

Study of the Life and Light Foundation program Future through education implemented in Republic of Moldova, in Purcari and Stefan Voda and Transnistria

Summary:

The study aims to offer an external overview of:

- the political, economic, religious and social situation in the Republic of Moldova and Transnistria region,
- the positive and negative driving forces for change in Republic of Moldova and Transnistria region, especially when it comes to empowering citizens,
- the situation of human rights in the Republic of Moldova, and Transnistria region
- the actors involved in protecting the vulnerable groups and empowering citizens, being state institutions and private ones (NGOs, informal groups, churches)

This study is needed to expand Life and Light Foundation (L&L) intervention in Republic of Moldova, including Transnistria region.

Short presentation of the contractors:

Läkarmissionen is a Swedish aid organisation, active in about 35 countries on four continents. Its goal is to create opportunities for vulnerable individuals that enhance their life quality and empower them to pursue a better future.

Läkarmissionen is based in Sweden and legally set up as a foundation, with international aid as the primary purpose. Läkarmissionen started in 1958 supporting a mission hospital in South Africa. Today, it is an international aid organisation, active in 35 countries on four continents, with an annual budget of more than SEK 100 million.

Läkarmissionen's aid and development efforts are carried out by our country offices, local partners, or international organisations with a local presence.

Life and Light Foundation (L&L) started its activity in 1996 as a Romanian-Swedish partnership. Together with its main partner, the Swedish Läkarmissionen Foundation, Life and Light responded to the dramatic situation of street children in Bucharest. Its aim is to develop an alternative to an intervention model to combat poverty among abandoned children on the street in Bucharest and its mission is currently addressing vulnerable social categories, although children are the primary focus of our foundation.

Life and Lights is implementing five programs:

Prevention - Never Alone dedicated to homeless persons and more and more focused on homeless families with children;

Reintegration - Together in the Family providing a safe, secure and loving environment for children separated by their parents by the state authorities;

Integration - "Independent life" providing children that reach 18 years old and not anymore under the state protection the time to grow and find their way in life (shelter, food, counselling);

A Better Home design to prove that through punctual and articulated interventions living conditions can be created and it would prevent Roma from resorting to marginal means of survival, such as begging;

Future through education aims at reducing school drop-out of children from Purcari region (Republic of Moldova), providing them with opportunities to discover and develop their talents, but also to help their parents find opportunities to raise their children and have a better life.

1. Project Description

Project title: Future through education

General objective: social inclusion of marginalized persons from Purcari region, Republic of Moldova

Specific ob. No.1. preventing school drop-out for children from 6 to 14 years old.

Specific ob. No.2. Supporting / Stimulating the talents and abilities of children from vulnerable families

Specific ob. No.3. Increasing the capacity of local communities to participate in the public decision

The Republic of Moldova is a poor country, and the Transnistria conflict blocked the market of agricultural products people from the Purcari region lived off (2053, recent data from 2019). Because of this, over 40% of children dropout of school and their parents lack the resources to support them. In Purcari, people have a hard time, many families with children are very poor and without any hope for a better living. When hope dies, the future disappears.

In 2014, L&L established an education centre at Purcari Gymnasium (after-school). The demand was very high. At present, 38 children aged 7 to 14 receive support for homework, have access to computers, benefit from non-formal education (thematic camps and events) and a warm meal. Presence in class, school performance, and health have improved considerably. The project supports single parents, vulnerable families with parents who have gone abroad or with health problems.

And because talent appears everywhere L&L financially supports poor talented children from the art school to develop and increase their talent. L&L is also involved in helping community development. So, part of our efforts is going also towards community development in Purcari.

In 2019, L&L wanted to broaden the intervention and offer new opportunities for students to have chances to develop professionally and to escape the vicious circle of poverty. We organized computer clubs for high school students in Ștefan Vodă, Ștefan Vodă district (Ștefan Vodă High School). L&L knows that in Chisinau the computer science high school is successfully preparing young programmers, but in the province, in the poor areas of the Republic of Moldova, such initiatives are lacking. L&L is offering in this way the opportunity for children from poor families, who cannot afford to study in Chisinau, to find a way in life and to overcome the condition of their parents.

2. General objective of the study

The Study aims to identify new possibilities to expand the intervention of L&L in the region (Republic of Moldova), including Transnistria. It would also make recommendations about possible project partners, and ideas that might be used to further the collaboration with local and regional possible partners.

Aim of the study: based on the study results, L&L wants to expand the intervention, aiming to access other funding opportunities.

Beneficiaries: The study will be done for Läkarmissionen, but also for L&L, in order to better understand the context and to find out the directions for the project development.

The Study will be carried out in order to provide an independent assessment of the project. It should critically review the project and give concrete recommendations on what could have been done better and/or differently in order to achieve optimal effects.

With this study, Läkarmissionen and L&L intend to have an external overview of the intervention carries out by L&L and expects recommendations for the future development of the project.

3. Specific objectives of the study

a. Previous interventions

Provide a short description (objectives, main activities, results, and budget) and links to the initiatives supported by SMC/Sida implemented by a non-Swedish organization, state the project numbers.

Attach evaluations of previous interventions/projects that have a strong component in empowering citizens¹ of Republic of Moldova - short description (objectives, main activities, results, and budget) and links.

b. Actors

Identify the main actors that would influence the intervention in empowering citizens of Republic of Moldova and Transnistria region;

Describe what work is already being done by other stakeholders, in relation to the empowering citizens of Republic of Moldova and Transnistria region;

Describe the relationship between duty bearers and civil society;

Describe/present the main topics of the dispute between civil society and state authorities (in Republic of Moldova and Transnistria region);

Describe the right-holders (NGOs, government, networks, organizations, religious actors etc.), and duty bearers (government, authorities, ministries, local village chiefs), and the reasons duty bearers are not fulfilling their obligation, but also the obstacles that hold back right holders to organize and mobilize people, to strengthen organizational capacity and collaboration between organizations;

Suggest potential partners, organization and network of organizations that would be interested in getting involved in activities aimed at empowering citizens in Republic of Moldova and Transnistria region.

c. Context and problem analysis

Describe the social, economic, politic and religious situation identifying the causes that have contributed to the low civic participation. The focus should be on the border regions of Republic of Moldova (Transnistria region).

