



**Government of the Republic of Moldova**  
**Ministry of Infrastructure and Regional Development**  
**P.I. National Office for Regional and Local Development**

# **SEMIANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT no. 4**

on the implementation of the

## **„Moldova Water Security and Sanitation Project”**

Reporting period:  
January 01 – June 30, 2024

Submitted by the Project Implementation Unit



August 12, 2024  
Chisinau, Republic of Moldova

**ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS**

ADA	Austrian Development Agency
ARAP	Abbreviated Resettlement Action Plan
ATU	Autonomous Territorial Unit
BoQ	Bill of Quantities
CERC	Contingent Emergency Response Component
CWSC	Citizen Water and Sanitation Committees
DED	Detailed Engineering Design
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EOI	Expression of Interest
ES	Environmental and Social
ESS	Environmental and Social Standards
ESIA	Environmental and Social Impact Assessment
ESMF	Environmental and Social Management Framework
ESMP	Environmental and Social Management Plan
EU	European Union
FM	Financial Manager
GD	Government Decision
GoM	Government of Moldova
GRM	Grievance Redress Mechanism
HBS	Household Budget Survey
HCF	Health Care Facility
HR	Human Resources
KPI	Key Performance Indicator
LPA	Local Public Administration
NWSSDP	National Water Supply and Sanitation Sector Development Plan
MCN	Moldovan Construction Normative
MER	Ministry of Education and Research
MH	Ministry of Health
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MIRD	Ministry of Infrastructure and Regional Development
MIS	Management Information System
MTBF	Medium-Term Budget Framework
MWSSP	Moldova Water Security and Sanitation Project
NORLD	National Office of Regional and Local Development
NAER	National Agency for Energy Regulation
N/A	Not applicable
NRW	Nonrevenue Water
NWSSDP	National Water Supply and Sanitation Sector Development Plan

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PAD	Project Appraisal Document
PDO	Project Development Objective
PIA	Project Implementation Agreement
PIE	Project Implementing Entity
PIP	Performance Improvement Plan
PIU	Project Implementation Unit
POM	Project Operations Manual
RDA	Regional Development Agency
QCBS	Consultants Quality and Cost-based Selection
SEP	Stakeholder Engagement Plan
SSVEDC	State Service for Verification and Expertise of Design and Construction
SPN	Specific Procurement Notice
TA	Technical Assistance
ToR	Terms of Reference
TTL	Task Team Leader
TUM	Technical University of Moldova
VAT	Value Added Tax
WB	World Bank
WSS	Water Supply and Sanitation
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
WWTP	Waste Water Treatment Plant

Report:	SEMIANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT no. 4
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## Executive summary

<b>Project title</b>	<b>MOLDOVA WATER SECURITY AND SANITATION PROJECT</b>
<b>Project ID</b>	<b>P173076</b>
<b>Implementing Agency</b>	P.I. National Office for Regional and Local Development under Ministry of Infrastructure and Regional Development on the basis of Government Decision No 271 of April 20, 2022 and Project Implementation Agreement signed between NORLD and MIRD on August 01, 2022.
<b>Project duration</b>	August 05, 2022 – January 31, 2027
<b>Reported period</b>	January 01 – June 30, 2024
<b>The Project Development Objective (PDO)</b>	(i) to increase access to safely managed water supply and sanitation services in selected rural areas and towns, and to strengthen national and local institutional capacity for water supply and sanitation service delivery; (ii) in case of an Eligible Crisis or Emergency, respond promptly and effectively to it.
<b>PDO Level Indicators or Outputs / specific objectives</b>	<i>PDO 1: Increase access to safely managed water supply and sanitation services in selected rural areas and towns:</i> (a) People provided with access to safely managed water services in selected rural areas and towns (number/gender disaggregated) (b) People provided with access to safely managed sanitation services in selected rural areas and towns (number/gender disaggregated) <i>PDO 2: Strengthen national and local institutional capacity for water supply and sanitation delivery:</i> (c) National Water Supply and Sanitation Sector Development Plan (NWSSDP) with prioritized investment program and financing strategy developed and under implementation (text) (d) Number of participating operators demonstrating core institutional capacities for improved water supply and sanitation service delivery (Number).
<b>Project Components:</b>	<b>Component 1: Increasing access to safely managed water supply and sanitation services in selected rural areas and small towns</b> Subcomponent 1.1: Expanding Access and Quality of WSS services Subcomponent 1.2: Improving WASH facilities in public social institutions <b>Component 2: Strengthening institutional capacity at national and local levels for WSS service delivery.</b> Subcomponent 2.1: Building national institutional capacity for WSS Subcomponent 2.2: Improving performance of WSS service providers <b>Component 3: Project Management and Coordination</b> <b>Component 4: Contingent Emergency Response Component (CERC).</b>
<b>Project partners, stakeholders and target groups</b>	<b>Target groups:</b> participating WSS operators, and the population in selected LPAs from the three Development Regions: North, South and ATU Gagauzia <b>Key partners of the project:</b> MIRD, MSIF, RDAs, MoH, MoER, MoEnv, NAER, TUM, AMAC

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<p><b>Key achievements for reported period</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Employer's Requirements chapter</i> for Soroca subproject was received and submitted for approval;</li> <li>- The package of documents <i>Topographical and geological (geotechnical) survey of existing wastewater facilities, technical expertise of the buildings</i>, for the Soroca sub-project, was received and approved;</li> <li>- The contract between Moldsilva and LPA Soroca for the land transfer was signed and the LPA Decision regarding the change of the land use was approved. The Real Estate Public Institution registration procedure was finalized;</li> <li>- Contract for the preparation of the FS and ESIA for the Comrat sub-project was signed and the Inception Report was received.</li> <li>- The updated DED for the Cahul-Vulcanesti sub-project was received and was submitted to the <i>the SSVEDC</i>;</li> <li>- The ESIA for the Cahul-Vulcanesti sub-project was received and approved;</li> <li>- The process of selecting the localities that will implement the on-site household sanitation was initiated;</li> <li>- The DEDs for educational institutions for the WASH sub-component were received and submitted to the <i>State Service for Verification and Expertise of Design and Construction</i>. The Verification Reports for DEDs (South document package) were received. The Screening Reports for medical institutions for the WASH sub-component were received and approved;</li> <li>- The updated ToR for the preparation of the NWSSDP was developed and approved. The REI was published and the evaluation process was ongoing to develop the shortlist.</li> <li>- Amendments to Law 303 were approved in Government and Parliament;</li> </ul>
<p><b>Project budget</b></p>	<p>The project budget amounts to 46.5 million Euro, including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Financing Agreement signed between the Government of the Republic of Moldova and the <b>International Development Association</b> (ratified by Law 169/2022) in the amount of 44.1 million Euro;</li> <li>2. Single Donor (Austrian Development Agency) Trust Fund Grant Agreement, signed between the Government of the Republic of Moldova and <b>International Bank for Reconstruction and Development / International Development Association</b> (TF0B7739) in the amount of 1.5 million Euro.</li> <li>3. Estimated local contribution around of 0.881 million Euro.</li> </ol>

## Introduction

The current Semiannual Progress Report covers the progress of the Moldova Water Security and Sanitation Project (MWSSP) implementation process during the 1<sup>st</sup> semester of year 2024 (January 01 – June 30, 2024), and includes relevant data concerning Project Implementation Unit activities under the Project. According to the Financing Agreement, the Recipient shall furnish to the Association each Project Report not later than forty-five days after the end of the calendar semester, covering the calendar semester. According to the PAD the PIU, through its M&E specialist, with the support of the stakeholders, coordinates all data collection, consolidates, and integrates progress and results in semiannual project progress reports.

This is the fourth Report since the beginning of the project. The information, regarding the date of presentation of the Semiannual Progress Reports and the date of approval, are presented in the table below.

**Table 1.** Presentation and approval dates of the Semiannual reports of the MWSSP

No.	Reports	Reporting period	Intended submission date	Effective submission date
1.	Semiannual report no. 1	August 5, 2022 - February 5, 2023	March 5, 2023	March 05, 2023
2.	Semiannual report no. 2	February 5- June 30, 2023	August 14, 2023	August 01, 2023
3.	Semiannual report no. 3	July 01- December 31, 2023	February 14, 2024	February 13, 2024
4.	Semiannual report no. 4	January 1- June 30, 2024	August 14, 2024	August 12, 2024

*Source: Developed by the PIU*

The Report outlines the implementation progress of the sub-projects and components and the degree of project development objectives and specific intermediate result's achievement. This report is prepared in the context of the implementation of M&E System.

The purpose of the Progress Report is to:

- 1) report actual activities, achievements in terms of actual or foreseen outputs and outcomes within the implementation of Project's basic components;
- 2) report expenditures/investments/inputs that allow comparison with outputs;
- 3) maintain an efficient communication between NORLD/PIU, the World Bank (WB) and other stakeholders.

The report contains 4 main chapters:

- 1) The first chapter, KEY ACTIVITIES OF THE REPORTING PERIOD, describes the results achieved in the reporting semester only (semester 1 of 2024).
- 2) The second chapter PROGRESS TOWARDS THE PROJECT OBJECTIVES, describes the cumulative results of the MWSSP as of June 30, 2024.
- 3) The third chapter describes the project management activities (financial management, procurement activities, communication and visibility and monitoring and evaluation)
- 4) The fourth chapter concerned COMPONENT 4. CONTINGENT EMERGENCY RESPONSE COMPONENT



## **Project description and background**

The Government of Moldova (GoM) is currently implementing a project supported by the World Bank (IDA) financing the **Moldova Water Security and Sanitation Project (MWSSP)**. The Moldova Water Security and Sanitation Project directly supports the Government's commitment to Sustainable Development Goal No. 6: *“to achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water, sanitation, and hygiene by 2030 through its Action Program and the National Water Supply and Sanitation Strategy 2014-2030”*.

The World Bank's Water Security Diagnostic and Future Outlook<sup>1</sup> showed that there are several pressing challenges to Moldova's water security, such as:

- (i) inequalities in access, inadequate quality of water supply in small towns and weak performance of service providers;
- (ii) poor environmental health and environmental pollution due to lack of sanitation and wastewater collection and treatment;
- (iii) weak institutions, fragmented financing streams and unresolved reform areas which hinder programmatic delivery of services.

**The Project Development Objective(s) (PDO) is:**

- (i) to increase access to safely managed water supply and sanitation services in selected rural areas and towns, and to strengthen national and local institutional capacity for water supply and sanitation service delivery;
- (ii) in case of an Eligible Crisis or Emergency, respond promptly and effectively to it.

Access in water supply and sanitation (WSS) is constrained by large coverage gaps in rural areas, compounded by income status. Compared to other countries in the Danube region, the share of population with access to basic water and sanitation services in Moldova is low. The gap between urban and rural remains one of the largest in Europe and is one of the key water security issues the country is facing. Based on JMP-data<sup>2</sup>, gains were made in rural water supply access to drinking water services from piped networks, from 33 percent in 2000 to an estimate 40 percent in 2017, while urban piped service remained almost stable at 85 percent.

Household Budget Survey (HBS) (2018) data provides the picture on national access to a public piped water supply being 70 percent, with urban access at 92.4 percent and rural access at 52.2 percent. However, the water quality of rural piped system is often compromised and is below drinking water quality standard. Those not served by public centralized systems rely on so-called self-supply, through private shallow wells. Around one in three people rely on self-supply for their drinking water with 80 percent of wells not compliant with drinking water norms (e.g. nitrates, e-coli). The poorest quintile of the rural population faces the largest obstacles to get connected to a public system and is least able to invest in private piped supply by wells (9 percent), with 42.2 percent of the poorest households

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<sup>1</sup> <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/34809>

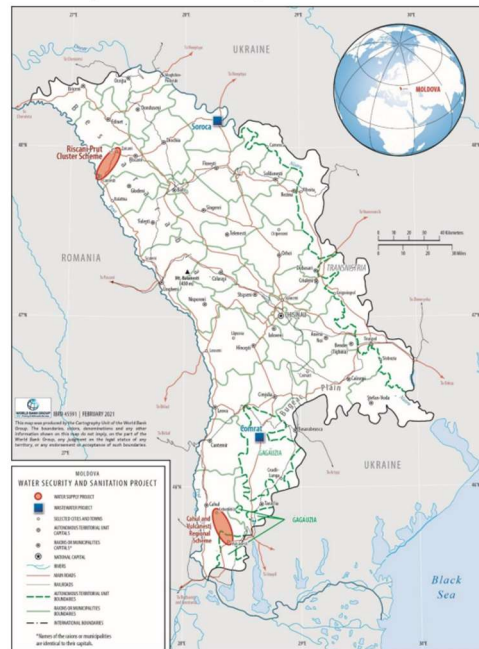
<sup>2</sup> Joint Monitoring Program data is derived based on linear extrapolations using national survey data and JMP population estimates; discrepancies between nationally reported data can be found due to differences in estimation methods and definitions. See also: <https://washdata.org/data>



collecting water with buckets or carts. In 2018, out of a total of 1,220 centralized water systems, 1,168 were functional, although performance data is not systematically available.

In response to these challenges, the Project Development Objective (PDO) of the MWSSP is **to increase access to safely managed water supply and sanitation services in selected rural areas and towns, and to strengthen institutional capacities for water supply and sanitation service delivery**. Strengthening institutional capacities for water supply and sanitation service delivery refers to both national level planning and sector development capacities, as well as to improved operational efficiency and delivery at utility level.

**Figure 1.** The map of the MWSSP



*Source: Project Appraisal Document of the MWSSP*

The MWSSP has four components:

**Component 1: Increasing access to safely managed WSS services in selected rural areas and towns.** This component will develop new and rehabilitate existing WSS infrastructure and WASH facilities in rural areas and towns, thus expanding access and quality of services for households, businesses, and public institutions and supporting resilience. Component 1 supports climate adaption through (a) providing reliable centralized water supply protecting vulnerable households from drought and poor water quality; (b) improving wastewater systems, sanitation, and WASH facilities, reducing environmental exposure to pathogens exacerbated by flooding, particularly in towns facing frequent flooding; and (c) ensuring climate-resilient design of all infrastructure for robust functioning under extreme weather events. It consists of two subcomponents:

**Subcomponent 1.1: Expanding access and quality of WSS services.** This subcomponent will finance climate-resilient investments in towns and rural areas. This includes the following:

- (a) **Water supply investments:** Expansion and rehabilitation of the regional water systems for water supply production and distribution, and service connections for LPAs in selected

districts, including the preparation of relevant technical studies and management documents; technical supervision; and citizen engagement activities. This refers to water supply infrastructure in two preliminarily identified subprojects, that is, regional water system expansion for LPAs in Cahul District and the ATU of Gagauzia and a regional water supply system with a surface water treatment plant in Riscani District. Many LPAs, particularly in the south (Cahul) as well as in the northern part along the Prut (Riscani), face shortages of water in the summer, with shallow wells/springs posing a challenge such as in the Prut cluster villages, in the Vulcanesti town, and other villages in Cahul District.

