

# MCA 2009 Annual Report

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## 1. COUNTRY CONTEXT 2009

Among the major challenges faced by Moldova in 2009 were the economic and political crises, intensified since April with the failure of the newly elected Parliamentary factions to reach consensus and elect a President. This situation led to the repeated Parliamentary elections in July 2009, the political tensions deepening the economic crisis within the country to which a response has yet to be formalized. The political crisis and associated budget expenditures represent a further threat to the sharply declining economy, blocking the proper implementation of crisis management strategies to support the private sector and vulnerable groups. Political instability and its negative impact on potential foreign investors, who are looking for less risky and less politically biased capital investments, will further harm the economy.

In 2009 the local communities in Moldova were victims of more than just the global financial crisis and domestic economic downturn. The political crisis increased social stress and undermined the institutional confidence and stability necessary for the local public administrations to perform their duties. A sociological survey conducted by Expert-Group NGO has shown that in June 2009 more people were afraid of domestic political turmoil rather than of the financial crisis itself.

The sudden introduction in April 2009 of the visa regime with Romania left many Moldovan-Romanian joint ventures dysfunctional because engineers and managers from Romania could not get their visas in order to supervise the production process. Earlier in 2006-2007 the winemaking sector and related industrial and agricultural branches collapsed as a result of Russia enforcing a trade embargo on Moldovan alcoholic beverages.

The catastrophic drought in 2007 has had a detrimental impact on crops and livestock producers, an impact that still perpetuates because of the collapsed farmers' income. In 2008-2009 prices for many agricultural products went down leaving many farmers with substantially lower revenues than even in 2007. Obviously, it is almost impossible to separate neatly the effects of all these crises, leaving apart the fact that many people in Moldova have the perception that the country has been in a continuous crisis and that "constant crisis" has been an ordinary part of their life in the last two decades.

According to National Human Development Report 2009/2010 done by UNDP the year 2009 has seen a steep economic decline with corresponding effects on per capita GDP. In 2009 GDP consists of 2,986 USD per capita (GDP declining in the first quarter 2009 by 6.9% compared with the first quarter 2008).

The financial crisis has also forced many Moldovan migrants to return back home. From the two most important countries hosting 80% of Moldovan migrants – Russia and Italy – those in Russia were affected the most. Due to the crisis, approximately 37,000 people left Russia and about 8,000 left Italy. Most of the returning people are men and are rural residents and most of them are willing to work. For these reasons, the unemployment rate is expected to rise for this group of people and for the whole economy as well.

The local authorities' response to the reduction in expenditures is limited to cuts of some small expenses for investment projects and some logistics expenses (travel, transport). To cope with the needed cut while preserving salary expenses, local authorities reduced by 50 / 60% payments for communal services. These include heating and electricity for public institutions, food for children in kindergartens and schools, etc.

All these contagion channels experienced deep recession in 2009:

- the remittances entering the country decreased and reached about 1,1 mln. USD in 2009 comparative to 1,6 mln. USD in 2008;
- governmental transfers to the local budgets matched only 85% of the planned level in the same period;
- foreign demand contracted sharply as proven by a 20% collapse of exports in the first half of 2009;
- domestic demand has shrunk as well as suggested by the retail sales declining by 4.4% in the same period;
- a three-fold contraction of the FDI inflows in the first quarter of the year and about 13% of migrants coming back to Moldova but with no prospect of decent jobs here.

According to the Government decision No. 790 from December 1, 2009 the Economic Stabilization and Recovery Program for 2009-2011 years was approved. Restoring public confidence in government action and the opportunities of living and working in Moldova, bringing back the economy on a growth path and strengthening the foundations for the sustainable economic development are government priorities in context of this program.

Besides economic effects, the financial crisis has generated negative social consequences. Some experts claim that this year has seen a rise in the incidence rate of psychological problems, including depression and suicide attempts. A sociological study developed by Expert-Group NGO confirmed that social and family tensions are on the rise due to loss of jobs and declining income, but also due to lack of trust in tomorrow.

Concomitant, as result of the poor training received, many youth have no chance of finding employment. Some of them remain unemployed, increasing the youth unemployment rate, which reached 15.4 per cent in the second quarter of 2009, the highest level of all the age groups. But most young people who cannot find jobs in Moldova prefer to leave the country and seek employment abroad.

On February 3, 2009, Parliament of Republic of Moldova approved the National Youth Strategy for 2009-2013. The strategy is considered as principal youth policy document determining the most important objectives in developing youth field during the next 5 years.

According to the data of the National Employment Agency the number of officially registered unemployed as at January 1, 2009 constituted 17.8 thousand persons. The number of

unemployed, determined according to the criteria of the International Labor Bureau, was 48.7 thousand persons in the third quarter of 2008.

Despite numerous institutional reforms, the current social protection system is centralized from both a political and administrative point of view, while the analytical and strategic planning capacities, including the capacity to assimilate external assistance, need to be strengthened. Lack of financial resources within territorial-administrative unit budgets does not allow LPAs to meet the demand for social services, resulting in heavily institutionalized and costly care.

On November 6, 2009 government has approved the Decision nr.649 Draft Law on amending and expanding the state social insurance budget law for 2009. This document was developed in order to clarify the outcome of the screening performance of State Social Security Budget indicators state social insurance budget in the previous year and current year.

The impact of social assistance benefits on poverty reduction is highly insignificant, representing a difference of 1% compared to 11.9% for social insurance benefits. Moreover, those from households whose main source of income is from social benefits register a high poverty risk (33.6%). The most important and costly social insurance benefits are pensions, unemployment benefits, maternity benefits and child care allowances. The size of social insurance benefits are on an upward trend and, to some extent, contribute to avoiding social exclusion. However, the average size of social insurance benefits is small compared to that of the EU member states (in average about 45 EUR per month).

According to MSPFC at January 1, 2009 the total number of pensioners constituted 621,4 thousand persons (from which 462,1 constituted old age pensions), increasing by 1967 persons or by 0,3% compared to the situation as at January 1, 2008.

The number of disability pensions as at January 1, 2009 constituted 128 thousand persons. Compared to the situation as at January 1, 2008 this number increased by 1607 persons or by 1,27%. The number of survivors' pensions went down by 2273 persons in 2008 comparing to 2007.

One of the most important activities realized during the 2009, was the launched implementation of the Law on social aid (No. 133 from 13.06.2008). The efficiency and effectiveness of the social aid mechanism in the first months of its implementation are yet unclear. The preliminary evaluation indicates that the number of beneficiaries in the second quarter of 2009 has increased almost four times over the first quarter, covering 1.3% of the total population. In terms of family size, 14% of the lone people, 43% of families with children, and 43% of families with one parent benefit from social aid. In terms of geographical distribution, social aid is largely provided to vulnerable groups in rural areas (85%), and less in urban areas (15%). Significantly, in rural areas social aid is directed mostly to families who obtain income from work activities (salaries, subsistence agriculture, remittances), whereas in urban areas the incomes of beneficiaries are mostly from social transfers (pensions, social benefits).

A positive element of social aid is the incentive extended to vulnerable people for social inclusion, by providing them with identification documents and supporting them in obtaining the papers necessary for applying for social aid. Full assessment of the effectiveness of the implementation of the law will be possible only after full coverage of vulnerable groups. Moreover, given the fact that the minimum salary in the economy for unqualified workers (€38)

and for qualified workers (€45) is smaller than the average level of social aid, there may be disincentives to work among the families who benefit from social aid.

On February 10, 2009 Moldovan authorities started the implementation of a new Strategy and Action Plan for the National Referral System for Assistance and Protection of Victims and Potential Victims of Trafficking in Human Beings, approved by the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova on December 5, 2008.

The Forum of Nongovernmental Organizations of Moldova Active in Area of HIV/AIDS and Tuberculosis was organized on 11-12 June 2009 and gathered more than 120 representatives of the civil society, state bodies and international organizations. 26 NGO participated in the forum, was representing all regions of Moldova, inclusive the TAU Gagauzia and the region of Transnistria. The forum is the third one and the previous have been organized in 2004 and 2006. Meanwhile, more NGO were established and the quality of the civil sector evolved. The civil society got consolidated and registered progress in different priority areas of the national response to HIV/AIDS as HIV prevention, adherence to ARV treatment, harm reduction.

## 2. MCA ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- *Relations with MCA constituencies*

On May 20, 2009 MCA chairperson Mrs. Lilia Bulat was decorated by Mitropolit Vladimir with medal "St. Cuv. Paracheva". This distinction was awarded for the efforts done for contribution to development of the social services within Moldovan Orthodox Church and its cooperation with other Christian confessions.

- *Internal decision-making structures, administrative responsibilities, financial management, bank accounts, bank account signatories etc.*

In February 2009 MCA installed specialized accounting software 1C. It allowed transfer of all bookkeeping from the manually done to the automatic system kept at the computer. New accounting soft includes automatic updates of the respective fiscal requirements, automatically calculates taxes and other obligatory payments to the state authorities. 1C accounting database was also completed with 2008 financial data of MCA.

After 1C accounting program was installed and completed MCA concluded an agreement with Victoriabank to install on-line bank-client connection. This significantly optimized accounting, as all payments and currency exchange operations could be done directly from the MCA office, instead of visiting bank office every time the bank operation is requested. Bank client program foresees separate authorization of the transactions by accountant and director and database of all transactions done since the program installment, which additionally facilitate control procedures.

In addition to the bank client payment system MCA signed an additional contract with bank about MCA staff salary credit cards servicing, thus it optimized all payments to the staff members and considerably reduced cash operations of organizations.

