

WCC Moldova

Partnership Program

Report on activities for 2003-2004

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I. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

1. Socio-economic situation

The Republic of Moldova experienced enormously long and profound economic crisis related to transition from totalitarianism to market relations. The GDP was declining during 10 consecutive years (1990-1999), more than in any other European country. According to EBRD (European Bank of Reconstruction and Development) the GDP decline reached **32% of the 1989 year level (GDP 283 USD per capita in 1999)**. Present level of social and economic development of the Republic of Moldova is the lowest in Europe. In United Nations Human Development Report 2004 Moldova ranks as the **113th country in the Human Development Index (HDI)** list (for example: Belarus is 62nd, Albania 65th, Ukraine 70th, Armenia 82nd), while in 2003 it was the 108th country (after El Salvador and before Algeria).

The report of the State Department of Statistics and Sociology "Moldova in 2004" states:

GDP has been growing already since 2000 and in 2004 it was **7,3%**. Inflation rate in January-December 2004 was on the level of **12,5 %**.

The average monthly salary of an employee of the national economy in January-December 2004 was of 1103, 8 Lei (**88 USD**). The salaries in agriculture – 634 Lei (50, 7 USD), education – 712 Lei (57 USD), health care and social assistance - 841 Lei (67,3 USD) are below the average.

72,2% of Moldova population lived in 2004 year **under the subsistence level**. About 70,4% of poor population lived in rural areas. Women constituted 54, 6% of the poor.

World Bank reports that approximately **55% of all Moldavians** (nearly 2.4 million people) live below an absolute poverty line of **US\$ 2.15 per day**.

International Red Cross reports: "Increasing crime, divorce and suicide rates and alcoholism are consequences of the difficult economic situation. A third of all children live in impoverished families and the number abandoned into institutions or finding themselves homeless is growing."

According to the data of International Labor Bureau the number of jobless registered in 2004 was 116 000 people, the average unemployment period was for 22 months. Just 1,4% of unemployed people have been offered an alternative vocational education by the specialized state services. It is worth mentioning that the larger part of unemployed people is not registered (because of lack of sufficiently paid job opportunities and miserable unemployment benefits).



The corruption is perceived as being ubiquitous and intense. According to Transparency International Report 2005, Moldova Corruption Perception Index 2004 for **Moldova is 114** (for example: for Finland 1, Belarus 74, Armenia 82, Albania 108). The same report states that Moldova is among 10 countries in the world reporting the highest level of bribery experience.

The separatist region Transnistria is an insecurity factor that creates economic risks as well. First of all, the conflict compromised the integrity of the economic system inherited from Soviet Socialist Republic of Moldova. Secondly, Transnistria offers opportunities for economic offences and serves as a source of budget losses and an image discredit for the Republic of Moldova. The region is used as a transit zone for illegal export of capital (money laundering), human trafficking and other forms of organized crime.

2. POPULATION

On January 1, 2004 Moldova had a population of 4,320,000 persons, consisting of the following **ethnic groups: 64.5% Moldovans, 13.8% Ukrainians, 13% Russians, 3.5% Gagauzi, 2% Bulgarians, 1.5% Jews and 1.7% other, including Belarussians, Germans, Poles, Turks and Gypsies.**

The population is fairly evenly divided between urban and rural areas (46.6% and 53.4% respectively in 2004).

The major cities of Moldova include the capital city, Chisinau (formerly spelled Kishinev), with 735,000 inhabitants; Tiraspol with 194,000; Balti with 157,000; and Bender (Tighina) with 137,000.

3. CHURCHES REPRESENTED



Central Cathedral and Belfry in Chisinau, Moldova

During soviet time, the Belfry was demolished and only after regaining the independence, following the initiative of renowned people, the Municipality of Chisinau and thousands of citizens, the Belfry was rebuilt and the Cathedral was renovated.

The Constitution of the Republic of Moldova guarantees the religious freedom for its citizens (art. 31). Each citizen has the right to share any religion, individually or in a group, to spread this faith, to exercise their cult either in a private or public, as long as it does not contradict the Constitution and the law in force. The predominant religion is Orthodox Christianity, **which incorporates almost 95% of the entire population of the country¹.**

The Moldovan Orthodox Church is subdivided into 4 dioceses (Chisinau, Edinet and Briceni, Cahul and Lapusna, Dubasari and Tiraspol) and has 1.194 parishes, 1.034 churches, 36 monasteries and 7 hermitages with approximately 5000 priests, deacons, curates, etc.

Following a strong recommendation of the Council of Europe, on July 30, 2002, the Government recognized the Bessarabian Orthodox Church in accordance with the new procedures provided by the Law on Religions, after years of denying it recognition. The Bessarabian Orthodox Church was formed in 1992 when a number of priests broke away from the Moldovan Orthodox

¹ Please see Annex 7. List of confessions registered (State Service on Cults data)

Church, which is subordinate to the Moscow Patriarchate. The Bessarabian Orthodox Church, regarding itself as the legal and canonical successor to the pre-World War II Romanian Orthodox Church in Bessarabia (the territory bounded by the Nistru, Prut, and Danube Rivers and the Black Sea, which most of the present-day Moldova is a part of), is subordinate to the Bucharest Patriarchate of the Romanian Orthodox Church. Bessarabian Metropolitan in Moldova is acknowledged in 195 communities.

Moldovan Christian Evangelic Baptist Church Union has been functioning in Moldova since 20-ties of the last century, being re-registered by the State Department of Cults on May 2, 1995. Baptist Union concludes three dioceses: Northern, Central and South and unites 594 churches and community groups of about 21.100 people across the country. Moldovan Baptist Union is a member of the World Baptist Alliance.

Lutheran Evangelic Church in Moldova has been registered on July 5, 1999 and embraces 7 communities. The St. Nicolai Lutheran community, as autonomic part of the Lutheran Evangelic Church includes 82 members and has been functioning since December 1999. Starting with October 2002 Lutheran Community in Moldova became a member of the European Society of Evangel Dissemiation (Nurnberg, Gemany). In close collaboration with NGO "Einigkeit" the Lutheran community has implemented a number of social and cultural activities for children and adult population.

Roman Catholic Church Diocese has been registered in Moldova on July 19, 1994 and actually serves people in 27 communities. The Catholic Religious Mission CARITAS-Moldova is an organization of humanitarian and charitable character created within the Roman-Catholic Church under the initiative of the Diocesan Bishop. CARITAS-Moldova is a member of Caritas International and Caritas Europe.

The religious traditions of the Orthodox Church are entwined with the culture and patrimony of the country. Many self-professed atheists routinely celebrate religious holidays, cross themselves, and even light candles and kiss icons when local tradition and the occasion demand.

Other faiths in Moldova include Pentecostals, Seventh-day Adventists, Muslims, Jehovah's Witnesses, Baha'is, Jews, followers of Reverend Moon, Molocans (a Russian group), Messianic Jews, Presbyterians, Hare Krishnas, Mormons and other.

According to the State Service on Cults and Religions by April 12, 2005 the Government has recognized 38 religious organizations (cults); however, a number of religious organizations have been denied registration or encountered difficulties in connection with their registration applications. In 1999, amendments to the Law on Religions legalizing proselytism came into effect. However, the law explicitly forbids "abusive proselytizing," which is defined as an attempt to influence an individual's religious faith through violence or abuse of authority.

Foreign missionaries are permitted to enter the country. They experience the same difficulties in obtaining residence permits and customs clearances as other foreign workers.

In 2000 Parliament amended the Law on Education to make **"moral and spiritual" instruction mandatory for primary school students and optional for secondary and university students**. According to the Ministry of Education, "moral and spiritual" education was initiated 3 years ago, but **only on an experimental basis**. The program was introduced gradually, beginning in 2001, for first graders, and then

in 2002 and 2003 for second and third graders, respectively. In some schools, there is a class specifically on religion, although this subject is conditioned on a request and approval by the parents on one hand, and on the sufficient school funds to cover the cost of the course on the other.

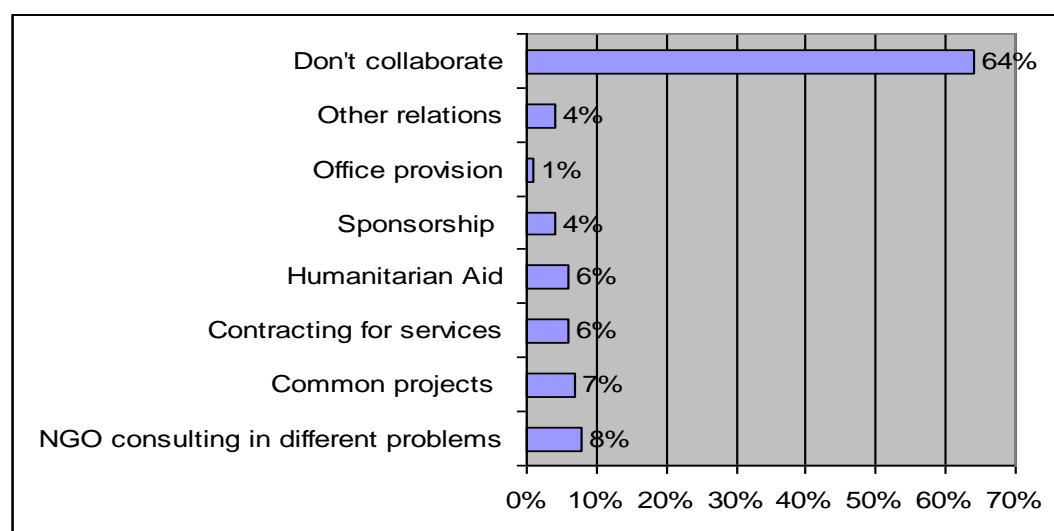
4. RELATIONS OF COOPERATION BETWEEN NGOs AND THE CHURCH

By February 1, 2004, approximately 2800 secular NGOs have been registered. Most of them (65%) represent national NGOs, which according to their statute function on the national level; 35% function on local level. In fact, the majority of NGOs are concentrated in Chisinau, and the organisations that *de jure* are national carry on their activity within Chisinau municipality area.

Not all secular NGOs are equally active. Thus, according to the Study² on the Development of Non-Governmental Organizations in the Republic of Moldova, performed by Contact centre in 2003, approximately 53% of the total number of secular NGOs declared themselves active, while the other 47% exist rather *de jure* than *de facto*. Among active centres are: Chişinău (65% of national NGOs and 16% of local NGOs), Bălţi (31%), Cahul (12%), Soroca (9%), Edinet (8%), and Comrat (6%). This geographical concentration can be explained by the fact that in these communities the secular NGOs have benefited to a greater extent from resource centres' and donors' support. The areas of activity in which the secular NGOs have achieved greater success include: ecology, youth, mass media, gender studies, local public administration, human rights, economic and social development.

Every third NGO has relations of cooperation with the Church. 8% of them are advised in some problems, 7% initiate joint projects with the Church, 6% are requested to offer services and the same number of NGOs are involved in gathering and distributing humanitarian assistance. 5% of NGOs are sponsored and offered premises if necessary by the Church (see Figure 1).

Figure 1. Relations of cooperation between secular NGOs and the Church



It is necessary to mention that unlike the relations of cooperation with other institutions, the secular NGOs are much more satisfied to cooperate with the Churches. Thus 73% of secular NGOs that cooperate with the Church are satisfied

² The Study could be accessed at [http:// www.contact.md](http://www.contact.md)

with their relations with the Church, 23% of secular NGOs are rather not satisfied and 13 % are not satisfied at all.

Half of secular NGOs that are not satisfied with the cooperation with the Church consider that there does not exist an efficient communication (25%) or that traditions of cooperation are lacking (25%). 17 % of NGOs are of the opinion that they do not have common interests with the Church. 6% of NGOs motivated their dissatisfaction by the fact that the Church does not wish to cooperate and the same number of NGOs indicated that they themselves are not ready to cooperate with the Church.

Unlike the secular NGOs, the Church related NGOs provide social activities and once being registered they are actively functioning, in most cases based on the volunteers' work.

