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COVID-19 Response and Recovery Window of the Moldova 2030 SDGs Partnership Fund

**REPORTING PERIOD: OCTOBER 1ST – DECEMBER 31, 2021**

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| **Programme Title & Project Number** | |  | **Country, Locality(s), Priority Area(s) / Strategic Results** | |
| *Programme Title*: COVID-19 Response and Recovery Window of the Moldova 2030 SDGs Partnership Fund (SDGPF)  *Programme Number:*  ADA-No.2852-00/2020/GenPro/1-L7R/2020  *MPTF Office Project Reference Number:* 00124723 | | *Country/Region:*  Districts of Moldova - Cahul, Rezina, Edinet, Balti, Soroca, Ungheni, Anenii Noi, Calarasi, Orhei, Basarabeasca, Comrat, Causeni, Cantemir, Stefan Voda as well as, in several communities from the left bank of the Nistru river (Tiraspol) | |
| *Priority area/ strategic results:*  Improved well - being of people of Moldova, in particular of the most vulnerable, in a just and equitable society, in line with international human rights standards and Vision 2030. | |
| **Participating Organization(s)** | |  | **Implementing Partners** | |
| * UN Women in Moldova in partnership with OHCHR * International Labour Organization | | * National and Local Employment Offices and local-level public and private institutions (i.e producers’ associations, micro-finance institutions, NGOs, Local Public Authorities (II and I levels), training institutions, etc) * NGO Task Force on Covid-19 and Human Rights | |
| **Programme/Project Cost (US$)** | |  | **Programme Duration** | |
| Total approved budget as per project document:  MPTF /JP Contribution: ADA: | 347,966 USD  Grand total UN WOMEN: 167,559 USD  Grand total ILO: 180,407 USD |  | Overall Duration *(months)* | 01st October 2020 – 30 September 2021 (for the Austrian contribution) |
| Agency Contribution:  UN Women:  ILO: | 30.000 USD - in-**kind UN Women;**  **180,000 USD (as ILO funded complementary** support)[[1]](#footnote-2), 20,000 USD - in-kind contribution of national and local implementing partners |  | The duration of the Moldova 2030 SDGs Partnership Fund is 15 February 2019 - 31 December 2022. |  |
| Government Contribution  *(if applicable)* | n/a |  | Original End Date | 31 August 2021 |
| Other Contributions (donors)  *(if applicable)* | n/a |  | Current End date | 31 August 2021 |
| **TOTAL:** |  |  |  |  |
| **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: Nighina Azizov/Violeta Vrabie * Title: UNW Program Analyst/ ILO Project Coordinator * Participating Organization (Lead): UN Women and ILO * Email address: [nighina.azizov@unwomen.org](mailto:nighina.azizov@unwomen.org); [vrabie@ilo.org](mailto:vrabie@ilo.org) | |

# List of the main abbreviations and acronyms that are used in the report:

ALMPs – Active Labour Market Programmes

BDS - Business Development Services

EOs – Employers' Organizations

FFUPLM - Federatia Familiilor Pentru Unificare și Pace în Lume din Moldova NGO

HUM - Handicraft Union of Moldova

ILO - International Labour Organization

LEP - Local Employment Partnership

LBA - Local Beekeepers’ Association

LPA – Local Public Authorities

Maternal Center - shelter for young women in Causeni

MPTF - Multi-Partner Trust Fund

MoL - Ministry of Labour

NBA - National Beekeepers’ Association

NEA - National Employment Agency

NEETs - (youth) not in employment, education or training

NGO – Non-governmental organization

OHCHR - United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

PPE - Personal Protection Equipment

RM- UN PFSD - Republic of Moldova United Nation Partnership Framework for Sustainable Development

SCA - Savings and Credit Association

SDG – Sustainable Development Goals

SDGPF - SDGs Partnership Fund

SMEs - Small and Medium Enterprises

SPs - Social Partners

TOC – Theory of Change

TUs – Trade Unions

UN - United Nations

UN Women - United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women

# NARRATIVE REPORT

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

# 

To address the COVID-19 pandemic, the UNCT Moldova created the Moldova COVID-19 Response and Recovery Window under the Moldova 2030 SDGs Multi-Partner Trust Fund. The Moldova 2030 SDGs Partnership Fund (SDGPF) complements other resources available to the country and is established to support the activities agreed by the Government and the UN as outlined in the 2018- 2022 RM- UN PFSD and the UN Joint Annual Workplans contributing to the achievement of the SDGs. The SDGPF will be articulated around the four thematic pillars of the RM- UN PFSD and one more Priority area on COVID-19 Pandemic management and response actions. The MPTF Office (MPTFO) acts as Administrative Agent for the SDGPF on behalf of the Participating UN Organizations. The participating organizations for the current project are UN Women in partnership with OHCHR and International Labour Organization (ILO).

