INSPIRE Strategies to End Violence Against Children
Country Factsheet

MOLDOVA
INTRODUCTION

This factsheet is largely based on the inputs and observations of 39 organisations and institutions working in child protection in Republic of Moldova. As the survey was shared through child protection national coalitions, most of the respondents are coalition members (32 organisations).

A number of organisations working in Republic of Moldova that took part to the survey conduct activities that directly relate to one or more of the INSPIRE strategies, applying solutions that are perfectly in line with the INSPIRE approach, although not always acknowledged as such.

Number of organisations and institutions working on INSPIRE strategies in Moldova

Results based on information provided by 39 organisations and institutions which took part to ChildPact’s INSPIRE mapping survey

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strategy</th>
<th>Number of Organisations</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strategy 1: Implementation and enforcement of laws</td>
<td>19 organisations</td>
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<td>Strategy 2: Norms and values (gender, social, community)</td>
<td>24 organisations</td>
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<td>Strategy 3: Safe environments</td>
<td>25 organisations</td>
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<td>Strategy 4: Parent and carer support</td>
<td>29 organisations</td>
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<td>Strategy 5: Income and economic strengthening</td>
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<td>Strategy 6: Response and support services</td>
<td>23 organisations</td>
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<td>Strategy 7: Education and life skills</td>
<td>37 organisations</td>
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CROSS-CUTTING ASPECTS

The section below point at cross-cutting aspects that are relevant for all INSPIRE strategies. Examples of activities relevant to the different strategies will be outlined separately in the following section.

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE NGO SECTOR AND STATE AUTHORITIES

Most NGOs have implemented INSPIRE related projects / activities with external funding (as the European Union, etc.) and none has received public funding.

As a form of state support for any of INSPIRE related activities, the following were mentioned:

- Collaboration with police, probation authorities, health centres (training, seminars, study visits);
• MoUs signed with Central Public Authorities (Ministry of Education, Culture and Research, Ministry of Health, Labour and Social Protection) and Local Public Authorities (LPAs), Collaboration Agreements with 27 District Councils from the Country.
• The local public authorities at the district level through the Social Assistance Service took over the support of the foster care after the end of the project.

PREVENTION OF SEXUAL ABUSE AND EXPLOITATION

Out of 39 survey responding organizations, 13 carry out activities directly contributing to the prevention of child sexual abuse and exploitation, while 16 don’t carry out activities related to INSPIRE.

"La Strada" International Center carries out: awareness-raising campaigns in the context of Online Safety Day (for example, the campaign to raise awareness about the risks of sending video and sexually content produced by children: sexting (in 2018) and sextortion); informing and raising awareness of children, parents and educators about the risks of sexual abuse and online exploitation through the platform www.siguronline.md; empowerment of teachers and educational institutions with teaching resources and useful tools in order to be able to carry out awareness and information activities for pupils on the risks of sexual abuse and sexual exploitation and online safety within the Online Program Safe Zone.

National Center for Prevention of Child Abuse (NCCAP) carries out the Campaign Safe Adolescence. The purpose of the Campaign is to raise awareness of the phenomenon of sexual abuse and exploitation of children and to inform them as well as their families / caregivers / the whole society about the prevention and fight against the phenomenon.

Child Rights Information Center (CRIC) provides trainings for teachers on applying interactive programs “Dragos' Challenges” (for 7-11 year olds) and “Grain of sand” (for students aged 12 to 18). The programs aim to prevent any form of violence against the child, including abuse and sexual exploitation. Training for professionals from educational field, as well as for parents and children always include the prevention of sexual abuse and sexual exploitation of children. In 2018, CRIC consulted a group of children on how the Republic of Moldova fulfils its obligations under the ratification of the Lanzarote Convention, focusing on the online environment. A report was prepared and sent to the Committee of Lanzarote Parties to the Lanzarote Convention. Also CRIC has provided consultancy in monitoring the work of the local structures of the National Council for the Protection of Children’s Rights (Level II); the elaboration and promotion of the Action Plan on online child safety; participation in the work of the Supervisory Committee of the Council of Europe project “Protecting children from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse in the Republic of Moldova”.