- (b) **Wastewater investments:** Expansion and rehabilitation of wastewater systems in selected towns, including the construction and rehabilitation of sewer networks and service connections, and the construction of new wastewater treatment plants, including the preparation of relevant technical studies and management documents; technical supervision; and citizen engagement activities. This refers to two preliminarily identified subprojects in Soroca and Comrat towns. There are areas in the Comrat town that face frequent flooding, and the Soroca town is also vulnerable directly on the right bank of the Dniester. The project will support the assessment of flood risk and impact at the household level and, in addition to ensuring resilient design of infrastructure, provide measures to reduce the impact of floods where possible.
- (c) **Pilot for on-site household sanitation:** selected rural or peri-urban villages, will benefit from the improvement of on-site household sanitation following a demand-led approach through the provision of technical assistance, the implementation of information campaigns, and the carrying out of civil works. The pilot will be co-financed through the ADA grant. This pilot will demonstrate the use of climate-resilient low-cost technologies for rural sanitation.

**Subcomponent 1.2: Improving resilient WASH facilities in public social institutions.** This subcomponent will finance works, goods, consulting services, non-consulting services and training/workshops to realize climate-resilient WASH facilities in HCFs and education institutions and implement hygiene education and behavior change communication program.

**Component 2: Strengthening institutional capacity at national and local levels for WSS service delivery.** This component focusses on institutional capacities of national and subnational entities and WSS operators for management, planning, regulation and reform implementation, and performance improvement of service providers for green, resilience, and inclusive service delivery. At the national level, development of plans, policies, and regulatory documents will support climate adaptation through climate-resilient planning, and at the local level, performance improvements will deliver climate benefits through reduction of NRW and improvement of energy efficiency. It consists of two subcomponents:

**Subcomponent 2.1: Building national institutional capacity for WSS.** This subcomponent aims to strengthen critical functions of facilitating and implementing WSS sector reform, investment planning and monitoring, and sector modernization and build capacities to this end of the assigned lead unit/entity within MIRD's structure. It finances goods, non-consulting services, consulting services,

and training/workshops for activities that strengthen institutional capacities for planning, financing, economic regulation, performance monitoring, professional development, and the revision and development of new policies and normative documents.

**Subcomponent 2.2: Improving performance of WSS service providers** Subcomponent 2.2 will finance works, goods, consulting services, non-consulting services, and training to support the implementation of a prioritized rolling multiyear PIP of selected WSS operators involved under Subcomponent 1.1. WSS operators will carry out annual assessments on PIP implementation and KPIs, including publication of results and feedback rounds with customers. The financing for selected WSS operators will be allocated based on results. Investments and TA activities identified in the PIPs are based on utility diagnostics and include, but are not limited to, the following: improving technical and commercial operations, improving financial management (FM), HR management, and organization and strategy aspects, including improving asset management systems and inventories, energy efficiency, NRW reduction programs, water metering practices and equipment to improve climate resilience, water safety, and business continuity, and enhancing responsiveness to customers.

**Component 3: Project management and coordination.** This component will finance operational costs, consulting services, non-consulting services, goods, and training to finance the overall project management cost, including the project team at the Project Implementation Unit (PIU), implementation support consultants at the regional level within MIRD's RDAs for environmental and social standards implementation, and, at the national level, MIRD as the project implementing entity (PIE). It will finance training costs, including for capacity building in procurement, environmental, and social standards, specialized short-term implementation support consultants, financial audits, project communication and citizen consultations, and monitoring and evaluation (M&E).

**Component 4: Contingent emergency response component (CERC).** A provisional zero-amount component is included, which will allow for rapid reallocation of credit/loan proceeds from other components during an emergency under streamlined procurement and disbursement procedures. This component allows the Government to request the World Bank to recategorize and reallocate financing from other project components to cover emergency response and recovery costs.

## 1. KEY ACTIVITIES OF THE REPORTING PERIOD

### 1.1. Component 1. Increasing access to safely management water supply and sanitation services in selected rural areas and towns

#### 1.1.1. Subcomponent 1.1 Supporting the expansion of the access and quality of WSS

No.	Action from PIU Action Plan	Due dates	Actions in the reporting period
<b>Subcomponent 1.1</b>			
<b>1. Expansion and improvements of wastewater services in Soroca</b>			
a.	Preparation of the <i>Employer's Requirements</i> within the Design and Build bidding package	January 25, 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- On January 05, 2024, a working meeting was held with the representatives of the Ministry of the Environment, MIRD, PIU and the Agency for Geology and Mineral Resources with the aim of identifying the source of water supply for the wastewater treatment plant.</li> <li>- The preliminary document package of the Employer's Requirements chapter was received on January 29, 2024.</li> <li>- On February 07, 2024 a meeting was held with representatives of the Ministry of Health, the National Agency for Public Health and NORLD regarding the identification of the water supply source for the Soroca wastewater treatment plant.</li> <li>- On February 20, 2024 comments to the Employer's Requirements were sent to the Consultant.</li> <li>- On February 28, 2024 a field visit with representatives of the Soroca Public Health Center and water operator from Soroca took place in order to identify the source of water for the wastewater treatment plant.</li> <li>- Presentation, discussion and approval of the Employer's Requirements was made on March 06, 2024 in a working meeting with the involvement of all stakeholders. During the meeting, was discussed the need to include in the Bidding Documents the Conceptual Design (textual and graphical part) of the WW Treatment Plant and the pressure sewerage pipeline, i.e. it was proposed to amend the contract. Following the exchange of correspondence between the Client and the Consultant, Amendment No. 1 to the contract dated March 15, 2024 was signed.</li> <li>- On April 03, 2024 a meeting was held with representatives of MIRD and LPA Soroca concerning the WWTP protection zone.</li> <li>- On April 25, 2024 the preliminary Employer's Requirements chapter was approved by the World Bank experts, on the condition that the provisions of Amendment 1 will be included.</li> <li>- On May 02, 2024 the final Employer's Requirements chapter was received</li> </ul>
b.	Finalization and approval of the set of procurement documentation	March 25, 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- From May through June 2024, the PIU Team was in the process of reviewing the <i>Employer's Requirements</i> and developing the <i>Request for Bids</i> as per the World Bank's requirements for the international bidding.</li> </ul>
c.	Publication of the SPN for construction of wastewater system	April 10, 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Will follow after finalization of the approval process.</li> </ul>
d.	Preparation the TOR for Technical Supervision	additional to the action plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The first draft of the TOR for Technical Supervision are developed and will be presented for approval by the World Bank after finalization of <i>Employer's Requirements</i> and <i>procurement documents</i>.</li> </ul>

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No.	Action from PIU Action Plan	Due dates	Actions in the reporting period
e.	Land transfer finalized from Moldsilva (Forestry Department) to Soroca Municipality	additional to the action plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The contract between Moldsilva and LPA Soroca for the land transfer was signed on April 11, 2024;</li> <li>- The LC Decision regarding the change of the land use was approved on May 10, 2024;</li> <li>- The registration procedure at Estate Public Institution was finalized on June 26, 2024.</li> </ul>
f.	Topographical and geological (geotechnical) survey of existing wastewater facilities, technical expertise of the buildings	additional to the action plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- On February 20, 2024 the final package of documents was received and the Certificate of Acceptance has been signed</li> </ul>
<b>2. Expansion and improvement water supply services in Cahul and Vulcanesti rayons</b>			
a.	Review, update of the DED and verification by the State Service for Verification and Expertise of Design and Construction	April, 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- On January 03, 2024 LPA Vucanesti and M.E. "Apă-Canal" Vulcanesti approved the first version of the updated design;</li> <li>- On January 31, 2024 the second draft of the revised and update DED technical documents were received;</li> <li>- On January 31, 2024 a meeting was held with representatives of S.E. Calea Ferata from Moldova (railway) to discuss the route of the main pipeline in the area of Alexandru Ioan Cuza;</li> <li>- On February 12, 2024, a progress meeting was held at the Cahul Raion Council with the participation of representatives of LPA I and LPA II, PIU and the design company;</li> <li>- In the last week of March 2024, the design documentation and cost estimates were sent to the SSVEDC;</li> <li>- From May through June 2024 the Consultant was in the process of drafting the Request for Bids.</li> </ul>
b.	Preparation of the ESIA and ESMP	April 30, 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Public consultations on the ESIA/ESMP were held on February 28, 2024 in Cahul district and Vulcanesti town. The ESIA summary has been published on the project website.</li> <li>- On March 12, 2024 the Consultant submitted the final ESIA/ ESMP Report</li> <li>- On March 27, 2024 the Certificate of Acceptance was signed on the ESIA/ESMP report</li> </ul>
c.	Preparation and submission to the WB experts the Abbreviated Resettlement Action Plan (ARAP)	Martie 30, 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- On February 01, 2024, a site visit (the route of the water supply pipeline) was held with the participation of the social and environmental specialist of the PIU.</li> <li>- On February 14, 2024 ARAP was submitted to WB experts for comments and suggestions.</li> <li>- Initial public consultations for the ARAP were held in the period February 15-21, 2024</li> <li>- On March 7, 2024 the WB experts submitted the ARAP with minor adjustments.</li> <li>- As of June 30, 2024, for 127 lands out of 139 affected lands, the <i>Informed Agreements</i>, signed by owners/tenants of lands temporarily affected by the project works, were received</li> </ul>

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No.	Action from PIU Action Plan	Due dates	Actions in the reporting period
<b>3. Expansion and improvement water supply services in the Prut cluster, Riscani rayon</b>			
a.	Updating and approval of the ToR for review and update of the DED	December 31, 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- On January 03 and 23, 2024, meetings were held with representatives of Riscani Rayon Council regarding the ToR for the adjustment of the design and the operator for delegation of WS services.</li> <li>- On January 04, 2024, a field meeting was held, with the representatives of the LPAs of Riscani rayon, regarding the ToR for updating the design, during which the LPA Duruitoarea Noua approved the ToR.</li> <li>- On January 31, 2024, the WB experts pre-approved the updated ToR.</li> <li>- On February 02, 2024, an online meeting was held with the representatives of LPA regarding the modification of the water pipeline route (in the areas of Varatic and Duruitoarea Noua). The new route scheme was approved by all LPA representatives.</li> <li>- On February 06, 2024 the online meeting with the technical expert from the WB took place. The "no objections" note for the updated ToR was received by e-mail on the same date. On February 09, 2024 a field visit, to check the modified water pipeline route, took place.</li> </ul>
b.	Signing the contract for review and update of the DED	February 28, 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- On February 29, 2024, the financial offer from the design company for the update of the design was received.</li> <li>- On March 01, 2024 evaluation, of the technical and financial proposal, was initiated. On March 15, 2024 the received proposal was sent to the members of the Evaluation Committee. The first meeting of the Evaluation Committee was held on March 19, 2024.</li> <li>- On April 15, 2024 the Evaluation Committee held a negotiation meeting with the Consultant on the technical and financial offer.</li> <li>- On May 14, 2024 the revised offer was received from the Consultant. The Evaluation Committee meeting could not be held due to the resignation of its chairman. The new Evaluation Committee was established by NORLD Order No. 26 on June 18, 2024.</li> </ul>
c.	Signing the contract for preparation of the ESIA and ESMP	March 29, 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Publication of the announcement for Expressions of Interest was made on February 09, 2024. Deadline for submission of EI- March 09, 2024. 2 EI were received by the deadline.</li> <li>- The relevant documents for evaluation were sent to the Evaluation Committee on April 02, 2024 and repeatedly on April 15, 2024.</li> <li>- The PIU's request for an Evaluation Committee meeting was made on April 19, 23 and 26, 2024. The Evaluation Committee could not meet due to the resignation of its chairman.</li> <li>- The new Evaluation Committee was approved by NORLD Order no. 26 on June 18, 2024</li> <li>- The evaluation report prepared and approved on June 24, 2024. The request for technical and financial offer was made on June 25, 2024.</li> </ul>
d.	Local Water and Sanitation Committee	additional to the action plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- On February 5, 2024 the regulation and a template of decision for the establishment of the LWSC was sent to the LPAs.</li> <li>- In March 2024, 4 LC Decisions on the creation of LWSC were received.</li> <li>- On March 28, 2024, the information meeting of the LWSC members was held in Horodiste and Duruitoarea Noua and on April 2, 2024 in Petrușeni and Costești</li> </ul>
<b>4. Expansion and improvements of wastewater services in Comrat municipality</b>			
a.	Signing the contract for the preparation of the FS and ESIA	January 15, 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- After the completion of the standstill period (January 10, 2024), on January 11, 2024 the Contract Award Notice was sent to the Consultant with a request to sign the contract and deliver the signed version by post. The contract signed by the Consultant was received on January 19, 2024 and subsequently sent to NORLD for signature by the Client. The Contract was signed on February 01, 2024</li> </ul>
b.	Preparation of the Feasibility Study and ESIA	August 31, 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- On February 12, 2024 at the City Hall of Comrat took place kick- off meeting with the participation of all stakeholders.</li> <li>- On February 29, 2024 took place the progress meeting with the participation of the Consultant and the PIU team.</li> <li>- During March 07-19, 2024 the Inception Report for FS was received (in 3 languages: English, Romanian and Russian).</li> <li>- A meeting with the Consultant regarding the Inception Report for the ESIA was held on April 03, 2024.</li> </ul>
c.	Preparation of the ESIA and ESMP	August 31, 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- On April 09, 2024 the initial public consultations for the ESIA were held.</li> <li>- On April 23, 2024 the second version of the Inception Report for the FS was received.</li> </ul>

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No.	Action from PIU Action Plan	Due dates	Actions in the reporting period
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- On April 26, 2024 the consultant submitted the Inception Report for ESIA in English.</li> <li>- On April 29, 2024 PIU/NORLND sent comments to the Consultant on version 2 of the Inception Report for FS.</li> <li>- On May 15, 2024, the third version of the FS <i>Initiation Report</i> was received.</li> <li>- On May 30, 2024 the edited version of the Inception Report for the ESIA was received.</li> <li>- On June 26, 2024 the meeting was held with the experts for the Feasibility Study and ESIA of the Consultant. At it the presentation of the progress in the contract implementation was discussed.</li> </ul>
<b>5. On-site sanitation pilot and sewerage connection programs</b>			
	Selection of the locality	additional to the action plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- On June 17, 2024 was published the announcement on the launch of the competition for the selection of locality. The deadline for submission of Concept Notes by LPAs is July 08, 2024.</li> <li>- On June 26, 2024, public consultations on the pilot project <i>On-site sanitation pilot and sewerage connection programs</i> were held.</li> </ul>