- *Personnel, staff vacancies, staff replacements, changes in salaries/in the salary structure, etc.*

In February 2009 Mrs. Svetlana Trosin replaced Ms. Veronica Barcoman at the position of the chief accountant and started to implement computerized accounting system.

In 2009 MCA started a new Community development program, that conditioned several staff turnover. Mr. Mihai Tcaciuc, Community Development program coordinator appointed in November 2008 was substituted by Mr. Eugen Coretschii for March –July 2009 period. Starting from September 2009 this position is occupied by Mr. Valerian Tabirta. For March –December 2009 period Mr. Valeriu Rusu was employed as program manager in the field.

Advocacy program staff also registered some changes, namely program coordinator Ms. Rodica Ivtodi was substituted in November 2009 by Mr. Eugen Padure.

Changes in MCA strategy led to creation of a new position of Social Justice program coordinator, which was occupied in December 2009 by Mrs. Oxana Banaruc. Among her tasks is also coordination of the “Increasing the access to the care services” program supported by CHC.

- *Gender policy*

Board composition did not suffer any changes in 2009, while to the end of the reporting period MCA staff gender balance was the following:

3 female staff members: Lilia Bulat, Svetlana Trosin, Oxana Banaruc;

3 male staff members: Valerian Tabirta, Valeriu Rusu, Eugen Padure.

- *Networking and cooperation with other organizations*

Since the beginning of 2009 MCA became the official member of the National Coordination Council (NCC) of Country Coordination Mechanism (CCM) of the National HIV/AIDS Prophylaxis and Control Programs, 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.

Republic of Moldova has participated in several Rounds announced by the Global Fund for national structures fighting against AIDS pandemic. In 2009 MCA actively participated in to Round 9 country proposal elaboration by presenting a concept of a larger program initiated by church based organizations on HIV AIDS prevention for 2010-2012 years.

### 3. MCA PROGRAMS & ACTIVITIES

#### *Priority I- Social Support*

|                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| Program            |   |
| Program title:     | Developing homecare services for the elderly in rural area of Moldova |
| Program timeframe: | January 1, 2009 – December 31, 2011                                   |
| Funding partners:  | Churches Helping Churches (Germany)                                   |



Program activities started from the orientation meetings with all priests from Ialoveni rayon, establishing main program milestones and defining principal roles and responsibilities. 3 planning meetings were attended all 29 priests and moderated by the head of the Ialoveni rayon priests rev. Anatoli Stefanov. Planning meetings were followed by the volunteer selection, orientation and mobilization activities done by the priests in their communities.

According to the plan a Baseline study conducted by MCA program staff in spring 2009, who visited 24 parishes of Ialoveni rayon. During each visit MCA program coordinator met local priest and selected volunteers, performed group interview, completed specially elaborated questionnaire including community social profile and visited some of the potential beneficiaries of home care services. All findings are documented and described in the Baseline study report, which will serve as basis for the impact assessment at the final stage of the program.



According to the project plan a Stationary care unit to be established at "St. Gheorghe" orthodox Convent from Suruceni village. It is planned that Station will provide shelter and care services for the 20 needy people and serve as a training and internship centre for mobile groups. Program proposal foreseen renovation of already existing location facilities, however after professional expertise of the building walls Convent administration decided to do capital construction works and allocate more own financial

contribution for this purpose.

Old building walls were completely demolished and constructions started according to the new technical plan, approved by the respective state authorities.



New construction plan considerably extended planned capacity of the stationary unit, instead of 20 places it will have about 40 places, separate room for the daily activities and meetings, canteen and medical block, including 4 rooms. Capital approach in construction permitted to establish stronger basis and have 3 level building for stationary.



To the end of reporting period, building construction works were finished, while internal decoration works were postponed to spring 2010. However already in September 2009, stationary placed at the Convent 6 lonely elderly with health problems, 2 men and 4 women.

Convent personnel accumulated care experience within 2003-2006 period, when they succeed to consolidated care skills and elaborated Guide on homecare, performed several study visits to other care establishments in Russia and Romania, as well as introduced care as a separate discipline in

to local theological Lyceum for girls curricula.

It is worth to mention, that convent personnel has practical experience in homecare provision, as they have been delivering homecare services to the Suruceni village inhabitants. Although, mother superior Epistemia, who has medical background education organised additional training courses for the Convent and stationary unit personnel on care provision, while basic medical equipment purchased from the program means, facilitated a lot process of care delivery to the beneficiaries. As stationary facilities still needed internal decoration, purchase of the bigger medical equipment from own financial contribution was postponed to spring 2010.



According to the program plan in 2009 a minivan was bought by the Convent. Financial means for minivan and its maintenance were transferred by MCA to Convent account, as according to the local legislation car registration process should be done by the owner, in this case Convent 'St Gheorghe' . Minivans are used for the transportation of care beneficiaries from communities to the stationary care unit, as well as transport needed to the hospitals in Chisinau for specialized medical tests. Minivans will also be used for the transportation of mobile care groups from the villages to the convent for training as well as for delivery of aid and care devices (for example wheel chairs) to the communities.



Within 2009 own contribution of the Convent did not limit to the financial part indicated in the cost plan. In addition, Convent supply stationary unit personnel and beneficiaries with food products, produced at their own auxiliary holding (including farming and domestic animals breeding).

To develop and support a network of homecare providers from 25 communities of Ialoveni rayon within the reporting period were organized 24 mobile volunteer groups in 24 parishes. Each group is led by the social activities coordinator from the respective parish (usually this position is taken by priest wife or chorus manager). Volunteers were selected from the respective community, each group consists from 5-6 people.

According to the plan about 10 beneficiaries could be served at the permanent basis by each volunteer group. The beneficiaries group should be composed from the people who need care on permanent basis. However, process of the beneficiary selection was much more difficult than expected, as local mayoralties provided much longer lists of needy people and local parish had to take a hard decision to limit number of people included for the assistance, although in many villages lists of beneficiaries include more than 10 beneficiaries.



Within "Increasing access to care services in Moldova" program, MCA have organized 5 training seminars for the volunteers from Ialoveni villages in partnership with "Home Care" Association. According to the project proposal, a network of mobile teams from each community of Ialoveni

rayon was created. Each group of volunteers consists from 4-5 people, leaded by the priest. According to geographical position of the villages, the total number of volunteers has been divided in 5 groups for attending the trainings:

1. 29 volunteers from Costesti, Milastii Mici, Girlea, Molesti and Hansca participated in the training held in Costesti village;
2. 21 volunteers from Rusestii Noi, Vasieni, Manoilesti, Ulmu and Horodca participated in training held in Rusestii Noi village;
3. 22 participants from Suruceni, Nimoreni, Danceni and Sociteni came to the training organised in Suruceni village
4. 21 participants from Puhoi, Gangura and Tipala came to training held in Puhoi village;
5. 25 volunteers from Horesti, Rezeni, Carbuna, Cigirleni and Zimbreni participated in training held in Horesti village;

Project staff, materials, and resources are brought together in a one-day short course for about 20-25 participants each. Participants were provided with training materials and meals.

The main training issues were:

- Basic information on home care services;
- Good practices of other partners;
- Importance of volunteering;
- Church possibilities to answer the needs in home care;
- Skills and abilities to provide home based social care.

After the relevant training volunteer groups have started provision of the homecare services under the supervision of local social assistants and church volunteers group leaders.

According to the plan each volunteer will provide care to 2 needy, it is expected that in overage there will be about 10 beneficiaries per each of 25 communities, or about 250 beneficiaries in total.



In November 2009 in partnership with “Moldovan Nursing Association” MCA organised a first training course for the nurses focused on community partnerships for the homecare services delivery, namely nurses were trained in volunteer management to increase interaction and efficiency of common community efforts in care delivery. Workshop was attended by 27 nurses from Ialoveni rayon, who will partner with local parishes within the program. All participants were provided with package of training materials.

It is worth to mention huge experience of Nursing association in homecare, including elaboration of respective informative materials, manuals, homecare training delivery for different focus groups, policy development and lobby for the respective legal framework development.



Training for the social coordinators was organised in December 2009 in Costesti village. 23 people attended the training organised by MCA in partnership with “Homecare” association. The main topics of discussions were key points in volunteer mobilization and management, as well as basis of the project management, as coordinators from the parishes will be responsible for liaison among different actors from the respective communities in homecare delivery process, care process monitoring and reporting.

Special attention was paid to the necessity of the interpersonal conflict prevention, stress management and legal issues related to the homecare delivery. All participants were recommended to keep respective documentation on all processes related to care delivery, a special attention was paid to volunteer agreements and personal files of the care beneficiaries.

General assessment of the project situation at the end of the reporting period by the MCA is positive. All planned activities were implemented by the end of the year, with some minor delays in the fall of 2009 due to pork flu pandemic. Mobile groups started care delivery; however demand for the care services in the communities is much higher than expected. Stationary Unit finished construction works and will be able to serve more beneficiaries, meantime 6 people are already placed at the Covent premises. Positive impact from the aid distribution improved health care statute of the beneficiaries, while social impact increased volunteer statute in the communities.

First year of the program laid the basis for further developments in the local communities. Community volunteers got initial training, while gained experience supplied them with first successes and challenges. Some of the volunteers were performing icebreaking works not just in relationing sphere, but during the last winter strong conditions in the direct meaning of this, being sometimes the only people who visited lonely elderly at homes. Thus volunteer groups were composed by the really committed people, who require further coaching and support.

