



5 STEPS

TO ADDRESS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

PARTICIPATORY PLANNING AT THE LOCAL LEVEL

**METHODOLOGICAL NOTES
FOR LOCAL PUBLIC AUTHORITIES FROM MOLDOVA**

Domestic violence is one of the most common types of violence and is a significant human rights violation in any community, which should be on the agenda of the elected leaders of local public authorities.

IF, AS A MAYOR OR DEPUTY MAYOR, YOU WANT TO:

- contribute to preventing domestic violence in your community, make the citizens feel safe at home and maintain public order;
- improve confidence in local authorities;
- enforce national legislation on preventing domestic violence by taking specific measures at local level;
- ensure the support of local residents and specialists in planning and implementing measures to prevent and combat domestic violence, so that they continue to support your initiative on counteracting domestic violence and implement specific measures.

THEN:

Participatory planning can help to successfully implement these measures!

PARTICIPATORY PLANNING

is a good practice, envisaging direct engagement of local communities - citizens as well as specialists of the local government - in solving a specific and burning problem, through: (I) understanding the root causes of the problem: (II) identifying necessary resources for its solving, but also: (III) planning and implementing specific activities. Since the local authorities are mandated to enforce national policies and the legislation on social matters at local level, the active engagement of specialists and local residents in planning specific measures and actions, sharing responsibilities for addressing existing problems, will allow local authorities to gain the trust and support of citizens and specialists and more effectively mobilize the available resources.

WHERE TO START?

WHAT STEPS ARE NEEDED?

In this methodological note, you will find basic information on how elected mayors and deputy-mayors can mobilize the local community and involve key stakeholders in planning and implementing national legislation to counteract domestic violence.



WHY SHOULD MAYORS CONTRIBUTE TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NATIONAL LEGISLATION TO COUNTERACT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE?



According to Article 8 (2) of the Law on the prevention and elimination of domestic violence No. 45 of 01-03-2007,

the local public administration authorities:

- include measures related to the prevention and elimination of domestic violence in local development programs, plan trainings and information campaigns on elimination of domestic violence, on the support of social services and other measures to assist victims of domestic violence, cooperate in the implementation of a system of keeping records of domestic violence cases;
- institutionalize specialized multidisciplinary teams (MDT)- a team of specialists representing organizations mandated by the national legal framework to undertake measures on prevention, prosecution of gender-based violence but also facilitate access to assistance and protection to survivors of violence;
- develop social partnerships with non-governmental organizations, including foundations, trade unions, employers' organizations, religious organizations, and international organizations to consolidate efforts in the prevention and elimination of domestic violence, etc.

**PARTICIPATORY PLANNING
FOR PREVENTING AND
ELIMINATING DOMESTIC
VIOLENCE**

STEP 1

INSTITUTIONALIZING A MULTIDISCIPLINARY TERRITORIAL TEAM FOR THE PREVENTION OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE (MDT)

WHAT FOR?



In addition to the Law on the prevention and elimination of domestic violence, the establishment and operation of the MDT is provided for in the 2018-2023 National Strategy for the prevention and combating of violence against women and domestic violence, approved through Government Decision No. 281 of 03.04.2018. The need to develop a coordinated multidisciplinary response by local public authorities to domestic violence is also provided for in the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence, signed by the Republic of Moldova on 06.02.2017, as well as the sectoral guidelines for specialists (i.e health workers, social workers, police etc.) with competencies in preventing and combating domestic violence.

WHO SHOULD BE ATTRACTED AT THE LOCAL LEVEL?



A MDT can be set up at the initiative of the mayor and the social assistant, who submit a proposal to establish it at the meeting of the village council. According to the Law on the prevention and elimination of domestic violence (Article 7), the MDT should consist of representatives of entities and institutions empowered to prevent and eliminate domestic violence: state social workers, police officers, specialists of health authorities, specialists of education, youth and sports authorities, and the local guardianship authority.

HOW TO IMPLEMENT?