2021 was the last year of successful implementation of the project under the COVID-19 Response and Recovery Window of the Moldova 2030 SDGs Partnership Fund with high programme delivery of 100%. All outcome (2) and outputs indicators targets surpassed and almost more than 11500 people, in particular the most vulnerable, increased their protection from the Covid-19 pandemic and have access to enhanced livelihood opportunities, decent work and productive employment.

Under the output one over 4835 direct beneficiaries (3522 women and 1313 men from vulnerable groups) and 6563 indirect beneficiaries (initial target was 2,700), people in vulnerable situations, including older persons, people living with HIV, persons with disabilities and their families, Roma families and children in vulnerable situation from both banks of the Nistru river, improved their resilience against COVID-19. A number of 455 (initial target at least 50) staff and volunteers of 48 NGOs and Initiative groups from both banks of Nistru river working at the national and local level, who are members of the NGO Task Force on COVID-19 and Human Rights, are more able to provide direct social support services in response to the immediate needs of people in vulnerable situations. Mapping of specific needs for material relief assistance for people in vulnerable situations and capacity building service for NGOs from the selected districts was implemented by UN Women, in partnership with OHCHR and in close cooperation with the members of the NGO Task Force created and supported by OHCHR.

Under the component on access to employment (output 2);

* 438 persons (218 women) have been identified, registered at the local employment offices from Cantemir and Causeni and referred to appropriate employment services and programmes, based on their profile;
* 120 vulnerable individuals (out of whom 68 women) received Business Development Services (BDS) and mentoring support to draft business plans. Consequently, 62 individuals received small grants and legal support to business registration in beekeeping, manufacturing and services, of which: 40 beekeepers (20 women), 12 handicraft women artisans and 10 women in retails and services.
* Around 53 entrepreneurs (17 women) participated in online training to support business expansion and develop business plans aiming job creation for registered unemployed as a result of business growth. As a result, 55 new jobs were created (27 of them for young women) and subsidized for the registered unemployed.

The National Employment Agency (NEA) improved the methodologies for remote segmentation of unemployed people and referral to services and Active Labour Market Programmes (ALMPs), should the COVID-19 pandemic cause another shutdown of direct service delivery to unemployed clients. With the technical assistance of the ILO, an in-depth territorial audit has identified income generating activities and interventions to support transition to formality in each district. The Local Employment Partnerships (LEPs) involving Trade Unions (TUs), Employers' Organizations (EOs) and Local Public Authorities (LPAs), from Causeni and Cantemir, drive the formulation of specific employment generation measures to mitigate negative effects of the COVID-19 crisis and generate decent jobs for vulnerable individuals.

# Purpose

The demographic shifts, high labour emigration, low labour force participation, elevated youth economic inactivity and high level of informality made the young NEETs, self-employed, returning migrants and informal workers among the most vulnerable to the shock caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, with a slightly stronger impact on women across these groups.

People from underrepresented groups are more vulnerable to the risk of infection and more prone to be affected by the negative socio-economic impact of the pandemic. More than 50% of households with persons with disabilities are economically and socially affected, with more than 85% of the households reporting already in May 2020 being deprived of the necessary resources should the state of emergency continue.[[2]](#footnote-3)The absolute majority of Roma women did not have access to protective equipment – 95% (in the case of men – 80%). More women than men lost their jobs or were sent on unpaid or partially paid leave during the pandemic crisis[[3]](#footnote-4). The loss of working hours is equivalent to 130,000 full-time jobs (ILO Nowcasting, 2020).

The proposed solution in this project was to strengthen resilience against COVID-19 and improve the well-being of people of Moldova in a just and equitable society, in line with international human rights standards and the vision of Agenda 2030. It is based on the main assumption that rapid and efficient provision of the necessary materials, supplies and capacity assistance to target groups and beneficiaries will enhance the income and livelihood opportunities and slow down considerably the infection rate with COVID-19 in the country. The programme facilitated the labour market entry of people directly affected by COVID-19 through improved capacities of NEA, better targeted employment services and programmes, local-level employment generation initiatives, access to finance opportunities and business development services.

