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**One UN Joint Action to Strengthen Human Rights in the Transnistrian region**

**of the Republic of Moldova (2019-2022)**

**MPTF OFfice GENERIC ANNUAL programme[[1]](#footnote-1) NARRATIVE progress report**

**REPORTING PERIOD: 1 JaNUARY - 31 December 2021**

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| Programme Title & Project Number | |  | Country, Locality(s), Priority Area(s) / Strategic Results[[2]](#footnote-2) | |
| * Programme Title: Joint Action to Strengthen Human Rights in the Transnistrian Region of the Republic of Moldova * Programme Number *(if applicable)* * MPTF Office Project Reference Number:[[3]](#footnote-3)***00117252*** | | *(if applicable)*  *Country/Region* Republic of Moldova | |
| *Priority area/ strategic result:* Governance and Human Rights | |
| Participating Organization(s) | |  | Implementing Partners | |
| * IOM * OHCHR * UNAIDS * UNICEF * UNDP * UNODC | | * NGO “Alliance for Public Health” * NGO “GenderDoc-M” * NGO “Initiativa Pozitiva” * NGO “Interaction” * NGO “Participation” * NGO “Resonance” * NGO “Trinity” * NGO “UORN Moldova” | |
| Programme/Project Cost (US$) | |  | Programme Duration | |
| Total approved budget as per project document:  MPTF /JP Contribution[[4]](#footnote-4):   * IOM: 117,464 USD * OHCHR: 205,487 USD * UNAIDS: 229,414 USD * UNICEF: 143,166 USD * UNDP: 229,100 USD * UNODC: 217,852 USD |  |  | Overall Duration *36 months*  Start Date[[5]](#footnote-5) *02.07.2019*  Original End Date*[[6]](#footnote-6)* *02.07.2022*  *Current End date 02.07.2022* |  |
| Programme Assessment/Review/Mid-Term Eval. | |  | Report Submitted By | |
| Assessment/Review - if applicable *please attach*  Yes No Date: *dd.mm.yyyy*  Mid-Term Evaluation Report *- if applicable please attach*  Yes No Date: *dd.mm.yyyy* | | * Name: Alexandru Stratulat * Title: Programme Manager * Participating Organization (Lead): UNDP * Email address: [alexandru.stratulat@one.un.org](mailto:alexandru.stratulat@one.un.org) | |

**Acronyms**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| AIDS | Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome |
| ARV | Anti-retroviral treatment |
| CBM | Confidence Building Measures |
| CCM TB/AIDS | Country Coordination Mechanism on TB/AIDS |
| CRPD | Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities |
| CSOs | Civil society organizations |
| FB | Facebook |
| GFATM | The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria |
| HIV | Human Immunodeficiency Virus |
| HRBA | Human Rights based Approach |
| HR | Human Rights |
| IOM | International Organization for Migration |
| LEA | Law-Enforcement Authority |
| LPAs | Local Public Authorities |
| MPTF | Multi-Partner Trust Fund |
| MSM | Men who have sex with men |
| NGO | Non-Governmental Organization |
| OHCHR | Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights |
| PCA | Partnership and Cooperation Agreement |
| PLWH | People living with HIV |
| PrEP | Pre-exposure prophylaxis |
| PwDs | People with disabilities |
| PWUDs | People who use drugs |
| RAF | Results Assessment Framework |
| SCDP | Sustainable (Community) Development Platform |
| SDG | Sustainable Development Goal |
| SoPs | Standard operating procedures |
| SW | Sex Workers |
| TB | Tuberculosis |
| TN | Transnistrian region |
| UN | United Nations |
| UNAIDS | United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS |
| UNCT | United Nations Country Team |
| UNDG | United Nations Development Group |
| UNDP | United Nations Development Programme |
| UNICEF | United Nations Fund for Children |
| UNODC | United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime |
| UNPF /UNDAF | United Nations - Republic of Moldova Partnership Framework |
| UORN | Harm reduction and drug users’ rehabilitation in the North |
| WAD | World AIDS Day |
| WHO | World Health Organization |
| WUD | Women who use drugs |

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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

During the reporting the activities of the Programme continued to be affected by the restrictions imposed on both bank of the Nistru River, as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The majority of the activities were carried in online space, with very few exceptions, which adversely affected the interaction of the Programme with both its partners and beneficiaries. However, during summer-early autumn period when some of the COVID-19 restrictions were lifted, the Programme managed to organise face-to-face activities, which contributed to establishing closer relations and cooperation between CSOs leaders and human rights activists from both banks.

The interaction with the **Sustainable (Community) Development Platform (SCDP) was intensified**,while its membershipwas expanded. The institutional capacity of the SCDP and its members was strengthened through 17 webinars and online workshops, as well as individual coaching sessions.

In the reported period, the **capacities of rights holders** were developed in two directions: 1) **institutional capacities** and 2) **thematic knowledge**. Thus, over 74 representatives of NGOs from 13 localities from the left bank have strengthened their capacities and learned how to develop and operate an effective and sustainable human-rights-oriented organisation, as well as to communicate in an HRBA compliant manner about their activities and beneficiaries. Participants included representatives of PwDs, Roma community, organisations working with PLWH, PWUDs, or victims of domestic violence, as well as media.

22 human rights activists successfully completed the 12-month lasting Human Rights Capacity Building Program and conducted more than 60 small-scale advocacy initiatives to promote and to advocate for the rights of vulnerable right holders (PwD, survivors of domestic violence, Roma, people living with HIV).

Also, as a result of the Programme’s interventions, the capacities of the members and partners of the Sustainable (Community) Development Platform to work together and plan joint actions was further increased through implementation of 8 joint initiative (grants) by organisations from the left and right banks of the Nistru River.

During the reported period representatives of vulnerable groups have improved access to community services. 225 persons had access to PrEP (pre-exposure prophylaxis) on HIV, almost doubled compared to the established target. Also, through the calls received at the “Trust Line 0800 99800” for victims of domestic violence, supported by the Programme, 22 SOS-cases of female victims of domestic violence were opened during the reporting period: 21 women and 1 girl. SOS-cases were managed together with or referred to specialised NGOs in the Transnistria region. Professionals have got burnout sessions and improved skills in financial literacy. Around 33 women infected or affected by HIV from the both banks were empowered by raising their awareness on human rights, decreasing self-stigma and increasing their self-esteem through a 1-year mentoring programme.

As a result of piloting Roma community mediators’ institution in the Transnistrian region, 642 Roma received 662 consultations and services from 7 Roma community mediators and improved their access to education, social assistance, employment, documentation and health. Furthermore, **the Programme contributed to establishing collaboration and partnerships with Roma mediators and local public institutions** (school and pre-school institutions, outpatient services, employment centers, hospitals, offices for documentation of the population, social benefits offices, de-facto local structures and other) in dealing with inequalities faced by Roma.

The **awareness of the population** on both banks of the Nistru River, especially the vulnerable groups, was increased on the subjects related to the rights of PwDs, Roma community, people living with HIV/AIDS and victims of domestic violence. This was achieved through organization of eight communication campaigns, over 325 posts and media statements, including 36 video materials, published on the Platform’s FB page, UN, and 6 FB pages of the Programme partner agencies and shared in Transnistrian FB groups. Their overall impact has been more than 32 K people in the Transnistrian region.

The interest of left bank media in covering subjects related to vulnerable groups rights and concerns has increased. In the period of January-December 2021 more than 620 articles related to human rights were published in the left bank media. As a result, the total organic engagement on Transnistrian mass-media (5 Tv and 3 online portals) was 1 600 000 people.

The ability of journalists and media professionals on both banks of Nistru River, of producing human rights compliant and gender-sensitive media materials increased, as did their understanding of how to prevent hate speech and how to apply a HRBA in practice with a focus on vulnerable groups through 3 thematic media brunches and a Human Rights Media Academy. As a result, of the Academy 9 human rights compliant media products were produced.

Awareness of human rights was increased for children and youth from both banks through the participation at the 3rd edition of the Creation Contest 'Human rights are yours and mine' carried out between September-December 2021. 1105 artworks were submitted by children and youth, aged between 10-18 years coming from 150 educational institutions from both banks of Nistru River. The 12 best artworks were placed in a One UN 2022 calendar, while the RCO used another painting for its seasonal greetings. National ownership of the initiative was ensured by involving the Ombudsperson for Child Rights.

In line with the Programme’s output of increasing the **capacities of duty bearers** to fulfil their human rights obligations, the One UN JA continued to work with the national authorities and the de facto structures from the left bank of the Nistru River in order to adjust the local normative framework to the international human rights standards.

Meaningful participation of the civil society in the process of drafting a Human Rights Framework in the Transnistrian region was ensured by involving 13 representatives of Transnistrian CSOs, which will participate at the thematic sub-working groups meetings with the representatives of the de facto structures, planned for January-February 2022. Additionally, a model results-based Human Rights Framework, focused on addressing recommendations of Thomas Hammarberg and UN human rights mechanisms was presented and agreed to follow.

The findings of the Report on the de-facto legal framework in the Transnistrian region on justice for children in contact and conflict with the law, led to the development of the draft amendments to the normative framework in the Transnistrian region. These were proposed to the de-facto authorities for approval with the aim to further adjust the de facto “Criminal Code” and “Criminal Procedure Code”. The recommendations of the Report have been incorporated in a wider, policy-level document - the “Roadmap for child rights in the Transnistrian region” currently in draft status.

Based on the Assessment of the existing training programmes for pre-service and in-service professionals that work with children in contact with the law, three curriculum modules for pre-service professionals have been developed. A pool of trainers is being empowered with theoretical knowledge and practical skills to apply two training packages for in-service professionals that work with and for children-victims of violence and children-offenders.

In order to ensure observance of the rights of children in custody, namely children placed in “A. S. Makarenko” institution, the adjustments to the Internal Regulation and a new Code of Conduct have been developed and proposed for approval. “A.S. Makarenko” staff is being capacitated on positive interaction with children in custody and for applying the Preparation for release programme.

# Purpose

The project is grounded in the United Nations human rights-based norms and standards and pursues strengthening of the effective exercise of human rights by people residing in the Transnistrian region through fostering improvement of the regulatory and institutional frameworks in the area of disability, gender-based violence and HIV, PWUDs, Roma and children in conflict with law.

The action is implemented through the UN Multi-Donor Trust Fund being framed around three inter-linked components/outputs (increased capacities of rights holders to exercise their rights (Output 1), increased capacities of duty bearers to fulfil their human rights obligations (Output 2) and enhanced human rights culture in the Transnistrian region (Output 3), which are led by IOM, OHCHR, UNAIDS, UNICEF, UNDP and UNODC. These components have been identified following the assessment of the results of the previous phases of joint action in the region, the 2018 follow-up report of the UN Senior Expert Thomas Hammarberg and discussion with key stakeholders and region’s de-facto structures. The proposed three components are also based on the comparative advantages of respective UN agencies, as a result of normative and operational capacities, ready-to-go expertise available as a result of competencies of UNCT Moldova. In addition, the identified components are selected outside any political process, consistent with the mandates of the respective UN agencies. They are aiming to advance Moldova’s progress towards the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals 1 (No Poverty), 3 (Good Health and Well-being), 4 (Quality Education), 5 (Gender Equality), 10 (Reduced Inequalities) and 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions). The result of the Programme are in line with UNDAF Outcome 1 (The people of Moldova, in particular the most vulnerable, demand and benefit from democratic, transparent and accountable governance, gender-sensitive, human rights and evidence-based public policies, equitable services, and efficient, effective and responsive public institutions) and Outcome 4 (The people of Moldova, in particular the most vulnerable, demand and benefit from gender-sensitive and human rights-based, inclusive, effective and equitable quality education, health and social policies and services).