Describe a few cases of human rights violations in any different fields (the border region between the Republic of Moldova and Transnistria) and types of civil society reactions to these violations.

¹ Empowerment: the capacity of individuals, groups and/or communities to take control of their circumstances, exercise power and achieve their own goals, and the process by which, individually and collectively, they are able to help themselves and others to maximize the quality of their lives.

Presents a few recent cases of human rights violations by state institutions. It also presents the reactions of the community / society towards these situations.

Describe the procedures for public consultation in the decision-making process;

Present the overall situation of the implementation of the public consultation procedures;

Describes the power relations in the regions concerned.

Present how conflict sensitivity could be applied in the current context.

d. State authorities

Presents the main reasons why the state authorities, at the national and local level, do not fulfill their responsibilities and obligations.

e. Civic society

present the actors in the civil society who are active in the field of active citizenship and promote respect for human rights and democracy.

f. Climate, environment, and disaster risks

Describe the ecological situation in the region, which are the main sources of pollution, the main sources of risk that could lead to ecological disasters.

g. Peace and conflict

Present the situation of the conflict in the region, including the chances of armed conflict.

Present what are the expectations of the people / the expectations of the authorities in the area and what is their reaction to the possibility of armed conflict in the region in the near future.

h. Gender equality

Present the situation of gender power relations in the Moldavian society, with focus also on Transnistria region.

Present what could be the effects of the power relations in case of the implementation of a project that would aim at empowering citizens.

Present the power relations between men and women with clear details regarding the left and right regions of Nistru.

i. Religious and religious freedom

Present the situation of religious freedom in the two regions on the left and right of Nistru.

Present the relationships between religions / cults, the roles of religious communities, religiously based attitude, degree of religious freedom

j. HIV and AIDS

The situation of HIV and AIDS in the two regions on the left and right of Nistru

k. Corruption²

Present the situation of corruption in the society of the Republic of Moldova, with a focus on the two regions on the left and right of Nistru.

l. Alcohol and drug misuse

Present the situation of alcohol and drug misuse with a focus on the two regions on the left and right of Nistru.

² <https://www.transparency.org/cpi2018>

4. Methodology of the evaluation

The consultant team should present their proposal of the methodology of choice. As mentioned already the study has to be made in the framework of Rights-Based Approach.

The structure of the study should be presented and discuss, in order to be approved by the contractor, in 1 week from the beginning of the contract. The study should be ready no later than March 15, 2020.

5. Consultant team skills and experiences

Competencies

- Good knowledge of civil society in Republic of Moldova and Transnistria region.
- Knowledge about gender and non-discrimination
- Knowledge about organisational and institutional development
- Communication skills at various levels (interviews, workshops etc.), from the community level to the political arena with the command of [local language] and English.
- Ability to work in a diversified team.
- Ability to search and find relevant documents for the study.
- Ability to analyse and write in a concise way the findings.
- Good reading and writing skills in English (or a good English translator for translating the study after its approval).

Experience

- Good knowledge of Republic of Moldova and Transnistria region
- Higher degree in social sciences, political science or equivalent degree in a related field of expertise;
- Strong research and analytical skills with special emphasis on data collection and analysis tools.

6. Logistics and procedures

The consultant team will have access to all Life and Light Foundation reports on the project implemented in Republic of Moldova. The L&L team from Republic of Moldova can be contacted and can offer some support for planning the field visit, if necessary. Daniela Tarnovschi can respond to the questions that may arise during the research.

The contract covers additional costs (transport, translation, insurances, office space, logistical support).

The structure of the study (main chapters and their short summary) will be presented, in writing, after the first week of the contract. The structure could be done in Romanian.

7. Deliverables

The ToR requires evaluators to produce the following outputs:

- Communications plan (to be developed and delivered before the evaluation starts), presented to the offer.

- The structure of the study after the first week of the contract.
- The first Draft of the Study, in English, should be sent to Daniela Tarnovschi daniela.tarnovschi@fvl.ro and dtarnovschi@gmail.com for feed-back (3 days needed).
- The Final version of the Study, in English, including recommendations and appendices, should be sent to Daniela Tarnovschi Daniela.tarnovschi@fvl.ro and dtarnovschi@gmail.com.

8. Budget

The budget should be no more than 3,500 EURO, total cost, including taxes.

9. Submission of proposal

Interested candidates should submit their proposals by February 3rd, 2020. The proposal should be submitted over email to the following email address: Asa Henriksson asa.henriksson@lakarmissionen.se and Daniela Tarnovschi Daniela.tarnovschi@fvl.ro and dtarnovschi@gmail.com

External Study in the subject line.

The consultant team/bidders are asked to provide, in English:

- A letter of interest.
- A technical proposal that describes the preferred data gathering.
- A proposed process and timeframe for the study. The study should be completed by March 15, 2020. Final Report should be delivered at the latest March 15, 2020.
- A budget quote for the complete study. A detailed budget should be discussed together with responsible evaluation managers and completed before the start of the study.
- Examples of relevant similar studies conducted.
- References to similar assignments conducted.
- A Curriculum Vitae outlining relevant education, expertise and experience, and names and contact information of three references related to similar work undertaken.