The project was implemented through the Moldova SDGs Partnership Fund SDGPF being framed around two interlinked components/outcomes -i) improved resilience against COVID-19 of people in vulnerable situations, including older persons, persons with disabilities and their families, Roma, families in vulnerable situation and children left behind from both banks of Nistru river, service providers (local NGOs) and ii) enhanced self-employment and income opportunities of unemployed persons (young seasonal workers, returned women migrants due to the COVID-19 crisis, and other categories of vulnerable individuals), which was led by ILO and UN Women in partnership with OHCHR.

The SDGPF complements other resources available and is established to support the activities agreed by the Government and the UN as outlined in the 2018- 2022 RM- UN PFSD and the UN Joint Annual Workplans contributing to the achievement of the SDGs. The SDGPF has four thematic pillars: 1) Governance, human rights and gender equality; 2) Sustainable, inclusive and equitable economic growth; 3) Environmental sustainability and resilience; 4) Inclusive and equitable social development.

# Results

1. **Narrative reporting on results:**

**Result 1: Over 4835 direct beneficiaries (3522 women and 1313 men from vulnerable groups) and 6563 indirect beneficiaries (initial target was 2,700), people in vulnerable situations, including older persons, people living with HIV, persons with disabilities and their families, Roma, families and children in vulnerable situation from both banks of the Nistru river, have improved their resilience against COVID-19.**

**455 (initial target at least 50) staff and volunteers of 48 NGOs and Initiative groups from both banks of Nistru river working at the national and local level, who are members of the NGO Task Force on COVID-19 and Human Rights, are better enabled to provide direct social support services in response to the immediate needs of people in vulnerable situations.**

The actions implemented by UN Women in partnership with OHCHR were aimed at addressing the immediate needs of most vulnerable people in a very critical situation - during the COVID-19 pandemic - and strengthening the national and subnational efforts to sustain these interventions.

UN Women has distributed food packages and hygienic supplies as well as PPEs to vulnerable people from the eleven raions across the country: Cahul, Rezina, Edinet, Balti, Soroca, Ungheni, Anenii Noi, Calarasi, Orhei, Basarabeasca, Comrat, as well as, in nine communities from the left bank of the Nistru river: Riscov, Ribnita, Grigoriopol, Slobozia, Gisca, Dubasari, Camenca, Bender, Tiraspol.

Among direct beneficiaries, the following categories of people were covered:

* 388 unemployed due to COVID-19 pandemic. (368 youth, women/girls, 20 men), from the left bank of the Nistru river: Riscov 10, Tiraspol - 6, Dubăsari – 3, Bender-4, Rîbnita-6; Soroca- 300, Rezina- 2, Balti -14, Edinet- 18, Basarabeasca - 4, Cahul- 4, Comrat -11, Calarasi -6.
* 44 people living with HIV/AIDS / high risk groups (38 women, 6 men) from Tiraspol - 43, Soroca-1.
* 877 vulnerable families (610 women, 267 men) from the left bank of the Nistru river: Riscov- 28, Ribnita-10, Grigoriopol -10, Slobozia-18, Gisca-2, Dubasari-3, Camenca-11, Bender-13, Tiraspol – 181; Orhei ( Ghetlova-16, or. Orhei- 7), Anenii Noi-109, Calarasi -90, Ungheni -65, Soroca- 47, Rezina - 22, Balti -119, Edinet -44, Comrat -58, Cahul- 23; Basarabeasca -1.
* 636 persons with disabilities (418 women, 218 men) from from the left bank of the Nistru river: Riscov-5, Gisca-1, Tiraspol – 119; Orhei -15, Anenii Noi- 43, Calarasi -24, Ungheni -58, Soroca- 20, Rezina-37, Balti -66, Edinet -91, Comrat -51, Basarabeasca -95, Cahul- 11;
* 762 Families with more than 4 children and with economic issues (609 women, 153 men) from the left bank of the Nistru river: Riscov -9, Ribnita-4, Grigoriopol -20, Slobozia-17, Gisca-6, Dubasari-14, Camenca-7, Bender-6, Tiraspol – 157; Orhei -9, Anenii Noi-180, Calarasi -55, Ungheni - 40, Soroca-5, Rezina- 8, Balti -81, Edinet -19, Comrat - 95,Cahul - 24, Basarabeasca 6.
* 1183 older persons with economic issues and in extreme poverty (858 women, 325 men) from the left bank of the Nistru river: Riscov -12, Ribnita-12, Grigoriopol -1, Slobozia-1, Gisca-2, Camenca-1, Tiraspol – 100; Orhei -90, Anenii Noi- 79, Calarasi -45, Ungheni -344, Soroca- 10, Rezina- 83, Balti -81, Edinet -91, Comrat -28, Basarabeasca -159, Cahul-34.
* 217 older persons, people living alone, immobilized (154 women, 63 men) from Tiraspol – 3, Orhei -13, Anenii Noi- 3, Calarasi -4, Ungheni -6, Soroca-2, Rezina-50, Balti -31, Edinet -12, Comrat - 58, Basarabeasca -32, Cahul-3.
* 226 families with children with disabilities (168 women, 58 men) from Tiraspol -76, Riscov-1, Gisca-4, Camenca-1; Orhei -2, Anenii Noi-56, Calarasi - 4, Ungheni - 7, Soroca-5, Rezina-9, Balti -10, Edinet -13, Comrat -32, Basarabeasca - 6.
* 112 children left without parental care (43 girls, 69 boys) from Tiraspoil - 1; Riscov - 9, Orhei - 2, Anenii Noi - 4, Ungheni - 23, Balti - 10, Edinet - 6 Comrat - 7, other rayon’s - 48.
* 390 Roma (with disabilities, older persons, vulnerable families, with more than 4 children), 256 women, 134 men from Cahul - 34, Comrat - 65, Rezina - 30, Calarasi - 85, Anenii Noi-26, Orhei - 61, Balti - 50, Soroca - 39.

