

**Domestic Violence Policy in Romania:
Support to the National Coalition Against Violence
2002 – 2006**

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List of Acronyms and Abbreviations

APFR	Asociația pentru Promovarea Femei în România (Association to Promote Women in Romania)
DV	Domestic Violence
EEIRH	Institutul Est European de Sanatate a Reproducerii (Eastern European Institute for Reproductive Health)
EU	European Union
GBV	Gender Based Violence
GRADO	Grupul Român pentru Apararea Drepturilor Omului (Romanian Group for Defending Human Rights)
JSI R&T	John Snow Research & Training Institute, Inc.
MLSSF	Ministerul Muncii, Solidaritatii Sociale si Familiei (Ministry of Labor, Social Solidarity and Family)
MOH	Ministerul Sanatatii (Ministry of Health)
NAFP	Agentia Nationala pentru Protectia Familiei (National Agency for Family Protection)
NGO	Non-governmental organization
PIN	Program de Importanță Națională (Program of National Importance)
RFHI	Romania Family Health Initiative
SEF	Șanse Egale pentru Femei (Equal Chances for Women)
SIRDO	Societatea Independentă Română pentru Drepturile Omului (Romania Independent Society on Human Rights)
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WHO	World Health Organization

Domestic Violence Policy in Romania

I. Executive Summary

Violence against women is a universal phenomenon that occurs in all parts of the world.¹ Several social movements since the change of government in 1989 have uncovered the need to address the issue of domestic violence in Romania. Now, with European Union (EU) accession in January 2007, the country is in the process of designing social programs, including domestic violence, and the corresponding legislation to meet the criteria suggested by the EU.

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) has supported domestic violence prevention activities through Women in Development and Gender and Development programs around the world. Its activities are part of cross-cutting areas addressing gender equality in reproductive health, democracy, human rights advocacy and social programs. The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) includes domestic violence in reproductive rights, as a sexual and reproductive health problem. In 2001, the UNFPA produced the Gender Based Violence Guide² (GBV) to be used as a reference guide to generate support beyond the clinical setting, which includes: 1. General advocacy on gender violence; 2. Legislative and policy changes; 3. Capacity building of partners including civil society organizations; and 4. Research and data collection on GBV.

Through the work of the Romanian Family Health Initiative (RFHI), John Snow Research & Training Institute (JSI R&T) has coordinated with and supported Romanian nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) to create the National Coalition Against Violence as a mechanism to strengthen the civil society capacity to fight violence against women. The Coalition has facilitated long term partnerships among the NGOs and improved communication between civil society and government. The Coalition has been instrumental in coordinating activities and fostering legislation to prevent violence in Romania.

RFHI has played an active role in identifying partners to work on domestic violence issues in Romania and in coordinating the participation and collaboration of the key local NGOs. These include the Counseling Center for Women and Girls Against Sexual Abuse and Violence (known as *Artemis*), the Eastern European Institute for Reproductive Health (EEIRH) the Center for Women's Protection in the Industrial Platform (APACA), among others, and the key funding agencies - USAID, UNFPA, the World Bank, the EU and European Commission (EC), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and others.

¹ WHO Multi-country study, 2005

² Gender Based Violence: A Price Too High www.unfpa.org

This report outlines important events and activities related to building awareness and preventing domestic violence in Romania through JSI R&T's support to the National Coalition Against Violence. The conclusions here address four areas for follow-up and support, including: research, capacity development, advocacy and sustainability.

1. Research: More information and data are needed on the prevalence and determinants of domestic violence in Romania to monitor trends and changing attitudes that determine the phenomenon of violence, to assess the effectiveness of current programs, and to identify gaps in the system.
2. Capacity development: It is important to improve services and ensure ongoing training for the professionals involved in victims' assistance including law enforcement officials, medical professionals, judges and lawyers, social workers, psychologists, and others.
3. Advocacy and communication: Gender equity and domestic violence issues should be on the political agenda of the Ministry of Labor, Social Solidarity and Family (MLSSF), the Ministry of Health (MOH) and other ministries. The roles of social workers and medical professionals regarding domestic violence (DV) should be clearly defined.
4. Sustainability of the National Coalition Against Violence: Specific roles for the Coalition, as the repository of the grassroots experience and in-depth expertise in the field of combating and preventing violence, must be promoted by the National Coalition representatives and by its partners (including local and national government institutions). The Coalition should become involved in developing, implementing and monitoring the effects of official policies; conducting training programs for professional; and monitoring the extent and effects of violence nationwide.