**1.1.2. Subcomponent 1.2 Improving WASH facilities in selected Health Care facilities and Educational Institutions**

No.	Action from PIU Action Plan	Due dates	Actions in the reporting period
<b>Subcomponenta 1.2</b>			
<b>6. Improving WASH facilities in selected Health Care facilities and Educational Institutions</b>			
a.	Finalization of the design and BoQ development services in educational institutions	May, 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- On January 11, 2024 a meeting was held with representatives of the Ministry of Education and Research, during which the Designer presented the Reports and proposed solutions. By letter of the Ministry of Education and Research No 03/1-09/288 of January 16, 2024 these were approved.</li> <li>- In March 2024, 10 designs for the North Region were submitted. The designs were coordinated by school directors and local mayors.</li> <li>- On March 15, 2024 and March 20, 2024, the meetings, to present the designs in Riscani and Sorooca rayons respectively, were held.</li> <li>- On March 25, 2024, 7 DEDs for the South Region were submitted for verification to the SSVEDC.</li> <li>- On June 17, 2024 the DEDs for the North Region were submitted for verification to the SSVEDC.</li> <li>- On June 20, 2024, the DEDs and Verification Reports for the South Region were received.</li> </ul>
b.	Signing the contract for design services for healthcare institutions	January 20, 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Because the financial offer exceeded the budget, the negotiation meeting, with the bidder on the technical and financial offer, was held on January 04, 2024. Following the negotiations, on January 30, 2024, the bidder submitted the second revised offer. The evaluation process was finalized.</li> <li>- The Contract was signed on February 19, 2024.</li> </ul>



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No.	Action from PIU Action Plan	Due dates	Actions in the reporting period
c.	Finalization of the design and BoQ development services in healthcare institutions	July, 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- On February 23, 2024 the kick-off meeting was held.</li> <li>- The Inception Report was received on February 26, 2024 and was accepted on March 06, 2024.</li> <li>- In March 2024, needs assessment field visits were carried out.</li> <li>- In April, 2024 all of the 14 Screening Reports were submitted (Reports on the findings of field visits, indicating recommended solutions and technical drawings), and 7 Approval Acts of this Reports were signed</li> <li>- On May 24, 2024 a repeated request was sent to the Ministry of Health to obtain coordination of the Screening Reports. On May 29, 2024 a letter of approval of the Screening Reports was received from the Ministry of Health under no. 23/2135</li> <li>- In June 2024, 11 Urban Planning Certificates for the design were received</li> </ul>
d.	Finalizing the constitution of the WASH Committees	January, 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- All 14 beneficiary health institutions presented the composition of their WASH Committee.</li> </ul>
e.	Contracting construction companies for the works in educational institutions	Contracts signed since August 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- SPN for works (South Region DEDs package for educational institutions) was published on June 21, 2024 in the NORLD web page and Public Procurement Bulletin.</li> </ul>

## 1.2. Component 2. Strengthening institutional capacity at national and local levels of WSS service delivery

### 1.2.1. Subcomponent 2.1 Building national institutional capacity for WSSS

No.	Action	Due dates	Actions in the reporting period
<b>Subcomponent 2.1.</b>			
<b>Sector planning and financing for programmatic delivery</b>			
<b>7. Contracting a consultancy company for preparing the NWSSDP</b>			
c.	Evaluation of the EOIs and shortlist of consulting firms	February 28, 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Evaluation Committee established by NORLD Order No 1 on January 12, 2024. Expressions of interest sent to the Evaluation Committee on January 15, 2024.</li> <li>- Evaluation of Expressions of Interest - Evaluation Committee meetings were held on February 09, 12, 15, 26, 2024. At the last meeting of the Evaluation Committee, following consultation on the subject with World Bank experts, <b><u>it was decided by mutual agreement to cancel the procurement procedure</u></b>, taking into account the fact that at the end of 2023, during the period of preparation of the expressions of interest, a new <i>Cod of Urbanism and Construction</i> was approved by the Parliament.</li> <li>- On March 20, 2024, the <b>revised ToR</b> were sent by MIRD to the relevant institutions for review and repeated endorsement (including the National Council for Spatial Planning).</li> <li>- Following receipt of endorsements, the <b>revised ToR</b> was sent to the World Bank experts by STEP for approval on April 26, 2024 and on April 30, 2024 the “No objections” note was received;</li> </ul>



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No.	Action	Due dates	Actions in the reporting period
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Publication of the REOI for the consulting services (NWSSDP) was made on May 07, 2024. 22 Expressions of Interest had been received.</li> <li>- In June 2024 the evaluation was underway to develop the short list.</li> </ul>
d.	RFP development and issue to shortlisted consultants	March 15, 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- will follow in the next period.</li> </ul>
e.	Examination of technical and financial proposals	June 30, 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- will follow in the next period.</li> </ul>
<b>8. Capacity Development of the Lead WSS Unit</b>			
a.	Preparation of the Capacity Development of the Lead WSS Unit	February 28, 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- On January 05, 2024 the consultant presented the draft <i>Inception Report</i>.</li> <li>- Comments to the <i>Inception Report</i> were submitted on February 9, 2024.</li> <li>- On February 26, 2024 the Consultant submitted the revised <i>Inception Report</i>.</li> <li>- Comments on the revised Inception Report were prepared in March 2024.</li> <li>- On April 03, 2024 a meeting was held with the Consultant to discuss the comments on the Inception Report. On April 16, 2024 the drafted <i>Inception Report</i> was received by the PIU</li> <li>- On May 16, 2024, the Termination Agreement was signed based on the request received from the Consultant on May 15, 2024</li> </ul>
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Re-publication of the announcement (fourth time) on June 24, 2024. The deadline is July 08, 2024</li> </ul>
b	Contract signed for Individual Institutional Development Consultant		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The evaluation report was signed on March 27, 2024.</li> <li>- The contract was signed on May 18, 2024.</li> </ul>
<b>9. Support in legislative and design reform</b>			
<b>a. Amendment of the Law 303/2013 on water supply and sewerage public service:</b>			
a.	Second round of approval of the law	December, 2023	At the end of January, 2024, the second endorsement procedure was completed and the draft law was sent for anti-corruption expertise
	Law approved by Government	February, 2024	The amendment of Law 303 was approved in the Government on February 14, 2024 by GD 103/2024.
	Law approved by Parliament	June, 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Amendments to Law 303 approved in Parliament in the first reading during the Plenary Session on March 28, 2024.</li> <li>- Public Consultations were held on May 15, 2024.</li> <li>- Amendments to Law 303 approved in Parliament in second reading on May 30, 2024.</li> </ul>
<b>b. Development of new normative in construction.</b>			
<i>Preparation of the Report on the assessment of the need to update/ adjust the normative in construction.</i>			
b.	Approval, where appropriate, of decisions to initiate the processes for	January, 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- the decision was made.</li> </ul>

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No.	Action	Due dates	Actions in the reporting period
	the development of the design and construction norms for water networks		
<b>c. Develop the Implementation Plan of Directive 91/271/CEE</b>			
c.	GD approved by Government	February 28, 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- On March 6, 2024 a joint meeting with Env. M and MIRD, on the Directive Implementation Plan, was held.</li> <li>- The draft document was reviewed and submitted on May 27, 2024 to MIRD for promotion.</li> <li>- In June 2024 the procedure for the preparation for the promotion of the GD was in process.</li> </ul>
<b>d. Government Decision on the approval of the criteria for authorization, construction, registration, control, operation and maintenance of appropriate individual wastewater collection and treatment systems</b>			
d.	GD approved by Government	March 29, 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- On January 05, 2024 a meeting was held with representatives of the Ministry of Environment, the National Public Health Agency and the Ministry of Health on the draft GD.</li> <li>- The Regulatory Impact Analysis (RIA) was developed and discussed with the Working Group meeting held on March 12, 2024.</li> <li>- In April 2024 the Table of Divergences was prepared.</li> <li>- On May 23, 2024, a joint meeting with the Ministry of Justice was held.</li> <li>- In June 2024 the draft GD was submitted for the Government approval</li> </ul>
<b>10. Human capital development Program</b>			
a.	Completion of the first program of study (in the 12-month progra)	November, 2024	Ongoing
<b>11. National MIS and benchmarking of operators</b>			
b.	Publication of the REOI	January 15, 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Republication on January 15, 2024 of the advertisement. Deadline for submission February 05, 2024.</li> <li>- Republication on February 09, 2024. Deadline for submission - February 23, 2024. CVs received by the submission deadline - zero.</li> <li>- Republication on March 04, 2024. 1 CV was received and preparation of evaluation report started on March 18, 2024.</li> <li>- Publication of the advertisement for the fifth time on April 09, 2024 on the websites of NORLD and Moldova Suverană. Deadline for CV submission - April 23, 2024. No CVs were received.</li> <li>- At the reporting date the ToR are in the process of being modified.</li> </ul>
c.	Evaluation of the received EOIs	February 28, 2024	- will follow in the next period.
d.	Signing the contract with Consultant	Aprilie 30, 2024	- will follow in the next period.
e.	Preparation of the set of documents (GD, concept,	August 31, 2024	- will follow in the next period.

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No.	Action	Due dates	Actions in the reporting period
	regulation and specifications)		

**1.2.2. Subcomponent 2.2 Improving performance of WSS service providers**

No.	Action	Due dates	Actions in the reporting period
<b>Subcomponent 2.2.</b>			
<b>Improving performance of WSS service providers</b>			
<b>12. Performance Improvement Plan and baseline assessment for 5 WW operators</b>			
c.	Contract signing for Performance Improvement Plan and baseline assessment for 5 WW operators	March 20, 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Due to the evolution of the project, the need to modify the ToR appeared, by including operators from Riscani and Soroca, and relaunching the procurement procedures.</li> <li>- On March 27, 2024, an e-mail with request for "no objections" note was sent to WB experts, for the modified ToR (inclusion of service operators from Riscani and Soroca). On April 04, 2024 the "no objections" note, to the revised ToR, was received from WB experts by STEP.</li> <li>- On April 09, 2024 the Request for Expression of Interest was published. Deadline - April 26, 2024. By the deadline 1 Expression of Interest was received. Following the evaluation the consultant was not selected.</li> <li>- On May 17, 2024 the advertisement was republished. The deadline for submission of EOIs was June 7, 2024. Six EOI were received by the deadline. The evaluation process is ongoing.</li> </ul>

## **2. PROGRESS TOWARDS THE PROJECT OBJECTIVES**

### **2.1. Component 1. Increasing access to safely management water supply and sanitation services in selected rural areas and towns**

This component will develop new and rehabilitate existing WSS infrastructure and WASH facilities in rural areas and towns, thus expanding access and quality of services for households, businesses and public institutions and supporting resilience. Component 1 supports climate adaption through:

- (a) providing reliable centralized water supply protecting vulnerable households from drought and poor water quality;
- (b) improving wastewater systems, sanitation, and WASH facilities, reducing environmental exposure to pathogens exacerbated by flooding, particularly in towns facing frequent flooding; and
- (c) ensuring climate-resilient design of all infrastructure for robust functioning under extreme weather events.

It consists of two subcomponents: *Subcomponent 1.1 Expanding access and quality of WSS services* and *Subcomponent 1.2 Improving resilient WASH facilities in public social institutions*.

#### **2.1.1 Subcomponent 1.1 Expanding access and quality of WSS services**

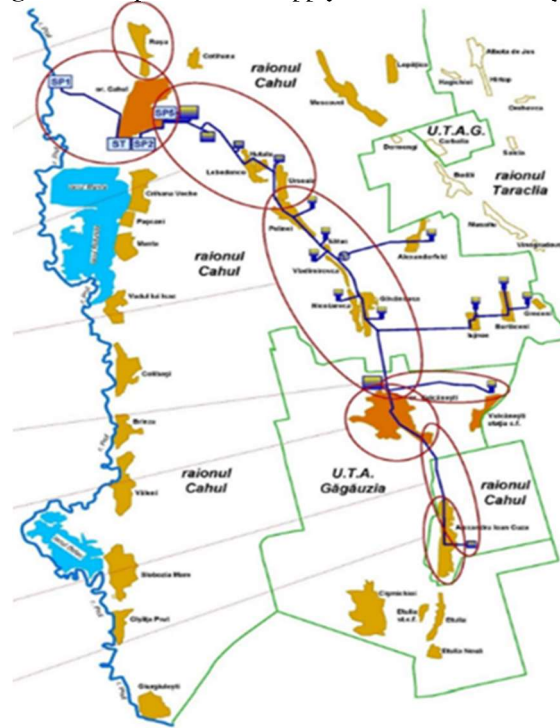
##### ***a) Water supply investments***

Expansion and rehabilitation of the regional water systems for water supply production and distribution, and service connections for LPAs in selected rayons, including the preparation of relevant technical studies and management documents; technical supervision; and citizen engagement activities. This refers to water supply infrastructure in two preliminarily identified subprojects, that is, regional water system expansion for LPAs in Cahul District and the ATU of Gagauzia and a regional water supply system with a surface water treatment plant in Riscani Rayon. Many LPAs, particularly in the south (Cahul) as well as in the northern part along the Prut (Riscani), face shortages of water in the summer, with shallow wells/springs posing a challenge such as in the Prut cluster villages, in the Vulcanesti town, and other villages in Cahul District.

##### ***a.1. Expansion and improvement of water supply services in Cahul and Vulcanesti rayons.***

The Cahul water supply subproject represents a construction for the expansion of the water supply system in Cahul Rayon (using Prut water) to connect villages in several LPAs in Cahul Rayon as well as Vulcanesti town (ATU Gagauzia).

**Figure 2.** Proposed water supply scheme in Cahul rayon



*Source: 2019\_10\_18\_Factsheet\_WSS\_Cahul\_Project*

The beneficiaries of the mentioned subproject are the following localities: (i) Pelinei commune (including Pelinei and Satuc village), (ii) Gavanoasa commune (including Gavanoasa, Vladimirovca and Nicolaevca villages), (iii) Alexanderfeld village, (iv) Alexandru Ioan Cuza village, (v) Vulcanesti Town and (vi) and Vulcanesti Railway Station with a total number of 23823 beneficiaries.

The localities for which water distribution networks will be built and will be connected to the main water supply pipeline are: Pelinei, Gavanoasa, Vladimirovca, Nicolaevca and Vulcanesti Railway and the Free Economic Zone. Localities to be connected to the main water supply pipeline, that already have water distribution networks are: Satuc, Alexanderfeld, Alexandru Ioan Cuza and Vulcanesti town.

Water supply infrastructure components are planned, within the subproject, as shown in the table 2 below.

