



Moldovan Christian Aid

2008 Annual Report

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1. Country Context in 2008

Economy

Despite recent political and economic advances, the Republic of Moldova still faces serious challenges in translating the dividends of democracy into long-term prosperity, in a rule of law-based open market economy and pluralistic society. Economic growth remains fragile, migration movements undermine family and community structures, trade deficit remains high and businesses need a more secure operating environment in order to blossom. Social inequalities between rich and poor, urban and rural areas are widening, highlighting the urgent need for development policies to reach the most vulnerable population if economic growth is to benefit everyone. The economy remains vulnerable to higher fuel prices, poor agricultural weather, and the scepticism of foreign investors.

Moldovan GDP in 2008 constituted about \$6 mild. or \$ 1,700 per capita. High inflation remains the main concern. The rate of inflation in 2008, announced by Ministry of Economy and Trade is 7,3% is not credible. According to independent analysts, the real inflation which affected the citizens of Moldova as at least 13,2 %. Economic reforms have been slow because of corruption and strong political forces backing government controls. In 2008, more then 900 cases of corruption have been registered (according to the National Committee for European Integration).

In 2008, the Moldovans from abroad, have send home through bank system, 1,651 milliard USD, with 35,6% more then in 2007 (according to the report of National Bank of Moldova). The global economic slowdown, particularly in the EU and Russia, could hurt the economy in 2009 as Moldova relies heavily on remittances from Moldovans abroad.

A study done by the Institute for Development and Social Initiatives (IDIS) showed that 40% of Moldovan population is leaving in poverty and 5% - under poverty level. The average salary in 2008 went up to 2520 MDL (equiv. 160 EUR), with 20% more then in 2007.

From 23-27 July 2008, torrential rains lashed Central and Eastern Europe, including the most impoverished areas of Moldova. There was heavy damage to crops, the principal source of income for the local population. The floods destroyed bridges, roads, transmission lines and other communications, and have affected the most impoverished areas of Moldova. Heavy rains caused the Dniester and Prut rivers to swell, flooding towns and villages and forcing people to leave their homes.



As a result of the rains, 46 villages, 391 houses and 4,800 hectares of arable land were flooded. One third of the wine harvest of the Republic was destroyed. About 8,000 people were left without a roof over their heads, and some 5,700 people were evacuated by authorities from the flooded areas to temporary shelters in schools, hostels and tent camps (data estimated by the National

Commission of flood's damages evaluation). The floods damages in summer 2008 have been estimated to 120 Mln. USD (81.5 million euro).

In 2008 for the contribution in rehabilitation of the holy places president of the republic of Moldova Vladimir Voronin was awarded with the highest distinction of Jerusalem Patriarchy — Load's Grave Decoration. Archbishop of Jordan Feofilact during his visit to Moldova declared that the given distinction is the highest distinction of the Orthodox Church that could be awarded to the statesman contributing to the strengthening and support of the Faith. According to the Moldovan officialities starting from 2001 in Moldova were constructed and reopened more than 20 monasteries and 600 churches, overall number of churches increased twice.

Social trends

Due to migration phenomena, at least 29 per cent of Moldovan children live without one or both parents, and the number is increasing. A UNICEF-supported study on children left by migrating parents showed that, over time, they distance themselves from their parents and are deeply affected emotionally by the lack of support and communication. Young children in particular may fail to develop social skills and may relate less effectively to their peers. Some of these children live with relatives or neighbours, while others are left in the care of institutions. Prevention of child trafficking still requires strengthening, as a large proportion of at-risk children remains poorly assisted and highly vulnerable to exploitation in particular children in residential care (around 12.000 children at present) and children whose parents have migrated to work abroad (currently about 69,136 children have one parent living abroad, while 30,411 children have both parents abroad), according to IOM.

According to the Ministry of Social Protection data per 2008 in Moldova were registered 623 000 beneficiaries of different kind pensions, including 456 000 of retired elderly pensioners. Although pensions are getting higher (in medium 665,12 MDL after indexation, comparing with 566,83 MDL) pensioners became poorer. Social protection for the elderly people includes social services and monetary allocations; however both forms are insufficient in targeting the existing needs.

About 160 000 invalids are registered in Republic of Moldova, from them 14 021 new registered in 2008, with 1,7% more then 2007. The average pension for invalidity is about 545,56 MDL after indexation (comparing with 470,57 lei).

Human trafficking

Despite of the fact that in 2008 Moldovan Parliament approved the strategy of the National Referral System of Protection and Assistance for Victims and Potential Victims of Human Trafficking and National Action Plan for implementation of aforementioned strategy for 2009-2011 years, Moldova remained to be a major source, and to a lesser extent, a transit country for women and girls trafficked for the purpose of commercial sexual exploitation. It is estimated that slightly more than one percent of the approximately 750,000 Moldovans working abroad are trafficking victims. Moldovan women are trafficked to approx. 32 countries. Girls and young women are trafficked within the country from rural areas to Chisinau. Children are also trafficked for forced labor and begging to neighbouring countries. Labor trafficking of men to work in the construction, agriculture, and service sectors of Russia is increasingly a problem. The small breakaway region of Transnistria in eastern Moldova is outside the central government's control and remained a significant source and transit area for trafficking in persons. Director of National Counter Trafficking Center (within Ministry of Internal Affairs) declared that the level of human trafficking infractions

decreased with 14,3% in 2008, comparing with 2007. According to him, in 2008, staff of Ministry of Internal Affairs has opened 166 penal cases, from them 72 on human trafficking, 8 on children trafficking, 15 on illegal children turning out the country and 71 on prostitution. About 80% of persons are trafficked for sexual exploitation, 16 % for labor exploitation and about 2% for begging. In this period, 13 human trafficking networks have been revealed and destroyed.

HIV/ AIDs

During the period of 2008, 795 new HIV cases have been registered, including the Eastern part of the Republic (343). The cumulative number at the end of 2008 is 4996 positive persons, including the Eastern part of the Republic (1535). There is a decrease in the rate of IDUs in the epidemic process of the infection, and it constitutes 26,20%. At the same time, the number of people infected by the heterosexual way of transmission constitutes 72,05%. The number of HIV positive women increased from 26,72% in 2001 to 43,67% in the first semester of 2008. The involvement of women in the epidemic process leads to prenatal infection. People that are mostly affected by the virus are between 20-34 years old and constitute 62,31%, including IDUs (36,14%) and those infected by means of heterosexual way of transmission (63,86%). 38 HIV positive persons had AIDS. The epidemic process comprised all the administrative territories and is characterized by the spread of HIV/AIDS infection both among urban population (64,63%) and among rural population (35,37%). The highest spread of HIV infection is registered in Balti and in districts such as Basarabasca, Causeni, Falesti, Hincesti, Rezina, Glodeni, Singerei, Stefan-Voda, and in the Eastern part of the Republic, in Tiraspol and Ribnita.

The HIV positive people and those who have AIDS are given ARV treatment for free. During the 2008, 168 patients initiated ARV treatment. By the end 2008, 715 persons benefit from specific ARV treatment, 685 of them adults and 30 children. 83 pregnant women have been identified as being HIV positive in 2008.

Currently Moldova is implementing the Third National HIV/AIDS Prevention and Control Plan, elaborated for 2006-2010 period. Thus, a service for the voluntary testing and consultancy was introduced in state hospitals, obligatory testing of pregnant women covered 95,8 % of the focus group, people living with HIV/AIDS benefit from free of charge antiretroviral treatment.

Civil society

After a break of 5 years on December 15-16, 2008 a National Forum of the NGOs took place in Chisinau. The Fifth Forum Edition was organized by the Consortium for the Civil Society Development. About 100 representatives of the NGOs have discussed Civil Society Development Strategy for 2009-2012 approved by the Moldovan Parliament as well as Code of ethics for the NGOs. Forum ended up with a resolution to request Moldovan Parliament to modify the Law on public associations and permit the taxpayers to direct 2 % of their taxes to the associative sector.

Currently in Moldova are registered about 7000 NGOs, about 50 % of BGOs are active in educational and social field other 10 % indicate Human Rights as the main issue of their activity.