# Results

1. **Narrative reporting on results:**

The main highlight of the reporting period was the readjustment of all of the Programme’s activities in line with the rules and restrictions related to the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020. This has required both implementing UN agencies, as well as their partners to rethink the way in which the Programme’s activities were implemented in order to comply with the “new reality”, as well as to ensure the safety of its staff and beneficiaries. Thus, the course of the implementation of the Programme was significantly altered, either by adjusting the content of the previously planned activities or by creating delays in their implementation process. One of the major challenges was related to transfer of the activities to the online format and the restriction to travel to the Transnistrian region and the need to ensure an effective interaction with the Programme’s partners and beneficiaries.

In order to overcome the challenges outlined above and accelerate the implementation of its activities, the Programme’s Support Team composed of Programme Manager, Programme Associate and Communication Consultant closely cooperated with the implementing UN agencies and provided support and advice in the use of the new online tools and platforms to ensure the continuity of the Programme’s activities. One particular aspect was related to the organisation of advocacy campaigns and development of the visibility and media products, in the context of COVID-related rules, when face-to-face interviews were limited and restrictions were imposed on movement to and from the left bank of the Nistru River. The Programme’s implementation team has proposed use of less common tools, such as cartoons, photo-audio essays etc. Regardless of the challenges, the Programme has ensured that its awareness-raising and advocacy components were carried out, though in a slightly revised and mostly limited to online space manner. The Sweden’s and UN’s visibility was ensured throughout these activities and in line with their visibility requirements.

Significant efforts were made to ensure environmental sustainability of the Programme’s interventions. Though the Programme has not envisaged direct creation of opportunities in the environmental sustainability field, indirectly it contributes to transformation of local enterprises into ones that are environment-friendly. Specifically, the Programme raises the awareness of the public on the Sustainable Development Goals and their importance for the harmonious human development. In addition to the Programme’s recommendations to local partners to reduce their waste and proposals on how they can be more environmentally friendly, the Programme has conducted a webinar for the SCDP’s members on the subject.

The Programme has established working relations and identified synergies with other projects and programmes implemented in the Transnistrian region, mainly with projects in the area of confidence building, implemented by UNDP. This resulted in participation of projects’ beneficiaries in Programme’s activities and vice versa, as well as in provision by the Programme Manager of advice on HRBA and vulnerability aspects of the respective projects. Additionally, the Programme is actively cooperating with OSCE in the area of institutional and general capacity building for CSOs and duty-bearers and a working group was established in this respect, which meets on a regular basis. This ensured that there is no overlap in capacity building activities implemented by the respective international organisations.

There are not only cross-sectoral, but thematic synergies in place. For example, the initiatives undertaken by the Programme in the area of domestic violence are complementing other projects currently implemented by IOM in the Transnistrian region, such as the project “Enhancing confidence building across the Nistru River through combating the domestic violence and gender-based violence phenomena in the Transnistrian region of the Republic of Moldova” finalized in March 2020 and its current Phase II “Gender Based Violence Cooperation Across the Nistru River”, October 2020 - March 2023, funded by the UK Embassy/CSSF . This project reflects a logical continuation and builds upon the efforts of the previous projects to improve the prevention and response mechanisms to DV, as well as enhancing the protection of the rights of DV victims in line with the international obligations of the Republic of Moldova, and with the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

It is important to note that the results presented below were achieved in very complex conditions of the COVID-19 pandemic, with the imposed restrictions on meetings and movement across the administrative delimitation line between two banks of the Nistru River. Thus, COVID-19-related protective measures were insured during the implementation of Programme’s activities.

## Output 1. Increased capacities of vulnerable rights holders to exercise their human rights

Throughout the reporting period the Programme has continued the cooperation with the Sustainable (Community) Development Platform (SCDP or Platform) with the aim of developing its capacity in advocating for and defending the rights of the most vulnerable. New members were accepted into the Platform, making it more comprehensive and expanding its membership to new target vulnerable groups: people living with HIV/AIDS, people using drugs, Roma, survivors of domestic violence etc.

In order to consolidate the SCDP’s institutional capacity and support it in the process of transition, a number of coordination meetings were organised on both banks with the representatives of these new groups. The current capacity of circa 40 organisations and initiative groups of the Platform to cooperate and work together was consolidated by supporting the process of development of the new SCDP’s strategy and action plan. During 2021, one new organization - Roma Youth Organisation “Dnestr-Infolex” joined the Platform. It is important to note that this a new organization and one of the very few Roma organisations, existing of the left bank of the Nistru River.

In 2021 the activity of the **thematic (working) groups** within the SCDP was supported by the Programme. As a result an algorithm for the implementation of the Personal Assistant service has been developed by the members of the Social Services WG, relevant gaps in the de facto normative framework of the Transnistrian region were identified by the members of the Normative Framework Analysis WG, while 3 advocacy campaigns were developed by the members of the Advocacy WG.

Over 70 participants from 13 localities (61 - women, 13 men; including 10 PwDs, 5 - Roma) are better equipped to be effective human rights activists. This is the result of the institutional capacity development activities, organised by the Programme, which included: webinars, individual coaching, online practical workshops and technical assistance in project proposal development. During 17 online capacity building events following topics were covered: Active inclusion of PwDs, Building NGO's activity based on a strategy, Result-Based Management, Monitoring and Evaluation, Advocacy and partnership, Mainstreaming gender and environment approach into NGO activity and others. A human-rights-based and gender-sensitive approach was ensured by adapting the content of the webinars for the level of understanding of participants.

Also, the institutional capacities of the individual organisations were supported through a small grants programme. 8 grants to individual NGOs, as well as consortia of NGOs, from both banks of the Nistru River were awarded. Most of the initiatives are implemented by consortiums of NGOs on both banks of the Nistru River and covered capacity building activities, provision of community-based services and improvement of accessibility of the public facilities. Among the beneficiaries were young people and women in the Roma community, PwDs, victims of gender-based violence.

As described above, the capacities of rights holders were developed in two directions: 1) institutional capacities and 2) thematic knowledge. Thus, 30 human rights activists, members of civil society organisations and representatives of four underrepresented groups (22 women and 8 men) representing 16 CSOs from the Transnistria region developed their knowledge and capacities in the area of human rights and specific rights of vulnerable groups, and local and international human rights framework. They did so through participation at a 12 months-lasting Human rights capacity building programme with a focus on four vulnerable groups (PwDs, PLWH, PWUD, Roma, elderly people, survivors of domestic violence). The programme consisted of ToT webinars, small thematic group webinars and study visits to experienced right-bank CSOs and municipal institutions. As a result the participants received human rights knowledge and skills on the human rights standards for specific vulnerable group, learned to identify the list of human rights issues particularly affecting the groups on the left bank of Nistru River, received an experience of right-bank institutions and CSOs from different localities in establishing services for vulnerable groups and developed advocacy actions based on received knowledge and skills as part of the capacity building programme. Four advocacy papers were produced including on the compliance of PwD terminology with local regulatory framework in line with CRPD; referral mechanism from civic status registration offices to Roma community mediators; promotion of Roma culture and history; multifunctional approach in dealing with cases of domestic violence; and one media material on prevention of discrimination among health professionals towards persons living with HIV, and all were submitted to respective duty-bears. Best practices obtained during thematic groups study visits increased synergies in designing and implementing new project ideas supported by partner UN agencies (paralegals services for PLWH; personal assistants for children; standardisation of services for women survivors of domestic violence).

A group of people sitting in a room

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*Study visit for the thematic group on advocacy of persons with disabilities to Chisinau Municipial Center for Personal Assistants, 29 June 2021 @photocredit: OHCHR*

Out of 30 participants, **22 (7 men and 15 women) human rights activists successfully completed the programme following a final testing** and were awarded with diplomas of completion. Through a comparative analysis of a pre-programme test and final knowledge test results, an increase in substantial human rights knowledge was established among participants: the overall increase in human rights understanding was marked at 30%, considerable improvement was tracked in such thematic questions as accessibility (increase of 44%), discrimination (increase of 38%), human rights-based approach (increase on 30%), access to information (increase of 25%), freedom of associations (increase of 19%). As a result of their increased knowledge and capacity, programme’s participants conducted by their own actions: **more than 60 small-scale advocacy initiatives to promote and to advocate for the rights of vulnerable right holders** (PwD, survivors of domestic violence, Roma, people living with HIV). Advocacy actions included participants conducting counselling on the access to specific human rights, submission of advocacy papers to duty bearers, drafting of collective claims on integrating CRPD provisions into the local regulatory framework, production of media publications and conduct of informational sessions for the right holders. **88% and 12% of the programme participants graded their participation in the program as highly effective and quite effective respectively.** During the fourth phase of the Program in 2022, participants will pass through a ToT on interactive techniques in teaching human rights and will organise thematic human rights trainings for underrepresented groups in their communities.

A group of people posing for a photo

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*Study visit for the thematic group on advocacy of people living with HIV to NGO Union of organizations working in the field of HIV prevention and harm reduction in Balti, 15 July 2021 @photocredit: OHCHR*

In line with the Programme’s objective on support of the Roma community mediators’ institution in the Transnistrian region, similar to that existing on the right bank, a Roadmap and an Action plan with specific objectives and indicators on establishing of the Roma community mediators institution as effective mechanism to empower Roma was widely discussed and presented at the round table. Main data, conclusions and recommendations from the survey conducted among 70 Roma communities and leaders in Transnistria region in 17 localities of the left bank (8 towns and 9 villages) were presented and widely discussed. 40 participants (33 women and 7 men) representing activists of Roma community, Roma CSO, de-facto regional and local level structures and international development partners attended the event. Activists from Roma communities shared their human stories to support the data received during the survey, raised human rights issues and described inequalities they faced in their access to labour, education, health and documentation. As a result, de-facto local and regional level structures’ representatives expressed their commitment to support the Roma community mediators’ institution and to respond to issues and concerns faced by Roma ethnic group during the meeting.

A group of people sitting at tables

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*Roma mediators capacity building program, July 2021 @photocredit: OHCHR*

Following the multi-stakeholder consultations on the Roadmap and Action plan, the recruitment of Roma mediators was announced and widely disseminated in the locations densely populated by Roma on the left bank of Nistru River, which resulted in the submission of 12 applications from candidates to the position of Roma mediators, out of which 7 mediators from and for 6 localities **(double compared to the project document indicators)** were recruited and trained during Roma mediators’ capacity building programme. 7 Roma mediators developed an action plan on empowering Roma community and ensuring access to human rights and started to provide services starting from Septembers 2021. 642 Roma received 662 consultations and services of Roma community mediators and improved their access to education, social assistance, labour, documentation and health. Furthermore, **the Programme contributed to establishing collaboration and partnerships with Roma mediators and local public institutions** (school and pre-school institutions, outpatient services, employment centres, hospitals, offices for documentation of the population, social benefits offices, de-facto local administrations and others) in dealing with inequalities faced by Roma. The collaboration with Roma mediators at local level was improved following the agreement with the de facto structures to disseminate information about the creation of Roma community mediators in the localities densely populated by Roma among de facto local administrations, as before Roma mediators experienced challenges in accessing public institutions (especially in educational institutions) and resolving issues relevant to Roma population.