II. Background

The World Health Organization (WHO) introduced violence against women as a public health problem, based on its immediate and long-term impact on mental and physical health. Governments are responsible, and should be accountable, for creating national health-sector policies, protocols, and norms addressing violence, with special attention to gender based violence, and for ensuring quality care services for victims of abuse.

The view of the EU is that violence against women and children is the single most prevalent and universal violation of human rights that exists in all countries and across all social classes. In the "Roadmap for equality between women and men, 2006 – 2010," eradicating gender based violence and trafficking is listed as one of the six priority areas for EU action. Starting in 1997, the EU developed the Daphne Program,³ with a focus on violence prevention including eliminating gender stereotypes in society, offering effective and adequate support to victims,

³ DAPHNE II: Program to combat violence against children, young people and women

and promoting initiatives that focus on the perpetrators in order to end the circle of violence.

Culturally, in Eastern Europe, partner violence has been considered a private issue where other persons need not interfere or concern themselves. Cultural norms continue to permit abusive situations and often limit the likelihood of police or prosecutors becoming involved. Addressing the negative connotations of partner violence in this context will take time. However, international human rights law is clear: states have a duty to exercise due diligence to prevent, prosecute and punish violence against women.⁴

The first structured reaction to the phenomenon of violence against women in Romania came from civil society in 1995. For the first time in the six years since the change from communism to a democratic society, several NGOs reacted to gaps in the social system by starting programs to address issues related to violence against women. The first programs included research on trafficking, prostitution and sexual abuse, creating support services for victims, and setting up temporary shelters. The role of NGOs has been very important in providing services that fall outside the purview of governmental agencies: to provide a safety net of services for violence victims.

In 1996 and 1997, human rights groups in large cities in Romania developed the first anti-domestic violence campaigns to build awareness of the issue, and to create incentives for other NGOs to develop similar initiatives around the country. All initiatives shared similar strengths, including a high level of professional expertise, client oriented services, and a strong spirit of volunteerism. Unfortunately, they also shared weaknesses that included:

1. Dependence on external funding;
2. Small scale impact of their interventions;
3. Little communication, sharing or coordination among the NGOs;
4. Inconsistent service provision; and,
5. Lack of institutional capacity for effectively influencing policy at the national level.

Since collaboration and mutual support among the NGOs was very limited, there was no large-scale anti-violence program in place. In this context, JSI/Romania's strategy was to support the formation of a coalition of active NGOs as a way to improve communication and build partnerships, and to work together to better address the issues related to domestic violence in Romania. The organization of a national system for domestic violence prevention became part of the 2002 JSI/Romania reproductive health strategy. Through various actions, JSI's role as facilitator and mediator for the formation of the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence began to emerge in 2002-2003.

⁴ WHO Multi-country study, 2005

The Romanian Ministry of Health (MOH) was appointed the lead agency to fight domestic violence in 2001, as part of its broader reproductive health mandate. It was apparent that legislation needed to be updated and that the Coalition Against Violence could provide input for a new regulatory framework. In May 2003, the law 217/2003, regulating DV issues, was endorsed by The Parliament. At the end of May 2003, the Government was restructured, and the Ministry of Labor, Social Solidarity and Family (MLSSF) became the public executive body responsible for family welfare-related issues, including domestic violence. In December 2003, a new agency, the National Agency for Family Protection (NAFP), was created to handle matters of domestic violence.

The creation of the National Coalition Against Violence was a joint effort promoted by JSI R&T and the Partnership for Equality Center (CPE). An assessment tool was developed by JSI R&T and applied to all identified NGOs to assess their institutional capacity and involvement in implementing DV activities. As a result, in the process of founding the Coalition, the first database with information about existing DV services was created and used to identify local stakeholders. The NGOs were contacted in 2002 and the National Coalition Against Violence was formed at the first annual conference in 2003 in Sinaia. The Coalition encouraged the district public health authorities (DPHA) involvement in supporting DV activities in some cities.