**Table 2.** Water supply infrastructure components that are planned for the subproject “Expansion and improvement of water supply services in Cahul and Vulcanesti rayons”

Item	mu	Quantity
<b>From the water source</b>		
Main water pipeline	km	97.24
Disinfection stations	unit	10
Pumping/ Repumping stations	unit	3
<b>Pelinei village</b>		
Water supply distribution networks	km	22.83
Water tank (50m <sup>3</sup> )	unit	2
<b>Satuc village</b>		
Water supply distribution networks	km	0
Water tank (25m <sup>3</sup> )	unit	1

<b>Item</b>	<b>mu</b>	<b>Quantity</b>
<b>Gavanoasa village</b>		
Water supply distribution networks	km	17.3
Water tank (50m <sup>3</sup> )	unit	2
<b>Vladimirovca village</b>		
Water supply distribution networks	km	7
Water tank (25m <sup>3</sup> )	unit	2
<b>Nicolaevca village</b>		
Water supply distribution networks	km	8.6
Water tank (25m <sup>3</sup> )	unit	2
<b>Vulcanesti railway Station and Vulcanesti Free Economic zone</b>		
Water tank (50m <sup>3</sup> )	unit	2
Main water pipeline	km	4.4
Water supply distribution networks	km	4.65
Repumping stations	unit	1

*Source: Reviewed detailed engineering design for Cahul -Vulcanesti subproject*

Since the beginning of the project, the following key actions were carried out:

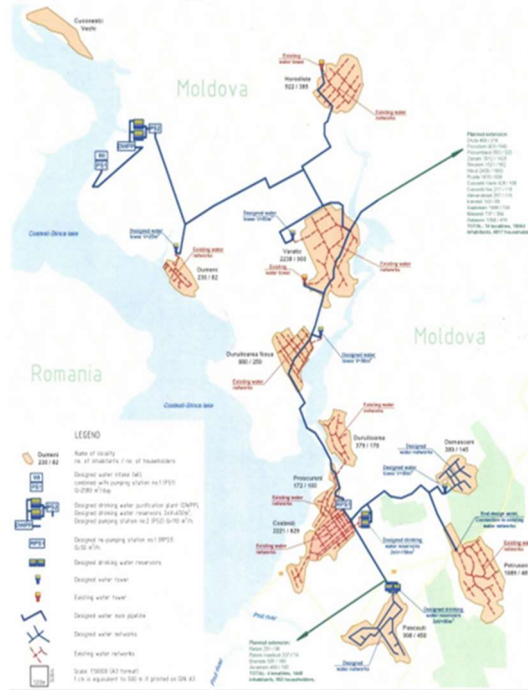
- the **Cooperation Agreement** was signed, by the P.I. NORLD, RDAs and LPAs based on the LC Decisions;
- The contract for **review and update of the DED** was signed and the preliminary design and cost estimates received. The reviewed and updated detailed engineering design was approved by the concerned LPAs. Following agreement with the Railway Authority for the Alexandru Ioan Cuza locality, the design documentation and cost estimates were sent to the *SSVEDC*;
- The contract for **preparation of the ESIA and ESMP** was signed. Public consultations on the ESIA and ESMP were held in Cahul district and Vulcanesti town. The ESIA and ESMP reports were approved by the WB experts and the Certificate of Acceptance signed.
- The preparation of the **Abbreviated Resettlement Action Plan (ARAP)** is in progress. The LPAs were contacted for getting agreement on the list of impacted landowners (total 139). The initial public consultations for the ARAP were held. The agreements signed with the owners/tenants of lands temporarily affected by the project works. However, in some cases, the owners could not be found, and other methods will now be used for information (e.g., media announcements etc.).
- The **Local Water and Sanitation Committee (LWSC)** formed and training held, on their roles and responsibilities, including a special emphasis on GRM and gender related issues. The LWSC has participated in public consultations on the proposed technical design of the sub-project.

**a.2. Expansion and improvement of water supply services in the Prut cluster, Riscani rayon.**

The Riscani water supply subproject represents the construction of a new regional water supply system, taking water from the Prut River, treating it and transporting it through main water supply networks to the beneficiary localities.

The beneficiaries of the mentioned subproject are the following localities: (i) Costesti town (including villages which are part of it: Duruitoarea, Proscureni, Pascauti and Damascani), (ii) Duruitoarea Noua commune (including Duruitoarea Noua and Dumeni villages), (iii) Varatic village, (iv) Horodiste village and (v) Petruseni village with a total number of 6689 beneficiaries.

**Figure 3.** Proposed water supply scheme in the Prut cluster, Riscani rayon



*Source: GIZ Factsheet\_WSS\_Riscani\_Project\_12.12.2019 and GIZ Feasibility Study for Aggregating Water Supply Services for “Prut” Cluster of Riscani Rayon*

Water supply infrastructure components that are planned, within the subproject, are shown in the table 3.

**Table 3.** Water supply infrastructure components that are planned for the Riscani subproject

Item	mu	Quantity
Water treatment plant		1
Main pipeline for raw water	km	2.29x2=4.58
Main potable water pipeline	km	24.5x2=49
Water tank 650 m <sup>3</sup>	unit	2
Water tank 150 m <sup>3</sup>	unit	2
Pumping stations	unit	2
<b>Pascauti village</b>		
Water distribution networks	km	11.2
Water tank 50 m <sup>3</sup>	m <sup>3</sup>	2
Disinfection station	unit	1
Connections	no	450

*Source: Design “Improvement of water supply and sewerage services in Pascauti, Damascani, Proscureni, Galaseni, Malaiesti and Hiliuti localites from Riscani Rayon”. Object no. 06/18. Explanatory memorandum. Chisinau 2019*



The raw water from the Prut River will be captured through the water intake, which consists of fish protection structure, two parallel pipes and the first stage water pumping station. The capacity of the water intake was adopted, taking into account the number of inhabitants from 28 localities (Prut Cluster) from the Riscani Rayon

**Table 4.** Data regarding designed capacity of the water treatment facility for Prut Cluster, Riscani Rayon

	<b>Total no. of inhabitants</b>	<b>q<sub>sp</sub>, l/c/d</b>	<b>Q<sub>day</sub> avg, m<sup>3</sup>/day</b>	<b>K<sub>day</sub> max</b>	<b>Q<sub>day</sub> max, m<sup>3</sup>/day</b>	<b>Technological water losses for WTP, (20%)</b>	<b>Capacity of water intake, m<sup>3</sup>/day</b>
Water intake	26,019	70	1,821.33	1.25	2,276.66	455.30	2,732.00
Water treatment plant	26,019	70	1,821.33	1.25	2,276.66	455.30	2,732.00

*Source: Design "Improvement of water supply and sewerage services in Pascauti, Damascani, Proscureni, Galaseni, Malaesti and Hiliuti localities from Riscani Rayon". Object no. 06/18. Explanatory memorandum. Chisinau 2019*

Since the beginning of the project, the following key actions were carried out:

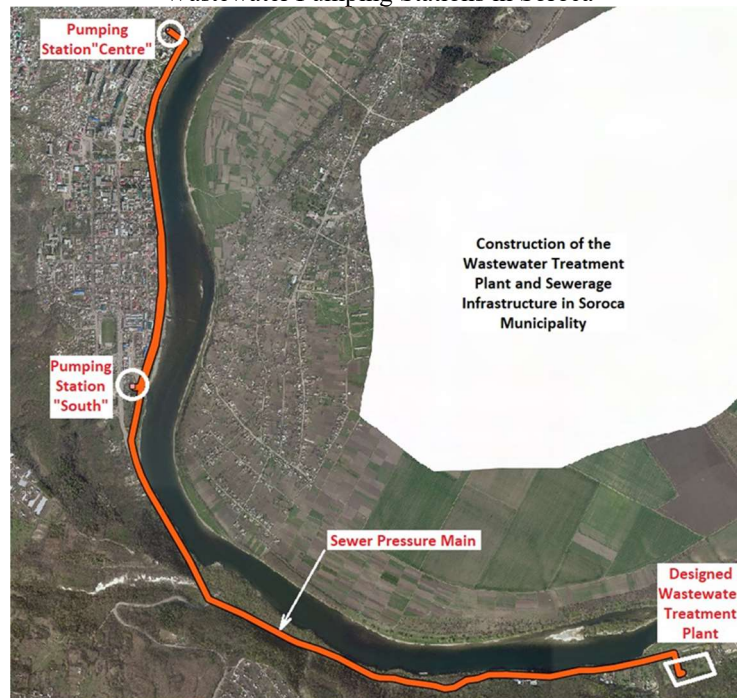
- The **Cooperation Agreement** was signed, by the P.I. NORLD, RDAs and LPAs based on the LC Decisions. LPA Varatic has refused to participate in the project. In order to continue the implementation of the project, the LPA Varatic will participate in the project as a partner;
- **Updating of the design and BoQ.** ToR were approved by MIRD representatives and concerned LPAs. The financial offer from the design company for the update of the design was received and the evaluation process is ongoing.
- The ToR for the **ESIA and ESMP** was approved, followed by launch of procurement, and two EoIs received. The evaluation process is ongoing
- The **Local Water and Sanitation Committee (LWSC)** formed and training conducted on their roles and responsibilities, including a special emphasis on GRM and gender related issues for the scheme.

**b) Wastewater investments**

Expansion and rehabilitation of wastewater systems in selected towns, including the construction and rehabilitation of sewer networks and service connections, and the construction of new wastewater treatment plants, including the preparation of relevant technical studies and management documents; technical supervision and citizen engagement activities. This refers to two preliminarily identified subprojects in Soroca and Comrat towns. There are areas in the Comrat town that face frequent flooding, and the Soroca town is also vulnerable directly on the right bank of the Dniester. The project will support the assessment of flood risk and impact at the household level and, in addition to ensuring resilient design of infrastructure, provide measures to reduce the impact of floods where possible.

**b.3. Expansion and improvements of wastewater services in Soroca.** The Soroca subproject represents construction of the Wastewater Treatment Plant as well as construction of the sewer pressure main pipe in Soroca town. Currently untreated wastewater directly pollutes the Dniester River, the main source of water for downstream settlements and is identified as a national priority for prevention of waterway pollution.

**Figure 4.** Layout of the Wastewater Treatment Plant, Pressure Sewer and Wastewater Pumping Stations in Soroca



*Source: Developed by the PIU/NORLD engineers*

For this subproject the following equipment/works are foreseen: **List of equipment/works for Soroca Wastewater Treatment Plant and Main Sewer Pipeline**

**1.a. Wastewater treatment plant:** Screens; Aerated grit chamber; Imhoff tanks; Intermediate pumping station; Trickling filters; Secondary clarifier; Sludge drying beds; Disinfection unit; Pipelines; Power supply and electrical installations; SCADA system, control system and

measurements; Plant buildings; Utilities; Laboratory Equipment & Ancillary Supplies; Access road to WWTP and landscaping and outside installations.

**1.b. Main Sewer Pipeline:** Pipe; Automatic screen, chamber; Central pumping station; South pumping station; Automations system; Power supply of the Pumping Stations; Manholes; Installation works and Landscaping and access road<sup>3</sup>

It has been estimated that only 42% of the population of Soroca town is connected to the sewerage system. All the multi-storey buildings are connected to the existing sewerage system, whereas only 24% of the individual houses and 21% of economic agents and budgetary institutions are connected.

**Table 5.** Wastewater infrastructure components that are planned for the subproject “*Expansion and improvements of wastewater services in Soroca*”

Item	mu	Technical characteristic	Quantity
<b>New construction</b>			
Wastewater treatment plant	unit	2,300 m <sup>3</sup> /day	1
Centre wastewater pumping station	unit	2+1 pumps, 36 l/s, 50 kW	1
South wastewater pumping station	unit	1+1 pumps, 4.4 l/s, 1 kW	1
Wastewater collection pressure networks in 2 lines	km	DN400	5.8
Wastewater collection pressure networks	km	DN90	0.83
Access road to the treatment plant	km		3
Connection of the treatment plant to the electricity networks	km		Est. 2.5
Connection of the treatment plant to the water supply networks	km		Est. 2.5
<b>Other components for STAGE I, depending on the availability of financial sources</b>			
Rehabilitation of existing wastewater networks	km		3.9
Small wastewater pumping stations	unit		2
Connections	unit		388

*Source: Feasibility Study and ESIA for Soroca Sanitation Project, 2021*

Since the beginning of the project, the following key actions were carried out:

- The **Cooperation Agreement** was signed by the P.I. NORLD, RDA North and Soroca LPA based on the Soroca Municipal Council Decision.
- The contract for the preparation of the **Topographical survey, geological (geotechnical) study and expertise of the wastewater pumping stations’ buildings**, was signed and the final package of documents was received.
- Agreement on the acceptance of the World Bank’s Design and Build procurement procedure, with all relevant stakeholders, was made. The contract for the preparation of the **Employer’s Requirements Chapter within the Design and Build bidding package** was signed. The final package of documents was received.
- The **land transfer process**, covering the area for the future WWTP, from Moldsilva (Forestry Department) to the Soroca Municipality was finalized by signing the contract. The decision of

<sup>3</sup> *Feasibility Study and ESIA for Soroca Sanitation Project, 2021*

the Local Council, to approve the change of the destination of the land from forestry purposes to land for construction purposes, was taken. The Real Estate Public Institution registration procedure was finalized.

- The Soroca municipality has a **licensed WSS service provider**. The municipality has taken a decision to continue with the same operator and will delegate the operation and maintenance (O&M) services of the WWTP to the existing operator.
- The **Local Water and Sanitation Committee (LWSC)** formed and training.

#### ***b.4. Expansion and improvements of wastewater services in Comrat municipality.***

The Comrat subproject represents construction of the Wastewater Treatment Plant in Comrat town, where untreated wastewater directly pollutes the Ialpug River, Comrat lake, and downstream Congaz lake, affecting the Danube River downstream.

**Figure 5.** Existing Wastewater Treatment Plant in Comrat town



*Source: geodata.gov.md*

Existing wastewater collectors are in dire need of rehabilitation, and expansion of sewerage network is required. The old wastewater treatment plant is damaged and not in function. Frequent flooding exacerbates the environmental health impact.

**Table 6.** Wastewater infrastructure components - current situation in Comrat

<b>Item</b>	<b>mu</b>	<b>Quantity</b>
Wastewater treatment plant (5 700 m <sup>3</sup> /day)	unit	1
Volume of wastewater that enters the Wastewater treatment plant in 2023 <sup>4</sup>	th. m <sup>3</sup> / year	279.4
Existing wastewater networks <sup>5</sup>	km	43.5
Wastewater networks under construction	km	8.5
Wastewater networks included in existing detailed design	km	15.1
Wastewater networks that needed detailed design	km	94.4
Connections <sup>6</sup>	unit	3 898
Households that need to be connected	unit	5 494

*Source: Municipal Company Su-Canal*

The collected wastewater is pumped to the Central Wastewater Pumping Station and after that is pumped to the wastewater treatment plant which is not functioning and is a source of pollution for the Ialpug river, where it is discharged.