To this point the Moldovan State Service on Cults have registered the following church related organisations: 14 religious centres, 14 missions, 6 fraternities, 2 foundations, 5 associations, 5 charitable religious organizations, 13 religious societies. It should be mentioned that the registered faith-based organisations dispose a large number of branches widely distributed across the whole territory of the Republic of Moldova. For example, only social mission of the Bessarabian Orthodox Church for the moment has 41 local branches.

II. MOLDOVA PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMME

1. BRIEF HISTORY OVERVIEW

Moldova Partnership Programme is a joint, relatively new initiative of Moldavian Churches, WCC Eastern Europe Office and WCC related international agencies to strengthen new ways of cooperation for church related social, development, capacity building and advocacy initiatives in Moldova and to provide platform of information sharing, coordination, cooperation and partnership.

Several study visits have been accomplished by WCC Eastern Europe Office since the beginning of 2002. The main findings of Moldova **first study visit, May 15-20, 2002** demonstrated there were no existing inter-church mechanisms or structures for regular contacts & cooperation among churches in Moldova. Moldavian churches and partners remained relatively isolated from international partnership but there was willingness and readiness of all visited church leaders for inter church cooperation on the social and development levels.

Second study visit, March 4-9, 2003 and **third study visit, June 1-4, 2003**³ focused on agreement with local partners on possible forms of cooperation and priority sectors of future involvement. The main guidelines for Moldova Partnership Programme (MPP) have been agreed and recommended as follow:

Overall objective:

- to assist "people in need " through churches and related organizations

Specific objectives:

- to "equip" churches and related organizations to fulfil their mission in social and development fields (mainly through increasing their capacities for future sustainability)

³ Full reports on Moldova study visits and MPP annual meetings are available upon request at WCC EEO

- to help churches and related organizations in development of project initiatives in priority sectors (hubs).

In accordance with previous consultations with local partners, Moldova Partnership Pilot Programme (2003-2004) was founded on four pillars:

- **Social protection** – starting from care for elderly;
- **Unemployment reduction** – starting from development of accessible credit schemes and job creation (likely to include the agro-processing plants, the small enterprise sector and service sector);
- **Capacity Building** – starting from development of management skills for projects and small business (but also stimulate the voluntary associations and co-operation among farmers and the restructuring of the agro-processing plants);
- **Information & Advocacy** – starting from anti-trafficking in women initiatives.

The first Moldova Partnership Meeting (October 30-31, 2003) gathered 44 participants representing local churches (Moldavian Orthodox Church, Bessarabian Metropolia of the Romanian Orthodox Church, Roman Catholic Church/Caritas Moldova, Baptist Union in Moldova, Lutheran community in Chisinau), church related organizations, secular NOGs, state authorities, WCC and related agencies (HEKS/Switzerland and ICCO/Netherlands). Participants discussed and agreed on MPP platform of cooperation (status, decision making process, basic criteria for pilot projects, responsibilities of hubs representing priority sectors) and elected MPP hub members.

The second Moldova Partnership Meeting (April 24-27, 2004) gathered 54 participants representing local churches (Moldavian Orthodox Church, Bessarabian Orthodox Church, Roman Catholic Church/Caritas Moldova, Baptist Union in Moldova and Lutheran community in Chisinau), church related organizations, secular NGOs, WCC, Conference of European Churches, HEKS/Switzerland, Church of Sweden, ICCO/Netherlands, Catholic Relief Service/USA (partly only) and AIDROM. The meeting agenda included short presentation of the Moldova current situation, presentations of the local partners' initiatives, working groups on four priority sectors and field visits. A number of recommendations for 2004 have been agreed and new MPP hub members elected⁴. Participants were able to take part in field visits to monitor implementation of the selected pilot projects.

As an initiative of the local partners the MPP structure development workshop has been organised on **June 17-24, 2004** (conducted by local NGO - CREDO). There were 5 local Churches represented: Moldavian Orthodox Church, Bessarabian Orthodox Church, Baptist Union in Moldova, Catholic Church in Moldova represented by Caritas-Moldova and the Lutheran Community. All participants agreed on creation of the hub-linked structure – Inter Church Social Council, and eventually a division of tasks and responsibilities between Council and hubs has been done.

Unfortunately, the hub-based structure has not proved to be an efficient form of cooperation. Lack of transparency, communication, mechanisms of hub interaction became the real pitfalls, impeding a constructive collaboration development. For example, from 22 hub members elected just 12-13 have been genuinely engaged in to the hub work during 2004 year. All problems mentioned above lead to necessity of adjustment of the existing structure in accordance with the MPP objectives.

⁴ The complete reports on Moldova Partnership Meetings 2003 and 2004 are available upon request at WCC EEO.

In spite of mentioned difficulties, the initiated Church collaboration brought the whole series of positive attitudes and results:

1. WCC Moldova Partnership Programme became a real “icebreaker” tool. Local churches, having been isolated earlier, were given the opportunity to get to know each other better. Initiated inter-church collaboration in the social, capacity building, development and advocacy sectors have started a confidence building process and could significantly contribute to consolidation of all Moldavian churches efforts in combating poverty and injustices.
2. Local churches (represented by their social/development structures) in spite of the encountered problems are ready to set up mid-term goals and follow the common strategy of implementation.
3. The information activities started from dissemination of information about the new opportunities of inter-church collaboration at the grassroots’ level. Feedback will provide a basis for the MPP website creation.
4. The first steps on capacity building included 2 PCM/LFA workshops (6 and 8 days) and 2 Organisational strengthening workshops. 6 representatives of the local partners participated in 5 training courses provided by the Management of Development Foundation (the Netherlands) within WCC EEO Capacity Building Programme for Central & Eastern Europe. Moreover, about 65 individual consultancies on project management were offered. All those mentioned actions resulted in 46 application gathered during 2003-2004 period.
5. To increase awareness building and promote local and international cooperation of anti-trafficking initiatives in Moldova the international workshop on trafficking in women has been held in Chisinau, September 7 – 12, 2004. The workshop was organized jointly by CEC, WCC EEO and “Christian Action and Networking against Trafficking in Women” (CAT).
6. The first projects implemented have demonstrated the changes brought into each community as the results of local inhabitants’ involvement. People participated in project implementation gained some basic skills and experience. The implemented projects will serve as models and sources of inspiration for others and enhance the participation of the people at the grass root level in community problem solving through consolidation of existing community resources.
7. The social initiatives, implemented by the local Churches and Church related NGOs have contributed to the restoration of the Christian values and church charity traditions. The projects beneficiaries have participated in Church activities, the role of the faith in their lives has increased as well.
8. Common projects have strengthened the cooperation between church, civil society actors, business, public sector and local authorities at the community level. The partnerships initiated provide necessary premises for projects’ sustainability and ensure durability of the results attained.

2. MOLDOVAN PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM INITIATIVES 2003-2004.

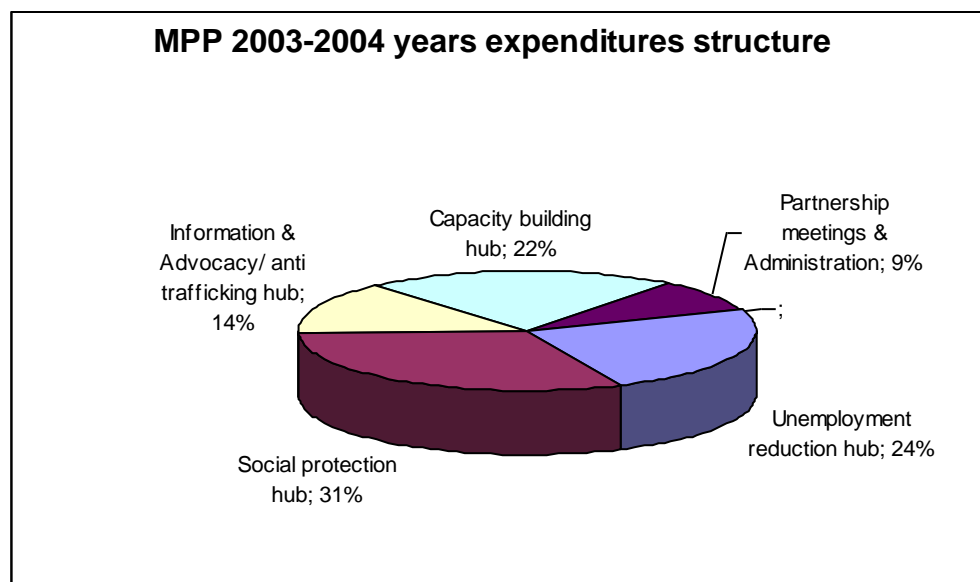
(All figures are in EURO)

A.	MPP Opening balance 2003:	9.631,96
B.	MPP incomes 2003-2004:	140.834,98
	WCC/Switzerland	45.489,82
	Finnchurch Aid/Finland	45.214,98
	Church of Sweden Aid/Sweden	11.575,70
	Global Ministries UCN/ Netherlands	4.500,00
	Heks Swiss Interchurch Aid	14.036,35
	ICCO/ Netherlands	20.000,00
C.	MPP Expenditures 2003-2004 ⁵ :	149.425,67
	Social protection hub	47.011,00
	Capacity building hub	32.637,42
	Information & Advocacy/ anti trafficking hub	19.399,41
	Unemployment reduction hub	36.146,00
	Partnership meetings & administration	14.033,09
D.	MPP local partners own contribution (cash and kind):	74.625,00
E.	MPP Closing balance 2004:	331,77

Simplified version (for more details please see full MPP financial report enclosed)

In the course of 2003-2004 years 23 project initiatives from the 54 submitted by the local partners have been supported within MPP. The overall cost of the local partners projects (excluding partnership meetings and administration costs) is **EURO 209,818,83** (EURO 135.193,83 were offered from the MPP budget and 74,625,00 was local partners cash and in kind contribution).

Figure 2. MPP 2003-2004 expenditures structure (own partners contributions are not included).



The structural analysis of the MPP expenditures in 2003-2004 demonstrates the almost equal distribution of funds among two hubs: unemployment reduction (24%) and capacity building hub (22%). Social protection hub constituted about 31% of MPP expenditures. The anti trafficking hub called less project initiatives from the

⁵ Bank charges, interest rates and exchange differences are not included.

local partners due to specific expertise required (just 14% from the MPP expenditures budget part).

In order to respond the human development needs existed a part of the capacity building budget was directed to the training and development of the local partners, including participation in international events, trainings and study visits. During 2003-2004 years 10 representatives of the MPP constituency church social structures have possibility to acquire necessary skills in project management, tailor made training, organizational development, ecumenical partnership building, external evaluation, PR & fundraising etc, as well as to learn from the experiences of their colleagues from the other countries.

Observing the priorities and budget's distribution between MPP **local partners project initiatives** during 2003-2004 the following tendencies could be noticed (see Figure 3):

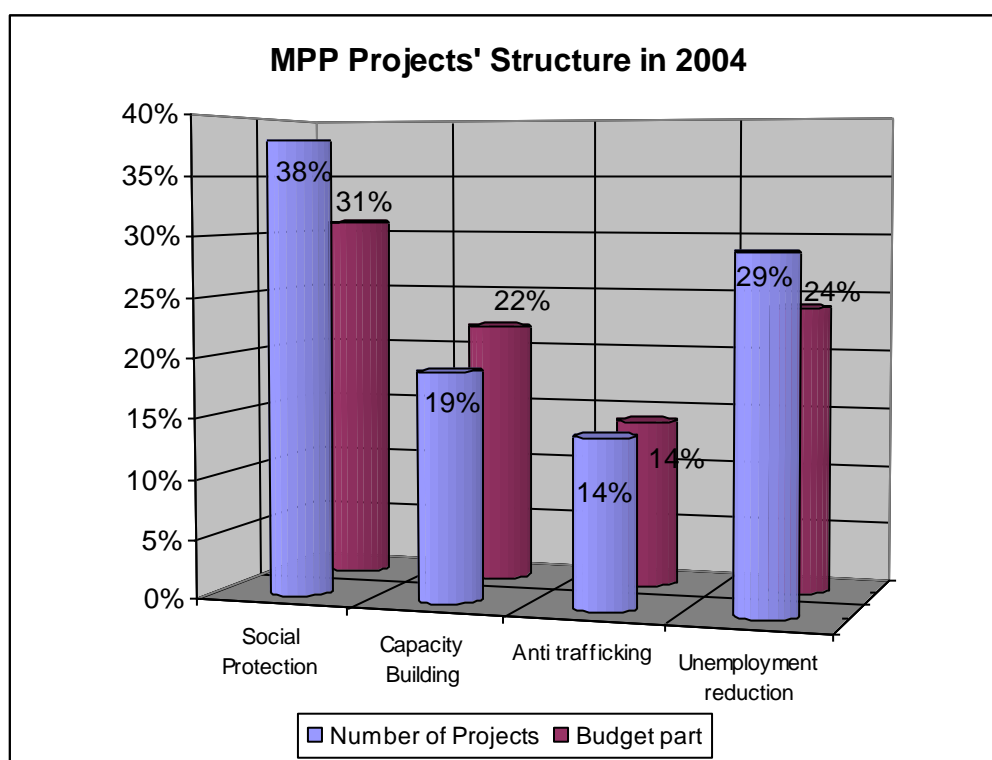


Figure 3. MPP Projects' structure in 2003-2004

38% of local partners initiatives were implemented under **Social Protection** priority sector, that could be explained by the traditional orientation of the Church to the direct assistance for the most vulnerable groups of the society. The financial support offered constitutes **EURO 47.011,00** or **31%** from the overall MPP financial support provided to the local partners' projects.