Moldova – Transnistria relations

After the 7 years break on April 11, 2008 a meeting between Moldovan president Vladimir Voronin and Transnistrian leader Igor Smirnov took place. It was anticipated by two bilateral meetings of

president of Russia Dmitrii Medvedev with each of them. Next step in negotiation process was discussed at the following bilateral meeting hold on December 24, 2008 in Tiraspol, when were presented opposite positions : Voronin opted for the Moldova reintegration and presented a “package” of drafts of respective legislative acts , while Smirnov opted for Transnistria independence and communicated the results of the 2006 Transnistrian referendum, when the majority of local population voted for Transnistria independence or integration with Russia. Unfortunately, negotiations did not sum up and were postponed to 2009.

Consultations in 5+2 format include Moldova and Transnistria, facilitators – Russia, Ukraine and OSCE, with observatory role for European Union and USA.

2. MCA Organizational Development

2008 became first complete operational year of MCA, therefore the special attention was directed toward organizational strengthening and further development of trustful relationship with church constituencies.

Strategy development

To ensure smooth program run MCA took over the responsibility for the MPP programs and followed MPP Strategy over 2008. However, the necessity of the strategy update became obvious and with financial support of ICCO in 2008 MCA started new strategic planning process. It lasted during 2008 and should come up with a new Strategic Plan by the end of 2009.

Legal registration of MCA in 2007 permitted to shift from the role of the intermediary between donating agencies and local partners toward the position of implementing partner, solid and visible at the national level, thus within 2008 MCA became member of national anti AIDS network and started consultations with national network of the NGOs active in the social field.

Other considerable change occurred in approach to the project work. In 2008 MCA started strategic move from project to the program work. Thus, gradually support for small separate projects will be substituted by the long term comprehensive programs, ensuring greater social impact and sustainability of results.

It is worth to mention that MCA strategic Planning positively influenced strategic thinking of the church partners, who started strategy development processes a bit later in 2008. Social structures of the Moldovan Orthodox Church, Baptist Union and Lutheran Church have elaborated drafts of their very first Strategic Plans for 2009-2011.

Board development

Since MCA registration MCA Board comprises 6 people. A decision to gradually enlarge the Board composition was taken in 2008 and till 2009 MCA founding Churches should disseminate per one more representative to MCA Board. During 2008 MCA Board met regularly, once per trimester and discussed current issues. MCA 2008 Annual Meeting and General Assembly took place on June 9-

13, 2008 in Chisinau. Annual Meeting program included presentation of the consolidated narrative and financial reports, plans for the next periods as well as project sites field visits.

All MCA Board and staff members are actively engaged in all training activities and study visits regularly organising by MCA, more detailed information could be seen from respective program narrative reports.

Staff development

In 2008 by MCA staffs was developed: MCA Internal regulation, job descriptions, HR policies, new project management and monitoring documentation standards in accordance with current Moldova legislation, financial and accounting policies; were installed specialised accounting software 1C and licensed soft for the office work.

An external expert invited by ICCO conducted the assessment of the financial management of Moldovan partners in July 2008. Ms. Amalia Tola (Albania) analysed accounting policies and procedures, studied financial reports and interviewed MCA staff. More detailed information about the assessment results could be obtained directly from the expert or ordering partner.

Some staff changes occurred in MCA within 2008. Since September 1, 2008 ms. Veronica Barcoman substituted mrs. Maria Turcan at the position of the financial manager, while Mr. Mihai Tcaciuc took the vacant position of Community Development Program Coordinator on November 15, 2008.

3. MCA Programs & Activities

Priority I- Social Support

5 small projects were supported in 2008 under Social support priority direction, overall investments in these projects constituted 22198,12 EUR, that reported significant decrease of share comparing with previous years. Traditionally the most popular direction was in 2008 the only one still not covered by the long term programs.

Project MO 066. Ucrainca parish Social canteen (funding partner –ICCO/KIA)



Romanian Orthodox Church Parish in partnership with local public administration has established a Social Canteen in the Ucrainca village. The canteen feed 30 persons daily. With the involvement of 5 volunteers, the canteen delivers hot meals to homes for 6 bed dependent elderly in the community. All people who share the mid-day meals are treated with kindness and respect and their dignity is upheld at all times.



While the church recognizes the vital importance of providing basic nourishment to those who are hungry -- much more is needed. Together with the solidarity and commitment of the staff and volunteers, Social Canteen of Ucrainca strives to be a gateway to positive change in the lives of the people, it serves and seeks to enlarge their beneficiaries' capacity for self-help and reconnect them to the broader community. Through their programs and in their commitment to combating hunger and homelessness, they provide the support and respect beneficiaries need to become self-sufficient and regain hope for the future.

[Project MO 097. Humanitarian Aid distribution by MCA \(funding partner – CWS\).](#)

Project aimed to support about 5000 people, poor children and elderly of different confessions from the rural areas of Moldova and Transnistria, including:

- pupils of orphanages, auxiliary schools;
- disabled children;
- numerous families;
- children from at risk groups;
- lonely elderly;
- disabled people;
- HIV AIDS affected people;
- people in emergency situations;



by providing them humanitarian aid (school kits and woollen blankets).



According to the preliminary agreement among Church World Service and Moldavian Christian Aid Humanitarian Aid receipt and distribution was performed by the local partner association "Homecare", received necessary authorization from the National Agency of State Acquisitions. Shipment was received on October 12, 2008.

Upon the receipt MCA distributed kits to the beneficiaries according to the lists presented within application process. All lists of beneficiaries were confirmed by the local state departments of

humanitarian aid distribution committees, social assistance departments, mayoralities, etc.

MCA local partner Churches covered expenditures related to the Humanitarian Aid distribution at the territory of Moldova and Transnistria, including Aid transportation, loading and storage costs. However costs, incurred at the custom clearance were covered by CWS grant of 763,11 USD offered thru MCA to “Homecare” association, and 2,89 USD of bank charges.

[Project MO 116. “Calauza” Home care program \(funding partner- WCC EEO/COS\)](#)

The project was conceived to alleviate the plight of impoverished elderly in Drochia, who were increasingly suffering from poor health. The main aim of the project was to improve living standards of beneficiaries by ameliorating their health, morale and spiritual situation, as well as by increasing the accessibility of primary medical help in the society.

Within the homecare program of “Calauza” association, 25 elderly, 20 disabled children and 10 invalids have been served while 2008. The project ensured medical assistance of a qualified nurse, distribution of necessary medicines and social assistance provided by volunteers.

The observational summaries indicated that the service itself provided to the patients is highly effective. The quality of nurses interacting with relatives and neighbours of the patients is very good, with elements of education, thus, indirectly enlarging the number of people involved in the home care service. The project has trained 45 volunteers from boarding school from Drochia in homecare.

[Project MO 118 Creation of employment opportunities for mentally retarded youth via ceramic workshop establishment \(funding partner- WCC EEO/COS\)](#)

Project “Creation of self employment opportunities for mentally retarded youth via ceramic workshop establishment” run by “Hope and Health” was initiated to provide access to the mentally disabled people to vocational education and therefore to opportunity to apply professional skills according to their development and abilities to earn something for living. Within 2008, the Centre purchased necessary equipment for the workshop and offered 240 training hours for mentally retarded youth (4 hour every day while 3 months). After the lessons on ceramics, they learned to mould figurines



from clay. All things made by children will be on sale. Thus, it will enable them to receive some financial means for living and support them and their families.

MCA Blanket distribution program (funding partner- CWS)

Project aimed at improving the living conditions of vulnerable groups by providing necessary bed linen. Direct beneficiaries were about 200 poor & marginalized children and elderly from the entire territory of the Republic of Moldova, coming from socially vulnerable families, having monthly income less than 20 USD per month per family member, disabled people and lonely elderly.



According to the implementation plan in December 2008 was contracted a social sewing workshop run by the “St. arh. Gavriil and Mihail “from Mereni village. Given workshop was granted with 2786 EUR to produce 200 bed linen. The average cost of one bed linen set is of 12 EUR that is 20-25 % less in compare to prices at the local markets for the similar goods, 386 EUR were allocated for the transportation costs and 368,34 EUR were paid for MCA administration. Within December-February period all goods produced were transferred for the further distribution to MCA. According to the preliminary agreement between Moldavian Christian Aid and partner Churches all bed linen and blankets produced were distributed to the needy people through social establishments of Churches.

