

**PROJECT TITLE: "Competitiveness as an Alternative for Survival" Project (CAS)**

OBJECTIVE OF THE PROJECT: CAS aimed to raise awareness of philanthropy and entrepreneurship and support 100 women who would become vectors of social and economic development for their rural communities. The CAS Project was meant to impact the well-being of the rural community in the Soroca district and the joint responsibility in its development.

Targeted beneficiaries: The target group consisted of 78 people of all ages, 50% women, from the rural area of Soroca district who lived below the poverty line.

Other potential beneficiaries:

- Families of (potential) victims of human trafficking in Soroca County
- The general public including community members, local and national government, civil society, and other non-governmental organizations.

**PROGRESS OF THE PROJECT:**

Within this project Community Association SOARTA accomplished the following:

- 87 autonomous businesses were developed in the rural areas of the Soroca district.
- The target groups in the rural regions of Soroca district improved their living conditions with income levels of 50%.
- At least 261 people (consisting of 87 enterprises and 87 families, each family has at least three people) from the rural environment of the Soroca district are now above the poverty level.
- The Women Entrepreneur Network (WEN) was created.
- A sustainable development strategy was developed by WEN.
- Sixty meetings (consulting, pieces of training, coaching, exchange of experience) were organized by WEN.
- 24 interventions in the Local Councils were held, regarding the importance of entrepreneurship, the social economy, the responsibility of citizens for the development of their community, and the increasing role of women in the community.
- 15 charity events were organized by WEN.
- 15 local project proposals were submitted to Local Councils for community development.
- Fifteen volunteer projects were developed.

In general SOARTA:

1. Developed autonomous businesses that could survive the completion of the project to improve the living conditions of low-income families.
2. Created independent cooperation between female entrepreneurs to strengthen their overall participation in their communities' lives.
3. Improved understanding of shared responsibility in community development to contribute directly to community cohesion and prosperity.

Within this project, women from rural areas had the opportunity to learn for FREE what a business is and how to start and manage a business successfully; 87 of them received all the financial support to open their businesses and support in managing their company during the project's implementation. It should be noted that all the businesses initiated by women within the implementation of this project are still functional today, becoming a source of livelihood for the families of these female entrepreneurs.