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Photo source: UN Women Moldova

EVA PROJECT – STRENGTHENED GENDER ACTION IN CAHUL AND UNGHENI DISTRICTS

OVERVIEW

WHY THE EVA PROJECT IS NEEDED

Women in Moldova face gender inequalities in multiple areas: employment discrimination, lower wages for similar work, limited opportunities of access to politics and appointment in decision-making positions. According to statistics, women and children become domestic violence victims much more often than men. Detecting, resolving, and preventing such cases of violence is particularly challenging because of gender stereotypes that persist in the society.

At local level, the specific priorities and needs of women and children are slightly known and that is why they rarely reach the top of authorities' agenda upon drafting budgets or development plans, or upon making decisions. Domestic and gender-based violence are often raised insufficiently, and the members of multidisciplinary teams encounter number of limitations that reduce the effective and coordinated response to cases of violence. These factors, together with gender stereotypes entrenched in the community and the low level of trust in public services, deter women and children from reporting violence.

Ensuring equal opportunities for women and men and respecting the integrity of women and children directly determine the quality of life and the well-being of the society. The EVA project 'Strengthened Gender Action in Cahul and Ungheni Districts', funded by the European Union and co-funded by UN Women, pursues finding solutions for achieving these goals in Cahul and Ungheni districts.

¹ According to the National Bureau of Statistics, 6 out of 10 women aged between 15 and 64 have experienced at least one form of violence during their lifetime.

OUR SOLUTION

The right of women and children to live a violence-free life is guaranteed in national and international law. Within the framework of the EVA Project, UN Women and UNICEF work in Cahul and Ungheni districts to empower women, to include the specific priorities and needs of women and children on the agenda of local public authorities, but also to prevent and eliminate all forms of violence against women and children.

- Through this project, we support the extension of services for survivors of violence and advocate for the creation of a specialised service to assist survivors of sexual violence in Cahul and Ungheni districts. Also, as part of the project, we encourage and support survivors of violence to launch income-generating initiatives, thus facilitating their financial independence. At administrative level, we support the authorities' efforts in the area of violence prevention, providing support to multidisciplinary teams. In partnership with UNICEF, we pilot effective violence prevention programmes in schools based on the good practices of the European Union Member States, promoting gender equality and a violence-free life for women and men, girls, and boys. We encourage civil society initiatives to actively engage in the community life, promote gender equality and observe women's rights.

- We help local authorities to mainstream in the local policies measures to support women and prevent gender-based violence; and advocate for guaranteeing financial coverage for such initiatives. The support provided to local and district authorities determines new patterns of behavior and generates examples of champion communities in advancing equality between women and men, girls and boys in the Republic of Moldova.



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WHO ARE THE BENEFICIARIES?

The EVA Project is implemented in the period 2020 - 2022 in Cahul and Ungheni districts. In the project activities are involved Local public authorities, members of multidisciplinary teams responsible for preventing and combating domestic violence and violence against children, service providers working with survivors of domestic violence and in child protection, assistance and counselling services for aggressors, schools, civil society organizations, mass media, children and young people, parents, as well as women and men living in these two districts.

WHAT ARE THE EXPECTED CHANGES?

The solutions implemented by the EVA Project in Cahul and Ungheni districts will trigger a set of changes in gender equality and in combating domestic and gender-based violence:

- Women in Cahul and Ungheni districts will get more actively involved in local and regional decision-making.
- Civil society organizations, media institutions and the general public will gain a better understanding of the importance of ensuring gender equality for the sustainable development and well-being of the whole community.
- Local public authorities will mainstream the priorities and the specific needs of women and children in the local and district-level budgeting and decision-making. They will launch initiatives meant to encourage women's participation in the political, economic, and social life of the settlements. The [European Charter for Equality of Women and Men in Local Life](#) will be used as a benchmark.

- Multidisciplinary teams will be more effective in preventing violence and providing support to children and women survivors of domestic and gender-based violence.
- A specialised service for victims of sexual violence will be set up based on the examples and good practices of the European Union Member States.
- Service providers will improve their data collection mechanisms and act more effectively in combating cases of violence against women and children.
- Programs centered on preventing gender-based violence and on breaking gender stereotypes, based on local and European good practice, will be piloted in schools and communities.

WHAT IS THE PROJECT'S BUDGET?

EUR 5,000,000 – Funding provided by the European Union

EUR 250,000 – Funding provided by UN Women

IMPLEMENTED BY:

UN Women: EUR 4,250,000

UNICEF: EUR 1,000,000

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