workshops organized with decision makers to develop

or review different policies; all 4 ministries are monitored systematically regarding the fulfillment of the Law on Decision-Making Transparency.

Along with on-going activities linked to the involvement in policy development or carrying out the expertise of the already developed governmental policies and proposed for approval the WG was involved in monitoring the progress of the Government in achieving the objectives and actions, set by the Government Program and the Action Plan for 2011-2014. The monitoring covered 3 chapters of the above mentioned Program: Education and Research, Social Protection and Youth. 3 monitoring reports regarding the implementation of the Government Program and the Action Plan for 2011-2014 were developed and consulted with the main stakeholders within at least 5 individual meetings and within a public event with involvement of representatives of NGOs, mass media and public authorities.

The WG also developed two reports based on analysis: of national legal framework on social advertising and of international practices and of mechanisms for recognition of non-formal/vocational education, particularly for youth, both aiming to inform the Improvement of legal framework in these two areas.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

April 2012 –March 2013 (EURO)

Income	
<i>Institutional Grants</i>	624,367
<i>United States Agency for International Development, USAID</i>	528,198
<i>European Commission, EIDHR</i>	96,169
<i>Norwegian Embassy</i>	0
<i>Charitable Funds</i>	317,249
<i>EveryChild UK</i>	124,313
<i>World Childhood Foundation</i>	99,788
<i>OAK Foundation</i>	78,045
<i>East Europe Foundation&Pontis</i>	15,103
<i>Corporate Grants</i>	0,00
—	
<i>Other</i>	23,328
TOTAL	964,944

Expenditures	
<i>Institutional Grants</i>	
<i>Protecting children in Moldova from family separation, violence, abuse, neglect & exploitation</i>	<i>482,323</i>
<i>Developing Short Break Foster Care Service for Children with Disabilities in the Republic of Moldova</i>	<i>115,111</i>
<i>Prevention of Child Abandonment at birth. The Social Apartment for Parent and Baby Couples</i>	<i>4,801</i>
<i>Subtotal Institutional Grants</i>	<i>602,235</i>
<i>Charitable Funds</i>	
<i>Supporting local authorities of Moldova to provide alternative family based-care to children without parental care</i>	<i>99,788</i>
<i>Supporting children from special schools to be cared in safe families, schools and communities</i>	<i>93,288</i>
<i>Establishing child protection systems at local level to ensure the protection of children of Moldova from abuse, neglect and exploitation</i>	<i>91,784</i>
<i>Supporting the National Participation Council – Working Group for Social, Educational, Youth and Health Policies</i>	<i>13,223</i>
<i>Prevention of Child Abandonment at birth. The Social Apartment for Parent and Baby Couples</i>	<i>8,854</i>
<i>Reintegration research, phase 4</i>	<i>8,412</i>
<i>Subtotal Charitable Funds</i>	<i>315,349</i>
<i>Corporate Grants</i>	
-	-
<i>Subtotal Corporate Grants</i>	<i>0</i>
<i>Other</i>	
<i>Cahul school-internat reorganization</i>	<i>23,328</i>
<i>Subtotal Other</i>	<i>23,328</i>
<i>TOTAL</i>	<i>940,912</i>