Table 1 is a list of some of the most important events related to domestic violence prevention and awareness in Romania in the last ten years. It shows that USAID and JSI R&T have been key supporters to fight violence in Romania. The Romanian Group for Defending Human Rights (GRADO) was the first group to address domestic violence issues in Romania in 1996. In 1999, Romanian agencies began to recognize November as domestic violence month, and to take part in the 16 International Days of Activism Against Domestic Violence based on the United Nations (UN) decision to address violence in 1993.⁵ During the month of November, public awareness campaigns are introduced to direct attention to the aggressions committed, the unfairness of legislation and the inequality in the system related to violence and women. *Cosmopolitan* magazine led the first signature collection campaign and initiative to support legislation against DV in 1999.



The RFHI, funded by USAID and managed by JSI Research & Training Institute, Inc. has supported domestic violence awareness campaign activities since 2002. These campaigns have been included as part of V-Day activities and linked to the global network to stop violence.⁶

⁵ Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women, World Conference on Human Rights, Vienna, 1993

⁶ V-Day is a global movement to stop violence against women and girls. V-Day is a catalyst that promotes creative events to increase awareness, raise money and revitalize the spirit of existing anti-violence organizations. V-Day

Several awareness raising events took place over the past few years to help draw attention to and provide support for violence prevention activities in Romania. The “*Silent Witness*” was first used in 2000 by Equal Chances for Women (SEF) in Iasi. This awareness raising technique uses black silhouettes of women and children, while a case history of how these persons were killed from acts of domestic violence is read out loud to the audience. The method was used again on a national level by the Association for Women’s Protection in Romania (APFR) to educate the public and decision-makers during the 16 International Days of Activism against Domestic Violence in November 2004.

Many remember the *Playboy* scandal in 2000 as a pivotal point in the attention given to domestic violence as a social issue in Romania. In the April issue of the magazine, domestic violence was portrayed as being acceptable and the norm in Romania⁷. Subsequently, large public demonstrations organized by women’s groups and supported by *Cosmopolitan* magazine to combat the *Playboy* messages took place in Revolution Square in Bucharest. Under pressure from the NGO and *Cosmopolitan*-organized protests, *Playboy* publicly apologized and donated U.S. \$10,000 to two recognized NGOs working to assist the victims of violence.

The *Stop Rape Campaign* was sponsored by the EEIRH in Targu Mures in 2002. As part of the campaign, V-Day / Vagina Monologues⁸ was translated and produced by the EEIRH and presented in several locations around the country including Cluj, Bucharest and Targu Mures. JSI R&T, with USAID funds, supported extending the campaign and expanding the theater presentations to several other cities in 2003 and 2004.

During the same year, the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) funded the “*Men Say No to Violence*” campaign and implemented it in ten cities around the country, with the support of eleven partner NGOs. This represented a turning point from the perspective of joint NGO actions since it was the first event to unite the NGOs anti-violence initiatives in Romania. It illustrated the need for joint action in fighting a social problem that was gaining more visibility and broader public concern at the national level.

With the issuance of the new domestic violence law in 2003 (a pre-election year), the formation of the National Coalition Against Violence at the first Sinaia conference, the transfer of responsibility from the MOH to the MLSSF, and the

generates broader attention for the fight to stop violence against women and girls, including rape, battery, incest, female genital mutilation (FGM) and sexual slavery.

⁷ *Playboy* Romania, April 2000, “How to Beat Your Wife...Without Leaving Prints”

⁸ The Vagina Monologues is an award winning play by playwright, performer, and activist Eve Ensler, who, in 1998, created V-Day, a global movement to stop violence against women and girls.

formation of the NAFP, domestic violence gained a more visible place on the public agenda in Romania.

In 2003, national radio and TV campaigns delivered hard-hitting messages with “*The Street*” and the poster of the doorbell with the message “*Indifference makes you an accomplice!*” These public service announcements on radio and TV helped to build awareness of the injustices of domestic violence with powerful messages and images with a strong nationwide coverage.

The year 2003 marked greater involvement of institutions and infrastructure. At the request of the MOH, an Inter-Ministerial Commission was formed to foster participation of all stakeholders and to facilitate their input for developing an anti-violence strategy. All key ministries (MOH, MLSSF, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Police, Ministry for Sport and Youth, NAFP and others) assigned clear responsibilities for working on domestic violence issues to their delegates in the newly formed Inter-Ministerial Commission. JSI R&T and UNFPA played an observer role on the Commission and provided technical assistance for developing the strategy, under a participatory process started during the first Sinaia meeting in 2003, funded by USAID.

