



Goal 2

Anatol GREMALSCHI

ENSURE ACCESS TO GENERAL COMPULSORY EDUCATION

Civil Society and Private Sector Contribution to
Achieving the National Targets of MDG 2 in the
Republic of Moldova



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CONTENTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	3
INTRODUCTION	6
CHAPTER 1	
MDG 2 IN THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA – GENERAL FRAMEWORK	8
CHAPTER 2	
MDG 2 – MAJOR TRENDS AND PRESENT SITUATION IN THIS FIELD	10
2.1. Preschool Education.....	10
2.2. Primary Education.....	12
2.3. Gymnasium Education	14
2.4. Constraints Faced by General Compulsory Education	15
2.5. Measures Intended to Enhance the Situation of General Compulsory Education	16
2.6. Literacy Rate	18
CHAPTER 3	
ROLE OF CIVIL SOCIETY IN ACHIEVING MDG 2	20
3.1. Mapping of Active Civil Society Organizations in the Field of MDG 2.....	20
3.2. Awareness about the International and National Development Agenda	23
3.3. Promoting and Supporting Public Policies Relevant for MDG 2.....	24
3.4. Service Provision.....	25
3.5. Sensitization and Information	27
3.6. Role Model.....	29
3.7. Contribution of Civil Society Organizations to Change	31
CHAPTER 4	
ROLE OF PRIVATE SECTOR IN ACHIEVING MDG 2	38
4.1. Mapping the Private Sector of the Republic of Moldova.....	38
4.2. Awareness of the International and National Development Agenda.....	40
4.3. Positive Social Externalities.....	42
4.4. Philanthropy and Sponsorship.....	46
4.5. Contribution to Community Development	48
4.6. Expanding Corporate Social Responsibility Practices.....	51
4.7. Strengthening the Partnerships between Private Companies, Civil Society Organizations and Public Authorities.....	55
CHAPTER 5	
CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS	58
ANNEXES	
Annex 1. List of civil society organizations included in the survey.....	63
Annex 2. List of private companies included in the survey.....	64



LIST OF TABLES

Table 1. Preschool institutions	10
Table 2. Child enrolment in preschool education	11
Table 3. Rates of enrolment in primary education.....	13
Table 4. Rates of coverage by gymnasium education.....	14
Table 5. Gross rates of coverage by general compulsory education.....	15
Table 6. Literacy Rate	18
Table 7. Non-commercial organizations, by legal organizational form	20
Table 8. Non-commercial organizations whose name contains relevant terms for MDG 2 ..	20
Table 9. Non-governmental organizations whose activities are relevant for MDG 2	21
Table 10. General characteristics of the group of non-governmental organizations included in the survey	22
Table 11. Level of awareness of civil society organizations about papers related to development priorities and Millennium Development Goals.....	23
Table 12. General characteristics of the group of private companies covered by the survey.	39
Table 13. Level of awareness of private companies about the papers related to development priorities and Millennium Development Goals.....	41
Table 14. Distribution of child labour by component elements and age-groups.....	43
Table 15. Fields for implementation of social programmes by a range of companies which joined the Global Compact of the United Nations Organization.....	52
Table 16. Reasons refraining the entrepreneurs from developing and publishing social reports	54

LIST OF CASE STUDIES

Box 1. Promoting and supporting the process of implementation of the model of child-friendly school	26
Box 2. School communities in action: setting up the required preconditions for pupils from socially disadvantaged families to stay in school.....	28
Box 3. Sensitization and information with a view to ensure children's right to education.....	30
Box 4. Practices of expanding inclusive education promoted by civil society organizations.	32
Box 5. Role of partnerships in modernizing preschool and primary education.....	34
Box 6. „Step by step, Roma children may succeed” a regional project with a countrywide impact	36
Box 7. Endeavours undertaken by farming producers of the Republic of Moldova to combat child labour.....	44
Box 8. Philanthropic and sponsorship activities for children and pupils	47
Box 9. Contribution to community development “We appreciate intelligence” Project.....	49
Box 10. Activities intended to support education through social responsibility programmes.....	52



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Our country has put considerable efforts to achieve the targets of MDG 2 “Ensure universal access to general compulsory education” which imply increase of the rate of enrolment in general compulsory education, rise of the rate of enrolment in preschool education and attenuation of discrepancies between rural and urban areas, between the disadvantaged groups and the ones with an average income, maintaining the literacy rates. Nevertheless, despite all efforts, the developments of the situation in primary and gymnasium education are rather modest, differently from preschool education, where significant progress was done.

The survey’s goal consists in making an analysis of the contribution of civil society organizations and of private sector to achieving the targets of MDG 2 in the Republic of Moldova, identification of the constraints faced by non-governmental organizations and private companies while conducting relevant for MDG 2 activities and making recommendations for improving and expanding the collaboration among public authorities, associative sector and private sector in terms of ensuring universal access to preschool and general compulsory education.

The survey’s methodology included the analysis of reports developed by public authorities, development partners, civil society organizations and private companies and in-depths interviews with representatives of such institutions. The process of drafting the survey was tracked by a cluster group consisting of representatives of central government, development partners, international organizations, civil society organizations, business entities and independent consultants.

About 500 organizations in the total number of nearly 6,400 civil society organizations registered by the Ministry of Justice, or 8% of them, showed availability to perform relevant activities for achieving MDG 2 in the Republic of Moldova. From the territorial perspective, most organizations whose activities are relevant to MDG 2 are concentrated in Chisinau and in district towns, and only 13% of the total number of non-governmental organizations are working in rural communities.

Direct participation in drafting, monitoring and evaluation of educational policy documents, providing relevant for MDG 2 services, sensitization and information of decision-makers and of public opinion, expanding inclusive education, larger involvement of parents and local communities, supporting the pupils with special educational needs and children in difficulty – here are the major directions for activities conducted by civil society organizations in the context of the national targets of MDG 2.

An important input to improving the situation and promoting changes in preschool, primary and gymnasium education is brought by partnership relations established by civil society organizations with the other active stakeholders in relevant fields for MDG 2: central and local government authorities, international organizations, development partners and business entities. In general, such relations are well-developed, nevertheless, the partnerships between civil society organizations and business entities still need substantial expansion.

The major constraints faced by civil society organizations in their activities aimed at achieving the national targets of MDG 2 are: irrelevance and, sometimes, declarative nature of policy papers; persistence of many elements of formalism in the interaction between civil society organizations and public administration bodies; absence in educational policy papers of explicit provisions concer-

**Ensure access to general compulsory education**

Goal 2

ning the enlargement of participative processes and externalization of services; low share of social broadcasts transmitted by public mass-media and, even less, by private media; limited number and circulation of printed publications for parents and children. The fact that a certain type of non-governmental organizations, namely the associations of parents, are involved in collecting money from pupils for teacher rewarding discourages the enrolment of children from socially disadvantaged families and spoils the reputation of the whole associative sector.

The survey's recommendations concerning the expansion of the role of civil society organizations in achieving the national targets of MDG 2 provide for: strengthening the associative sector in rural communities; larger involvement of non-governmental organizations in identification of out-of-school children and providing support to children in difficulty; community mobilization for preventing school absenteeism and dropout. In addition to it, it is recommended that central and local government bodies undertake urgent externalization of educational services in order to let civil society organizations conduct a broader range of activities aimed at achieving MDG 2.

With a view to be better aware of international and national papers related to development priorities and to Millennium Development Goals, civil society organizations shall have a closer collaboration with development partners and put more efforts towards dissemination of such papers both among their own members, and among the public.

The degree of private sector involvement in activities aimed at achieving the national targets of MDG 2 in the Republic of Moldova is to a large extent determined by the perception of the importance of education by the country's citizens who consider that the situation of education is relatively good and, implicitly, does not require any intervention at the level of the whole system. Consequently, most private companies plan their activities relevant for MDG 2 based on concrete requests formulated by citizens, communities and educational institutions or based on explicit proposals formulated by public authorities.

Private companies of the Republic of Moldova support the educational sector through philanthropy and sponsorship activities, contribution to community development, positive social externalities. Despite the fact that small and medium-size enterprises make up the largest share of companies, the most resonant activities in fields relevant for MDG 2, except charity activities, are systematically conducted by large companies, particularly by joint companies and companies with nationwide coverage.

Private sector contributes to preventing non-enrolment, school absenteeism and dropout through elimination of child labour, a reprehensible phenomenon which is mostly characteristic to rural communities of the Republic of Moldova. The participation of private companies to community development is usually done through initiation and participation of the company's employees in activities intended to support the educational institutions and families in difficulty, involvement in drafting joint strategies and action plans, mobilization of employees and their families for community volunteer ship activities, supporting information and sensitization campaigns, setting up new services intended to enhance the situation in the field of education.

Following the experience of transnational companies, private companies of the Republic of Moldova, particularly large companies and companies with foreign capital, launched a process of business modernization through developing and implementing social responsibility programmes. In the frame of partnerships with public authorities and civil society organizations, private companies provide



financial support for organization of public interest events, as well as financial and material resources within philanthropy and sponsorship activities, mobilize their employees for social responsibility actions.

While providing support to educational sector, private companies of the Republic of Moldova face a number of constraints. The representatives of private companies listed the following constraints: deficiencies of normative-legal framework regulating social responsibility activities of companies; the perception of philanthropy and sponsorship as a veiled advertisement by many citizens and decision-makers; absence of a common vision of public authorities, civil society organizations and private sector about the way how to solve education problems; limited financial capability of small and medium-size companies; low level of dissemination of national and international policy papers related to development priorities and Millennium Development Goals among private companies.

The major recommendations for enhancing the contribution of private sector to achieving the national targets of MDG 2 provide for: updating the normative-legal framework regulating business activities through insertion of explicit provisions related to social responsibility; more intense dissemination, particularly among small and medium-size enterprises, of national and international papers related to development priorities and Millennium Development Goals; dissemination of best practice approaches and models in terms of preventing child labour, particularly among farmers and small entrepreneurs of rural communities; sensitization of employers and of managers of small and medium-size companies to issues related to private sector contribution to community development, particularly to fields related to school enrolment and preventing school dropout.

Partnerships between private companies, civil society organizations and public authorities shall be based on a common agenda for action likely to provide to all stakeholders maximal possibilities to exploit their inherent capability: enthusiasm, flexibility and human potential, in case of civil society organizations; understanding, human and material resources, in case of private companies; power to regulate, organize and put into operation the system of education, in case of public authorities and state institutions.



INTRODUCTION

The Republic of Moldova, alongside with other 191 states of the world, committed to achieve, by the year 2015, the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). In 2004, our country established its national goals, based on realities of that time and taking into account the international goals. The Republic of Moldova committed to achieve the following Millennium Development Goals:

1. Reduce extreme poverty and hunger;
2. Ensure universal access to general compulsory education;
3. Promote gender equality and empower women;
4. Reduce child mortality;
5. Improve maternal health;
6. Combat HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and other diseases;
7. Ensure a sustainable environment;
8. Create a global partnership for development.

Being formulated as concrete tasks and quantifiable targets, the national goals have been included in major policy papers approved and implemented in our country throughout the past eight years: Economic Growth and Poverty Reduction Strategy (2004-2007), National Development Strategy for 2008-2011, National Development Strategy of the Republic of Moldova for 2012-2020, alongside with other about 30 sector strategies and programmes.

According to the reports published from 2005 to 2010 by Government of the Republic of Moldova, our country has done some progress towards achieving the national targets of MDGs, particularly in the field of reducing extreme poverty, promoting gender equality and empowering women, reducing infant mortality, improving maternal health, enlarging state-protected areas, creating partnerships for development. The dynamic of indicators related to education sector, combating HIV/AIDS and TBC and the access to appropriate sanitation infrastructure is slower.

The significant improvement of the situation in the fields where some progress has already been done, as well as in the fields with slower developments might be ensured as a result of expanding the role of civil society organizations and of private sector in drafting and implementing relevant public policies for achievement of the national targets of MDGs. As it is underlined in Accra Agenda for Action (2008)¹, Istanbul civil society organizations development effectiveness principles (2009)², Bussan Declaration (2011)³ and International Framework for Civil Society Organizations Development Effectiveness (2011)⁴, the establishment of more effective and inclusive partnerships for development, alongside with deeper cooperation with civil society organizations and private sector, open new opportunities and have a decisive contribution to successful achievement of Millennium Development Goals.

The *survey's goal* consists in making an analysis of the contribution of civil society organizations and of private sector to achieving the targets of MDG 2 in the Republic of Moldova, identification of the constraints faced by non-governmental organizations and private companies while conducting relevant for MDG 2 activities and making recommendations for improving and expanding the collabo-

1 Accra Agenda for Actions, 3rd High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness, September 2-4, 2008, Accra, Ghana

2 Istanbul CSO Development Effectiveness Principles, Open Forum's Global Assembly in Istanbul, September 28-30, 2010

3 Busan Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation. Fourth High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness, Busan, Republic of Korea, 29 November - 1 December 2011

4 The Second Global Assembly, Open Forum for CSO development effectiveness, Siem Reap, Cambodia, June 28-30, 2011



ration among public authorities, associative sector and private sector in terms of ensuring universal access to preschool and general compulsory education.

The *survey's methodology* included the analysis of reports developed by public authorities, development partners, civil society organizations and private companies and in-depths interviews with representatives of such institutions. In-depths interviews have been conducted on the basis of special questionnaires. The process of drafting the survey was tracked by a cluster group consisting of representatives of central government, development partners, international organizations, civil society organizations, business entities and independent consultants.

The survey consists of five chapters. Chapter 1 explains the formulation of MDG 2 in national context. Chapter 2 makes a succinct description of the present situation from the perspective of MDG 2 in the Republic of Moldova, points out the constraints faced by general compulsory education and the measures intended to improve the situation in this sector of education. Chapter 3 analyzes the role of civil society in achieving the national targets of MDG 2, with a special emphasis on best practices and on activities which foster changes. Chapter 4 makes the analysis of the role of private companies in achieving the targets of MDG 2 from the perspective of their participation in community development and expanding social responsibility practices. Chapter 5 formulates a range of findings derived from the analysis of the present situation in the Republic of Moldova and lists the major survey's recommendations.

The outcomes of this survey will hopefully be useful for public authorities, development partners, non-governmental organizations and private companies whose activities are related to preschool education and general compulsory education, supporting children and families in difficulty, expanding inclusive education practices, ensuring children's access to quality education.



CHAPTER 1.

MDG 2 IN THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA – GENERAL FRAMEWORK

As it is well-known, the international Millennium Development Goal in the field of education consists in ensuring universal access to primary education. But, taking into consideration the situation

Goal	Ensure universal access to gymnasium education.
Task	Ensure opportunities for all children to attend gymnasium education.
Target	Increase the rate of enrolment in gymnasium education from 88% in 2002 to 88,9% in 2006, to 93,8% in 2010 and to 100% in 2015.

Monitoring indicators

- ◆ Net rate of enrolment in gymnasium education.
- ◆ Share of children enrolled in the first grade who complete gymnasium education.
- ◆ Level of literacy among 15-24 year-olds.
- ◆ Degree of coverage of children by preschool institutions.

of the educational system in our country in the period 2001-2004, Government of the Republic of Moldova, based on the conclusions drawn after a comprehensive process of public consultations, established for the Republic of Moldova the following educational goal, tasks and indicators:¹

The analysis of further developments of the educational system in the Republic of Moldova and of measures undertaken by the governance with a view to achieve Millennium Development Goal in the field of education disclosed several constraints, the most important of them being:

- a) low rates of enrolment of children in preschool programmes because of the lack of preschool institutions in small rural communities, closedown of many preschool institutions caused by the low number of enrolled children, shortage of financial resources;
- b) the level of children's preparedness for schooling did not comply with the requirements of modern education even after attendance of a preschool education institution;
- c) persistence of the decrease trends shown by the rates of enrolment in general compulsory education, particularly in gymnasium education;
- d) the quality of general compulsory education did not show any improvement tendencies, while the provision with teaching aids is insufficient and teaching-learning-evaluation methods are to a large extent outdated.

¹ First National Report "Millennium Development Goals in the Republic of Moldova". Approved by Government Decree no. 288 of 15th of March 2005, published in the Official Monitor no. 45-50 of 25th of March 2005



The above-mentioned constraints imposed the need for updating the Millennium Development Goal in the field of education and its revised formulation was included in the National Development Strategy for 2008-2011. The National Development Strategy 2008-2011, which was approved by law, sets the following educational goal, tasks and monitoring indicators compliant with Millennium Development Goals:²

Tasks

- ◆ Ensure opportunities for all children to attend general compulsory education.
- ◆ Maintain the literacy rate among 15-24 year-olds at the level of 99.5%.

Targets

- ◆ Increase the gross rate of enrolment in general compulsory education from 94.1 % in 2002 to 95 % in 2010 and to 98 % in 2015.
- ◆ Increase the rate of enrolment in preschool programmes of children aged 3–6 from 41.3% in 2002 to 75% in 2010 and to 78% in 2015, and for children aged 6–7– from 66.5% in 2002 to 95 % in 2010 and to 98% in 2015, and reduce by less than 5 % the discrepancies between rural and urban areas, between disadvantaged groups and the ones with an average income.