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## Program

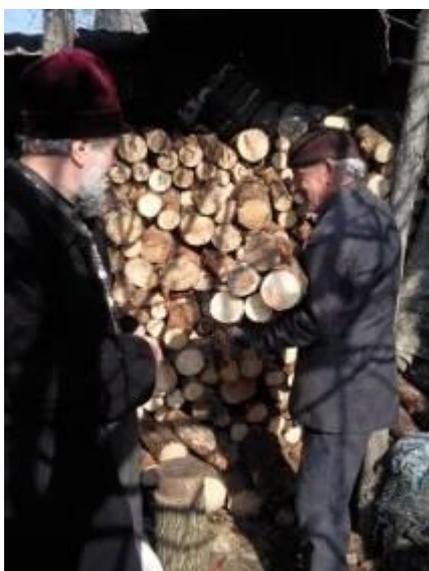
Program title: Humanitarian Aid for needy people

Program timeframe: October 1, 2009 – March 31, 2010

Funding partners: ICCO (the Netherlands)

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To support health recovery of the needy people with special care needs during cold season within October 2009 - March 2010 beneficiaries of care activities, about 100 most vulnerable people of Ialoveni district, were provided with necessary aid, including meals, wood and coal for heating, hygienic means, shoes and clothes. Given initiative came as a support for the beneficiaries of the homecare program, implementing by MCA in 25 parishes of Ialoveni rayon in Moldova. In November 2009 in cooperation with local parishes and social assistance authorities from the respective village in each parish were identified 4-5 the most needy lonely elderly people and were assessed their most urgent aid needs. Then according to the elaborated need lists and schedule were procured necessary aid items and distributed to the beneficiaries.



Along with MCA representatives in aid distribution process were involved local priests and community voluntaries, involved also in to homecare program. Within the project implementation team faced several challenges, for example:

- Due to the poor living conditions some beneficiaries refused from taking pictures with camera;
- some people were afraid of unknown guests, thus active involvement of the local priests and volunteers facilitated access to the beneficiaries and contributed a lot to the confidence building;
- local needs in aid and assistance were much bigger than program possibilities, therefore it was difficult to decide who should be included in to group of beneficiaries.

Project activities were implemented according to the plan. About 100 needy people from Ialoveni rayon benefited from

the project services, including:

1. 20 of 100 beneficiaries received about 50m<sup>3</sup> of firewood (2, 5m<sup>3</sup> each) and 10 beneficiaries received 10 tonnes of coal (1 tonnes each)
2. 60 of 100 beneficiaries were provided with bed linen and/or blankets
3. 100 beneficiaries received assistance with food parcels (600 parcels distributed);
4. 100 beneficiaries received hygienic means twice per project period (200 parcels distributed);

In several villages, in addition to the aid provided from the grant means, were provided complementary food parcels collected by the local priests in the parishes. Complementary food

parcels were distributed to the needy people for the Christmas holydays. Some parishes also organized charitable lunches for poor in the Christmas time.

Physical evidence of the existing needs at the community level reports high demand for the humanitarian aid. The biggest difficulties poor people experience during the winter period due to the high heating costs for the personal houses. According to the accumulated experience of this program implementation it would much more efficient to create community daily centres or so called “winter houses”, where lonely needy people could stay together and save some costs for the heating. In addition, daily centres could provide more services to the elderly, for example, hot meals, care, recreation activities as well as possibility for the interpersonal communication.

### *Priority II - Human Development & Capacity Building*

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|                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| 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)   |

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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.

To increase MCA organizational capacities the following activities were conducted in 2009:

#### *MCA Strategic Planning*

MCA Strategic Planning Process started in 2008 continued in 2009 with several workshops with participation of MCA Board members. Thus to the end of 2009 the strategy document for 2010-2014 was complete. Considering young age of organization Strategy is seen as work paper, which should be updated at least once per year or upon the appearance of unforeseen circumstances.

#### *MCA internal regulation & policies, documentation*

Along with new strategy development within MCA staff and Board members were actively involved in to process of the internal regulations elaboration, thus were elaborated : MCA internal regulation, MCA financial policy, job descriptions for each position, forms of contracts for donations and services, forms for the acts of services admission, complete application package ( application form, guide for the applicant and request form), monitoring report forms, project reporting narrative and financial forms, staff personal weekly and monthly reporting forms.

#### *MCA financial management system*

In February 2009 Mrs. Svetlana Trosin took the position of the chief accountant and started to implement computerized accounting system. Thus, MCA installed specialized accounting software 1C, it allowed to transfer all bookkeeping from the manually done to the automatic

system kept at the computer. New accounting soft includes automatically updates of the respective fiscal requirements, automatically calculates taxes and other obligatory payments to the state authorities. 1C accounting database was also completed with 2008 financial data of MCA.

After 1C accounting program was installed and completed MCA concluded an agreement with Victoriabank to install on-line bank-client connection. This significantly optimized accounting, as all payments and currency exchange operations could be done directly from the MCA office, instead of visiting bank office every time the bank operation is requested. Bank client program foresees separate authorization of the transactions by accountant and director and database of all transactions done since the program instalment, which additionally facilitate control procedures.

In addition to the bank client payment system MCA signed an additional contract with bank about MCA staff salary credit cards servicing, thus it optimized all payments (salaries, per diems etc.) to the staff members and considerably reduced cash operations of organizations.

#### Data base installation

After computerisation of the accounting & payment system, MCA contracted specialised company for the additional soft ware elaboration, namely new program soft for the budget execution monitoring and financial reporting to the donors. Before these operations were quite time consuming, as budget execution analysis and expenditures division works were done manually. All MCA program budgets are introduced in to the new program by the accountant in the beginning of the calendar year according to the contracts with donating partners. New soft will permit to obtain automatic financial reports with precise indication of the volume of the expenditures per budget categories, balance left, exchange rates applied etc.

To keep track of the all changes in legislation and taxation policies MCA subscribed to the specialised monthly magazine "Contabilitate si Audit" and "Logoss-Press" newspaper, as well as procured electronic archive database of "Contabilitate si Audit" magazine past editions. These editorials provide detailed explications of accounting procedures and new rules applications.

#### E-bulletin editions

To facilitate information sharing among MCA partners MCA subscribed to the daily electronic bulletin. Daily editions of e- bulletin were sent to all MCA Board & staff members.

#### Trainings

Among the training activities organised within 2009:

- 3 trainings for 59 people on project writing were organised for the clergy (in Rusestii Noi, Costesti, Drochia);
- 1 training for 18 people on project reporting for the project partners hold at MCA office;
- about 37 MCA individual consultancies on project elaboration provided to the partners.

## Study visits

Within 2009 several study visits were organised, some of them were joined to the training or regional events and meetings for the travel costs reasons. Among visits supported within this program were:

- May 4-8, 2009 two MCA staff members visited St Petersburg, Russia
- July 14-22, 2009 period a group of 9 people, MCA board and staff members and members of church related organizations took part in a study visit to Nessebar, Bulgaria;
- December 7-8, 2009 two representatives of MCA board and partner churches visited “Faith. Hope. Love” Foundation in Kiev, Ukraine

## ACT Organisational Capacity Assessment Tool

In October – November 2009 MCA Board performed a self evaluation according to the ACT OSA Tool. The purpose of this exercise was to assess actual organisation capacities in relation to generic organisational capacities. Among the issues assessed were : Organisational Sustainability; Programme sustainability; Media; Local resources; Public relations; Government Collaboration; Inter-organisation collaboration; Stakeholder relations; Stakeholder commitment/ ownership; Diversification of income base; Financial reporting etc. Although the complete assessment was premature as organization is still under formation, topics discussed provided more insights on issues for organizational development and was really useful for the Board visioning enlargement.

## MCA web page development

MCA webpage development works started in 2008, when a specialised private company “Kirsan” was contracted for, however web page structure and interface elaborated by this company was not supported by the MCA Board and staff members, as did not provide enough autonomy for web page administration. For example, each update of the information placed could be done only by the respective company and required additional expenditures. Therefore in 2009 MCA addressed to the hosting providing state company MoldData for additional services of web page developing, and aid.md obtained a new look and more comfortable internal administration interface. Page has 2 language lines – Romanian and English and could be completed directly by MCA staff members. Since the new look was arranged, some basic information about MCA activities was placed and currently could be seen at the page, however due to the new strategy development process, a big part of information should be renewed, which could be done upon the new MCA strategy approval in the beginning of 2010.

## Project MO 103. Developing capacities of the human resources through Human Resources management skills enhancement

Project aimed to develop capacities of the human resources through Human Resources management skills enhancement. Within the reporting period by Baptist Union were organised 5 trainings in HR management. About 73 people from Chisinau, Tiraspol, Comrat, Svetloie, Besghios and Beltsi participated at the training activities. Main topics discussed: time management, legal aspects in HR management, HR motivation. In addition to the training

activities were organised 2 regional workshops on Baptist union new strategy communication. Among results of the activities are : improved communication among Baptist churches, increased quality & efficiency of the HR management in the social services providing church institutions and creation of the permanent committee on further strategy development and update.

**Project MO 122 “Local support centre establishment in the Southern part of Moldova”.**

Project aimed to consolidate capacities of social centres of Moldavian Orthodox Church in the Southern part of Moldova by establishing local support centre improving social activities coordination and cohesion. About 32 priests and social coordinators from the Cahul, Vulcanesti, Cantemir, Comrat rayon, participated within 6 trainings and seminars on social assistance organised by Cahul LSC in 2009.

|                           |   |
|---------------------------|---|
| <b>Program</b>            |   |
| <b>Program title:</b>     | Developing Capacities of MCA partner churches                       |
| <b>Program timeframe:</b> | January 1, 2009 – December 31, 2009                                 |
| <b>Funding partners:</b>  | World Council of Churches Eastern Europe Office (WCC EEO in Poland) |

The project goal was to enhance quality of the social initiatives and cooperation among local religious communities by increasing access of the faith based organization to the PCM training & consultancy services and facilitating regional inter confessional communication & exchange.