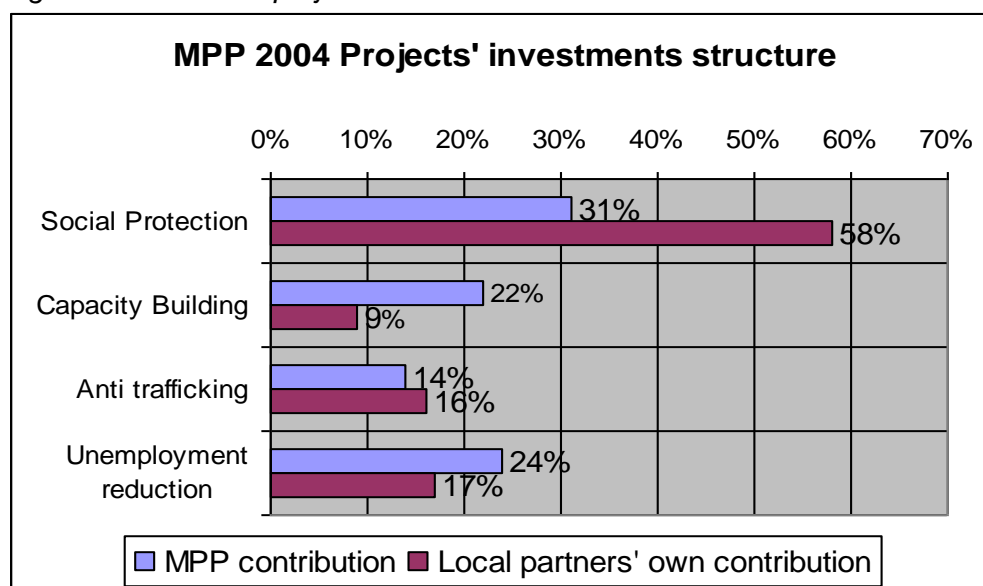
Unemployment reduction became the second ranked direction of the local partners' implication. Partners initiatives approved represent **29%** from the overall number of the projects and occupy **24%** of the budget (**EURO 36.146,00**). It might be explained by the growing interest of the local partners to income generating initiatives, which could become the real pillars for the social activities and could lay a basis for the financial sustainability of the projects.

The **Capacity Building** initiatives usual doesn't demonstrate the immediate results, the implementation of such projects takes more time, needs more investments and requires implication of the high qualified specialists. The secular training centers existed don't provide services to the church staff, there are no proper training providers specialized on ecumenical project management, therefore the number of the initiatives submitted by the local partners was relatively small, constituted **19%** from the overall number of the local partners' projects. Total cost of the projects is EURO 25.443,00, WCC MPP contribution - **EURO 19.399,41**, that constituted **22%** from financial support provided to the local partners projects.

Anti- trafficking hub supported **14 %** of total projects number, the amount of **EURO 19.399,41 (14% of total budget)** has been offered from the MPP budget. Anti-trafficking initiatives often are closely linked with vocational education and jobs creation, but differ from by the intensive information campaigns, primary focused on trafficking prevention issues. The churches and related organizations have less experience on information campaigns organizations than NGO and need more awareness building, information, capacity building and best practice exchange initiatives as well as partners, specializing on the work with respective focus group. Almost project initiatives of the local churches and church related NGOs were the first elaborated by.

The in-depth examinations of the MPP local partners' project costs structure vividly shows which projects better benefit from the use of proper resources and where is a need for the external grant for the 2-3 years establishment stage (see Figure 4).

Figure 4. MPP 2004 projects investments structure.

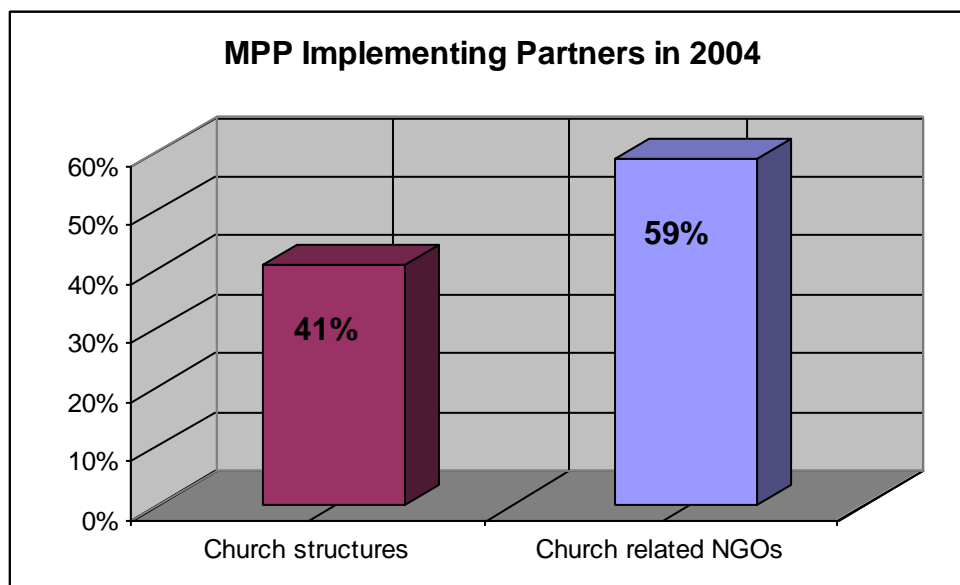


The projects developed under social development hub have the biggest part (about 58 %) of the own contributions, what could be explained by the predomination of the in-kind contribution (including volunteer services) raising capacity of the church related organization, working in the local communities. The local fundraising is quite undeveloped due to the lack of basic fundraising skills of local coordinators and poverty factor.

The rest of the hubs project initiative require considerable investments in the necessary equipment & human potential capacity building while the local church related organizations are able to cover maintaining costs to provide project self sustainability.

The analysis of the MPP implementing partners (see Figure 5) revealed the prevailing of the church related organizations, what could be explained by the lack of social project management experience of the church structures while the church related NGOs are very active and often develop the common initiatives in collaboration with the secular non-profits.

Figure 5. MPP Implementing Partners in 2003-2004.

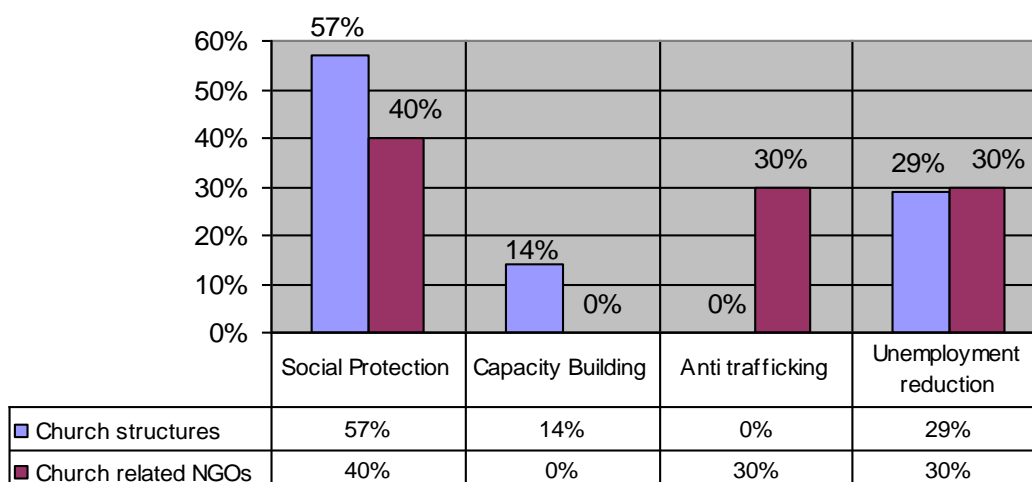


The main areas of church structures intervention (see Figure 6) are social protection (57% from the overall number of projects developed by the church structures), unemployment reduction (29 %) and capacity building (14%). Unfortunately, there is no initiative of the church structures developed under anti trafficking hub, what could be explained by the lack of well prepared staff knowing how to work in that, relatively new for churches, sector (the international workshop organized in September 2004 might contribute to build awareness, get direct contacts, gain trust and promote partnership).

Unlikely the church structures, the church related NGOs are quite active in anti trafficking, the bigger part of initiatives developed so far was closely related with unemployment reduction direction (by reducing the causes of migration – lack of jobs in the community). The quite big quota of social protection initiatives developed by the NGOs (40%) just one more time certifies the close liaison between them and church structures, but vary from by more small income generation orientation. The capacity building hub has not been in the focus of NGOs attention so far.

Figure 6. Structure of MPP 2003-2004 Projects by Implementers.

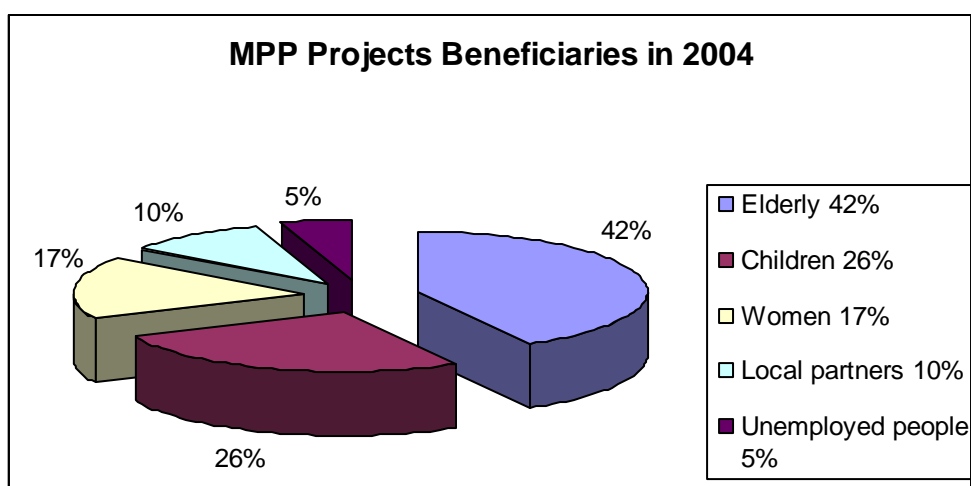
Structure of MPP Projects by Implementers



The main focus groups (see Figure 7) of the MPP 2003-2004 initiatives are elderly people (42%) and children (26%), who remain the most vulnerable in the prolonging economical crisis conditions. Women from the at trafficking risk group (17%) are targeted by the anti trafficking and unemployment reduction direction initiatives, while the broader group “unemployment people” (5%) constitutes just a small part of the job creation projects (the priority has been given to the most marginalized and helpless groups of the Moldovan society).

The “local partner” beneficiary group (about 10 %) represents the focus of capacity building initiatives and constituted from the church staff engaged in the charity activities and social assistance.

