**Project Summary**

**Project Background**

Despite significant achievements in economic development and poverty reduction in the Republic of Moldova, the local infrastructure is poorly managed, and its condition deteriorates constantly. Local public administrations have limited financial means and suffer from a shortage of qualified staff. In particular, the provision of public services to the population of rural areas is unsatisfactory.

In the recent years, a series of reforms have been introduced in the public sector. In 2006, the Parliament passed the Law on Decentralization which aims at strengthening local self-government. A new Ministry of Construction and Regional Development was established to increase and accelerate the socio-economic development in different regions of the country. Responsibility for the decentralization policy was handed over to the State Chancellery.

**Project Objectives**

The objective of this project was to improve the provision of public services in rural areas. The target group of the development measure was the population of 9-12 rural communities selected in different rayons from the North, Centre and South development region of the country, the RDAs and RDCs. The project developed the capacity of the Regional Development Agencies (RDAs), Regional Development Councils (RDCs) and Local Public Authorities (Rayon-level) in the fields of planning and programming for the delivery of local public services and thereby contributed to the development of Regional Operation Plans. The range of local public services addressed by the project comprised Water and Sanitation, Solid Waste Management, Energy Efficiency in Public Buildings and Regional and Rural Roads.

In the scope of the expanded MLPS, the partner institutions were supported by:
- updating the National Strategy for Regional Development (NSRD),
- updating regional development strategies with regional sector programmes,
- developing a project pipeline of investment fiches,
- developing capacities of local and regional administrations and development structures (i.e., the RDAs and RDCs).

**Project Results**

- Integrated Regional Operational Plans (ROP) on Water Supply and Sanitation (WSS), Solid Waste Management (SWM), Energy Efficiency in Public Buildings (EE) and Regional and Rural Roads (RLR) are prepared by each of the RDAs North, Centre and South.
- A project pipeline of investment fiches (in the priority areas WSS, SWM, EE and RLR) is developed;
- Coordination capacities of local and regional administrations and development structures (i.e., the RDA and RDC) concerning the elaboration of ROPs are developed.

**Services Provided**

- Assistance in the preparation of investment projects for physical infrastructure works funded by BMZ;
- Support to the Ministry of Regional Development and Construction (MRDC) for the updating of the National Strategy for Regional Development (NSRD);
- Development of 11 regional sector programmes on water supply and sanitation (WSS), solid waste management (SWM), energy efficiency for public buildings (EE) and regional and rural roads (RLR) for RDAs North, Centre and South;
- Preparation of investment project pipeline for at least 90 investment projects in public assets with a total worth of EUR 191.7 million in the areas of WSS, SWM, EE, RLR, based on integrated and participatory local planning exercises and in line with sector priorities and norms;
- Technical and financial planning (at pre-feasibility and feasibility level, incl. EIAs and socio-economic appraisals) as well as quality control of proposal for national and international funds;
- Development of trainings on various management and planning tools (project management pathway methodology, gender and social action plans);
- Training of leadership and administration staff regional/national stakeholders and support groups.