In addition to those 200 needy people benefited from bed linen from the project activities benefited also 8 women, employed at the sewing workshop from Mereni (Anenii Noi district). It is worth to mention that this sewing workshop was created to provide job opportunities to the vulnerable women, having poor financial and social statute. Placement of orders to the workshop created an additional opportunity to increase incomes of women from at risk group. Due to the MCA order execution workshop employees have benefited from the surpluses of 18 EUR paid in addition to their overage salaries.

The given project was the second of this type implemented by MCA in Moldova. During the program implementation monitoring visits to the project sites were collected relevant data on all success and problems encountered, served as a basis for the following conclusions:

- combination of the social impact and economical empowerment was one of the distinctive treasures of the program success;
- real needs of bed linen are of high demand in the social institutions, especially those working for children with special needs and elderly people , home cares, hospices, shelters etc. unfortunately due to the limited resources many of requests remain unsatisfied ;
- in addition to the traditional social establishments needs in 2008 were a lot of requests from families suffered from the summer floods, therefore it would be good to foresee a certain reserve of blankets and bed linen for the emergency response.



Priority II - Human Development & Capacity Building

2 programs were running in 2008 under Capacity Building direction, overall investment reached amount of 69221,21 EUR. Capacity Building program supported by Church of Sweden aimed at developing project management capacities, while 2 year program supported by ICCO at development managerial capacities of church related social establishments in Moldova. Several small projects of local partner churches were supported by MCA within the abovementioned programs, being included as important components of the long term program activities.

Program

Program title:	Developing project management capacities of church related social establishments in Moldova
Program timeframe:	January 1, 2008 – December 31, 2008
Funding partners:	Church of Sweden (Sweden)

In continuation of the Capacity Building program started earlier on March 6-7, 2008, in partnership with Catholic Mission “Caritas” MCA organized training in project management for 20 representatives of the Catholic Church. Training costs were covered from 732 EUR returned by Diaconia in the beginning of 2008.



Training was hosted by catholic organization “Casa Providentei” within the premises of the social centre located in Buiucani district of Chisinau. Training course was oriented on the Proposal writing and Project management, increasing by this the participant’s capacities for applying with a good designed proposal. Workshop follow up included about 18 personal consultations and informational support for partner organizations and Churches in the field of Proposal elaboration and design, offered by MCA staff to the training participants.

Project MO 101 “Ecumenical Resource Centre Establishment” by MCA

To enhance dialogue and cooperation among local religious communities and engage them in practical projects on the basis on new skills, common interest and shared resources MCA started in fall of 2008 a project on ecumenical resource centre creation.

Since it’s establishment centre started identification and collecting the relevant informational data as well as creation the library with books, subscriptions, audio, video sources, e-library. All library entries are registered in to database, which facilitate access to the resources.

To identify relevant resource persons from the churches MCA conducted 3 training courses in project management and HR management for 18 representatives of partner churches. The bigger part of project activities is planned for 2009.

Project MO 117. Local support Centre establishment (within CB program) by “St. Gheorghe” Orthodox Convent from Suruceni village.

About 60 priests and social coordinators from the Ialoveni, Anenii Noi, Straseni and Orhei rayons, will benefit from the trainings and seminars on social assistance and non profit management to be organised by the local support centre established at the Suruceni “St Gheorghe” convent. The project was initiated in the fall of 2008 to consolidate capacities of social centers of Moldavian Orthodox Church in the Central part of Moldova.



After the renovation of the centre facilities in November-December 2008 were organised 3 trainings on volunteer management for the 30 clergymen from Ialoveni district. Training activities will be continued in 2009-2010. In addition to the clergy access to the informational resources will be provided to the students of the theological lyceum for girls situated at the Convent. It is expected that training activities will significantly contribute to the improvement of the quality & efficiency of the social services providing in the parishes.

Program	
Program title:	Strengthening management capacity of church related social structures in the Republic of Moldova
Program timeframe:	January 1, 2008 – December 31, 2009
Funding partners:	ICCO (the Netherlands)

Given program aimed to increase organizational capacities of MCA and its constituencies/partners. Program components include strategy development, training, study visits and support to small CB initiatives of MCA partner churches.

- **Trainings**

In order to strengthen management capacity of church related social structures in the Republic of Moldova, MCA have organized for them several trainings while 2008:

1. “Project management by church related organizations ”, organised on 18.11.2008, for a group of 18 people;
2. “Leadership and team building”, organised on 12.12.2008, for a group of 15 people



The training was organized for managers and team leaders and focused on several issues:

- analysing the leadership style
- team development issues
- essential management skills
- setting standards and follow up
- managing conflict
- appraisal/development skills
- decision making
- creating a team identity

3. “Management of human resources”, organised on 13.12.2008 for a group of 23 people.

Human Resource Management training was held in an easy-to-digest format for human resource managers to gain a quick insight into the main issues affecting organizations today.

Partners and beneficiaries appreciated the program’s components that have been implemented to a high quality and steadily according to annual planning. It is likely that by the end of the CB program, significant progress will have been made in achieving the ambitious (initial) objectives and that the program will be a very



valuable contribution to the overall goal of MCA. Over the reported 2008 period, MCA has managed to substantially raise the professionalism of its partner's organization members.

4. "Financial reporting", 15.11.2008, for a group of 14 people

One day workshop helped MCA partners to understand the world of 1C book-keeping system, trial balances, cash flow, discounted cash flow, and of course the language of accounting. The focus was put on effective budgeting principles and reporting procedure.

5. "Narrative reporting", 16.11.2008, for a group of 16 people

To improve narrative reporting of MCA partners, one day training was organized, for providing information on new requirements of MCA reporting, critical contextual and non-financial information that is reported alongside financial information so as to provide a broader more meaningful understanding of project progress and impact.



6. "Fund raising", 25.11.2008, for a group of 20 people

Fundraising expert has trained 20 individuals to cultivate assets that make good works possible. The training package was a start-to-finish program on jumpstarting fundraising efforts. The program presented the most common fundraising scenarios with dependable information, methods, prompts, and preparation guidelines.

- [Strategic Planning](#)

Thanks to the support provided by ICCO via given CB program MCA started in 2008 Strategic Planning process. New strategy will be elaborated for 3 year period and will represent the first strategic document of young Moldovan round table. Within 2008 there were organised 4 planning workshops with participation of MCA Board and staff members. Final document will be presented for approval at the 2009 MCA General Assembly.

[Project MO 102: Strategic Planning by Lutheran Church social centre "St. Paul" \(umbrella\)](#)

To streamline activities of social centre of Evangelical Lutheran Church the project on Strategic Planning process development was supported in 2008. 10 Evangelical Lutheran Church coordinators implementing activities at the grass root level from Transnistrian region have participated in planning workshops and developed their strategic thinking. Efforts undertaken resulted in to the Evangelical Lutheran Church Strategic Plan elaborated, which will improve coordination and cohesion of the social activities within Evangelical Lutheran Church in Transnistria.

Project MO 103. Strategic Planning by Baptist Union social branch “Inceputul Vietii”

About 15 Baptist Union coordinators implementing activities at the grass root from the whole territory of Moldova participated in 2008 within the Strategic Planning process, aimed to consolidate capacities of social structures within the Union of the Evangelical Baptist Churches in Moldova. Among the main results are:

1. The common strategic directions and strategies established; the Strategic Plan of the Baptist Union platform elaborated and could serve as a basis for the common actions for the future,
2. Developed Baptist Union sectoral policies and division of responsibilities, common networking & coordination mechanisms within Baptist Union on the social area.
3. Enhanced capacity of Baptist Union NGOs and Church related organizations in Moldova in addressing social needs and current challenges in an accountable, democratic and professional manner;
4. Upgraded skills, practical knowledge and comprehensive understanding of the content of the Church related organizations’ work;

Project MO 104: Consolidation of capacities of the social structures of Moldavian orthodox Church via common ACTION PLAN elaboration by “AGAPIS”, social centre of Moldavian Orthodox Church (umbrella)

To consolidate capacities of social centers of Moldavian Orthodox Church by improving social activities coordination and cohesion social centre “Agapis” initiated in 2008 given project. Specific objectives were:

1. To mobilize human resources managing social activities within Moldavian Orthodox Church;
2. To improve management skills of the social activities coordinators;
3. To develop Action Plan of the social activity of the Moldavian Orthodox Church;

18 regional coordinators of the social activities, coming from the orthodox parishes from the whole territory of Moldova, have participated in planning workshops within 2008 and contributed to the 2010-2012 years Action Plan development, which became the first common Action plan.