In 2004, the idea to create a specialized national agency emerged from the Inter-Ministerial Commission, but unfortunately, the Commission phased out shortly after the creation of the NAFP that year. In 2004, the National Coalition took on a capacity building role by training the staff of the newly created NAFP on issues related to domestic violence.

Awareness building activities by NGOs continued in 2004. On May 15, 2004, Romanian NGOs took the opportunity to address domestic and family violence on the International Day of the Family.

In 2005, USAID helped to create and support the DV Steering Committee and called meetings to update and revise the National DV Strategy. The National Coalition and the NAFP began to negotiate a public-private cooperative agreement, which was finalized and signed in 2006 during the annual meeting held in Sinaia.

During 2004 - 2006, JSI R&T provided continuous technical assistance and support to the DV Coalition in advocating for new legislation and support to the agencies that address domestic violence in Romania. After three years of experience in application of the DV law, professionals concluded that it needed urgent revision. JSI R&T, in conjunction with the American Bar Association (ABA/CEELI) and others, put tremendous effort into developing an improved legislative proposal to be submitted to the Parliament by the end of 2006. The legislation is still pending at the time of writing this report.

In 2006, a Technical Working Group (TWG) of the Coalition met to address organizational development issues, standards and protocols, and other technical aspects related to violence. The DV Coalition formally applied for, and was granted, legal status as a Romanian NGO in Fall, 2006.

Table 1. Illustrative domestic violence events in Romania 1996 – 2006

1996	The first DV project of GRADO
1999	The first initiative of Cosmopolitan magazine to collect signatures to support a legislative initiative on DV
	The first international recognition of November 25 as the International Day to Eliminate Violence Against Women
2000	The first use of “The Silent Witness” by the NGO, Equal Chances for Women (SEF) March 8, International Women’s Day
	Cosmopolitan magazine collected signatures for promoting legislation for DV prevention and control
	April 24, “ <i>The Playboy Scandal</i> ” – April issue contained an article entitled “How to Beat Your Wife Without Leaving Traces,” generating international outrage and the first serious public initiatives; the first street meeting of NGOs against violence
	The 16 International Days of Activism against Domestic Violence, November 25-December 10
2001	The 16 International Days of Activism against Domestic Violence November/December
2002	Stop Rape campaign V-Day campaign / Vagina Monologues by EEIRH, funded by USAID
	Regular meetings of the Inter-ministerial Commission organized by MOH, with USAID and UNFPA support
	Gender based violence (GBV) training for family doctors conducted by Artemis
	The 16 International Days of Activism against Domestic Violence, celebrated during November/December. Funded by United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) in collaboration with 11 NGO partners in ten cities.
2003	First Conference on Preventing and Combating Domestic Violence, Sinaia, DV Coalition created, funded by USAID
	DV law issued
	Public executive responsibility on DV related issues transferred from MOH to the Ministry of Labor, Social Solidarity and Family (MLSSF)
	Awareness campaign on domestic violence radio/TV, “The Street” and “Doorbell” poster, Community Safety and Mediation Center (CSMC)
	The 16 International Days of Activism against Domestic Violence November/December
2004	National Agency for Family Protection formed
	Second National Conference in Sinaia, draft national strategy w/ specific objectives for each stakeholder and for the Coalition, funded by USAID
	Capacity building training on DV for NAFFP
	May 15, International Day of the Family, building awareness of family violence
	‘ <i>Diversifest</i> ’ combating discrimination, GRADO
2005	The 16 International Days of Activism against Domestic Violence, November/December, the first use of “The Silent Witness” at the national level in 10 counties, Association for Women’s Protection in Romania (APFR)
	Red Cross best practices guide for DV services disseminated
	Strategy revisions and adoption following political changes at the end of 2004

	DV Steering Committee meetings held with USAID funded projects
	Third National Conference in Sinaia drafting of the activity plan for the strategy, funded by USAID
	Coalition and the National Agency for Family Protection renew cooperative agreement
	The 16 International Days of Activism against Domestic Violence, November/December
2006	DV Steering Committee meetings held with USAID funded projects
	Meetings of the Technical Working Group of the Coalition held
	Fourth National Conference in Sinaia, funded by USAID
	DV Coalition application for NGO legal status
	The 16 International Days of Activism against Domestic Violence, November/December

III. Domestic Violence Policy in Romania

A. Approaches to Domestic Violence Prevention in Romania

As previously mentioned, the MOH received a clear mandate to combat DV after it was declared a health priority in 2001. The position of the MOH was that domestic violence has a profound impact on women’s reproductive and sexual health, and limits women’s sexual and reproductive autonomy. In 2002, the MOH introduced violence prevention and victim support services in service delivery centers, and trained health providers to better address the needs of the victims.