3 PCM trainings were conducted by MCA staff members for representatives of Moldovan Orthodox Church in 2010. PCM Training organised in May 2009 in Cahul was attended by 10 representatives of churches and related organizations. PCM training in Suruceni and Ialoveni were delivered in November 2009 for 22 participants. Each training agenda included project management cycle overview, with more detailed consideration of the project elaboration and management parts. Theory presentations followed by practical activities focused at small grants elaboration by training participants. As a result of activities were elaborated 23 proposals, which were submitted for participation in MCA small grant program on counter trafficking and AIDS prevention, 8 of them received financial support according to MCA Board decision and started its implementation in 2009.



To enhance quality of the social initiatives and cooperation among local religious communities in the fall 2009 were organised several study visits.

On March 9-10, 2009 MCA program manager participated at East Foundation Council meeting in Minsk, Belarus. Discussions were focused at creation of the ACT Forum and EEO future plans in the region. MCA representative also visited IM CSS project site and Kinonia house.



5 MCA Board and staff members visited Uppsala (Sweden) in September 28-30, 2009 period. Visit program included meetings with Church of Sweden International department team and parish members, visit to the Cathedral, visit to the Christian Council of Sweden and culture events. Presentation of Church of Sweden history done by Rev. Kristin Molander provided a better basis for understanding of church culture and traditions, while overview of the COS International department work- understanding of the current COS

developments. A special interest called discussions on different fundraising strategies, illustrated by specific examples of means used within concrete fundraising campaigns. This was the first visit of MCA Board members to an international donating agency supporting initiatives of faith based organisations in Moldova. It helped to identify some important issues for consideration while developing future perspectives of inter confessional collaboration in Moldova.

On October 1-2, 2009 upon the FinnChirchAid invitation MCA delegation visited Helsinki (Finland). The main focus of activities were getting familiar with FCA Europe department, meeting with representatives of Ecumenical Council of Finland, visit to Daily Centre for HIV positive drug users run by Helsinki Diaconess Institute Foundation. Visitors were impressed by centre developments, as well as variety and quality of the services available for the centre beneficiaries. Daily Centre for HIV positive drug users run by Helsinki Diaconess Institute Foundation is the biggest in Finland, having multiyear experience this institution is currently selling its services to the local state authorities and has several thematic programs. The biggest surprise for the visitors were meetings in Orthodox and Lutheran parishes, as they brought some pleasant personal feelings to its participants.



On October 3-4, 2009 MCA delegation visited St.Peterburg (Russia) and meet with representatives of St Peterburg Round Table and visited Lutheran Social centre situated in the city centre and Kazanski Cathedral. A number of literature on diakonia in Russian language were purchased at the one of the famous bookshops of the Christian books "Slovo", new literature completed MCA ecumenical resource centre library entries.

On October 11-15, 2009 mr. Vladimir Ubeivlc participated at World Council of Churches European Regional Partnership Group Meeting (ERPG) in Yerevan, Armenia. Meeting was hosted by the Armenian Inter-Church Charitable Round Table Foundation and the Armenian Apostolic Church. Meeting agenda included panel discussions on the most important issues face by the churches and related organizations in Europe and gathered delegates from European Inter church round tables and funding agencies.

On October 11, 2009 mr. Vladimir Ubeivolc as MCA Board member participated at the East Foundation Council meeting, which will take place in Yerevan/Armenia. Meeting agenda included discussions on EF Council membership, structure, strategy paper etc.

### *Priority III- Information & Advocacy*

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|---------------------------|---|
| <b>Program</b>            |   |
| <b>Program title:</b>     | Prevention of trafficking in human beings program                   |
| <b>Program timeframe:</b> | January 1, 2009 – December 31, 2009                                 |
| <b>Funding partners:</b>  | World Council of Churches Eastern Europe Office (WCC EEO in Poland) |

The overall objective of the project is prevention of trafficking in persons by raising awareness of clergymen from various faiths and religious institutions and empowering communities to implement preventative interventions. Increased awareness should also assist in reducing the stigmatization that victims can experience upon their return home.

Churches and associated social groups developed small community-based interventions generally aimed at the prevention of human trafficking. The supported project initiatives were focused at female potential victims in the 16-24 age groups, especially those living in rural areas in poor economic conditions. Initiatives included also activities on reduction of stigma against victims of trafficking and those most at-risk of trafficking, both within the Church and the local community.

To raise awareness in the communities from which victims of trafficking are recruited within 2009 were organized:

- 3 Round tables hold by the MCA partner churches (in Danceni Suruceni, Cahul)
- 20 trainings at the community level (in 20 parishes of Drochia rayon)

To empower individual churches and faith-based organizations to develop and implement their own initiatives to prevent human trafficking within 2009 were funded 8 small projects:

1. MO 126 Ialoveni Protopopiat project “Creation of the counter trafficking resource centre for 26 parishes” Currently, just 3 from 26 parishes from Ialoveni rayon has Internet access, while access to the specialized literature on trafficking prevention is even more limited. Project aimed at developing access of the 26 parishes from Ialoveni rayon to specialized informational sources, including printed materials, periodical editions, Video and Internet. Within the project time frame was renovated centre facilities, installed necessary equipment and provided 10 informational seminars for 26 priests from the region. Each seminar was moderated by different priest, this contributed to better communication and information dissemination.
2. MO 127 project of “Inceputul Vietii” aimed at trafficking prevention via mobilizing Baptist communities from the Northern regions of Moldova and involving them in to the population awareness raising. Thus within first half of 2009 were organized 6 informative seminars for 340 Baptist church members, who later disseminated the information received to their community members. Along with pastor messages people

- received small informational flyers with contact information of national counter trafficking referral system.
3. MO 130 Theological Academy “Developing the awareness on trafficking and migration risks campaign among students”. Project strategy focused at use of peer education methodology for more active involvement of the students in informational campaigns. From 75 students were selected 10 volunteers benefited from Training of trainer course of 5 days, then each of them moderated 2 sessions for his colleagues. The most innovative was the task of the developing of a informational campaign in the schools. The best campaign was implemented by students in the one of secondary schools in Chisinau.
  4. MO 131 project of “Inceputul Vietii” continued activities started in the Northern regions of Moldova aimed at trafficking prevention via mobilizing Baptist communities and involving them in to the population awareness raising by extending them to the Southern regions of Moldova. Thus within the second half of 2009 were organized 6 informative seminars for 361 Baptist church members, who then should disseminate the information received to the people from their communities. Also in second half of 2009 the first periodical edition (magazine) on trafficking related issues “Escape” was elaborated and disseminated for population.
  5. MO 133 Fraternity “St Gheorghe”, trafficking prevention activities for boarding school graduates. About 80 graduates of the boarding school from Drochia have participated in 4 seminars on violence prevention, illegal migration risks, healthy lifestyle promotion and abuse prevention, as well as in the Round table 3 study visits to “Insula Sperantei” NGO in Chisinau, Mostenitorii NGO in Balti, “ASCO” NGO from Chisinau. The given program was developed upon the additional requests from the boarding school administration and followed the first initiative implemented in 2008.
  6. MO 135 project. “Sf Dumitru” parish from Danceni organized a counter trafficking informational campaign for the students of the last grades from the local school. To raise the initiative youngsters were asked to elaborate an essay on trafficking related issues, best works were disseminated to the public and received prizes. Some of the essays were describing situations happened to some of children relatives. It is worth to mention that activities initiated by priest contribute to the better confidence to the church activities. Several adolescents addressed for the counseling to the local priest.
  7. MO 136 “Sf Dumitru” Fraternity “Voluntary care services for disabled to prevent trafficking”. Among trafficking victims there are a lot of people with different disabilities, who live under subsistence level and trafficked for the begging purpose to neighboring countries. Elderly with disabilities, who live alone could became an easy prey for the traffickers. “Sf Dumitru” Fraternity mobilized 8 parish volunteers to assist 24 disabled people, they visit them and inform about possible risks, provide social assistance and humanitarian aid (some food, clothes etc)
  8. MO 137 “St.Arh Mihail and Gavriil” parish initiated trafficking prevention informational campaign in the village for the 75 students of the last grades of the local secondary school. Priest organized initial informative seminars and identified the most vulnerable children, coming from poor families, who will not be able to send them to the high school or vocational one. The following meetings were organized by the parish in collaboration with sport club “Avintul”, who invited youngsters to practice different sport activities, which in some cases could became a source of income for living. Unusual approach to needs of youth called a great interest from their side and built a strong confidence to the local parish.

The projects implemented by MCA in the 2009 were relevant to the current needs of communities, which is in line with the MCA mission and objectives of assisting the socially vulnerable people in communities. Overall the monitoring showed that projects implemented by MCA are predominantly beneficial and produce impact. The data from the beneficiaries were very positive; they had high praise for the services they were receiving, and the staff's work and attitude.

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



2009 became a second consecutive year of HIV/AIDS prevention program implementation. As an advocacy tool and as a way to promote FBO understanding and awareness of the role of churches in combating the spread of HIV in the region, MCA conducted 2 round tables in Cahul and Soroca with the representatives of the Local Public Administration, Directorate for Education, faith based-organizations, NGO and mass media and in partnership with NGO "New Life" and International Alliance "For a Better Life"; In Cahul was present 26 persons, in

Soroca - 14 persons. It is worth noting that both round tables attended all invited guests and stakeholders. There was a lively and open conversation, expressing the views and concerns about the current situation of HIV infection. The main result of the roundtables was the reached agreement on the need for joint action in partnership with the involvement of all parties.