Monitoring indicators:

- ◆ Gross rate of enrolment in general compulsory education.
- ◆ Rate of school dropout.
- ◆ Share of children enrolled in the first grade who complete general compulsory education.
- ◆ Degree of enrolment of children in preschool institutions.
- ◆ Ratio of children enrolled in the first grade after preschool education programmes.
- ◆ Literacy rate.

As a result of the review of Millennium Development Goal in the field of education, the Republic of Moldova could cover by modernization activities an important level of education – preschool education – which plays a decisive role for raising the efficiency and the quality of primary and gymnasium education.

In this context, it is worth being mentioned that formulation of MDG 2 for the Republic of Moldova, and the establishment of the respective tasks and relevant indicators for monitoring of their fulfilment have been and still are matters of debates.³ Such debates are related both to educational levels (preschool, primary and gymnasium education) which shall be a priority for the Republic of Moldova, and to major monitoring indicators. In the opinion of some experts, the replacement of net rates of enrolment in education with gross rates whose values are more “presentable” has been done under the influence of political conjuncture factors.

² National Development Strategy for 2008-2011. Approved by Law no. 295 of 21st of December 2007, published in the Official Monitor no. 18-20 of 29th of January 2008

³ Second Report on Millennium Development Goals. Government of the Republic of Moldova. Chisinau, 2010



CHAPTER 2.

MDG 2 – MAJOR TRENDS AND PRESENT SITUATION IN THIS FIELD

2.1. Preschool Education

With a view to achieve the targets established by the Millennium Development Goal “Ensure universal access to general compulsory education (grades I-IX)” in the field of early child education and development, Government of the Republic of Moldova has undertaken dynamic measures aimed at modernization of the network of preschool institutions, diversification of preschool education programmes, provision of preschool institutions with teaching aids and qualified personnel.

According to statistical data, in 2010/2011 school year, there were 1381 kindergartens in the country with a total number of nearly 12 thousand educators and 760 medical assistants. The number of children covered by preschool education institutions and programmes was estimated to 130 thousand, i.e. 80% of the total number of children of preschool age. Inclusive education practices have been expanded, and nearly 2150 children with special needs attended preschool institutions. Thanks to measures undertaken by central and local government in close collaboration with communities, civil society and development partners, the number of preschool institutions and of children attending them has been growing.

Table 1.
Preschool institutions

	2006/2007	2007/2008	2008/2009	2009/2010	2010/2011
Preschool institutions	1305	1334	1349	1362	1381
Children	116239	120111	123903	125981	130041
Rate of enrolment in pre-school education	70,1%	72,6%	74,4%	76,6%	77,1%

Source: Report on the activity of the Ministry of Education in 2011. Approved by Ordinance of the Ministry of Education's College no. 4.1 of 26th of January 2012 // www.edu.md

The increase of the number of preparatory groups and of the number of children covered by them played an important role in preparing children for schooling. In 2011, there were 1543 preparatory groups in educational institutions, or by 60 groups more than in 2007. The number of children attending such groups rose too, up to 31 thousand in 2011. But the growth was mostly reported in the urban areas, while in the rural areas the number of children in preparatory groups fell down.

Public authorities have undertaken the following major actions with a view to modernize preschool education and achieve the targets of MDG 2:

- a) implementing flexible working schedules with 4, 6, 9, 10 or 12 hours per day in preschool institutions;



- b) developing and implementing, as a supplement to standard educational services, new types of services – psychological, physical development, psycho-social (dancing, chess, computer, foreign languages, etc.) services;
- c) expanding and developing the model of individualized early education with the support of UNESCO, UNICEF and of Social Investments Fund of Moldova, intended to provide educational services to children from disadvantaged families;
- d) developing preschool education curriculum, educational standards, professional standards and the guides for their implementation, teaching aids;
- e) continuing training of managerial staff, educators, medical assistants, social assistants, public servants and public officials in charge of education;
- f) renovation of preschool institutions and setting up community centres in communities deprived from kindergartens;
- g) providing the kindergartens with books, toys, teaching games, furniture, etc.

An important role in conducting the above-mentioned activities was played by „Education for All – Fast Track Initiative” Project launched in 2006 and implemented by the Ministry of Education in cooperation with the World Bank, as a grant administrator, and with UNICEF, as a coordination unit.

Due to undertaken measures, the Republic of Moldova has made considerable progress in preschool education sector and monitoring indicators of MDG 2 related to preschool education were increasing.

Table 2.
Child enrolment in preschool education

Name of the indicator	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	Targets of MDG 2 related to preschool education	
						2010	2015
Degree of enrolment of children in preschool institutions	52,1	54,0	55,7	56,2	57,1	-	-
- urban	67,98	69,43	71,68	71,84	73,2		
- rural	43,35	45,23	46,58	47,20	47,7		
Gross rate of coverage of children aged 3-6 by preschool education	70,1	72,6	74,4	75,5	77,1	75,00	78,00
- urban	87,20	88,80	90,80	91,90	94,5		
- rural	61,00	63,60	65,20	66,10	67,1		
Rate of coverage of children aged 6-7, regardless of the level of education	90,3	91,0	91,1	93,8	93,1	95,00	98,00
- urban		100,2	102,3	106,1	105,9		
- rural		86,0	85,0	87,1	85,8		
- girls		90,3	90,8	93,7	94,1		
- boys		91,5	91,4	93,8	92,2		

Source: Updated indicators on Millennium Development Goals. National Bureau for Statistics www.statistica.md, accessed on 14th of July 2012

**Ensure access to general compulsory education**

Goal 2

In 2010, the gross rate of coverage by preschool education of children aged 3-6 amounted to 77.1%, a value exceeding the target of 75.0%, established for the respective year by MDG 2.

As far as children aged 6-7 are concerned, the progress was slower, and the target for 2010 was not achieved. A certain level of increase of the enrolment rate of this age-cohort is determined by the progress done in urban areas, while the developments of the respective indicator in rural areas is sinuous.

Here are the major constraints faced at present by preschool education:

- ◆ lack of kindergartens in 230 communities;
- ◆ about 80% of kindergartens need capital renovation;
- ◆ about 65% of preschool institutions need equipment;
- ◆ about 65% of educators need continuing training;
- ◆ inclusive education practices are not institutionalized at national level;
- ◆ sharp shortage of teaching aids, particularly of aids for parents and children;
- ◆ lack in preschool institutions of adequate furniture for child age particularities;
- ◆ lack of a system of production and dissemination in preschool institutions of teaching games and toys;
- ◆ outdated sanitary-hygienic norms.

With a view to overcome these constraints and achieve to a full extent the tasks of MDG 2, Government of the Republic of Moldova will further expand early education and development services and improve their quality, provide preschool institutions with teaching-methodological aids and technical-material resources. The intended activities are focussed on implementing an institutional reform through creation of educational alternatives, setting up viable and cost-efficient educational services in communities deprived from such services, creating community educational alternatives and establishing services for social-psycho-pedagogical assistance for families with young children, developing and implementing complex social programmes for support of disadvantaged children.

2.2. Primary Education

Primary education is provided in primary schools, whose number is very low, and in primary grades of gymnasiums, secondary schools and lycees. In 2010/2011 school year, there were only 85 operational primary schools in the Republic of Moldova with 10.7 thousand pupils, while the total number of pupils in primary grades of all educational institutions amounted to 38.4 thousand.¹

Therefore, the statistical data concerning primary education, particularly the ones related to management and financing of the educational system, cannot be detached from the data concerning general education, as a whole. In the same time, specialized central government bodies hold comprehensive data about the number of children and enrolment rates in primary education.

In general, the enrolment in primary education and the quality of learning at this stage of education depend to a large extent on children's preparedness for schooling. As it has already been mentioned, Government of the Republic of Moldova has put considerable efforts to expand preschool education, what generated a significant increase of the rate of children enrolled in first grade after preschool education programmes. Or, while in 2002 this rate was estimated at only 66.5%, in 2010, it reached

1 Statistical Yearbook of the Republic of Moldova 2011. National Bureau for Statistics. Chisinau, 2011



the value of 97.7%. Moreover, discrepancies between rural and urban areas have practically been eliminated, and in 2010 the respective rates were 97.8% in the rural area and 97.4% in the urban area.²

Consequently, all preconditions for a quality education have been set for children covered by primary education. In the same time, the enrolment of all children in primary education still remains a much more complex problem for the Republic of Moldova. According to available statistical data, the rates of enrolment in primary education are practically in stagnation, in 2011 the gross rate amounted to 93.8%, and the net rate – to 87.9%.

Table 3.
Rates of enrolment in primary education

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	Targets of MDG 2 for general compulsory education	
						2010	2015
Gross	94,0	93,6	93,5	93,6	93,8	95,0	98,0
- girls	93,0	92,7	93,3	93,2	93,7		
- boys	95,0	94,4	93,7	94,0	93,9		
- urban	100,9	101,6	102,4	104,0	105,0		
- rural	90,5	89,4	88,9	88,0	87,5		
Net	87,7	87,5	87,6	87,8	87,9	-	-
- girls	86,9	86,8	87,4	87,1	87,6		
- boys	88,5	88,2	87,8	88,5	88,2		
- urban	94,0	94,9	95,4	97,3	98,2		
- rural	84,5	83,7	83,5	82,7	82,2		

Source: Education in the Republic of Moldova. Statistical publication 2011/2012. National Bureau for Statistics. Chisinau, 2012

Despite the significant efforts put over the past years with a view to identify the reasons of non-enrolment and to improve the tools for reckoning and schooling of children both in primary, and in general secondary compulsory education, no definitive official opinions have been formulated up to present,³ what might be an explanation for unfavourable developments of the rates of coverage in primary education.

Taking into account the importance of primary education for child's development as a free a creative personality, for development of intellectual capacities, of sustainable reading, writing and calculation skills and of communication skills, some experts consider that the Republic of Moldova should formulate explicit targets about coverage of children by primary education, while the methodologies for progress monitoring in this important education sub-sector shall be compatible with international methodologies.

2.3. Gymnasium Education

Gymnasium education is provided in V-IX grades of gymnasiums and in the respective grades of secondary schools and lycees. In 2010/2011 school year, there were 763 gymnasiums, 108 secondary

² Updated indicators on Millennium Development Goals. National Bureau for Statistics. www.statistica.md, accessed on 14th of July 2012

³ Except the arguments about replacement in policy documents of net rates of coverage by education with gross rates (see "Second Report on Millennium Development Goals. Government of the Republic of Moldova. Chisinau, 2010, page 33" and "Report on the activity of the Ministry of Education in 2011. Approved by Ordinance of the Ministry of Education's College no. 4.1 of 26th of January 2012, pages 6-7")

**Ensure access to general compulsory education**

Goal 2

schools and 495 lycees in the Republic of Moldova. 193.2 thousand pupils studied in gymnasium grades of these educational institutions.⁴

Similarly with primary education, the statistical data about gymnasium education (grades V-IX), particularly the data about management and financing of the educational system, cannot be detached from the data related to general education institutions, as a whole. In the same time, detailed statistics about the number of pupils and the rates of coverage in the respective grades of gymnasium education are available.

Table 4.
Rates of coverage by gymnasium education

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	Targets of MDG 2 for general compulsory education	
						2010	2015
Gross	90,1	89,3	88,8	88,1	87,5	95,0	98,0
- girls	89,8	88,8	88,2	87,8	87,0		
- boys	90,3	89,8	89,5	88,4	88,0		
- urban	95,4	95,1	95,8	95,6	96,0		
- rural	87,3	86,3	85,3	84,3	83,2		
Net	85,6	84,6	84,0	83,3	82,9	-	-
- girls	85,5	84,3	83,5	83,1	82,5		
- boys	85,7	84,9	84,5	83,6	83,3		
- urban	90,0	89,6	90,2	90,3	90,8		
- rural	83,3	82,0	80,8	79,8	79,8		

Source: Education in the Republic of Moldova. Statistical publication 2011/2012. National Bureau for Statistics. Chişinău, 2012

The data in the table above show that countrywide rates of coverage by gymnasium education, both net and the gross ones, are falling. The drop of enrolment rates refers both to girls, and to boys. From the viewpoint of residence environment, a decrease of enrolment rates is reported in rural areas, while in urban area there is a slight growth of the enrolment rate.

In the same time, according to statistical data of the Ministry of Education, the number of out-of school children is in continuous decrease, from 721 children (0.16%) in 2004/2005 school year, to 42 children (0.01%) in 2008/2009 school year. Given that the official statistical data about schooling and school dropout do not confirm the existence of a significant number of children who are outside the system of education, the drop of enrolment rates reveal that both the methods for calculation of the rates of coverage by educational institutions, and the tools for identification of out-of school children and for monitoring of educational pathways of children covered by school have systemic deficiencies.

Extrapolation of the development trends of the rates of coverage by gymnasium education leads to the conclusion that the fulfilment of tasks and achievement of the respective targets of MDG 2 related to general compulsory education in the Republic of Moldova is little probable.

⁴ Statistical Yearbook of the Republic of Moldova 2011. National Bureau for Statistics. Chisinau, 2011



2.4. Constraints Faced by General Compulsory Education

General compulsory education includes primary and gymnasium education. As it has been shown above, progress indicators of MDG 2 (gross rates of enrolment) related to primary education are practically in stagnation, while the values of the respective indicators related to gymnasium education are in decrease. As a result, countrywide gross rate of enrolment in general compulsory education is in decrease, too.

Table 5.
Gross rates of coverage by general compulsory education

	2007	2008	2009	2010	Targets of MDG 2 for general compulsory education	
					2010	2015
Total	91,6	90,9	90,70	90,3	95,0	98,0
- girls	...	90,3	89,7	90,0		
- boys	...	91,5	91,1	90,7		
- urban	97,4	97,6	98,4	99,1		
- rural	88,5	87,5	86,7	85,8		

Source: Updated indicators on Millennium Development Goals. National Bureau for Statistics. www.statistica.md, accessed on 14th of July 2012

The fall of enrolment rates was reckoned solely in the rural areas, from 88.5% in 2007, to 85.8% in 2010. This fall reveals that educational institutions and local government authorities, particularly the ones from villages and communes, do not have sufficient human and material capability for schooling of children and for preventing school dropout.⁵

The analysis of the situation of primary and general secondary education pointed out the following constraints:⁶

- ◆ shortage of material and human resources required for implementation to a full extent of educational policy documents in force;
- ◆ deficient tools for strategic and operational management of general education;
- ◆ lack of conformity between the topology of school network and the demographic situation in the community, particularly in rural areas;
- ◆ deficient methods for educational management at central, local and institutional levels;
- ◆ unattractive social status of teachers and, as a consequence, low level of professional development of the teaching staff;
- ◆ deficient tools for monitoring of the situation in general compulsory education;
- ◆ disturbances in the system of schooling and, as a result, low rates of child enrolment in general education;
- ◆ low level of social inclusion;

5 Information flows and calculation of statistical indicators on education. Survey conducted by the Ministry of Education and the National Bureau for Statistics with the support of UNICEF Moldova, 2012

6 Consolidated Strategy for Education Development for 2011-2015. Approved by Ordinance of the Ministry of Education no. 849 of 29.11.2010

**Ensure access to general compulsory education**

Goal 2

- ◆ official and, particularly, unofficial commercialisation of educational services in the context of the drop of living standards what restricts the access of children from disadvantaged families to education;
- ◆ increase of the number of children without parental care, because of parents' migration abroad.

2.5. Measures Intended to Enhance the Situation of General Compulsory Education

With a view to enhance the situation of general compulsory education, to raise the rate of coverage and to improve the quality of education, central and local government have undertaken a range of measures focussed on modernization of the educational management and of teaching-learning-evaluation process, establishment of child-friendly schools and expanding inclusive education.

The major actions conducted by public authorities with a view to modernize general secondary education and achieve the targets of MDG 2 are:

- a) implementation of the structural reform in education aimed at optimization of school network as a result of establishment of constituency schools, strengthening the capacity of educational institutions and efficient use of financial and material resources allocated for education;⁷
- b) reform of the residential system for child care;⁸
- c) expanding inclusive education in schools of the Republic of Moldova;⁹
- d) implementation of the model of child-friendly schools;¹⁰
- e) free of charge provision of pupils from primary education with school textbooks;
- f) curriculum modernization, development of educational standards and of the guides for their implementation;
- g) enhancing the system of school performance evaluation;
- h) updating a range of normative-legal papers regulating the activity of general secondary education institutions.

As a result of optimization of school network, nearly 380 schools have been reorganized and the financial resources saved thanks to this measure have been reoriented towards improving the quality of the educational process. About 60 school buses have been purchased to facilitate the access of pupils from small rural communities to education.