All beneficiaries mentioned above identified as a result of a mapping of the needs of people from the selected districts level initiated by UN Women and OHCHR, done in close partnership with NGO Task Force consisting of 56 NGOs from across Moldova, including from the Transnistria region and Gagauzia.

In addition to this, 455 staff and volunteers of 48 NGOs and Initiative groups from both banks of Nistru river working at the national and local level, who are members of the NGO Task Force on COVID-19 and Human rights, are better able to provide direct social support services in response to the immediate needs of people in vulnerable situations, in context of COVID-19. This is the result of provision of PPEs to all staff, volunteers of NGOs and Initiative groups and of 6 training sessions carried out online during a 2-month period for 55 service providers. The trainings also included sessions on stress management, self psycho-social support during COVID-19 pandemic, how to better enable beneficiaries to cope with stress and become more resilient to COVID-19 pandemic, conducted by selected organization, NGO “Federatia Familiilor Pentru Unificare și Pace în Lume din Moldova” (FFUPLM) and on the impact of COVID-19 on Human Rights delivered by OHCHR. In addition to this, an Q&A session on vaccination was conducted by UNICEF. Around 70% of participants were in the age group 31-50 years old and the majority of participants – 70.9% were from urban area. Training sessions were attended by 3 people with disabilities, 4 victims/survivors of domestic violence, 2 representatives of large families, 3 representatives of ethnic minorities, 5 older persons and 2 representatives of the Roma community. From 55 participants, 67.3% participated in training provided in Romanian and 32,7% in training provided in Russian (see *Annex 1 and 2)*.

A total of 5,700 beneficiaries and service providers are better informed about ways to diminish the spread of the COVID-19 and how to better protect from virus since the start of the project implementation. For the above, “Federatia Familiilor Pentru Unificare și Pace în Lume din Moldova” (FFUPLM) developed, contextualized to the local situation and disseminated with UN Women and OHCHR support, COVID-19 related material (online and printed leaflet) as support to the training organized for the NGO Task Force, staff and volunteers of NGOs from both banks of Nistru river working at the national and local level. The informative material has been prepared in Romanian and Russian language and has been distributed during April - May 2021 to beneficiaries and members of the NGO Task Force.

The communication campaign around the emergency support and assistance (MPTF - ADA) targeting people in vulnerable situations was reflected on the Facebook page of UN Women, Instagram, Twitter and website, as well on OHCHR communication channels. It included [one general article](https://moldova.unwomen.org/ro/noutati-si-evenimente/noutati/2021/05/mptf)/ press release sent to media about the support, [one general video](https://www.facebook.com/unwomenmoldova/videos/816562539286614/) that reached over 280k people and 555 interactions and a [video](https://www.facebook.com/unwomenmoldova/videos/527732938361337/) with representatives of UN Women, ADA and OHCHR, which covered 123k users and 500 interactions.

Dominika Stojanoska, UN Women Country Representative, Stella Avallone, Ambassador of the Republic of Austria to the Republic of Moldova, and Beatrix Ferenci, International Adviser on Human Rights/Head of OHCHR Moldova expressed their point of view towards the MPTF initiative and highlighted the importance of a rapid response to COVID-19 for people from underrepresented groups. The general video includes frames with the donations and speeches of beneficiaries from Chisinau, Soroca and Calarasi.