Within 2009 were organised 9 HIV/AIDS training seminars and short courses in rural area, attended by clergymen, social workers and volunteers, students of theological institutions. Activities were hosted by parishes from Hincesti (23 participants); Cantemir – ( 24 participants); Cahul – ( 15 participants); Soroca – ( 27 participants); Tartaul (20 participants); Ialoveni (23 participants) ; Suruceni (18 participants); Drochia ( 26 participants) and Theological Academy in Chisinau (75 students). All participants were provided with program materials, sermons, flyers, video recordings on CD.

The main issues of the training agendas were:

- Basic information on HIV/AIDS;
- Church position regarding the HIV AIDS problem;
- Church role and possibilities to prevent HIV AIDS epidemic;
- Practical recommendations on parish /community work with people with HIV/AIDS.



On October 15th, 2009 in Chisinau was held an inter confessional conference "Christian response to HIV/AIDS – theory and practice," convened at the initiative of the "Moldovan Christian Aid" Association, in collaboration with UNAIDS in Moldova and the International HIV / AIDS Alliance in Ukraine.



The conference was attended by representatives of Christian churches and associations: the Orthodox Church (Moldovan Mitropoly), the Union of Evangelical Christians-Baptists Churches, The Lutheran Church of Moldova, League of People Living with HIV/AIDS from Moldova, "New Life" Association, "Mothers for life" and "Childhood for everyone".

Invited to the conference, Mr Oleg Barba, consultant in public health policy (National Coordination Council secretariat TB / AIDS) stressed the need in active involvement of religious structures from Moldavia in the epidemic prevention activities to achieve the widest possible coverage of population with information on current issues related to HIV and AIDS.

Within October 12-14, 2009 period, in Chisinau, MCA organized a 3 days course "Role of the faith based organizations advocacy in HIV/AIDS prevention in Moldova" for the representatives of Christians Churches of Moldova. Training room facilities were kindly offered by the NGO " Beginning of life". Two invited experts from International Alliance of HIV AIDS from Ukraine along with theoretical statements provided vivid examples from their experience and created a open friendly atmosphere at the training. ToT emphases on defining the role of priests and religious people in advocacy actions. About 21 representatives of 3 confessions participated at the workshop received a packages with handouts and CDs with various video materials, including thematic movies, testimonies, video clips, power point presentations etc., that could be used during separate sessions for the other church groups.



On September 18 – 19, in Vadul lui Voda, NGO International Alliance “For Better Life” with financial support from MCA, held a seminar for pastors and leaders of protestant churches of Moldova called “Involving church in combating HIV infection”. As experts, having a huge experience in the field of church involvement HIV fighting from around the world were invited mr. Trefflin Loyd Roberts, Mrs. Lucy Gardner, Mrs. Jane Hatchinson from United Kingdom (International Organization ISAAK) and two assistant specialists from the Ukraine: Mrs. Oxana Prokudina and Mrs. Marina Zaitseva. 30 representatives of protestant church leaders coming from Chisinau, Balti, Soroca, Komrat, Ryshkani, Ungeny, Orgeev, Anenii Noi, Cahul participated the seminar. The seminar emphasizes defining the role of priests and religious people in direct contribution to HIV problem. Training participants have to disseminate acquired information to their colleagues, clergy and other church members involved in work on the field of HIV.

#### ***Visit of Interconfessional mission «Christian Social Service» to Chisinau***

During the period 3-6 of February 2009, 4 representatives of Inter confessional mission «Christian Social Service» from Belarus visited Moldova. The hosting organization in Moldova, “Moldavian Christian Aid” organized the visit program for presenting and sharing the local organizations experience in fighting HIV/AIDS. The possibility of partnership and collaboration between faith based and government organization of Belarus and Moldova was explored. The program visit included meetings with directors and staff of such NGOs as “New life”, “League of People living with HIV/AIDS”, UNFPA and UNAIDS. Also the delegation visited the Moldavian Metropoly and had a filed visit to the rehabilitation center for drug users “Berezki”, of “New Life” NGO.

#### ***Participation in the Interconfessional training for trainers on "Organization and management of church social activities on HIV/AIDS in Ukraine"***

Within February 9–13, 2009, MCA project manager participated in the regional inter confessional training for trainers on "Organization and management of church social activities on HIV/AIDS in Ukraine", organized for representatives of Christian churches and inter confessional organizations from Ukraine, Russian Federation, Moldova and Armenia. organized in Kiev, Ukraine.



The training targeted to the practical involvement of Christian churches in the response to HIV/AIDS. The event was facilitated by the deacon Ioan Didenco,

Director of the All Ukrainian Foundation "Faith. Hope .Love" and Elena Puric, program coordinator, International Charity Fund "International Alliance on HIV/AIDS in Ukraine" and represented a good opportunity for experience exchange on best practices of churches in response to HIV/AIDS.

### ***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 Programs (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 is an official member of National Coordination Council.

While reported period, MCA, as a member of CCM on TB/AIDS, has participated at:

- National Program on Prevention and Control of HIV/AIDS and STI for 2006–2010 Mid-Term Review Final Workshop, 27-28 February 2009
- Workshop: Data Validation for Projections and Reporting in area of HIV/AIDS, 20-21 March 2009
- AIDS Foundation East-West Thematic Film Festival on International AIDS Memorial Day
- NCC meetings in 2009

### ***Participation at the regional meeting of religious organizations working in the field social ministry***

On 9 – 10<sup>th</sup> of March 2009, Inter confessional mission «Christian Social Service» from Belarus held a regional meeting of religious organizations working in the field of HV AIDS and social support. At the meeting participated representatives of the Russian round-table with the Division of External Relations of the ROC, the Ukrainian Foundation "Faith, Hope, Love", "Diakonia" (St. Petersburg), the fund "Armenian Inter-Church Roundtable, Moldavian Christian Aid. The organization of the meeting was done by the WCC Eastern Europe office (EEO WCC), coordinating the program of cooperation within the framework of round tables on Inter-Church assistance in Eastern Europe and the Caucasus. During the meeting were proposed and discussed various possible models of cooperation in the future.

### ***Participation at the workshop on HIV/AIDS Mainstreaming, St. Petersburg***

In the period of May 4-8, 2009, representative of MCA Moldova, Bulat Lilia and Ivtodi Rodica have participated at the workshop on HIV/AIDS Mainstreaming and Gender equality, organized by Diakonisches Werk in Saint Petersburg. The working group also included representative of Armenia, Georgia, Belorussia, Ukraine and Russia and Germany. The workshop was structured in 2 parts: first two days for the Gender equality issues, session held by Elena Zdravomyslova, and the other three days for HIV/AIDS issues, session conducted by Elisabeth Shuler. In order to underline the conclusion made after the workshop, we can mention that gender analysis involves the collection and use of sex disaggregated data that reveals the roles and responsibilities of women and men. It is crucial to understanding HIV/AIDS transmission and initiating appropriate programs of action, and forms the basis for the changes required to enable women and men to protect themselves and each other. Gender mainstreaming is the most efficient and equitable

way of using existing resources for combating HIV/AIDS by focusing on the real needs of the whole population.

***Participation at the The IIIrd Forum of Nongovernmental Organizations of Moldova Active in Area of HIV/AIDS and Tuberculosis***



The IIIrd National Forum of Nongovernmental Organizations active in area of HIV/AIDS and TB was organized on June 11–12, 2009, in Chisinau. The forum has ensured the continuity of the activities of the previous forums and approached the most important topics on coordination and strengthening of the efforts in the response to HIV and tuberculosis.

The forum was focused on development of civil society involved in HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis, development of partnership between state institutions and nongovernmental organizations, and especially the NGO, which represent the interests of people living with HIV/AIDS and Faith Based Organizations and improvement of the normative basis on HIV/AIDS, development of regional NGO, the Ethic Code of NGO.

Within September 28-October 5, 2009 a delegation of 5 MCA Board and staff members visited Daily Centre for HIV positive drug users run by Helsinki Diaconess Institute Foundation.



Visitors were impressed by centre developments, as well as variety and quality of the services available for the centre beneficiaries. Daily Centre for HIV positive drug users run by Helsinki Diaconess Institute Foundation is the biggest in Finland, having multiyear experience this institution is currently selling its services to the local state authorities and has several thematic programs.

***Participation at the Third Regional AIDS Conference in Moscow.***

The IIIrd Eastern Europe and Central Asia AIDS Conference took place on October 28–30, 2009 in Moscow. The conference was attended by 2,642 representatives of government and non-governmental organizations, the scientific community from 59 countries worldwide. 103 media representatives covered the conference. The conference included 3 plenary lectures, 27 parallel and 4 special sessions, Russian-American Scientific Seminar, 126 poster presentations. Within three days of the Conference working dialog "Besedka" and "Youth Village" was hold for civil

society and youth leaders. 40 organizations from the region presented their work at the exhibition and 26 at satellite events. Moldova was represented by a delegation of 52 persons,



representatives of the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Labor, Social Protection and Family, Education, National Scientific and Practical Centre for Preventive Medicine, Ministry of Justice, as well as the civil society, UNAIDS, AFEW, League of People Living with HIV of Moldova, Soros Foundation-Moldova, MCA and other NGOs.

It is worth to mention that MCA representatives have participated at two special sessions on religion and HIV/AIDS: The most successful experience of religious communities in the area of HIV and AIDS and Youth and Church – partnership in combating HIV/AIDS. The information and experience of other partners was very useful and the discussed subjects were actual and important. The following issues have been on agenda:

- Primary prevention of HIV / AIDS among youth;
- Self-support groups of PLWHA - experience of religious communities;
- The participation of clergy in the organization of palliative care for PLWHA;
- The experience of interfaith cooperation in the field of HIV / AIDS.