A special attention has been paid to children from disadvantaged families. Such children are provided free of charge meals and schoolbooks within educational institutions, as well as free vacation and medical treatment packages, social aids. As a result of implementation of the National Strategy for reform of the residential system for child care for 2007-2012, 300 children with special educational

7 National Action Plan for implementation of the structural reform in education. Approved by Government Decree no. 484 of 05th of July 2011, published in Official Monitor no. 113 of 12th of July 2011

8 National Strategy and Action Plan for reform of residential system for child care for 2007-2012. Approved by Government Decree no. 784 of 9th of July 2007, published in Official Monitor no. 103-106 of 20th of July 2007

9 Programme for development of inclusive education in the Republic of Moldova for 2011-2020. Approved by Government Decree no. 523 of 11th of July 2011, published in Official Monitor no. 114-116 of 15th of July 2011

10 Basic education in the Republic of Moldova from the perspective of child-friendly school: Survey / Arcadie Barbarosie, Anatol Gremalschi, Ion Jigau [et al.] ; Institute for Public Policy. – Chisinau, 2009



needs have been reintegrated in families and follow up their education in general education institutions. In order to disseminate such practices, was conducted a wide awareness campaign aimed at setting up the required conditions for integration of children with special educational needs in conventional education institutions.

The collaboration with development partners has played an important role in developing the system of general secondary education. The Ministry of Education implemented several joint projects, the most important of them are “Quality Education in the Rural Areas of Moldova” (the World Bank), “Education for All – Fast Track Initiative” (Catalytic Fund, the World Bank, UNICEF Moldova), Child-friendly schools (UNICEF Moldova), etc.

To ensure further modernization of general secondary education and fulfilment of the tasks of MDG 2, Government of the Republic of Moldova committed to focus its endeavours on setting up and developing a network of child-friendly schools and to support children in difficulty.¹¹ Here are the major educational policies which Government intends to follow-up:¹²

- a) follow-up the process of optimization of school network and implement the funding tools based on „money-follows-the-child” principle;
- b) raising the responsibility of central and local government, of educational institutions and of parents for prevention and countering of school absenteeism and dropout;
- c) implementing the European practices for ensuring access of all children to basic education, with a special focus on inclusion and on children at risk of exclusion (Roma children, disabled children, children from disadvantaged families, children of returned migrants, etc.);
- d) raising the level of coverage by education as a result of expanding free educational services (school textbooks, meals at school, clothes, vacation and medical treatment packages, etc.);
- e) implementing a set of tools likely to anticipate and, if needed, to deal with the problems of children deprived from parental care whose parents are abroad (monitoring of school attendance and school performance, providing psychological assistance, etc.);
- f) modernization of the curriculum and of educational standards;
- g) continuing training for the teaching staff in fields related to teaching in a child-friendly school and expanding inclusive education;
- h) enhancing the tools for gathering, processing and analyzing the statistical data about the operation of general education;
- i) implementing a set of educational management tools based on veridical and relevant statistical data.

Unquestionably, the success of the process of implementation of such educational policies depends both on Government’s efforts, and on the efficiency of the collaboration between public authorities, civil society and private sector. But unfortunately, educational policy papers in force do not have concrete and explicit provisions about how to enhance this process.

11 Consolidated Strategy for Education Development for 2011-2015. Approved by Ordinance of the Ministry of Education no 849 of 29.11.2010

12 Second Report on Millennium Development Goals. Government of the Republic of Moldova. Chisinau, 2010

**Ensure access to general compulsory education**

Goal 2

2.6. Literacy Rate

At the beginning, the MDG 2 assumed by the Republic of Moldova in 2005 did not contain any distinct task related to people's literacy. Although the level of literacy among 15-24 year-olds was included as an indicator for monitoring of the progress towards MDG 2, no explicit tasks were established for it in 2005.¹³ To mention also that, according to the data of 2004 population census, the literacy rate amounted to 99.87%.

Taking into account the falling rates of coverage by primary and gymnasium education in rural communities which might have an impact on population literacy, particularly on 15-24 year-olds, in the process of developing the National Development Strategy for 2008-2011,¹⁴ Government decided to include in MDG 2 the task „Maintain the literacy rate for 15-24 year-olds at the level of 99.5%”.

Table 6.
Literacy Rate

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	Targets of MDG 2 for age-cohort 15-24	
						2010	2015
Literacy rate, %	99,60	99,60	99,60	99,60	99,51	99,50	99,50

Source: Updated indicators on Millennium Development Goals. National Bureau for Statistics. www.statistica.md, accessed on 14th of July 2012

On the other hand, the inclusion of the task „Maintain the literacy rate for 15-24 year-olds at the level of 99.5%” in MDG 2 was not followed by the establishment of a sustainable tool for monitoring of the situation in this field.

In the National Development Strategy for 2008-2011, the value of this indicator was established solely for the year 2006 – 99.5%.

The data disseminated by the National Bureau for Statistics contain the literacy rate values for the total population of the Republic of Moldova, without any disaggregation by age-groups.¹⁵

The data of the Second Report on Millennium Development Goals for 2010 are ambiguous. For example, the values submitted in Chart 6, page 35, entitled “Literacy rates among children aged from 15 to 24, percents”, coincide, at first look, with the literacy rate values for the total population. Moreover, according to this chart, the target's value for 2015 seems, visually, to be lower than the value of the target for 2010 (?). In Annex B, at page 116 of the same Report, the task in the first column is formulated as follows: “Maintain the literacy rate for 15-24 year-olds”, but the corresponding monitoring indicator in the second column is entitled “Literacy rate, %”, without any explicit specification of the age-group. The value of this indicator for 2006 does not coincide with the one specified in National Development Strategy for 2008-2011.

13 Decree of Government of the Republic of Moldova no. 288 of 15th of March 2005 on the approval of Millennium Development Goals in the Republic of Moldova up to 2015 and of the First National Report “Millennium Development Goals in the Republic of Moldova”, published in the Official Monitor, no. 45-50 of 25th of March 2005

14 National Development Strategy for 2008-2011. Approved by Law no. 295 of 21st of December 2007, published in Official Monitor, no. 18-20 of 29th of January 2008

15 Updated Indicators on Millennium Development Goals. National Bureau for Statistics. www.statistica.md, accessed on 14th of July 2012

**Ensure access to general compulsory education**

Goal 2

Certainly, achievement of the targets related to the level of literacy of 15-24 year-olds implies, first of all, countering non-enrolment, school absenteeism and dropout in primary and gymnasium education. The actions intended by the Government in order to reach this goal have been specified above.

In general, despite certain incoherence in evaluation and monitoring of literacy rates, the educational system in the Republic of Moldova provides the possibility to follow up education to all people who have left for some reasons the educational system without completing it. In 2011/2012 academic year, in the Republic of Moldova operated three evening educational institutions with a contingent of nearly 1200 people.¹⁶ Unfortunately, evening education is mainly concentrated in urban communities, and this fact might cause some barriers to access of people from rural communities to this form of education.

16 Educația în Republica Moldova. Publicație statistică 2011/2012. Biroul Național de Statistică. Chișinău, 2012



CHAPTER 3.

ROLE OF CIVIL SOCIETY IN ACHIEVING MDG 2

3.1. Mapping of Active Civil Society Organizations in the Field of MDG 2

According to the data of State Register of Non-Commercial Organizations, there are 6399 non-commercial organizations in the Republic of Moldova, and only three of them have been established by virtue of acts issued by a public authority and are integrally or partly funded by its budget.¹ From the viewpoint of their legal organizational form, the largest number of non-commercial organizations are registered as public associations (82.3%).

Table 7.
Non-commercial organizations, by legal organizational form

Type of the non-commercial organization	Number of organizations	%
Public Association	5266	82,3%
Employers' Association	76	1,2%
Religious cult and component part	583	9,1%
Foundation	272	4,3%
Private Institution	56	0,9%
Public Institution	3	0,0%
Party or other social-political organization	22	0,3%
Periodical publication	35	0,5%
Trade union	42	0,7%
Union of legal entities	20	0,3%
Other type of non-commercial organization	24	0,4%
Total	6399	100,0%

Source: Website of open governmental data of the Republic of Moldova. <http://data.gov.md/raw/319>, accessed on 2nd of May 2012

Regardless of the legal form for organization, all non-commercial organizations, including religious cults, parties, trade unions, etc., may involve in activities aimed at achievement of MDG 2 in the Republic of Moldova. Certainly, the type of non-commercial organization does not provide sufficient information about possible activities likely to be conducted in the context of MDG 2, but the examination of their names from the perspective of such search criteria as “children”, “pupils”, “education”, etc. might help have a general view about prioritization of such activities in the perception of civil society.

Table 8.
Non-commercial organizations whose name contains relevant terms for MDG 2

Term contained in the name	Number of organizations	%
Child	172	34,5%
Pupil	17	3,4%

1 Website of open governmental data of the Republic of Moldova. <http://data.gov.md/raw/319>, accessed on 2nd of May 2012



Ensure access to general compulsory education

Goal 2

Term contained in the name	Number of organizations	%
Education	95	19,1%
Instruction	13	2,6%
Pedagogue	54	10,8%
Parent	111	22,3%
Kindergarten	12	2,4%
School	7	1,4%
Gymnasium	4	0,8%
Lycee	13	2,6%
Total	498	100,0%

Source: Website of open governmental data of the Republic of Moldova. <http://data.gov.md/raw/319>, accessed on 2nd of May 2012

The data of the table above show that, from the perspective of their name, the largest share of civil society organizations which possibly conduct activities relevant for MDG 2 are working in the field of child rights protection (172 organizations), facilitating access to education and improving the quality of education (108 organizations), involvement of pupils, parents and communities in school life (218 organizations).

The largest share of 218 civil society organizations whose activities are aimed at involvement of pupils, parents and communities in school life are in fact associations of parents. Some activities conducted by such associations, particularly collecting money from parents of pupils for making unofficial payments to teaching and managerial staff are non-univocally perceived by public opinion and public authorities in the field of education make attempts to regulate and to take public control on this phenomenon.

The Civic Monitor, launched in 2007 on a volunteer ship basis, is another important resource for mapping of civil society organizations. According to the information of this website's Database of Non-Governmental Organizations,² nearly 255 non-governmental organizations grouped into 9 categories might conduct relevant activities for MDG 2.

Table 9.
Non-governmental organizations whose activities are relevant for MDG 2

Field of activity	Number of organizations	including,				
		international	national	based in		
				Chisinau	other towns	villages
Children and youth	50	4	46	23	14	13
Community development	8	1	7	2	2	4
Social development	7	1	6	5	1	1
Human rights	52	4	48	40	9	3
Gender/women's rights	19	3	16	14	4	1
Social services	47	4	43	26	16	5
Rights of minorities	6	0	6	4	2	0
Education, research	23	3	20	15	5	3
Disabled people	43	3	40	31	7	5
Total	255	23	232	160	60	35

2 <http://www.civic.md/lista/ong.html>, accessed on 3rd of April 2012

**Ensure access to general compulsory education**

Goal 2

Source: Database of non-governmental organizations of Civic Monitor website. <http://www.civic.md/lista/ong.html>, accessed on 3rd of April 2012

The data provided by the table above show that the largest share of non-governmental organizations work in the field of human rights (52 organizations), children and youth (50 organizations), social services (47 organizations) and supporting disabled people (43 organizations).

Despite the fact that the number of non-governmental organizations registered in the category Education is relatively low (23 organizations), it does not mean that the organizations of other categories do not conduct relevant activities for MDG 2. The analysis of the information available on websites of several organizations registered in categories different from education shows that the respective organizations have a contribution to enrolment of children in compulsory education, preventing school absenteeism and dropout, supporting children with special educational needs.

To point out that, from the territorial perspective, most non-governmental organizations are concentrated in Chişinău and in district towns. Or, 63% of the total number of non-governmental organizations whose activities are relevant for MDG 2 are located in Chişinău, 24% – in other towns and only 13% of them – in rural communities.

Taking into account that the drop of the rates of enrolment in general compulsory education is much more pronounced in the rural areas, the little visibility of non-governmental organizations in rural communities is a significant constraint for enhancing the role of civil society in achieving MDG 2.

Information about civil society organizations whose activities are relevant for MDG 2 may be found in the Catalogue of NGO-s on non-profit sector website, developed in 2004 as a result of implementation of the project „Promoting freedom of expression and civil society in Moldova” by the Information, Training and Social Analysis Centre of Moldova (CAPTES), in partnership with Klon/Javor Society and LINIA Studio, with the support of SOROS Moldova Foundation, OSI, National Endowment for Democracy (NED) and US Embassy in Moldova. According to the Catalogue of NGO-s published on this website,³ where NGO-s are registered at their own initiative, nearly 190 NGO-s conduct relevant for MDG-s activities, including 55 organizations - in the field of child rights and education itself.

Based on available information, 15 civil society organizations were selected and took part in the survey. The list of these organizations is annexed.

The table below presents the general characteristics of the group of civil society organizations included in the survey.

Table 10.
General characteristics of the group of non-governmental organizations included in the survey

Field of activity	Number of organizations	including,				
		international	national	based in		
				Chisinau	other towns	villages
Poverty reduction	4	1	3	4	0	0

³ <http://ong.md/index.php?page=catalog>, accessed on 3rd of April 2012



Field of activity	Number of organizations	including,				
		international	national	based in		
				Chisinau	other towns	villages
Protection of child rights	4	2	2	3	1	0
Education development	2	1	1	2	0	1
Continuing training for the teaching staff	2	0	2	2	0	0
Associative sector development	3	1	2	2	1	0
Child integration into the family	1	1	0	1	0	0
Preventing traffic in children	2	1	1	2	0	0
Service provision to children from disadvantaged families	3	1	2	2	0	1
Promoting inclusive education	4	1	3	3	1	0
Promoting youth policies	1	0	1	1	0	0
Promoting Roma rights	1	0	1	1	0	0

Source: Institute for Public Policy, 2012

From the viewpoint of their legal organizational form, non-governmental organizations included in the survey can be classified as follows: 12 public associations, two institutes, one foundation. From the perspective of the residence environment, 12 organizations are located in Chisinau, two other – in district towns and one local organization – in a commune seat. Practically, all organizations based in Chisinau conduct nationwide activities, while the ones based in district towns and in commune seats work in the radius of the respective territorial-administrative units.

3.2. Awareness about the International and National Development Agenda

The table below allows an overlook on the level of awareness about international and national papers related to development priorities and to Millennium Development Goals.

Table 11.

Level of awareness of civil society organizations about papers related to development priorities and Millennium Development Goals

	Number of organizations aware of /not aware of the respective papers	
	Aware	Not aware
Millennium Declaration 2000	11	4
Paris Declaration 2005	8	7
Accra Agenda for Action 2008	6	9
Istanbul Principles for effective development of civil society organizations 2009	9	6
Busan Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation 2011	6	9
International Framework for Civil Society Organizations Development Effectiveness 2011	9	6
Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)	13	2

Source: Institute for Public Policy, 2012

**Ensure access to general compulsory education**

Goal 2

The participants in the survey have been requested to list other papers, in addition to the above-mentioned, they might be aware of. As a result, the respondents listed the following papers (in the respondents' formulation):

- ◆ Palermo Protocol;
- ◆ Council of Europe Convention on fighting and preventing traffic in human beings;
- ◆ Council of Europe Convention on domestic violence;
- ◆ Lanzarote Convention.

The thorough analysis of the responses to questionnaires based on which interviews with the leaders of non-governmental organizations have been conducted and of the data collected in the frame of the case study revealed that all civil society organizations based in Chisinau are aware of "Millennium Declaration" and „Millennium Development Goals". NGO-s located outside Chisinau are not aware of „Millennium Declaration", while the NGO located in a commune seat is not aware of "Millennium Development Goals".

A larger number of respondents are not aware of the other papers under consideration, „Accra Agenda for Action 2008" and "Busan Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation 2011" being the least known.

Certainly, for a deeper awareness of international and national papers related to development priorities and Millennium Development Goals, civil society organizations shall have a closer collaboration with development partners and put more efforts for their dissemination both among their own members, and among the public.

3.3. Promoting and Supporting Public Policies Relevant for MDG 2

Civil society organizations have played an important role in drafting the major policy papers relevant for achieving MDGs in the Republic of Moldova, such as Preliminary Poverty Reduction Strategy (2002), Economic Growth and Poverty Reduction Strategy (2004-2006), National Development Strategy for 2008-2011 and the Action Plan for its implementation, National Development Strategy "Moldova 2020". In addition to it, civil society organizations have indirectly participated in drafting and promoting over 60 sector development strategies, programmes and plans.

As a whole, civil society organizations enjoy sufficient institutionalized tools for active involvement in processes of initiating, developing and implementing public policies. The collaboration between civil society organizations and public authorities is carried out within a broad process of participation regulated both by Resolutions of Parliament of the Republic of Moldova,⁴ and by Government Decrees, the most recent of them being the one related to the establishment of the National Council for Participation.⁵ Further enlargement of the process of cooperation between public administration bodies and civil society is the major objective of the draft Strategy for civil society development for 2012-2014, which is under examination by Parliament of the Republic of Moldova.