Domestic violence as a family problem instead of a social problem was the perspective of both MLSSF and the Romanian Orthodox Church (ROC). For different reasons, these institutions focused on family violence, paying particular attention to child abuse. However, because of international commitments such as the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), the Beijing Platform for Action, and EU accession, the MLSSF is in charge of reporting progress in combating violence against women. Nonetheless, the MLSSF has not been fully involved in anti-violence activities and was not involved in domestic violence policy development.

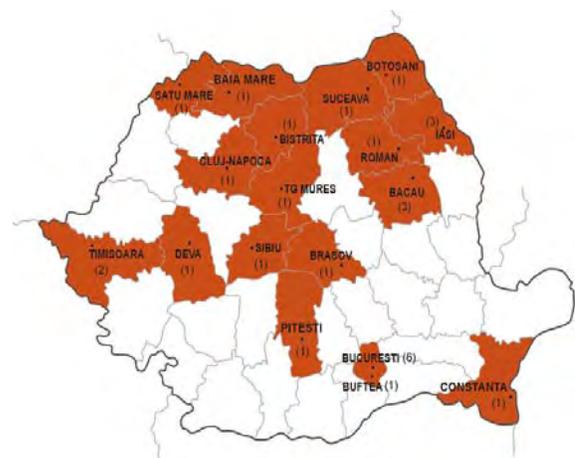
From the beginning, NGO programs against domestic violence have focused on the effects of violence as a health priority for the entire community. Domestic violence as a social issue instead of a personal or family problem was the interpretation of NGOs as a reaction to the MLSSF approach. The focus of NGOs’ work has been on providing free access to legal and psychological counseling and establishing shelters (e.g., Artemis Cluj, APFR Timisoara and Rasnov) for female victims. This focus is in consideration of women’s economic dependence on the male partner and the lack of both legislation and governmental programs to assist DV victims.

The approach of gender based violence as a human rights concern is taken by some NGOs, for example the Romania Independent Society on Human Rights (SIRDO) and GRADO. Violence as a gender issue was the approach of Artemis in Cluj, SEF Iasi, the Community Safety and Mediation Center, Bucovinean Ladies Society Suceava, Activ Association Botoşani, Femina 2000 Association Roman, and the Foundation for Local Initiative Bacau. These are some of the same NGOs that make up the membership of the National Coalition Against Violence.⁹ These NGOs focus on victims' safety, and include victim's self support groups and women's rights as human rights.

B. Interventions and Initiatives

The Pilot Center of Assistance and Protection of the Victims of Domestic Violence, in partnership with the MOH and SIRDO, was established in 1997 following the Beijing Conference (1996). The Center established in Romania was reported to be a huge success at meetings in New York in 2000 (Beijing +5).

A map of NGO activity and public services for violence against women revealed that the country is far from being covered by services (See map, shaded areas indicate locations of DV services). Initiatives to combat DV have been developed in some of the big cities and a few towns. The rural population does not have access to DV services. A significant number of spaces in shelters have been lost and some shelters have closed. Many other specialized services were also closed during 2005-2006. This not only affected the capacity to provide support for victims, but also jeopardized access to accreditation for the NGOs as social services providers.



An innovative intervention model was developed starting in 2001, called the Coordinated Community Response (CCR), to centralize victim safety and offender accountability, based on the “Duluth Intervention Model”.¹⁰ The Little Coalition (composed of members of the Coalition located in Iasi and Bacau, and created with funds from UNIFEM and the Trust Fund in northeast Romania) promoted the Duluth model as part of its mission. The project focus was on creating multidisciplinary teams formed by law enforcement representatives, forensic doctors, lawyers, and NGO representatives, and to establish high standards of protection for DV survivors, according to EU standards and international agreements.

⁹ See Annex 1 for the current NGO partners of the Coalition Against Violence.