The progress in combating HIV / AIDS in Eastern Europe and Central Asia was estimated at the Third Conference on HIV / AIDS in Eastern Europe and Central Asia.

### ***Participation at the HIV AIDS Conference in Kiev (Ukraine)***

On December 7-8, 2009 upon the kind invitation of All Ukrainian Foundation “Faith. Hope. Love” 2 MCA representatives participated at the international conference “Positive faith – developing of the partnerships” hold in Kiev, Ukraine. About 45 representatives of faith based organizations, secular institutions, international organizational and state authorities discussed possible solutions for further consolidation of the efforts of the different society actors in HIV AIDS epidemic combat. Organizations presented Ukrainian experience and existing challenges as well as provided space for the international experience exchange. Thematic panels discussions were focused on creation of the better mechanism of interaction at the national level.



Accumulated experience of Ukrainian colleagues could serve as a useful support for the orthodox churches in Moldova, as it comes from the neighbouring country with similar environment and Christian traditions.

### ***Commemoration of the International AIDS Memorial Day in Cahul and Soroca***

On the May 15, 2009 in Soroca, and May 16, 2009 in Cahul by "New Life" NGO with financial support from MCA were organized open air concerts dedicated to the Day of Commemoration of the people died from AIDS. There were developed 7 quilts in Cahul and 5 quilts in Soroca. The activity ended with an open air concert and the candles were traditionally lighted during the concert. Informative materials, brochures were distributed during the action as well as the activities were reflected in the local mass media "Cahul Express", TV Channel "Aspect", radio Channel "Univers FM Cahul", newspaper "Observator de Nord".



To provide informational support for the clergy, MCA, in collaboration with ACET Russia and "New Life" from Moldova has published 1000 manuals «Life continues» for church leaders to work with HIV-positive people. The guide will be disseminated among church ministries and volunteers.

### ***Informational campaign in schools***



With financial support from MCA and Singerei Rayon Council Christian social centres " Sf Filaret cel Milostiv" and "Castitas" have organised informational campaign for students of 14 schools from Singerei rayon. About 2000 children have participated at the informational sessions and drawings competition dedicated to HIV AIDS problem. The authors of best drawings received valuable prizes and diplomas.

A special TV program dedicated to the HIV ADS problem broadcasted by the TV Moldova 1 on November 28, 2009 and repeated on December 5, 2009 under "Lumina adevarului" cycle included clips of the seminars, interviews with children, priests, doctors and state officials, as well as debates in the studio (see DVD enclosed to the report).

Several articles on HIV AIDS problem were published in the Moldovan Metropoly newspapers "Altarul credintei", "Nica", "Curierul de Nord"; most interesting news were posted at the Moldovan metropoly web page: [www.mitropolia.md](http://www.mitropolia.md) and MCA page at [www.aid.md](http://www.aid.md) .

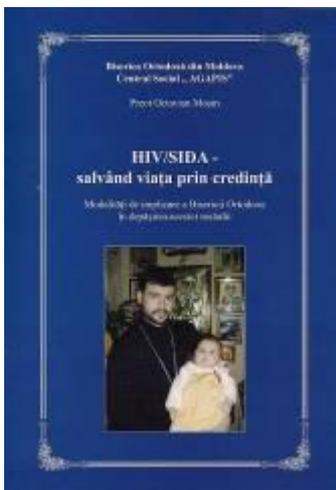




For the Commemoration of the World AIDS Day on December 1, 2009, Moldovan Metropoly called its clergy to organise special divine services to pray for the people suffered from AIDS.

Unfortunately, initially planned national action was cancelled due to the pig flu pandemic, therefore churches took their initiative in organising these services.

Social centre of Moldovan orthodox church "Agapis" with financial support from MCA elaborated and published thematic sermons and flyers with prayer, both materials were disseminated among orthodox parishes and could serve as a support for the clergy and believers.



It is worth to mention that Church actions are not limited only to the organising special divine services once per year, but prays for on the daily basis and care about people living with HIV.

Students of the Orthodox Theological Academy marked this Day by serving morning tedium and organizing a Conference dedicated to the World Aids Day 2009.

Prayer for the people suffered from AIDS was organized in the different Baptist churches, special flyers in Russian and Romanian, disseminated among church members, called people to remember and pray for those who suffered from AIDS.



A charitable performance and exhibition of crafts for support of the HIV positive people were organized in partnership with "Beginning of Life" NGO on December 1, 2009 in Chisinau. About 650 people visited these events and, therefore contributed to the common action.



About 50 volunteers from the Baptist community were involved in this action preparation. Among special guests were people living with HIV AIDS, who highly appreciated assistance provided.

In the summer 2009 within the regular small grant program MCA announced a open competition for the best HIV AIDS prevention small initiatives of the faith based organizations. About 16 applications were submitted to this particular call, 10 projects were selected and approved by MCA Board for the financial support.



- 1) MO 128, Medical Centre “Emanuil”, summer camp for the children and adults affected by HIV/AIDS.

In July 2009 in Singerei “Emanuil” centre organized 1 week summer camp for 30 HIV positive parents and 42 children. During the vacation centre consultants delivered individual consultancies for the camp beneficiaries on conflict resolution, stress management and positive communication. Grant means covered costs of beneficiaries’ accommodation, meals and transportation.

- 2) MO 129, “Sf. Cuv. Parascheva” parish from Straseni, Informational campaign on HIV AIDS prevention for the vocational school graduates;



“Sf. Cuv. Parascheva” parish from Straseni has established a good cooperation with labour resource department and vocational schools from the town as many of the vocational schools graduates have benefited from the practical lessons at the sewing workshop of the parish. Within the reported period about 18 girls benefited from sewing courses participated at the informational seminars on HIV AIDS prevention at the workshop. Some of the girls trained at the

sewing workshop could be employed locally, but many of them are at the high risk of migration and trafficking, therefore timely information on risks related to migration and HIV/ AIDS connection is vitally important. Grant means covered costs of the informational seminars, including handouts, consumables, transportation etc.

- 3) MO 132, “Sf Arh. Mihail si Gavriil” parish from Nimoreni, Promoting the healthy lifestyle by involving young people in the sport activities;

Priest Serafim from Nimoreni village came with initiative to train 20 boys from the village and form a football team “Avintul-Nimoreni”. Along with sport training boys as community volunteers took active part in the social services organized by the parish, as well as took the lead in the “Stop Aids” message promotion during the football competitions. Thus within the reporting period “Avintul-Nimoreni” met teams from

Chisinau, Nisporeni, Cricova, Drasliceni, Suruceni, Gratiesti etc. Grant means covered costs of the sport inventory and football field arrangement.

- 4) MO 138, “Intrarea Maicii Domnului in Biserica” parish from Ulmu, Informational campaign on HIV AIDs prevention for the school students;

About 75 children from the village lyceum participated in 3 seminars dedicated to the World AIDS Day. Informational activities were organized in partnership with school administration, local health centre and orthodox parish. It is worth to mention that lectures have addressed as medical as spiritual aspects related to the AIDS problem. Grant means covered costs of the seminars consumables, handouts and coffee breaks. School library received several copies of the book “Life continues”.



- 5) MO 139, NGO “Beginning of Life”, summer camp for the children and adults affected by HIV/ AIDS.

In august 2009 in Singerei NGO “Beginning of Life”, centre organized 1 week summer camp for 35 HIV positive parents and 35 children. During the vacation 10 volunteers organized leisure time activities, delivered individual consultancies for the camp beneficiaries, conducted Bible studies. Grant means covered costs of beneficiaries’ accommodation, meals and transportation.

- 6) MO 140, “Sf. Nicolae” parish from Milestii Mici, Informational campaign on HIV AIDs prevention for the school students;



Informational activities were organized in December 2009 at the Sunday school of the parish. Each Sunday about 20 adolescents combined lectures with creative lessons, where they could execute any crafts or drawings dedicated to the AIDS problem. Grant means covered costs of the consumables, inventory and coffee breaks. Sunday school library received several copies of the book “Life continues”.

- 7) MO 141, "Sf. Arh. Mihail" parish from Costesti, Informational campaign on HIV AIDs prevention for the labour migrants and members of their families;

Costesti village from Ialoveni rayon is one of the largest in Moldova. It is populated by about 11 000 people. Statistics suggest that village is heavily affected by the trafficking phenomena and there are quite high migration, including temporary labor migration, that provide reasons

to care about people at HIV infection risk group. About 10 "Sf. Arh. Mihail" parish volunteers coordinated by the priest organized a series of visits to the homes of the migrants families and offered food packages to the children and elderly, as well as provided flyers with basic information about HIV AIDS. Activities were organized in collaboration with 2 orthodox parishes from the village, Compasiune NGO, Community health Centre. Grant means covered costs of flayers, consumables.



- 8) MO 142, "Sf. Nicolae" parish from Puhoi, Informational campaign on HIV AIDs prevention for the school students;



About 120 children from the village lyceum participated in 2 seminars dedicated to the World AIDS Day. Informational activities were organized in partnership with school administration, local health centre and orthodox parish. It is worth to mention that lectures have addressed as medical as spiritual aspects related to the AIDS problem. Grant means covered costs of the seminars consumables, handouts and coffee breaks. School library received several copies of the book "Life continues".

- 9) MO 143, "Sf. Imp. Constantin si Elena" parish from Hansca, Informational campaign on HIV AIDs prevention for the school students;

About 30 adolescents from the village lyceum participated in 2 round tables on HIV AIDS. Informational activities were organized in partnership with mayoralty school administration, local health centre and orthodox parish. It is



worth to mention that verbal communication was supported by video materials on HIV

AIDS thematic addressed to the youth audience. Grant means covered costs of the RT consumables, handouts and coffee breaks. School library received several copies of the book “Life continues”.