4 Concept of cooperation between Parliament and civil society. Approved by Resolution of Parliament of the Republic of Moldova no. 373 of 29th of December 2005, published in Official Monitor no. 5-8 of 13th of January 2006; Strategy for civil society development for 2009-2011. Approved by Resolution of Parliament of the Republic of Moldova no. 267 of 11th of December 2008, published in Official Monitor no. 1-2/11 of 13th of January 2009

5 Decree of Government of the Republic of Moldova no. 11 of 19th of January 2010 on the establishment of the National Council for Participation, published in Official Monitor no. 8-10 of 22nd of January 2010



The list of stakeholders of the legislative process, by fields of activity of permanent parliamentary committees,⁶ includes 97 civil society organizations, among which 17 organizations with relevant activities for MDG 2. The National Council for Participation, set up in 2010, consists of representatives of 30 civil society organizations, including 12 organizations which conduct relevant for MDG 2 activities.

The data collected as a result of interviews with leaders of civil society organizations and of the analysis of their websites revealed the following forms for promotion and support of public policies relevant for MDG 2:

- ◆ developing policy studies;
- ◆ developing policy proposals;
- ◆ developing sector and sub-sector strategies;
- ◆ developing programmes, action plans, etc.;
- ◆ monitoring of the developments of education sector and its sub-sectors relevant for MDG 2;
- ◆ monitoring of the processes of implementation of strategies, programmes, action plans;
- ◆ evaluation of policy documents (proposals, strategies, programmes, etc.)
- ◆ evaluation of the developments of education sector and of its sub-sectors relevant for MDG 2;
- ◆ evaluation of the processes of implementation of strategies, programmes, action plans, etc.

6 out of 15 civil society organizations included in the survey stated they carry out the whole spectrum of activities related to development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of public policy papers relevant for MDG 2, three organizations just take part in public policy promotion and implementation, while three other organizations included in the survey stated their activities are tangential to monitoring and evaluation of education sector developments. The other 3 civil society organizations, located outside Chisinau, do not have direct connection with processes of public policy development, evaluation and monitoring, but their activities are focussed on providing services relevant for MDG 2.

The analysis of websites of civil society organizations, websites for NGO-s and websites of central government authorities reveals that in the process of developing, monitoring and evaluation of public policies relevant for MDG 2 are mostly involved civil society organizations of Chisinau and Balti, which have qualified experts and direct collaboration relations with the concerned ministries.

3.4. Service Provision

Depending on the geographic area of activity and on the community of their location, civil society organizations included in the survey provide various services relevant for MDG 2. The beneficiaries of their services are in most cases central government authorities and general directorates for education, youth and sports of districts and municipalities.

Services provided by civil society organizations may be grouped in the following categories:

⁶ www.parlament.md, accessed on 25th of July 2012

**Ensure access to general compulsory education**

Goal 2

Box 1.

Promoting and supporting the process of implementation of the model of child-friendly school

Aiming at implementation of child-friendly school model in the Republic of Moldova, the Institute for Public Policy, with the methodological and financial support of UNICEF Office in Moldova and in close collaboration with the Ministry of Education, developed a survey on “Basic Education in the Republic of Moldova from the perspective of child-friendly school”. This survey published in 2009 raised various issues related to the following dimensions of a child-friendly school: (1) Inclusion and equity at school; (2) School dropout; (3) Learning efficiency; (4) Pupil safety, protection and health; (5) Gender equality in school; (6) Involvement of pupils, families and communities in school life.

The conclusions of the survey on “Basic Education in the Republic of Moldova from the perspective of child-friendly school” have been submitted to decision-makers of central and local government, to development partners and opinion leaders. The survey’s recommendations formulated based on the data collected in schools and largely debated with all stakeholders parents, pupils, public servants of local and central government, civil society representatives have been inserted into the respective chapters of the Consolidated Strategy for education development for 2011-2015, approved by Ordinance of the Ministry of Education no. 849 of 29. 11. 2010.

Monitoring of the developments of primary, gymnasium and lycee education, identification of out-of-school children and of dropouts were conducted within the project “Enrolment and Fluctuation of the Cohort of Pupils in the Southern Area of Moldova (May and October 2011)”, with the methodological and financial support of the World Bank, UNICEF Moldova and Ministry of Education. The major reasons for the deficient tools for school enrolment of children of the age of compulsory education have been identified and proposals for improving them have been made within this project.

It came out that the major barrier to access to education and, as a result to achieving MDG 2, is the vulnerability of children and of their families: the child is orphan or semi-orphan; the child is disabled; the child comes from a family with three or more minor children; one or both parents are unemployed; the family’s income is low; the child belongs to a minority ethnic group in relation with the population of the respective community. The share of vulnerable children in the eight districts of the Southern area of the Republic of Moldova covered by the survey Basarabasca, Cahul, Cantemir, Causeni, Cimislia, Leova, Stefan-Voda and Taraclia - amounts to nearly 68% of the total number of pupils in educational institutions. Vulnerable children have lower school scores, miss classes oftener and are at a greater risk of school dropout.

The survey’s findings have been submitted to central and local government decision-makers in the field of education and social protection, to international development partners and are intended to be at the basis of a national action plan for preventing non-enrolment and school dropout.

Source: www.ipp.md, accessed on 10th of April 2012



- ◆ consultancy;
- ◆ continuing training for the teaching staff;
- ◆ continuing training for managerial staff;
- ◆ continuing training for public servants and decision-makers;
- ◆ developing teaching aids;
- ◆ legal assistance.

The selection of service provider is usually done through an open tender organized by public authorities for civil society organizations, educational institutions, state enterprises, municipal enterprises and commercial organizations.

The funds for services provided by civil society organizations usually come from projects implemented in the Republic of Moldova with the support on international development partners, from contributions of foreign donors and, very rarely, from Moldovan donors.

In the total number of 15 civil society organizations covered by the survey, only one stated it provides the whole spectrum of services relevant for MDG 2, other 4 organizations stated the largest share of their services consists in developing teaching aids and providing continuing training for the teaching staff. Two organizations included in the survey provide continuing training for public servants and decision-makers, and legal assistance services. It is worth being also mentioned in this context that civil society organizations mainly provide legal assistance in fields related to protection of the rights of vulnerable people (disabled pupils, Roma children, children from families with a low income).

Likewise public policy development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation, services relevant for MDG 2 are mostly provided by civil society organizations based in the capital city. Unfortunately, local government authorities of districts and municipalities, as well as of towns and villages, do not involve civil society organizations in provision of educational services, because the externalization of such services is perceived as out of the common.

The analysis of the websites of non-governmental organizations reveals that the major services provided by civil society organizations are focussed on early education and development, general education and expanding of inclusive education. Except the organizations working to support Roma population of the Republic of Moldova, civil society organizations practically do not conduct activities aimed at a specific target of MDG 2 – maintain the present literacy rate of 99,5% among the 15-24 year-olds.

3.5. Sensitization and Information

It is obvious that families of children who are not enrolled in any preschool education programme or general compulsory education are characterized by a very modest level of participation in community life and by a limited access to the mass-media. Nevertheless, the sensitization and information campaigns play a very important role for enrolment of children from such families in the educational system, mobilizing both local government authorities, and the communities for identification of the reasons and preventing non-enrolment and school dropout, and provision of the required support to children in difficult situations.

The most important activities conducted by civil society organizations in the field of sensitization and information of the public and of central and local government representatives include: radio and



Box 2.

School communities in action: setting up the required preconditions for pupils from socially disadvantaged families to stay in school

Throughout the period 2010-2012, Pro DIDACTICA Educational Centre has implemented the Project “School communities in action: setting up the required preconditions for pupils from socially disadvantaged families to stay in school”. The project is intended to support schools of the rural areas in setting up the required conditions for school attendance by pupils from socially disadvantaged families and for motivating them for learning and personal development, taking into account that their families are seriously affected by the crisis.

The project’s partners are the Ministry of Education, district directorates for education, youth and sports, local NGO-s, local government, school selected based on a contest. The Project’s beneficiaries are children from socially disadvantaged families affected by the economic crisis, namely, children without parental care, children from large families, children from families with a missing family provider, children from families affected by unemployment, children from families whose income is under poverty threshold, etc.

The Project’s objectives are grouped in three components and include:

- ◆ providing material assistance to children from socially disadvantaged families (clothes, shoes, school supplies, etc.) in order to enable them attend school during cold season;
- ◆ developing the competencies of school teams to draft projects focussed on initiating and conducting interesting and attractive extra-curriculum activities for children from socially disadvantaged groups without parental care;
- ◆ providing to school teams grants intended to support the implemented projects;
- ◆ developing the competences to provide counselling and support to children from socially disadvantaged families in order to help them overcome difficult situations, to motivate them for learning and personal development.

The Project’s major activities are focussed on continuing training of the teaching and managerial staff from schools, training for local government representatives and for other people delegated by the community, conducting broad campaigns for information and sensitization of public opinion, providing grants based on a competition of projects.

The expected Project’s outcomes include training of 50 school teams and implementation of 50 community projects intended to set up the preconditions and to provide direct material support to pupils from socially disadvantaged families in order to refrain them from dropping out of school. The project’s expected impact consists in competence development and strengthening the capability of schools and local communities to create opportunities for all children to complete general compulsory education, to enhance the motivation of pupils from socially disadvantaged families for personal performance and school attendance. In addition to



the above-mentioned, the Project is expected to improve the quality of the educational process, taking into consideration the specific needs of pupils from socially disadvantaged families.

The Project is supported by the „Emergency Fund”, an international Programme established by the philanthropist George Soros in summer 2009 in order to attenuate the negative effects of the global economic crisis in Central, Eastern and South-Eastern Europe and in Central Asia, by the means of Soros-Moldova Foundation. The Project’s budget is estimated at 959 thousand USD.

Source: www.prodidactica.md, accessed on 12th of April 2012

TV broadcasts, publication of articles in the printed media, dissemination of advertisement social spots, permanent presence in Internet. The activities implying direct interaction with families and children in particularly difficult situations are very efficient and have a stronger focus on beneficiaries of sensitization and information campaigns: home visits, providing financial and material assistance, encouraging children from such families to take part in school, extra-curriculum and community activities.

The analysis of websites of civil society organizations which have relevant activities for MDG 2 shows that practically all projects implemented by such organizations have a component aimed at sensitization and information of the public and of target-groups: parents, teaching staff, social assistants, local government representatives.

13 out of 15 non-governmental organizations covered by the survey have their own websites, three of them stated they produce and broadcast radio and TV programmes, the representatives of nine organizations took part in TV and radio broadcasts. All civil society organizations covered by the survey are visible in the printed media.

The major constraints faced by civil society organizations while conducting sensitization and information activities consist in shortage of financial resources for broadcasting social programmes on private radio and TV stations and in the low share of social programmes broadcasted by public radio and TV stations. The circulation of state-funded printed publications for children and parents is limited and, certainly, inaccessible for families in difficult situation. Therefore, community actions based on face-to-face interactions shall play an important role within sensitization and information campaigns aimed at countering the phenomena of non-enrolment and school absenteeism.

3.6. Role Model

The organizations which might serve as a model for the whole associative sector are an important factor for expanding the contribution of civil society to achieving the tasks of MDG 2 in the Republic of Moldova. Obviously, such a model is relevant if the activities of civil society organizations are a complement to measures undertaken by central and local government authorities, educational institutions, communities.

In the total number of 15 civil society organizations included in the survey, 8 organizations expressed a high level of concern about MDGs, 5 organizations showed an average level of concern, while 3 or-

**Box 3.****Sensitization and information with a view to ensure children's right to education**

The Centre for Information and Documentation on Child Rights (CIDCR) is an independent and apolitical non-governmental organization which manages programmes in educational and social fields, develops projects and services related to surveys and studies, access to information, training activities, publications, participatory arts, etc.

Throughout the past years, CIDCR has implemented a range of projects which included a strong sensitization and information component, such as “Social inclusion of children deprived from parental care because of migration”, „Support for developing community services for children”, “Children monitor the respect of their own rights”, etc.

The beneficiaries of the project “Social inclusion of children deprived from parental care because of migration” were 150 representatives of teaching and managerial staff (deputy directors in charge of education issues, form masters, school psychologists) from 30 communities, nearly 15 thousand children aged 10-18 (parents of about 50% of them are abroad) and 15 thousand parents who intend to go abroad and carers of children whose parents are abroad. This project's sensitization and information activities included workshops and roundtables for information of children, parents and teaching and managerial staff, dissemination of printed informative aids „My child is home alone (for parents)” and „Home alone (for children)”, broadcasting the radio version of these books by Radio Moldova.

The project “Support for developing community services for children”, aimed at facilitation of social integration of institutionalized children and at enhancing their participation in preventing social and health risks, contributed to sensitization of community public opinion to problems faced by children from residential institutions. The major sensitization and information activities included establishment of clubs, workshops or circles for joint leisure activities for children from boarding schools and their peers from the respective community. Children from nine boarding-schools Bender, Cahul, Cărpineni (district of Hâncești), Căzănești (district of Telenești), Ceadâr-Lunga, Popenchi (district of Râbnita), Napadova (district of Floresti), Straseneni, Vascauti (district of Floresti) and their peers from the respective communities have been involved in such kinds of activities.

The project „Children monitor the respect of their own rights” was intended to enhance the process of implementation in the Republic of Moldova of the Convention on the Rights of the Child through empowerment of children to monitor the enforcement of their own rights and to undertake advocacy actions to this end. As a result of project implementation, a group of children selected within a national contest, were trained to monitor the way how their rights are respected in the Republic of Moldova. The group collected data about the enforcement of child rights and disseminated them among public officials of central government and among the public through meetings, press-releases and press conferences, radio and TV broadcasts. The project's direct beneficiaries were 26 children aged 11-15 who are opinion leaders in their communities, representatives of local youth councils, of youth mass-media, groups of peer-to-peer educators.



With the support of several development partners, CIDCR developed and disseminated countrywide the publications “Child rights explained to everyone”, “Truth voiced by children”, “Life through children’s eyes”, “The situation of children deprived from parental care because of migration”, the poster “Moldova starts with the right. With the right of children. United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child”, the leaflet “My rights”, etc. CIDCR collaborates with many radio and TV stations, produces broadcasts about the rights of the child, including about the right to education and its enforcement in the Republic of Moldova.

Source: www.childrights.md, accessed on 18th of April 2012

gанизations did not display any concern about it. In the opinion of the organizations covered by the survey, there is a very close correlation between their activities and the activities of public authorities and educational institutions in the field of MDG 2.

Unquestionably, the organizations which show concern about MDG 2 through concrete actions and which have a direct impact on the process of improving the situation in this field might serve as a model. From this viewpoint, the experience of the associative sector from countries with strong democracies is an important resource for the emerging civil society in the Republic of Moldova. This resource becomes even more valuable if such an experience is shared and implemented by the associative sector in the Republic of Moldova.

Best practices can be shared by other civil society organizations when they are known by most representatives of the associative sector. From this viewpoint, the visibility of the activities conducted by experienced non-governmental organizations in relevant for MDG 2 fields is very important. Such a visibility must be ensured by the mass-media, and the Internet, not only on websites of the respective NGO-s, but also on official websites of central and local government authorities. To point out in this context that websites of the most important central authorities contain relevant information about cooperation with the associative sector, particularly current data about partnership activities: conducting training courses, launching information campaigns, presentation of new teaching aids, opening renovated buildings, providing the educational institutions with equipment. Certainly, such a visibility might help create new models for interaction of civil society with public authorities and local communities.

3.7. Contribution of Civil Society Organizations to Change

The impact of the activities conducted by civil society organizations in relevant for MDG 2 fields is first of all seen through changes undertaken in preschool, primary and general compulsory education.

As it has already been mentioned in the first chapter of this survey, extrapolation of the trends registered in the past years shows that MDG 2 related to preschool education will be achieved in term. On the other hand, despite the fact that negative trends have been stopped, the achievement of MDG 2 related to primary education will require additional efforts. In general secondary compulsory education, the trends of decrease of enrolment rates still persist, therefore the efficacy and efficiency of the approaches implemented up to present in this sub-sector of education are questionable.



Box 4.

Practices of expanding inclusive education promoted by civil society organizations

„Lumos Foundation Moldova” Public Association is a branch of the international charity organization “Lumos Foundation” of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Lumos works with and for disadvantaged children from the Central and Eastern Europe. The organization aims at preventing separation of children from families and at eradication of child institutionalization through promoting the rights of every child at international and national levels and through transforming the system of education, health care and social protection.

The collaboration between public authorities of the Republic of Moldova and Lumos Foundation is based on the agreements with the concerned ministries and on action plans for development of social protection, education and health care services for disadvantaged children and their families. Given the high number of children separated from their families and educated in residential institutions in the Republic of Moldova, „Lumos Foundation Moldova” Public Association implements a range of projects aimed at deinstitutionalization of children through development and promotion of inclusive education, development of social services for child and family and implementation of much more appropriate forms of education and care, and when possible, return of children from residential institutions in families where they were born, their placement in extended families or in services for professional parental assistance.

With a view to set up a normative-methodological framework for education of deinstitutionalized children, „Lumos Foundation Moldova” Public Association, in close collaboration with the Ministry of Education, established several groups of experts who developed the regulations on the organization of inclusive education in general education institutions, the standard-structure of the individualized Educational Plan, the methodological guides for curriculum adjustments and evaluation of school progress in the context of inclusive education, as well as the specific regulations for final evaluation and certification of pupils with special educational needs.