Practice Examples

The "Intersection" program implemented by the International Center "La Strada" provides the creation of a community of teachers for the safety of children in the online environment, consisting of representatives of more than 60 educational institutions throughout the Republic of Moldova. With the support of community teachers in February 2019, were carried out activities for more than 2,000 children and adolescents across the country. Dozens of children have been involved in the development of thematic projects and activities on online safety.

The "Diaconia" Social Mission provides services for children and young people in risk situations, such as the maternal centre "In the mother's arms", the "Casa Maria" project and the Social apartment "For Independence".

The Mellow Parenting Education Program, implemented by NGO "Partnership for Every Child" represents an early intervention (14 weeks, 1 day per week) to improve the safety, well-being and development of vulnerable children up to 5 years especially those at increased risk of abandonment and separation due to lack of adequate parental care and poorly-developed attachment and parent-child relationships. Mellow Parenting groups target the most vulnerable families, including those with parental-child difficulties, those with mental health problems, or substance abuse, families where the wellbeing of the child is endangered, families where parents face learning difficulties or have a low level of literacy.
INSPIRE STRATEGIES

STRATEGY 1: IMPLEMENTATION AND ENFORCEMENTS OF LAWS

24 of the total number of responding mentioned that they carry out activities related to the implementation and consolidation of the laws banning violent punishment of children by parents, 19 on laws criminalizing the sexual abuse and exploitation of children, 15 on laws banning violent punishment of children by teachers, 17 on laws banning violent punishment of children by other care givers, 9 on laws that prevent alcohol misuse, and 4 on laws limiting youth access to firearms and other weapons.

Practice Examples

The International Center "La Strada" has elaborated the report on “The status quo of the implementation of the Lanzarote Convention by the Republic of Moldova”. The findings of the report served as a basis for the proposals formulated in drafting the National Action Plan on Human Rights 2017-2021 and support for discussions within the National Dialogue on Violence against Children organized by UNICEF Moldova in June 2018.

In the context of the initiatives of the General Prosecutor's Office to modify the legal framework regarding trafficking of human beings and trafficking of children, the International Center "La Strada" contributed with suggestions and amendments to the legal framework and also recommendations regarding the process of hearing minors under special conditions.

NCCAP has been working on promotion of special hearing of child victims / witnesses of crimes, including through the creation of Integrated Childcare Assistance services, such as the Barnahus, and on providing support to central and local authorities in the elaboration and implementation of Law no. 140 on the special protection of children in risk and children separated from parents and the Guidelines on the Cross-sectorial Cooperation Mechanism for the identification, evaluation, referral, assistance and monitoring of children victims and potential victims of violence, neglect, exploitation and trafficking.

CCF Moldova participates in public television programs addressing the implementation of the laws banning violence against children and the ways of their effective implementation are discussed;

CCF Moldova conducts seminars with local authorities and parents of children in risk situations about the consequences of violence and the responsibility that occurs if these provisions are not respected.

STRATEGY 2: NORMS AND VALUES (GENDER, SOCIAL, COMMUNITY)

Respondents mentioned that they have experience in carrying out activities related to Strategy no.2: 23 organizations implement community mobilization programs, 14 have experience in changing adherence to restrictive and harmful gender norms, 12 experience in changing adherence to restrictive and harmful social norms while 4 support the Bystander interventions.

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1 Bystander intervention is a model of sexual violence prevention based on evidence that community norms play a significant role in the perpetration of violence.
Practice Examples

Starting with 2016, the optional discipline "Harmonious Family Relations" is implemented in the educational institutions of the Republic of Moldova. The curriculum, the information support, all the resources for pupils and teachers, as well as the teacher training and monitoring activities were carried out by the International Center "La Strada". This course aims to inform and guide young people in the formation of non-violent life skills for a harmonious and sustainable family;

The Gender Equality Platform conducts information and awareness rising activities on the roles of gender stereotypes in girls' and boys' lives, and how they affect decisions made by girls and boys based on gender stereotypes. These activities are developed in various methodologies: talk shows, public lessons, dialogue with students and young people and others (Participating in partnership with the National Coalition "Life Without Violence in Families" at several talk shows where the issue of violence and how it can be prevented is discussed); also they organize seminars with children and young people on the prevention of domestic violence;

