

PROJECT TITLE: **Winter help for the elderly and disabled people**

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OBJECTIVE OF THE PROJECT: Provide as many older adults as possible with help for the cold period of the year in the form of wood, coal, electricity and gas, duvets, sheets, towels, clothing, and shoes.

SOARTA Public Association could not be indifferent to the situation of elderly and disabled people. That is why we submitted this project proposal: to help a certain number of people and be by their side during this challenging moment for each of them.

Granting help during the cold period to warm up was and is very important for them because, over several years, the price of coal wood and the payment for electricity and gas have increased considerably (almost tripled from year to year). The pension or salary for families with many children has often remained the same. Therefore, it does not even cover the needs of a family.

During the first years of this project's implementation, we distributed free wood, coal, electricity, gas, duvets, sheets, towels, clothing, and shoes to older adults and invalids.

Then, for 15 years, SOARTA Public Association distributed FREE coal and wood to thousands of people from the northern part of the Republic of Moldova during the cold period. Now, the population of the Republic of Moldova is facing significant financial problems because the prices of food products, electricity, fuel, and coal have tripled. Salary and pensions have remained the same, and it isn't easy for a family with five children. Where only one family member works to support the whole family, even if this aid of 400 kg or 500 kg of coal is not enough for the cold period, it is enough to save for food for a month or two.

During all this time, the team realized that everyone must be involved to provide help. There is a beautiful saying from the people: "Where there is one, there is no power; where there are many,

power increases."

The SOARTA Public Association had the local churches as distribution partners, who helped us to identify and notify people on the day when the coal and/or wood had to be distributed. Because not everyone in the villages has a phone or internet connection to talk to them, the priests and volunteers go to their homes to notify them.

Older people are considered to be a vulnerable group, mainly because they risk a reduction in participation in various areas of life with the loss of their job, decrease in income, and worsening of their health.

Thanks in large part to the generous support of the MAX Foundation in the Netherlands, the Public Association "SOARTA" brings rays of joy to the sad faces of the elderly year after year. It offers them opportunities to warm themselves in the winter by providing coal and wood and paying for electricity and gas for those without stoves.

Year after year, hundreds and thousands of beneficiaries benefit from this help, and the number of those who request our help is increasing considerably every year.