In addition to this, two Facebook posts with photos of beneficiaries were seen by almost 250k people and gained around 3000 interactions. Also, two human stories about beneficiaries were published on UN Women website ([Link](https://moldova.unwomen.org/ro/noutati-si-evenimente/noutati/2021/06/human-story-tatiana-cebanenco) - story 1, [link](https://moldova.unwomen.org/ro/noutati-si-evenimente/noutati/2021/06/human-story-varvara-frantuz) – story 2)

A press release was sent, and 5 media outlets reflected the news from which: [1 TV channel](http://tvrmoldova.md/social/ajutor-pentru-peste-patru-mii-de-familii-din-grupurile-vulnerabile-in-contextul-crizei-cauzate-de-covid-19/), [1 radio channel,](https://radiochisinau.md/mai-multe-persoane-vor-primi-ajutoare-din-partea-onu-pentru-depasirea-crizei-cauzate-de-covid19---132924.html) [1 press agency](https://www.moldpres.md/news/2021/05/06/21003307), 2 online news portals ([Link](https://deschide.md/ro/stiri/social/84793/Mai-multe-persoane-din-RMoldova-vor-primi-ajutoare-din-partea-ONU-pentru-dep%C4%83%C8%99irea-crizei-cauzate-de-COVID-19.htm) - portal 1, [link](https://moldovenii.md/ru/news/view/section/542/id/65535) portal 2). In addition to that, a **press release about trainings** and 2 posts on FFUPLM Facebook page have been posted with more than 900 views ([Link 1](https://www.facebook.com/ffuplm/posts/797280150986557), [link 2](https://www.facebook.com/ffuplm/posts/791430784904827)).

In accordance with the “leave no one behind” (LNOB) principle, the support provided by UN Women in partnership with OHCHR aimed to cover the most-in-need people from vulnerable groups. Thus, the people reached with the food packages and hygienic supplies as well as PPEs as mentioned also above are: persons with disabilities, families with children with disability, older persons people living alone, immobilized or with economic issues, children left without parental care, people living with HIV/AIDS, Roma, unemployed because of COVID-19 pandemic, including families with more than 4 children and vulnerable families being in extreme poverty *(Annex 3a and 3b).*

**Result 2 Approximately 100 unemployed persons (young seasonal workers and women migrants who have returned due to the COVID-19 crisis, in particular from the care economy in Western Europe) benefit from enhanced self- employment and income-generation opportunities**

A total of 163 beneficiaries, of which 56 women, benefit from training on business expansion, in beekeeping and on-the-job training in handicraft. Additionally, 54 registered unemployed (27 women) got a full-time job.

Te ILO applied the already tested Local Employment Partnerships (LEPs) approach to support activation, job creation and transition to formality in Cantemir and Causeni districts and complemented on parity the already available funds for specific local-level activities like provision of Business Development Services (BDS), grant schemes and employment subsidies programmes. This allows reaching out to people from rural communities directly affected by the health crisis. The Head of Austrian Development Agency, Mr. Zimmer Gunther was present during the launch of Cantemir and Causeni LEPs. More details on the launch of the two LEPs, financial support and expected results can be found [here](https://moldova.un.org/en/126981-international-labour-organization-launched-new-local-employment-partnership-contribute-jobs) and [here.](https://moldova.un.org/en/113558-international-labour-organization-supports-launch-new-local-employment-partnership)

The decision on the selection of districts was based on in-depth consultation with the national tripartite partners (Government, Trade Unions (TUs) and Employers' Organizations (EOs)), poor employment indicators and peculiarities of the regions (i.e. high incidence of inactive youth, high migration rates), strong LPAs willing to drive job creation efforts within their communities, good cooperation of employment offices with local partner-employers.

The LPAs and other actors active in the districts, have designed employment initiatives for quick post-crisis recovery, as a result of capacity building sessions, based on districts’ income generation sectors as light industry, agriculture, and manufacturing, selected as a follow up of the territorial audits developed with the ILO support. Local-level partners were supported to implement local employment projects designed to accelerate the launch of start-ups in beekeeping and manufacturing and subsidized employment through support to SMEs.

