

# Project Brief

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| Country              | Republic of Moldova   |
| Project Title        | <b>A Good Start in Life for Rural Children in Moldova</b>   |
| Cooperation Partners | Step by Step Moldova, Ministry of Education, Local Public Administration, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Social Protection and Family, rayon-level Directorates for Education, Youth and Sports  |
| Background           | <p>Young children have the right to get care, which supports their optimal growth and development. Rural children in Moldova often do not get the necessary support for ensuring this right. Home environment is poorly stimulating and child-care services and facilities are not available or fitted to meet their needs. Community Centers (CCs) can develop and offer innovative educational services for children and families and thereby become an efficient solution for increased child support and social equity. Parenting education may considerably improve parents/caregivers' practices in support to children's development.</p> <p>Trained Community Centers staff can provide educational services of a higher quality and based on the child-centered approach.</p> <p>Empowered communities can better tailor local services for meeting the educational and social needs of children and families.</p>   |
| Assumptions          | The Education For All-Fast Track Initiative (EFA-FTI) project in Moldova is entirely focused on early child development. The synergy of projects can bring added value to the efforts undertaken by the Government in modernizing the early education and increasing the access of rural children and families to quality educational services.   |
| Project Description  | <p><b>General objective:</b> The CCs are actively supporting the parents and caregivers in their educational efforts for young children. With the help of the CCs the communities can strengthen their supporting structures for the young children, thus enabling a comprehensive development, better school readiness and transition to school. The CCs assist rural communities to build capacity in order to make these programs sustainable; lobby at national, regional and local level for cross-agency cooperation in supporting community-driven initiatives.</p> <p>The project will reach this objective through the following activities:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Develop and print comprehensive package of materials for CCs programs for children and parents and for home activities.</li><li>2. Build training capacities. National SBSM experts and trainers deliver trainings to the target groups and provide technical assistance on-site to CC staff.</li><li>3. Develop the ability of communities to create needs-driven CC programs for parents and children</li><li>4. Build the capacity of CC staff to run programs for parents and children meant to improve children's development and school readiness and monitoring the quality.</li><li>5. Ensure and maintain the quality of CC programs.</li><li>6. Create a network of Community Centers across the country for support and sustainability.</li></ol> |
| Duration             | 02.02.2009 – 31.01.2012 (first phase)   |
| Project Budget       | Annually: 296,000 Euros      Phase 1: 779,830 Euros   |
| Funding from LED     | Annually: 100,000 Euros      Phase 1: 307,830 Euros   |