Project Mo 107: Improving Human Resources Management capacities of the social institutions of Moldavian Orthodox Church by “AGAPIS”, social centre of Moldavian Orthodox Church (umbrella)

Strategic planning process done by Agapis in 2007 and Action Plan elaboration in 2008 revealed the acute necessity to improve Human Resources Management capacities of the social institutions of Moldavian Orthodox Church. Project started in 2008 and run in close connection with activities of Action Plan development. A group of 36 regional coordinators of the social activities, coming from the orthodox parishes from the whole territory of Moldova had benefited from 4 training courses trainings and 2 study visits organised within the given project in 2008. 4 modules and practical

systems on HR management elaborated will support the efficient HR management system development in the social services providing by church institutions.

Project MO 108: Improving interaction of the Christian media in Moldova by Association of the Orthodox Students

ACSO project aimed to develop inter confessional communication via developing capacities of the Christian media in Moldova. 2008 year activities contributed to the following outputs: 16 coordinators of the Christian media participated in the training and RT organized; 3 trainings on communication strategies organized; 2 RT on public awareness raising organized; a mechanism of the efficient communication strategy of the Christian Media in Moldova developed; increased collaboration among Christian media & improved inter confessional communication in Moldova.

- Local support centers establishment

Project MO 100 Local support centre establishment by “St. Gheorghe” fraternity in Drochia.



Project aimed to consolidate capacities of social centers of Moldavian Orthodox Church in the Northern part of Moldova by establishing local support centre improving social activities coordination and cohesion. Project focus group embraced 31 priests and social coordinators from the Drochia rayon, who benefited from the trainings and seminars on social assistance and non profit management and about 28 priests and social coordinators from Riscani, Donduseni, Edinet, Glodeni, Soroca raions participated within the abovementioned trainings in 2008.

Priority III- Information & Advocacy

19 projects were supported under given Priority in 2008, overall investment cost was of 84064,61 EUR. All small projects contracted were selected within the frames of the respective programs: “inter confessional Coalition against Trafficking” run in partnership with IOM and “Mobilising Church networks for HIV AIDS prevention” implemented in collaboration with UNAIDS. Financial support used for co funding was offered by FinnChurchAid.

Program title:	Mobilizing Church Networks to Prevent Human trafficking in Moldova
Program timeframe:	January 1, 2007 – December 31, 2008
Funding partners:	Church of Sweden IOM Moldova

The present program intended to enhance awareness about trafficking among religious personnel in an ecumenical approach that empowers personnel of Moldovan Churches to become active to prevent human trafficking. The overall objective of the project was prevention of trafficking in persons by raising awareness among religious staff from various faiths and religious institutions with the aim of empowering religious personnel to implement themselves awareness-raising and other preventative interventions in their respective communities. The capacity building program component equipped participants with tools and information they need to refer victims to sources of help in Moldova. This drive to raise awareness has also assisted in decreasing the stigmatization that victims can experience upon their return home. Finally, this prevention strategy contributed to closer cooperation between churches, church related organizations, secular NGOs, international organizations, local and state authorities directly involved in anti-trafficking activities.

MCA have allocated funds in 2008 for activities focused on multi-denominational awareness-raising/advocacy issues, like:

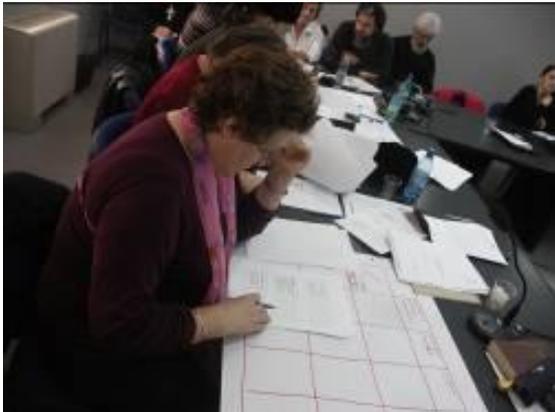
- Awareness campaigns;
- Training, conferences, seminars on human trafficking prevention for church personnel, as well as teachers in general schools, mass media representatives, NGO's representatives etc.
- Publication of a guide for faith based personnel on providing social assistance to vulnerable persons;
- Creation and development of social services, activities of prevention of the trafficking in human beings, for teenagers from the risqué group;
- Psychological, moral, spiritual and material support for the people from the risqué group.

According to the Program implementation plan on February 25-27 2008 in Chisinau was organized training "Churches' Advocacy Tools for Counter –Trafficking in Moldova" for the Coalition members. As external experts for the training were invited Mr. Torsten Moritz, Project Secretary, Churches' Commission for Migrants in Europe (CCME), Brussels, Belgium and Father Savvas Michaelides, priest of the Russian Orthodox Church of Saint Stilianos, Limassol, Cyprus.



About 25 clergymen and project leaders from the local Christian churches took part in the workshop. Training participants enjoyed friendly atmosphere of the meeting as well as possibility to have practical exercises relating to the advocacy tools. A special interest of participants called practical aspects of possible collaboration among parishes from Moldova and Cyprus.

MCA staff members actively contributed to the training organization and logistics during whole 3 days period (informing local partners, preparing list of participants, assuring their information and guidance about the training organization details, providing them contact details and feedback options).



In the framework of above mentioned program within 2008 MCA have strongly engaged in combating human trafficking by supporting a network of several projects in different regions of Moldova, such as:

1. MO 079 Preventing illegal migration of vocational schools' graduates by establishing an atelier to produce church garments and items in order to provide them with certain opportunities;
2. MO 081 Development of life skills and raising awareness about risks of illegal migration and trafficking among young women of Coscalia community;
3. MO 091 "Informational campaign for the prevention of trafficking in human beings through the help of the church";
4. MO 093 "Theological Academy" informational campaign;
5. MO 094 "Increasing the knowledge of the trafficking phenomena among the high-school students and graduates of educational institutions of Chisinau";
6. MO 095 "Informing and training youngsters of Tatarauca village on holding prevention of trafficking" informational campaign;
7. MO 096 Creation of Informational Center for Prevention of Trafficking of Human beings in Bahrineshti community;
8. MO 098 Creation of Resource Center for youngsters from social vulnerable families of Boghenii Noi community;
9. MO 099 Informing the young people about the risks of illegal migration and trafficking of human beings through social theatre;
10. MO 109 Production of a guide for faith based personnel on providing social assistance to vulnerable persons;
11. MO 110 Prevention of illegal migration and trafficking of human beings by the means of radio programs;
12. MO 111 Organization of information campaign against trafficking in schools and summer camps in Taraclia region;
13. MO 112 Creation of Informational Center for Prevention of Trafficking of Human beings for Roma youngsters of Soroca community;
14. MO 113 Social reintegration of potential and certified victims of illegal migration and trafficking of human beings in Stefan Voda rayon;

15. Mo 115 Prevention of trafficking in children from Criuleni rayon via establishment of the Informational Center.



On 17-19th of June 2008, at the Moldovan Mitropolie were held 3 seminars for priests and other church workers in the field of anti trafficking, organized by Agapis Social Center. The training was one of those 40 planned to be organized to inform about the problem of trafficking in persons and to equip the religious community to become actively involved in awareness-raising and other prevention activities. MCA staff members have contributed to the training organization and logistics by informing local partners, assuring their information and guidance about the training

organization details, providing them contact details and feedback options.