"Health for Young People" Association implement the project “Youth-Friendly Health Services” provides assistance in scaling up youth-friendly health services across the country and in ensuring their quality. 37 youth-friendly health centres provide adolescents and young adults with access to qualified medical assistance and youth-sensitive counselling on healthy lifestyle, reproductive health and child care; CCF Moldova acts to combat restrictive social norms such as: exclusion of the age criteria when establishing guardianship; participating in debates to improve the provisions of Law 140 on Special Protection of Children in Difficulty and Risk Situations.

**Strategy 3: Safe Environments**

All 39 survey respondents mentioned that they are pursuing activities related to Strategy 3, of which 29 focus on interrupting the spread of violence, 12 on improving the built environment (interior planning), and 7 on reducing violence by addressing "hotspots".

Practice Examples

CCF Moldova, organize various meetings and round tables on the prevention of violence, neglect and abuse of children are organized in children's day care services;

NGO "Demos" provide the social service "Assisted social housing" addressed to young people leaving the protection system and young people from socially vulnerable groups. The service provides the beneficiaries with secure premises for temporary accommodation, during the transition from family life to independent community life².

NCCAP has been providing support in the development of institutional policy for child protection in alternative care services, alongside continuous training of child protection professionals, and conducting research, studies and analysis that feed the information and awareness-raising activities (for example: Teens Safe Campaign³). Caritas Moldova has been organizing regular trainings with staff to prevent any abuse of beneficiaries from projects implemented by the organization.

CCF Moldova contributes to the prevention of violence in families, schools, kindergartens and the community through mediation activities, psychological and legal counselling, participation in meetings within the Commission for the protection of the child in difficulty and multidisciplinary commissions.

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² https://asociatiademos.wordpress.com/2019/03/18/procedurile-de-lucru-in-svis-nord-puse-la-punct/#more-3497

³ http://cnpac.org.md/rom/campaign/adolescenta
**STRATEGY 4: PARENT AND CARE GIVER SUPPORT**

For Strategy no. 4, 29 of responding organizations mentioned that they provide parenting training and support programmes for parents, 11 provide parenting training and support programmes for other care givers, 17 mention the support provided through home visits, 14 deliver support in groups in community and 9 provide support through comprehensive programs.

**Practice Examples**

The majority of organizations practice various forms of training (training for employees, volunteers, trainees and visitors, or workshops with parents, courses for future adoptive parents) and implement codes of conduct and other commitments to comply with child protection policies.

- Training of - Code of Conduct - Commitment to comply with child protection policy;
- Workshops with parents, home visits;

Specific parental education programs for the parents of children with disabilities are implemented by NGO "Child, Women - Protection and Support" and parental awareness and awareness raising activities on the online environment by encouraging a positive approach to children's online safety education are carried out by Center "La Strada".

"Without hands" program developed by the NCCAP is a program for parents that teaches them how to communicate and educate with love and respect their children. The purpose of the program is to develop the potential of parents in terms of practical knowledge and skills on violence-free methods of education.

CCF Moldova ensures regular monitoring of deinstitutionalized children and children in risk of institutionalization but maintained in the family, through regular visits at home, visits and methodological support for schools and kindergarten teachers. The organization also ensures support for families for accessing social, educational and medical services and benefits; legal, medical and psychological counselling and the development of the family support network in the community. Counselling to develop parental skills is also supported by the development of individual support and monitoring plans.

Technical Assistance to Local Public Authorities in the development of alternative care services and training of professional parent and parent-educators is provided by CCF Moldova.

**STRATEGY 5: INCOME AND ECONOMIC STRENGTHENING**

8 of responding organization mentioned that they carry out activities related to strategy no. 5 through microfinance combined with gender norm training, 6 provide cash transfers and 2 provide group saving and loans combined with gender equity training.