In the context of the International Roma Day and to support the establishment on Roma community mediators’ institution on the left bank, the Programme launched an awareness raising campaign on both banks of Nistru River “Together for Roma Rights”, with a focus on Transnistrian region, between April 7th until April 23th 2021. As a result, circa 56500 people learned more about Roma rights and problems faced by them. 17 products were developed and published on Facebook, including 8 videos with human stories from both banks (right to work, right to social protection, right to health, right to adequate housing, right to education, prevention of hate speech, finalised by a comprehensive video on the benefits of establishing Roma community mediators with reference to data from the left-bank survey), gathering more than 1179 likes and 1695 shares. The campaign also ensured good visibility of the Programme and donor and promoted social inclusion language. It is important to note that for the first time an NGO working in the field of minority rights on the right bank, namely Youth Platform for Interethnic Solidarity, expressed a great interest in the campaign by its own initiative and partnered to share all the products on its social media platforms. Moreover, a Balti mayoralty, partnered with the Programme in this campaign, as a subject of a human story, but also disseminated some of the products to raise awareness of the general population.

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*Video-essay on Roma community mediators, April 2021@ videocredit: OHCHR*

In line with the Programme’s objective on social inclusion of persons with disabilities, 98 PwDs and their relatives both from rural and urban regions benefited from community-based services in Slobozia district on the left bank of the Nistru River. This consisted of 161 consultations provided by peer-to-peer consultants and coach-experts in the area of legal support, psychological counselling or assisted employment which contribute to the increased access to services for PwD in the region. Long-term consultations to beneficiaries were supplemented by the development of beneficiary’s individual support plan, which led to achieving more sustainable results for the beneficiary.

During the year 2021, 225 people received community-based PreP. Out of those, 150 persons, or about 65% (146 MSM; 1 female - partner, 1 SW, 2 TG persons) received PrEP on the right bank of the Nistru River. A total number of 75 persons received PrEP in 2021 on the left bank: SW - 32, MSM - 11, IDU - 8 and 24 sero-discordant couples.

Community PrEP developed in Moldova is a unique model of HIV prevention service provision towards those most at risk to HIV infection in the European region. It is designed, since the beginning, in the way to ensure it is close to the beneficiary, person-centered and answers to such needs as confidentiality, trust and psychological comfort. While in most of the countries, PrEP is mostly offered to men who have sex with men, in Moldova it is offered to all key populations, according to WHO/UNAIDS latest recommendations. The Programme succeeded in ensuring that the community PrEP is part of the adjusted clinical protocol on PrEP in 2021, approved by Ministry of Health. The service will be fully sustainable after the project ends, as part of the National AIDS programme 2022-2025 and resources were mobilized from GFATM to sustain it for the period 2021-2023.

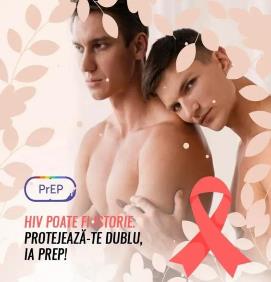
PrEP services include the following package of services:

• Information, counseling, and psychological support before enrollment and during the PrEP medication phase to ensure the adherence and systematicity of the service to the best quality of it.

• Performance of HIV/STI testing and accompanying for creatinine tests.

• Medical consultation and delivery of PrEP medicines, which is performed by a health specialist invited to the NGO to perform that phase.

• PrEP delivery at home where needed due to COVID-19 situation.



The awareness on this important social service was raised by organising three national-level workshops (instead of two planned) attended by 66 staff involved in delivering of Community PrEP. During these workshops immediate needs of the involved NGOs were discussed. They also constituted a platform for experience-sharing between NGOs and between banks, so that the beneficiaries are supported in the best possible way. PrEP is implemented in Moldova in collaboration with all non-governmental organizations active in the field of HIV and the Coordination Unit for the NAP programme, which provides support and validates all the data. Financial resources were successfully mobilized by UNAIDS and national partners from German Government and GFATM for a larger scale up to national level, ensuring continuity and its sustainability.

As part of the awareness-raising actions and in line with the COVID-19-related requirements, 3 online PrEP parties (instead of 2 planned) were organized in this period. The parties were in response to the increasing demand for PrEP. During these events, it was succeeded to involve around 150 persons, who were informed about PrEP, about HIV/STI/hepatitis prevention, its importance and where they can get PrEP.

One other product developed and used within this campaign was a video human story about PrEP in Moldova, published in December 2021 and gathered more than 1,2 k visualizations on Facebook:

https://www.facebook.com/platformadnestr/videos/794650907980763

It is worth mentioning that the main challenges in this area were due to COVID-19 pandemic and late launch of PrEP Information Campaign on the national level.

A kitchen with wooden cabinets

Description automatically generated with medium confidenceA picture containing wall, indoor, floor, kitchen

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*Left, Crisis Room for WUD and children in Ribnita,*

*Right, Crisis Room for WUD and children in Anenii Noi*

As per Programme’s objectives for 2021, the piloting of gender specific services for women, who use drugs, on both banks of the Nistru River continued by piloting gender specific services for women who use drugs. Since regular maternal centres or other temporary shelters for women do not accept women who are in active drug or alcohol use, three Crisis Rooms were refurbished and equipped in Rabnita, Balti and Anenii Noi. These would provide temporary shelter for women who use drugs (WUD) and their children, who are subjects of domestic violence. CSOs Triniti, Positive Initiative and UORN have been subcontracted to refurbish and equip the rooms and provide assistance and support services to vulnerable women and their children. A technical working group, including service providers has been established to develop a minim standard package of service, goods, and accommodation for WUD and their children. All 3 rooms have been equipped and refurbished following these standards while considering all safety and security measures. As per regulation WUD and their children can be sheltered in the rooms for up to 10 days, period in which WUD and her children will benefit from accommodation support (shelter, nutrition and hygiene) and will receive medical and psycho-social support services. As of December 2021, 6 WUD and 6 children have been sheltered in this crisis room from Rabnita and Anenii Noi. WUD and their children were provided medical and psycho-social support, shelter for 10 days, in addition to employment opportunities, support to their children, who needed school and kindergarten enrolment. By the end of the program, June 2022, 40 WUD and children will be provided support with gender specific services and temporary shelter when needed.

In the reporting period, as a result of Programme’s actions, people detained in prisons on the left bank have access to evidence-evidence based HIV testing and counselling services, provided by CSOs. As per Th. Hammarberg recommendation regarding the access to health services of prisoners a new procedure on HIV testing among prisoners was developed. It regulates the responsibilities of prison medical services in HIV counselling and testing. It is based on the updated UN recommendation regarding HIV testing and provides an opportunity for CSOs to enter prison on the left bank and work with prisoners on HIV prevention, HIV testing and provision of psycho-social support services. As per procedure, CSOs are to assist HIV-infected people after their release from prisons by ensuring accompanying and referral and providing relevant information about the release from penitentiary institutions. This was a very serious endeavour, involving a team of consultants, a technical working group, composed of representatives of de facto foreign affairs structures, prisons administration, AIDS Centre and CSOs. This 2,5-year process culminated with the approval by de facto health, justice and foreign affairs structures of the relevant Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) in September 2021. One of the key components of this SOPs is related to the testing via CSOs. The testing of 20 prisoners via CSOs from Tiraspol is planned for Q2 of 2022.

A picture containing wall, indoor, stone, fireplace

Description automatically generatedA picture containing person, person, indoor, standing

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*Left, future half-way home in Ribnita for former prisoners, with a capacity of 6 beds.*

*Right, future Training-vocational centre for former prisoners in Chisinau*.

Furthermore, under the prisoners after release prison sub-component, in 2021 services of rehabilitation and social reintegration of prisoners upon their release have been initiated on both banks. Piloting of the service package for prisoners after release was initiated in partnership with three CSOs: Triniti, Postive Initiative and CRPC/NDivetro. Based on UNODC 2018 specific guidance “Introductory Handbook on the Prevention of Recidivism and the Social Reintegration of Offenders” a package of 6 services for former prisoners was developed and piloted, including (1) job market re-entry assistance; (2) lodging and financial assistance (half-way or temporary accommodation, food support/parcels, basic hygiene packages, including women hygiene); (3) access to health care and social security; (4) family support; (5) substance abuse interventions; (6) offenders’ monitoring and supervision. In Rabnita a half-way house for 6 people is being refurbished and in Chisinau a Training centre for former prisoners is being set-up. The training curricula includes modules on employment seeking opportunities and changing the criminal mindset.

Throughout the reporting period, January-December 2021, the Programme supported the operation of the “Trustline 0 800 99800” for victims of domestic violence (DV) in order to improve service delivery (case identification, referral and direct assistance) among relevant CSOs. The “Trustline 0 800 99800” is operated by the NGO “Interaction” and its consultants answered 1547 calls including 751 related to domestic violence in the reporting period. 551 of these calls were SOS related, and 22 new SOS cases were opened: 21 women and 1 girl. This exceeded the target for the period, which was set at 1000 calls and assist in 20 SOS cases. SOS cases were provided with in-kind, legal, psychological and/or social support by qualified consultants and/or referred to specialized organizations in the Transnistrian region for further support and assistance (NGO “Interaction”, Centre for Psychological Support “Lada”, and Centre “Resonance”).

The number of SOS-calls have increased compared to 2020. This is because SOS-cases identified in 2021 are more complicated and need more implication of specialists and institutions to find solutions, and the process of direct assistance takes more time. Psychological and physical violence remain the most frequent forms of violence reported by victims, but an increasing number of reports on economical violence has also been noted.

Sustained communication and advocacy efforts on DV and gender-based violence (GBV) issues (e.g., the 16 Days of Activism campaign) and the availability of the “Trustline 0 800 99800” in the Transnistrian region throughout the Programme’s implementation period also contributed to continued awareness raising and growing knowledge of available support services among the population. In October-November 2021 the informational Campaign “5 friends from the circle of trust” was implemented and included a series of video consultations with a psychologist, lawyer and social assistant, in which experts have explained what domestic violence is. The video consultations also included interviews with victims, who shared their success stories in overcoming domestic violence. These efforts were also supported by capacity building activities. Notably, one event was held on the prevention of burnout syndrome, on 25-26 June 2021 for 13 (11 female, 2 male) specialists of NGO “Interaction”. It focused on Preventing Domestic Violence: Financial Competence of Social Workers. The participants found the training useful and asked that it take place regularly, as it helped them preserve and strengthen their abilities to consult victims on economic/financial violence. This contributed to improved collaboration with colleagues, communication with beneficiaries, and a timely response to stressful situations.

With a view to consolidating the friendly justice system for children in the Transnistrian region, two complex assessments were conducted in 2020. The findings of assessments lead the development of the package of amendments with the targets to adjust the de facto local “Criminal Code” and de facto “Criminal Procedure Code” (e.g. extension of criminal liability deadlines in case of sexual offences against children and provision of free legal aid for child victims of sexual offences; introducing the possibility to change legal representation in criminal proceedings in cases of conflict of the interest; reducing time for investigation and trial in cases involving children). These amendments have been drafted and promoted in a participatory manner, in collaboration with de facto internal affairs structures, being proposed for consultation and further approval to the de facto structures.

