Strengthening Access to and Participation in Education of Ukrainian and Moldovan Children with Special Education Needs (SEN) and Disabilities

Chisinau, May 2024

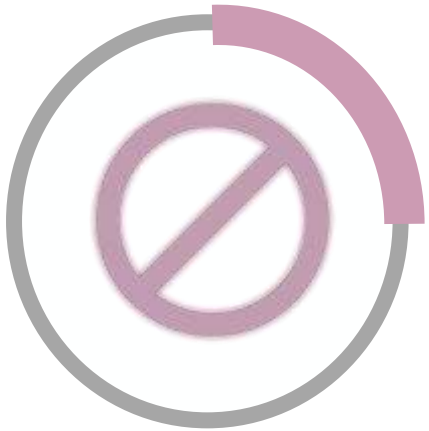
Partners

The partners of the project are UNICEF and sponsored by the governments of Italy and Norway, the implementation being done by Speranta 87; the pilot region was Gagauzia.

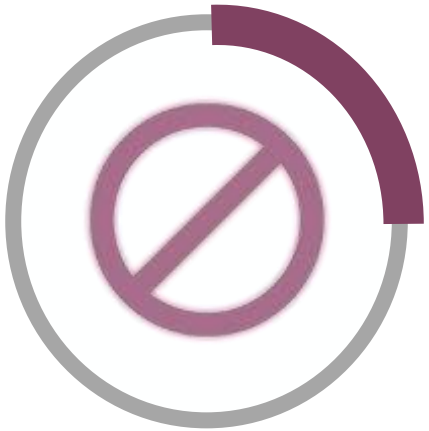
Donors	Government of Norway; unicef; Government of Italy
Implementing partners	HOPE 87 Speranța 87 Moldova; CRAP Centrul Republican de Asistență Psihopedagogică – Platformă a Educației Incluzive; &
Pilot geography	• Gagauzia region, Ceadir Lunga City; • **Children with SEN were selected from 2 centers that work with such children**

Identified challenges of children with SEN

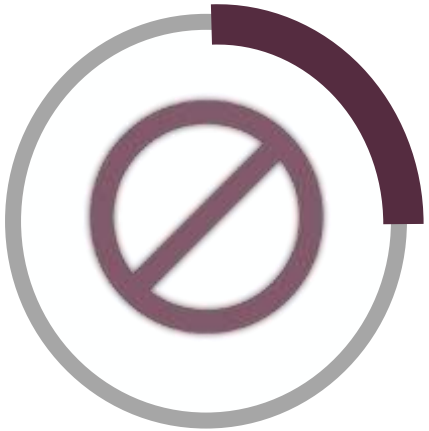
Children with SEN face many challenges in Moldova, which may lead to social exclusion.



Mythes and fear about the condition



Refusal of parents to acknowledge their children have SEN



Lack of knowledge and trainings on how to work of these children

Addressing the issues

To contribute to the paradigm change in a given population, SPERANTA 87 had to address the main identified challenges.

Demystify

Help acknowledge and act

Train the teachers

The 3/4-pillar methodology

Addressing the challenge resulted in a 3/4-pillar methodology.

Develop methodologies

- A pluri-disciplinary team of national experts (psychologists, speech specialists, kinetic specialists) develop methodologies **on how to work with SEN children**

Show methodologies' efficacy

- Provide to parents and teachers the proofs that there are methodologies that work and results can be achieved
- **Help highlighting** the specificities of each child and help parents identify those when applying methodologies

Train the local educators and parents

- Provide practical lessons to educators and parents of children with SEN based on the developed methodologies.

Support & Follow-up

- Support / motivate parents the parents and teachers in the implementation of methodologies on a longer run.
- Constantly take feedback from the ground and keep on adapting the methodologies and national policies
- Develop additional modules

3 months

Project results

The team developed 2 modules , and adapted 2 previously developed on working specifically with children with SEN.

Develop methodologies

In collaboration with CRAP specialists

2 - developed modules

- 1 module for children with autism
- 1 module for children with other cognitive perturbations.

Each of the modules focused on the activities for these children, including physical, art, etc.

2 - adapted modules

The modules, previously developed by UNICEF, were adapted to children with SEN

- Child Center Methodology (CCM), Inclusive Education (IE), MHPSS,
- Prevention of violence and bullying, social cohesion, gender, and positive parenting.

Project results

50 children with SEN received individual lessons, 25 hours each.

Show methodologies ' efficacy

In collaboration with CRAP specialists and local teachers / educators

1250 individualized hours delivered to children

Each child, of the 50, received 25 hours of lessons in:

- Romanian
- Russian
- Physical activities
- Speech therapy
- Psychological help

The goal was not to teach "Romanian", or "Russian", but to activate neuro-motorical triggers, that allow to get immediate results.
Parents assisted during the lessons and were provided with recommendations specific to their children.

Examples of results:

- Some children started pronouncing words or speaking in general
- Some started walking
- Etc.

Project results

More than 30 - 50 teachers / educators / parents received trainings in developed methodologies.

Train the local educators and parents

In collaboration with CRAP specialists and local teachers / educators / parents

30-50 teachers / educators/ parents received trainings

CRAP specialists travelled to Gagauzia and delivered a 12-days training in developed modules to the teachers, educators and parents in Ceadir-Lunga.

Feedback on the lessons:

"Thanks for the trainings. I love the children I have in charge and was always willing to learn more on how to provide them education. However, to access trainings in such methodologies require money, which I do not have. The project provided us lessons we would not afford and we are very happy with this! ***Thank you, thank you, thank you****!"* , Teacher

"I learned so much during these trainings, they are so practical. This is an eye-opener, I am looking at my child differently now. I feel like now I can help her much more. Additionally, we are out of the closet thanks to this project. We interact with other parents of children with SEN, and not only", Mother

To recap

What was achieved in 3 months:

2 new modules developed and **2 more adapted** for the work with children with SEN

1250 hours of individualized courses delivered to **50 children (12 girls / 38 boys)** with SEN

30 to 50 educators, parents, and teachers of children with (SEN) participated in six full days of comprehensive training on the developed modules.

Next steps

Continuing the project is a priority for the parents, educators and especially children.

Support & Follow-up

More modules

Development of 2 additional modules:

- Parents / teachers relationship
- Valorization and promotions of SEN children stenghts.

New geographies

Extension to two additional regions:

- Comrat
- Taraclia
- Potentially to the rest of the country

Continuous support

- Taking feedback from already provided training
- Adapting modules based on the field feedback
- Pushing the inclusion of the developed into national policies of teachers training