**Practice Examples**

Beneficiaries (young people, disadvantaged families) are trained and consulted for launching and managing small businesses. More than 15 types of entrepreneurial activities are developed by NGO "Demos" through the financial support of the association (financing of professional courses, acquisition and delivery of goods for launching the business).
IM Swedish Development Partner provides support for small economic activities of the families of children with disabilities, or young people with disabilities (such as greenhouses, livestock breeding, etc.), while economic empowerment training followed by microfinance support is provided by NGO "Generatia mea" and NGO "Asociația Psihologilor Tighina". The trainings include the topic of gender norms and the prevention of trafficking in human beings.

**STRATEGY 6: RESPONSE AND SUPPORT SERVICES**

Out of the 39 respondents, the majority indicated that they are carrying out activities related to strategy no. 6, namely: 23 provide foster care interventions involving social welfare service, 14 provide counselling and therapeutic approaches, 11 provide screening and intervention, while only 4 offer treatment programmes for juvenile offenders in the criminal justice system.

**Practice Examples**

The “Safe on line” service offered by Center "La Strada" is the first online interactive information safety platform for children, which, in addition to providing information and awareness-raising to children, parents and educators, has the option of chatting for real-time online counselling, but also incorporates a friendly reporting mechanism for online abuse cases.

Center "La Strada" also provides child protection and assistance services for the victim or witnesses of sexual abuse and exploitation throughout the criminal proceedings. The child care team, gathering a lawyer and several psychologists, provides child care services in the criminal process, psychological assistance, including the elaboration of psychological assessment reports at the request of law enforcement bodies and hearing the child under special conditions. The organization has various specialists offering legal, social, psychological and spiritual counselling.

In the context of juvenile delinquency programs, the Regina Pacis Foundation carries out, in Penitentiary no. 10 Goian, Vocational Trainings for detained children. These Vocational Trainings and classrooms improvement has been carried out since 2013 (more details can be found here). Also the Foundation collaborates with state institutions responsible for juvenile delinquency, trainings, discussions with children within classes and the support of municipal police;

Caritas Moldova carried out Workshops for Support Teachers and the Social Assistance Service focused on developing parenting potential: attachment; education without punishment; effective parent-child communication.

**STRATEGY 7: EDUCATION AND LIFE SKILLS**

28 of the responding organizations mentioned that they are providing life and social skills training, 21 contribute to increasing the number of children in pre-school, primary and secondary education, 17 - contribute to establish a safe and enabling school environment, 14 contribute to improve children's knowledge about sexual abuse and how to protect themselves against it, and 11 provide adolescent intimate partner violence prevention programmes.
Practice Examples

The "12 Plus" program implemented by NCCAP aims to prevent abuse and sexual exploitation, for young people aged 12-18. The implemented activities consist of group discussions, moderated by an adult, based on video projections. The purpose of the program is to help develop resilience mechanisms against sexual abuse / exploitation among adolescents. The target groups of the program are the adolescents (12-18 years), the psychologists from the Youth Friendly Health Centers and the Republican Center for Psycho-Pedagogical Assistance Services.

"Child Safe Program" aims to prevent the abuse and sexual exploitation of preschool children by informing them about threats and developing defense skills in situations of potential violence. The program is provided by NCCAP and targets pre-school children (4-7 years) and educators working with pre-school children. "On the Way Home" program is a resilience development educational program for children (6 to 12 years old) based on a board game, provided also by NCCAP. The aim of the program is to develop behavioral habits that overcome potentially dangerous situations (which can happen at home, in the street, at school, in the park, etc.) and develop children's resilience. Target groups of the program include children (6-12 years) and teachers of primary classes, as well as support staff working with primary school pupils, psychologists, social workers from community centres for children, school psychologists, librarians etc.

Gender Equality Platform has been developing the "Glossary on Gender Equality" guide that was distributed to the participants of the 7 Regional Forums "Preventing Family and School Violence - the multidisciplinary approach of the phenomenon" organized in following districts: Cantemir, Leova, Ialoveni, Anenii-Noi, Ciacir-Lunga, Hincesti, Cimislia.

CCF Moldova contributes to enrolling children in pre-school and school education by working directly with parents, educational institutions and Local Public Authorities, providing counselling and legal and informational support, methodological support for schools and kindergartens for the inclusion of children with learning and hearing disabilities.