The findings of the above-mentioned assessment revealed that the de-facto normative framework requires consistent improvements to ensure a sustainable justice system reform in the region: (i) introducing the prevention of re-victimization measures for children victims of crime during the criminal investigation and court trial such as: special conditions for hearing, prohibition of confrontation with the alleged perpetrator or crime reconstitution; (ii) introducing additional legal and procedural guarantees to children who infringe the Law such as: extend diversion measures and their applicability, use preventive arrest as a measure of last resort; deprive children of liberty only by court decision; (iii) introducing specialization of justice sector professionals working with and for children, including gender-sensitive and gender-transformative aspects.

These normative changes should be preceded and supported by the development of robust mechanisms

for their implementation, assuming and sharing responsibilities among de-facto institutions and authorities as well as empowering stakeholders with knowledge and skills to act in children’s benefit. The required actions have been incorporated in a wider, policy level, document - the “Roadmap for child rights in the Transnistrian region” (currently in draft status). This document should be linked with the Human rights framework in the Transnistrian region.

## Output 2. Increased capacities of duty bearers to fulfil their human rights obligations

The Programme conducted permanent consultations with de facto structures to reinforce their commitment to follow the objectives proposed under the roadmap of drafting of a Human Rights Framework and to include CSOs in the drafting process. Similarly, individual and group consultations with CSOs were organized, where members of the Sustainable (Community) Development Platform were informed about the role of CSOs in decision-making from the perspective of international standards and best practices existing on the right bank and in other countries. During the moderated group discussion, CSOs expressed their view and mentioned that the optimal model was their inclusion in the process of drafting the Framework from the very beginning, not just to provide comments to the existing draft. Thus, an open call for expression of interest for CSOs to participate in the Human Rights Framework drafting process was announced by the de facto structures, which resulted in selection of 13 representatives of CSOs from the Transnistrian region.

The capacities and the human-rights-related knowledge of 12 representatives of the intersectoral working group, responsible for the drafting of Human Rights Framework, have been improved, by organising a comprehensive training in January 2021. The subjects covered included human rights concept and international human rights mechanisms, recommendations from UN Treaty Bodies and Hammarberg’s reports, the role of civil society in the process of decision-making, as well as the importance of public participation in all phases of policymaking, monitoring and implementation. In line with the roadmap a matrix of clustered recommendations of Thomas Hammarberg (2013 and 2018) and UN human rights mechanisms by thematic areas was produced, including affected groups, relevant SDGs, specific SDG targets and indicators. Finally, the process of actual drafting of the Human Rights Framework was initiated in December 2021, based on a model of a Human Rights Framework and participatory approach, involving de facto structures and CSOs.

A screenshot of a computer

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*Joint meeting of CSOs and de-facto authorities on drafting HR Framework on the left bank of Nistru River, December 2021 @photocredit: OHCHR*

The Programme has continued its interaction with the de-facto Ombudsperson institution as well as the Ombudsperson institution in Moldova proper through engaging them in the capacity building activities (human rights media branches, field mission visits on discussion on CRPD compliance). Capacity building activities specifically tailored for the representatives of the Ombudsperson institutions from both banks were postponed till 2022, to await the appointment of the Ombudsperson for Moldova. The recruitment process for the international consultant, who will conduct capacity building trainings and develop guidelines on human rights monitoring and reporting for the ombudsperson institution and de facto ombudsperson institution was initiated at end of 2021.

The process of assessing the compliance of the local regulatory framework with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the development of recommendations for three specific areas started in July 2021. The 3 areas include deinstitutionalization of persons with disabilities, disability determination system, and regulatory framework in the field of employment of persons with disabilities. The methodology was developed and a desk review of available documents relevant for three particular areas (primary and secondary normative documents), with involvement of relevant CSOs and de-facto structures was conducted in July-August 2021 and the first draft of the report was prepared. The validation meeting with presentation of the report among key stakeholders, de-facto structures and CSOs will be organized in 2022.

Two important HIV-related normative policy documents were amended and approved by the de facto structures in 2021:

1. De facto “order” Nr 466 “On the procedure for the surgery of artificial termination of pregnancy” - testing for antibodies to HIV infection should be recommended prior to performing an induced abortion and should be carried out voluntarily, based on the informed consent of the woman, and be accompanied by mandatory pre-test and post-test counselling.
2. HIV prophylaxis standard for key populations was approved and adopted in Transnistrian region. The document was coordinated with the following de-facto structures in the area of healthcare, justice and internal affairs. It recognizes the work undertaken by the NGOs in the field of HIV and acknowledges their role in HIV prophylaxis. It is important to note that this document also mentions the target groups, which was quite a sensitive subject. It will also open the possibility for a potential accreditation of the provided services and their potential outsourcing, using the local finances for their procurement.

The third document which revision was initiated - the de facto “law” “On the prevention of the spread of HIV”, which has not been revised since 1997. The draft of the adjusted document has been developed and presented to all stakeholders, including the de facto health structures, at a meeting in December 2021. All of the proposed changes have been discussed and agreed. The adjusted document has to be sent for approval by the higher-level de facto structures.

Also, upon request of public health institutions from Transnistrian region, it was supported the development of the regional programme on hepatitis C treatment, as well as all required documentation for the implementation: as the service provision algorithms and organization, treatment protocol, the M&E procedures etc. The main developer and implementer of the programme is AIDS Centre from Tiraspol. In order to facilitate the process, specialists from both banks worked together on development of the methodology, according to the best practices from the right bank. It is envisaged that in 2022 all policy documents and arrangements for the hepatis C treatment will be in place in Transnistrian region. It will include:

* Methodological recommendations “Hepatitis C Infection in Adults” for Clinicians, Epidemiologists, Nurses;
* Clinical recommendations for the treatment of HBV and HCV, including medical examination of children born from positive mothers;
* Selection criteria for the treatment of viral hepatitis;
* Criteria for hospitalization of patients;
* The patient's file and informative materials;
* The list of medicines for treatment of viral hepatitis;
* The patient’s database.

In order to further enhance the abilities of the police officer to interact and refer to the corresponding services PLWH and PWUD, in cooperation with NGO “UORN” from Balti, 6000 booklets on HIV and LEAs and guiding procedures for police officers in Romanian language were disseminated. A user-friendly booklet should serve as an informative document for police offices and as a referral informative document for drug users that were detained.

To pilot communitarian policing on the right bank, a non-governmental organisation, UORN from Balti has been subcontracted to ensure the dialog between police and CSOs on both banks. In the context of COVID-19 the info-sessions were provided as 5 days webinars and an additional online module on communicable diseases and COVID-19 was also added. The trainings were conducted from May to July 2021. All in all, 37 police officers from right bank were trained. Up to 80% off all participants have significantly improved their knowledge during the trainings, as shown by the online Pre and Post training scoring, answering correctly to 3 out of 4 groups of questions related to safety and security at the workplace, referral mechanisms and interaction with the vulnerable groups. As a follow up to trainings 3 rayons, Cahul, Balti and Chisinau (centre) were selected to pilot referral schemes from police to CSOs on the right bank. To pilot the schemes 3 police inspectorates and 5 CSOs were selected. All in all, over 10 meeting with police, CSOs, local public authorities, HIV, TB, probation were organized in Balti, Anenii Noi, Chisinau and Cahul, and in every rayon a local working plan for 12 months was developed and signed. The plan provides for number of memorandums of understanding signed, info-sessions conducted, people referred to services, joint visits to vulnerable localities organised. To pilot the schemes 3 police inspectorates and 5 CSOs were selected. In the pilot period from September to December 2021, 26 joint police-CSOs were organized, a total of 84 people (47 people who use drugs, 7 sex workers, 1 man who has sex with man, 29 homeless people) were referred by police to CSOs and covered with a minimum of 3 essential services including HIV, TB and ITS screening. Due to police-CSO referral schemes on the right bank, 9 Hepatitis C, 9 STDs, 6 TB, 1 HIV new cases were identified and covered with treatment and support services.

A group of people holding signs

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*26 June 2021, meeting with the police from Balti and a flash-mob organized jointly with the community of people who use drugs*

*A group of people sitting around a table

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*7 July 2021, Pretura Chisinau, meeting with police and CSOs, including LPA representatives.*

The Assessment of the existing training programmes for pre-service and in-service professionals that work with children in contact and conflict with law points out the insufficiency of specialized bodies and structures working with children and the limited number of child rights specialized professionals. The findings pave the ground for the development of pre-service and in-service training programmes for professionals working with and/or for children in contact with the law, based on the needs of girls and boys, and puts the emphasis on the need for systematic and coordinated capacity-building activities.

Two training packages for law enforcement professionals have been developed to improve the capacity in working with 1) children-victims and -witnesses of crime and 2) children-offenders. A pool of trainers is being empowered with theoretical knowledge and practical skills to apply two training packages for in-service professionals that work with and for children-victims of violence and children offenders.

With a view to reinforce practical applicability and compliance with international standards, three curricula for pre-service professionals were developed and proposed for implementation of regional universities with the following thematic: i) Children’s Rights. The applicability of the best interest ii) International legal framework on Juvenile Justice iii) Interviewing the children in the legal procedures. Those curricula will be accompanied by the course supports materials.

In order to ensure observance of the rights of children in custody, namely children placed in A. S. “Makarenko” institution, the adjustments to the Internal Regulation and a new Code of Conduct have been developed and proposed for approval. Comprehensive preparation for release programme for children placed in Makarenko, as well as the training package for “A.S. Makarenko” staff to apply child-friendly procedures, were developed in order to facilitate social rehabilitation and reintegration of children in custody. A.S “Makarenko” staff is being capacitated on positive interaction with children in custody and for applying the Preparation for release programme. Children offenders have a real chance of social reintegration being included in the named programme.

## Output 3. Enhanced human rights culture in the Transnistrian region

Recognizing the important role of the media in increasing the public awareness on human rights and in exposing the identified human rights violations to the general public, the Programme has developed and organized a series of media products and communication campaigns, outlined below.

Around 33 women infected or affected by HIV from the both banks were empowered by raising their awareness on human rights, decreasing self-stigma and increasing their self-esteem through a 1-year mentoring programme. 33 personal development plans were developed for each woman. They were also involved in group’s events, mostly workshops and trainings. The following topics were addressed during the group events: “Emotional intellect and management of emotions”, “Self-stigmatization and discrimination among women living with and vulnerable to HIV”, “Seven I or seven types of me”, “My roles - Daughter, Sister and friend”, “My roles - woman, wife, mother”, “Life balance”, “How to love yourself”, “Violence in the modern world” and “Emotional burnout”.

At the end of the year two stories about the results of the mentoring programme, with more than 1,3K visualizations were shot and published:

https://www.facebook.com/platformadnestr/videos/334656274752297

https://www.facebook.com/platformadnestr/videos/2947695505482825

In the period of 10 May - 10 June 2021, the national awareness campaign „Undetectable = Untransmutable” dedicated to AIDS Candlelight Memorial Day was organized on both banks. As a result:

- 136533 persons/visualizations on social media were covered/counted with campaigns’ events.

- 19 organizations, national partners at local level in the non-governmental sector were involved in carrying out the campaign activities.

- 12 institutions, national partners in the government sector, involved in carrying out the campaign activities.

- 18 video / audio clips were developed and released.

- 1162 rapid tests for the civil sector were carried out during the campaign.

- 400 "Safe boxes" were distributed.

- 7100 informative materials were distributed to specialized organizations which subsequently distributed them to the general population.

- 21 flash mobs (in all partner organizations) on social networks, 15,336 people (views) covered by flash mobs.

- 27 events organized to inform the general population.

- 3 TV shows organized.

- 157 articles published on social media as part of the campaign.