2 MCA representatives participated at the International Christian Conference on Prostitution, which took place in Wisconsin, USA on 7-12 of September 2008. The conference served as a catalyst for creating and cementing regional and global networks, while offering emotional, spiritual and physical renewal. It was a special week for all interested in issues regarding sexual exploitation of adults:

- Those involved with ministries to women and men in prostitution;
- Those who want to start a ministry;
- Women and men out of prostitution;
- Churches seeking to learn, support and become involved;
- Missionaries, charities, foundations and other organizations who want to expand into this area;

The conference was coordinated by Lauran Bethell, Global Consultant with International Ministries, American Baptist Churches USA, Dan B.Allender, Ph.D, presiden and professor of counseling at Mars Hill Graduate School near Seattle, Washington and Dr. Elaine Storkey, well known Christian academic and broadcaster.



The program activities implemented while 2008, included organization of 5 informational campaigns by local partners, such as The Orthodox Church of "St. Dumitru" in Chisinau (MO 091), the University of Orthodox Theology from Chisinau (MO 093), the NGO "Beginning of life" (MO 094), NGO "Light in the East" (MO 111), The Orthodox Congregation of "St. Archange Michael and Gabriel" (MO 095).

The campaigns were aimed mostly at pupils and youngsters, and focused on the dangers of trafficking and how to avoid becoming a victim. The campaigns were also promoting the IOM Moldova information hot line on counter-trafficking and on support victims of trafficking. Specialized brochures were also developed which emphasize how to prevent becoming a victim of trafficking. Within the framework of the campaigns, implementing partner churches also conducted a series of public awareness events in schools around the country in order to familiarize pupils with the issue of human trafficking, participated at different TV and radio shows, distributed necessary information in the region. By following, within implemented media campaigns about 20 000 persons (youth mainly) have been informed and aware about about the risks of human trafficking.



Four counter trafficking resource centers have been established within MO 096 Project by The Orthodox Congregation of "St. Archange Michael and Gabriel", MO 098 by Orthodox Church "The Great Voevodes Saints", MO 112 by Atchpriests Council of Sorooca, MO 115 by Orthodox Church "Constantine and Elena". The Informational Centers aimed to familiarize at risk groups with the trafficking in human beings problem, the trafficking mechanism, actors involved, national and international legislation. Such materials aimed to develop the youngsters' self-confidence in order to make right, informed decisions.

- The Social Center AGAPIS, through MO 110 project, have elaborated while 2008 a program of radio shows which were presented at Antena C channel and aimed to inform the wide specter of listeners about the risks of illegal migration, tolerant attitude for the victims affected by this problems and the church position in prevention as well as rehabilitation and socialization of affected persons.
- A Guide for faith based personnel on providing social assistance to vulnerable persons was developed within MO 109 project, also by AGAPIS Social Center.

Social Mission DIACONIA, together with the parish "Sf. Ioan cel Nou de la Suceava" have chosen a different approach in prevention of human trafficking – the social theatre. Through MO 099 project, they have organized 3 round tables, 4 performances and several integrated field-actions for informing the population of Leova, Cania, Călărași and Ungheni about the human trafficking. The total number of directly informed beneficiaries is 910 persons, but the impact of the project has covered a wider area of population.

In the same period, DIACONIA had implemented the MO 113 project "Social reintegration of potential and certified victims of illegal migration and trafficking of human beings" where 70 children affected by the traffic phenomena have beneficiated of a healthy environment for psychological rehabilitation in the summer camp in Stefan Voda rayon.

Through MO 081 project, in order to combat migration in Coscalia region, 60 women have been trained in small business development, accountancy and computer skills, 90 children involved in

school performances with anti traffic subject, 120 children participating at the theatre “My grandmother is my mum” and 10 priests trained and motivated to involve actively in counter trafficking activities.

In response to the information on human trafficking provided to various religious communities, members of these communities have approached IOM for additional informational materials, as well as to inquire about initiatives related to conducting awareness-raising campaigns in their congregations and broader projects involving clergy around Moldova. Such enthusiasm clearly indicates that religious organizations are taking an active stand in support of countering trafficking in persons.

Program	
Program title:	Mobilizing Church Networks to Prevent HIV/AIDS in Moldova
Program timeframe:	January 1, 2008 – December 31, 2009
Funding partners:	Finn Church Aid UNAIDS Moldova

The overall objective of the program is prevention of HIV/AIDS by raising awareness among religious staff from various faiths and religious institutions with the aim of empowering religious personnel to implement themselves awareness-raising and other preventative interventions in their respective communities. The capacity building program component will also equip participants with tools and information they need to refer affected people to sources of help in Moldova. Finally, this prevention strategy will also contribute to closer cooperation between churches, church related organizations, secular NGOs, international organizations, local and state authorities directly involved in preventing HIV/AIDS activities.

The program components include the development of an inter-church HIV/AIDS advocacy platform, capacity building services to church-related bodies active in the social domain, and implementation of prevention outreach activities implemented by the personnel of churches and faith-based organizations.

IMPLEMENTED ACTIVITIES.

1. Methodological support elaborated

While reporting period Training manual was elaborated for priests and church related people. The purpose of this manual is to assist church leaders in rethinking such issues as:

- essentials to understand HIV/AIDS;
- theological fundamentals of fighting HIV/AIDS;
- what ministries the church is engaged in regarding HIV/AIDS;
- guidelines regarding assistance to people affected;
- additional topics.

The main goal of this manual is to present the principles of training adults and the ways in which the Churches can involve in fighting of HIV/AIDS. The manual was elaborated in Russian language and is planed to be translated in Romanian as well. It will be distributed to the church leaders from

different regions of Moldova, for being used in the informational activities organized for HIV/AIDS prevention. 20 sermons have been developed, which had the purpose to facilitate the continued work of the trainees in their respective communities. Sermons publications will be disseminated to all parishes and Christian communities in Moldova and Transnistria.

In addition the brochure “Church and AIDS – questions and answers” and Church Anti AIDS Coalition flyer were elaborated. Within the next phase of the program these should be published and distributed to the secular partners and church related organizations from Moldova.

2. Trainings.

Within October 6-10, 2008 period, in Chisinau, MCA hold a 5 days course of Training for Trainers: “Social service in the field of HIV/AIDS in Moldova” for the representatives of Christians Churches of Moldova. The invited experts, having the huge experience in the field of church involvement in fighting with HIV/AIDS from Ukraine: mrs. Elena Purik (doctor) International Alliance of HIV AIDS from Ukraine Prevention program coordinator the and mr. Didenco Ioan, director of the All Ukrainian Ecumenical Fund “ Faith. Hope. Love”.

20 representatives of 4 confessions participated at the workshop. ToT emphasizes on defining the role of priests and religious people in direct contribution to HIV/AIDS problem. The main program issues were:

- Basic information on HIV/AIDS (medical expertise);
- Church view of the problem (presentation of different confessions);
- Church possibilities to answer the epidemic (experience of other countries);
- Skills of consulting people with HIV/AIDS.



After being trained, the participants had facilitated throughout the country several trainings of information dissemination at the local level within their respective networks, namely:

- Moldavian Orthodox Church (Moldavian metropol): 12 trainings across the whole country, 280 participants
- Bessarabian Metropolity : 1 training in Chisinau, 16th of December 2008, organized by Cislaru Mihail, 10 participants
- Baptist Union: 3 trainings in Chisinau, 6th of December, organized by Ubeivolc Vladimir – 90 participants

- Lutheran Church :2 trainings in Transnistria, 1st of December 2008, organized by Moser Natalia – 40 participants



3. Round tables.

According to the project Activity Plan 2 round tables were organized within the 2008 year program.

First RT was hosted by the Moldavian Metropoly on July 30-31, 2008. It was dedicated to the learning about the existing experience of Churches from the region in combating HIV AIDS.

Key presentations were done by the experts from Ukraine : Ioan Didenco, director of All Ukranian Fund "Faith. Hope.Love" and coordinator of Church AIDS Resource Centre Pavlo Lapin. At the RT participated 20 representatives of Moldavian Orthodox Church, Bessarabian Metropoly, Baptist Union, Lutheran Church, as well as representatives of UNAIDS and CCM.



Second RT was organized by Lutheran Church in Tiraspol on November 28, 2008. It provided a new input to collaboration among state structures specialized on AIDS, local NGOs and churches from the region. 18 participants were provided with informational flyers elaborated by the Lutheran Social Centre "St. Paul". RT has resulted in a series of meetings of clergy and students and lectures of the medical educational establishments from Transnistria.