<sup>4</sup> NARE Report for 2023

<sup>5</sup> NARE Report for 2023

<sup>6</sup> NARE Report for 2023

Since the beginning of the project, the following key actions were carried out:

- the **Cooperation Agreement** was signed, by the P.I. NORLD, RDA Gagauzia and Comrat LPA, based on the Comrat Municipal Council Decision;
- the **procurement procedures for contracting the consultancy company for the preparation of the Feasibility Study and ESIA** started by presented the ToR to the RDA Gagauzia and Comrat LPA in a meeting. The international tender for the Feasibility Study and ESIA was launched and the Contract was signed;
- The kick- off meeting, for the **preparation of the Feasibility Study and ESIA**, took place and the *Inception Report* was received;
- The **Local Water and Sanitation Committee** (LWSC) formed and training held on their roles and responsibilities, including a special emphasis on GRM and gender related issues for the scheme.

**c) Pilot for on-site household sanitation**

Selected rural or peri-urban villages, will benefit from the improvement of on-site household sanitation following a demand-led approach through the provision of technical assistance, the implementation of information campaigns, and the carrying out of civil works. The pilot will be co-financed through the ADA grant. This pilot will demonstrate the use of climate-resilient low-cost technologies for rural sanitation.

**c.5. Improvements in on-site sanitation services for rural villages.** The LPA(s) with rural villages or peri-urban areas below 2,000 persons will be selected based on criteria identified in the POM. These households will sign an “On-site Sanitation Household Agreement” with the PIU and LPA to consent to the conditions of the support scheme, for which appropriate processes and plans will be developed by the PIU. Participating households will be responsible for contributing to the small works contracts, covering the on-site treatment and disposal facility, in a differentiated way depending on socioeconomic status, with the LPA facilitating the collection of household contributions and depositing this in the Project’s Operating Account.

**Figure 6.** Installation scheme of a septic tank



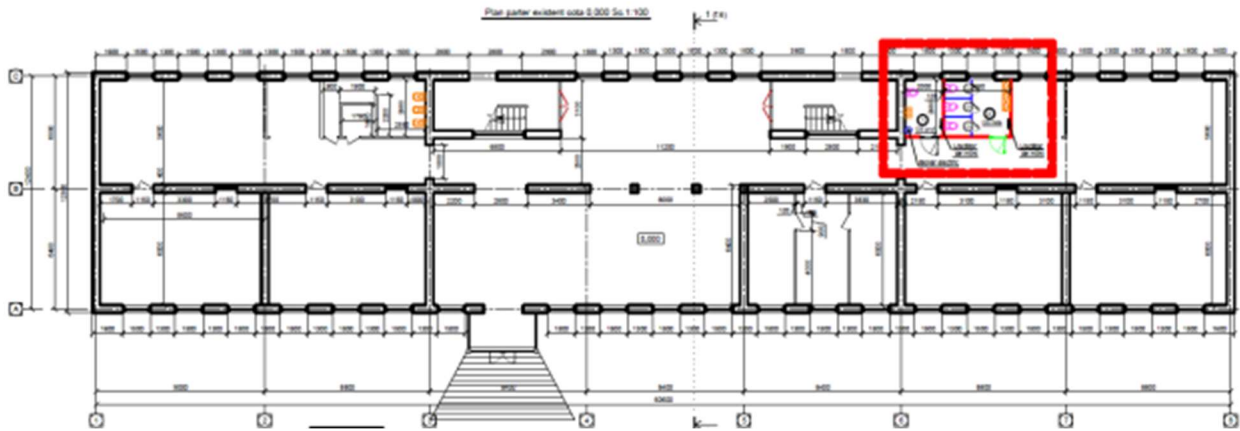
*Source: Draft of Market Study regarding on-site sanitation systems (septic tanks)*

For the implementation of *On-site sanitation pilot project*, since the beginning of the project, the contract for **preparation of the Market Study** and the Contract Resolution Agreement were signed. The *Application Guide for the selection of the beneficiary community/communities of the pilot project on the construction of small-scale sanitation infrastructure in rural and peri-urban households* was prepared. The process of selecting the locality that will implement the on-site household sanitation was initiated by held the public consultations and published the announcement on the launch of the competition for the selection.

## **2.1.2 Subcomponent 1.2 Improving Wash, Sanitation and Hygiene facilities in selected Health Care facilities and Selected Educational Institutions**

According to the Financing Agreement and the Project Appraisal Document, the Wash, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) component will be oriented for improvement of handwashing and hygiene facilities in social institutions, taking in consideration, where appropriate, low carbon emission technologies, and also the design of WASH facilities has to respond to girls'/women's needs (privacy, menstrual hygiene management (MHM) facilities) and be accessible for people with disabilities. In this regard, the implementation of this component depends on the list of institutions which was provided by the Ministry of Health (MH) and Ministry of Education and Research (MER). The planned indicator for the present component is to improve WASH facilities in 100 schools and 25 Health Care Facilities (HCF). MER presented the list with 33 schools and MH presented the list with 31 HCF. These above-mentioned lists were approved by the Ministries and presented for the screening phase.

**Figure 7.** Plan of a school floor



*Source: Report no.1 on November 29, 2023 regarding the implementation of the Design of Sanitary Groups for improving WASH facilities in Schools*

For the implementation of the WASH component, since the beginning of the project, the following key actions were carried out:

- concerning **the preparation stage**, the list of institutions, approved for evaluation by MH and MER were received.
- **Evaluation of institutions by the WASH engineer.** The engineer carried out the screening phase for 64 institutions. 64 field visits were made and 64 completed Evaluation Forms were prepared. The reports on the results of the screening phase were developed and presented to the MER and MH for approval decisions regarding the list of institution which will benefit from the project interventions. The Orders, of the MER and MH for approving the *List for the continuation of planned works in selected institutions for the repair/ renovation/ construction of WASH facilities within the project MWSSP*, were received.
- All 7 **Cooperation Agreements for WASH** activities were signed.
- **Procurement procedure for the WASH intervention for design and BoQ development services in educational institutions and in health care institutions.** ToRs were prepared and approved. The Contracts were signed.



- **Design and BoQ development services in educational institutions.** The design company made site visits to carry out measurements and identify the best solutions for the layout of the sanitary facilities and connection to the water and sewerage networks. 4 Reports (on rayon level) on these actions were submitted. The reports were sent to the directors of the schools for approval and all institutions have signed the Act of Approval of the Report. The designs for the North (10 units) and South (7 units) Regions were submitted to the SSVEDC. The DEDs and Verification Reports for the South Region were received.
- **Design and BoQ development services in health care institutions.** The design company made site visits to carry out measurements and identify the best solutions for the layout of the sanitary facilities and connection to the water and sewerage networks. 14 Reports (on the findings of field visits, indicating recommended solutions and technical drawings) were submitted, and 7 Approval Acts of this Reports were signed by the directors. The letter of approval of the Screening Reports was received from the Ministry of Health
- **concerning WASH Committees.** All 17 beneficiary educational institutions and all 14 beneficiary health institutions presented the composition of their WASH Committee. Information meetings of the WASH Committees were held.



## **2.2. Component 2. Strengthening institutional capacity at national and local levels of water supply and sanitation service delivery.**

This component focusses on institutional capacities of national and subnational entities and WSS operators for management, planning, regulation and reform implementation and performance improvement of service providers for green, resilience, and inclusive service delivery. At the national level, development of plans, policies, and regulatory documents will support climate adaptation through climate-resilient planning, and at the local level, performance improvements will deliver climate benefits through reduction of NRW and improvement of energy efficiency.

### **2.2.1 Subcomponent 2.1 Building national institutional capacity for water supply and sanitation services**

This subcomponent aims to strengthen critical functions of facilitating and implementing WSS sector reform, investment planning and monitoring, and sector modernization and build capacities to this end of the assigned lead unit/entity within MIRD's structure.

#### **a) sector planning and financing for programmatic delivery**

The elaboration and implementation of a National Water Supply and Sanitation Sector Development Plan (NWSSDP), including a national investment program and financing strategy and the capacity development of Directorate of Regional Development Policy under MIRD as lead entity. The NWSSDP outlines a staged process for regionalization, consolidation of funding mechanism and a prioritized investment program.

For the development of the *NWSSDP, Investment program and Financing Strategy*, since the beginning of the project, the PIU has carried out the following key actions:

- (i) **Action: Preparation of National Water Supply and Sanitation Sector Development Plan**
  - By order of the Ministry of Infrastructure and Regional Development No. 28 on February 28, 2023, the *Unit for the coordination* of the process of elaboration of the *National Territorial Development Plan - specialized section Water supply and sanitation* was designated.
  - The Roadmap necessary for the elaboration of the *National Water Supply and Sanitation Sector Development Plan (WSSNDP)*, was developed. The Minutes of **coordination of the final draft of the ToR for NWSSDP** for the Romanian and English versions were signed, by MIRD representatives. The final ToRs were approved by WB. Publication of the REOI for the consulting services (NWSSDP) was made. Fifteen expressions of interest were received by the deadline. Several Evaluation Committee meetings were held, at the last meeting of the Evaluation Committee, following consultation on the subject with World Bank experts, **it was decided by mutual agreement to cancel the procurement procedure**, taking into account the fact that at the end of 2023, during the period of preparation of the expressions of interest, a new *Cod of Urbanism and Construction* was approved by the Parliament.
  - The **revised ToR for NWSSDP** were sent by MIRD to the relevant institutions for review and repeated endorsement (including the National Council for Spatial Planning). Following receipt of endorsements, the adjusted ToR was sent to the World Bank experts for approval and the

“No objections” note was received. Re-Publication of the REOI for the consulting services (NWSSDP) was made and the evaluation process was ongoing to develop the shortlist.

**(ii) Action: Hire strategic planning consultant to provide support to the MIRD in the implementation of Sub-component 2.1**

The consultant will provide support to the Ministry of Infrastructure and Regional Development in the implementation of Sub-component 2.1, in particular will support the development of the *National Water Supply and Sanitation Sector Development Plan* and also will assist in planned sector reforms. The contract was signed.

**(iii) Capacity Development of the Lead WSS Unit.**

The ToR for capacity building of the Lead Unit/ responsible for WSS was prepared and approved by WB. The contract was signed. The consultant presented the draft *Inception Report*. Comments to the *Inception Report* were submitted to Consultant several times and several meetings were held with the Consultant to discuss the comments on the *Inception Report*. Termination Agreement was signed based on the request received from the Consultant.

**(iv) Hire the institutional development consultant for the MIRD**

The ToR received the "no objections" note from WB experts. Publication of the announcement was made. After signing of the Evaluation Report the contract with Consultant was signed.

**b) support for selected operators**

Technical assistance to selected LPAs and WSS operators to support the aggregation process into licensed regional operators (on legal, technical, financial) following the NWSSDP, will be initiated after the elaboration and approbation of the NWSSDP;

**c) support in legislative and design reform**

***Legislative and design reform.*** The preparation of amendments and/or new legislation (for example, Law 303 and requirements for licensing), policies and normative documents (on regulatory method and tariffs), and design and construction norms for sanitation (updating outdated norms) and related capacity building, as per the NWSSDP.

In order to ensure the initiation of the proposed reforms in the field of WSS according to the Project Appraisal Document, the PIU realized the following key actions:

**(i) Ammendment of the Law 303/2013 on water supply and sewerage public service:**

On April 01, 2023 was contracted the consultant for work together with MIRD representatives and the Parliamentary Working Group in order to develop the draft Law 303, to support in promoting and public consultation of the draft Law. The amendment of Law 303 was approved by GD 103/2024 and by the Parliament.

**(ii) Development of new normative in construction. Preparation of the *Report on the assessment of the need to update/ adjust the normative in construction.***

The ToR was prepared, approved and the contract with the Consultant was signed. The *Report on the assessment of the existing norms for sanitation* submitted by the consultant firm to MIRD was checked by the Technical Committee for Technical Standardization in Construction and the final deliverable approved. The main conclusion of the report was that there is no need for further updates in the sanitation norms, rather updates are required for water supply as the current norms are still based on Soviet norms and standards (SNIP).

**(iii) Preparation of the Implementation Plan of Directive 91/271/CEE**

The ToR for this activity were prepared and approved and the contract was signed. The first draft of the Implementation Plan for urban wastewater treatment directive was received by PIU and sent to MIRD and Ministry of Environment for feedback. The revised version of the Implementation Plan was re-sent by PIU to MIRD for comments and a common meeting with Ministry of Environment was held. The draft document was submitted to MIRD for promotion.

**(iv) Preparation of the Government Decision regarding approval of the criteria for authorization, construction, registration, control, operation and maintenance of appropriate individual wastewater collection and treatment systems**

The ToR, for the elaboration of the *GD* was developed and approved by the WB experts and the contract was signed. The Consultant presented the draft *GD* and the Informative Note followed by a meeting organized by MIRD with representatives of the Ministry of Environment, the National Public Health Agency, and the Ministry of Health for obtaining approvals. The Regulatory Impact Analysis (RIA) was developed and discussed with the Working Group in a meeting. The Table of Divergences was prepared and a joint meeting with the Ministry of Justice was held. The draft *GD* was submitted for the Government approval.

**d) monitoring and benchmarking of operators**

The development and roll-out of a national Management Information System (MIS) for WSS operators and definition of Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for the MIS and start benchmarking are the main points of this activity.

In order to implement this activity, the PIU realized the following key actions:

- **Interinstitutional Cooperation Agreement** was signed.
- Development and implementation of **the Management Informational System**. The ToR for contracting a consultant to prepare the draft *GD* on the MIS concept was agreed with WB experts and the procurement process initiated. However, five rounds of advertisements have been conducted and unfortunately EOIs were not received. The PIU is currently revising the ToR for improving competition.

**e) human capital development**

***Human capital development.*** The implementation of a professional development program, in collaboration with AMAC and TUM and WSS operators, to increase qualifications and advance careers of existing staff and attract people, specifically women, for employment in the sector. The Cooperation Agreement was signed by the P.I. NORLD, TUM and AMAC. The contract with TUM was signed. The courses were held according to the established program for qualification of 24 persons and requalification of another 26 persons. This is complemented by another ongoing process of selection of 100 high school graduates to attend a WSS program and by incentivizing 15 students with scholarships in the WSS field.