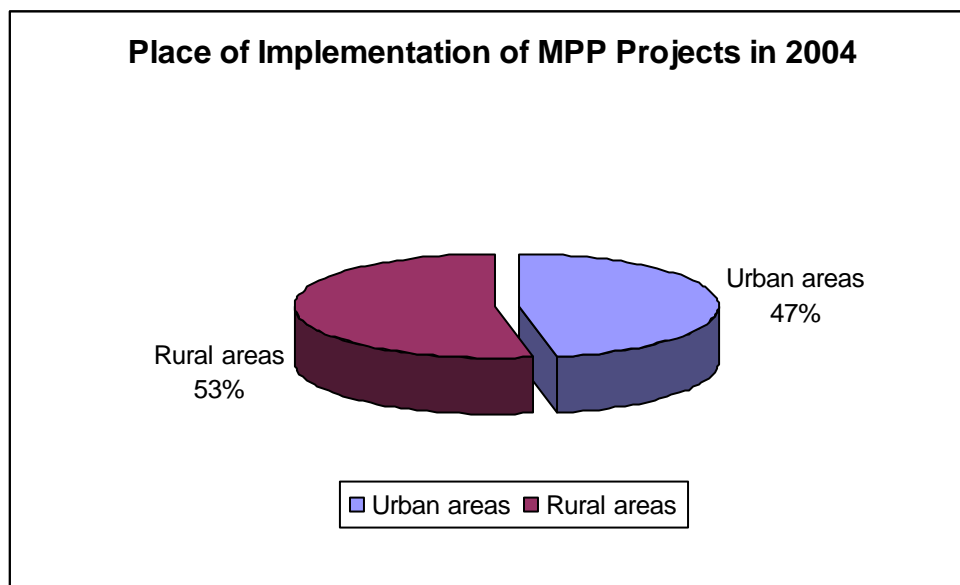
Figure 7. MPP Projects' Beneficiaries in 2003-2004 years.



The division by the place of MPP 2003-2004 projects implementation represents the predomination of the projects realised in the rural areas (53%), where the poverty level is much bigger (about 86% of poor) than in cities and the population is suffering from the limited access to the basic medical, social and education services.

It should be mentioned that in the urban areas part (47%) were included projects implemented in small towns (up to 20 000 people population), which in Moldova conditions not pretty much differ from the villages by the social infrastructure existed in.

Figure 8. Places of implementation of MPP Project Initiatives in 2003-2004 years.



The analysis of the geographical distribution (see Figure 9) of the MPP projects implemented in 2003-2004 vividly shows concentration of the initiatives in central part of the republic, mainly in Chisinau and nearby communities. It could be explained by the fact, that organizations from the indicated areas are more active due to easier access to information and availability of the resources. The same time the character of the projects realized clear indicate on lacks of capacity building and anti trafficking initiative in South and Eastern part of the republic, representing the most vulnerable to these issues regions. It is also advisable to enhance information and capacity building actions in the Gagauzia and Transnistria regions. The common project initiative could serve as a basis for the experience exchange and a confidence building among church structures and other parts of civil society sector in Moldova.

The unemployment reduction projects have been extremely welcomed by the all communities and the *Figure 9* demonstrates its' comparative equal distribution across the country.

Figure 9. Geographical distribution of the MPP projects in 2003-2004 years.



Social protection initiatives are bringing the immediate relief to the people assisted, but could be run just by well established organizations, because often requires mobilization of the community volunteer resources and closely cooperation with local public authorities, state departments and business sector for ensuring project financial sustainability. The geographical distribution of these projects once more time confirms a fact that the associative sector is more developed in the central and northern part of the Republic, nearby the biggest cities like Chisinau and Beltsy. However, the umbrella organizations and new networking initiatives could enhance the rural organizations' potential and provide them the support needed.

III. SUMMARY OF PROJECT REPORTS

1. Social Protection hub

Background information

According to the data presented by the president of National Social Security Fund Ms. Tamara Shumskaia about **768 000** people in Moldova benefit actually from pensions and different allowances. In January–December 2004 the average pension in agriculture sphere constituted **219 lei (\$17,4)**, for the rest of elderly **246 lei (\$19,5)**.

Even after January 1, 2005 increase of 18% in the average pension level does not cover the basic needs in old age. The ration of the average pension to the average wage has been declining and is the third lowest in CIS.

There are inequitable pension payments and contributions: A privileged few – 2% of all pensioners – receive as much as 14% of total pensions. This group includes 11 professional groups, i.e. the military, prosecutors, custom officers, civil servants, Chernobyl workers, members of parliament, government and locally elected officials. The share of these special pensions has increased as a share of social assistance payments from 5.4 to 9.2% between 1999 and 2003, while the total share of pensions declined from 69 to 67%. Similarly, some groups including agricultural workers and the self-employed enjoy preferential contribution rates. Agricultural workers pay about 15 percent of all contributions but receive about half of all pensions.

The deterioration of the health sector services is typically rated as the third most serious problem (after poverty and corruption) in public surveys. Moldova is one of four countries in Eastern Europe/Central Asia with the highest incidence of HIV/Aids.

Poor families have little access to health services and are often unable to treat serious or chronicle illness. The mixture of formal and informal payments puts care beyond reach of the poorest and survey data indicate that the poorest 20% is 70% less likely to receive care than the national average.

The shortages in equipment and medicine as well as low salaries have reinforced the long tradition of gifts to medical staff in exchange for special attention, and created a system of private medicine within the public system. Hospitalized patients often have to provide everything needed for the stay, including medicine, bed linen and even blood for surgery. A Unicef study shows that 50% of hospitalized patients incurred debt or sold assets to pay for the services, and 30% of people requiring medical service could not afford to access it.

Moldova inherited a costly and extensive health care system from the Soviet era. Hospital and specialized care were well funded at the expense of primary and emergency care, and utility and maintenance costs were very high. Restructuring of the sector began only in the late 1990's when private provision of some medical services was allowed, fees for publicly provided services were introduced, a law on minimum free health provision was passed and new methods for health provision and financing were debated. 180 hospitals and several hundred other health clinics have been closed and staff numbers reduced by 22,000. A family doctor system has been launched, trying to re-allocate more resources to primary and emergency services. Resources for primary care increased from 25 to 42% between 1997 and 2001 and the share of salaries increased to 42% but remains extremely low and sometimes not paid on time.

Health system reform outcomes need to be improved by continued reinforcement of primary and emergency care and strengthening of **equal access** to services. One possibility is the introduction of a “basic package of care” with access for all. A health insurance scheme was introduced in mid 2003, but it is being implemented with the very tight financial constraints.

Partners' initiatives implemented⁶:

MO/002 -Soup Kitchen for elderly people

All figures are in EURO

Cooperation partner	St. Gheorghe Orthodox Fraternity	
Responsible for the project	Pavel Gheorghe Vuluta	
Contact details	Tel: (0373 252) 2 21 41; Alternative tel: (0373 252) 2 56 59 Mobile: 079559573 Fax: (0252) 2 06 00	
Place of implementation	Moldova, Drochia Town	
Opening balance 2004		0,00
MPP contribution in 2004		4.000,00
Local partner own contribution in 2004		509,00
Expenditures from MPP in 2004		4.006,00
Expenditures from own contribution in 2004		509,00
Closing balance 2004		0,00

Summary information on the project results:

The Orthodox Fraternity “St. Gheorghe” was created on July 19, 2002 in the small town Drochia, situated in the northern part of the republic. Since the very beginning Fraternity started providing charitable assistance to the most marginalized and vulnerable strata of the local community. There were several social initiatives successfully implemented by the members of the Fraternity so far.

“Soup Kitchen for solitary elderly people” - the first project submitted to the World Council of Churches was implemented in July-December 2004.



Orthodox cathedral and St. Gheorghe Orthodox fraternity staff and volunteers

The project purpose was to improve the living conditions of the elderly people by improving their nutrition and providing to them basic medical consultation and opportunity to communicate to other people.

Target group of the project is represented by 50 single elderly people from Drochia town, aged over 60, having monthly pension less than 15 Euro.

⁶ Detailed project reports are available on request from WCC EEO or directly from WCCEEO consultant for MPP.

Project activities started with partial renovation of the future kitchen rooms and installation of the autonomous heating system. The following equipment and furniture were purchased and installed: cooking battery and crockery, gas stove, oven, refrigerator and 50 sets of tableware.

Starting with July 1, 2004, 50 solitary elderly people have hot meals at soup kitchen twice per week and on holidays, being served by 6 church volunteers. Additional meals were organised for 10 jobless people from numerous families. Other 10 persons were served at their homes.

As planned soup kitchen was placed within the social centre functioning near to the "Adormirea Maicii Domnului" Cathedral. The social centre includes a library, meeting room and a medical office. The elderly were examined by the nurse on a regular basis and a number of medicines (mostly for fito-therapy) and consultancies were provided for free. The hygiene and sanitary conditions of the soup kitchen were checked by the nurse as well.

The social centre library served beneficiaries of different ages and interests, each of them having the personal account card. In order to facilitate the communication among solitary people a number of self-help groups were organised and moderated by the church volunteers, where elderly people could receive spiritual and humanitarian aid needed.



Christmas charity meal for the children from the boarding school

Girls from the boarding school serving the elderly at the soup kitchen

An other direction of project activities was an initiated collaboration with the boarding school from the community. 15 girls of 15-16 years age from boarding school have been trained in cookery during 6 months at the Soup Kitchen. Girls provided assistance in organising meals and have been actively involved in socialising activities for elderly. Each of girls has made by herself an apron and handkerchief - the uniform they used to wear at soup kitchen. The trainees organised and served the Christmas meal for the other children from the boarding school. Children and elderly have been invited by the ethno-folk group „Tincuța” for the organized joint festivities at Christmas.



Humanitarian aid distribution



Girls from the boarding school at the lesson

The project team intends to continue activities started. Plans for the future include enlargement of the number of beneficiaries by including persons of different ages and social status (children, numerous families, homeless persons) and further development of vocational education for the children from the boarding school by establishing collaboration with the Industrial College from Beltsy. In order to ensure a financial sustainability of the project (mainly to cover food costs) the following actions were undertaken: different products were canned and stored for the wintertime and a request for rent of land was submitted to the local administration. Own agriculture products will considerably reduce costs of the meals.

Organised self-help group proved to be an efficient mean in creation of confidence atmosphere among project beneficiaries. There are clear indicators of themes diversification necessity for the future.

MO/004 Home care services for solitary elderly people

All figures are in EURO

Cooperation partner	Association of the Orthodox Students (AOS).	
Responsible for the project	The priest Octavian Mosin, chairman AOS.	
Contact details	Tel.: + 3732 – 56-86-19; Alternative tel.: + 3732 – 57-78-25 Mobile: + 3732 – 794-81-586 Fax: +3732 – 72-33-07 E-mail: mosin@mail.md ; altarul@mail.ru .	
Place of implementation	Chisinau, Republic of Moldova.	
Opening balance 2004		0,00
MPP contribution in 2004		3.500,00
Local partner own contribution in 2004		1.050,00
Expenditures from MPP in 2004		3.500,00
Expenditures from own contribution in 2004		1.050,00
Closing balance 2004		0,00

Summary information on project results:

Project aimed at development of self-sustainable homecare services. An initiative of the Association of the Orthodox Students (AOS) has been implemented in partnership with Church "Intimpinarea Domului" from Chisinau.

Following the implementation strategy chosen with a financial support of the MPP the following equipment was bought: copier/printer, computer, scanner, UPS and paper. The equipment was installed and a number of booklets, handouts, information leaflets, and small books were distributed by parishioners and significantly contributed to consolidation of Association efforts for spiritual values restoration and development among members of young generation.

In order to cover operational expenses of homecare services the Association of the Orthodox Students (AOS) organised the copying services, which are less costly for the members of Association as being required from the other students and provide a permanent source of small income (which is spent for project focus group, but also gives some sustainability for such student social work).

During project implementation period (12 months) 24 persons, including 18 solitary elderly people and 6 young people with disabilities, have benefited from different services provided at their homes. 19 volunteers of the Association visited each person at least twice a week, helping in house holding activities, bringing meals, assisting in visiting Church. 3 persons received a financial support of 450 lei needed for getting the ID documents.