4. Exchange visits & networking

Participation at the Moscow Conference.

On 03-05 May 2008 thanks to the financial support offered by DW/ Germany MCA representative took part in the second regional Eastern Europe and Central Asia AIDS Conference held in Moscow. Over 2 000 participants from all countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), Eastern Europe, Central Asia and many other countries attended the event. The conference provided political and community leaders, scientists and researchers, health professionals, people living with HIV and civil society representatives the opportunity to discuss critical issues related to the spread of HIV infection in the region.

A separate meeting organized by Bread for the World (Germany) representatives Natascha Affemann and Elisabeth Schuele for partners from Eastern Europe on May 4, 2008 was focused on HIV AIDS mainstreaming in programs and activities.

Elisabeth Schuele introduced partners the Concept paper on HIV AIDS mainstreaming. Following discussions resulted in to 2 main decisions: 1) partners should provide their feed back to Elisabeth on Concept discussed by June 10, 2008; 2) based on this feedback DW will organize and facilitate regional workshops for 2-3 days for the partners on practical application of the discussed AIDS mainstreaming strategies. It is worth to mention that HIV AIDS Mainstreaming Concept is quite new myself and MCA partners as well and we have not addressed this issue so far, however core strategies could significantly contribute to the future action plan and therefore should be on our agenda in close perspective.

Participation at the Conference in Minsk (Belarus).

On October 22-24, 2008, some 90 professionals from South Africa, Sweden, Belarus, Russia, Ukraine, Moldova, Armenia, gathered in Minsk, Belarus, for the "Christian response to HIV: theory and practice" conference -- the international convening of practitioners and theorists committed to advancing use of concepts and tools for fighting HIV/AIDS.

The objective of the conference was to work out recommendations to work on AIDS issues in Belarus and to outline the scope of involvement of the Christian churches in this process. Practical issues related to the necessity of development of spiritual unification and partnership were raised

at the forum, which also opened opportunities for a dialog between representatives of churches, people living with HIV, state bodies, international and public organizations.

Conference Focus in assessing the Church's response to HIV and AIDS in Belarus, the conference had focused its attention on the following areas:

- 1) Theology and HIV/AIDS
- 2) Practical activity and HIV/AIDS
- 3) Inter confessional collaboration and HIV/AIDS

October 22, plenary meetings and group work were arranged. On the second day of the conference, an open discussion on the theme "The Church and HIV" was held followed by visiting the Orthodox Parish in honor of the Icon of the Mother of God "Consolation of All Who Sorrow", the AIDS prevention office of the Republican Center of Hygiene, Epidemiology and Public Health, and the Belarusian public association "Positive Movement". The conference officially ended up on 24 October.

Protecting the health of the younger generation, HIV prevention, overcoming social alienation of HIV-infected people, development of a comprehensive (spiritual and medical) system of assistance to HIV-positive in the regions is the main idea of the social unification of the churches.



Visit to Stuttgart (Germany)

In November 22 - December 1, 2008 period Mrs. Lilia Bulat by invitation of the Bread for the World visited Germany. Visit program included a meeting at the State Lutheran Church Diaconal Station running Consultancy Centre for the people affected by AIDS. Centre psychologist Mr. Gerd Brunnert informed about the role and involvement of Church structures in fight against AIDS in Germany, actual trends of epidemic as well as shared his personal experience, then guests visited 2 smaller initiatives run by people affected by AIDS : a social canteen and memorial garden.

Visit to Kiev (Ukraine)

On December 7-10, 2008 a delegation of the representatives of Inter confessional Coalition against AIDS visited Ukraine. A special interest called meetings with representatives of Romano Catholic

Church Caritas SPES Igor Oleinik and Janna Stanisevskaia working at the Consultancy centre for PLWHA,



Rev. Andrii Nagirniak (Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church), Interfaith HIV AIDS Resource Centre Program Coordinator, Executive Secretary of the Commission for Social Service under All Ukrainian Council of Churches and Religious Organizations, we all as meeting with “Faith. Hope. Love” foundation personnel.

5. Providing aid to the people affected by the HIV AIDS.

In October 2008 MCA received humanitarian AID from Church World Service (USA). The Container included wool blankets and school kits. In collaboration with NGO “Viata Noua” , NGO “Beginning of Life”, Moldavan Metropoly, Baptist Union, Lutheran Church humanitarian aid was provided to :

- 50 PLWHA from the penitentiaries
- 60 children LWHA from dermatological hospital
- 40 PLWHA attending consultative centre
- 20 families affected by HIV AIDS

6. Church coalition integrated in to the national HIV AIDS network;

Country Coordination Mechanism of the National HIV/AIDS/STI Prophylaxis and Control and TB Control and Prophylaxis Programmes (CCM on TB/AIDS) represents a country ownership structure reflecting the priorities and the commitment in HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis fight in Moldova.

MCA was invited to represent the churches and faith based organization within CCM on TB/AIDS and from the beginning of 2009 it will be an official member of National Coordination Council.

Meanwhile, MCA representative was participating at different meetings and workshops organized by CCM on TB/AIDS, such as National Coordination Council Meeting from 23 of December 2008 and the workshop on Monitoring and Evaluation system for HIV/AIDS, which was hold in Vadul lui Voda, from 13 to 15 of November 2008.

7. Small project initiatives supported by MCA in 2008.

Several anti AIDS initiatives of church related organizations were supported by MCA in 2008. Among them are:

“Time to Live” campaign



“Time to Live” campaign was organized by the Baptist Church related NGO “Beginning of Life” in Chisinau on October 26, 2008.

About 2000 young people come to the concert dedicated to the people affected by HIV AIDS. More than 4000 flyers with hotline number were distributed among school pupils, students and other people participated at the action.

Project MO 119 Baptist Church related NGO “Eliberare” Reducing HIV AIDS Stigma among youth campaign.

The project aimed to organize an awareness campaign which will address HIV/AIDS-related stigma and discrimination by informing the young and encouraging prevention via organization of informational activities in 40 educational establishments in Chisinau. Defined target groups include young people between 13-19 years old. These are those children who are studying in pre-Universidad institutions of Chisinau and suburbs. Potentially, the number of this target group embraced about 10.000 persons.



Commemoration of the World AIDS Day.

Special divine services were organized by the churches for commemoration of the World AIDS Day on December 1, 2008. Priests and pastors prayed for the people died of AIDS. All believers were announced about special event in advance, many of them come to their churches and participated at the service together with people affected by AIDS.

Program title:	Project MO 114. "St. Paul" Lutheran centre HIV AIDS prevention campaign"
Program timeframe:	January 1, 2008 – December 31, 2009
Funding partners:	Churches helping Churches (Germany)

Project aimed to increase access of the inhabitants from 3 villages in Transnistria to the reliable information and HIV-AIDS and related services by raising the awareness among youth of Kamenka, Karmanovo and Kolosovo villages of the Grigoriopol rayon concerning HIV- AIDS epidemic, providing the population of Kamenka, Karmanovo and Kolosovo villages with the reliable and actual information on HIV-AIDS transmission and related risks, as well as on services available for the population of the region, mobilizing and empowering local youth volunteer groups for the further friendly peer education. Young people, aged between 13 and 18, girls and boys, students of the local secondary schools, as well as their teachers and parents have participated in the project activities, as follows:



- Kamenka secondary school - 220 people (including students, teachers and parents)
- Karmanovo secondary school - 254 people (including students, teachers and parents)
- Kolosovo secondary school - 82 people (including students, teachers and parents)

Children participated in competition of drawings on AIDS thematic, best drawings were selected as illustrations for a special edition of the calendar for 2009.

Priority IV- Community Development

2 programs and 1 project were running under this priority in 2008, overall investment costs constituted about 34 926 EUR.

Program	
Program title:	Support for the jobs creation in rural areas of Moldova
Program timeframe:	January 1, 2006 – December 31, 2008
Funding partners:	Bread for the World (Germany)

According to the grant contract WCC EEO launched program in January 2006 and activities were implementing according to the program schedule by “transition phase”, period of June-November 2007 period (6 months) from MCA registration on June 12,2007 to trilateral agreement signed on November 12, 2007.