## 2.2.2 Subcomponent 2.2: Improving performance of WSS service providers

*Improving performance of WSS service providers* will finance works, goods, consulting services, non-consulting services, training to support the implementation of a prioritized rolling multi-year Performance Improvement Plan (PIP) of selected WSS operators involved under Subcomponent 1.1. These include five WSS operators: JSC "Apa-Canal Cahul", JSC "Regia Apa-Canal Soroca", Municipal Enterprise "Su-Canal" Comrat and Municipal Enterprise Apa-Canal Vulcanesti. In the PAD was proposed establishment of a new JSC, founded by the LPAs of Costesti town and other LPAs, but the LPAs from Riscani rayon decided to delegate de services to the WSS operator from the Riscani town. WSS operators will carry out annual assessments on PIP implementation and KPIs, including publication of results and feedback rounds with customers.

**Table 7.** General data on WWS Operators in 2023

Operator	Number of consumers of the water supply service	Number of consumers of the waste water service	Length of water supply networks, km	Length of sewerage networks, km
JSC "Apa-Canal Cahul"	18 425	10 439	271,5	74,3
M.E. "Apa-Canal" Vulcanesti	4 280	1 404	50,9	17,6
JSC "Regia Apa-Canal Soroca"	15 041	8 188	231,3	54,8
M.E. "Communal Household Riscani"	4 967	1 865	58,9	20,7
M.E. "Su-Canal" Comrat	9 288	3 898	172,0	43,5

*Source: developed by PIU based on NARE Report for 2023*

Investments and technical assistance activities identified in the PIPs are based on utility diagnostics and include but are not limited to the following: improving technical and commercial operations, improving financial management, human resource management and organization & strategy aspects, including improving asset management systems and inventories, energy efficiency, NRW reduction programs, water metering practices and equipment to improve climate resilience, water safety and business continuity, and enhancing responsiveness to customers.

**Table 8.** General data regarding the WWS orators as of June 30, 2024

Name of the operator	Licensed operator, No. of the License	Have delegation contract	Number of localities where the operator manages the water service	Number of localities where the operator manages the waste water service	Have approved and updated tariffs application to NARE*
JSC "Apa-Canal Cahul"	Yes, AC no. 001534 / on 30.07.2015	Yes	12 <sup>7</sup>	2 <sup>8</sup>	Decision of NARE no. 458 on 21.07.2023

<sup>7</sup> Cahul town (Cotihana), Rosu village, Crihana Veche village, Manta village (Pascani), Lebedenco village (Hutulu and Ursoaia), Pelinei village, Tatarasti village and Alexandru Ioan Cuza village

<sup>8</sup> Cahul town and Rosu village

Name of the operator	Licensed operator, No. of the License	Have delegation contract	Number of localities where the operator manages the water service	Number of localities where the operator manages the waste water service	Have approved and updated tariffs application to NARE*
M.E. "Apa-Canal" Vulcanesti	Yes, AC no. 000531 / on 04.09.2015	No	1 <sup>9</sup>	1	<b>Decision of NARE no. 776 on 12.10.2022</b> Decision of the NARE Management Board no. 426 on 07.07.2023
JSC "Regia Apa-Canal Soroca"	Yes, AC no. 000559 / on 22.12.2015	Yes	7 <sup>10</sup>	1	<b>Decision of NARE no. 474 on 27.07.2023</b>
M.E. "Communal Household Riscani"	Yes, AC no. 000560 / on 22.12.2015	Yes	3 <sup>11</sup>	1	Decision of the NARE Management Board no. 385 on 30.06.2023
M.E. "Su-Canal" Comrat	Yes, AC no. 000576 / on 05.02.2016	Yes	1	1	Decision of the NARE Management Board no. 48 on 10.02.2023
*Decision of NARE – tariff approval Decision of the NARE Management Board- tariff endorsement. The approval will be made by the LC					

*Source: prepared by PIU based on WWS operator's and NARE data*

In order to implement this activity, since the beginning of the project the PIU realized the following key actions:

- Initial ToR for the consulting services refers to elaboration of: (1) the multi-year *Performance Improvement Plan (PIP)* exclusively for the *Municipal Enterprise from Comrat and Municipal Enterprise from Vulcanesti* and (2) *Baseline performance assessment* for the five WSS operators: JSC "Apa-Canal Cahul", JSC "Regia Apa-Canal Soroca", Municipal Enterprise "Su-Canal" Comrat, Municipal Enterprise Apa-Canal Vulcanesti and a proposed establishment of a new JSC, founded by the LPAs of Costesti town and other LPAs. ToR was prepared and approved. The Request for Expressions of Interest was published several times. No Consultant was selected.
- The second round of procurement of services was initiated, for the elaboration of the *Baseline Performance Assessment* and the *Performance Improvement Plan (PIP)*, because the scope of the ToR was extended by including the operators from Riscani and Soroca, as per the decision of the respective LPAs. The revised ToR was approved and the Request for Expression of Interest was published. 6 EOI were received. At the reporting date the evaluation process was ongoing.

<sup>9</sup> Vulcanesti town and the Railway Station Vulcanesti

<sup>10</sup> Soroca town, Egoreni village, Hristici village, Regina Maria village, Zastinca village and Rublenita village. Bulboci

<sup>11</sup> Riscani town, Balanul nou village and Ramazani village

### **3. COMPONENT 3. PROJECT MANAGEMENT AND COORDINATION**

#### **3.1. World Bank Implementation Support Mission conducted in Moldova**

The World Bank team conducts systematic missions for implementation support under the Moldova Water Security and Sanitation Project (MWSSP): on July 13-22, 2022, January 16-27, 2023, October 30- November 10, 2023 and April 15 – 26, 2024.

#### **3.2. Activities concerning the Project Coordination Group**

As provided in the PAD, at the national level, a Project Coordination Group (PCG) will be established within three months after project effectiveness; the PCG will coordinate the implementation and endorse annual implementation plans.

- 1) **The first meeting** of the Project Coordination Group (PCG) was held on April 11, 2023. The Minutes no.1 of the meeting was approved. The annexes of the Minutes are: approved Semestrial Progress Report no.1 and approved Action Plan of the PIU for 2023.
- 2) **The second meeting** of the Project Coordination Group (PCG) was held on December 01, 2023. The Minutes no.2 of the meeting was approved. The annexes of the Minutes are: approved Semestrial Progress Report no.2 and approved Action Plan of the PIU for 2024.
- 3) **The third meeting** of the Project Coordination Group (PCG) was held on June 13, 2024. The Minutes no.3 of the meeting was approved. The annexes of the Minutes are: approved Semestrial Progress Report no.3 and approved of the *Application guidelines for the competition on the selection of a beneficiary community for the pilot project, on the construction of on-site sanitation in individual households in rural localities.*

#### **3.3. The Project Implementation Unit's activities**

##### **3.3.1. Staffing of the Project Implementation Unit**

At the reporting date following positions have been hired for meeting the effectiveness condition: project manager, procurement specialist, procurement specialist II, FM specialist, environmental & citizen engagement specialist, social & gender specialist, chief WSS engineer, WSS engineer, communications specialist, M&E specialist, WASH engineer, legal consultant, administrative assistant and driver & logistics specialist.



### 3.3.2. Financial Management

PIU is a sub-unit under NORLD and performs all budget planning, financing, and reporting arrangements on behalf of the MIRD. All planning procedures, the annual budget and medium-term budget framework (MTBF) are organized based on MoF requirements. All budget projections are prepared based on Project Procurement Plan and the Project Implementation Plan. The draft budget is prepared for each type of the project activity within the ceilings approved in MTBF.

The payments for project activities are administrated through the State Treasure System. Such a management ensures ex-ante controls for all contract's payments which are performed via treasure account (excluding direct payments).

Accounting policies and procedures of the Project are reflected in the Project Operational Manual as a separate chapter "Financial Management" approved by the WB.

**Disbursement status.** For the project propose, during the period (August 2022 – June 2024) the PIU has disbursed EUR 1.9 million EUR out of 2.0 million EUR planned, of which:

- ✓ 1.7 million EUR from the Loan IDA 70270
- ✓ 0.2 million EUR from Grant TF B7739

The disbursement under the grant represents the advance to designated account, separately opened in the National Bank of Moldova.

**Table 9.** Loan IDA 70270 Disbursement Record as of June 30, 2024

WB/Trans No.	Application Payment Amount, EUR	Paid Amount, EUR	USD Equivalents	Date Received
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,772,487.45</b>	<b>1,772,487.45</b>	<b>1,895,274.24</b>	
9	112,998.40	112,998.40	120,953.49	21-Jun-2024
8	500,000.00	500,000.00	534,050.00	17-Jun-2024
7	160,710.36	160,710.36	173,824.33	24-May-2024
6	286,731.48	286,731.48	308,064.30	22-Mar-2024
5	85,490.58	85,490.58	90,585.82	21-Sep-2023
4	55,201.35	55,201.35	60,326.80	13-Jun-2023
3	350,000.00	350,000.00	383,075.00	12-Jun-2023
2	71,355.28	71,355.28	78,369.50	14-Apr-2023
1	150,000.00	150,000.00	146,025.00	07-Oct-2022

*Source: PIU FM data*

The disbursements for the next FY 2025 are projected in amount of EUR 2,000 thousand (see the data from the table below).

**Table 10.** Disbursement projection for FY 2025, July, 2024 – June 2025

Quarter	Period	Currency	Disbursement, planned
1st Q	July 2024 - Sept 2024	Thousand EUR	250.0
2nd Q	Oct 2024 - Dec 2024	Thousand EUR	500.0
3rd Q	Jan 2025 - March 2025	Thousand EUR	500.0
4th Q	Apr 2025 - June 2025	Thousand EUR	750.0
	<b>Total, fiscal year 2025</b>	<b>Thousand EUR</b>	<b>2,000.0</b>

*Source: PIU FM data*

**Project expenses.** All payments obligations were paid in time, without delays. The expenses done are distributed over the project components as presented in the table below.

**Table 11:** Expenses per components, as of June 30, 2024

	Spent in 6-month period 2024	Cumulative expenses, (Aug'22 – Jun'24), EUR	Planned, cumulative expenses, EUR	Percent in planned cumulative costs
A	1	2	3	4=2/3.3
1. Increasing access to safely managed WSS services in selected rural areas and towns	49,658.22	125,965.31	40,993,572.0	0.3%
2. Strengthening institutional capacity at national and local levels for WSS service delivery	15,954.88	53,208.71	3,459,006.0	1.5%
3. Project management and coordination	100,826.00	646,754.16	2,091,329.0	31.1%
4. Contingent emergency response component	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>166,439.10</b>	<b>825,928.18</b>	<b>46,543,907.0</b>	<b>1.8%</b>

*Source: PIU FM data*

At the end of the reporting period, we have no unpaid obligations.

**Annual Audit.** The audit report for Financing Agreement no. 70270-MD and Grant Agreement TF0B7739-MD for the period August 05, 2022 – December 31, 2023, have been prepared in accordance with the terms of the aforementioned Financing Agreement and Grant Agreement, and in conformity with the cash basis of accounting under the International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS) to the financial statements. As a result of the audit procedures, had not been identified significant issues related to the internal control system of the project that should be reported.

**Approved project budget in the annual budget.** The project budget for FY2024 has been approved in amount of MDL 110.7 million or equivalent of EUR 5.7 million<sup>12</sup>. Approved amount includes the Government contribution in amount of MDL 12.3 million of equivalent of EUR 0.6 million.

<sup>12</sup> The EUR equivalent of the planned budget for 2024 is calculated at the exchange rate 19.5 MDL/EUR

### **3.3.3. Procurement activities**

Procurement under the Project is carried out in accordance with the World Bank Procurement Regulations for Investment Project Financing (IPF) Borrowers – “Procurement in IPF of Goods, Works, Non-Consulting and Consulting Services” issued in July 2016, revised in November 2020 (“Procurement Regulations”) and the “Guidelines on Preventing and Combating Fraud and Corruption in Projects Financed by IBRD Loans and IDA Credits and Grants” dated October 2006 and revised in January 2011 and July 2016.

All the procurement activities within the MWSSP are managed by STEP.

STEP (Systematic Tracking of Exchanges in Procurement) is an online system that helps the World Bank and Borrowers plan, record, and track key stages of the procurement process under Investment Project Financing (IPF) projects. It is designed to help Borrowers achieve value for money in procurement by transforming data into knowledge, speeding up the procurement process, and improving accountability and transparency. It streamlines and automates some stages of the procurement process and enables monitoring and reporting.

The procurement process has been described within each subcomponent in the chapter 1.

In order to summarize the results of the procurement process, the following tables are presented in the Annex 1:

1. Date regarding the signed contracts within MWSS Project
2. Date regarding the ongoing procurement packages under MWSS Project

Until June 30, 2024, 21 contracts have been signed, of which 6 are completed, 2 are terminated and remaining 13 are in progress. In addition to this, 8 procurement packages are in process.

### 3.3.5. Social, citizen engagement and gender activities

In accordance with the Environmental and Social Standards (ESSs) and the project Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP) the below activities were conducted during the reported period:

#### *(i) Citizen engagement aspects*

All localities included in the MWSSP sub-projects have operational Community Water and Sanitation Committees (CWSC).

The CWSC members received support from the Project Implementation Unit (PIU) for citizen engagement aspects. For the Riscani subproject, due to delays in signing agreements, PIU's social specialist conducted the information meetings at the end of March and the beginning of April 2024.

#### *a) WASH Committees*

The members of the WASH committee for educational institutions (17 schools) are represented by the Board of Directors of the Educational Institution. The Board of Directors of the Educational Institution as per Article 49 of the Education Code of the Republic of Moldova. The Board of Directors consists of nine members: the institution's director, deputy director, Local Public Authority (LPA) representative, three parents, two teachers, and one student. All institutions have submitted the composition of their Board of Directors WASH committee.

WASH committees have been established for all health facilities benefiting from the project. Each committee comprise three members: a representative from the medical institution, a representative from the Local Public Authority (LPA), and a representative from the community (either an NGO or an active citizen).

#### *b) Public Consultations*

The following **public consultations** were conducted during the reported period:

- In each locality were held the meetings with project affected people. Initial public consultations for the ARAP were held: February 15, 2024 (Crihana Veche, Lebedenco, Pelinei); February 19, 2024 (Gavanoasa, Vulcanesti) and February 21, 2024 (Alexandru Ioan Cuza).
- The final Public Consultation was held for Cahul ESIA&ESMP sub-project, February 28, 2024.
- The initial Public Consultation was held for Comrat sub-project FS and ESIA&ESMP, April 9, 2024. Further information and awareness activities on the roles of Local/Citizen Water and Sanitation Committees and GRM are conducted during the meetings.

#### *c) Baseline Study*

The research company for conducting the baseline survey of the level of satisfaction with water supply and sewerage services in the project intervention area has been selected in February 2024. The consultant presented the pilot study on April 23, 2024.

The fieldwork is scheduled to take place from May to mid-June 2024. The draft research report is expected in July, 2024.

