

## Project CARE



<b>Project name</b>	<b>CARE - Community Assistance and Resource Empowerment. Breaking the cycle of generational poverty in the rural communities of Republic of Moldova.</b>
<b>Project locations</b>	Republic of Moldova, Cahul, Chisinau, Stefan Voda, Stircea
<b>Donor</b>	Bundesministerium für Soziales, Gesundheit, Pflege und Konsumentenschutz (BMSGPK) (Ministry of Social Affairs of Austria)
<b>Duration of Project</b>	01.10.2024-30.09.2026
<b>Implementing Organisations</b>	CONCORDIA Sozialprojekte Gemeinnützige Privatstiftung Contact Person: Caroline Lercher Tauber Caroline.lercher-tauber@CONCORDIA.or.at +43 1 2128149-34
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### 1. Project Description

In this project, CONCORDIA collaborates with the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of the Republic of Moldova and CARITAS Moldova to break the cycle of poverty. Our goal is to provide particularly vulnerable children, young people, families, and older people with the opportunities they need to build better lives and escape the risk of poverty.

To sustainably reduce poverty in the Republic of Moldova, CONCORDIA has adopted an intergenerational approach that encourages mutual learning between generations while addressing the specific needs of key target groups. This approach not only strengthens the connection to CONCORDIA's existing programs in Moldova, but also tackles the issue of intergenerational poverty from multiple perspectives. It engages local authorities and decision-makers in a broad discussion to create a more comprehensive solution.

The project consists of three cornerstones, all of which contribute to achieving the overarching project goal with their defined sub-goals. The **first pillar** comprises the systemic level and is intended to support experts from the social sector in their work to improve services for the vulnerable rural population by making state services easier and more efficient to use through targeted training, workshops and mentoring sessions by CONCORDIA Academia. These activities are embedded in the RESTART reform of the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of the Republic of Moldova and are a necessary prerequisite for achieving systemic and long-term changes in the social system, which are also a prerequisite for Moldova's accession to the EU.



The **second pillar** of the project is dedicated to the development and implementation of innovative measures to promote the active participation of target groups in social life in three selected rural project areas in the Republic of Moldova. In the villages of Văleni, Tudora and Stirces, a pilot model of intergenerational exchange is to be developed and tested with the aim of reducing the negative effects of structural poverty through these measures and giving people of different age groups new opportunities for the sustainable development of their communities. This involves both the satisfaction of basic needs (e.g. outreach work, home visits) and the creation of a social space within the communities where a productive exchange between the target groups is possible, e.g. in the form of storytelling workshops, mentorship programmes, and community fairs, etc.

The **third pillar** of the project aims to improve the physical and emotional health of our main target groups by planning and implementing community activities, such as parent counselling sessions, to preventively reduce the negative effects of poverty. In this pillar, too, we endeavour to support the most vulnerable with a wide range of assistance through various activities.

## **2. Description of CONCORDIA**

CONCORDIA Social Projects (CONCORDIA) is an association consisting of a non-profit foundation based in Vienna (CONCORDIA AT), a non-profit association based in Vienna (CONCORDIA LenZ) and six non-profit sister organisations in Bulgaria, Germany, Kosovo, the Republic of Moldova, Romania and Switzerland. As an internationally active, independent aid organisation, CONCORDIA's core mission is to support socially disadvantaged and marginalised children, young people and families in need by providing direct and immediate assistance on-site.

It is CONCORDIA's main task to protect children and young people and to support them in developing their potentials in order to consequently lead a self-determined life outside marginalisation. CONCORDIA's programmes in the five project countries (Austria, Bulgaria, Kosovo, the Republic of Moldova and Romania) are divided into childcare, community-based support, education and professional training, employment and social business as well as empowerment.

All interventions and measures are guided by the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child as well as the UN Sustainable Development Goals. In 2022, CONCORDIA reached a total of 13,018 people with at least one offered service. In detail, these were 609 persons in Austria, 1,538 in Bulgaria, 442 in Kosovo, 7,274 in the Republic of Moldova and 3,155 people in Romania. In addition, CONCORDIA was able to help a total of 16,415 refugees from Ukraine in 2022 with emergency aid and further support measures. Overall, 349 children and young people lived in family-type homes and crisis centres last year. 7,638 people benefited from community-based support and 3,026 children and young people participated in CONCORDIA's education programme.

### 3. Description of local partner organisation



#### a. CONCORDIA Proiecte Sociale

Our local partner for the “CARE”-project is our local sister organisation CONCORDIA Moldova. Set up in 2004, they are part of the international federation of CONCORDIA Social Projects, which involves five sister organisations in Romania, Bulgaria, Austria, Germany and Moldova. CONCORDIA Moldova has one overall vision: to make a substantial contribution to the social integration of disadvantaged groups (children and families especially) – and in so doing, drive the whole country forward. To that end, CONCORDIA Moldova runs 6 direct services and capacity building programmes in about 32 localities across the country, annually providing social services to around 7,400 programme participants from socially vulnerable families.

CONCORDIA Moldova’s main programme areas are:

- Alternative Childcare: residential care, foster care, family-based or family-like care placement, and supervised independent living arrangements for young people between 18 and 35 years;
- Adults Care Programmes: care provision for elderly people, temporary care provision for adults in difficult circumstances;
- Community-based Intervention Programmes: mobile social work, social assistance for families with children, support for mothers and children in difficult circumstances and support for mothers and children in detention, day-care services for children, young people and elderly people, leisure activities for children and young people, emergency support for adults in need;
- Education Programmes: after-school support, academic and professional training for social professions, and skills development through voluntary work.

#### b. CARITAS Moldova

Caritas Moldova is a charitable organisation with a mission rooted in promoting social equity and defending human dignity, the organisation endeavours to create a more compassionate society. At the heart of its vision is the aspiration to build a community grounded in solidarity, where the values of human dignity, the common good, truth, and freedom are actively promoted.

The team at Caritas Moldova is comprised of motivated and responsible individuals who are guided by core Christian principles. These values include compassion, integrity, transparency, and universality, all of which drive the organisation’s efforts to make a meaningful impact. Its activities span the entire territory of the Republic of Moldova, coordinated through the National Office and supported by 11 branches strategically located in various cities, including Balti, Bender, Chisinau, and Tiraspol.



The programme participants of Caritas Moldova encompass some of the most vulnerable segments of society, including abandoned elderly individuals, people with disabilities, children, young adults, students, and single-parent families. The organisation also extends its support to the unemployed and those in precarious situations.

Through collaboration with partners from various countries, Caritas Moldova has successfully implemented numerous impactful projects. The true measure of success for the organisation lies in the joy it brings to the lives of those it serves. Each smile fuels the passion and commitment of Caritas Moldova to continue its vital work in the community.