Year 2008 was the third year of program implementation. It continued the main program activities started earlier and included a comprehensive summative program evaluation conducted by external experts in September 2008.

Program overall objective was to reduce poverty in rural areas of the Republic of Moldova by improving the living conditions of the disadvantaged groups through the provision of employment opportunities. According to the Program evaluation report program reached following outputs:

- 7 vocational training centres and workshops opened (6 planned),
- 6 small shops opened (6 planned);
- 25 new enterprises created thru the loan program;
- 167 enterprises sustained thru the loan program;
- A logistical and marketing centre was set up,
- 162 persons have a stable income varying from 600 to 3500 lei per month, this allowing to improve living conditions in 162 families from 5 settlements; (162 jobs created under workshops activities – 60 planned);
- 25 enterprises created (business start ups received loans from the total number 192 of loans – 150 loans planned);
- 73 new jobs created by loan clients within 25 business start ups;
- 415 jobs sustained by the loan clients (200 planned in total for new jobs and sustained);

Therefore it is possible to conclude that project objective was accomplished.

It is worth to mention that given program played an important role in developing inter confessional collaboration in Moldova as it was first long term comprehensive program implemented together. Before there were small sort term projects of up to 10000 EUR scale, implemented separately by each church institution. Given program implementation facilitated communication between Churches, they gained experience of common decision making and made step forward from pursuing the proper interest to consider interest of target group, regardless of their church adherence and location. Program experiences vividly proven the need of inter confessional partnership institutionalization, which empowers churches ownership and social responsibility for its activities.

Program „Job Creation in the rural areas in Moldova“ results as well as lessons learned were considered by the MCA constituencies and led the basis for the new integrated community development program developed by MCA for 2009-2015. This program called “Dream Village” is focused on Biesti community situated in 100 km from Chisinau. A number of donors joined the Dream Village program Consortium: Church of Sweden (COS), Finn Church Aid (FCA), Church World Service (CWS) and WCC EEO. It provides the basis to recognize the BFW program as cornerstone of rural development activities implementing by MCA.

Program	
Program title:	Dream Village (preliminary phase)
Program timeframe:	November 12, 2008 – June 30, 2009
Funding partners:	Consortium: Church of Sweden, Church World Service, Finn Church Aid, World Council of Churches Eastern Europe Office

Program review and restructuring revealed the clear need for the more focused and comprehensive approach to Community development and, therefore in 2008 MCA took the decision to apply the Integrated Community Development (ICD) approach in its activities strategy. The ICD approach was chosen as it follows an integrated multi-sectoral community development. There is a strong emphasis on the use of participatory methodologies for social learning and building the social capital of local community. Strong emphasis is given to training programs (vocational, skills based, social and educational programs that raise awareness and empower) and linking the community organizations and self-help groups to local support networks.

Several Moldovan villages were evaluated as potential area of this strategy implementation. Biesti community was selected as the focus one. Upon the preliminary agreement MCA, in collaboration with community Mayoralty, have undertaken in April 2008 a needs assessment survey to develop a deeper understanding of the existing needs for development of Biesti community. The assessment looked at: 1) local administration capacities, 2) civil society and community-based organizations' activities, 3) community conditions and livelihoods needs, 4) the nexus between gender, the environment, governance and public finance.



The organization of the needs assessment was carried out in close collaboration with the community groups and local MCA consultant, who facilitated planning and helped notify the local communities of the timing of the data collection. The active engagement of the communities in the needs assessment phase is regarded as being particularly important as it lays the groundwork for community participation in the development of the project concept as a whole and sets the stage for collaboration between the researchers and the community.

Based on feedback and discussion of the needs assessment findings in each community, the specific focus of the interventions will be determined.



A joint planning workshop with representatives from Biesti community, MCA and her international partners was held in November 2008, to share the understanding of the situation between all main actors. During the partners' workshop in November 2008, a shared problem/needs analysis and identification of core problems was made, based on the Baseline Study, the Biesti Community Strategic Plan and discussions and analyses during the workshop.

After the workshop the planning process was led by MCA with Roundtable meetings in Biesti by end November 2008, consultative discussions and recommendations of experts in the water and sanitation domain.

More detailed activity plan for the years 2010-2012 will be developed during the year 2009 in cooperation with the respective community organisations and community members. This process will serve as a way of building the capacity of local organisations to prepare good activity plans and take responsibility of carrying out, monitoring and assessing them. At the same time, pilot activities will be started to form a good basis for the future of the work.



The pilot activities to be started in 2009 are water (rehabilitation of two artesian wells) and ; sanitation; renovation of the lyceum hostel and support to the milk cooperative members.

The goal of the comprehensive programme is the improvement of the quality of life of the rural population, in terms of sustainability of livelihoods and social conditions, by enabling the use of the local capacities and initiatives, and the efforts by the local community and individuals.

Project MO 105 “St. Paul embroidery workshop establishment” (funding partner – Finn Church Aid)

The Embroidery Training Centre project began in April 2008 with the purchasing of initial supplies necessary for the embroidery and manufacture of looms: materials, tambour, needles, thread etc. All trainers were sourced locally.

Lutheran Centre of St. Paul has develop a training manual for the region's traditional embroidery, modern techniques and trends, particularly the implementation of embroidered products, demand, MCA 2008 Annual Report



participation in fairs and exhibitions of professional handicrafts products. As a practical demonstration, over 40 design and manufacture samples of embroidered products have been elaborated.

In the same period, a training program for carpet weaving have been developed for learning in the loom technology (methodology, models)

Training in improved embroidery methods ran throughout the April-May months for 8 teachers in embroidery art. Afterwards, 3 groups (about 60 persons) have been formed for learning embroidery and crochet. Courses were provided free of charge so as to be accessible to the most deprived social groups; a meal was provided free of charge to all attendees.

Courses were designed with the aim of giving trainees as much experience in practical skills as possible, in the manner of 'shop-floor' training, since courses that are too 'academic' would exclude those persons with little or no formal education, the very people the project sought to help. The courses were aimed at apprentices with no first hand experience and lasted 2 months.

Training in carpet weaving was only given to women who already had experience in the trade – 10 persons. This is because weaving is a traditional craft which until recently was passed down from mother to daughter, meaning urban girls can easily learn the basic crafts within their community. However, skills in carpet weaving, which is popular with tourists, remain inaccessible to many since women who can weave designs are now more of a rarity. 2 manufacture looms have been prepared for work and 2 persons have been trained in providing this kind of skills.



3 exhibitions have been help during the reported period: 1 monthly stationary exhibition and 2 mobile, which have been presented in different public institutions and schools of Transnistria. These exhibitions were classified by topics into different zones, namely embroidery, sewing, weaving, knitting and carpeting. There were varieties of single-side and double-side embroidery items on display.



Projects outputs are:

- 10 qualified teachers, eager to provide trainings in embroidery art and carpet weaving;
- About 60 trained women in embroidery art and crochet;
- 10 trained persons in the art of carpet weaving;
- 2 manufacture looms prepared for work;
- 3 exhibitions organized;
- Over 50 sold embroidery works.

The implementation of the project has contributed to:

1. Increased training courses qualification in embroidery and well trained specialists in the manufacture of looms;
2. Increased standard of living of people trained in the manufacture of products for personal consumption and for sale.
3. Form of professionals for the production of looms;

1. Financial report

Financial Year 2008 reflected initiated changes at the program level and therefore, influenced as structure of MCA incomes as well structure of expenditures.

Income portfolio was diversified due to participation of the donors located in Moldova – IOM and UNAIDS local branches, while biggest share of expenditures shifted from traditional Social Support to Advocacy and Capacity Building priority directions. Both trends reflect and support respective changes within organizational strategy.

Figure1. MCA Cash Flow Statement for 2008

			EUR
A	MCA Opening balance		5 454,49
B	Incomes		331 592,92*
B1	Church of Sweden		7 800,00**
B2	Finn Church Aid		94 800,00
B3	Bread for the World		43 985,63
B4	Church World Service		11 508,95***
B5	ICCO		100 000,00
B6	IOM		3 532,89
B7	UNAIDS		16 916,41
B8	WCC EEO		52 477,00
B9	Membership fees		55,60
B10	Other		732,00
B11	Intermediary bank charges		-215,56
C	Expenditures		258 585,43
C1	Projects		224 740,58
C2	Administration		33 844,85
D	MCA Closing balance		78 461,98****

Note*: Incomes do not include local partners own financial contribution, traditionally presented within annual consolidated cash flow statements. Local partners own financial contribution in 2008 constituted 20 598 EUR.