*d) Grievance Redress Mechanism*

The Grievance Redress Mechanisms (GRM) are operational at the national, regional, and local levels. In each Local Water and Sanitation Committee (LWSC) or WASH Committee, there is a designated member responsible for GRM.

No complaints were registered during the reporting period.

A leaflet providing information on the GRM was distributed during the public consultations and other meetings with project beneficiaries.

The specific GRM leaflet has been distributed to all educational and health institutions benefiting from the WASH sub-component. The leaflet was placed on the information board of each beneficiary institution.

***(ii) Gender Action Plan***

The Gender Focal Point has been nominated from the Community Water and Sanitation Committees (CWSC) and WASH Committee. This Gender Focal Point has a specific responsibility for gender-related activities, ensuring the active involvement of women in project activities, and facilitating their participation in public consultations and other project events. Also, the local gender focal point will also serve as a resource, providing information and support to women regarding the GRM.

The analysis of the World Bank Gender Strategy 2024-2030 was conducted, with the aim of adjusting activities, as appropriate, in line with this strategy. The social and gender specialist participated in several meetings with World Bank experts to discuss the challenges and perspectives of the gender dimension in project activities.

During the reporting period, the social and gender specialist participated in workshops addressing gender issues. Notably, these included the workshop "Sexual Harassment: Prevention and Legal Aspects" on March 2, 2024, and the event "Investing in Women: Stories of Empowerment" on March 5, 2024.

All Terms of Reference (TORs) elaborated by PIU align with the Gender Action Plan (GAP), emphasizing the promotion of gender equality and nondiscrimination.

**Activities planned for the next 6 months:**

- Support the consultant in the elaboration of ESIA Comrat sub-project
- Support the consultant in the elaboration of ESIA Riscani sub-project
- Supervising the consultant's implementation of the baseline survey
- Continuing with the implementation of the ARAP activities
- Further information and awareness activities on Local/Citizen Water and Sanitation Committees and GRM. PIU will provide support to ensure continued engagement and collaboration with affected people.
- Contribution with social and environmental aspects for procurement documents.
- Manage potential complaints and maintain the GRM Log.

### **3.3.6. Communication and visibility of the Project**

The Moldova Water Security and Sanitation Project aims to improve access to safe drinking water and sanitation in selected rural and urban areas of Moldova. To achieve its objectives, the project has implemented various communication and visibility activities, including press releases, social media posts, electronic newsletters, and media engagements.

#### **Actions undertaken during the reporting period:**

*Facebook Page:* The project's Facebook page serves as an interactive channel for stakeholders and beneficiaries to stay informed and engaged. A total of 51 posts have been shared, ensuring regular communication with the target audience.

Link: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100089919485925>

*Press Releases:* Ten press releases were posted on the project's website to highlight events and activities. These releases effectively disseminated information to the media and the public, enhancing awareness and understanding of the project's endeavors.

Link: <https://ondrl.gov.md/categorie/proiectul-saasm/noutati-proiectul-saasm/>

*Electronic Newsletter:* The third edition of the electronic newsletter was developed and is available on the project's website.

Link: <https://ondrl.gov.md/categorie/proiectul-saasm/publicatii/>

*Communication Plan for Water Supply and Sewerage Program of Moldova Technical University:* A Facebook page was created and regularly updated to promote the Water Supply and Sewerage Program of Moldova Technical University. Additionally, a success story about one of the program's students was published on the TUM website and social media platforms.

Link: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61560085778889>

Link: <https://tinyurl.com/2hx4s4u4>

*Communication Strategy and Action Plan:* Both documents are currently being updated to ensure alignment with project goals.

*Media Coverage:* Project activities were discussed on the "Bună Dimineața/Good Morning" TV program, Moldova 1.

Link: <https://tinyurl.com/2c23em4y>

#### **Planned actions for the Next Period:**

- *Electronic Newsletter:* Complete the fourth edition by December 2024 – January 2025.
- *Implementation of Communication Plan for Water Supply and Sewerage Program:* Continue implementing the plan in collaboration with the TUM communication department.
- *Press Releases and Facebook Posts:* Write and publish updates about project activities to maintain stakeholder engagement and visibility.
- *Interactive Map:* Develop an interactive map for the entire project.
- *Communication Strategy and Action Plan:* Revise and complete the Communication Strategy and Action Plan.

### 3.3.7. Reporting, monitoring and evaluation activities

Reporting, monitoring and evaluation process refers to: (a) monitoring of the performance of the project toward achievement of the PDO and result indicators on a semiannual basis and (b) implementation progress against all activities and the timely identification of bottlenecks. M&E of results are taking place against the indicators in the Results Framework and procedures are detailed in the POM.

In the table 13 are presented the results of the Project Development Objective Indicators as of June 30, 2024.

**Table 12.** Project Development Objective Indicators on June 30, 2024

	Indicator Name	Baseline	Intermediate Targets, Year 1	Frequency	Evaluation Status on June 30, 2024
<b>PDO I</b>	<b>Increasing access to safely managed water supply services in selected rural areas and towns</b>				
PDOI_I_1	People provided with access to safely managed water supply services in selected rural areas and towns (Number)	0.00	0.00	Semi - annually	0.00
PDOI_I_1g	Out of which female (Percentage)	0.00	0.00	Semi - annually	0.00
PDOI_I_2	People provided with access to safely managed sanitation services in selected rural areas and towns (Number)	0.00	0.00	Semi - annually	0.00
PDOI_I_2g	Out of which female (Percentage)	0.00	0.00	Semi - annually	0.00
<b>PDO I II</b>	<b>Strengthening institutional capacity at national and local levels for improved WSS service delivery</b>				
PDOI_II_3	National Water Supply and Sanitation Sector Development Plan (NWSSDP) with prioritized investment program and financing strategy developed and under implementation (Text)	No NWSSDP exists	Working group for NWSSDP created	Annually	N/A
PDOI_II_4	Number of participating operators demonstrating core institutional capacities for improved water supply and sanitation service delivery (Number)	0.00	0.00	Annually	N/A

*Source: Project Appraisal Document and the PIU's data*

Considering the fact that at the current stage the activities related to the preparation of the documentation for the construction works are ongoing, most of the Intermediate Results Indicators have a value of 0. (Annex 2) The most significant progress was achieved for the indicator PDOI\_II\_3 *National Water Supply and Sanitation Sector Development Plan (NWSSDP)*.

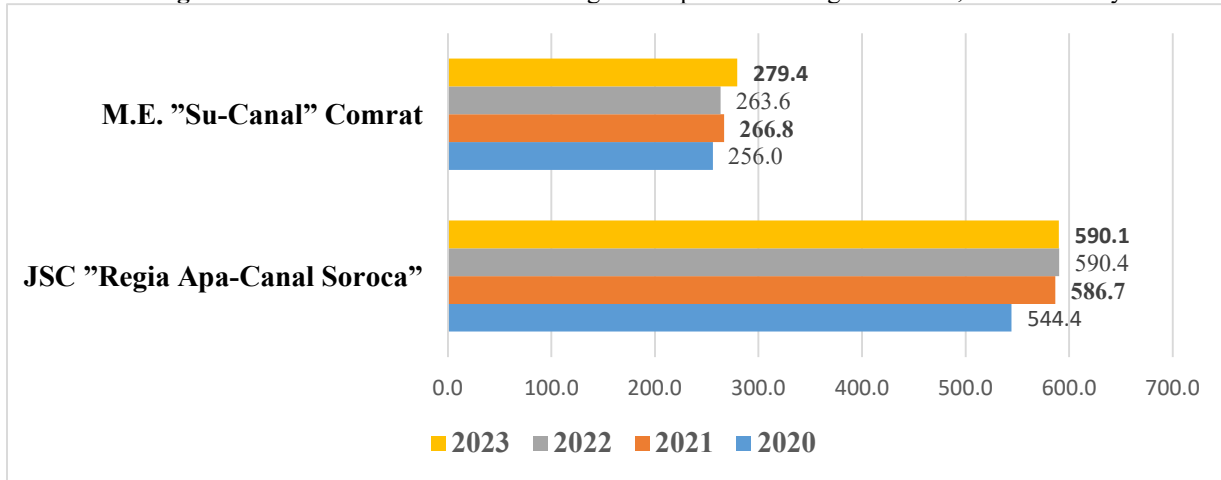
For the Indicator IRI\_2.1.1 *Number of legislative and/or normative documents developed in support of sector modernization (Number)* under Subcomponent 2.1.: Building national institutional capacity for WSS, the amendment of Law 303 was approved in the Government and in Parliament.

\*\*For the Indicator IRI\_2.1.2 *National Management Information System (MIS) for WSS service providers developed and operational (Text)*. ToR, for contracting a consultant to prepare the draft GD on the MIS concept, was prepared, coordinated with the MIRD, approved by STEP and the hiring advertisement was published several times.

\*\*\*For the indicator IRI\_1.1.3 Wastewater and septage treated in selected small towns as per national discharge standards (Cubic meters/year)

The evolution of the indicator: Volume of wastewater discharged into public sewerage networks, (expressed in thousands m<sup>3</sup>/year) is presented in figure 8

Figure 8. Volume of wastewater discharged into public sewerage networks, thousand m<sup>3</sup>/year



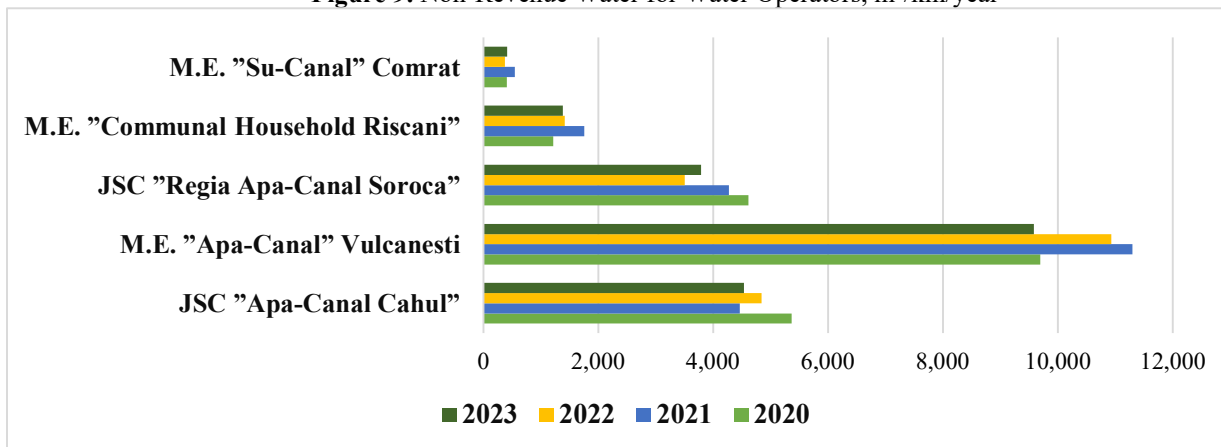
Source: developed by PIU based on the NARE Report for 2022 and 2023

The volume of wastewater discharged has not varied much in recent years and recorded a cumulative value for M.E. "Su-Canal" Comrat and JSC "Regia Apa-Canal Soroca" of 869.5 thousand m<sup>3</sup>/year in 2023.

\*\*\*\*For the Indicator IRI\_2.2.1 Average relative reduction of Non-Revenue Water (expressed in m<sup>3</sup>/km network per year) for participating utilities compared to baseline value (Percentage).

The evolution of the indicator: Non-Revenue Water (expressed in m<sup>3</sup>/km network per year) is presented in figure 9.

Figure 9. Non-Revenue Water for Water Operators, m<sup>3</sup>/km/year



Source: developed by PIU based on the NARE Report for 2022 and 2023

Non-Revenue Water, measured in m<sup>3</sup>/km/year, increased inessential in 2023 compared to 2022 for JSC "Regia Apa-Canal Soroca" and for M.E. "Su-Canal" Comrat. In 2023 the value of the indicator was: 4537 m<sup>3</sup>/km/year for JSC" Apa-Canal Cahul", 9585 m<sup>3</sup>/km/year for M.E. "Apa-Canal"



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Vulcanesti, 3793 m<sup>3</sup>/km/year for JSC "Regia Apa-Canal Soroca", 1384 m<sup>3</sup>/km/year for M.E. "Communal Household Riscani" and 412 m<sup>3</sup>/km/year for M.E. "Su-Canal" Comrat.

In order to inform stakeholders about the progress of the MWSSP the following activities were carried out:

- The Semiannual Progress Report no. 3 of MWSSP for the period July 01- December 31, 2023<sup>13</sup> was prepared, approved by the WB experts on February 26, 2024 and posted on the project's website. Presentation of the Semiannual Report no.3 of the project to the Project Coordination Group, during the third meeting was held on June 13, 2024
- The *Checklists of the implementation of the MWSSP actions*, based on Activity Plan for 2023 and 2024 of the PIU and Aide Memoire, for the months: December 2023, January, February, March, April and May 2024, were developed and submitted to MIRD and NORLD;
- The *Short Progress Reports of the MWSSP, based on Aide Memoire for WB TTL*, for the months: December 2023, January, February, March, April and May 2024, were developed and submitted.
- Preparation and submission of the *Report on activities financed by ADA funds for the period 01 July-31 December 2023*.
- Monthly reporting (December 2023, January, February, March, April and May 2024), the activities carried out within the MWSSP on the **project.gov.md**;

During the next period are planned the following actions:

- elaboration of the Semiannual Progress Report no.4 of the MWSSP for the WB experts and Project Coordination Group.
- elaboration of the monthly *Checklists of the implementation of the actions planned* for MIRD;
- elaboration of the monthly *Short Progress Reports of the MWSSP*, based on Aide Memoire for WB TTL;
- monthly reporting the activities carried out within the MWSSP on the **project.gov.md**;
- monitoring and coordinating of the baseline performance assessment for relevant indicators that will be conducted for Year 1, for KPIs for the selected WSS Operators;

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<sup>13</sup> <https://ondrl.gov.md/rapoarte-saasm/>



## **2.4.Challenges and risks for implementation of the project**

The key challenges and risks, for the implementation of the MWSSP in the reporting period, that will lead to delays in implementing some actions are:

- Lack of qualified personnel in the field or companies with the necessary experience to participate in tenders;
- Limited experience of the stakeholders in examining and coordination of the bidding documentation
- Large number of stakeholders involved in approval and coordination procedures, including difficult institutional mechanism for the implementation of projects under Sub-component 1.1;
- Delays in the process of change of land use, which causes delays in obtaining permissive documents (e.g. environmental agreements, urban planning certificates etc.);
- Cooperation with national public authorities, including partner institutions (SSVEDC, Min. Health, Min. Education, participation in Working Groups and Evaluation Commissions);
- Cooperation with some involved LPAs.