Children from the boarding school



Charitable meal for the children from the boarding school

Additionally to homecare services the Association has initiated collaboration with Boarding school # 1 from Chisinau. 11 children from the boarding school twice per week visited church, participated in church activities and benefited from charitable meals. Association intends to extend its work with the children from boarding school in the future and to involve more young people in church activities participation.

MO/005 "Home care for elderly Raciula village, orthodox convent."

All figures are in EURO

Cooperation partner	"Nasterea Maicii Domnului" convent	
Responsible for the project	Mother laurentia (Lidia Borta)	
Contact details	Tel. (0 373 2) 244 64 256	
Place of implementation	Raciula Village, Calarasi district, Moldova	
Opening balance 2003		0,00
MPP contribution in 2003		3.000,00
Local partner own in-kind contribution in 2004		11.570,00
Expenditures from MPP in 2003 & 2004 together		3.000,00
Expenditures from own contribution in 2004		11.570,00
Closing balance 2004		0,00

Summary information on project results:

Project aimed at improving living conditions of the elderly nuns from the convent. Project strategy anticipated optimisation and minimisation of the volume of the work done manually by the nuns by equipping the convent staff with the necessary devices, which should allow them to increase sustainability and quality of service offered to elderly.

The agriculture equipment bought allowed to reduce significantly manual work in daily serving of 12 cows and cultivating fruits, vegetables and crops on approx. 6 ha of the convent land. 200 metres of water pipeline and sewage system have been installed, which allowed to organise laundry facilities. The installed automat washing machine daily washed approximately 10 kg of bed linens and clothes. Undertaken activities saved time and efforts of 8 nuns, earlier involved in that work.

Other direction of the work was the installation of the gas pipeline and heating system in the nuns' houses. Taking into consideration that the houses are very old, it has been decided to build ovens, which could also work on the gas. 1500 bricks were purchased for that purpose. Ovens will be finished in 2005 for 3 houses, each with 3 rooms.

Due to mechanisation of the work convent staff could spend more time assisting 25 elderly sick and even succeed to adopt 3 more elderly persons to the convent. The number of the services provided increased as well as quality of the assistance improved. Needy assisted in house holding, personal care and health care. Convent nurse provided medical services for 5 persons on a daily basis.

As a result of these efforts 12 nuns started to sew nuns' dresses, each of them made 7-8 dresses per month. 1 nun began to draw icons; on average 15 icons per month are made and given to the assisted elderly. Project follow-up foresees providing homecare assistance to the elderly from the nearby village.

MO/006 «Social Laundry and bath»

All figures are in EURO

Cooperation partner	Social Mission "Diaconia"
Responsible for the project	Zagorodniuc Gheorghe
Contact details	Tel: 373 22 2112 63 Alternative tel: Mobile: 373 692 50950 Fax: 373 22 211018 E-mail: office@diaconia-md.org
Place of implementation	Ulm , district Ialoveni, Republic of Moldova
Opening balance 2004	260,00
MPP contribution in 2004	4.500,00
Local partner own contribution in 2004	0,00
Expenditures from MPP in 2004	4.760,00
Expenditures from own contribution in 2004	0,00
Closing balance 2004	0,00

Summary information on project results:

There was not a single bath or laundry in nearby villages and present project initiative could offer an affordable solution of the problem for the poorest strata of the community.

Project purpose was to provide satisfactory sanitary conditions for 40 solitary elderly people from Ulmu, which are suffering from different chronic illnesses.

Project team built a positive image and gained confidence of a major community stakeholders. Local public administration offered the room for the laundry free of charge. Requested financial support was for the equipment costs.

Project activities foresaw that in the laundry and bath 15 volunteers, 2 nurses and 2 laundresses would be serving 40 needy per month and about 20 people from the community on a commercial basis. Accumulated financial means will cover laundry running costs and will contribute to the financial sustainability of the project.

Due to delay of instalment (mid of December 2004) and impossibility to begin renovation activities in the winter time the project actions were rescheduled for three moths. All necessary equipment, furniture and construction material were purchased and renovation of laundry and bath started in April 2005.

MO/008 The Public Laundry "Listen to the hearts of elderly people"

All figures are in EURO

Cooperation partner	"SOARTA" NGO
Responsible for the project	Asea Railean Monk Stefan
Contact details	Republic of Moldova Tel: 373 230 24502 or 373 230 22365 Mobile: 373 691 82226 Fax: 373 230 23860 E-mail: asear@mail.ru
Place of implementation	Soroca town, Moldova
Opening balance 2003	140,00

MPP contribution in 2003-2004	7.000,00
Local partner own contribution in 2004	2.370,00
Expenditures from MPP in 2004	7.143,60
Expenditures from own contribution in 2003-2004	2.370,00
Closing balance 2004	0,00

Summary information on project results:

The public laundry from Soroca town addressed one of the most important problems of lonely elderly people – the healthcare problems, which resulted from lack of possibility to maintain the personal hygiene.

Activities aimed at reducing the number of sickness of different skin diseases among the lonely, bed-ridden elderly from town Soroca started with laundry office renovation works and installation of two water pumps. The 7 washing machines were bought.



The laundry personnel at ironing



Bed linen is prepared to be delivered to the beneficiaries

The public laundry started to work on February 1, 2004, on a daily basis, starting from 8.00 till 6.00 p.m. with no days off. Besides lonely elderly people, who did not pay for the services, the laundry offered service to other people from the town, which allowed to cover partially the running costs.

120 elderly people (older 60 years); poor (with the monthly incomes less than 10 \$); lonely and bed-ridden from town Soroca (about 60% - women; 40% - men) were served by the 20 selected volunteers, who visited beneficiaries twice per week. Each beneficiary could wash about 10 kilos of linen and clothes monthly.

Taking into consideration that the opened laundry is the first one in the town a great demand for laundry services was noticed since the very beginning. The volume of the work increased considerably and it was necessarily to employ 3 laundresses instead of 2 as planned. Additionally, an accountant was hired.



First field visit to the laundry in April 2004

Guests are discussing with the local priest

In order to ensure the financial sustainability of the project laundry services were offered to other people from the community. For example, from the 65 people served in the two months were gathered 150 Euro.

However, a number of unpredictable problems were recorded during the project implementation. For example, great demand for laundry services lead to increasing staff number, fiscal authorities requested cash register installation, which negatively influenced project operating costs. It was revealed that bed linens of the poor are extremely dilapidated and project team is seeking also for the donors who could cover costs of 240 bed linen sets for the poorest elderly.

All problems mentioned above could be solved by increasing the laundry functioning potential, what requires mechanisation of the part of work done manually, for example ironing. Additional devices installation will allow to serve more people from the community and reach self-sustainability.

MO /009 Public Canteen “Mercifully and Pitifully”

All figures are in EURO

Cooperation partner	Public Association “Fate” in partnership with the church from Cotova
Responsible for the project	Ioan Grigoraş / Asea Răileanu
Contact details	Tel:373 252 62239 Alternative tel:373 230 24502 Mobile: 373 69182226 Fax:373 230 23860 E-mail:beliefandjustice@yahoo.com
Place of implementation	Cotova village, Drochia district, Moldova
Opening balance 2003	0,00
MPP contribution in 2003	1.500,00
Local partner own contribution in 2004	4.650,00
Expenditures from MPP in 2004	1.500,00
Expenditures from own contribution in 2004	4.650,00
Closing balance 2004	0,00

Summary information on project results:

Project goal was to improve the living conditions of the poor lonely elderly people from the Cotova village by offering them the possibility to have hot meals for free at the Public Canteen. Project focus group embraced 20 people, older than 60, with an average pension of 16 USD per month.

After renovation of the canteen office, equipment purchasing and instalment in consultation with local Orthodox Church, the mayoralty and Health Centre the beneficiary list was elaborated. The canteen opened on February 1, 2004. During the whole project implementation period 20 elderly people had warm lunch every day, being served by 2 canteen workers. The representatives of mayoralty and Health Centre have controlled the hygienic conditions and nutrition standard of meals.

Since the very beginning of the initiative the project team strived to develop the public awareness on the problems of elderly. The Public Association "Fate" organised the information campaign and invited all community stakeholders to the participation in implementation of the project.

However, some problems related to the shortage of flour in Moldova occurred last year. A lot of the local crop fields have been frosted, the reserve of flour was not sufficient to persist risk period and supply the Canteen with the bread regularly. There were some periods of offering meals to the elderly without bread.

To avoid the similar situation for the future the Public Association "Fate" has established collaboration with the Medical Centre from Moldova, which will provide canteen with food further. In addition the possibility to have a small farm is actually being examined by the project team.

The Public Canteen could serve as a model of charity activities for other organisations from this region. In order to motivate people in solving the social problems of the community "Fate" association members in collaboration with the local church have organized monthly "soul hours" for poor with disabilities and lonely people. The local entrepreneurs and mayoralty representatives have been invited for those activities.

Conclusions:

1. The lack of social project realization experience of the church organizations led to appearance of the some risks, which not having been foreseen at the planning stage in some cases impeded the desirable impact attainment.
2. The destroyed local social infrastructure causes a great demand for the social services in the community and almost all implemented projects were extremely solicited by the inhabitants. Driven by the growing number of the requests the project implementers became captured within the limited project timeframes.
3. The moral and spiritual relief provided together with social assistance represents the added value of the all projects realized by the churches and make a real difference for the beneficiaries.

Recommendations:

1. There is a strong need to organize the social assistance on the well planned basis, which could ensure the effectiveness and sustainability of the results, in other words to move from “problem solving” to management by objectives.
2. Creation of the specialized resource centre and informational networks will contribute to consolidation of efforts of churches and church related NGOs in assisting people in need.
2. To identify effective collaboration mechanisms between churches and local public authorities in social projects realization.
3. To strengthen the MPP role in lobbying and advocacy of the Church- Partners social activities at the local and national level.

2. HUMAN DEVELOPMENT & CAPACITY BUILDING HUB

Background information

There are numerous theological institutes, seminaries, and other places of religious education throughout the country. The religious personnel is mainly trained within the Chisinau Theological Academy, Theological Seminary (“Noul Neamt Monastery”, in Chitcani), the Spiritual Lyceum for girls (Suruceni Monastery), the Spiritual Lyceum for boys (“Nasterea Domnului” Monastery, in Zabriceni). However, not a single one from the mentioned above has been providing the social assistance education so far.

Upon the initiative of the WCC EEO two training workshop courses on Project Cycle Management and Logical Framework Approach were organized to raise the capacity of the local partners to elaborate and run projects.

Within the first **PCM/LFA training** organized by CREDO on **December 7-13, 2003** 24 representatives of the local church structures and church related NGOs were trained and guided in developing social initiatives by the two trainers: Serghei Gotin (WCC EEO consultant) and Lilia Bulat. As a result 16 projects were elaborated; including 13 projects which received financial support⁷.

Following the strong interest in project development issues the second **PCM/LFA workshop** organized by Moldavian Metropolitan on **April 12-23, 2004** gathered 32 participants from the whole territory of the Republic. The methodology of the training was adjusted to the specific profile of the initiatives brought up by the 4 church representatives. The workshop participants have immediately applied the skills gained and involved other team members into the project elaboration process. In addition to the training activities the trainer offered about 65 individual consultancies requested. The efforts undertaken resulted in 24 project proposals submitted to the hub members. 4 projects received financial support in December 2004, 7 coming will be funded in 2005.

⁷ Detailed report on activity is available upon request from MPP consultant

Organizational Strengthening workshop took place on **June 21-24, 2004** developing Moldova Partnership Programme concept and structure as an informal platform for interchurch cooperation on areas of diaconia & development. The main results of the workshop are as follows: hubs are representing sectoral priorities; hubs meetings are responsible for development of projects recommendations and should work on mid term concepts for cooperation in priority areas; Moldova Partnership Meeting is responsible for development project list for next year and mid term concept of cooperation (after receiving hubs concept proposals). Basic criteria for project proposals selection were discussed and approved.

