

Situational report

Name of project / Don Bosco institution	Children's Home 'Casa Mama Margherita', Chişinău (Moldavia)
Project number at DB Bonn	INE 23-040
Director of Don Bosco institution	Fr. Andrea Ballan
Reporting period	September 2023 – August 2024
Date of report	03.10.2024
Author of report (Name, position)	Fr. Andrea Ballan, sdb - director

Please take some time to complete this questionnaire. This way you give us and the benefactor a good impression of the current situation. It is important for us to be well informed about positive and/or negative developments of the institution.

1. General information:

How many beneficiaries of the different programmes/activities (e.g. school, boarding, oratory) do you have resources (e.g. staff, accommodation, food) for? How many children/youth are actually involved in the programmes/activities in your institution (boys and girls)? Which age groups do they belong to?

Our Centre is engaged on 5 fronts:

1. The Children's home for abandoned children;
2. The Oratory/Youth Centre to create a safe place for children and young people to meet in their spare time, to spread Christian values among them, and to develop the practice of sport at an amateur level;
3. The Vocational (professional) Training Centre for welders (40-hour courses);
4. Two Parishes, one in Chisinau for the pastoral care of the small Catholic community in the neighbourhood, and one in the village of Cretoaia, 28 km from Chisinau.
5. Since September 2022 we organised an After-school program.

Our Foster Home can accommodate up to 10 boys.

Our Oratory/Youth Centre can organise activities for up to 200 children.

Our Vocational Training Centre can teach up to 12 students simultaneously (there are 12 workstations).

Our after-school program can enrol up to 30 children.

12 boys (9-18 years old) were hosted in the Children's Home in the reported period. Two of them only for a short time. All are from dysfunctional families (alcoholism and addiction, domestic violence, sexual abuse, homelessness, etc.).

Our Oratory/Youth Centre is open daily.

In June 2024 we organized two summer camps for children from Ukraine. 60 children (7-14 years old) attended these camps and 10 local volunteers were involved.

In July 2024 we organised a three-week summer camp for 150 children (7-14 years old) and 30 young volunteers/animators.

In August we organized a 10-day summer camp for 40 children (7-14 years old) in Cretoaia.

In the past school year, we organised three welding courses.

Our parish Churches functioned normally. We celebrated one baptism, and three first communions. These are quite rare events in our context, mainly orthodox.

About 25 children (7-15 years old) were enrolled in our after-school program, both Ukrainian and Moldovan.

Do you offer activities for adults (family members, community, women, staff)?
Please give us more details.

We offer regular formation meetings to the staff of our Children's Home, led both by the Salesians and by invited experts.
We offer monthly catechetical meetings for adults in our parish churches, as well as preparation courses for those who want to celebrate the sacrament of marriage.
We offer master classes and advanced courses for welders.

What is the current financial demand for the different programmes/activities?

The annual budget for the Children's Home is about 150,000 euros. Unfortunately, the State does not give any funding, except what it offers to all children, regardless of their social status: free lunch for children up to 10 years old and for those who attend Vocational training centres. A small monthly contribution is also granted to all those attending Vocational training centres to cover transport costs (public transport pass), and other small necessities.

The annual budget for the Oratory/Youth Centre is about 70,000 euros. Almost one-third of the budget is to buy or prepare meals for the children during the Summer Camps. Most of the expenses are covered by the contributions we ask parents.

A welding course costs about 500 euros per person. Companies, that are interested in training their workers, pay for the course, as do private individuals who are willing to acquire new skills. We are looking for sponsors ready to offer scholarships to students who wish to attend our courses but cannot afford the cost. The budget for the scholarships for one year (60 students) is about 30,000 euros. At the moment, we are considering offering scholarships covering the all costs of the course, although they will have to buy their equipment (clothing, shoes, welding helmets, gloves, etc.).

The annual budget for the two Parishes is about 10,000 euros. Most of the costs are covered by diocesan funding. A small part of the costs is covered by the offerings of the parishioners.

The annual budget for the after-school program for children who live in difficult situations and need some help to do their homework is about 30,000 euros.

What is the current financial situation of the project/institution?

What are your main costs? Have the costs for food, school materials, living etc. risen or stayed/remained roughly the same?

The current financial situation of the projects is stable. The main costs of the projects are related to salaries, utilities and raw materials.

Please indicate the costs for

1) Food for a child per month:

120 €

2) School fees per child for a school year:

480 €

3) School materials (uniform, books, pencils etc.) per child:

400 €

4) Accommodation for a child per month:

750 €

Please add the annual budget for 2025 including your estimated expenditures and the confirmed income.