¹⁰The Duluth Intervention Model, www.duluth-model.org

C. Policy Development

The new legislation to be submitted to the Parliament is the result of the Coalition's work for a new, fair law to address domestic violence in Romania. The implementation of existing legislation was seriously affected by the 2004 general elections and by insufficiency of financial resources to support it. There was no formal monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the legislation in Romania. A review of the law illustrates the lack of commitment from the former Parliament to include the recommendations of the Coalition in the legislation. The law has only the minimum provisions needed to meet EU requirements. The new law will include temporary measures, such as restraining orders, to protect victims' rights to stay in their homes and to protect them from perpetrators.

An important step in legitimizing DV policy includes launching domestic violence as a Program of National Importance (PIN). By presenting DV as a PIN, it may officially enter the policy implementing phase and be included in the activities of public agencies. As a PIN, it will qualify for support through the expenditure of public funds.

With EU accession in January 2007, Romania will be addressing social concerns as outlined by the EU and will seek opportunities to improve policy and services that address gender equality. Project proposals by agencies working in social services, health, community, and development issues, that include components addressing violence, will all be considered for funding by the EU. Gender equality is one of the cross-cutting themes that address the link between gender, poverty and human rights, and includes violence against women.

IV. The National Coalition Against Violence

A. Strategic Approach

The JSI R&T strategic approach for addressing domestic violence relied on forming partnerships among the Romanian NGOs to improve communication and foster a spirit of collaboration. It also focused on responding to the baseline situation¹¹ in terms of the existing regulatory framework, key active NGO actors and their ongoing interventions and programs. The database of all agencies working in the field of domestic violence in Romania, created by JSI R&T and its partners in 2002, was updated annually by the members of the Coalition and disseminated in CD format.

The situation analysis conducted in 2002 was the first source of consistent data and information at the national level to document domestic violence activities (e.g.,

¹¹ RFHI NGO Assessment 2002

services, training capabilities, and public campaigns) implemented at the grassroots level by civil society organizations. The assessment allowed for a comprehensive analysis of the general situation of inequalities in accessing information and services, availability and fragmentation of programs, and a documented decision on how to improve the situation during the coming years.

Some conclusions of the 2002 assessment include the following:

1. There is insufficient data, both quantitative and qualitative, to reflect the magnitude and determinants of the DV phenomenon in Romania, and incomplete statistical information regarding frequency of DV events.
2. The DV phenomenon was not adequately understood and never systematically addressed in its full complexity. While a specific law was needed, and waiting to be endorsed by the Parliament, no governmental institution had the legal, technical or logistic capability to develop coherent and long-term solutions. In addition, no communication channels were set up to link the various institutions to be the responsible groups for implementing violence prevention activities. With the exception of some pilot projects run by NGOs with external funding (mainly USAID and EU), the institutional infrastructure to offer services to the victims was not satisfying minimal needs.
3. As mentioned previously, despite their experience, professionalism, goodwill and determination, the initiatives of civil society had little national impact and no significant influence on policy-making.

In parallel, collaboration of all major stakeholders was stimulated and improved. Special coordination and communication mechanisms were developed (e.g., in part by providing assistance to the consultative committee that includes representatives from all interested authorities). A committee was established by the MOH, and later designated by the MLSSF, to assist the NAFP in its activities. Consequently, communication among the stakeholders improved and the effectiveness of policy, services and awareness interventions also improved. Some of the positive results of this approach include:

1. International agencies provided technical assistance and financial support for strengthening civil society initiatives, and NGOs joined their efforts in fighting violence against women under the umbrella of the newly created National Coalition Against Violence.
2. Permanent communication for improved cooperation and coordination between the governmental structures and the representatives of civil society was encouraged in order to attain more strength and to overcome weaknesses in improving the quality of services.
3. To ensure the best use of limited financial resources, a similar approach was used for all major donors committed to violence prevention. Coordination

efforts helped to keep funding agencies informed of the needs of the program and to direct financial resources where they were needed most.

Much of the Steering Committee work plan in domestic violence has consisted of activities aimed at assisting governmental institutions in developing the national sector strategy; supporting the implementation of the work plan; and helping governmental agencies in the revision of the legislation for creating a more favorable legal and regulatory environment for domestic violence prevention.