To ensure the quality and the sustainability of training of the teaching staff for working with children with special needs, with the support of “Lumos Foundation Moldova”, was developed a course on Inclusive education which will be compulsorily be integrated into initial teacher training at university and college levels. The paper was developed with the contribution of best national and international experts in inclusive education, notable representatives of the teaching and managerial staff with a rich experience in working with children with special educational needs. The papers drafted by the working groups have been endorsed by the National Curriculum Council and approved by Ordinance of the Ministry of Education.

Initially, the new services for disadvantaged children and their families have been implemented in three pilot-districts. The experts of „Lumos Foundation Moldova” Association also held seminars and training courses for professionals of local government authorities, for representatives of the teaching and managerial staff and for social assistants. A complex evaluation of the needs of disadvantaged children and of their families has been conducted in pilot-districts. In the process of evaluation, were identified the children whose birth was not registered and,



for this reason, they faced a major risk to remain outside education, health care and social protection systems, and to be victims of labour exploitation, of traffic, etc.

In the process of implementation of the reform of residential care system, it came out that many children were placed in residential institutions because of minor learning difficulties which might have been easily overcome in educational institutions of their community of origin, provided that the respective institutions had the appropriate resources and capability.

With a view to strengthen the capability of public authorities, educational institutions and communities to establish new social and educational services for children from disadvantaged families and children with special educational needs, „Lumos Foundation Moldova” Association organized training courses, provided support for development of teaching aids, involved pupils and parents in campaigns intended to support children with special needs, provided teaching aids and inclusive education equipment to educational institutions.

“Lumos Foundation Moldova” Public Association, together with “Copil, Comunitate, Familie – Moldova” (“Child, Community, Family – Moldova”), “Every Child”, “Femeia și copilul – Protecție și sprijin” (“Woman and Child – Protection and Support”) non-governmental organizations, in partnership with UNICEF Moldova, provided to the Ministry of Education support for implementation of the National Strategy and Action Plan for reform of the residential care system for 2007-2012 and of the Programme for development of inclusive education in the Republic of Moldova for 2011-2020.

Source: www.lumos.org.uk and www.edu.md, accessed on 16th of July 2012

The perception of the current situation and the evaluation of the prospective changes by civil society organizations included in the survey differ, to a certain extent, from the present trends of primary and general secondary education. Most non-governmental organizations - 10 out of 15 organizations covered by the survey – consider that all targets of MDG 2, both the ones related to preschool education, and the ones for general secondary compulsory education, will be achieved by the year 2015. Only 4 organizations included in the survey stated that the respective targets will not be achieved. In the same time, one organization did not accept to evaluate the prospects for fulfilment of the targets of MDG 2, motivating the refusal by the lack of relevant information.

Consequently, despite the fact that the situation in the field of secondary compulsory education is not changing as expected, most non-governmental organizations included in the survey perceive as positive the changes occurred in education sector. Such a perception will hopefully contribute to intensification of the activities aimed at improving the situation, particularly in gymnasium education.

An important role in promoting changes is played by partnership relations between civil society organizations and the other stakeholders who are active in relevant fields for MDG 2: central and local government authorities, international organizations, development partners, business entities, other civil society organizations. As far as the 15 non-governmental organizations covered by the survey are concerned, they are mostly involved in partnerships with state institutions (9 partnerships), international organizations and development partners (7 partnerships). Partnership relations between civil society organizations and business entities are underdeveloped – two partnerships between the

**Ensure access to general compulsory education**

Goal 2

two stakeholders have been registered within the survey. It is worth being mentioned that non-governmental organizations prefer to join their efforts with a view to implement large projects – ten partnerships of this type have been registered among the group of organizations included in the survey.

The scale at which the changes are done – either national, or regional or local – is not so relevant, because change initiation and promotion is one of the major missions of civil society organizations working at the national level, as well as of the ones whose activities are undertaken at the level of a small rural community. Rather often, the activities launched at central level have a strong impact at local level, having a contribution to improvement of the situation of many disadvantaged children and families. In the same time, the gained experience and lessons learnt in the process of undertaking activities with an apparent local scope may have a contribution to improving policy papers intended to be implemented at national level.

Civil society organizations working in relevant fields for MDG 2 face a number of constraints while conducting their activities focussed on promoting changes. Here are the major constraints listed by the representatives on non-governmental organizations who took part in the survey:

Box 5.

Role of partnerships in modernizing preschool and primary education

„Pas cu Pas” (“Step-by-Step”) Public Association was founded in 1998. The basic goal of the association consists in supporting educational reforms through promoting child-centred methodologies, holistic development of children in partnership with families, expanding multiple partnerships family – community – kindergarten – school. The association’s activities are intended to ensure successful transition from kindergarten to school, a good school start and a good life start, particularly for children from the rural areas. Over the past years, such activities have focussed on the following strategic directions:

Child-centred education. “Pas cu pas” Public Association has contributed to establishment of a network of preschool and primary education institutions, based on methodology of active, significant and participative learning. The network consists of 350 institutions with a total number of about 15 thousand children. Aiming at implementation of new child-centred methodologies and on holistic child development in partnership with the family, continuing training courses for nearly 1,5 thousand educators, primary school teachers and managers of educational institutions included in the network have been organized. Training activities have also been held for parents and local government representatives. The support provided by the Ministry of Education and sustainable partnership relations with the communities and educational institutions, with district and municipal directorates for education have played a decisive role for establishment and efficient operation of a so broad network.

Strengthening human capability to implement child-centred methodology. Training courses have been held for the teaching staff with a view to change the educational practices towards promotion of active learning and critical thinking, problem-solving skills. A particular role has been played by mentorship activities which contributed to dissemination of modern preschool



and primary education methods in nearly 400 institutions. At present, a process of implementation of inclusive education practices and of centring the educational process on each child's educational needs is under way in the above-mentioned institutions.

Expanding access to quality education at local level. "Pas cu pas" Public Association, in cooperation with several development partners, has contributed to the establishment of Community Centres for children and families. Within such centres, young families are supported to develop their skills needed to ensure early education and child preparedness for school. A total number of nearly 110 centres have been set up in rural communities and several district towns. Before the establishment of Community Centres, the respective rural communities did not have any early education and development institutions. The Community Centres established in district towns play an important role for dissemination of good practices, serving as models for all communities from the respective districts.

Modernizing teacher initial and continuing training. In partnership with State University of Moldova, a curriculum and support aids were developed for the course of Psycho-pedagogy of child-centred education. Continuing training courses have been held for the teaching staff of 16 universities and teacher training colleges, as well as several campaigns to promote interactive teaching methods, to strengthen the links between universities and colleges, on the one hand, and the selected schools for student traineeship, on the other hand. 150 teachers and managers of teacher training faculties and colleges took part in continuing training courses. Upon completion of such courses, they became local trainers for their colleagues from the respective institutions. The curriculum, the support aids, the training modules have been edited and disseminated in all initial and continuing teacher training institutions.

Transforming the schools from academic institutions into schools open to change. The basic activities undertaken in this field included seminars focussed on strengthening the capability of the teaching staff and of parents to transform the schools into learning communities through exploitation of local resources, centring the schools on community needs, supporting both the pupils, and the parents in developing their lifelong learning skills. The association provided to communities technical assistance for evaluation of local resources and for setting up educational services needed for citizens of the respective communities (particularly, courses of parental education, vocational education, etc.).

"Pas cu Pas" Public Association has partnership relations with three ministries, 27 district and municipal directorates for education, youth and sports, nearly 500 educational institutions, a large number of NGO-s. It puts efforts to enlarge the cooperation with private companies, and has already established partnership relations with two companies. Continuing training courses provided by "Pas cu Pas" Public Association include training modules intended to guide and support the teaching staff and the parents in establishing partnerships at local level. In addition to it, through the institutions of its network, the Association encourages and supports local initiatives and the establishment of partnerships between educational institutions and community stakeholders.

Source: "Pas cu Pas" ("Step by step") Educational Programme, 201

**Ensure access to general compulsory education**

Goal 2

- ◆ irrelevance and, sometimes, declarative essence of policy documents;
- ◆ insufficient openness of some public authorities towards collaboration with civil society organizations;
- ◆ reticence of some public servants about the proposals made by civil society organizations;
- ◆ persistence of elements of formalism in the interaction between civil society organizations and public administration bodies;
- ◆ attempts to treat civil society organizations from the perspective of their supposed political orientation or affiliation.

In the opinion of civil society organizations, such constraints might be overcome as a result of:

- ◆ enforcing to a full extent the normative-legal framework regulating the transparency of decision-making process both at central, and at local level;
- ◆ intensifying the dialogue between civil society organizations and decision-makers from public administration bodies;
- ◆ launching and expanding the practices of externalization of services which are now provided, often inappropriately, exclusively by state institutions;
- ◆ more dynamic modernization of educational management, particularly in terms of expanding the participation of communities and of the associative sector in decision-making;
- ◆ training public servants in fields related to their interaction with civil society organizations.

Obviously, the implementation of such measures does not mean only changes of rules, institutions and attitudes, but also in-depth change of the present paradigms for governance of education.

Box 6.

„Step by step, Roma children may succeed” – a regional project with a countrywide impact

Throughout the years 2010-2011, “Tarna Rom” Union of Young Roma of the Republic of Moldova, with the support of UNICEF Moldova and Pestalozzi Children’s Foundation, implemented the Project entitled „Step by step, Roma children may succeed”. The major objective of the project consisted in enhancing the access to education for Roma and non-Roma children aged 6-12 from disadvantaged families. To reach such an objective, in the frame of the project were conducted a series of activities aimed at strengthening the capability of local government and of community mediators to provide counselling, support and assistance to disadvantaged Roma families, promoting among Roma parents the idea of the decisive role of education for a better future of their children.

The project was implemented with the support of Roma community mediators, in partnership with local government authorities of Tibirica, Schinoasa, Parcani, Hancesti, Mingir, Drochia, Gribova and local government bodies of the districts of Calarasi, Hancesti and Drochia.

320 Roma and non-Roma children from disadvantaged families of seven communities have been involved in the project’s activities. The major activities aimed at improving the access



to quality education included identification of preschoolers, parent information, organizing a Summer School for Roma children of preschool age and of an extra-curriculum school for disadvantaged Roma and non-Roma children of primary education. 35 preschoolers took part in Summer School where they learnt to read, to count and to write, and had the chance to get new friends. Afterwards, all of them were enrolled in the first grade. 97 children attended the extra-curriculum school where they improved their reading, counting and writing skills. In the same time, these children helped the preschoolers to understand better the school life. The teaching activities in the above-mentioned schools have been conducted by 19 teachers who had previously followed specialized training courses.

Training courses, study visits, exchanges of experience have been organized for Roma school mediators in order to develop their capability to work with Roma parents and children. Training and information activities in the field of promoting and defending the rights of Roma people, preserving their cultural traditions, improving the access of Roma children to quality education have been conducted for 116 teachers and 18 local government representatives.

In the process of project implementation, the members of “Tarna Rom” Union of Young Roma of the Republic of Moldova and Roma school mediators have had many informal meetings and discussions with nearly 250 Roma parents to disseminate information about the project and to raise issues related to the importance of education, the rights and obligations of parents, the ways how to solve the problems faced by Roma families. As a result, a growing number of parents are better aware of the importance of education for their children’s future, and their communication with school mediators, teaching staff and with medical personnel of local health care institutions, etc. has improved.

The gained experience and the lessons learnt in the process of implementing „Step by step, Roma children may succeed” Project laid the basis for many proposals and recommendations formulated by civil society organizations, and a large share of them have been included in the Action Plan for supporting Roma population of the Republic of Moldova for 2011-2015, updated by Government Decree no. 56 of 31st of January 2012. No doubts, this fact will have a significant impact on the situation of Roma children countrywide.

Source: “Tarna Rom” Union of Young Roma of Moldova, 2012



CHAPTER 4.

ROLE OF PRIVATE SECTOR IN ACHIEVING MDG 2

4.1. Mapping the Private Sector of the Republic of Moldova

As a matter of fact, private sector of the Republic of Moldova may contribute to achieving the targets of MDG 2 both through its basic activities, and through promotion of corporate social responsibility policies: positive social externalities, philanthropy and sponsorship, contribution to community development, more active involvement in developing and implementing educational policies.

Under the terms of the survey under consideration, the notion of “private sector” means the totality of companies and financial institutions which, according to the Classification of the forms of ownership,¹ are not in public property. The term “private company” means any private business entity which aims at getting a profit from service provision, execution of works or production of goods. The term does not cover state enterprises, municipal enterprises, nor the enterprises of local government and joint stock companies whose largest shareholder is the state.

According to available statistical data,² private sector in the Republic of Moldova has the following particularities:

- ◆ *The share of private companies in the total number of companies is dominant.* Or, in the total number of 31.3 thousand active enterprises in 2010, nearly 28.4 thousand (90,8%) were private companies and only 635 of them (2,0%) were in public property. Nearly 1.2 thousand companies (3.7%) had the statute of joint company (property of the Republic of Moldova + foreign property), other 150 companies (0.5%) were in mixed property (public + private), while 936 companies (3.0%) were in foreign ownership.
- ◆ *Private companies have the highest turnover.* Private companies had together a turnover of 102.1 billion lei (60.5%) in the total amount of 168.6 billion lei of overall turnover. The turnover of companies in foreign ownership amounted to 22.9 billion lei (13.6%), and the turnover of joint companies (property of the Republic of Moldova + foreign property) to 25.6 billion lei (15.2%). The turnover of public companies amounted to only 14.0 billion lei (8.3%), and of mixed companies (public + private) to 4.0 billion lei (2.4%).
- ◆ *The largest share of employees are employed by private companies.* In the total number of 449.2 thousand employees working for companies, nearly 300.2 thousand (66.8%) were employed by private companies, and approximately 73.0 thousand (16.3%) by public enterprises. Nearly 14.1 thousand employees (3.1%) were employed by mixed companies (public + private), 31.1 thousand (6.9%) by companies in foreign property and other 31.0 thousand (6.9%) by joint companies (property of the Republic of Moldova + foreign property).

1 Resolution of the Department for Standards, Metrology and Technical Supervision no. 276-st of 04.02.1997

2 Results of structural inquiry in companies 2011. National Bureau for Statistics. Chişinău, 2011



- ◆ *Most companies are concentrated in Chisinau development region.* In 2010, nearly 18.7 thousand companies were located in this region, i.e. 59.7% of the total number of companies. 257.1 thousand employees (57.2% in the total number of employees) were working for these companies, and the turnover of these companies amounted to nearly 122.6 billion lei (72.7% of the total turnover). The number of companies, the number of employees and the turnover in the other development regions – North, Centre, South, Gagauzian UTA – are by 3-6 times lower.
- ◆ *Small and medium-size enterprises prevail in “business” economic sphere.* Countrywide, the share of small and medium-size enterprises amounts to 99.3% from the viewpoint of the number of companies, to 71.3% - from the viewpoint of the average number of employees, to 69.5% - from the viewpoint of the turnover and to 63.4% - from the viewpoint of the value of production.
- ◆ *Foreign capital prevails in banking sector.* 9 in the 15 commercial banks have a foreign majority capital. The share of banks with foreign majority capital amounts to 41.1%. The share of state capital is very low– 2.5% in the total banking capital or 12.4% in the total amount of shares held by the banks with majority state capital.³

Certainly, the particularities of private sector in the Republic of Moldova have an impact on the way and the degree of company participation in relevant activities for MDG 2. The surveys conducted over the past years⁴ show that the activities with a high level of social responsibility are mainly conducted by relatively large companies, with foreign participation and with nationwide coverage. On the other hand, small companies can easier establish direct links with local communities, what helps adjust the intended activities to daily needs of disadvantaged children, pupils and families.

Taking into account such particularities and aiming at the identification of best social responsibility practices, the selection of companies to take part in the survey was done based on several criteria, including their size, the type of economic activity and the nature of corporate social responsibility activities which are to a certain extent relevant for MDG 2. To point out in this context that the results of applying the above-mentioned criteria were to a large extent influenced by the high rate of refusals, or, a very large number of companies did not want to take part in the survey.

Table 12.
General characteristics of the group of private companies covered by the survey

Types of activity	Number of companies	including,				
		by holder of majority stakes		by number of employees		
		national	foreign	0-49	50-249	over 250
Financial activities	1	0	1	0	0	1
Trade	2	2	0	0	1	2
Communications	2	1	1	0	0	2
Construction	3	2	1	1	1	1
Energy sector	1	1	0	0	0	1

³ Ion Tornea. Banking Sector in the Republic of Moldova. “Viitorul” Institute for Development and Social Initiatives, Chişinău, 2012

⁴ Alexandru Oprunenco, Valeriu Prohniţchi, Mihai Rusu. Evaluation of Corporate Social Responsibility in Moldova. Expert-Grup, Chişinău, 2005
Lilia Covas, Aurelia Braguşa. Social Responsibility: Practical Issues. Academy of Economic Studies of Moldova, Chisinau, 2009

**Ensure access to general compulsory education**

Goal 2

Types of activity	Number of companies	including,				
		by holder of majority stakes		by number of employees		
		national	foreign	0-49	50-249	over 250
Food industry	2	1	1	0	0	2
Processing industry	4	2	2	0	2	2
Light industry	1	1	0	0	0	1
Services	1	1	0	0	1	0
Total	17	11	6	1	5	12

Source: Institute for Public Policy, 2012

The data of the table above show that the survey covered particularly large companies with a number of 250 or more employees. Despite the fact that the number of medium-size private companies (50-249 employees) exceeds considerably the number of large companies, this category of companies is represented within the survey by only 5 companies, what might be explained by the lack, amongst medium-size companies and, particularly, amongst small companies, of institutionalized tools for reckoning the activities relevant for MDG 2. Therefore, the survey included only one small private enterprise (0-49 employees) which was mainly selected due to its systematic activities intended to support preschool and primary education institutions in the community where it is located.