- 4 art objects installed in 4 cities from both banks.

Within the campaign 34 persons from different sectors, who mostly contributed to the national AIDS response, despite the challenges related to COVID-19 pandemic, were decorated with the award “Red Ribbon”.

****A person running on a road

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*N=N awareness campaign. Photo credit: A.O. Initiativa Pozitiva*

The second HIV awareness campaign dedicated to World AIDS Day was conducted in the period 1-16 December 2021 under the slogan “Just Test” and impressive results were achieved:

• Around 530,000 people/visualizations on social media were covered/reached during the campaign on both banks of the river Nistru.

• 27 organizations, local national partners in the non-governmental sector, involved in carrying out the campaign activities.

• 7 institutions, national partners in the government sector, involved in carrying out the activities of the campaign, including Coordination Unit of the NAP Programme.

• 20 video / audio clips were developed and released.

• 64 rapid tests for the civilian sector were carried out during the campaign.

• 3500 “Safe boxes” were distributed.

• 11630 information materials were distributed to specialized organizations which subsequently distributed them to the general population.

• 6 events for informing the general population.

• 3 TV shows.

• 80 articles published on social media as part of the campaign.

Graphical user interface, website

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*Just-test campaign. Photo credit: A.O. Initiativa Pozitiva*

The activity related to “Zero discrimination in health facilities” was initiated. To ensure the institutionalization of zero stigma concept in health facilities, partnerships with State University of Medicine and Pharmacy “Nicolae Testemiteanu” (for doctor students), and College of Medicine “Raisa Pacalo” (for nurses and mid-level health staff) were developed. The aim of the partnership laid around the curricula revision through the lens of human rights and assertive and efficient interpersonal communication. The approach also ensures the sustainability of the intervention and is more strategic. As a result, two reports on the curricula evaluation were produced, with each institution. Conclusions and recommendations of necessary adjustments were developed. In the period January - June 2022 it is planned to continue the work on the following objectives:

• Strengthening the curriculums by adjusting and / or developing programs, modules, methodical-didactic support.

• Training of medical staff.

A training course for the training of trainers (ToT) in effective communication was organized in the period 6-7, 13-14 and 23-24 December 2021 for the specialists from both banks.

Subsequently, the formed resource - 22 specialists will train colleagues from medical institutions in the country. The goal was to ensure 0 (zero) stigma in medical institutions, regardless of illness, age, gender or any other criteria.

Stigma Index research started being implemented in the reporting period. Data collection for the Stigma Index study has been initiated at the end of October 2021. This was possible after several months of preparation which included:

• Initiation of the process by identifying local partners and request letter sent to GNP+.

• Several meetings with the colleagues from GNP+ (global level) in order to be familiarized with the new approach of the study and adapt the methodology according to the needs and the realities of the Republic of Moldova.

• Development and approval of the methodology.

• Translation of the documents, including the questionnaire, into Romanian.

• Obtaining approval from the Ethical Committee, the Ministry of Health and the de-facto structures from the left bank of the Nistru River.

• Finalizing the sample according to the methodology and negotiation with potential NGOs and medical staff to be involved in the study. The sample constitutes 868 persons living with HIV from both banks of Nistru.

• Recruitment of interviewers - around 22 persons living with HIV.

• Setting of the devices for data collection via RedCap application.

• 3 days training of interviewers on methodological, ethical, security aspects of the study according to the methodology and recommendations and on how to collect data via RedCap and send it to server.

By the end of the data collection period, it is expected to have 868 completed questionnaires from both banks. According to the methodology at least 25% of the respondents should be representatives of key populations: MSM, UDI, SW and TG. The next steps to be done by the end of the project is data analyses, report writing and its consultation/adjustment and approval by the local and international partners and presentation of the final report and its recommendations.

The communication campaigns were financially supported by UCIMP (principal recipient of Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria), as well as a regional grant from GFATM, implemented through the NGO “Positive Initiative”.

According to the Communication plan, mass media remains the key partner for spreading Programme’s key messages through distribution of press releases, success stories, video materials, interviews, information materials. Also, to achieve an enhanced human rights culture in the Transnistrian region, journalists and ordinary people were engaged through various awareness campaigns, to encourage them to stand up for their rights, speak up and get involved.

In the field of general knowledge on human rights issues, more than 50 media professionals, journalists, bloggers from de-facto media, independent media and CSOs as well as students of journalism faculties, have improved their knowledge. Subject covered included: prevention of hate speech towards minorities in social, online, printed, TV and Radio media space; efficient mechanisms and initiatives to ensure an open, transparent and inclusive participation of youth belonging to groups most vulnerable to human rights violations in the decision making process at national and community levels; and the impact of COVID-19 on civic, political, social, economic and cultural human rights. This was possible as a result of 3 media events organised in the region.

Following the request from the participants of media academy 2020 to conduct capacity building trainings for media preferably in an in-person format, the Programme organized a fourth edition of the Human Rights Media Academy 2021 in Vadul lui Voda. 17 journalists, media professionals and communications specialists from both banks of Nistru River, including Gagauzia, were trained in understanding and applying HRBA principles in practice with a strong focus on vulnerable groups, prevention of discrimination, promoting social cohesion in the society and ensuring gender sensitive communication. The Media Academy combined both theoretical and practical knowledge on human rights concept and principles as well as values and principles of high-quality journalism and practices of reflecting human rights issues through good human stories. In the post-evaluation questionaries, more than 93% of the participants appreciated the topics and knowledge received on the training, ranking it as a highly useful event. The Human Rights Media Academy is a unique capacity building tool, which has been conceptualized and implemented by OHCHR since 2016. This instrument was designed to prepare new generations of Journalists-Human Rights Defenders - starting with introduction into basic Human Rights concepts and principles and ending with their practical application in the daily work by Media Specialists, so that ultimately, their media products are human-rights-compliant and reflect the HRBA principles.

A group of people posing for a photo

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*Human Rights Media Academy 2021, September 2021 @photocredit: OHCHR*

As a result of the Media Academy, 12 media professionals from both banks with mentoring support from media professionals produced and published 9 human-rights-compliant media products on various topics related particularly to the right on information, right to legal remedies, rights of persons with disabilities, prevention of early marriages in Roma communities, prevention of sexual harassment of minors and women’s empowerment to apply for services in cases of domestic violence. Besides receiving the diplomas of completion and programme visibility sets, during the final event, the participants had a possibility to exchange their impressions and experience of work within the media academy under the mentorship of experts, as well as, to learn about Programme activities for further media coverage.

A picture containing text

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*One UN 2022 Calendar published, as a result of the Creation Contest "Human rights are yours and mine" @photocredit: OHCHR*

Aiming to promote the rights of different vulnerable groups through human stories, a media campaign on COVID-19 and impact on vulnerable groups in the Transnistrian region was conducted with a special focus on the Roma community, people with chronic diseases, older persons, and women victims of domestic violence. Stories from different people showcased inequalities they faced during the pandemic through a human rights perspective as well as highlighted measures which should be taken by duty bearers to respect, protect and fulfil the right to health, the right to education, the right on social protection, and the right to be treated equally. The posters featured statements of 5 people belonging to different vulnerable groups saying how the measures taken in the context of COVID influenced their life and their rights. The heroes of the posters were:

a. A Roma man, Victor Scripnic, from Tiraspol, father of 4 kids and the only breadwinner in his family who before the pandemic used to collect scrap metal to make a living. During the lockdown, he lost this opportunity of earning money.

b. A 53-years old woman, named Tatiana, HIV positive and sick with cancer. During the lockdown she was denied medical assistance.

c. A 71-years old woman living in rural area, Ana, who during the lockdown had no longer access to essential care and support and was forced to ask neighbours to bring her food or water.

d. A woman, Natalya Eliseeva, parent of a child with intellectual disabilities saying that because of the lockdown and closed school, the right to education that her daughter has, was denied.

e. A young woman, named Daria, who experienced domestic violence while in pandemic.

In an artistic manner, the cartoons raised awareness on how the decision taken in the context of COVID pandemic affected the rights in health and education spheres. The cases of Tatiana and Natalia Eliseeva’s daughter, who was denied the access to health and education during the lockdown, were the bases of the discussions.

In the framework of this campaign, 8 media products, including 5 posters, 2 comics, and 1 audio photo essay were produced and placed in social media (UN FB page, as well on SCPD and OHCHR FB pages) and in local media resources. The campaign had a total organic reach of 21K and over 380 Shares. 1.700 times users interacted with the campaign on the Facebook post through feedback, comments, sharing, and clicks. The most visible and impactful campaign item was the comic on health with a total reach of 3.600 being followed by a poster featuring the rights of older persons with 3.200.

The Human Rights Awareness Raising Campaign “Recover Better Together: Human Rights for All", ran from mid-October to mid-December 2020 and was targeting duty bearers and rights holders from both banks. The campaign was funded from the Programme, as well as from OHCHR core budget. Specifically, under the programme activities, 3 video testimonials of people, who explained what issues they faced in execution the right to social protection, freedom of religion and right to labour (the total organic reach amounted to 8059, over 290 shares and 460 impressions) were produced and two online events for youth with an exceptionally high reach among targeted audience were conducted. One of the events was organized in Tiraspol at the Club #19 (run by NGO Apriori), a public lecture on the right to peaceful assembly followed by vivid discussion with participants, who raised questions not only focusing on the peaceful assembly, but expressed some concerns on the limitations and restrictions of freedom of expression in the region, while the other - a public lesson for 55 students of VIII-XII grades from Romanian-language educational institutions in the Transnistrian region and from the security zone organized together with the Ombudsperson for Child’s rights benefited from a public lesson on ensuring respect for children's rights in pandemic time, their realization in the context of established restrictions, but also the available remedies.

To enhance mass-media capacities from both banks of the Nistru River to report actively and ethically on child rights, two training packages were developed and a pool of 30 journalists increased knowledge and skills in applying a child-friendly approach in developing media products, including as a precondition for complying with journalism ethics. The press clubs for journalists from both banks of the Nistru River have been organised regularly. Quarterly media monitoring of products related to child rights is being performed.

Additionally, during reporting period in the national and regional mass-media were produced and distributed:

* 5 press releases;
* 1 interview;
* 9 life stories (4 life stories in the campaign “Beyond human stories” and 5 about survivors of domestic violence in the frame of the online campaign "5 friends from circle of trust”);
* 2 written success stories (one about Roma mediators and another one about the Line of Goodness);
* 4 video success stories (3 about the mentoring for women living with HIV/AIDS project results, and about the PREp service; the story “The Line of Goodness 1165: Help is just a phone call away” was produced for regional UNDP Hub);
* 5 video consultations of key specialists in cases of domestic violence (in the frame of the online campaign "5 friends from circle of trust”).

As a result of efficient communication and press materials produced in 2021, 42 media articles, 14 of them - video reportages, were published by left bank media, reflecting the Programme activities and campaigns. As a result, more than 32K people in the Transnistrian region could get acquainted with the Programme activities and results.

Also has increased the interest of left bank media in covering subjects related to vulnerable groups rights and concerns. In the period of January - December 2021 more than 620 articles related to human rights were published in the left bank media. As a result, the total organic engagement on Transnistrian mass-media (5 Tv and 3 online portals) was 1 600 000 people.

Two other events on human rights promotion were organized in 2021 and are worth mentioning.