## **4. COMPONENT 4. CONTINGENT EMERGENCY RESPONSE COMPONENT**

A provisional zero-amount component is included, which will allow for rapid reallocation of credit/loan proceeds from other components during an emergency under streamlined procurement and disbursement procedures. This component allows the Government to request the World Bank to recategorize and reallocate financing from other project components to cover emergency response and recovery costs. The Contingent Emergency Response Component (CERC) will be established and managed in accordance with the provisions of the World Bank Policy and World Bank Directive on Investment Project Financing. The CERC, if activated, will be able to finance eligible activities included in the positive list, stipulated in the Project Operations Manual (POM) (dedicated CERC annex).

During the reporting period there were no actions under this component

## ANNEXES

### Annex 1. Date regarding the contracts within MWSS Project

#### a. Date regarding the signed contracts within MWSS Project

No	Contract	Date of contract signing	Contract completion	Procurement method
<b>1.1. Subcomponent 1 Increasing access to safely managed WSS services in selected rural areas and towns</b>				
<b>Subcomponent 1.1 Expanding access and quality of WSS services</b>				
<b>Expansion and improvement water supply services in Cahul and Vulcanesti rayons</b>				
1	MD-PIU-NORLD-346170-CS-CQS / Review and up-date of Detailed Design technical documents for Cahul Sub-project	14-Jul-23	30-Dec-24	Direct selection
Amendment No. 1 dated March 01, 2024 was signed, extending the implementation period until May 24, 2024 (initial completion date - March 14, 2024). Amendment no. 2 was signed, extending the implementation period until December 30, 2024 (due to long examination of the design by the SSVEDC and to carry out the remaining services as specified in TOR, i.e. provide support during bidding process)				
2	MD-PIU-NORLD-346176-CS-CQS Development the ESIA and ESMP for Cahul-Vulcanesti water supply sub-project	14-Jul-23	29-Mar-24*	Consultant's qualifications-based selection (CQS)
*Am.#1 of December 15, 2023, was signed extending the contract completion date until March 29, 2024 considering that necessary technical data for site-specific ES impacts assessment for the construction works within Cahul Sub-project shall be developed based on the design data to be provided by the Consultant that prepares the Technical Design. Furthermore, sufficient time for draft ESIA and ESMPs disclosure, including public consultation in the affected localities is needed.				
<b>Expansion and improvements of wastewater services in Soroca</b>				
3	MD-PIU-NORLD-368215-CS-CQS / Elaboration of the Employer's Requirements chapters for the subproject	15-Sep-23	30-Sept-24	Consultant's qualifications-based selection (CQS)
Amendment No. 1 dated March 15, 2024 was signed, extending the implementation period until June 30, 2024 (initial completion date - March 15, 2024) and additional services were included in the scope of services, increasing the contract price. Amendment no. 2 was signed on June 28, 2024, extending the implementation period until September 30, 2024 (due to long examination of the Bidding Document by all involved parties).				
4	MD-PIU-NORLD-346201-CS-CQS / Technical expertise of the existing buildings, the geotechnical study and the topographic survey for the subproject	15-Sep-23	22-Jan-24	Consultants' qualifications-based selection (CQS)
<b>Expansion and improvements of wastewater services in Comrat</b>				
5	MD-PIU-NORLD-346194-CS-QCBS / Feasibility study and ESIA for Comrat Subproject	1-Feb-24	1-Nov-24	Consultants' Quality and Cost-based selection (QCBS)
<b>On-site sanitation pilot and sewerage connection programs (septic tanks)</b>				
6	MD-PIU-NORLD-339411-CS-INDV Technical Consultant for the development of a technical market study regarding on-site sanitation systems (septic tanks)	3-Apr-23	Contract terminated on 24-Jul-23*	Selection of Individual Consultants
The reason for Contract termination is the failure of the Consultant to perform the services as specified in the Annex A "Terms of Reference and Scope of Service" within the established timeline.				
<b>1.2. Sub - component 1.2 Improving resilient WASH facilities in public social institutions</b>				
7	MD-PIU-NORLD-376584-CS-CQS Design of Sanitary Groups for improving WASH facilities in Schools	16 Nov-23	30-Jun-24	Consultant's qualifications-based selection (CQS)
Amendment No. 1 dated February 16, 2024 was signed, extending the implementation period until April 30, 2024 due to delay in obtaining of permissive documentation from local authorities (initial completion date - February 16, 2024).				

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No	Contract	Date of contract signing	Contract completion	Procurement method
	Amendment No. 2 dated April 29, 2024 extending the implementation period until June 30, 2024 due to prolonged verification of design by the State Expertize.			
8	MD-PIU-NORLD-376594-CS-CQS / Design of Sanitary Groups for improving WASH facilities in selected Health Care Facilities	19-Feb-24	18-Jul-24	Consultant's qualifications-based selection (CQS)
<b>Component 2. Strengthening institutional capacity at national and local levels for WSS service delivery</b>				
<b>1.2.</b>	<b>Sub - component 2.1 Building national institutional capacity</b>			
<b>Support in legislative and design reforms</b>				
9	MD-PIU-NORLD-339414-CS-INDV Legal Consultant for the elaboration of the required amendments for Law no. 303/2013 regarding the public water supply and sewerage service	1-Apr-23	30-Apr-24	Selection of Individual Consultants
* The Amendment no. 1 of October 01, 2023 was signed extending the contract completion date until April 30, 2024 since additional time is required for the Consultant to provide support during public consultations and in the process of approving and promoting the draft Law and the need for the Consultant to participate together with the representatives of the MIRD and the NAER, in the study visit regarding the familiarization with the normative framework of Romania in this field.				
10	MD-PIU-NORLD-339413-CS-INDV Legal Consultant for the elaboration of the draft Government Decision regarding approval of the criteria for authorization, construction, registration, control, operation and maintenance of appropriate individual wastewater collection and treatment systems	17-Aug-23	28-Jun-24	Selection of Individual Consultants
11	MD-PIU-NORLD-369411-CS-INDV National consultant to develop the Implementation Plan of Directive 91/271/CEE	22-Aug-23	29-Aug-24	Selection of Individual Consultants
12	MD-PIU-NORLD-369172-CS-INDV International consultant for assessment of the need to update/adjust the Moldovan Construction Normatives to conform with the EU standards	5-Sep-23	29-Dec-23	Selection of Individual Consultants
13	MD-PIU-NORLD-339411-CS-INDV Strategic Planning consultant to provide support to the MIRD in the Implementation of the subcomp.2.1.	17-Jul-23	16-Jul-24	Selection of Individual Consultants
14	MD-PIU-NORLD-377772-CS-INDV / National Consultant for Capacity Development Needs Assessment Report and development of the Capacity Development Plan for Lead Unit MIRD	15-Dec-23	28-Jun-24	Selection of Individual Consultants
15	MD-PIU-NORLD-388307-NC-DIR / Professional development programs for WSS operators and experts with bachelor studies	21-Nov-23	21-Jul-25	Direct selection
<b>Institutional development</b>				
16	MD-PIU-NORLD-395554-CS-INDV / Institutional development and support individual consultant for the Ministry of Infrastructure and Regional Development	15-May-24	16-Jun-25	Selection of Individual Consultants
17	MD-PIU-NORLD-421236-CS-INDV / Legal specialist for support to delegation contracts (part-time assignment)	24-Jun-24	23-Jun-25	Selection of Individual Consultants
<b>Component 3. Project management</b>				
18	MD-PIU-NORLD-380722-CS-CQS / Baseline survey on the level of people's satisfaction concerning Water Supply and Sanitation service delivery.	11-Jan-24	20-Sep-24	Consultant's qualifications-based selection (CQS)
19	MD-PIU-NORLD-403014-CS-LCS / Project Financial Audit for FYs 2022,2023	21-Mar-24	21-Dec-24	Least – cost – based Selection



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No	Contract	Date of contract signing	Contract completion	Procurement method
20	MD-PIU-NORLD-365353-CS-CQS / Video spot promoting WSS program, TUM	14-Jul-23	30-Aug-23	Consultant's qualifications-based selection (CQS)
21	MD-PIU-NORLD-371486-NC-RFQ / Printing of promotion materials for the Moldova Water Security and Sanitation Project	29-Sep-23	15-Oct-23	Request for Quotations
	<i>Note:</i>	contract completed	ongoing contract	contract terminated

*Source: data provided by PIU*

b. Date regarding the Ongoing procurement packages (Consulting Services) under MWSS Project

No	Contract	Package Status
<b>I Firms</b>		
1	MD-PIU-NORLD-346083-CS-CDS / Review and Update of Detailed Design Technical Documents for Riscani Sub-project implementation	The procurement process cannot be finalized due to lack of an operating evaluation committee (since mid April, the Chairman of the EC resigned from NORLD). Alternative technical solution is under the examination.
2	MD-PIU-NORLD-346141-CS-CQS / Consultancy Services to develop the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment and Environmental and Social Management Plan for Riscani Water Supply Sub-project	Evaluation Report signed on June 24, 2024. RFP transmitted to the selected Consultant on June 25, 2024. Proposal submission deadline scheduled for: July 12, 2024 (The procurement process delayed due to lack of an operating evaluation committee, since mid-April)
3	MD-PIU-NORLD-346209-CS-QCBS / Elaboration of the National Development Plan for the Water Supply and Sanitation Sector in Moldova, the Long-Term Investment Programme and the Financing Strategy	EOIs received on May 31, 3034: 22 expressions of interest. Evaluation of received EOIs ongoing
4	MD-PIU-NORLD-376569-CS-CQS / Elaboration of the Baseline Assessment and the Performance Improvement Plan for the selected WSS Operators of the MWSSP	Readvertised the 4th time on May 17, 2024 with the deadline for EOIs submission on June 07, 2024. Evaluation of received EOIs ongoing.
5	MD-PIU-NORLD-417360-CW-RFB / Execution of works to improve WASH facilities in schools - South	RFB published on June 21, 2024 with the deadline for Bids submission on July 31, 2024.
6	Call for Proposals for the selection of a locality that will benefit from alternative sanitation solutions in individual households	Launched on June 17, 2024 with the deadline of proposals' submission on July 15, 2024.
<b>II Individual Consultants</b>		
7	MD-PIU-NORLD-395565-CS-INDV / National consultant to support the development of the Management Informational System (MIS)	The ToR is under revision from IC to Consulting Services Firm
8	MD-PIU-NORLD-432026-CS-INDV / National Consultant for Capacity Development Needs Assessment Report and development of the Capacity Development Plan for Lead Unit – MIRD	REOI published on June 10, 2024 with the presentation deadline on June 24, 2024. Deadline for EOI submission extended until July 08, 2024.

*Source: data provided by PIU*



**Annex 2. Intermediate Results Indicators (Semi-annually frequency) by Components on June 30, 2024**

	<b>Indicator Name</b>	<b>Baseline</b>	<b>Intermediate Targets, Year 1</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Evaluation Status on June 30, 2024</b>
<b>IRI_1.1</b>	<b>Subcomponent 1.1: Expanding access and quality of WSS services</b>				
IRI_1.1.1	Number of households with a functional connection to a safely managed water supply service (Number)	0.00	0.00	Semi-annually	0.00
IRI_1.1.1s	Number of households with increased resilience to droughts resulting from a functional connection to a safely managed water supply service (Number)	0.00	0.00	Semi-annually	0.00
IRI_1.1.2	Number of households with a functional sewer connection to a safely managed sanitation service (Number)	0.00	0.00	Semi-annually	0.00
IRI_1.1.2e	Number of households contributing to reduction in GHG emissions resulting from a functional sewer connection to a safely managed sanitation service (Number)	0.00	0.00	Semi-annually	0.00
IRI_1.1.3	Wastewater and septage treated in selected small towns as per national discharge standards (Cubic meters/year)	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>Annually</b>	<b>N/A***</b>
IRI_1.1.4	Number of households gaining access to safely managed sanitation through the on-site household sanitation pilot (Number)	0.00	100.00	Semi-annually	0.00
IRI_1.1.5s	Number of poor and vulnerable households gaining access to safely managed sanitation services (Number)	0.00	0.00	Semi-annually	0.00
<b>IRI_1.2</b>	<b>Subcomponent 1.2: Improving WASH facilities in public institutions</b>				
IRI_1.2.1	Number of schools with functional safely managed drinking water supply, and basic sanitation and hygiene facilities (Number)	0.00	0.00	Semi-annually	0.00
IRI_1.2.2	Number of health care facilities with functional safely managed drinking water supply, basic sanitation and hygiene facilities (Number)	0.00	0.00	Semi-annually	0.00
IRI_1.2.3	Number of people in schools participating in hygiene education and communication programs (Number)	0.00	0.00	Semi-annually	0.00
IRI_1.2.3g	Out of which female	0.00	0.00	Semi-annually	0.00
<b>IRI_2.1</b>	<b>Subcomponent 2.1.: Building national institutional capacity for WSS</b>				
IRI_2.1.1	Number of legislative and/or normative documents developed in support of sector modernization (Number) *	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>Annually</b>	<b>N/A*</b>
IRI_2.1.2	National Management Information System (MIS) for WSS service providers developed and operational (Text)	<b>No national system exists; KPIs are not yet agreed</b>	<b>KPIs defined and approved by ANRE</b>	<b>Annually</b>	<b>N/A**</b>

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	<b>Indicator Name</b>	<b>Baseline</b>	<b>Intermediate Targets, Year 1</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Evaluation Status on June 30, 2024</b>
IRI_2.1.3	Number of participants that have successfully completed accredited professional development program and that advance or gain employment in technical positions in WSS utility sector (Number)	0.00	0.00	Annually	N/A
IRI_2.1.3g	Number of female participants successfully completing the accredited professional development program and that advance or gain employment in technical positions within the WSS utility sector (Number)	0.00	0.00	Annually	N/A
IRI_2.1.4	Number of people benefitting from training and workshops related to regulatory framework, policy implementation and the use sector MIS (Number)	0.00	0.00	Semi-annually	0.00
IRI_2.1.4g	out of which female (Percentage)	0.00	0.00	Semi-annually	0.00
<b>IRI_2.2</b>	<b>Subcomponent 2.2: Improving performance of WSS service providers</b>				
IRI_2.2.1	Average relative reduction of Non Revenue Water (expressed in m <sup>3</sup> /km network per year) for participating utilities compared to baseline value (Percentage) ****	0.00	0.00	Annually	N/A****
IRI_2.2.2	Average relative increase of Total Cost Coverage ratio for participating utilities over the baseline value (Percentage)	0.00	0.00	Annually	N/A
IRI_2.2.3	Share of beneficiaries who report that the project has established effective engagement processes (Percentage)	0.00	75.00	Annually	N/A
IRI_2.2.3g	Share of female beneficiaries who report that the project has established effective engagement processes (Percentage)	0.00	75.00	Annually	N/A

*Source: Project Appraisal Document and the PIU's data*