10) MO 144, NGO “Beginning of Life”, summer camp follow up activities for people affected by HIV AIDS.

2009 August summer camp revealed a high interest of the HIV positive people to the group activities and communication. To follow up numerous requests “Beginning of Life” started Theatre and Art therapy groups. About 25 HIV positive



people weekly participate in therapy group activities. Many of them find a possibility for the self respect development and interpersonal communication. Grant means covered costs of the raw materials for art therapy, small inventory and equipment, as well as methodical materials for the groups’ leaders.

#### *Priority IV- Community Development*

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|--------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <b>Program</b>     |                                   |
| Program title:     | Dream Village (preliminary phase) |
| Program timeframe: | November 12, 2008 – June 30, 2009 |
| Funding partners:  | Church of Sweden, Finn Church Aid |

Overall objective of the Dream Village Program 2009 – 2012 was identified as 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*. The Program preliminary phase took place during the 1<sup>st</sup> semester 2009 (February 2009 – June 2009) - for the Core proposal elaboration, identification and development of project proposals for pilots.

The preparations for program activities started in the second semester of 2009 were water pilot (rehabilitation of two artesian wells); sanitation of school toilets pilot; support to the milk cooperative pilot; renovation of the lyceum study block building into a hostel pilot.

A draft of an activity plan for the years 2009-2012 was developed in cooperation with the community organizations and community members. This process will serve as a way of building the capacity of local organizations to prepare good activity plans and take responsibility of carrying out, monitoring and assessing them. At the same time, pilot activities should form a good basis for the future of the work.

During the reporting period have been organized plenty of workshops and meetings with the Cooperative's members, Council of Administration and Biesti Mayoralty. During these meeting were discussed the following issues: legal, documentation, logistics, deadlines, social, economic and operational justification for the projects.

Few capacity building activities were organized within 2009 for MCA staff members.

During **12<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> June 2009**, MCA Local and Programme Coordinators participated at the international training workshop in Odessa, Ukraine which was organized by **CABLE** - training and development project of Interdiac (Czech republic), which is offering an international training program for community-based workers "More effective working with local communities". The main workshop's targets were to identify the meaning of the "community", models and challengers for its development.



#### ***Milk cooperative development Pilot.***

In the beginning 2009 MCA started preparations for the Milk cooperative development pilot. Initiative came from the community inhabitants and was positively appreciated by the donors' consortium. Proposal for Milk cooperative development was based on technical advancement and extension of the milk collection. Milk cooperative technical advancement included construction and equipping of a small milk processing factory, while extension of the milk collection included creation of the new milk collection points and cattle breeding improvement. Although MCA initiated studies on technical design of the milk factory construction and modern milk processing equipment, cooperative members assumed responsibility over other key issues: clarification of milk cooperative ownership and clear business plan. To support milk cooperative in Business plan development MCA invited expert from Micro Invest Credit Company as well as experts from milk processing factory from Braviceni "Bravilactis".



During **27-30 April 2009** in collaboration with East Foundation was organized a study visit to Poland for Ion Afteni, Executive President of the Milk Cooperative "Mariolact" and Valeriu Rusu, MCA Program local manager. Visit aimed at exchanging of the experience regarding milk collection and processing technologies, increasing productivity, marketing, familiarizing with EU production and quality standards as well as recent innovations.

On **August 23-28, 2009** was organized the second study visit to Poland of 2 people from Braviceni milk factory. Delegates visited goat farm in Bukowiec village, local mayoralty; fridge

equipment company in Bialystok; agro touristic enterprise in Bialystok selling horses; specialized company selling minibuses for milk transportation; visit to Korycin mayoralty, school and kindergarten, water supply system; contemporary farm processing 200 tonnes of milk per day; company producing equipment for milk processing in Bialystok.

Unfortunately, despite of all efforts taken milk cooperative “Mariolact” did not accomplish assumed assignment by the end of 2009, thus considerably delayed launching of the activities planned.

### ***Water supply and canalization Pilot.***

Currently almost 90% of the Biesti inhabitants use water in the shallow wells which is considered of poor quality according to the local expert due to dense population, lack of sanitation system and intensive agriculture. Additional expertise should be undertaken in order to identify the water quality in these individual wells. The population of Biesti would benefit greatly from a water supply and canalization system. That would contribute to health improvements and improve the living standard in general.



A specialized Survey on Water issues was organized by MCA on May 3, 2009 in Biesti community. List of Survey main issues included: the current situation with water supply and its quality; need of a centralized water supply system; need of canalization; possibility and forms of own contribution to the project; possible forms of local ownership and management of renovated water supply system. The conducted Survey recognizes water supply and canalization as a key facilitator for village development and as one of the most

urgent needs of the community. According to the final data, 87,2% of the villagers responded that they would like to have access to a centralized potable water supply system and centralized canalization system. This statement is confirmed by the readiness of population to contribute financially to the aqueduct construction (about 81 % of householders). Survey results also revealed the lack of the common vision about the model of ownership of the water supply system to be constructed. According to the similar projects in Moldova the best option would be the creation of the Water Consumers Association. Due to the lack of a centralize sewerage system it the village it may provision for consumers through yard water taps. However, the cost of the construction of the system will not include expenses for network connection to the yards. It is supposed that the connection of the consumers to the system will be provided by consumers themselves.

Biesti local public administration addressed to MCA with a proposal to rehabilitate 2 of 5 existing boreholes, which were closed 20 years ago, and creation of centralized water supply system for

the whole community. Technical conditions of the boreholes as water quality were the key issues to be explored before launching the centralized water supply system projection and construction works.

To evaluate current status of the boreholes MCA contracted 2 independent expert teams, which performed their estimations in February and August 2009. According to the technical expertise made by local company "Tehsacón" SA both boreholes can be renovated and included into the water supply centralized system, but technical infrastructure for the boreholes is completely missing and it is recommended to be newly constructed according to the sanitary, ecological, technical requirements and for its well functioning.

In order to find out the causes of closing down and official data on water quality MCA staff members visited State Agency "Moldovan Waters", State Agency for Geology and Mineral Resources, World Bank Sustainable Development Department. According to State Agency for Geology and Mineral Resources written conclusion the water quality in the boreholes proposed for renovation do not correspond to the quality requirements and standards (water is not potable). At the Ministry of Environment these data were confirmed. The renovation of the boreholes is only possible with water treatment system installation. The estimated cost for the water treatment system of 2-3 boreholes is too high for the pilot initiative.

### **Renovation of the hostel for lyceum students Pilot.**

Within 2009 MCA staff members continue preparations for the hostel renovation project launching. Thus, MCA coordinator visited Ministry of Education to obtain the formal permission for the school building renovation, as well as Ministry of Construction for the formal expertise of the proposed renovation design, prepared documents for the announce of the tender for the construction company, done a preliminary research of comparative prices for the construction materials. To secure hostel creation investment MCA staff studied state strategy on Optimization of the Educational system in Moldova as well as existing demand in Biesti community in a hostel services. Unfortunately, due to the missing Authorization for re construction from the Ministry of Constructions and Regional Development for the building lay-out, Final budget of renovation costs and Extras from the cadastral authority about building and land ownership MCA could start renovation works by the end of 2009.

### **Activities in Chiperceni**

During October –November, 2009 in Chiperceni was carried out a Survey for indentifying the opportunities to extend program activities to Chiperceni community. The results of the survey revealed the following problems to address: high unemployment, migration, underdeveloped infrastructure, lack of basic business education, lack of market for local produces, etc.

Two planning workshops were organized in Chiperceni community on November 6, 2009 and November 15, 2009 for identifying opportunities to extend program activities. Around 30 representatives of local business community participated at these workshops in Chiperceni. Workshop agenda included SWOT analysis,



problems and possible solutions identification. Practical activities in groups resulted in elaboration of project ideas in small business development. Most of the proposals were related to agriculture products processing and mini-farming. Unfortunately, week participation of the



social actors from the community impeded elaboration of the comprehensive strategy for community development, while proposed small business initiatives social impact was extremely limited.

2009 program experience revealed several lacks of the program planning. Namely, initial program objectives were too ambitious and demanded much more time for the preparation (for example feasibility study for the water supply system, technical expertise for the construction works etc.), different

documentation standards and funding approaches of the funding partners require more time for program documentation elaboration and harmonization; lack of the capacity building activities for MCA as main implementing partner in new development areas.