The event „Handing of grant certificates for the human rights CSOs”, summer call 2021, took place on 6 September 2021, in Tiraspol. The scope of the event was to raise the awareness of the general public and the NGOs’ representatives on the results of the One UN JA, acknowledge the successes of the NGO partners and Sweden’s/Programme’s contribution to advancement of human rights in the Transnistrian region, to show the role of the funded social projects in strengthening the realization of the rights of vulnerable groups. The event was attended by the winners of small grants, representatives of the Sustainable (Community) Development Platform, UNDP, One UN JA experts and journalists from the left bank of the Nistru River. In order to promote the event, a press release in Russian, Romanian and English versions was distributed to the regional and national media, 8 SMM quote cards have been created and posted on SCPD FB page and group, and shared on partners FB pages. The posts had 7,3 K organic reach, 532 shares and 719 interactions with the posts on the SCPD FB page. The event was reflected by regional media and social media in 14 publications, including 3 video reportages.

The first edition of the Forum on the cooperation between civil society organizations from both banks of the Nistru River in the area of human rights took place on 29 October 2021, in online format. The event brought together 100 participants - representatives of implementing UN entities in Moldova, experts and civil society organizations from both banks of the Nistru River, as well as mass-media.

In order to achieve a maximum visibility of the Forum, the communication plan included three stages - before, during and after event. 2 weeks before the event, on social media (SCDP’s Facebook Page and Group, the UN page and six FB pages of the partner agencies) was launched the campaign to registration at the forum, presenting the agenda and the speakers. On 29 October, the Forum was broadcast live on 9 FB pages (Privesc.eu web and Facebook page, SCDP’s Facebook Page and Group, the UN page and six FB pages of the partner agencies). The live streaming of the Forum has been viewed by 15265 users on www.privesc.eu and accumulated over 30 000 views on 8 FB pages of the partner agencies, which were broadcasted the event. After event, were distributed a press release and conducted a SMM campaign on the Forum results (12 quote cards, 4 posts and the video exhibition of HRs drawings of children from the Left bank). As results, over 70 publications on mass-media and social media reflecting the event. FB statistics showed that the SMM posts had 56K organic reach, 623 shares on the SCPD and UNDP FB pages.

A collage of photos

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*„Handing of grant certificates for the human rights CSOs” event (Tiraspol, 6 September, 2021) and the online Forum on the cooperation between civil society organizations from both banks of the Nistru River in the area of human rights,* *@photocredit: UNDP*

**Awareness and communication campaigns on social media.** Due to COVID-related restrictions imposed during 2021the interaction with mass-media and large public was limited mostly to online space. Thereby, the majority of awareness and communication campaigns in the field of human carried out within the Program rights were managed on online platforms. Seven online communication campaigns were conducted on social media, usingthe SCDP’s Facebook Page and Group, the UN page and six FB pages of the partner agencies.

325 posts and media statements, including 36 video materials, have been published on the Platform’s FB page, UN, on 6 FB pages of the Programme partner agencies and shared in Transnistrian FB groups. All the tools, available by this social medium - written posts, photographs, videos and infographics - have been used to promote human-rights-related messages, to ensure the visibility of the Swedish support to the Programme’s activities and the partners involved.

The campaign “Beyond human stories”, launched in September 2021, includes a series of five portraits of vulnerable groups representatives, who, despite stigma, overcame all difficulties and became successful people. They are beneficiaries of Sweden-funded projects under the One UN Joint Action "Cross-river support for human rights". In the framework of this campaign, 5 life stories with photo essays in Romanian, English and Russian versions, were produced and placed in social media (UNDP Medium and FB page as well on SCPD FB page and group) and in local media resources. The campaign had a total organic reach of 31.000 and over 350 shares. 9.200 times users interacted with the campaign on the Facebook post through feedback, comments, sharing, and clicks. During the campaign, 2 protagonists of the campaign received help from the people who read their stories and from charitable NGOs. The most visible and impactful stories were shared by UNDP Regional Hub on twitter.



*Protagonists of the campaign “Beyond human stories”,* *@photocredit: UNDP*

Online awareness campaign for prevention and protection against domestic violence in Transnistrian region “5 friends from circle of trust” was carried out in partnership with IOM and CSO "Interaction", from Tiraspol, in the period of 25 October- 25 November 2021. 5 friends were key specialists, institutions, NGOs, specialized organizations that can help people in cases of domestic violence, as well as a helpline for the Transnistrian region. The campaign contained a lot of informative materials, including a press release, 5 video consultations of key specialists in cases of domestic violence (psychologist, lawyer, social worker), five stories about domestic violence survivors, 8 statistics, 4 SMM posters with recommendations. The content was produced and placed in social media (UN, UNDP FB pages as well on SCPD FB page and group, YouTube and twitter accounts) and in local media resources. The campaign had a total organic reach of 73.000 and over 200 shares.

Text

Description automatically generated

*Banner, quote and statistical cards of the awareness campaign “5 friends from circle of trust”*

Six short social media campaigns were as well carried out:

1. The SMM campaign about the Line of Goodness and volunteers from the left bank, that are helping vulnerable groups from Transnistrian region in the pandemic with the support of the One UN Joint Action. The campaign was runed in September and included a series of 8 video materials and photo essays, which show how work volunteers and Line of Goodness, and how people benefit of this project. The campaign content was published on UN and UNDP FB pages as well on SCPD FB page and group, on Twitter and YouTube accounts. Overall, the posts had 15 K organic reach, 450 shares and 643 interactions with the posts on the SCPD FB page.
2. The SMM campaign “Children's voices on HIV/AIDS in drawings” was carried out on the occasion of the International HIV/AIDS Day (on 3 December) and included 8 drawings with messages from children. The drawings were provided by specialized civil society organizations from the left bank («Тринити», «Милосердие», «Альянс Общественного Здоровья»). The campaign content was published on SCPD FB page and group. The posts had 13,2 K organic reach, 395 shares.
3. The SMM campaign “Children rights in simple words” was conducted during December on SCPD FB page and group, and included a series of 8 animes on children rights. The content was produced in collaboration with the young bloggers from Roma organization Dniester-Infolex. The posts had 2941 views.

*Quotes cards of the SMM campaign “More equality for PWDs”*

1. The SMM campaign “More equality for PWDs” was conducted in December, aiming to promote the opportunities of the Protocol to the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights ratification for PWDs. The campaign contained 10 comments of CSOs representatives involved in work with PWDs. The posts had 8 K organic reach, 218 shares.
2. The campaign “Human rights are yours and mine rights” - a drawing competition for young people from both banks of the Nistru River, conducted in partnership with OHCHR during December. The campaign contained 11 posts with presentation of 12 winner paintings and their authors, 3 media statements about the competition and the final event, a video exhibition of paintings. The campaign had an organic impact of circa 1,2K and 154 shares.
3. The campaign to promote the partnership of the Programme with 25 civil society organizations from both banks of Nistru, wich were awarded at the the Forum on the cooperation between civil society organizations from both banks of the Nistru River in the area of human rights. The campaign was conducted on December 13-22 and included a series of 8 photo essays with presentation of 14 CSOs and their projects under One UN JA. The posts had 2,5K and 294 shares.

*Media products of the SMM campaigns “Human rights are yours and mine rights”, “Children's voices on HIV/AIDS in drawings”, and “Children rights in simple words”*

Our communication activities have had a significant increase in the number of followers (<https://www.facebook.com/platformadnestr/>). In the past year, the number of netizens, who have liked it, has increased by about 12% and now we have 677 likes and 816 followers. SCDP’s Facebook Group has 403 members (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/platformadnestr>). The information materials were disseminated through the Platform page and were reposted in the Group.

Additionally to the FB, the Programme’s activities were mediatised via UNDP and UN twitter accounts. Seven tweets related to the Programme’s activities were posted in the reporting period. The interview with director of NGO “Interaction” and the Newsletter for June 2021 were shared by UNDP Eurasia and Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) on their international social media platforms.

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**Newsletter.** Some external communications tools were developed, maintained and used in order to ensure the Programme’s common voice for Human Rights and responsiveness to opportunities to communicate. Among them, a quarterly electronic newsletter was largely distributed to people/stakeholders, etc. via e-mail that presents the joint action’s results, lessons learned, events, people’s stories, etc. Three Programme newsletters (in RUS and ENG) were developed and published online in the reporting period.

*The Programme Newsletters*

3rd Programme Newsletter (ENG and RUS versions, respectively): <https://sway.office.com/3LuRcXyu1Lg3UGmu> ; <https://sway.office.com/wJ8aJN6jbQollIjZ>

4th Programme Newsletter (ENG and RUS versions, respectively): <https://sway.office.com/lHom58cdny7vgB24> ; <https://sway.office.com/3Fda0i1eiLAMvTeb>

5th Programme Newsletter (ENG and RUS versions, respectively): [https://mailchi.mp/6a96888327d1/cross-river-support-for-human-rights-newsletter-june-2021?e=[UNIQID](https://mailchi.mp/6a96888327d1/cross-river-support-for-human-rights-newsletter-june-2021?e=%5bUNIQID)] [https://mailchi.mp/e3ba67aee48d/2021?e=[UNIQID&fbclid=IwAR1NjYgElTZtXDFbKAGIEUbA00ZRISa0Wn2H84XhlA05ySSC3UDBHW4doA0](https://mailchi.mp/e3ba67aee48d/2021?e=%5bUNIQID&fbclid=IwAR1NjYgElTZtXDFbKAGIEUbA00ZRISa0Wn2H84XhlA05ySSC3UDBHW4doA0)

