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**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE IN GENEVA**

No. SUI-ONU//334.5.1/408

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Moldova to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva presents its compliments to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Special Procedures Branch and has the honour to transmit herewith the response of the Government of the Republic of Moldova to the Joint Urgent Appeal no. *UA MDA 2/2015* dated 31 March 2015, of the Special Rapporteur on adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living, and on the right to non-discrimination in this context and the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities.

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Moldova to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Special Procedures Branch, the assurances of its highest consideration. *v.m.*



Encl.: 2 pages

**OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH
COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
SPECIAL PROCEDURES BRANCH**

Geneva

According to the information received, the decision No. 1/94 from 26 February 2015 of the Municipal Council of Balti regarding the activity of the social service "Locuinta protejata" for people with mental disabilities does not imply the stopping of this service. Currently, this service continues its work within the Balti Community Mental Health Center. The changes which took place refer only to the transfer of the all public institutions assets in the balance of Balti City Hall and have been undertaken in order to improve the management of public property and bringing in accordance with the national legal framework of accounting. Service beneficiaries are not and will not be affected.

Deinstitutionalization from residential social institutions and reintegration the beneficiaries into communities of origin and the family - is a priority for the Government. In order of substitution of residential care with a community and support people with disabilities, gradually are developing alternative forms of residential services in collaboration and partnership with other stakeholders.

A good example in this sense is the signature of the Memorandum of Understanding with the partners of the project "Inclusive Community Initiative: Moldova (C4A-MD)", on 27 May 2008, which provides the development of the regulatory framework and the creation of community social services for relocation (deinstitutionalization) of persons with disabilities from the boarding house for mentally disabled children (boys) from town Orhei. They are reintegrated into their biological families with support services (personal assistance, counseling, nursing, teacher support, etc.) or community services family (foster care) or placement (community house, sheltered housing).

Until now with the support of the project has been developed and delivered various types of social services for 1,521 people with disabilities and their families. 29 children and adults with disabilities were deinstitutionalized from the boarding house for children (boys) with mental disabilities in Orhei, of which 19 were placed in the Community House services, 4 reintegrated into their biological or extended family, 4 people - in foster care for adult social service and 2 persons -in protected residence. The total of 96 children and adults with disabilities were deinstitutionalized from the boarding house in Orhei. Through 2013, 105 people with disabilities and their families have received family support services, provided by the project team.

The Project implementation period is provided for the years 2009-2016. Project partners are the Open Society Mental Health Initiative (OSMHI, Budapest), Soros Foundation Moldova, Keystone Human Services International (KHS, USA), Keystone Human Services International Moldova Association (KHSMA) and Hope and Homes for Children (HHC, UK).

Regarding the development of social services, it is worth mentioning several regulations and minimum quality standards developed and approved for **new community based services** for persons with disabilities, namely:

By Decision No. 711 of 09.08.2010 the Government approved the **Regulations and Minimum Quality Standards** for the **Supported Living Service**. The service is meant to create conditions for development of independent living skills necessary for the social and professional integration of persons with mental disabilities.

By Decision No. 936 of 08.10.2010 the Government approved the **Regulations and Minimum Quality Standards** for the **Community Home Service**. The service is meant to provide ongoing care to and development of self-help and social interaction skills in beneficiaries to allow them a lifestyle as much as possible close to the usual lifestyle of the community to improve their (re)integration into the family and society.

By Decision No. 722 of 22.09.2011 the Government approved the **Regulations and Minimum Quality Standards** for the **Mobile Team Service**. The service is meant to improve the quality of life of beneficiaries through counseling, recovery and psycho-social rehabilitation, with a view to increasing personal autonomy, preventing institutionalization and ensuring social inclusion.

The service is meant for people with medium or severe disabilities (especially children with disabilities), providing them social assistance and home support based on their identified needs, as well as counseling and support to their caregivers.

By Decision No. 314 of 18.05.2012 the Government approved the *Regulations and Minimum Quality Standards* for the **Personal Assistance Service**. The service is meant to provide assistance and care to children and adults with severe disabilities in order to facilitate their independence and integration into society (the assistance provided relates to social protection, employment, healthcare, education, information, infrastructure accessibility, etc.).

On 23 May 2012, the Government approved the *Regulations and Minimum Quality Standards* for the **Respite Service**. The service is meant to provide specialized 24 hour assistance to people with severe disabilities for a maximum of 30 days per year, during which period their families, relatives or caregivers can have a rest.

By Decision No. 75 of 03.02.2014 the Government approved the *Regulations and Minimum Quality Standards* for the **Family placement for adults Service**. The service is meant to provide services primarily aimed at increasing the adult's independence by teaching him or her housekeeping skills necessary for leading an independent life in the community.

On 7 May 2014, the Government approved the *Regulations* for the **Communication services using sign language with help of the interpreter for people with hearing disability**.

In the Republic of Moldova beginning from 1 September 2014, the Republican Experimental Prosthetic, Orthopedics and Rehabilitation Centre began to offer service in domain of vocational rehabilitation for people with disabilities. This service was approved by Minister's Order No. 113 of 12.08.2014.

The development of services at different levels and with different degrees of specialization, depending on the assessed needs of beneficiaries, plays an important role in social inclusion of people with disabilities.