From the viewpoint of the type of activity, the companies included in the survey reflect, to a large extent, the structure of private sector by major categories of economic and financial activities, or, the Republic of Moldova is characterized by a large weight of food industry, processing industry, constructions, trade and communications.

4.2. Awareness of the International and National Development Agenda

The degree of private sector involvement in activities aimed at achieving the targets of MDG 2 in the Republic of Moldova is to a large extent determined by the citizens' perception of the importance of education. The data of the Barometer of Public Opinion, a representative nationwide public opinion poll,⁵ conducted in April 2012, unveil the following particularities of such a perception:

- ◆ *The highest level of people's satisfaction with Government's activities was expressed with regard to education.* While asked "To what extent are you content with Government's activities in the following fields ...?", the share of "Rather content" and "Very content" responses in relation with education is the highest - 34% and, respectively, 3%.
- ◆ *The level of people's satisfaction with their children's education at school ranks in the middle of the classification.* The share of "Rather content" and "Very content" responses to the question "To what extent are you content with ...?" amounts to 43% and, respectively, 7% in relation with the option "Your children's education at school". Education stands on the fourth position among eight options, after health care, dwelling and transportation.
- ◆ *Education is not perceived by the population as an issue of primordial importance.* While asked "Which are the most important three issues for the Republic of Moldova?", only 2% of respondents selected the response "First" in

5 www.ipp.md, accessed on 15th of May 2012



relation with the option “Improving the situation in the field of education, research, culture”. The response “Second” was selected by only 5% of respondents, and the response “Third” by 9% of respondents. The option “Raising living standards” accumulated the largest share of options - 23%, 28% and, respectively, 19%, and the option “Ensuring people’s spiritual development” - the lowest share, respectively, 1%, 1% and 4% of options.

- ◆ *Although they are content with their children education at school, people are concerned about children’s future.* While asked “What are you mostly concerned about at present?”, 16%, 13% and 18% of respondents selected the responses “First”, “Second” and “Third” in relation with the option “Children’s future”. The option “Prices” accumulated the largest share of responses – 23%, 29% and, respectively, 15% of respondents.

Certainly, such a people’s perception of the situation in education sector and its importance for their children’s future has an impact on the way how private companies prioritize social responsibility activities, particularly, the ones relevant for MDG 2.

Table 13.

Level of awareness of private companies about the papers related to development priorities and Millennium Development Goals

	Number of organizations which are aware/ not aware of the respective papers	
	Are aware	Are not aware
Millennium Declaration 2000	5	12
Paris Declaration 2005	2	15
Accra Agenda for Action 2008	1	16
Istanbul principles for efficient development of civil society organizations 2009	1	16
Busan Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation 2011	3	14
International Framework for Civil Society Organizations Development Effectiveness 2011	2	15
Millennium Development Goals (MGD-s)	12	5

Source: Institute for Public Policy, 2012

As it might be expected, most companies are better aware of national papers related to development priorities and Millennium Development Goals, and less aware of international papers. 12 out of 17 companies included in the survey are aware about the papers related to Millennium Development Goals in the Republic of Moldova, and only 5 companies are aware about Millennium Declaration 2000. As far as the other international papers are concerned – Paris Declaration 2005 Accra Agenda for Action 2008, Istanbul principles for efficient development of civil society organizations 2009, Busan Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation 2011, International Framework for Civil Society Organizations Development Effectiveness 2011 – the level of awareness is much lower, and the representatives of private companies stated they do not have direct links with such papers in the process of conducting their daily activities.

**Ensure access to general compulsory education**

Goal 2

The interviews with representatives of private companies revealed the lack of a direct link between the level of awareness about the papers related to development priorities and Millennium Development Goals and the amount of relevant for MDG 2 activities conducted by such companies. Most respondents from private sector stated they plan their relevant for MDG 2 activities taking into account the concrete requirements and needs of people, communities, educational institutions and, sometimes, based on proposals and/or requests explicitly formulated by public authorities.

In general, private companies with foreign capital are better aware of papers related to development priorities and Millennium Development Goals, as they share the modern practices for management of corporate social responsibility activities of international companies and implement them in the Republic of Moldova.

Not all companies have a thorough knowledge about the papers related to development priorities and Millennium Development Goals, nevertheless, most of them show concern about the situation in the field of MDG 2 and about the possible ways to solve education problems. In the total number of 17 private companies included in the survey, one company stated it is to a large extent concerned about relevant for MDG 2 issues, while 10 companies stated they are averagely concerned about such issues.

Being requested to evaluate the progress done in fields relevant for MDG 2, eight in 17 private companies covered by the survey stated that such an evaluation is beyond their competence, while 3 other companies stated that our country has done some progress, and 6 companies stated that no progress has done in this field over the past five years.

4.3. Positive Social Externalities

Formerly, the term of „externalities” was mostly used to characterize the negative economic effects of pollution on environment resources whose costs were suffered by the society. Afterwards, this term was extended and “externalities” meant the consequences or the effects of economic activities which affect people’s life. The respective effects are suffered by other people or groups, different from the ones which produce them. Externalities are concretized in costs or benefits which, although existing, are not shown in expenditures and in the results obtained by business entities.

Certainly, private companies may bring a substantial contribution to achieving MDG 2 through maximization of positive externalities and minimization of negative externalities.

The identification and, even more, the evaluation of positive and negative externalities from the perspective of the activities conducted by private companies in relevant fields for MDG 2 are a complex task which requires in-depth academic studies. Nevertheless, in the process of conducting our survey, we could identify several private companies which might serve as models for maximization of positive externalities.

The activities of all 17 private companies covered by the survey include measures aimed at improving the access of children to quality education through creating better working conditions for employees with children of preschool and compulsory education age, involving the employees in activities intended to support and promote education, directing a share of the range of goods and services to the needs of consumers from socially disadvantaged strata.



It is well-known that children exploitation through labour is one of the major reasons for non-enrolment, school absenteeism and dropout. The notion of “child labour” refers to labour implying factors of mental, physical or moral risk and is harmful for children and/or affects schooling as a result of school absenteeism, failure or dropout or as a result of the obligation to combine school with labour. This definition is compliant with ILO Convention no. 138 on the minimum age for admission to employment and work (1973) and with ILO Convention no. 182 concerning prohibition and immediate action for the elimination of the worst forms of child labour.

A thorough analysis of the available statistical data⁶ shows that nearly 95.6 thousand children of preschool, primary and gymnasium education age, i.e. 17.9% of the total number of children of the respective age, worked in child labour conditions in 2009. An average number of 10 hours per week is allowed for child labour. An average number of 6 hours per week is allowed for labour of children aged 5-11, for children aged 12-14 – 10 hours and for children aged 15-17 – 14 hours per week.

Table 14.
Distribution of child labour by component elements and age-groups

	Total	5-11 year olds	12-14 year olds	15-16 year olds	17 year olds
Child labour, thousand people,	109,2	38,2	30,5	26,9	13,4
including:					
a) safe labour	29,9	29,6	2,9	0,3	0,2
child workers aged 5-11	26,6	26,6	0,0	0,0	0,0
children aged 12-14 who work over 13 hours, children aged 15-16 who work over 24 hours, children aged 17 who work over 35 hours per week	3,3	0,0	2,9	0,3	0,2
b) hazardous labour	74,7	10,7	27,1	24,2	12,7
hazardous economic activities	1,9	0,1	0,4	0,7	0,8
hazardous occupations	4,0	0,3	0,6	1,7	1,4
excessive working hours(> 42 hours per week)	1,1	0,0	0,3	0,4	0,4
hazardous conditions	67,7	10,3	25,8	21,4	10,1
c) children undertaking non-remunerated household activities more than 27 hours per week	4,4	0,8	0,5	2,4	0,7

Source: *Child Labour in the Republic of Moldova: Results of the Statistical Survey on Child Activities conducted in 2009: Synthesis.* – National Bureau for Statistics, 2010

To point out that child labour is mainly practised in the rural areas, nearly 24.9% of the total number of children of the rural areas work in child labour conditions. In urban communities, this index did not overpass the value of 5.0%.

Boys are much more affected by the phenomenon of child labour than girls, the share of boys in the total number of children working in child labour conditions amounts to 63%, and the share of girls – to 37%.

⁶ Child Labour in the Republic of Moldova: the results of the survey conducted in 2009 on child activities / International Labour Organization; ILO International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour; National Bureau for Statistics of the Republic of Moldova. - Chisinau: ILO, 2010

**Ensure access to general compulsory education**

Goal 2

Certainly, private companies can have a decisive contribution to countering the phenomenon of child labour. This idea is stipulated by the Collective Convention (at national level) no. 8 of 12.07.2007 on the elimination of the worst forms of child labour⁷ through which the employers committed to fulfil the following obligations:

- ◆ not to admit employment of children for labours prohibited to people aged below 18;
- ◆ to remove children from the worst forms of child labour and to ensure their transfer to other labours, not prohibited, nor contraindicated;
- ◆ all child labourers shall be subject to periodical medical examinations, following a schedule stipulated by the collective labour agreement, but not more seldom than once in a semester, all expenditures being covered by the employer;
- ◆ to establish a reduced weekly duration for child labour, without restricting their remuneration rights and other rights proclaimed by the legislation in force;
- ◆ to negotiate supplementary provisions on child labour with representatives of employees and to include them in collective labour agreements;
- ◆ to keep records or other papers intended to track child workers;
- ◆ to submit periodically, but not more seldom than once a year, to Labour Inspection the list of child workers.

The activities of the National Federation of Employers in Agriculture and Food Industry of the Republic of Moldova can serve as a model to be followed in order to fight child labour. The Federation consists of 15 regional associations of agricultural employers which include over 2000 agricultural enterprises – holders of over 50% of agricultural lands of the Republic of Moldova, Employers' Association of Livestock Enterprises "Zoocarlap" and the Employers' Association of Crops Exporters.

Box 7.

Endeavours undertaken by farming producers of the Republic of Moldova to combat child labour

The National Federation of Employers in Agriculture and Food Industry of the Republic of Moldova was established in 2003. Since 2005, the Federation conducts a range of activities intended to combat the worst forms of child labour in the Republic of Moldova.

At the beginning, the Federation conducted in 20 villages of the districts of Orhei and Criuleni a survey whose outcomes were used as a basis for evaluation of child labour in horticultural sector of the Republic of Moldova. Taking into account the present situation in the Republic of Moldova in the field of child labour, the member-associations of the Federation adopted a Statement and declared that „The place of the child is at school and child's work is to study” which sets the major directions for employers' activities towards fighting child labour in agriculture.

The Federation established a network of 15 regional teams which conduct sensitization, training and advocacy activities, set up local alliances, etc. In partnership with International La-

7 Official Monitor of the Republic of Moldova no. 103-106 BIS of 24th of July 2007



bour Organization, the Federation has trained a group of local trainers, conducted seminars for farming employers of several districts of the Republic of Moldova. Hundreds of managers of farming enterprises and representatives of social partners – trade unions, district councils, district administration bodies, labour inspectorates – took part in seminars.

The Federation developed and issued a set of aids intended for sensitization and information of employers, managers of farming enterprises, decision-makers, parents and children: “Employers’ response to child labour”, „Building a decent future for our children through elimination of child labour”, „Seven important things about child labour. Messages to adolescents from adults who received quality education in childhood and have a successful life”, “Endeavours of farming employers of Moldova in fighting child labour: Human chronicle”, „The problem of child labour has a solution: education”, etc.

Based on the experience gained in terms of countering child labour in agriculture and on multiple proposals formulated by all stakeholders, the Federation has developed and approved a “Code of Conduct for Employers on the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour in Agriculture and Food Industry”. The Code is intended to provide exact definitions for the main notions used in the context of child labour in agriculture and food industry in the Republic of Moldova and to encourage the employers to eliminate the worst forms of child labour in this sector of national economy. The Code reiterates the Federation’s commitment to provide support to children eliminated from difficult and dangerous labour by virtue of policies prohibiting the worst forms of child labour in agriculture and food industry in the Republic of Moldova and provides for establishment of a team in charge of monitoring of the situation in this field.

The teams in charge of promoting and monitoring the way how the Code of Conduct is respected, consisting of representatives of the Federation, held a range of events in many communities countrywide both for employers, and parents. Within such events, the employers formulated a univocal message: the Code is a very useful document and it must be respected by everybody, because “children are the richest harvest”.

The initiative of farming employers aimed at fighting child labour in the Republic of Moldova was appreciated as successful in the report of ILO Director General presented at the 8th European Regional Conference held on 11th of February 2009 in Lisbon, Portugal.

Source: www.fnpaia.org, accessed on 18th of May 2012

Good practice approaches and models implemented by the National Federation of Employers in Agriculture and Food Industry of the Republic of Moldova need to be shared by employers of the other sectors of Moldovan economy, by the associations and federations of small entrepreneurs.

Private companies may also contribute to achieving the targets of MDG 2 through active participation, both by the means of employers, and directly to implementation of the National Action Plan for prevention and elimination of the worst forms of child labour for 2011-2015, approved by Decree of Government of the Republic of Moldova no. 766 of 10th of October 2011. According to this Plan, employers are impelled to take part in revision and update of relevant legislation for prevention and

**Ensure access to general compulsory education**

Goal 2

elimination of the worst forms of child labour, to include the issues related to prevention and elimination of the worst forms of child labour in training programmes for employers and employees, to provide support to families of children at risk of being involved in the worst forms of child labour.

4.4. Philanthropy and Sponsorship

Philanthropy and sponsorship activities are regulated by Law no. 1420 of 31st of December 2002.⁸ According to the above-mentioned law, philanthropic activity means voluntary material, impartial and unconditioned aid or free services delivered by individuals or legal entities to a person (a group of people), without seeking in return any reward, payment or enforcement of certain obligations and without getting any profit. Sponsorship activities consist in providing financial resources or other goods as support for public interest actions.

From the perspective of MDG 2, philanthropic activities held in the Republic of Moldova shall be focussed on providing support and social protection to children and pupils from disadvantaged families, helping the victims of natural calamities or social conflicts, raising the family's prestige and role in the society, mother and child protection. Private companies may undertake philanthropic activities consisting in direct aids, or in material support provided to philanthropic and social institutions, or in support for public interest events. In the framework of sponsorship activities, private companies of the Republic of Moldova may provide funds for programmes and activities in the field of education and social protection of children and pupils, may provide financial and material aid to philanthropic organizations, educational institutions and to other organizations dealing with education issues.

The State grants some privileges to natural persons and legal entities conducting philanthropic and sponsorship activities. According to Tax Code of the Republic of Moldova,⁹ each resident taxpayer is entitled to a deduction of any donations made by the taxpayer during the fiscal year as philanthropy or sponsorships, provided that this amount does not exceed 10% of the taxable income. Tax Code provides that only donations as philanthropy or sponsorship to public authorities and public institutions, to non-commercial organizations complying with certain requirements and to family-type children's homes may be deducted.

Private companies conducting philanthropic and sponsorship activities may be granted fiscal privileges provided that they can confirm the respective expenditures. The way how the expenditures may be confirmed is regulated by the Government¹⁰ which compels both the providers and the beneficiaries of donations to conclude contracts of philanthropic/sponsorship donation and to submit to territorial fiscal bodies reports on the allocated sums of money and on their use.

According to the information collected during in-depth interviews, all private companies included in the survey conduct philanthropic and sponsorship activities. Obviously, the amount of financial and material resources allocated to this end depends on the size of each company, on the particularities of economic activities and on the size of territorial zones where they do their business. To point out that only 8 in the 17 private companies covered by the survey have assessed in money the philanthropic and sponsorship allocations provided by them to natural persons and non-commercial organizations.

8 Official Monitor of the Republic of Moldova, no. 185 of 31st of December 2002, art. 1394

9 Law no. 1163 of 24th of April 1997. Official Monitor of the Republic of Moldova, Special Issue, 8th of February 2007

10 Regulations on the way how to confirm philanthropic and sponsorship donations. Approved by Decree of Government of the Republic of Moldova no. 489 of 4th of May 1998. Official Monitor of the Republic of Moldova no. 62-65 of 9th of July 1998, art. 600



The amount of financial resources donated each year by companies varies from 40 to 500 lei per employee, and the cost of material resources – from 100 to 4000 lei per employee. From the territorial perspective, 35% of the resources allocated by companies for philanthropic and sponsorship ends are directed to people and institutions of the rural areas and 65% - to people and institutions of the urban areas.