A total of 438 of individuals (320 from rural communities, of which 218 women) directly affected by COVID-19 have been reached out and supported to register at local employment offices for profiling and support through employment services and programmes. 95 people (37 women) were trained in beekeeping and entrepreneurship and participated in a business plan competition. Around 40 beneficiaries were selected to receive grants in the form of hives and bee families and assistance in starting and registering a business, all of them have registered their individual enterprises and launched businesses in beekeeping. This was possible due to the LEPs approach on gathering several local-level partners interested in identifying the territory’s key employment challenges and suggesting concrete actions that might directly address the barriers to job creation and transition to formality of most vulnerable individuals in the two districts. More information about this activity and a success story can be found [here](https://moldova.un.org/en/127312-ilo-assistance-25-inhabitants-causeni-district-will-develop-business-beekeeping) and [here](https://moldova.un.org/en/142851-international-labour-organization-has-sweetened-life-many-causeni-residents). The lists of newly registered businesses in beekeeping in Cantemir and Causeni are provided in *Annex 4a and 4b* to this report.

As part of the subsidies programme, 15 young people (12 women) have been provided with on-the-job training in handicraft and received BDS and mentorship support to draft business plans. 12 women launched their own start-up operation in handicraft and registered their businesses due to the grant scheme support. The list of newly registered businesses in handicraft is provided in *Annex 5* to this report.

18 employers created 54 new jobs (27 of them for young women) through access to preferential loans provided by existing Savings and Credit Association (SCAs) following the two-weeks online business expansion training and mentorship support in drafting expansion business plans to 53 entrepreneurs (17 women) from Causeni and Cantemir. For each of the new job created, an employment subsidy was offered to support on-the-job training of the new employees. The lists of employers and newly employed employees in Cantemir and Causeni districts are provided in *Annex 6a and 6 b* to this report. Two success stories about this initiative are provided [here](https://moldova.un.org/en/134617-help-international-labour-organization-family-business-cantemir-district-being-expanded-and) and [here.](https://moldova.un.org/en/140798-victor-culicovschi-taking-care-employees-key-business-success)

The program also supported 10 young women, accommodated in the Maternal Center of Causeni district, to develop skills and competences and launch start-ups, thus getting their financial independence. The list of beneficiaries is provided in *Annex 7* to this report. More information can be found [here](https://moldova.un.org/en/129589-natalia-pruteanu-ilo-project-will-help-me-become-master-my-life).

More than 100 NEA representatives (90 women) have been equipped with skills and knowledge on outreach to vulnerable individuals and young NEETs, unemployed people segmentation through a round of several training sessions; the revision of the registration form of the beneficiaries in the emerging context, so that they can be better referred to Active Labour Market Programmes. As a result, NEA can better detect the unemployed status, before the registration process, and respond more efficiently to the needs of the unemployed for a better matching with employment services and programmes. Furthermore, NEA was assisted to roll-out self-employment schemes and local initiatives projects, addressed to employers who are willing to expand their business and as consequence, create new jobs. More information on this can be found [here.](https://moldova.un.org/en/96386-online-training-national-employment-agency-caseworkers)

In total 15 national and local institutions, as Ministry of Health, National Employment Agency and two of its local offices, Local Public Authorities, Maternal Center, National and local Beekeepers’ Associations, Handicraft Union, local business service providers, producers’ associations, savings and credit associations and civil society have been involved in the program implementation to offer new start-ups and employment opportunities of individuals directly affected by the COVID-19, to support vulnerable individuals to get employed and launch start-ups.

As part of the communication efforts, the ILO promoted the success of the employment component program through press releases, human stories, photo shooting and video testimonials of beneficiaries. All materials have been disseminated through the UN site and facebook page, national and local involved partners’ web pages and national TV channels. Please see below the links to the video testimonials:

<https://www.publika.md/somerii-din-causeni-angajati-la-munca-cu-sprijinul-organizatiei-internationale-a-muncii_3109060.html>

<https://www.publika.md/mai-multe-oportunitati-la-angajare-pentru-persoanele-cu-dizabilitati-la-cantemir-au-fost-create-44-de-locuri-de-munca_3109027.html>

Based on the positive results of employment component the LPA from Leova districts, have

addressed a letter to the ILO with a plea to replicate these good practices and take the lead for the response to COVID-19 crisis. The letter is provided in *Annex 8* to this report.