Four hubs (according to priority sectors) continued their work and special **training for hub members** took place on **September 05, 2004** in Chisinau in order to ensure that hub members have sufficient knowledge for project application screening within pilot phase of Moldova Partnership Programme. During the training criteria for projects selection have been revised and finalised.

MPP representatives participated in WCC related international activities, which correspond to Moldova Partnership Programme priorities:

a) WCC EEO Capacity Building programme for future trainers and consultants: 3 participants in the training on Institutional Development and Organisational Strengthening, February 17-27, 2004, Kiev, Ukraine; 2 participants in the Ecumenical Summer School & Designing Visual Aids Workshop, July 26-31, 2004, Vilemov, Czech Republic; 1 participant in the training for External Evaluation, October, 15-23 2004, Yerevan, Armenia.

b) Christian Action and Networking against Trafficking (CAT) II - Kick-off event/public launch: 1 participant March 4-5, 2004. Brussels.

Partners' initiatives implemented:

MO/010 Education association for training of church social workers

All figures are in EURO

Cooperation partner	St George Orthodox Convent from Suruceni
Responsible for the project	Goncearenco Elena Petru (mother superior Epistemia, the director of education in the lyceum)
Contact details	Tel: +373 268 33262 Mobile: +373 691 89146
Place of implementation	Suruceni village, Ialoveni district, Moldova
Opening balance 2003	0,00
MPP contribution in 2003- 2004	19.000,00
Local partner own contribution in 2004	6.443,00
Expenditures from MPP in 2003 -2004	19.000,00
Expenditures from own contribution in 2003-2004	5.913,00
Closing balance 2004	530,00

Summary information on project results:

Project aimed at establishing formal education of church social workers. Project target group were 76 girls, aged from 16 to19, students of the Theological Lyceum for girls at the "St George" Orthodox convent; 30 solitary elderly with disabilities, having monthly income less than 8 euro, living in the nearby villages.

The chosen implementation strategy was based on the four pillars:

1. Elaboration of the new curriculum and didactical materials on cluster care for the education of church social workers.
2. Accumulation of practical skills and experience of the cluster care.
3. Ensuring sustainability of the cluster care education.
4. Dissemination of the experience accumulated.

In order to pursue the elaboration of the new curricula goal a 6-day study visit to Moscow Theological Lyceums and Church Nursing School was undertaken by 2 teachers, who collected existing experience in cluster care education.

6 teachers were hired and engaged in the elaboration of the new course curriculum. The study plans, school program, content of practicing and validation were elaborated as well. 2 groups per 12 sisters in each (of 10 and 12 grades) were selected for testing of the elaborated programmes and materials during 2 months (March- April 2004). The necessary equipment (printer, photo copy machine, photo camera, video camera, TV set, plaster carts, additional medical tools, medical equipment and bags, medical board, refrigerator for medicines) were purchased. All accumulated knowledge was gathered in the manual "Organisation of Charity/ Social Assistance in Parish" and published.

Theoretical knowledge was supported later by the accumulation of practical skills and experience of the cluster care. 25 people, solitary elderly, children, disabled persons from the nearby villages were served at homes by the Theological Lyceum trainees together with nurses and nuns from the convent. As beneficiaries were not located in the same place there was a need for transport means. The transport means purchased served to transportation of the sick people in urgent cases, food supply and transportation as well as transportation of the personnel.

Mechanization of the Monastery auxiliary sector and labour productivity increased significantly contributed to the ensuring of the financial sustainability of the cluster care education in the Theological Lyceum (to cover boarding school expenses for future social workers and social assistance costs for service provides to elderly). In order to achieve objectives established a series of actions were undertaken: equipment for the water pipe and irrigation equipment were purchased and installed to supply the convent farm with water, a number of agriculture technical equipment and supplies such as: tractor, coachwork, plough, seeding-machine, harrow, wires, hose were bought as well. It is worth mentioning that all equipment was procured with 30-40 % of own financial contribution of the convent.

Project duration is 1 year, but training cycle for cluster care is for 3 years. 2004 - became the first full operational year. In next two years the second phase of the project, which consists of dissemination of information and sharing of the experience will be implemented. The large scale of activities for training and development will be hold in different districts of Moldova.

Project follow up includes cluster care courses launching in other institutions preparing church social workers (like theological academies etc).

Conclusions:

1. Poor management skills and lack of specialized trainings for the church staff results in a limited number of the social initiatives (including capacity building initiatives) developed by the church organizations.

2. Lack of action and advocacy capacity could lead to passive role of the church in the society.
3. Lack of interaction among different churches in the social sphere could result in isolation and loose of confidence, as well as lower efficiency of the efforts on social and spiritual rehabilitation of the society undertaken separately.

Recommendations:

1. To elaborate and realize the comprehensive church social structures capacity building program, based on the needs of the different levels of involvement.
2. To strengthen the collaboration among the social structures of the local churches by the common initiatives elaboration and implementing.
3. To strengthen the action and advocacy capacity of the churches and interaction with the state, civil and business sectors of the society.

3. Information & advocacy/ anti trafficking

Background information

Large numbers of primarily young Moldavians started to leave their country in the mid 1990s, temporarily or permanently, to work elsewhere. The State Migration Authority predicts the numbers abroad as approximately 300,000. UNDP and IOM have estimated that between 600,000 to 1,000,000 Moldavians are currently abroad.

Such mainly economical migration has different kinds of impact in Moldova. Migration has become a serious source of hard currency for Moldova. Western Union, the global money transfer and messaging service, has reported annual remittances to Moldova twice the country's GDP⁸. Locally these transfers are an important source of income for many poor households, and is also a crucial factor for keeping the national currency, the Lei, stable. On the negative side the migration deprives Moldova of many young and talented people and many of them are likely to stay permanently abroad. Similarly the social cost is high as prospects for families left behind are uncertain. The impact is visible in many villages as it is mainly the old and very young or children who remain behind.

Women found it easier than men to adapt to the new circumstances and to pursue whatever opportunities there were. Some argue that this is because they are closer to realities and focus on feeding the family, and others will say that they did not have a lot of prestige or status to lose to begin with, meaning that their "fall" was shorter and easier to recover from. Although data is missing, most residents and visitors to the FSU will confirm that women were faster than men to take new and low paid service jobs, and be willing to learn foreign languages to compete for jobs opening up for foreign companies. In Moldova, it is argued that this also translated in a large share of women in the migrants working abroad to support their families at home. This puts a lot of stress on the families, and as women return home they have often changed, having confirmed their ability to support themselves and their families.

Statistics suggest that Moldavian young women make up a disproportionate large share of the region's victims for illegal trafficking – i.e. the organized crime exporting girls for work in sex business in the Balkans, Western Europe and other countries. A

⁸ Report from Moldovan Mission to UN, Geneva.

report from the International Organization for Migration (IOM)⁹ states that 64 percent of trafficking victims in Pristina was of Moldavian origin. It is unclear why Moldova would be particularly exposed to this. The economic decline and lack of employment opportunities, together with widespread migration for work abroad, certainly form a recruitment base, but does not explain why the situation would be so different from for example Ukraine. Some suggest that illegal trafficking has established itself as a profitable business for organized crime in Moldova, and that corruption makes it hard to address the issues. Donor community in Moldova has supported government initiatives to prevent and prosecute trafficking and also reintegrate victims into society. An estimated 400 cases have been brought to the courts, but only two cases have been successfully prosecuted to date, suggesting that vested interests find their ways into the courtrooms.

The international workshop on trafficking in women, Chisinau, September 7 – 12, 2004

To increase awareness building in churches and society at large, promote local and international cooperation of anti trafficking initiatives in Moldova and better assist project partners already involved, the international workshop on trafficking in women has been held in Chisinau, September 7 – 12, 2004.

The meeting was organized by the Conference of European Churches (CEC) in co-operation with the World Council of Churches, Eastern Europe Office and the Churches' Commission for Migrants in Europe (represented by Christian Action and Networking against Trafficking in Women - CAT) and hosted by the Moldavian Orthodox Church and the Moldova Partnership Programme.

32 people from 10 countries met in Chisinau (Moldova) from 8-12 September to discuss and elaborate how churches can play an active role in combating trafficking in human beings. Speakers from the Moldovan government, the police and OSCE informed the participants about the alarming situation regarding trafficking. It is estimated that around one fourth of the country's population over the last years has left the country due to widespread poverty and unemployment. Especially young women become an easy prey of the traffickers' networks.

The participants got a first hand insight into the situation of rural areas, which are particularly affected. Visits to church related projects were an occasion to see how first initiatives in the area of prevention and reintegration are being developed; e.g. through job creation and community integration of women at risk and victims. It became clear what a crucial and decisive role churches can play as one of the most widely trusted institutions in Moldovan society.

Specialized NGOs (like La Strada, the Women Lawyers' Association) gave their feedback regarding needs and possibilities for awareness raising and preventive work, a common concept of reintegration of victims and other forms of assistance. Representatives of other churches and related organizations in Europe shared their experience of involvement in anti-trafficking. Working groups further developed needs assessments for future anti-trafficking in the country and network partners indicated how they can help with capacity building and support emerging initiatives.

Partners' initiatives implemented:

⁹ The Report could be accessed at <http://www.iom.md>

MO/016 Preventing the trafficking of human beings from Costesti.

All figures are in EURO

Cooperation partner	The "St. Nicolay" church, Mayoralty of Costesti Commune, Health Center of Costesti Commune
Responsible for the project	Mereacre Elena
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Place of implementation	Costesti Commune, Chisinau district, Moldova
Opening balance 2003	0,00
MPP contribution in 2003 - 2004	7.200,00
Local partner own contribution in 2003-2004	5.727,00
Expenditures from MPP in 2004	7.200,00
Expenditures from own contribution in 2003-2004	5.727,00
Closing balance 2004	0,00

Summary information on project results:

One of the major causes of human labour migration - lack of job opportunities - directly affects young women from rural areas. The primary goal of project was to prevent trafficking in the community by vocational education of women from the group of risk and creation of job places.

During 6 mouths 40 young women from vulnerable families (aged 18-26), divided in four groups were trained on a daily basis (except for Saturdays and Mondays) for 4 hours a day in order to develop necessary skills in sewing.



The trainees at work



The trainer is conducting the theoretical lesson

Within training sessions trainees have made several units of clothes (skirts, home dresses etc.) and bed linen, which been later distributed. One of the achievements, which significantly contributed to recognizing a value and building financial sustainability of the project was a commercial order for 120 sets of bed linens which came from local state kindergarten. All trainees were very enthusiastic while executing the ordered work.



Dutch volunteer moderating the practical knitting lessons

Other direction of vocational education was developing personal knitting skills. Two experienced trainers - Frederica Grotebrune (Dutch volunteer) and Natalia Birca helped girls to design and craft simple clothes and provided numerous consultations for better learning of advanced methods of knitting. Lessons schedule were foreseen for 4 hours a day on a daily basis, except for Saturdays and Mondays. The overall period of training for each group of 10 girls was 3 months. By the end of the project 40 young women have been trained in knitting.

Joint work has facilitated personal communication, girls became acquainted with each other, got friends and often together participated in local church activities. Apart from the vocational education project beneficiaries have participated in 2 trainings on trafficking prevention themes, as well as received basic training on Internet and email user skills development.

NGO "Compasiune" has built strong partnership relations with the all groups of stakeholders implicated: local church, public administration, state social assistance structures and local business, which were actively involved in project realization. For example, local public administration offered office building and rooms for the sewing workshop as well as partly covered operational costs and salaries for the technical staff. Local business enterprise S.A. "Aurica-Ialoveni" offered 14 job places for the alumni with the medium monthly salary of 800 lei. 20 girls remained to work at the small enterprise created in the community with the medium salary of 1000 lei per month (to compare: the medium salary in Moldovan agriculture sector is aprox. 460 lei).

On November 6, 2004 other local NGOs: "Milesteanca", "Speranta", representatives of state social assistance department, Mayoralty of Ialoveni and Dutch Embassy in Moldova were invited for the craft exhibition. Guests have visited social centre, sewing workshop, and informational centre and participated in the final evaluation of the project.