In general, it is rather difficult to determine the concrete amount of financial and material resources allocated by private companies for philanthropic and sponsorship activities. Despite the fact that the reports submitted by private companies to the National Bureau for Statistics contain such an information¹¹, a synthesis of the data from the respective reports is still unavailable.

Box 8.

Philanthropic and sponsorship activities for children and pupils

Victoriabank is a financial institution, and an organization with a high level of social responsibility which involves actively in various activities intended to help people in need. Or, Victoriabank:

- ◆ tends to develop a well-educated young society through sponsoring of National Olympiads and through holding contests intended to encourage pupils' assiduity;
- ◆ is charitable in relation with orphans and needy children, having into its custody a special school for children with behaviour deviations from the village of Solonet, district of Soroca;
- ◆ is solidary with human suffering and provides financial aids to needy and hopeless people;
- ◆ fights for a healthy society through supporting campaigns for prevention of breast cancer;
- ◆ provides financial aids to children in difficulty and deprived from financial resources who need surgical interventions;
- ◆ encourages young professionals through awarding excellence stipends to the best students of higher education institutions, as well as social stipends to students from socially disadvantaged families.

With a view to provide support to disadvantaged children and pupils, Victoriabank implemented the following projects in the period 2010-2011:

The campaign "Dăruiești și câștigi" ("Offer to Gain"). Nearly 5000 clients of the bank took part in this campaign. During the campaign, were accumulated 7400 Euros. In addition to it, were collected resources for a charity fund which was used for organizing an unforgettable day for all 129 children of the boarding-school of Văscăuți, village of Florești – a trip to Chisinau, the capital of our country. During the excursion, children visited the zoo, watched a 3D cartoon, and attended a concert organized for them by Moldovan stars. In addition to it, each child got many gifts: clothes, books, school supplies, sweets and toys. The bank also offered to the boarding-school a high-capacity gas cooker, sports equipment, bicycles, school aids, clothes for pupils.

11 Yearly financial report // www.statistica.md, accessed on 15th of May 2012

**Ensure access to general compulsory education**

Goal 2

Winter holidays together with children of the boarding-school of Văscăuți. Victoriabank conducted on the 22nd of December 2011 a contest for children of the boarding-school of Văscăuți, the roles of Santa Claus and Snow White being played by the bank's employees. Nearly 100 children took part in the contest - 66 boys and 36 girls – who recited poems and sang songs. In addition to gifts for winners, Victoriabank also offered to the library of the boarding-school a collection of books.

The campaign "A mărțișor for a smile". This campaign aimed at socialization and supporting of children from disadvantaged families. On the 1st of March 2010, the bank brought the spring to its clients and partners, giving them mărțișors (a traditional Moldovan amulet) and original greeting cards. About 5000 mărțișors and greeting cards were handmade by endowed children from socially disadvantaged families in partnership with the centre-workshop for handicraft production of „Stefanesti” Association of Teachers and Parents of the village of Ștefănești, district of Florești. By the means of this campaign, Victoriabank succeeded to transform a traditional spring event into a social programme intended to involve its clients in helping needy children.

Source: Victoriabank, 2012

A conclusion about the amount of the sums of money allocated by business entities at national level for sponsorships and charity acts can be made based on the available data of 2002, 2003 and 2004. In 2004, the respective sum amounted to 202,9 million lei, i.e. 4,78% of the total profit in the economy and 0,63% of the Gross Domestic Product.¹² Unfortunately, no disaggregation of these data by fields relevant for MDG 2 is available.

While supporting relevant for MDG 2 activities, private companies face some constraints, most of them being generated, in their opinion, by excessive bureaucratisation of the deduction from taxable income of the resources used for philanthropic and sponsorship activities.

4.5. Contribution to Community Development

The participation of private sector companies in community development has several forms, and here are the most important of them:

- ◆ providing direct support to local government authorities for improving the situation of educational institutions, identification of out-of-school children and of dropouts;
- ◆ participation in drafting and implementing community development strategies, promotion of measures intended to raise the degree of coverage by education and to support children and families in difficulty;
- ◆ encouraging the employees to involve, together with their families, relatives and friends, in concrete measures intended to support educational institutions and children with special educational needs;
- ◆ involving in project and programme development and implementation and ensuring their viability;

¹² Alexandru Oprunenco, Valeriu Prohnițchi, Mihai Rusu. Evaluation of Corporate Social Responsibility in Moldova. Expert-Grup, Chisinau, 2005



- ◆ information and sensitization of citizens from the respective communities to pressing daily problems of the community, providing training for them on issues related to identification of priorities, argumentation and hierarchization of needs, joining the efforts, rational use of local resources, establishing partnerships.

A relevant example of mobilization of private companies for community development was given by the Social Investments Fund of Moldova which, throughout the period 2009-2011, successfully implemented 258 projects, including 80 projects aimed at renovation of educational institutions, improving the ways of access to educational institutions.¹³ Private companies which perform works, provide services or deliver goods for projects implemented by the Social Investments Fund of Moldova are selected as a result of transparent procedures, based on an open competition.

Practically, all 17 private companies included in the survey participate in community development activities. Their participation means first of all initiation and participation of their employees in various activities intended to support educational institutions and families in difficult situations, contribution to drafting joint strategies and action plans, mobilization of the employees and of their families for volunteership community activities, supporting information and sensitization campaigns, setting up new services intended to improve the situation in the field of education.

The analysis of community development activities conducted in the framework of a range of projects funded by international organizations, as well as within projects implemented in the Republic of Moldova, reveals that the degree of private sector participation in achieving MDG 2 at community level may be enhanced due to larger involvement of small and medium-size companies. Such companies have direct links with the communities, as many employers and employees are native or even live in the respective communities and are aware of the situation of educational institutions and of the living standards of each family. It is important that philanthropic and sponsorship activities conducted by small and medium-size companies are supplemented by their direct participation in drafting, implementing, monitoring and evaluation of community development strategies, programmes and plans focussed on improving the situation of educational institutions in the respective communities.

Box 9.

Contribution to community development – “We appreciate intelligence” Project

“StarNet” company operates in information and communication sector and provides a broad range of services in a number of communities of the Republic of Moldova. In 2009, the company launched the social project “We appreciate intelligence”. The basic objectives of the project are:

- ◆ raising the pupils’ interest and motivation for learning;
- ◆ providing professional orientation support to pupils and enhancing their individual performance;
- ◆ developing the pupils’ lifelong learning skills;
- ◆ raising the efficiency and enhancing the performance of educational institutions;

13 Social Investments Fund of Moldova. Yearly Report 2011 / www.msif.md, accessed on 30th of July 2012

**Ensure access to general compulsory education**

Goal 2

- ◆ encouraging innovation, professional and civic responsibility of pupils;
- ◆ enhancing the tools for monitoring and evaluation of learning outcomes.

With a view to familiarize the pupils with the new tools of information and communication technologies, “StarNet” company built the informative website www.liceu.md, which can be accessed by pupils, parents, teaching and managerial staff of general education institutions of the Republic of Moldova. In the framework of this project, “StarNet” provides Internet access, ensures the purchase, instalment and maintenance of the required equipment, holds contests and awards the best pupils.

Pupils, parents, the teaching and managerial staff of the institutions beneficiaries of this project have the possibility to manage and publish information about the educational process on the above-mentioned website. Forums, multimedia galleries, profiles of institutions, etc. can also be created on this website.

Each educational institution may publish information about the lycee’s history and the teaching staff, the timetable of curriculum and extra-curriculum activities, the school situation of each pupil. The teaching staff may manage their own information: registers of classes, timetable, personalized agenda, monthly and yearly reports, teaching aids, etc. Pupils, in their turn, can access the information published by the managerial and teaching staff of the respective educational institution, and create their own profiles.

Through this website, parents can monitor online the school situation of their children, involve in discussions on the organization of the educational process, make proposals for improvement of the educational process. A particular merit of the project consists in the fact that it gives to parents who are far from their children the possibility to monitor their school situation.

Within this project, “StarNet” company conducts the contest “The Top of Success” intended to motivate pupils for learning. Awarding of pupils with the best school performance is done at solemn ceremonies followed by concerts for pupils and parents, with the participation of notable personalities from the respective communities.

The project was launched in Chişinău municipality, with full support of local government and of many educational institutions. The project’s success was to a large extent determined by the close collaboration relations with local communities. At present, 21 educational institutions of Chişinău and Ungheni are beneficiaries of this project, with prospective project enlargement towards other communities of the Republic of Moldova.

In the framework of its community development activities, “StarNet” company launched a free Wi-Fi service in many communities of the Republic of Moldova, held the charity concert “Eternal Spring”, took part in the Festival “Youngsters for Moldova”, as well as in charity actions for the boarding-school of Carpineni, district of Hancesti.

Source: StarNet, 2012



4.6. Expanding Corporate Social Responsibility Practices

The role of private sector of the Republic of Moldova in achieving MDG 2 may be enhanced as a result of systematization, expansion and efficientization of corporate social responsibility activities. The latest surveys conducted in this field show that many private companies of our country started the modernization of their business by integration in corporate management of social responsibility practices.¹⁴ Companies with foreign capital and joint companies were the first to launch the process of inclusion of social responsibility principles in the company's development strategy.

"Global Compact" Project, implemented with the support of the United Nations Development Programme,¹⁵ played an important role for expansion of corporate social responsibility practices in our country. The project aimed at promoting corporate social responsibility and strengthening the local network of Global Compact in Moldova, enhancing the participation of member-companies of the network in dialogues on policy development in the field of responsible entrepreneurship, identification and intermediation of public-private partnerships with a view to foster community development and social involvement of companies.

At present, the local network of the Global Compact in Moldova consists of 27 organizations, including 17 private companies.¹⁶ The most popular fields for implementation of social programmes by member-organizations of the Global Compact are:

- ◆ Charity activities;
- ◆ Supporting cultural-educational projects;
- ◆ Health care;
- ◆ Regional development;
- ◆ Economic growth and implementation of modern technologies in the field of community development;
- ◆ Environment protection.

14 Lilia Covas, Aurelia Braguța. Social Responsibility: Practical Issues. Academy of Economic Studies of Moldova, Chisinau, 2009.
Buciușcan Silvia. Social Responsibility of Companies in the Context of Integration of the Republic of Moldova into the European Community: Dissertation. – Chisinau, 2010

15 www.undp.md, accessed on 15th of May 2012

16 www.unglobalcompact.org, accessed on 20th of May 2012

**Ensure access to general compulsory education**

Goal 2

Table 15.
Fields for implementation of social programmes by a range of companies which joined the Global Compact of the United Nations Organization

Name of the company	Fields for implementation					
	Charity	Culture and education	Health care	Regional development	Community development	Environment protection
AVON Moldova Ltd.			+			
„Mobiasbanca – Groupe Societe Generale” Commercial Bank	+	+				+
JSC Moldova Agroindbank Commercial Bank	+	+				+
JSC „Efes Vitanta Moldova Brewery”		+				
„Endava” Ltd. Joint Company	+				+	+
JSC “Red Union Fenosa” Joint Company	+	+	+			+
„Sun Communications” Ltd. Joint Company		+		+	+	
JSC „Natur Bravo”					+	
JSC „Orange Moldova”	+	+			+	
JSCB „EuroCreditBank”	+					
JSC „Lafarge Ciment”	+			+		
„Leogrand Co” Ltd.		+				
JSC „Moldcell”	+	+			+	+
PTC “Bioprotect” Ltd.	+	+				+

Source: Adapted after Table 3 of the article “Identification and selection of priority social programmes for the company”, authors Lilia Covas and Silvia Buciuscan, *Scientific-didactic journal „Economica”, an. XVII, no. 5 (October) (69)/2009*

The data of the table above show that charity activities and the activities intended to support culture and education sector are the most popular within social responsibility programmes of companies members of the Local Network of the Global Compact in Moldova.

Box 10.**Activities intended to support education through social responsibility programmes**

In 2009, the JSC „Orange Moldova” set up the “Orange Moldova” Foundation. According to Ludmila Climoc, Director General, the establishment of the Foundation is a new proof of the consolidated commitment of JSC „Orange Moldova” to invest in development of the Republic of Moldova, to contribute to implementation of various social programmes aimed at disadvantaged children and families, to support the development of education and culture.



Here are the most important projects implemented by the Foundation over the past years:

Musical shows for disadvantaged children of boarding-schools and for disabled children entitled “Childhood - Sweet Fairyland” and “Autumnal Harmonies”. Nearly 3200 children from the districts of Anenii Noi, Bender, Causeni, Falesti, Ialoveni, Leova, Rezina, Straseni, Telenesti and from Chisinau municipality attended these concerts given by notable singers of the Republic of Moldova.

Using information technologies in special institutions for children with physical and sensory disabilities. The project was intended to improve the access of disabled children to quality education by the means of new information technologies, contributing to their inclusion in social life. In the framework of the project, eight computer rooms have been set up and equipped in boarding institutions. Computers with Braille keyboard were purchased for visual impaired or blind children. Throughout the period 2008-2011, 2000 children from specialized educational institutions for children with physical and sensory disabilities from the districts of Cahul, Calarasi and Hancesti, and Balti and Chisinau municipalities have been beneficiaries of this project.

A heating system for the sports hall of the boarding-school for children with mental disabilities of the town of Straseni. Taking into account that sports and culture are elements with a significant contribution to compensation, recovery and social integration of children, “Orange Moldova” Foundation committed to endow the sports hall of this school with a modern heating system. Due to it, the sports hall became operational during the cold season of the year, and ensured for the 140 pupils, most of them coming from disadvantaged families, appropriate conditions for sports and cultural activities.

Stipends for girls of boarding-schools. The project was aimed at school enrolment of girls from unfavourable environments and attenuation of inequalities in their access to vocational education. Throughout the period 2011-2012, the Foundation granted 298 stipends of up to 1000 USD each to girls in final year from boarding-gymnasiums for orphans and children deprived from parental care and from special boarding-schools.

The activities of “Orange Moldova” Foundation are based on the rich experience of Orange Foundation which operates in over 30 countries of Europe and Africa and launched about 500 projects.

Source: Orange Foundation, 2012

As a matter of fact, there is not a direct link between the profile of economic activities of private companies and the fields for implementation of social programmes, and the main criteria applied by companies while selecting the fields for intervention are mostly based on public perception of the undertaken social actions. Nevertheless, social programmes intended to support education sector are mainly supported by financial-banking institutions and companies of information and communication sector.

**Ensure access to general compulsory education**

Goal 2

In October 2011, the European Commission published a new policy in the field of corporate social responsibility for the period 2011-2014. The respective strategy is focussed on the following eight fields:¹⁷

- ◆ Enhancing the visibility of corporate social responsibility and disseminating good practices;
- ◆ Improving and tracking the levels of trust in business;
- ◆ Improving self- and co-regulation processes;
- ◆ Enhancing market reward for corporate social responsibility;
- ◆ Improving company disclosure of social and environmental information;
- ◆ Further integration of corporate social responsibility into education, training and research;
- ◆ Emphasising the importance of corporate social responsibility policies at national and sub-national levels;
- ◆ Better alignment of European and global approaches to corporate social responsibility requirements.

Certainly, companies of the Republic Moldova are just making the first steps towards implementing best practices of corporate social responsibility, but the activities in several fields of new European corporate responsibility policies – training for decision-makers and dissemination of information about social responsibility activities – would not require considerable material and financial efforts.

A positive change towards this direction might be done as a result of changing the mentality of owners and decision-makers of private companies and updating the normative-legal framework regulating business activities. According to a survey conducted among 119 managers of companies with a resonant social activity, the major reasons refraining the entrepreneurs from developing and publishing social reports are not related to shortage of resources, but to underestimation of their role in mobilization of private sector for social responsibility actions.

Table 16.

Reasons refraining the entrepreneurs from developing and publishing social reports

Reason	Frequency
Because they are not mandatory	36,5%
There are no requests for such reports	30,8%
They are not a matter of interest	10,6%
They require financial and time expenditures	9,6%
Lack of knowledge needed to draft the report	5,8%
Lack of personnel	5,8%
Other reasons	1,0%

Source: Adapted after Chart 2.3 of the dissertation of doctor in economy "Social responsibility of companies in the context of integration of the Republic of Moldova into the European Community", Buciuscan Silvia, 2010

The survey's data shown in the table above reveal that, in terms of developing and publishing social reports, companies are in expectancy, waiting rather to be incited or obliged to do it. Certainly, this

17 http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/sustainable-business/files/csr/new-csr/act_en.pdf, accessed on 10th of May 2012



statement is not applicable to member-companies of the Local Network of Global Compact in Moldova which voluntarily committed to develop and publish social reports. The initiators of developing social reports are JSC TOTAL LEASING Joint Company, „Bioprotect” Ltd., JSC „Moldcell”, JSC „Red Union Fenosa”, JSC „Moldova Agroindbanc”, etc. whose reports are available on Internet.