A MDT shall be established through an order of the mayor, along with the approval of the MDT Regulation, its composition and the job descriptions of its members. The establishment of a MDT complies with the mandate of the local government, including as provided for by the Law on local public administration No. 436 of 28.12.2006 and aims, at the same time, at enacting the provisions of paragraph 8 (2b) of the Law on the prevention and elimination of domestic violence No. 45 of 01.03.2007, paragraph 14 of the Strategy of the national referral system for providing assistance and protection to victims and potential victims of domestic violence, approved by Government Decision No. 257 of 05.12.2008, and is implemented according to the provisions of the Regulation of the operation of the multidisciplinary territorial teams within the National Referral System, adopted by the Government Decision No.228 of 28.03.2014.

WHAT RESOURCES ARE NEEDED?



The work of the MDT does not require any additional budget expenditures, since it is implied that public employees shall perform their official duties as per the above mentioned laws on counteracting specific gender-based types of violence and corresponding internal instructions, within their current working hours. During their meetings, that are recommended to hold on quarterly basis the MDT members share information about planned/implemented measures to address domestic violence, in line with their legally prescribed job-related responsibilities, including joint measures of assisting and protecting the identified victims of violence.

STEP 2

SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS AT THE LOCAL LEVEL



WHAT FOR?

The situation analysis on prevention of violence is a mini-study at community level, which allows determining the following:

- the scale of the phenomenon of domestic violence and other forms of gender-based violence, as well as the perception by the local population of this issue;
- roles of specialists, actions implemented/planned by them, mechanisms, resources and needs (including capacity building of specialists) in eliminating all forms of gender-based violence at local level;
- The content of the future annual Action Plan of the MDT at community level to combat domestic violence and other forms of violence against women (based on prioritized issues in a particular community).

NOTE! The situational analysis allows obtaining reliable and detailed awareness on gender-based violence from the perspective of the level of information, predominant social norms underlying domestic violence, shortcomings of the response system to cases of violence, available opportunities and resources at the local level, which are then used for drafting a community Action Plan.

WHO SHOULD BE INVOLVED AT THE LOCAL LEVEL?



The mayor and MDT members may be involved in addressing various logistical issues around the situation analysis such as mobilization of the local community, delegation of participants in focus groups and individual interviews, allocation of premises, etc. To conduct the research, some basic knowledge of how to do a sociological study is needed.

HOW TO IMPLEMENT?

The qualitative methods of the analysis may include:

- Individual interviews with specialists (members of the MDT, representatives of CSOs) and victims of violence;
- Focus-group discussions (separate groups with women, men of different ages, employment status, etc.).



Questions for the interviews and discussions shall be prepared in advance, which will allow an objective collection of situational analysis areas of interest following a semi-structured topic guide.

WHAT RESOURCES ARE NEEDED?



To conduct a situational analysis, it is possible to involve specialists with experience in a similar analysis, or request support of a group of students from the closest university/sociology department who would agree to conduct this study as a part of their specialized internship. It is also possible to request assistance of an expert from a NGO or support of international organizations active in the field of promoting gender equality and/or eliminating gender-based violence.

STEP 3

PARTICIPATORY PLANNING AND LOCAL ACTION PLAN

WHAT FOR?



Presentation of the results of the situational analysis during public hearings will allow community members (especially from vulnerable groups) and leaders address the problem and personally contribute to the development of the draft annual community Action Plan of the MDT to combat domestic violence and other types of gender-based violence. The MDT annual Action Plan on combating domestic violence shall follow the same structure as the 2021-2022 Action Plan for the implementation of the 2018-2023 National Strategy on preventing and eliminating violence against women and domestic violence, approved by Government Decision No. 281 of 03.04.2018, and, respectively, shall contribute to the implementation of this strategy.

HOW TO IMPLEMENT?



The plan shall include:

(1) actions to prevent gender-based violence and domestic violence drawing from the global evidence of what works; (2) consolidation of protection and assistance mechanism for victims of violence; (3) investigation and prosecution of acts of domestic violence and violence against women; (4) implementation of integrated policies in cases of violence against women/domestic violence, based on multisectoral cooperation and data collection.

The Plan must include responsible persons (from the implementing entities listed in the Law on preventing and eliminating domestic violence), deadlines and performance indicators, while the MDT members shall regularly report on the results of the implementation of the annual Action Plan.

WHO SHOULD BE INVOLVED AT THE LOCAL LEVEL?



In addition to the actions to prevent and eliminate violence, the local plan shall include a timeframe for their implementation, responsible persons and performance indicators.