MO/017 Creation of a laundry facility in Costesti Commune

All figures are in EURO

Cooperation partner	The "St. Nicolay" church, Mayoralty of Costesti Commune, Health Center of Costesti Commune
Responsible for the project	Mereacre Elena
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Place of implementation	Costesti Commune, Chisinau district, Moldova
Opening balance 2004	500,00
MPP contribution in 2004	1.500,00
Local partner own contribution in 2004	513,00
Expenditures from MPP in 2004	1.930,00
Expenditures from own contribution in 2004	513,00
Closing balance 2004	70,00

Summary information on project results:

In Costesti village there are about 4800 inhabitants and more than 3200 people live below the poverty level. The cases of pediculosis, scabia and other sanitary-hygiene related diseases are widespread. There are no individual laundry facilities at kindergartens, schools, health centres, business companies, etc. Washing devices left from the soviet era are not functioning any more.

Project aimed at improving living conditions by providing access for the elderly people to the laundry services. Project focus group includes 460 elderly people, 534 vulnerable families (monthly income less than 10 USD per family member), 8 public institutions (schools, kinder gardens, hospital, health center). Social laundry will be the first opened in the community.

It is planned to offer free of charge laundry services to the individuals from the focus group. The beneficiary list will be drafted with the local Mayoralty and Local Health Center (in partnership with the Office of Preventive Medicine). Local schools, churches and social households are going to be providers of information. The fee for the other clients will be determined in consultation with the Local Public Authorities. Individual contracts of services rendering will be signed with local business, public and social households.

Due to delay of instalment (fall of December 2004) and impossibility to begin work with the water pipeline in the wintertime the project actions were rescheduled for three months. All necessary equipment (including 3 washing machines), furniture and construction material were purchased and renovation of laundry office started.

Conclusions:

1. Local churches are still not very active in anti-trafficking (one of the reasons could be lack of specific skills and experience of the local churches in combating the trafficking in human beings phenomena), as well as in dealing with other threats, such as drugs addiction, HIV/AIDS, increasing violence etc. which actually more and more affects the church members too.
2. The developed project initiatives do not cover the whole chain of the trafficking and without the liaison with the other important stakeholders could not produce the sustainable results.
3. Being the most reliable actor in the community church could significantly contribute to the public awareness building and community motivation in order to minimize the risk of trafficking and its consequences.

Recommendations:

1. To strengthen the partnership among church related organisations, state institutions and civil society organisations in view of consolidation the common efforts and increasing the efficiency of the undertaken anti-trafficking actions.
2. To enhance the advocacy & lobby capacity of the Church, to rise the role of the Church as an important society institution.
3. To provide the information and training to the church staff on specific issues related to the trafficking.
4. To create the specialised anti-trafficking network involving different churches represented locally, as well as to establish the links with the similar formations abroad.

4. UNEMPLOYMENT REDUCTION & DEVELOPMENT HUB

Background information

According to the official statistics about **72,2%** of Moldova population lived in 2004 year **under the Living subsistence level**, which constituted in 2004 about 680 lei (about 56 USD). The poor, having monthly income per person less than 50% of Living subsistence (340 Lei or 28 USD) constituted **30,7%**. About 70,4% of poor population lived in rural areas. Women constituted 54,6% of the poor.

The overall low income levels are illustrated by that fact that expenditures for food account for 59% of all expenditures for the population as a whole, and for 78% of total expenditures of the poor. There is no significant difference in the incidence of poverty between men and women – overall men and women are equally likely to be poor.

Although official figures for unemployment are only 2%, the Ministry of Labour estimates that real unemployment in the country is now 73%, a third part of the unemployed are in extreme poverty.

Landowners cannot register as unemployed and access benefits since they are considered employed, regardless of how little they receive from their land. In addition they should make social security contributions in order to secure pensions in later years of life.

Many who could register, as officially unemployed however do not do so because often the expenses of obtaining unemployment status exceed the minimum allowance, training and job placement benefits.

The adopted in 2002 by Government Poverty Reduction Strategy is founded on three pillars:

- (i) sustainable and inclusive economic growth that will provide the population with productive employment;
- (ii) human development policies emphasizing increased access to basic services (especially primary medical services and primary education); and
- (iii) social protection policies targeting those most in need.

The government's poverty reduction strategy focuses on a fair distribution of the benefits of growth for the entire population. The efforts undertaken so far led to an increase by 7,3% of GPD (in comparable prices) in 2004 vis-à-vis the 2003 level. However, the careful examination of the structural point of the growth does not

provide a serious basis for overestimations. The situation remains critical and more consistent reformation of the national economy is still needed.

Partners' initiatives implemented:

MO /019 Handicraft Center "Albinuta"

All figures are in EURO

Cooperation partner	Social Mission "Diaconia"
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Place of implementation	Roşu village, Cahul district, Moldova
Opening balance 2003	660,00
MPP contribution in 2003	8.000,00
Local partner own contribution in 2003	0,00
Expenditures from MPP in 2004	8.660,00
Expenditures from own contribution in 2004	0,00
Closing balance 2004	0,00

Summary information on project results:

Project aimed at unemployment reduction in the community through vocational education and creation of the job places. Focus group of the project were 15 girls from the at trafficking risk group, aged from 15 to 20. The implementation period: April – October 2004.



*the practical lesson at the
"Albinuta" workshop*

Project activities started from selection of the trainees. The open competition called 26 applications. The committee composed from the representatives of all stakeholders included selected 15 girls in the vocational training.

The office rooms for the workshop were offered by the local public administration for rent for 5

years. Simultaneously offices renovations works were performed and equipment was purchased and installed. 950 meters of textile were bought

for the sewing training.

Lessons were provided 5 days per week, 6 hours a day, during 6 months by two trainers: Movila Maria and Chiteniuc Elena. Training course finalized with the final evaluation of the gained knowledge and skills. Unfortunately, 4 persons resigned from the training program due to different reasons in July 2004. From the 11 certificates given for the trainees in October 2004, 9 were ranked as excellent (9 from 10 grades) and 2 were recognized to be well (8 from 10 grades).



"Albinuta" alumni

The "Abinuta" products are for sale in the local markets but taking into consideration rural tourism development the workshop intends to specialise on priest garments and national suits for the future.

The vocational training initiative of the Church structure had an impact on renewal of spiritual values, which could be observed in the beneficiaries' motivation. Girls frequently visited Church and took part in church activities.

The vocational training resulted in a number of job contracts: in March 2005 – Joint venture "Fenessa –Serena" contracted 2 girls, offering them salary of 800 lei per month; 4 persons were hired at "Tricon" manufacture from Cahul with salary of 1000 lei; 3 persons have been contracted by the private enterprise from the community with the monthly salary of 600 lei. Two girls remained in the workshop to become trainers for the future beneficiaries of the workshop.

The project experience will be used as a model for establishment of other parish centres founded by Social Mission Diaconia in 2004-2006.

MO/020 Opening a workshop for orphans of Boarding School Nr.2, Chisinau, within St. Dumitru Church Parish

All figures are in EURO

Cooperation partner	St. Dumitru Church Parish, Chisinau, Moldova.
Responsible for the project	Pavel Borshevschii
Contact details	Tel: +373-22-772533 Alternative tel: +373 22-777444 Fax: +373-22-562323
Place of implementation	Chisinau, Moldova
Opening balance 2004	1.000,00
MPP contribution in 2004	7.000,00
Local partner own contribution in 2004	6.365,00
Expenditures from MPP in 2004	8.000,00
Expenditures from own contribution 2004	6.365,00
Closing balance 2004	0,00

Summary information on project results:

Partner initiative overall objective was social integration of orphans in the society through developing vocational education in woodcarving and further assistance in

job placement. Project activities targeted at 30 orphans aged 14-16 years of Boarding School Nr.2 from Chisinau.

Project activities started from selecting the trainees. Children from the boarding school were tested by the group of the specialists. The necessary equipment for the educational process including computer, furniture (15 tables, 45 chairs, 4 tool cupboards), wood (20 cub metres), 30 sets of protecting clothes, consumables, didactical manuals (25 books) and electric instruments were purchased.

Due to the problem with workshop facilities at the boarding school, the planned activities were transferred to the St Dumitru Church office. The St Dumitru Church offered the financial support for the construction of the new building for future workshop. The construction will be completed in second part of 2005.



The master is explaining wood carving theory to the children from the boarding school



The future wood carving workshop on the St. Dumitru parish. All construction costs are covered by the Church.

Starting with January 2005, 30 children aged 13-16, from the boarding schools number 2 and 5, in two groups have benefited from the wood carving trainings twice per week, organised by the Anatolii Tirnov (at the picture) and Dan Sirbu. In addition to planned activities children benefited from the charitable meals twice per week and during holidays.



First practical lessons at the



The wood carving equipment

Developing aptitudes and working skills of children from the boarding school, who are often considered to be “difficult”, requires additional motivation of the trainees, because they are expected to spend a lot of leisure time in workshop, practicing the knowledge gained. Considering importance of first-hand contact and experience exchange several excursions were organised by the project team. About 45 children visited Museums of woodcrafts from Palanka and Girbovet villages, “Noul Neamt Monastery” in Chitcani. Short sightseeing tours in Chisinau and visits to the doll theatre “Licurici” were organized as well. Each event gathered more wishers than could be placed in a 45 persons bus. Children were truly impressed by the exhibits they saw and even started to imitate some.

In order to motivate children a preliminary agreement with “Alexander” Gallery was accomplished. Gallery will organise the specialised exposition for children products sale and all the generated income will be disbursed to the authors.

MO/021 Strengthening Capacity of the School of Professional Guidance “CATERD”

All figures are in EURO

Cooperation partner	“CATERD” Center, Chisinau, Moldova.	
Responsible for the project	Vladimir Caprari	
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Place of implementation	Chisinau, Moldova	
Opening balance 2003		0,00
MPP contribution in 2003		7.500,00
Local partner own contribution in 2004		1.499,00
Expenditures from MPP in 2003		7.500,00
Expenditures from own contribution in 2004		1.499,00
Closing balance 2004		0,00

Summary information on project results:

The initiative’s primary goal was to provide access to vocational education (the boarding school) for the street children (orphans, homeless teenagers) and children from poor families. Project intended to provide education and assistance to the group of 16 children (all boys aged 14-17) from Chisinau and nearby villages.



The classroom at the "Caterd"



Pupils are cleaning their

Project started from rooms' renovation activities. Classroom, bedroom and canteen were prepared for use. To serve the canteen and workshops (in purchasing materials) a car was bought. All costs related to the food procurement (excluding food transportation) and meals preparation were covered by the CATERD Centre.

In order to ensure necessary hygiene conditions for pupils the laundry service was organised (a new automatic washing machine was bought and installed). Children could twice per week wash their clothes and once per week bed linen. Electricity and detergents costs were covered by the St. Diomid Parish.



The trainee is using the new equipment at the practical lesson



Pupils are practicing the skills gained at the "Caterd" workshop

Actually in the Centre 16 boys from rural areas have the possibility to acquire basic skills in such professions as stove-setter and carpenter. 9 teachers engaged in the educational process elaborated curriculum, considering specific needs of the beneficiaries. All didactic materials were tested and adjusted to the trainee's profile as well. The theoretical and practical lessons have been provided on a daily basis, excluding weekends and holidays. The education cycle lasts for 9 months.

The Curriculum was based on "learning by doing" approach and each vocation obtained a lot of practicing activities in a short period of time. Children were encouraged to spend available time on peer coaching and assisting to younger colleagues. Articles, made by the children, formed a small exposition in the

classroom. The centre second-hand furniture, including beds, bedside-tables, desks and chairs were fixed by the students at the practical lessons.

However, some problems occurred: from 16 boys selected for the vocational training just 10 have remained to fulfil the complete cycle of education. Moreover, in wintertime pupils could not study and live within the Centre due to lack of a heating system (which is going to be installed in 2005 as a separate project).

The final evaluation of the skills acquired by the trainees will be held in June 2005. Depending on the results obtained it is planned to form 3 specialised groups (1 for stove-setters and 2 for carpenters) from the course alumni. Small businesses groups will be managed by the Centre masters and will complete paid orders. The new education cycle will start in September 2005.