Several training programs are available, such as: parenting training and social and life skills training provided by CCF Moldova, independent living programs for young disadvantaged people provided by NGO "Child, Women - Protection and Support", training programs for disadvantaged young people with the aim of developing social and life skills, professional orientation, socialization provided by NGO "Demos", or Equal to Equality Teachers Program by which thousands of children were educated about online safety in educational institutions by Center "La Strada".

Other actions under this strategy include International Children's Drawing Competition on the topic of abuse, neglect and violence organized by NGO "Concordia. Proiecte sociale", set-up of toy library (ludoteca) in educational institutions to ensure safe spaces for leisure, where information activities for children and young people are also organized by NGO "Prietenii Copiilor", or information sessions on development of Child Protection Policies in organizations and institutions working with children provided by NGO "Concordia. Proiecte sociale".

LINKS AND REFERENCES

For a list of all NGOs that are members of child protection national coalitions, check out their official website. http://aliantacf.md/en/members-2/

The table below includes a full list of the organisations/institutions that replied to the survey and made reference to activities that relate to INSPIRE, as well as links to their homepage, and selected links to specific initiatives when relevant.

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<th>Nr.</th>
<th>Organisation/institution</th>
<th>Web page/Facebook</th>
<th>Links on relevant initiatives</th>
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<td>2</td>
<td>A.O. „Viitorul Copiilor Noștri“ VICON</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Reprezentanța din Republica Moldova a Fundației „Terre des hommes“</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>A.O. „STOICII“ pentru copii și tineret cu dereglaři funcționale</td>
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<td>17</td>
<td>A.O. „Keystone Human Services International Moldova Association“</td>
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|   |   | http://cnpac.org.md/rom/news/view/un-nou-plan-strategic-de-activitate-a-
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12plus-deja-si-la-ungheni |
|   |   | https://12plus.md |
| 20. | A.O. „Generația Mea” | https://www.facebook.com/ong.ge-
eratia.mea/ |
| 21. | Fundația Regina Pacis | www.reginapacis.org |
|   |   | http://reginapacis.org/proiectul-de-
noi-depinde-viitorul-nostru-
mol020173a/ |
| 22. | Chisinau Municipal Directorate for 
Child Rights Protection | www.dmpdc.md |
| 23. | Platforma pentru Egalitate de Gen | www.egaliitatedegen.md |
|   |   | https://egaliitatedegen.md/4611266/ |
|   |   | https://www.facebook.com/radiomold 
ovatineret |
| 24. | Fundația de Binefacere „Caritas 
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singerei/ |
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scoala-modalitati-de-preventie-si-
terventie/ |
| 25. | A.O. „Femeia și Copilul – Protecție și 
Sprijin” | www.fcps.md |
|   |   | http://fcps.md/?p=2185 |
|   |   | http://fcps.md/?p=2151 |
|   |   | http://fcps.md/?p=2235 |
|   |   | http://fcps.md/?p=2099 |
|   |   | http://fcps.md/?p=1692 |
| 27. | A.O. „Speranța” | - |
| 28. | State Chancellery | www.cancelaria.gov.md |
| 29. | A.O. „Alături de copiii noștri” | - |
| 30. | A.O. „Asociația psihologilor Tighina” | www.aptiqhina.causeni.org |
|   |   | http://aptiqhina.causeni.org/?p=104 |
ABOUT THIS REPORT

This factsheet is produced by ChildPact and Alliance of Active NGOs in the field of Child and Family Social Protection (APSCF) in the frame of two regional projects funded by Oak Foundation and INSPIRE Fund. The two projects include complementing initiatives to map the activities that are currently being conducted in line with the INSPIRE framework in the extended Black Sea Region with the objective of better understanding the current efforts and improving synergies between existing actors working on the implementation of INSPIRE strategies.

The data was collected between April and July 2019. The Mapping Survey is available in English at this link.

We would like to thank all the organisations who have participated to this important mapping exercise during the last months.

Redacted by/Edited by APSCF Secretariat team