Although faced challenges, program staff turnover and poor community initiative, MCA avoided high risk investments in to the proposed initiative lacking necessary argumentation and state authorizations, while 2009 year activities implementation brought to MCA valuable experience and following results:

1. Gained experience in organizing primary data collection at the community level (Baseline study in Biesti, Water survey in Biesti, Baseline study in Chiperceni);
2. Increased awareness on state strategies of regional development (Documents studied);
3. Developed contacts with Ministry of Education, Ministry of Construction, Ministry of Environment, State Agency "Moldovan Waters", State Agency for Geology and Mineral Resources, World Bank Sustainable Development Department;
4. Improved understanding of the feasibility study development for a development intervention at the community level (water supply, capital construction, etc);
5. Increased awareness on existing programs on centralized water supply and sewerage systems (World bank, Apa-San, GTZ etc);
6. Accumulated skills and models of modern technologies for the waste water treatment (dry zones);
7. Accumulated skills on milk collection cooperative organization and functioning (at the example of milk cooperative "Mariolact" from Biesti);
8. Developed knowledge on milk processing & relevant equipment;
9. Developed knowledge on EU hygiene standards to milk processing factories;
10. Developed knowledge on milk processing factories in Moldova;
11. Developed knowledge on cow races and cattle breeding farms in Moldova;
12. Developed knowledge on procedure of capital construction authorization obtaining;
13. Developed knowledge on open tender preparation and organization;
14. Gained experience on cooperation with Donors Consortium within a program;
15. Developed knowledge on state legislation and requirements on private-public partnership (at the example of cooperation of an NGO with Local Public Authority);

Results obtained by the focus Community:

#### Milk cooperative:

1. With support of MCA Cooperative statute and action plan for next three years were updated;
2. Cooperative leader Ion Afteni gained new college and experience in milk collecting and processing, EU hygiene standards and cow breeding in study visit in Poland;
3. Milk cooperative has an elaborated Business Plan that can be developed in the future;
4. MCA brought professional expertise of milk factory "Bravilactis" from Braviceni to assist milk cooperative in Biesti, as well as provided more secure market for the milk collected;
5. Established contacts with Micro-Invest credit company, which could provide both consultative and financial support to the milk cooperative;
6. Milk cooperative received a professional design of the possible milk processing small factory, as well as information on modern equipment and technologies;
7. Milk cooperative members established relations with other similar cooperatives from the region;

#### Water supply & sanitation:

1. A water survey conducted in Biesti and results shared to the community. This survey can be taken by community as base for project proposals and development strategies;
2. The results of technical expertise made for two boreholes can be used for future projects in this area;
3. MCA collected and provided to the community models for the ecological wasted water treatment;
4. MCA collected and provided to the community information about other actors active in water and sanitation programs in Moldova (for example Apa-SAN), which LPA could apply for support;

#### School hostel rehabilitation:

1. Local School administration was helped to elaborate all the documents and permissions in order to change the destination of the school building in to school hostel;
2. Local School administration was recommended the best companies for the design and construction of school hostels.

#### Local public administration (Biesti & Chiperceni mayoralties)

1. Baseline study for Biesti community done. Results of Biesti baseline study shared to the community. This survey can be taken by community as base for project proposals and development strategies;
2. Baseline study for Chiperceni community done. Results of Biesti baseline study shared to the community. This survey can be taken by community as base for project proposals and development strategies;
3. A water survey conducted in Biesti and results shared to the community. This survey can be taken by community as base for project proposals and development strategies;
4. With MCA assistance was done an update of Biesti Strategic Plan;
5. Increased access to the national and international donating agencies.

## 4. 2009 Financial Report

Figure1. MCA Cash Flow Statement for 2009

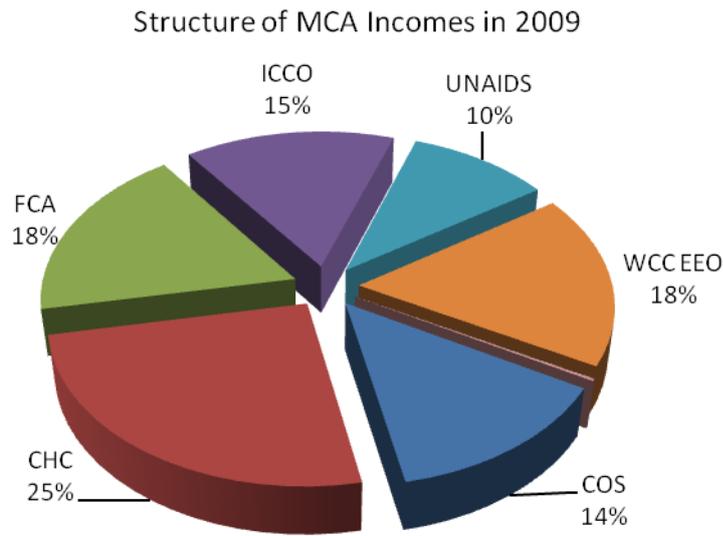
|           |                            | EUR               |
|-----------|----------------------------|-------------------|
| <b>A</b>  | <b>MCA Opening balance</b> | <b>78 461,98</b>  |
| <b>B</b>  | <b>Incomes</b>             | <b>330 386,82</b> |
| <b>B1</b> | Church of Sweden           | 44 678,54         |
| <b>B2</b> | Finn Church Aid            | 59 980,00         |
| <b>B3</b> | Churches Helping Churches  | 82 915,69         |
| <b>B4</b> | ICCO                       | 50 000,00         |
| <b>B5</b> | UNAIDS                     | 33 798,42         |
| <b>B6</b> | WCC                        | 665,11            |
| <b>B7</b> | WCC EEO                    | 58 428,70         |
| <b>B8</b> | Membership fees            | 52,36             |
| <b>B9</b> | Intermediary bank charges  | -132,00           |
| <b>C</b>  | <b>Expenditures</b>        | <b>356 375,77</b> |
| <b>C1</b> | Programs & Activities      | 299 827,08        |
| <b>C2</b> | Overheads                  | 56 548,69         |
| <b>C3</b> | Exchange rates difference  | 5 674,99          |
| <b>D</b>  | <b>MCA Closing balance</b> | <b>46 798,04*</b> |

\*2009 end balance at MCA accounts of 824 824, 82 MDL is calculated in EUR equivalents according to the official EUR/MDL exchange rate per 31.12.2009 of 17,6252.

It is worth to mention that MCA partners own financial contribution as well as in kind contributions are **not reflected** within the MCA cash flow report for 2009. However, it would considerably increase the overall cash flow report per 2009 programs. For example, just own financial contribution of the Orthodox Convent "St Gheorghe" from Suruceni Village in 2009 within MO 123 project according to the MCA Audit report 2009 constituted about **100 366 EUR**.

Unfortunately, 2009 financial year prognoses promising considerable increase of expected incomes from the new long term Community Development Program were not realized due to the longer than expected program preparation period. Further fundraising approaches were discussed within the MCA Strategic planning process in 2009 and efforts to income portfolio diversification to be taken in the following 2010-2012 period.

**Figure 2. Structure of MCA incomes in 2009.**

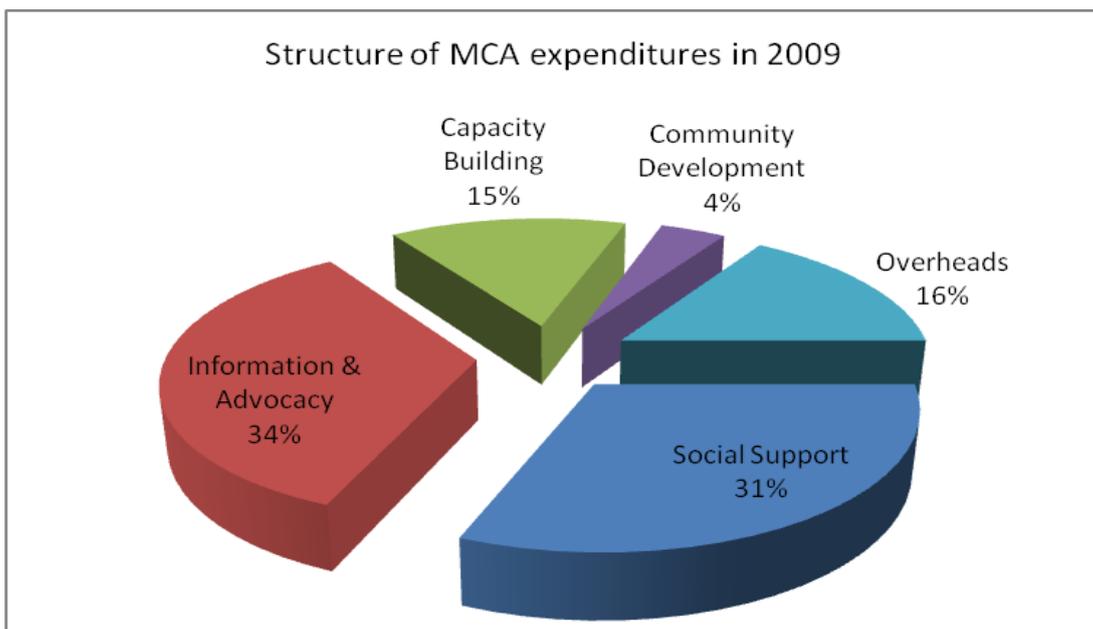


Total MCA Expenditures within 2009 were of 356 375,77 EUR, including:

- Social Support, 111 082,50 EUR or about 31 % out of total MCA expenditure
- Capacity Building, 51 888,28 EUR or about 15 % of total
- Advocacy, 122 516,70 EUR or 34 % of total
- Community Development, 14 339,65 EUR or 4 % of total
- MCA Overheads , 56 548,69 EUR or 16 % of total (see Figure 3)

MCA overheads reached 16 % in 2009 mainly due to the advance payment for 2010 year office rent done in 2009 in addition to the rent payments of 2009.

**Figure 3. Structure of MCA expenditures in 2009.**



Structural distribution among 2009 programs per source of funding is following:

| MCA priorities                     | Funding agencies                            |               |  |                             |                             |                             |
|------------------------------------|---|---------------|--|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
|                                    | CHC   | COS           | ICCO                                     | FCA                         | UNAIDS                      | WCC EEO*                    |
| <b>Social Support (31%)</b>        | Developing Homecare Services in rural areas |               | Humanitarian Aid for needy people        |                             |                             |                             |
| <b>Capacity Building (15%)</b>     |   |               | Developing managerial capacities program |                             |                             | CB program                  |
| <b>Advocacy (34%)</b>              |   |               |  | HIV AIDS prevention program | HIV AIDS prevention program | Counter trafficking program |
| <b>Community Development (4 %)</b> |   | Dream Village |  | Dream Village               |                             |                             |

Note\*: under WCC EEO financial support is indicated COS funding for MCA programs challenged via WCC EEO according to the COS-WCC contract agreement.