	Description	Months	€ per m.	2025
1	Human Resources			
1.1	Project manager 50%	12	920,00 €	11.040,00 €
1.2	Administrator 25%	12	406,00 €	4.872,00 €
1.3	Maintenance Technician 25%	12	460,00 €	5.520,00 €
1.4	Educators (3 persons) 100%	13	4.387,00 €	57.031,00 €
1.5	Psychologist 50%	12	856,00 €	10.272,00 €
1.6	Social Assistant 25%	12	348,00 €	4.176,00 €
1.7	Cook 100%	13	1.070,00 €	13.910,00 €
1.8	Cleaner (Maid) 50%	13	535,00 €	6.955,00 €
	Subtotal (Human Resources)		8.982,00 €	113.776,00 €
2	Utilities			
2.1	Water and sewage	12	110,00 €	1.320,00 €
2.2	Electricity	12	330,00 €	3.960,00 €
2.3	Gas	12	286,00 €	3.432,00 €
2.4	Garbage	12	16,50 €	198,00 €
2.5	Phone & internet	12	77,00 €	924,00 €
2.6	Security service	12	33,00 €	396,00 €
2.7	Fuel & car maintenance	12	143,00 €	1.716,00 €
2.8	Other services	12	93,50 €	1.122,00 €
2.9	Financial services	12	264,00 €	3.168,00 €
	Subtotal (Utilities)		1.353,00 €	16.236,00 €
3	Consumables			
3.1	Food & beverages	12	1.150,00 €	13.800,00 €
3.2	Clothes and shoes for children	12	230,00 €	2.760,00 €
3.3	Personal hygiene products	12	57,50 €	690,00 €
3.4	Drugs & Medical expenses	12	57,50 €	690,00 €
3.5	Cleaning products	12	230,00 €	2.760,00 €
3.6	School expenses	12	34,50 €	414,00 €
3.7	Sport & leisure activities	12	172,50 €	2.070,00 €
3.8	House maintenance	12	138,00 €	1.656,00 €
3.9	Others	12	23,00 €	276,00 €
	Subtotal (Consumables)		2.093,00 €	25.116,00 €
4	Contingency (inflation, exchange rate, emergencies)	2%		3.102,56 €
5	Audit			1.000,00 €
6	Development, fundraising, administration, reporting (Don Bosco Mission Bonn)			3.703,70 €
7	TOTAL PROJECT COSTS			162.934,26 €

2. What has happened during the year?

Several programmes/activities have been carried out throughout the year.

Please describe the development of the institution and its programmes so that we get a clear picture of the current situation. Did you face any problems and how did you solve them?

During this year our centre recovered and consolidated. Growth opportunities were represented by the implementation of projects for the benefit of Ukrainian refugees and the local population in cooperation with other local and international NGOs. Very important for us is the after-school programme, which we are offering for the third year: on the one hand it allows us to follow the children's growth more systematically, and on the other hand it allows us to be more in touch with their families. The 10 weeks of summer activities we organised were a success. We overcame the consequences of last summer's salmonella infection. Parents have shown that they have not lost their trust in us. As far as personnel is concerned, Fr Sergio ended his assignment as head of the oratory at the end of July and returned to Italy for a sabbatical year. His position has been taken over by Fr Fabrizio, in Chisinau from 2022.

Are there new acts/regulations/developments (on government, local, institutional level) that influence your work? How?

Please name and describe them and report on the influence they have on the institution.

During this year, there were no changes in legislation that significantly affected our activities. Moldova's path to EU membership continues and this, from our point of view, is positive. Let's see what the outcome of the referendum on EU membership and the elections for the new president of the Republic of Moldova, both scheduled for 20 October, will be. However, the continuing war in Ukraine is a cause for concern.

Most donors find it difficult to imagine what life looks like in the centre. Thus, we would like to give them an insight. Please describe the programmes/activities that were most important for the children/ youth (what? who? when? where? what for?).

The life of a boy in a children's home is similar to that of all other boys. During the school year, our boys attend the neighbourhood school until the age of 16. After finishing grade 9, they can choose which course of study to take. Generally, they are oriented towards vocational schools to be able to support themselves financially once they have finished their studies and come of age.

At home, our children are busy cleaning their rooms and common areas. They take turns washing dishes and helping the cook in the kitchen. They learn to wash their laundry and iron.

In the afternoons they are supported by the educators and volunteers in doing their homework.