**ii) Indicator Based Performance Assessment:**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Achieved Indicator Targets** | **Reasons for Variance with Planned Target (if any)** | **Source of Verification** |
| **Outcome 1**  The people of Moldova, in particular the most vulnerable, have access to enhanced livelihood opportunities, decent work and productive employment, generated by sustainable, inclusive and equitable economic growth | | | |
| **Outcome Indicators:** | | | |
| **#** of vulnerable people who received support  (and indirect beneficiaries)  **Baseline: 0**  **Planned Target: UNW 2700** | 4835 direct beneficiaries (3522 women and 1313 men from vulnerable groups) and 6563 indirect beneficiaries. | As a result of savings incurred after the initial procurements of food and protection supplies stemming from rebates offered by retailers and volunteer support, UN Women and OHCHR was able to increase the number of beneficiaries from 2700 to 4835 direct beneficiaries. | IP reports/ List of distributions  Note:  Direct beneficiaries - defined as those who participated directly in the project, and thus benefit from its existence  Indirect beneficiaries –  are defined as those who are not directly connected with the project, but still benefited from it. In that case they are family members of the participants |
| # of beneficiaries who get employed  Baseline: 0  **Planned Target ILO: 50** | 54 registered unemployed (27 of which women) got a full-time job | The program offered entrepreneurial training and mentorship support in drafting expansion business plans to 53 entrepreneurs. As result, 18 of them have accessed preferential loans and created 54 new jobs for the registered unemployed. | Number of indefinite term employment contracts ; |
| # of beneficiaries who launch start-up  Baseline: 0  **Planned Target ILO: 50** | 62 new start-ups  from which:  40 in beekeeping;  12 in manufacturing;  10 in retail and services. | The project provided entrepreneurial and mentorship support, as well as specialized trainings in handicraft, beekeeping, and services. Consequently, after legal support and consultations, 62 new start-ups have been registered in Causeni and Cantemir districts. | Number of newly registered start-ups (evidence provided by local public services’ agencies from Cantemir and Causeni). |
| **Output 1.1** People in vulnerable situation are better enhanced to protect against pandemic situation | | | |
| **Indicator 1.1.1** # vulnerable women and men, girls and boys, including their dependents receiving immediate and preventive supplies (food, sanitizers, etc.), by group of vulnerability  **Baseline: 250**  **Planned Target: 2700** | 4835 direct beneficiaries (3522 women and 1313 men from vulnerable groups) and 6563 indirect beneficiaries.  (by group of vulnerability see *Annex 3a and 3b*) | As a result of savings incurred after the initial procurements of food and protection supplies stemming from rebates offered by retailers and volunteer support, UN Women and OHCHR were able to increase the number of beneficiaries from 2700 to 4835 direct beneficiaries | IP reports,  UNW reports, delivery reports |
| **Output 1.2** NGOs at local level have capacities and skills to offer social support to the people in vulnerable situations | | | |
| **Indicator 1.1.2: #** of members of the NGO’s equipped with relevant knowledge on PPE’s use  **Baseline: 0**  **Planned Target: 50** | 55 members/service providers of the NGO’s (3 people with disabilities, 4 victims/survivors of domestic violence, 2 representatives of large families, 3 representatives of ethnic minorities, 5 older persons and 2 representatives of Roma community) have benefited from training sessions. | The number of beneficiaries was slightly higher than planned, because of the interest for the training subjects and the online format of the sessions.  Those, 455 staff and volunteers representing 48 NGOs and Initiative groups from both banks of Nistru river working at the national and local level, who are members of the NGO Task Force on COVID-19 and Human Rights, equipped with PPEs. | IP reports, UNW reports  Training program developed  Power point presentations of the trainers and OHCHR team |
| **Indicator 1.1.2:** # informative/training sessions for CSO’s staff  **Baseline:** 0  **Planned Target**: up to 5 | 6 | Since the training has been organized online in the context of COVID-19, there was the opportunity to increase the number of training sessions, based on the number of participants and the identified needs. | IP reports, UNW reports  Training materials  (See Annex 3) |
| **Output 2.1** The National Employment Agency enhance capacity and knowledge to provide segmentation and referral to Active Labour Market Programmes of unemployed directly affected by COVID-19 | | | |
| **Indicator 2.1.1** # of capacity building events provided to the National Employment Agency  **Baseline: 0**  **Planned Target: up to 10** | 3 | Due to the opportunity to organize online trainings, the project merged the planned trainings covering the most of NEA and local offices employees. | NEA reports |
| **Indicator 2.1.2** # of young seasonal workers and returned women migrants due to the Covid-19 crisis, enrolled in the subsidy scheme  **Baseline: 0**  **Planned Target: 50** | 54 registered unemployed (27 of which women) got a full-time job | The program offered entrepreneurial trainings and mentorship support in drafting expansion business plans to 53 entrepreneurs. As result, 18 of them have accessed preferential loans and created 54 new jobs for the registered unemployed. For each of the new jobs created, employers got a three- month wage subsidy to organize on-the job training of newly hired employees. | Number of indefinite term employment contracts and wage subsidy contracts. |
| **Indicator .2.1.3** # of beneficiaries of entrepreneurship and technical training, mentoring support, small grants and legal support to business registration.  **Baseline:0**  **Planned Target: 50** | 163 beneficiaries, of which:  -95 people (37 women) trained in beekeeping and entrepreneurship;  - 15 young people (12 women) provided with on-the-job training in handicraft;  53 entrepreneurs (17 women) trained on business expansion. | The online training format allowed it to involve more beneficiaries in entrepreneurial, technical and mentorship support than originally planned. | Minutes of the trainings; list s of participants; |

