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The project focuses on inclusive policymaking at national and local levels through active engagement of CSOs and their networks. The advocacy and watchdog efforts concentrate on policy areas that are key to social cohesion, such as employment, social protection, water and sanitation, education, infrastructure and health among others.

**At national level**, the project supports networks of organizations representing vulnerable groups such as Roma, people with disabilities, elderly and youth to advocate for the design and implementation of inclusive policies.

#### Key figures in 2019 - 2020:

- 175 CSOs form 4 networks engaged;
- 147 public policies analysed from equal opportunities and inclusiveness perspectives;
- Out of 53 emerging policies analysed, 17 were influenced, amendments accepted and adopted;
- 17 national public policies implementation monitored in the areas of health, employment, violence against women, Roma inclusion and youth development, and 4 monitoring reports published.

**At district level**, the project supports advocacy efforts made by district participation councils (DPCs) in Soroca, Causeni and Cahul. The DPC members are building sustainable mechanisms for inclusive and transparent decision-making processes by analysing draft decisions of the district authorities, providing recommendations from the perspective of transparency and inclusion of vulnerable groups.

#### Key figures in 2019 - 2020:

- 55 local CSOs active in 3 DPCs;
- Over 500 draft decisions of the district authorities analysed by DPCs;
- 84 decisions influenced by DPCs.

**At town and village level**, the project assists local CSOs and local inclusive citizen groups to design and implement meaningful community mobilization and oversight interventions. Their activities focus on community mobilization, training, encouraging the vulnerable to claim their rights, participatory evaluation of local community services, consultations of local budgets, reviewing key local policies and decisions from the perspective of vulnerable groups.

#### Key figures in 2019-2020:

- 18 grassroots CSOs involved in creating participation mechanisms and policy influencing work in 37 communities;
- 250 draft decisions reviewed and 78 of them influenced at local level;
- 1'640 persons trained and approximately 4'835 people mobilized for inclusive local development and policy dialogue with local authorities;
- 28 local inclusive citizen groups in targeted communities engaged in total 481 people (328 women and 153 men) for advocacy and community mobilization work to address identified community issues.

**Alliance of Organizations of People with Disabilities (AOPD) – 59 CSOs (including 10 new members in 2020)**



AOPD advocacy efforts succeeded to ensure that, during the COVID-19 pandemic, the payments of benefits to thousands of persons with disabilities (PwD) are made without the obligation to prove a valid status of disability (that has to be annually renewed).

**Active Ageing Platform – 18 NGOs**

2020 Moldova Voluntary Review Report included the needs and perspectives of the elderly as a result of the Platform’s participation in consultations.

In Carabetovca village, southern Moldova, the members of the platform for active ageing advocated for improving the quality of roads and sidewalks. This issue is hampering mobility and socialisation of older people, access to emergency health care and other social community services. As a result of sustained advocacy efforts, including public events and official letters, the local authorities adopted the regulation on the reparation of roads and sidewalks with corresponding funds. The rehabilitation of roads and sidewalks will improve the access to services for around 368 older people living in the community.



**Youth Inclusion Platform – 63 NGOs**

In Ocnita town, northern Moldova, the youth CSO network advocated successfully for the inclusion of a co-management commission in the process of elaboration and implementation of the development strategy of the town. The co-management commission will allow for increased participation of youth in consultations at all stages of the policy development and implementation.



**“Roma Voice” Platform – 35 NGOs**

The platform mapped the communities where no Roma community mediators were hired, at odds with the provisions of the Roma Action Plan. Previous analyses conducted by the platform revealed that Roma community mediators made significant strides to improve Roma access to education, social services, social security. The findings of the mapping results were repeatedly brought to the attention of Ministry of Finance and the respective local public authorities, including Chisinau municipality, Ceadir-Lunga town, Cania village, Cantemir district, Ghiliceni village, Telenesti district. As a result, for 2020 the Ministry of Finance committed to make targeted transfers for all the communities that need community mediators.



## Examples of results achieved by district participation councils (DPCs)

- In two districts, Soroca and Cahul, the sessions of district councils are livestreamed; as a result the number of CSOs participating debates on draft decisions increased including CSOs from remote villages.
- In Causeni town, 2020 budget allocations for youth activities increased from CHF 2'400 to CHF 4'400.
- DPC in Soroca signalled and stopped the fraudulent practice of post-factum voting for some initiatives that were de facto already implemented.
- 12 children with disabilities from Cahul district benefited, on equal terms with others, from free vouchers to summer camps thanks to DPC's advocacy efforts.

## Examples of results achieved by grassroots CSOs in targeted communities

The CSO "Tarsmi" from Taraclia town, inhabited by a Bulgarian ethnic group, mapped the barriers that affect the lives of single mothers, which is one of the five initiative groups mobilized by the CSO. Exploring the opportunity provided by the CEDAW national review, the initiative group developed an alternative report on the situation of single mothers and submitted it for consideration to CEDAW Committee in February 2020.



The CSO "Pas cu PAS regiunea Sud" and its volunteers initiated the first advocacy campaign "Implementation of participatory budgeting in the city of Cahul". The group assisted the municipal council to elaborate the regulation on the participatory budgeting in December 2019. The regulation on participative budgeting was unanimously approved as a public policy in Cahul municipality with a total allocated budget of CHF 58'000 for the year 2020.



The CSO "Prima" from Taraclia actively involves persons with disabilities in monitoring the efficiency of the national program on social assistance at local level. In 2019 it was revealed that most persons with severe disabilities in Taraclia lack access to personal assistance services, of which 98 people with severe disabilities were still on the waiting list in 2019. As a result of active advocacy efforts (three people with severe disabilities and two members of the project team attended the district council meeting at the end of 2019), in 2020, 75 persons with disabilities in Taraclia started benefiting from the personal assistance services paid from the local budget, compared to 22 in 2019.