They regularly attend the oratory in their free time, socialising with other children in the neighbourhood. They are also involved in sports, at an amateur level, either in the oratory, at school, or in other sports centres of their choice (swimming, cycling, judo, etc.).

Our educators, in cooperation with the psychologist, organise a personal development plan for each boy to strengthen their self-esteem and promote harmonious psycho-emotional development. Daily there are moments of prayer together.

Everyone is involved in preparing festivities: from birthdays and anniversaries to religious and civil festivities. Throughout the year there is no lack of outings, museum visits, city walks, participation in shows and other social events.

Where possible, we foster the children's relationships with their relatives.

The oratory/youth centre is a safe place where children can spend their free time. Our oratory is a space for gathering and socialising. It is open to everyone free of charge. It is an environment where young people can forget their mobile phones and immerse themselves in authentic, face-to-face relationships.

Our oratory is open daily. Children can choose what they want to play or do. Thanks to the voluntary service of animators, various tournaments and team games are organised especially during the weekends.

Our oratory is also a place of personal development. Group meetings are offered, where children, divided by age, can discuss various topics, moderated by animators. The experience of group discussion is very enriching for the children, who can share their experiences and feel listened to. The presence of adult animators in the groups ensures that a climate of respect and mutual trust is created in the group. The proposed activities also make it possible to perceive the difficulties that many children experience and thus to set up support interventions.

In the afternoon, children are given a snack. Many children, especially the younger ones and the poor, really appreciate this time of conviviality.

The summer camps are an amplification of what is done in the oratory during the year. Summer camps see the explosion of joy.

For those young people who commit themselves as animators, summer camps are an exciting volunteer experience. Caring for the well-being of the youngest helps many teenagers take responsibility and overcome certain inferiority complexes.

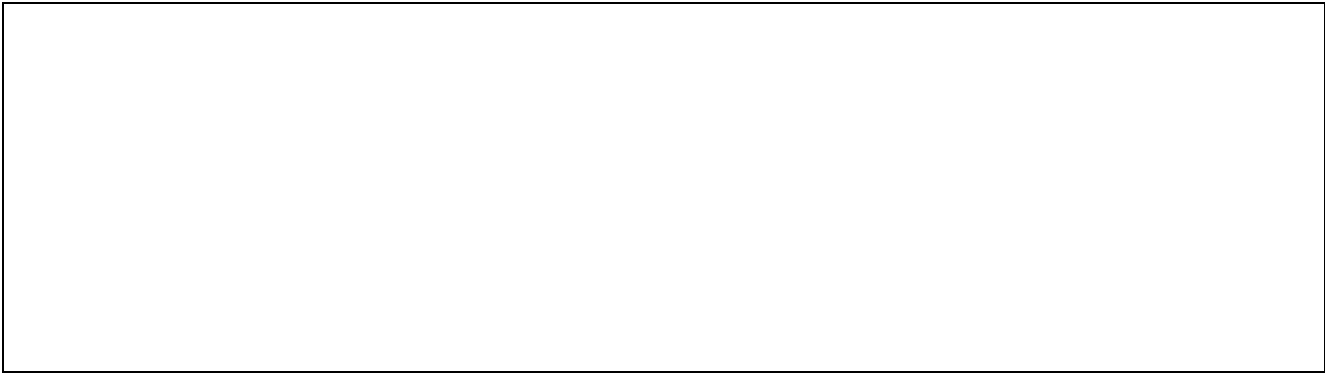
For children, summer camps are an unforgettable socialising experience. After a year of sitting at school desks, they can let off steam in games, tournaments, excursions or dances.

Summer camps are also of great benefit to parents who see their children come home in the evening tired but happy and eager to return to camp the next day.

Welding courses are aimed at young people studying to become welders at state vocational training centres.

Our workshop is well-equipped to weld using three technologies: electrode, MIG/MAG and TIG.

Moldova's state vocational training centres, on the other hand, have outdated workshops (in some cases they still have equipment from the end of communism) due to a state education policy that sees vocational training centres as the last link in the chain, where children with low academic performance are poured into. This makes the children even more unmotivated to learn and consequently deprived of the chance to build a decent future by working honestly.



If available, please add additional relevant information, newsletter, newspaper articles or an annual report to give further insight into your work.

3. Pictures

<https://we.tl/t-JTJVYUomLi>

With the provision of the pictures, we and the depicted person/people agree that you may use the photos for fundraising and campaigning purposes.

4. Case Studies (Optional)