**ii) Indicator Based Performance Assessment:**

|  | **Achieved Indicator Targets** | **Reasons for Variance with Planned Target (if any)** | **Source of Verification** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Output 1:**  **Increased capacities of vulnerable rights holders to exercise their human rights**  **Indicator 1.1**  Number of thematic working groups on human rights of different groups of rights holders established and functional  **Baseline:**  2 platforms (DV and PWD)  **Planned Target:**  At least 4 thematic working groups established and capacitated | UNDP  3 thematic working groups established by the SCDP: Legislation, Social Services and Advocacy | Following the internal consultations by the SCDP, it was agreed that it is more efficient to establish working groups based on the theme related to specific domain, rather than vulnerable group, due to uneven representation of the groups in the SCDP. Thus, initially 4 groups were proposed, but only 3 were agreed to be established. The 4th theme, Social enterprises, is currently supported by other donors and it was considered more efficient to redirect the resources to other activities. | Annual project report  Membership lists |
| **Output 1**  **Indicator 1.2**  Number of human rights initiatives, including policy documents, common advocacy campaigns, and individual and collective rights claims and communications, inspired by cross-river exchanges and contacts via various thematic groups submitted/addressed to duty bearers and/or international human rights mechanisms  **Baseline:**  **Total: 1**  Policy documents: 0  Advocacy campaigns: 0  Joint claims and comms: 1  **Planned Target:**  Total: 10  Policy documents: 3  Advocacy campaigns: 1  Joint claims and comms: 4 | OHCHR  Total: 19  Policy documents: 8  (1 regulatory document to start a process of drafting HR Framework and to establish a multisectoral working group; 1 Roadmap on drafting the HR Framework; 1 call for CSOs to join HR Framework process; 1 Concept note of delivering HR Capacity Building program; 1 concept note on Roma mediators institution to DFA; 1 Roadmap and 1 Action plan for establishing the first Roma community mediators’ institution in the Transnistria region; 1 legal analysis of regulatory framework for establishing Roma community mediators)  Advocacy campaigns: 5  media campaigns on the impact of COVID-19 on human rights of different vulnerable groups and recovery programs based on human rights as a core; on Roma rights and community mediators; on human rights among youth and children  Joint claims and comms: 9  1 joint statement from Roma community to claim the rights of Roma especially focusing on vulnerabilities faced during the pandemic; 4 advocacy papers from CSOs HR thematic groups representing vulnerable groups (PwD; Roma and DV); 1 claim on inability to leave residential psychoneurological institution in Tiraspol for PwD who have full legal capacities after lifting of the status of emergency; 1 statement to promote Roma mediators among educational institutions |  | Regulatory and policy documents, legal acts, reports from media campaigns, advocacy paper texts; reports |
| UNODC:  **Total: 18**  Policy documents: 7  Advocacy campaigns: 2  Joint claims and comms: 7 |  | Field visit reports and assessments conducted in the context of UN high level human rights and UN human rights mechanisms visits |
| **Output 1**  **Indicator 1.3**  Number of vulnerable persons from both banks of the Nistru River benefiting from community-based services supported by the programme (disaggregated by vulnerable group and location)  **Baseline:**  **Total: 0**  Left bank: 0  Right bank: 0  **Planned Target:**  Total: 130  Left bank: 107  Right bank: 23 | OHCHR:  Total: 98  Left bank: 98 PwDs and their relatives from Slobodzia district in the Transnistria region  Right bank: 0 |  | Report from CSO |
| UNAIDS:  Total: 225  Left bank: 75  Right bank: 150 | Even in COVID situation, PrEP service was delivered successfully. In the lockdown period, the services were adapted on both banks and it could be provided as “delivery at home” service. | Reports from SCOs  Statistics report of the National AIDS Coordination Unit, with Hospital of Communicable Diseases and Dermato-venerology. |
| UNODC:  **Total: 270**  Left bank: 177  Right bank: 84 | Awareness of the new services needs to be developed among right holders, which takes time. | Field visit reports, reports from CSOs developing and implement-ting the services, and assessments conducted in the context of UN high level human rights and UN human rights mechanisms visits |
| **Output 1**  **Indicator 1.4**  Number of trained by the program different vulnerable groups from the Transnistrian region on human rights  **Baseline:**  **Total: 1**  **Planned Target:**  Total: 2 | OHCHR:  Total: 4 groups (PwD, survivors of DV, Roma, people living with HIV) |  | Lists of participants to the trainings    Pre and post training evaluation forms, final test, consultants’ reports |
| **Output 1**  **Indicator 1.5**  Increased institutional capacity of at least 70% of 60 participating CSOs  **Baseline:**  30 CSOs:  7 - 0-0,5 pct.  4 - 1-1,5  8 - 2-2,5  6 - 3-3,5  4 - 4-4,5  **Planned Target:**  An increase of at least 0,5 points of institutional capacity increase for at least 20% of involved CSOs | UNDP  27 NGOs (which constitutes 90% in relation to the baseline data) have increased their level of institutional capacities with at least 0,5 points, as follow:  17 organisations - increased capacities with 0,5 points  10 organisations - increased capacities with 1 point | It should be noted that 10 organizations have reached the next level of institutional capacity development, as follow:  1 NGO from Embryonic level reached developing level;  2 NGOs from developing level reached satisfactorily level;  2 NGOs from satisfactorily level reached developed level;  5 NGOs from developed level reached advanced level. | OCAT questionnaire[[7]](#footnote-7)  Evaluation report |
| **Output 1**  **Indicator 1.6**  Number of calls related to domestic violence answered by the Trust Line  **Baseline:**  310 calls in 2017 related to domestic violence  **Planned Target:**  At least 300 calls per year  **Indicator 1.7**  Number of professionals trained with the support of the program who have increased knowledge on burnout prevention  **Baseline:**  15 participants in 2017  **Planned Target:**  24 professionals trained throughout the project | IOM  751 calls related to domestic violence, including 511 SOS calls. | This increase in SOS calls (199 related to SOS calls received in July-December 2019; 335 in 2020) is due to that SOS-cases identified in 2021 are more complicated and need more implication of specialists and institutions to find solutions, and the process of direct assistance takes more time. | Monitoring field visits and communication, reports from the NGO implementing the service. |
| IOM  13 specialists of NGO “Interaction” trained (11 female and 2 male)23 female and 2 male professionals trained | The additional session of 2021 was possible due to re-organization and reallocation of resources for burnout training under COVID-19 circumstances (making it shorter and with limited opportunities for the group to go out of the region in 2020). | Agenda, list of participants and trainer’s report, reports from the NGO implementing the service. |
| **Output 2**  **Increased capacities of duty bearers to fulfil their human rights obligations**  **Indicator 2.1.**  Number of new regulatory documents or amendments to existing regulatory documents in the region, including documents on the rights of persons with disabilities and persons living with HIV, developed in line with international human rights standards  **Baseline:**  **Total:** 12  **PWD:** 2  **HIV:** 7  **Planned Target:**  **Total: 21**  **PwD: 3**  **HIV: 10** | OHCHR  PwD: 8 - regulatory documents amended on ensuring access for PwD with severe and medium disability to labour market, to receive hearing aids for PwD with hearing impairment from de-facto authorities for free and to ensure accessibility for PwD to de-facto courts, extension without time limits the degree of disability with severe disabilities, on compensation for food to children with disabilities who did not attend schools; extension the right to social benefits to an unemployed guardian or caregiver who provide care to a child with disability and parents, guardians or caregivers who alone bring up a child with disability, regardless of employment status; methodological guidance for social workers to provide services on assisted employment to PwD |  | Regulatory documents amended or developed, legal acts, reports in official media |
| UNAIDS  HIV: 14 | 2 new regulatory documents and 1 national Programmme for viral hepatitis and all relevant documentations for its implementation were approved by the de-facto Transnistrian region authorities. 1 new has been developed and discussed and has to be sent for approval by high-level authorities.  Those policies were approved in the implementing period, additionally to 4 others that were approved in the first year of programme implementation. | Regulatory documents amended or developed, official information from the de facto structures |
| **Output 2**  **Indicator 2.2** Extent to which normative framework is compliant with international standards on child friendly justice  **Baseline:** Not compliant  **Planned Target:** Score 1: Less compliant (Only a few (<30%) are compliant) | UNICEF:  The findings of the Report on the de-facto legal framework in the Transnistrian region on justice for children in contact and conflict with the law, led to the development of the draft amendments to the normative framework in the region which was proposed to the de-facto authorities for approval with the aim to further adjust [the Transnistrian Criminal Code](https://unicef.sharepoint.com/:w:/r/teams/MDA-Programme/HACT/Centru%20de%20Dezvoltare%20si%20Sustinere%20a%20Initiativelor%20Cetatenilor%20Resonance/RESONANCE%202019/Products/Studiu,%20cadrul%20normativ%20TN/%D0%B7%D0%B0%D0%BA%D0%BE%D0%BD%D0%BE%D0%BF%D1%80%D0%BE%D0%B5%D0%BA%D1%82%20%D0%A3%D0%9A+.docx?d=wfd8665f9af8244d58ad675b8130f310d&csf=1&web=1&e=NpB9xz) and [Criminal Procedure Code](https://unicef.sharepoint.com/:w:/r/teams/MDA-Programme/HACT/Centru%20de%20Dezvoltare%20si%20Sustinere%20a%20Initiativelor%20Cetatenilor%20Resonance/RESONANCE%202019/Products/Studiu,%20cadrul%20normativ%20TN/%D0%B7%D0%B0%D0%BA%D0%BE%D0%BD%D0%BE%D0%BF%D1%80%D0%BE%D0%B5%D0%BA%D1%82%20%D0%A3%D0%9F%D0%9A+.docx?d=we9467e0c282b4c6fa34416a86d0aefa8&csf=1&web=1&e=c1j2uL). The recommendations of the Report have been incorporated in a wider, policy-level document - the “Roadmap for child rights in the Transnistrian region” currently in draft status. |  | Official information from de facto authorities. Narrative reports and deliverables of international and national experts. |
| **Output 2**  **Indicator 2.3** Extent to which the modus operandi of A. S. Makarenko institution is compliant with international standards on administration of justice for children  **Baseline:** Less compliant  **Planned Target:** Score 2: Partially compliant (Regulatory framework is assessed and proposals for its improvement are developed; the preparation-for-release program is developed and SOPs drafted for work with social service providers; training packages developed and staff trained on applying child friendly and non-violent approaches while working with children in custody) | UNICEF:  The adjustments to the Internal Regulation of “A.S Makarenko” and a new Code of Conduct have been developed and proposed for approval. Comprehensive preparation for release programme for children placed in Makarenko, as well as the training package for “A.S. Makarenko” staff to apply child-friendly procedures are available. |  | Internal regulatory framework. Narrative reports and deliverables of international and national experts |
| **Output 2**  **Indicator 2.4**  Number of protection, promotion and monitoring human rights initiatives of the institutionalized human rights structures in the region  **Baseline:**  **Total:** 0  **Planned Target:**  **Total:** 1 | OHCHR  Total: 3 proposals to regulatory framework from left-bank ombudsperson institution (on regular monitoring of the residential and medical institutions by the commission comprised by individual experts and Ombudsperson; on payments for additional work experience; on transparency for calculation of pensions to older persons receive Russian-funded pensions) |  | Report from the left-bank ombudsperson institution |
| **Output 2**  **Indicator 2.5**  Percentage of justice and law enforcement professionals able to apply child friendly procedures in cases involving children in conflict with law  **Baseline: 0 %**  **Planned Target: 10%** | UNICEF: **In progress**  The Assessment of the existing training programmes for pre-service (law students) and in-service professionals(judges, prosecutors, police and social workers)that work with children in contact and conflict with law was performed.  Two training packages for law enforcement professionals have been developed to improve the capacity in working with i) children-victims and -witnesses of crime and ii) children-offenders. A pool of trainers (20 pers.) is being empowered with theoretical knowledge and practical skills to apply two training packages. Three curricula for pre-service professionals were developed and proposed for implementation of regional universities. | Capacity development  activities have been initiated and are planned for the middle of 2022. | Participants list.  Pre and Post evaluation questionnaire. Narrative reports and deliverables of international and national experts. |
| **Output 2**  **Indicator 2.6**  Number of PWUD, PLHIV and people with TB referred to harm reduction services by police on both banks | UNODC:  At least 100 PWUD referred to harm reduction services, including 60 on the left bank and 40 on the right bank.  Reported: 501  Number of police officer trained in referral: 221 |  | Referral form developed and implemented by CSOs on both banks, CSOs and police’s routine reports |
| **Output 3**  **Enhanced human rights culture in the Transnistrian region**  **Indicator 3.1**  Number of media products employing a human rights-based approach published by the media representatives trained by the program  **Baseline:**  23 media materials developed within the first phase  **Planned Target:** At least 30 materials published by left bank media outlets (yearly) | UNDP  In 2021 more than 620 articles related to human rights were published in the left bank media. As a result, the total organic engagement on Transnistrian mass-media (5 Tv and 3 online portals) was 1 600 000 people. | As a result of efficient communication and press materials produced in 2021, 42 media articles, 14 of them - video reportages, were published by left bank media reflecting the Programme activities and campaigns. Their overall impact has been - more than 32 K people in the Transnistrian region could get acquainted with the Programme activities and results. | Monitoring of media space |
| **Output 3**  **Indicator 3.2**  Number of media outlets able to report actively and ethically on child rights  **Baseline: 0**  **Planned Target:** 2 media reports (yearly) | UNICEF:  Two training packages were developed and a pool of 30 journalists increased knowledge and skills in applying a child-friendly approach in developing media products. The press clubs for journalists from both banks of the Nistru River have been organised regularly. Two media monitoring reports are available. |  | Monitoring of media space |
| **Output 3**  **Indicator 3.3**  Number of PLWH covered by self-stigma reduction mentoring program  **Baseline: 0**  **Planned Target: 25** | UNAIDS  33 | 33 women were involved in the mentoring programme during the year 2021. | List of events, number of participants, reports from NGOS |
| **Output 3**  **Indicator 3.4**  Number of persons reached by HIV behavior change communication campaigns  **Baseline: 60000**  **Planned Target: 10000** | UNAIDS  666533 (persons/visualizations) on the social media | 2 organized campaigns have covered more people than initially expected | Campaigns reports |