In the opinion of researchers, the main measures intended to enhance social responsibility of companies in the Republic of Moldova in the period of integration into the European Community include:¹⁸

- ◆ replacing the traditional approaches to philanthropic activities of companies with a new concept of social responsibility of companies;
- ◆ direct involvement of managers and establishment of a managerial team for social responsibility actions;
- ◆ announcing about the transition to social responsibility activities and refraining from other programmes, if they do not imply social investments;
- ◆ planning social responsibility actions;
- ◆ reporting about social responsibility of the company.

In their social responsibility activities, companies face a range of constraints, such as deficiencies of normative-legal regulations, attempts of some representatives of public authorities to direct social responsibility activities towards political ends, shortage of material and financial resources.

4.7. Strengthening the Partnerships between Private Companies, Civil Society Organizations and Public Authorities

Partnerships between private companies, civil society organizations and public administration bodies may have a decisive contribution to boosting relevant activities for achieving the national targets of MDG 2 in the Republic of Moldova. Such partnerships may, in particular, contribute to:

- ◆ more rapid identification of problems faced by each educational institution, as well as by each disadvantaged family with children of compulsory education age;
- ◆ developing and implementing strategies, programmes and action plans focussed on the concrete needs of direct beneficiaries: out-of-school children and dropouts, absentees, disabled children, children in conflict with the law, families in difficulty, etc.;
- ◆ fostering community development through a higher degree of citizens' participation in decision-making and implementation at local level, promoting the decisive role of education for building a better future for their children;
- ◆ encouraging the implementation of social responsibility projects through externalization of services, more active involvement of all stakeholders, community mobilization.

The data collected in the framework of the sociological survey show that all 17 companies included in the survey have established partnership relations. Most partnerships are established with public authorities and state institutions – 15 partnerships; with civil society organizations – 13 partnerships; with other private companies – 6 partnerships.

¹⁸ Buciuscan Silvia. Social responsibility of companies in the context of integration of the Republic of Moldova into the European Community: Doctor dissertation. – Chisinau, 2010

**Ensure access to general compulsory education**

Goal 2

In the frame of partnerships with public authorities, private companies provide financial support for organization of public interest events, as well as financial and material resources intended to support philanthropy and sponsorship activities. Due to direct partnership relations between private companies and educational institutions, companies support or the company's employees involve directly in organization of joint events: holidays, concerts, cultural and sports contests, etc.

In addition to philanthropy and sponsorship activities, private companies, in particular large companies and companies with foreign capital, also involve civil society organizations in implementation of social responsibility projects, providing to them the required financial and material resources. As examples of good practice, we might mention the projects supported by JSC „Orange Moldova” Joint Company, by “Vatra” Public Association and by Private Institution “University Information Centre”.

Partnerships between private companies, civil society organizations and public authorities would be much more efficient, if companies and non-governmental organizations had a clearer vision about the prospects for achieving the targets of MDG 2 in the Republic of Moldova.

The analysis of the survey's information leads to the conclusion that the perception of such prospects is rather pessimistic, than optimistic. Or, only two in 17 private companies covered by the survey stated that the achievement of the targets of MDG 2 is possible. The perception of civil society organizations is similar – only three in 15 organizations included in the survey consider that it is possible to achieve the targets of MDG 2.

Private companies and civil society organizations are rather reserved while evaluating the state's endeavours aimed at achieving the targets of MDG 2. Only two in 17 private companies which took part in the survey appreciated such endeavours as “good”, while the other expressed the options “unavailable”, “weak” and “average”. As far as associative sector is concerned, only three in 15 civil society organizations gave the appreciation “good”, and the rest of them gave worse appreciations.

The perception of the efforts put by private companies and civil society organizations towards achieving the targets of MDG 2 is also marked by some scepticism. Most private companies included in the survey assessed the efforts put by civil society organizations as unavailable, weak or average. None company gave the appreciation “good” and “very good”. On the other hand, civil society organizations assessed as “unavailable”, „weak” or „average” the endeavours of private companies.

Aiming at partnership development, private companies, civil society organizations and public authorities must put more consistent efforts in order to reach consensus on major problems faced by education system of the Republic of Moldova in the process of achieving the targets of MDG 2 and to find solutions to such problems. The partnerships shall be based on a joint agenda for action likely to provide to all stakeholders maximal possibilities to exploit their inherent capability: enthusiasm, flexibility and human potential, in case of civil society organizations; understanding, human and material resources, in case of private companies; power to regulate, organize and put into operation the system of education, in case of public authorities and state institutions.



Ensure access to general compulsory education

Goal 2



CHAPTER 5.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The statistical data confirm that the fulfilment of the tasks related to preschool education assumed by the Republic of Moldova in the context of MDG 2 is possible, due to significant progress done in this sub-sector of education.

In primary education, the achievements are more modest, but progress done in preschool education sets the prerequisites for a possible growth at this level of general compulsory education.

The situation of gymnasium education, which is a component part of general compulsory education, remains difficult and the rate of enrolment in rural areas is falling. As a result, the countrywide rate of enrolment in general compulsory education is falling too, what makes improbable the achievement by the year 2015 of the targets of MDG 2 set by the Republic of Moldova.

Although MDG 2 includes a target related to maintaining the literacy rate among 15-24 year olds at the level of 99.5%, the present tools for evaluation and monitoring do not ensure the calculation and estimation of the values of the respective indicators, as the available statistical data are not disaggregated by age-groups. Taking into account that the rates of enrolment in general compulsory education are falling, the lack of statistical data related to literacy rates among 15-24 year olds might lead to underestimation of the phenomenon of illiteracy among young people.

The successful implementation of educational policies aimed at full achievement of the targets set by the Republic of Moldova in the context of MDG 2 depends to an equal extent on Government's efforts, and on the efficacy of the process of collaboration between public authorities, civil society and private sector. Unfortunately, educational policy papers in force do not provide explicitly for concrete actions intended to expand this process.

Nearly 500 organizations in the total number of 6.400 civil society organizations registered by the Ministry of Justice, i.e. 7.8% of the total number of organizations, declare, including by their name, the commitment to conduct relevant activities for achieving MDG 2 in the Republic of Moldova. In the same time, about 200 of these organizations are associations of parents which, in addition to involving pupils, parents and communities in school life, also collect from parents money and make informal payments to the teaching and managerial staff, an activity perceived non-univocally by public opinion.

From the territorial perspective, most non-governmental organizations which carry out relevant for MDG 2 activities are concentrated in Chisinau and in districts towns, and only 13% of the total number of non-governmental organizations are working in rural communities. Taking into account that the drop of the rates of enrolment in compulsory education is much more pronounced in rural communities, the little visibility of non-governmental organizations in rural areas is a considerable constraint to expanding civil society contribution to MDG 2.



The level of awareness of international and national papers related to development priorities and Millennium Development Goals is very high among civil society organizations based in Chisinau. As far as the organizations located outside Chişinău are concerned, their level of awareness of the respective papers is much lower. The awareness about the papers signed in Accra (2008) and Busan (2011) is lower both in Chisinau, and in other communities.

Civil society organizations are more and more involved in provision of services relevant for MDG 2, and the funds used to this end come mostly from projects implemented in the Republic of Moldova with the support of international development partners and from foreign donors. Relevant for MDG 2 services are mainly provided by civil society organizations based in the capital city. Unfortunately, local government authorities of district towns and municipalities, and, all the more, from towns and villages, do not involve civil society organizations in provision of educational services, the externalization of such services being considered as out of common.

Civil society organizations play an active role in sensitization and information of decision-makers and of public opinion to issues relevant for MDG 2. Such a role of civil society organizations becomes even more important from the perspective of sensitization and information of families of children who are out of any preschool or general compulsory education programme, families which usually have a very modest participation in community life and have limited access to mass-media. The major constraints faced by civil society organizations while carrying out sensitization and information activities are the shortage of financial resources needed to request the services of private mass-media, the low share of social programmes broadcasted by public mass-media, the limited number of printed publications for parents and children.

Within the associative sector of the Republic of Moldova, there are non-governmental organizations whose activities conducted in relevant fields for MDG 2 are models to be followed by other civil society organizations. Working in close collaboration with civil society organizations from countries with strong democracies and benefiting from their support, such organizations apply in our country new approaches based on enlargement of inclusive education, larger involvement of parents and local communities. The dissemination of best practice models and examples shall be a common task of the associative sector, and of its partners from central and local government.

An important role in promoting change is played by partnership relations established by civil society organizations with other active stakeholders in fields relevant for MDG 2: central and local government authorities, international organizations, development partners, business entities, other civil society organizations. In general, such relations are well-developed, except the partnerships between civil society organizations and business entities which still need to be substantially expanded.

While working to promote changes, civil society organizations face a range of constraints, such as irrelevance and, sometimes, declarative nature of policy papers, persistence of many elements of formalism in interaction between civil society organizations and public administration bodies. The impact of activities carried out by civil society organizations in fields relevant for MDG 2 would be stronger both at central, and at local level, if public authorities were more open to collaboration.

The degree of private sector involvement in activities aimed at achieving the national targets of MDG 2 in the Republic of Moldova is to a large extent determined by the perception of the importance of education by the country's citizens. Taking into account that education is perceived by the population as one of the few sectors with a relatively good situation which, implicitly, does not require any

**Ensure access to general compulsory education**

Goal 2

intervention at the level of the whole system, most private companies plan their activities relevant for MDG 2 based on concrete requests and needs expressed by citizens, communities and educational institutions or based on explicit proposals formulated by public authorities.

Despite the fact that small and medium-size enterprise make up the largest share of companies, the most resonant activities in fields relevant for MDG 2, except charity activities, are systematically conducted by large companies, particularly by joint companies and companies with nationwide coverage.

Private sector may contribute to countering non-enrolment, school absenteeism and dropout through elimination of child labour, a reprehensible phenomenon which is mostly characteristic for rural communities of the Republic of Moldova. The employers of the farming sector undertook concrete actions intended to combat this phenomenon and have already gained some experience in eliminating the worst forms of child labour.

The participation of private companies to community development is usually done through initiation and participation of the company' employees in activities intended to support the educational institutions and families in difficulty, contribution to drafting joint strategies and action plans, mobilization of employees and their families for community volunteer ship activities, supporting information and sensitization campaigns, setting up new services intended to enhance the situation in the field of education.

Following the experience of transnational companies, private companies of the Republic of Moldova, particularly large companies and companies with foreign capital, launched a process of business modernization through developing and implementing social responsibility programmes. Dissemination and sharing of best practices in terms of social responsibility by all private companies from our country require change of mentality of owners and decision-makers of private companies and updating the normative-legal framework regulating business activities.

In the framework of their partnerships with public authorities and civil society organizations, private companies provide financial support for organization of public interest events, give financial and material resources to support philanthropy and sponsorship activities, mobilize their employees for social responsibility actions. The efficiency of such partnerships would be even greater if companies and civil society organizations would have a clearer vision about the prospects of achieving the targets of MDG 2 in the Republic of Moldova.

Here are the most important recommendations derived from the findings above::

1. With a view to achieve the targets of MDG 2 assumed by the Republic of Moldova, civil society organizations shall have a more active involvement in identification of out-of-school children and support families, schools and local government authorities in their endeavours to ensure school enrolment of such children.
2. Civil society organizations which have the capability to draft and analyze public policies shall be larger involved by public authorities in developing methodologies for gathering and systematization of data about school enrolment of children, in improving the methods for monitoring of gross and net rates of enrolment in education, in identification of discrepancies between national and international statistics.



3. Civil society organizations shall carry out advocacy activities for adjustment of national indicators and methodologies for progress monitoring and evaluation in fields related to MDG 2 to international indicators and methodologies.
4. Civil society organizations, in particular, associations of parents, shall provide to public authorities in charge of education on-going support for development and implementation of the required tools for regulation and strict control on the practice of collecting money from pupils and parents which has a negative impact, especially on children from disadvantaged families.
5. Civil society organizations with a rich experience in undertaking activities relevant for MDG 2 and which have sufficient human and material resources shall expand their activities towards rural communities. Such activities shall mostly be directed to strengthening the capability of local communities to prevent non-schooling, school absenteeism and dropout.
6. With a view to enhance the awareness about international and national papers related to development priorities and Millennium Development Goals, civil society organizations shall have a closer collaboration with development partners and put more efforts aimed at dissemination of the above-mentioned papers both among their members, and among the public.
7. Central and local government authorities shall put into practice the methods of service externalization, enabling in this way civil society organizations to carry out a broad range of activities aimed at achievement of MDG 2. Continuing training of teaching and managerial staff, development of teaching aids, supporting children in difficulty – in such fields, civil society organizations might be much more effective and efficient than traditional institutions.
8. There is need for a stronger support from the side of central and local government authorities for transmitting broadcasts and issuing printed materials on social issues, targeted in particular at parents and children. In addition to possibilities provided by the mass-media, in the framework of sensitization and information campaigns focussed on preventing the phenomena of non-enrolment and school absenteeism, civil society organizations shall expand their activities towards the community level, with a special emphasis on face-to-face interactions.
9. With a view to disseminate broadly the best practice models and examples, it is recommended to enhance the visibility of the activities undertaken by experienced non-governmental organizations in fields relevant for MDG 2. Such a visibility shall be promoted both through the mass-media, and through Internet, not only on websites on non-governmental organizations, but also of the official websites of central and local government authorities.
10. Public authorities of all levels shall enforce to a full extent the normative-legal framework regulating the transparency of the decision-making process, launch and promote the practices of externalization of relevant for MDG 2 services, modernize more dynamically the educational management, in particular, from the perspective of expanding the participation of communities and of the associative sector in decision-making process.
11. Taking into account that private companies are much less aware about the papers related to development priorities and Millennium Development Goals than civil society organizations, there is need for more intense disse-

**Ensure access to general compulsory education**

Goal 2

- mination of such papers by the concerned public authorities and associations of employers. Being at present known mostly by large companies and companies with foreign capital, these papers need to be also disseminated among small and medium-size companies, whose share in the Republic of Moldova is dominant.
12. Expanding best practice approaches and models in terms of preventing child labour in all sectors of national economy. Promoting such practices in particular among farmers and small entrepreneurs of rural communities.
 13. Conducting campaigns for sensitization and information of employers and of managers of small and medium-size companies to the issue of private sector contribution to community development. Supplementing philanthropy and sponsorship activities of these companies with activities implying direct participation in drafting, implementing, monitoring and evaluation of community development strategies, programmes and action plans focussed on improving the situation of educational institutions in the respective communities.
 14. Updating the normative-legal framework regulating business activities through insertion of explicit provisions concerning social responsibility. Encouraging small and medium-size companies to systematize their social responsibility practices, orienting them towards relevant for MDG 2 fields.
 15. Partnerships between private companies, civil society organizations and public authorities shall be based on a common agenda for action, likely to provide to all stakeholders maximal possibilities to exploit their inherent capability: enthusiasm, flexibility and human potential, in case of civil society organizations; understanding, human and material resources, in case of private companies; power to regulate, organize and put into operation the system of education, in case of public authorities and state institutions.



ANNEXES

Annex 1. List of civil society organizations included in the survey

Questionnaire-based interviews:

1. Lumos Foundation Moldova
2. „Pas cu Pas” (“Step by Step”) Educational Programme
3. CONTACT Centre
4. Amici dei Bambini Moldova
5. Alliance of active NGO-s in the field of social protection of children and family
6. Keystone Human Services International Moldova Association/„Inclusive Community – Moldova”
7. Every Child
8. La Strada Moldova
9. La VIA Moldova
10. Centre for Information and Documentation on Child’s Rights of Moldova
11. “Speranța” Day Centre
12. “Copil, Comunitate, Familie” (“Child, Community, Family”) Moldova
13. National Youth Council of Moldova
14. “Familia Sturza” (“The Sturzas”) Foundation
15. National Roma Centre

Case studies:

1. Institute for Public Policies
2. Pro Didactica Educational Centre
3. Centre for Information and Documentation on Child’s Rights of Moldova
4. Lumos Foundation Moldova
5. „Pas cu Pas”(“Step by Step”) Educational Programme
6. “Tarna Rom” Union of Young Roma of Moldova

**Ensure access to general compulsory education**

Goal 2

Annex 2. List of private companies included in the survey

Questionnaire-based interviews:

1. Vinamex Ltd. Joint Company
2. Arhiconi Grup Ltd.
3. JSC Bucuria
4. JSC Acorex Wine Holding
5. JSC Zorile
6. Sancos Clinic of Aesthetic Medicine Ltd.
7. Bemol Retail Ltd. Company with Foreign Capital
8. JSC Efes Vitanta Moldova Brewery Joint Company
9. JSC Franzeluța Bread-Baking Plant
10. Moldconstruct Market Ltd.
11. JSC Orhei-Vit
12. JSC Supraten
13. Farmacia Familiei Ltd. Joint Company
14. Vestimentație Ltd.
15. JSC Orange Joint Company
16. StarNet Ltd.
17. JSC Victoriabank

Case studies:

18. National Federation of Employers in Agriculture and Food Industry of Moldova
19. JSC Victoriabank
20. StarNet Ltd.
21. JSC Orange Joint Company