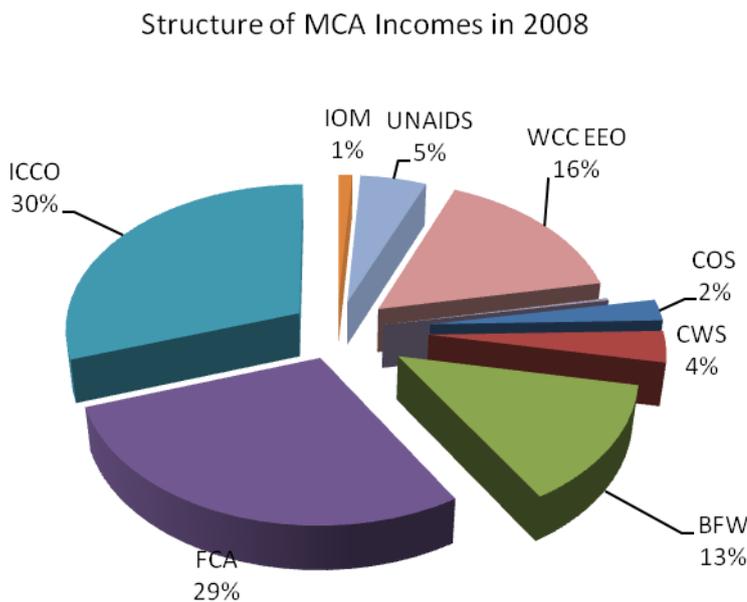
Note **: Financial contribution from Church of Sweden to MCA programs in 2008 included direct transfer of 7 800 EUR and 52 477 EUR channeled via WCC EEO.

Note ***: Church World Service funds in USD are reflected in EUR equivalents.

Note ****: MCA closing 2008 balance of 78 461, 98 EUR include 52 000 EUR received in advance for 2009 and 26 61,98 EUR balance from 2008 programs.

More detailed data on 2008 Projects incomes and expenditures as well as MCA cash flow statement are reflected within 2008 Program Audit report enclosed.

Figure 2. Structure of MCA incomes in 2008.

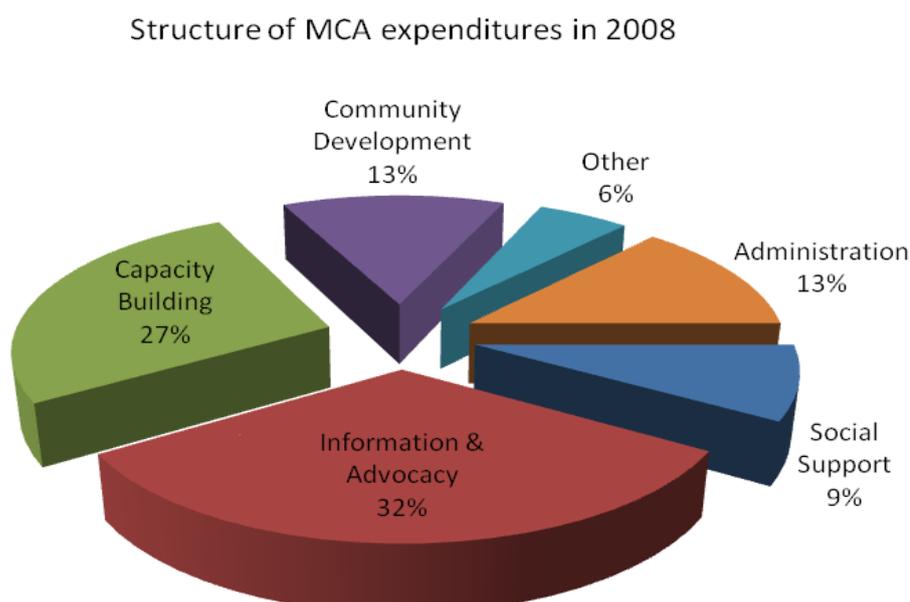


According to the structure presented by Figure 1 the biggest share to the MCA programs contribution in 2008 belongs to ICCO, whose investments were directed mostly to the capacity Building program. Comparing with 2007 FCA contribution increased due to the investment in the new Anti AIDS Program and Dream Village preparation. 18 % (see Note **) of COS contribution was spent on different activities supported within all MCA directions, however priority was given to the Capacity Building Program. BFW financial support was directed to the continuation of the Community development program started in 2006. It is worth to mention that in 2008 MCA succeed to get first contributions from IOM and UNAIDS offices from Moldova to counter trafficking and anti AIDS programs, that supported and promoted MCA participation in the national specialized networks and improved credibility from the local state authorities and other stakeholders .

Total MCA Expenditures within 2008 were of 258 585,43 EUR, including:

- Social Support, 22 198,12 EUR or about 9 % out of total MCA expenditure
- Capacity Building, 69 221,21 EUR or about 27 % of total
- Advocacy, 84 064,61 EUR or 32 % of total
- Community Development, 34 926 EUR or 13 % of total
- Other (External Evaluation of BFW program) 14 330,66 EUR or 6 % of total
- MCA Administration , 33 844,85 EUR or 13 % of total (see Figure 3)

Figure 3. Structure of MCA expenditures in 2008.

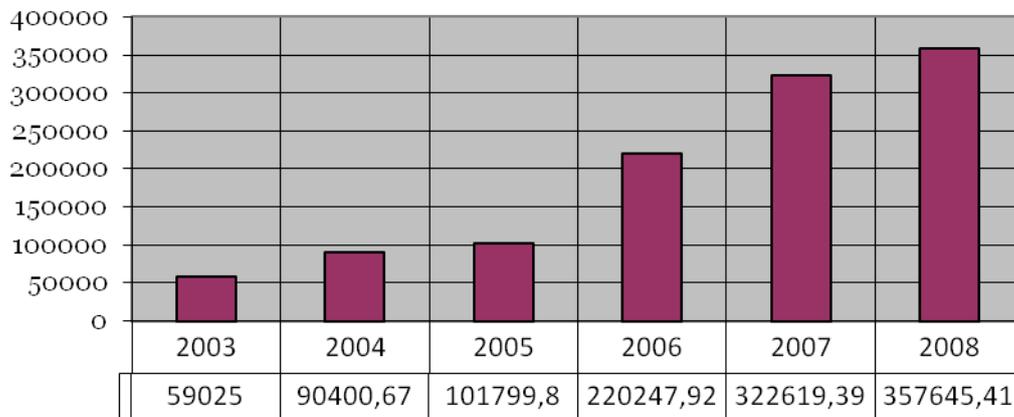


According to the actual Moldovan legislation MCA regularly presents the following financial and statistic reports:

2. Financial Report “Annual report on assets and liabilities”;
3. “Report on incomes and income taxes paid”;
4. “Consume and expenditures of nonprofit organizations”;
5. “Staff and job places of economical agents”;
6. Report on medical insurance payments;
7. Report on social insurance payments;
8. Report on local tax for the territory arrangement;
9. Report on water tax;
10. Declaration of the juridical person on income tax payment;
11. Information on salaries and other payments made by the patron for the employees and all afferent taxes;
12. Information on other payments for residents and afferent taxes;
13. Information on any payments for non residents and afferent taxes.

Despite of MPP/MCA transition period difficulties the overall tendencies of the program support continue positive dynamics (see Figure 4).

Figure 4. MPP/MCA Incomes Dynamics within 2003-2008, EUR



All annual budgets figures include financial contributions from donor agencies and local partners own financial contributions. Annual budget of 2008 includes 337047,41 EUR received from donors and 20598 EUR of Moldovan project partners own financial contribution. 2009 year financial prognoses are promising considerable increase of expected incomes due to the launch of the new long term Community Development Program. Further fundraising priorities and strategies will be elaborated within the Strategic planning process to be continued in 2009.