**iii) A Specific Story**

|  |
| --- |
| **Story Nr. 1**  **Problem / Challenge faced:** Describe the specific problem or challenge faced by the subject of your story (this could be a problem experienced by an individual, community or government).  *Valentina from suburbs of Ribnita city is poly drug dependant and is living with her daughters, 4 and 6 years old, in a small house with her mother-in-law and a violent domestic partner. Because of her drug dependency and economic dependency to her partners Valentina did not register the girls to a kindergarten. Valentina has almost lost the contact to her mother and father as her domestic partners would forbid the interaction with them. The girls have rarely met the grandparents from mother’s side. Valentina’s domestic partner is rarely working and often manifest both psychological and physical abuse.*  **Programme Interventions:** How was the problem or challenged addressed through the Programme interventions?  *Valentina has known about the services provided by the CSO Triniti for some time, as she benefits herself from medical referral and psychosocial support yet when the crisis room became functional, Valentina and her daughters were the first clients to be sheltered in this room. The mother (WUD) and her daughters were assessed for their needs and based on the case management approach for 10 days they were provided with a range of services: shelter, nutrition, clothes (second hand) for children, hygiene products, psychological counselling, support with issuing documents for children and enrolment to the kindergarten in Ribnita city, support with employment at the drug dependency facility in Ribnita in the capacity of helper and cleaning lady. Valentina moved with her daughters to her parents’ house.*  **Result (if applicable):** Describe the observable change that occurred so far as a result of the Programme interventions. For example, how did community lives change or how was the government better able to deal with the initial problem?  *As a result, Valentina living in a safe place with her children, she has been provided basic support and has been assisted with employment, both children were institutionalized and are undergoing kindergarten program.*  **Lessons Learned:** What did you (and/or other partners) learn from this situation that has helped inform and/or improve Programme (or other) interventions?  *The crisis room support services are very much needed, and vulnerable women and children should be aware that despite an additional vulnerability, such as drug dependency the possibility to receive support, assistance, get employed does exist.*  *November 2021, CSO, Triniti*  **Story Nr. 2**  **Problem / Challenge faced:** Describe the specific problem or challenge faced by the subject of your story (this could be a problem experienced by an individual, community or government).  *In February 2021, the “Trustline 0 800 99800” for victims of domestic violence received a call from a woman aged 47 who lived in a village in the northern part of Transnistria. She had been married for more than 20 years and the family had eight children, aged 16, 14 and 11 years old and five others over 18.*  *The woman requested assistance from the Trustline since she had been subjected to psychological and physical violence at the hands of her husband throughout the entire period of her marriage. According to the woman, the children often witnessed these events in the family. The husband who had a criminal record, communicated with the children in an aggressive manner. As a result of such conditions, one of daughters became an offender and was imprisoned for 9 years, leaving behind her three children.*  *When the beneficiary applied for assistance, she was taking care of six children all by herself. During more than 20 years, the woman repeatedly contacted the police and social services, but her husband received only verbal warnings. The woman was extremely tired of being beaten and bullied by her husband. This large family got stuck in the huge tangle of problems and poverty. The woman still fears for her life and the lives of her and her daughter’s children. As she could not find a solution by herself, she contacted the NGO “Interaction”. The beneficiary asked for help from a psychologist, a lawyer for social support and requested legal assistance with the documentation for alimony and guardianship, as well as with the improvement of conditions at the children’s educational facilities.*  *Currently, the beneficiary and the children live in their own apartment which is in need of renovation. The woman divorced but cannot claim alimony because her former husband is still in prison. The family needs comprehensive assistance, including humanitarian assistance and guiding support in children’s education.*  *Because of the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions, the local authorities of the Transnistria region still communicate with inhabitants online but the beneficiary does not have her own computer and does not even have basic knowledge of email or e-documenting platforms.*  **Programme Interventions:** How was the problem or challenged addressed through the Programme interventions?  *The victim called the Trustline by herself after reading about the service on a billboard. A comprehensive plan was developed for the beneficiary, her children and her daughter’s children and has been implemented for 12 months, including: instruction in case of an emergency, psychological and legal advice, registration of the children at educational institutions, provision of food packages and hygiene products, coverage of expenses for transportation and documentation, and escorting to official institutions. This SOS-case was initiated in 2021 and remains ongoing.*  *The NGO “Interaction” is the case manager for the SOS-case, while other organizations are involved when the need arises: the charitable foundation "Hope for Family and Children", the police, de facto Department of Social Protection and Labor, Ribnita Territorial Crisis Center of the Operational Headquarters for the Prevention and Prevention of Covid-19 of the de facto Department of Internal Affairs. Food and hygiene packages were provided to the family as humanitarian aid through a joint UNDP / OHCHR initiative with UK funding, UN Women with Austrian funding, and National coalition "Life without domestic violence".*  **Result (if applicable):** Describe the observable ***change*** that occurred so far as a result of the Programme interventions. For example, how did community lives change or how was the government better able to deal with the initial problem?  *The lives of the beneficiary and her children have changed significantly since joining the Victims of Violence Assistance Program of the NGO “Interaction”. The beneficiary and her children have become more confident, they feel protected, and their psychological condition has improved; documents have been reissued and guardianship proceeded; the children attend educational institutions, unemployment benefits have been issued at the Employment Center. For additional social assistance the beneficiary’s family was registered with the Charity Fund “Hope for Family and Children”. Transportation costs have been covered. The conclusion of the psychologist at the end of psychotherapy has been provided and can be used by the guardianship authorities and in court, as well as during employment.*  *Every year, cooperation between organizations in the Transnistria region improves, which has a positive effect on the quality of the assistance provided to victims.*  **Lessons Learned:** What did you (and/or other partners) learn from this situation that has helped inform and/or improve Programme (or other) interventions?  *CSOs are often ahead of de facto state structures in providing necessary and comprehensive support to victims of domestic violence in the Transnistria region.*  *CSOs work to raise popular awareness about the problem of domestic violence in the region. The organization of comprehensive assistance and protection for victims of domestic violence also lie on the shoulders of NGOs (or the NGO if it’s one) as victims of domestic violence in the Transnistria region are not recognized as a vulnerable group of the population and, therefore, do not receive any special assistance from the de facto authorities. Consequently, in the implementation of a beneficiary’s individual plan of assistance, the CSO applies for welfare benefits that are based on the rights provided to orphans, the poor, the unemployed, large families or single parents.*  *If the beneficiary is not a representative of the named groups, there is nowhere to apply for help.*  *The main lessons learned from working with the above-mentioned SOS-case are:*  *- the successful resolution of the SOS-case requires a logically constructed plan for the collection of documentation regarding the victim, her children and her daughter’s children.*  *- obtaining documentation is complicated by the need to obtain permission to be a carer of the daughter’s children, while she is in prison and unemployed.*  *- psychological support is especially important in crisis situations when the beneficiary and her children lived in fear after being subjected to violence during many years.*  *- each SOS case means support to 2-8 persons: mostly children or other people dependent on the victim.*  *- COVID-19 restrictions still limit opportunities to people, who need assistance from the de facto Department for social protection or the court.*  *- victims of domestic violence cannot obtain protection because the law for prevention of domestic violence hasn’t been adopted in the Transnistria region.* |

**III. Other Assessments or Evaluations (if applicable)**

• During the reporting period, the Programme has conducted the following assessments:

1. Assessment of institutional capacities of the members of the SCDP
2. Assessment of the level of the human rights knowledge among vulnerable groups on both banks of the Nistru River
3. Assessment of the situation of Roma communities in the Transnistrian region
4. Assessment and a follow-up Report on the de facto normative framework pertaining to justice for children in contact and conflict with the law
5. Assessment of the existing training programmes for pre-service and in-service professionals working with children in contact and conflict with the law

**IV. Programmatic Revisions (if applicable)**

As mentioned in the report above, the Programme was forced to adjust its activities to the new reality in the COVID-19 pandemic. The major shift was related to the switching of the activities to the online format and adjustment of the capacity building activities accordingly. Also, a number of informational and advocacy campaigns were COVID-19-focused. Specific modules on COVID-19 were introduced in a number of capacity building activities.

**V. Resources (Optional)**

As mentioned in the last year report, the Programme envisaged budget revisions in 2021 due to a number of factors. Some savings were made due to positive exchange rate (SEK-USD) and travel- and gathering-related restrictions, introduced during the COVID-19 pandemic. Thus, most of logistic expenses, related to the study visits, face-to-face meetings and trainings, planned for second year of the Programme, were significantly reduced.

Accordingly, these resources are to be reallocated to other activities, as follows:

* UNDP reallocated: 10,000 US$ to provide capacity development support to the Bureau of Reintegration Policies; 25,000 US$ to five additional small grants; 60,000 US$ to 3 Accessibility grants aimed at implementing rights of people with disabilities on the left bank of the Nistru River by ensuring equal access to public services and full participation in all areas of society; and 5000 US$ to Consultancy services on accessibility.
* UNAIDS reallocated: 22, 000 US$ to zero discrimination in health and 6,000 US$ to Stigma Index study.
* UNODC reallocated: 4,640 US$ to scaling-up services for prisoners and people released from prisons and 17,500 US$ to piloting after release services through NGOs.
* UNICEF reallocated: 65,850 US$ to support in developing the regulatory framework tailored to the needs of children in conflict with law; 10,000 US$ to extend the contract with the Area Thematic Coordinator for the third year as well (not being planned initially); and 7,000 US$ to hire two communication consultants for both banks of the Nistru River to deepen the involvement in the mass media area to change the attitude of mass media representatives towards children in conflict with law, without affecting their rights and dignity.
* OHCHR and OIM didn’t make any reallocation in 2021.

1. The term “programme” is used for programmes, joint programmes and projects. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Strategic Results, as formulated in the Strategic UN Planning Framework (e.g. UNDAF) or project document; [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. The MPTF Office Project Reference Number is the same number as the one on the Notification message. It is also referred to as “Project ID” on the project’s factsheet page the [MPTF Office GATEWAY](http://mdtf.undp.org) [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. The MPTF or JP Contribution, refers to the amount transferred to the Participating UN Organizations, which is available on the [MPTF Office GATEWAY](http://mdtf.undp.org) [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. The start date is the date of the first transfer of the funds from the MPTF Office as Administrative Agent. Transfer date is available on the [MPTF Office GATEWAY](http://mdtf.undp.org/) [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. As per approval of the original project document by the relevant decision-making body/Steering Committee. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. Organizational Capacity Assessment Tool - excel based ranking scored questionnaire, consisted of categories and subcategories, including a category for each of the specific vulnerable group. [↑](#footnote-ref-7)