**iii) A Specific Story (Optional)**

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| **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).  Tatiana Cebanenco: [”This assistance came in a difficult period for me”](https://moldova.unwomen.org/en/noutati-si-evenimente/noutati/2021/06/human-story-tatiana-cebanenco)**.** Ms. Cebanenco is 22 years old and lives in Tiraspol, in the Transnistrian region. After getting divorced, she has to care for her kid who is just 3 years old. Because of restrictions related to the pandemic her budget suffered a lot, especially when she does not have a stable job. In spite of this fact, she wanted to resume her studies, to finally become a teacher.    Varvara Frantuz: [”That period was a difficult one, and we received timely assistance”](https://moldova.unwomen.org/en/noutati-si-evenimente/noutati/2021/06/human-story-varvara-frantuz). Ms. Frantuz is 78 years old. She worked as a kindergarten teacher and in the medical system. Varvara shared that she experienced a lot of difficult situations in her life but the COVID-19 pandemic was the most difficult crisis. Because of restrictions she had to limit her activities and the low pension does not always cover the daily needs.  **Programme Interventions:** How was the problem or challenge addressed through the Programme interventions?  The beneficiaries received the needed support to overcome the challenges of the pandemic, in form of food packages, hygiene products and PPEs. The PPEs supported them to continue some of their usual activities and not remain totally isolated, in the period when lockdown was not applicable.  **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?  From the discussion with the beneficiaries, it can be concluded that the support received ensured the basic needs for a period for them and their families and diminished the stress and anxiety connected to COVID-19. The beneficiaries felt that they are not alone and are not left behind in the difficult times for them.  **Lessons Learned:** What did you (and/or other partners) learn from this situation that has helped inform and/or improve Programme (or other) interventions?  Due to the extremely difficult socio-economic situation encountered by the beneficiaries, the project had limitations when it came to respond fully to the identified needs. Thus, only primary needs, like food, PPEs and hygiene and cleaning products could be delivered to beneficiaries, although the requests included items like clothing, sheltering, travel tickets and phone cards as well. These challenges were explained to the beneficiaries by the NGO partners. As the project incurred savings that were channeled to support additional beneficiaries that were identified subsequently, thus additional effort to synergies the procurement processes were conducted. The mitigation measures were undertaken to address the challenges related to the delays in the distribution to the beneficiaries. For these purposes the efficient communication in advance with NGO’s and relevant stakeholders from the left bank and right bank of the Nistru river were organized. The delivery process was prepared and coordinated up-front with all involved stakeholders. This was a “lessons learnt” from the previous MPTF distribution of the items to the Transnistria region (breakaway enclave) due to the long and complex checks at the river cross-points.  The lesson learnt from Causeni and Cantemir LEPs is that local partnerships of public and private actors, together with civil society, including tripartite constituents are willing and well-placed to drive job creation and formalization efforts within their communities and to mitigate effects of the Covid-19 crisis. LEP approach can help to improve the work done by the relevant stakeholders, including social partners (SPs), with a view to providing systemic solutions, offering real employment policies and active labour market measures that will suit the majority of jobseekers and unemployed. |

**III. Other Assessments or Evaluations (if applicable) -** N/A

**IV. Programmatic Revisions (if applicable) -** N/A

**V. Resources (Optional) -** N/A

1. The ILO contribution is offered within the project: “Reactivating social dialogue for an effective COVID-19 response in Moldova and applying it to local job creation through Local Employment Partnerships”. One of the objectives of this project is synergetic and aligned to this initiative. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. Impactul pandemiei COVID-19 asupra persoanelor cu dizabilități, Chișinău, 2020 [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. Efectele crizei provocate de pandemia COVID-19 asupra populației de etnie romă din Republica Moldova, Chișinău, 2020 [↑](#footnote-ref-4)