The document shall be subject to public consultations, organized in accordance with the Law on decision-making transparency No. 239 of 13.11.2008, and includes:

- *Specialists/experts* who will present the findings of the situational analysis;
- *Community members and members of MDT* who will take part in the discussion of the findings of the analysis;
- *MDT members* who will draft the MDT annual Action Plan at community level on combating domestic violence and will discuss it with the community members. Given the suggestions of the audience, the plan may be adjusted/supplemented with new provisions;
- *The members of the village council* who will present the MDT annual Action Plan and provide support to the MDT members to finalize it;
- *Members of the village council/mayor* who will subsequently approve the Action Plan in the framework of public hearing event.

WHAT RESOURCES ARE NEEDED?



Participatory planning includes actions, whose implementation may be ensured from the minimally available resources or which require no additional financial expenses. While some actions will not require additional costs, for example, participation of school teachers in promoting non-violent interpersonal communication culture during extra-curricular activities with the children, parents' participation, organizing a drawing contest entitled "A happy family is a violence-free family", a thematic stand in the Health Center informing of the impact of violence, pre-marital counseling by the municipality secretary on preventing toxic relationships in a marriage, etc., for some actions certain expenses will have to be included in the budget, for instance, expenses for decorations for theater performances organized by the municipal culture/youth and sports divisions, symbolic awards for the winners of competitions, etc. At the same time, it is necessary to consider existing resources of local civil society organizations, companies and interested international donors/organizations to the maximum extent possible.

STEP 4 | IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MDT ACTION PLAN AT THE COMMUNITY LEVEL

WHAT FOR?



Quarterly, during its regular meetings, the MDT plans and discusses various organizational aspects of intersectoral cooperation to organize actions according to the local action plan.



WHO SHOULD BE INVOLVED AT THE LOCAL LEVEL?

Members of the MDT are involved in the implementation of the plan, while their activities are coordinated by the mayor, who is supported by the social assistant.

HOW TO IMPLEMENT?



The responsible person, as indicated in the plan, shall coordinate the implementation of the specified actions, in conformity with his/her job descriptions and within working hours. The MDT meetings address the following:

- detailed planning, preparation and implementation of the planned activities;
- deal with the cases reported by the victims of violence (after corresponding capacity building) or identify new cases and make decisions on the types of assistance to be provided by each member of the MDT, according to their competencies and official duties specified in the legislative and normative acts;
- inter-institutional and intra-institutional cooperation and coordination in the implementation of measures to address violence at local and/or regional level.

WHAT RESOURCES ARE NEEDED?



Members of the MDT are expected to meet their job descriptions as public employees in conformity with the specialized law, sector-specific instructions and job descriptions of the MDT members, within their working hours.

STEP 5

EVALUATION OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MDT ACTION PLAN AND FURTHER PLANNING

WHAT FOR?



At the end of the implementation period of the annual or multiannual Action Plan (usually in January of the following year), the MDT members evaluate its implementation. The MDT members shall report on achievements (according to the performance indicators), on challenges or unresolved issues. Based on the results of the implementation and the newly identified problems and discussed opportunities to expand similar activities to address all types of violence at the local level, the members of the MDT shall develop a new annual"/multiannual Action Plan. When new services (i.e. Safe Space) are proposed at the local level it shall be discussed at the next public hearing / consultation with the broad participation of community members and specialists.

Every six months, social assistant shall report to the Department of Social Protection on the activities of the MDT and the social assistance provided to the victims and their families.

WHO SHOULD BE INVOLVED AT THE LOCAL LEVEL?



Members of the MDT, coordinated by the mayor, members of the Village Council, with direct support of the social assistant.

HOW TO IMPLEMENT?



- Evaluation of the implementation of the annual Action Plan (according to the baseline indicators), identification of the reasons which impeded implementation, discussion of the results, setting new goals;
- Drafting a new Action Plan, deadlines, responsible persons and progress indicators for the implementation of the Plan.

WHAT RESOURCES ARE NEEDED?



Members of the MDT are expected to fulfil their job duties as public employees in conformity with the specialized law, instructions and official duties of the MDT members, within their working hours. Members of the Village Council shall be involved to evaluate the implementation of the Action Plan, which will help increase the transparency of the local efforts and attract additional resources for their implementation. Public hearings/consultations are held in the House of Culture/other public spaces with open access for the public.



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