MO/022 Development of social centre for children's "Family House" Palanka

All figures are in EURO

Cooperation partner	The comminatory organization "Casa părintească" from Palanca village, Călărași district, Republic of Moldova
Responsible for the project	Tatiana Popa – president of NGO
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Place of implementation	Palanca village, Călărași district, Republic of Moldova
Opening balance 2004	436,00
MPP contribution in 2004	5.500,00
Local partner own contribution in 2004	1.669,00
Expenditures from MPP in 2004	5.936,00
Expenditures from own contribution 2004	1.669,00
Closing balance 2004	0,00

Summary information on project results:

Project aims at the improvement of living conditions in the Palanka village and prevention of the youngsters from unemployment. In order to pursue the established goal two main directions of the intervention were chosen:

1. Improving healthcare conditions and providing access for the 1300 community inhabitants to potable water;
2. Vocational orientation of the young women included in the group of trafficking risk.

Project implementation period is from December 2004 till October 2005.

Water supply:



The workers are installing the new water pips



The project team in front of the renewed and sanctified artesian well

The only source of the potable water is the artesian well, which has not been functioning for several years because of water pump break. The artesian well reconstruction works were completed on January 30, 2005. More than 300 meters of water pipeline have been renovated so far. More than 800 inhabitants (88 families) have already been connected to the water pipeline. About 50 families are still waiting and will be connected by May 2005. Each water pipeline user signs a contract with Mayoralty and assumes a responsibility to cover the supplied water costs. The generated monthly fee will cover electricity and artesian well maintaining costs, ensuring the financial sustainability of the project.

Following the efforts of the project team, community medical centre was connected to the water pipeline free of charge.

Vocational trainings:

Lack of job places for the women in the community creates the risk of trafficking. Establishment of accessible vocational education for the young women could reduce this risk and provide a basis for a small business launched in the community by the training alumni. After having finished the office renovation and installing sewing machines purchased in the project, selection of the trainees has started.

Since the February 15, 2005 a group of 15 women, aged from 17 to 40, has been trained in sewing twice per week (on Wednesday and Friday) starting from 14.00 to 18.00. The complete training course (six months) will be conducted by the local expert Aliona Tverdohleb.



The group of trainees at sewing workshop



The national dresses embroidered by the children manually

The evaluation of the skills acquired by the trainees will be held in September 2005 and will be performed by the commission compiled from the following members: the President of the National Craftsmen Union, the Representatives of the Science Academy – the ethnographic section, the ACASA Association, the representatives of the mayoralty, of the educational and cultural department, State labour department.

In addition to the sewing training of women a group of 14 children, boys and girls aged from 7 to 16 years, is trained in embroidery. Embroidery is a manual work requiring concentration, attention and diligence; however, crafts made by the children (including national dresses in the picture) seem to be embellishment of an exhibition. The volunteer trainer encourages every child to open peer communication and teamwork. Each national dress (from 6 made by the children) was confectioned by the different team of children.

The national art museum of the Palanka village was included in the international route for rural tourism in Moldova. The increased number of visitors has stimulated growing demand for the hand-made crafts and the workshop graduates could sell their products.

The project durability will be ensured from the financial means coming from the paid orders, members' allocations, paid services for tourists and courses. Actually, a preliminary agreement between National Craftsmen Union and NGO "Family House" was reached on production of the national costumes by the workshop. Alumni and future trainees are offered the two work places by State Labour Department every year. An enterprise from Calarasi town "Codreanca" is ready to provide several jobs to the best-qualified workshop graduates every year as well.

The positive experience of the project will serve as a model for organizing social support in other villages. The project team is eager to contribute to the national craft rehabilitation and open to exchange of experience to all wishers. For example, just recently 5 persons from Rascov village have been trained in embroidery and carpet weaving during a week. A number of similar activities will be organized for the children within summer schools for the young craftsmen as well.

Conclusions:

1. One of the strongest distinctive features of the projects developed by the local partners is orientation on providing the vocational education to the youth from the vulnerable families, who do not have financial possibility to be enrolled in the secondary or vocational education.
2. The flexibility of the provided vocational education allows targeting different groups of population not having other sources of relief.
3. However, the financial self-sustainability of the projects is relatively weak and it is advisable to prepare the business plans for the each job creation project in the future.

Recommendations:

1. To identify existing church human resources and develop their capacity to provide specialized vocational education, oriented on specific employment community needs and proper use of the available in a community natural resources;
2. To strengthen the collaboration between church, state and business sector in order to ensure the continuity of the assistance provided from the vocational education to the employment;
3. To enhance church participation in economical education of population through small income generating projects.

5. On-going projects

MO /024 Medical diagnosis service “St.Nectarie de Eghina”

All figures are in EURO

Cooperation partner	Social Mission “Diaconia”
Responsible for the project	Igor Belei
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Place of implementation	Rural areas from whole territory of the RM
Opening balance 2004	4.311,00
MPP contribution in 2004	5.000,00
Local partner own contribution in 2004	2.770,00
Expenditures from MPP in 2004	9.311,00
Expenditures from own contribution 2004	2.770,00
Closing balance 2004	0,00

Summary information on project:

The project aims to contribute to reducing the morbidity level among elderly people caused by oncological illnesses in advanced stages. Strategy chosen in the project strives to provide the elderly with an access to the efficient methods of diagnosis of those illnesses. The intervention logic foresees the two main pillars: providing the diagnosis service and organising medical examination for the elderly people in rural areas.

Diagnosis services will be provided to about 1500 elderly from 40 districts of Moldova every year. The requested financial support was assigned for the specialised equipment, which is very expensive but could be easily recompensed in the coming year. Rendering paid services to other groups of population was envisaged to ensure a financial sustainability of the project.

The project activities started in March 2005. About 100 people have been examined so far. First thermographic check-up has been organised in Ulmu village (Ialoveni district). About 51 women, aged from 18 to 70, have been examined during four hours. Each check-up procedure lasted about 2 minutes. The investigation performed revealed about 22 people who might have some health problems and need to repeat thermographic examination. The diagnosis copies are directed to the family doctors according to the preliminary agreement on collaboration concluded.

All performed examinations are collected in the electronic database and could be easily extracted when needed. The database could generate statistics and any selections upon a query. The changes of the beneficiaries' number as well as dates of performed investigations could be permanently monitored using database entries number.

As medical equipment needed for the thermographia examination is of small size, it could be easily moved across the whole territory of Moldova. The collaboration agreement has been signed with Ministry of Health and the local family doctors' centres. In addition, it would be worth mentioning that the diagnostic method used within the project frame is absolutely new and unfamiliar for Moldavian oncologists and in order to train the new medical staff and share experience the project team has initiated a close collaboration with State Institute of Cancer Investigations.

MO/025 School of small business for unemployed people

All figures are in EURO

Cooperation partner	NGO «CATERD»
Responsible for the project	Angela Caprari
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Place of implementation	Chisinau, Republic of Moldova
Opening balance 2004	0,00
MPP contribution in 2004	6.050,00
Local partner own contribution 2004	3.250,00
Expenditures from MPP in 2004	5.981,00
Expenditures from own contribution 2004	3.250,00
Closing balance 2004	69,00

Summary information on project:

Projects initiative addressed one of the burning problems in Moldova – lack of sufficiently paid jobs and limited access of the poor to the business education and consultancy services. Poverty reduction strategy chosen in the project represents “learning by doing” approach and is based on education and coaching of unemployed people in starting and development of a small business.

Focus group of the project composed from 200 jobless people, aged from 18 to 45, 35% men and 65% women from the poorer families (monthly income less than \$10 per family member), from the Chisinau municipality.

Centre «CATERD» has developed a database, which includes 800 descriptions of small business organization, affordable for the poor families, facilities for the educational process organization, qualified personnel equipped with the necessary skills and devices. The project activities include: rooms renovating; heating and gas systems installation; furniture purchasing and installation; school personnel developing; curriculum elaborating and testing; implementing educational process; completing and maintaining electronic data base and library.

Small enterprises initiated will be a source of permanent income generation and could serve as a model and encouragement for the new beneficiaries, which will significantly contribute to improving the results achieved by the project. First instalment for renovation work has been transferred in December 2004, therefore project is on stage of implementation and should be on the operational stage by September 2005.

MO /027 Community Centre „Home of Hopes and Future”

All figures are in EURO

Cooperation partner	Public Association „Soarta”
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Place of implementation	Rublenita village, Soroca district, Republic of Moldova
Opening balance 2004	800,00
MPP contribution in 2004	13.000,00
Local partner own contribution 2004	16.630,00
Expenditures from MPP in 2004	13.661,00
Expenditures from own contribution 2004	16.630,00
Closing balance 2004	139,00

Summary information on project:

Village Rublenita from Soroca district is one of the oldest villages situated in the Northern part of Moldova among marvellous nature. Unfortunately, about 4500 inhabitants of the village do not have an access to the basic social infrastructure. In addition there is no gas pipeline, no central heating and the village is not provided with portable water.

Project initiative aims at improving the living conditions of 120 solitary elderly from Rublenita (older than 60 years and having monthly pension below 10 USD) through establishment of a Social centre in the community.

The Social Centre will embrace a public canteen, bath, laundry, hairdresser's shop, treatment room, a workshop where beneficiaries could repair their clothes and shoes. The framework of the present project includes establishing in the Social Centre two facilities: a social canteen and a meeting room.

The project gained support of major stakeholders from the community. For instance, the office building for the Centre has been offered by the local Mayorality, the agricultural farm "Tehrubsor" agreed to supply canteen with food and provide transportation services, the local Orthodox Church provides spiritual support and counselling, helps in distribution of humanitarian aid, organises charity dinners and provides community volunteers.

During 12 months, five days per week 120 beneficiaries of the social canteen from Rublenita village will have a two-dishes lunch and will have an opportunity to participate in socializing activities organized at the Social centre.

The income generated from the paid services to the rest of population will form a basis for covering the canteen maintaining costs and will ensure the project sustainability.

MO/030 Steps to the future with preparation for life

All figures are in EURO

Cooperation partner	Public Association „Soarta”
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Place of implementation	Soroca town, Republic of Moldova
Opening balance 2004	199,41
MPP contribution in 2004	10.000,00
Local partner own contribution 2004	5.970,00
Expenditures from MPP in 2004	9.678,95
Expenditures from own contribution 2004	5.970,00
Closing balance 2004	520,46

Summary information on project:

According to the official statistic of 1999 about 4059 persons left Soroca, looking for a job in other countries. More than half of them are women; as a result 537 children remained under supervision of their grandparents, relatives or neighbours. 107 children abandoned school, 230 children left by parents suffer from chronic diseases; a major part of 9257 pensioners and invalids from the district remained without help. The data of the 2002 year stated the total number of inhabitants gone abroad was over 11708, including 70% women, in the majority of cases under the age of 35. The young girls, aged from 16 to 19 have few unpaid employment

opportunities after finishing secondary school. Vocational education is quite expensive and apart from training fee it requires additional financial means for meals, accommodation and travelling. Each year about 30 orphan girls finish technical – professional school and can easily become the victims of trafficking.

The project aims at trafficking in women prevention through vocational education and employment of 80 young girls from Soroca town. In order to pursue the objectives a local workshop will be created.

Project activities will start from office renovation and equipment installation. The beneficiaries (girls) will participate in open competition and those selected will be trained in embroidery, knitting, sewing and weaving during the 3 months course. Four groups of 20 girls (80 persons totally) will be trained during the project implementation period. Each group will have training lessons starting from 09.00 until 2.00 p.m. four days per week.

The girls who successfully will have finished the vocational training, according to the preliminary agreements, will be provided with the employment opportunities at the five manufactures from Soroca town:

1. Manufacture “Dana”
2. Knitting manufacture
3. “New Style” firm
4. Italian firm “Calmo”
5. “Calmo International”

Apart from the vocational education project activities include organisation of anti-trafficking seminars. The information about the consequences of the illegal migration and ways to protect oneself when trafficked will be provided as well.

Being initiated in partnership with the local Orthodox Church the project encourages the beneficiaries to participate in community and church activities, which is a part of the social integration of the project beneficiaries.