



**Name of the project:** *Supporting the children with hearing impairments*

**Implementing organization:** *CCF Moldova – Children, Communities, Families*

**Country:** *Republic of Moldova*

**Period of implementation:** *October 2020- July 2021*

### **Narrative report, 2021**

CCF Moldova – Children, Communities, and Families<sup>1</sup> is a non-governmental charitable, apolitical, non-profit organization, aimed at public benefit obtaining, constituted at free will of the associated persons on the basis of community of interest and is organized and acts according to the provisions of the Public Association Law. Since 2005 CCF Moldova represents Hope and Homes for Children UK and implements HHC model of Deinstitutionalization which was considered good practice by UNICEF and WHO.

For more than 17 years CCF Moldova has actively promoted, monitored the implementation and advocated for children's rights. The main area of intervention is focused on fulfilling Children's' Right to Protection and Right to Education. We do it in a manner that combines practical work and implementation on grass-root level, as well as policy dialogue and advocacy. Understanding real needs, keeping close contacts with beneficiaries and partners at the local level enables us to bring this knowledge to governmental and non-governmental platforms through NGO Alliance (we are the Coordination Council member), through National Council for Children' Rights, Ministry of Education, Culture and Research, Coordination Council for Deinstitutionalization and Inclusive Education, Republican Psycho-pedagogical Centre Work Groups etc.

Since 2007 Moldova has been engaged in the reform of the system of residential and special institutions. Residential institutions do not meet the needs of the child; they only separate them from the family without providing them with specialized quality services. At the same time, the new alternative services, such as inclusive education, still lack sufficient experience to provide specialized services to children with hearing impairment. Based on a MoU with Ministry of Education, Culture and Research, in June 2016 CCF Moldova has closed the Residential Institution for Children with hearing impairment, in Balti and reintegrated 19 children age 3-7, from 13 counties that were separated from their families in order to get the needed support.

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<sup>1</sup> [www.ccfmoldova.org](http://www.ccfmoldova.org)

In the coming years, we continued to provide support for the rehabilitation and inclusion of children with hearing impairment, so we have witnessed **more than 100 children**. In the activities, we found that increased attention should be paid to working with parents and local specialists. It is up to them that the stimulation of the child's speech takes place continuously and in a natural way.

The CCF Moldova team has the following approach:

1. Supporting families in determining disability and obtaining / maintaining functional hearing aids and encouraging them to write an official letter to the Minister of Health in order to include their children for the cochlear implant operation, which will be covered by the state program. The Government of Moldova approved the Cochlear Implant national program on 27th December 2019.
2. **Intensive rehabilitation of children by local specialists. This rehabilitation is covered financially by CCF Moldova with the UN Women's Guild funds.**
3. Assisting children in the inclusive education process. This is done through teachers and support teachers training as well as methodological support.
4. Assistance of the local specialists – speech therapists and psycho - pedagogues from the Psycho-Pedagogical Assistance Services (PPAS) in auditory-verbal retrieval and inclusion of children with hearing impairment.
5. Financial support of the families with children with hearing impairments that are included in the CCF program that includes support for house renovation, house equipment and appliances, schools supplies, toys and development materials for children, as well as financial support for maintaining the hearing aids, etc.
6. Legal and psychological counselling of the families with children with hearing impairment from CCF program through active monitoring of the families: visits and phone calls in the families.

With the financial support of the UN Women's Guild, CCF Moldova implemented the project ***Supporting the children with hearing impairments***. Through the project, **15 children with hearing impairment benefited from 75 rehabilitation sessions** provided by the local speech therapists. All children are from vulnerable families with financial difficulties and lack of support.

The rehabilitation sessions were provided in October-November 2020 and March – July 2021. 15 children received 5 rehabilitation session each. The rehabilitation sessions duration is about 35-60 minutes according to the children's possibilities. During the pandemic period, the rehabilitation sessions were conducted on-line. For some families, that could not afford to have a computer/laptop and pay for the internet, CCF Moldova provided support for connection to the internet and second hand laptop/computers from the local fundraising funds.

The on-line rehabilitation is very difficult, and as soon as the pandemic situation decreased, all the rehabilitation activities were provided face-to face. This made a lot easier the rehabilitation process and more visible results. The children started to speak, their pronunciation improved, their communication at school and within the families improved. The children become more confident and the schoolteachers noticed better school success of these children at school.

All the specialists (speech therapists, teachers, county specialists) that provided rehabilitation for the 15 children have been trained in 2019 with the financial support from the UN Women's Guild .

In the picture below is Anatolie. He is 16 years old and in 2020-2021 he was in the 9<sup>th</sup> grade and benefited from rehabilitation sessions. In September 2021 he will start to study at a vocational school to become a cook.









Other pictures from the rehabilitation sessions provided with the United Nations Women's Guild support:



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