Unfortunately, due to the unstable political climate, persons in positions of authority change frequently and laws are not enforced. With the upcoming EU accession, positive changes related to domestic violence services and legislation will have to occur.¹² This will be a critical time for addressing DV issues in Romania in a sustainable manner. Identifying new sources of funding and support to the National Coalition Against Violence will also be important for ensuring long term sustainability.

B. Achievements

The key activities of the National Coalition and other important events are listed in Table 1. The milestones of Coalition work supported by JSI R&T and USAID have been planned and discussed at annual Sinaia meetings organized to address key legal and strategic issues related to the prevention of domestic violence in Romania. Following are some of the main achievements of the Coalition over the last four years:

1. Completion and update of a database documenting NGO activities in the field of violence against women. The CD with the database was disseminated nationally in 2003.
2. Initiation of NGO coordination to form the National Coalition Against Violence to build awareness and to fight violence against women.
3. Technical assistance and logistics support provided to the MOH's Inter-ministerial Working Group mandated to design the national strategy against domestic violence (2002 – 2003). Drafting the national strategy, following a collaborative process of negotiation between all key stakeholders active in the field of domestic violence in Romania.
4. Signature of a cooperation protocol between the General Police Inspectorate and the Coalition, which represented the first public recognition by a governmental institution of the Coalition's importance and role in the field of domestic violence.

¹² Romania Quick to Incorporate Anti-discrimination Measures Into Domestic Law, 26 May 2006, www.un.org

5. Signature of two protocols of collaboration between the NAFP and the National Coalition, which formalized the role of the Coalition as a partner to government in the design and implementation of the national strategy.
6. Several awareness campaigns conducted by the National Coalition and the NAFP, with technical and financial support from JSI R&T and USAID, particularly the 16 International Days of Activism Against Domestic Violence campaigns for the past four years.

The capacity for growth of the Coalition and the results achieved were substantially due to the technical assistance and support provided by JSI R&T. USAID-funded support to the DV interventions undertaken in partnership with the NGOs and the Romanian government was crucial to the development of DV policy. The Government of Romania (GOR) helped to prepare an improved DV strategy, policy and action plan to support its implementation.

V. Conclusions and Recommendations

Conclusions

The interest and support of JSI R&T in domestic violence issues has been critical to providing guidance and follow-up to this program. The National Coalition Against Violence has become a key player in ensuring that domestic violence legislation is addressed. The following is a brief summary of some conclusions reached by JSI R&T in its support of the National Coalition Against Violence:

- The national database of domestic violence services proved to be a useful tool to illustrate the need for agency programs and services in Romania. It should continue to be updated annually.
- The support and formation of the National Coalition Against Violence has been an important contribution to keeping violence issues on the political agenda, updating legislation, and building awareness of the human rights violations related to violence against women in Romania.
- The National Coalition has worked to unite, improve communication and work effectively as a network of NGOs combating violence in Romania. The Coalition will need to be aggressive in identifying and applying for funding to continue this important role. The Government of Romania has not fully assumed its responsibility to “prevent, prosecute and punish” violence against women.
- USAID, with technical assistance from JSI R&T, has been an important source of support to prevent violence against women in Romania over the past four years (2002-2006).

Policy

With the new legislative intervention under development, the urgent policy issue for DV in Romania is to implement the existing legislation now, clarifying and strengthening the institutional framework and the budget items that support prevention of violence against women.

Funding

It is critical to identify sources under the EU system for structural and country program funds that include addressing violence as a component of the program. Violence is a cross-cutting theme and may be included programmatically in several different areas including, community mobilization, reproductive health, social programs, women in development, gender equity and others.

Service provision

There is no consensus on what services are appropriate as part of a long-term strategic plan for the national program. The National Coalition can help to facilitate the process of clarification and standardization of basic services needed, based on the WHO guidelines and handbook on violence prevention programs.

The Coalition can continue to train providers and develop useful materials to disseminate program information among service providers and the general population to inform and build support for programs and activities.

Research

More research is needed on the causes of violence against women in Romania and to identify factors that may be amenable to intervention. Studies of male attitudes and beliefs that contribute to partner violence are needed for a comprehensive understanding of the problem to be reached. Ultimately, the idea is to identify successful interventions and publish and disseminate the results for scaling up.

Recommendations¹³

These items are currently on the work plan of the National Coalition Against Violence and should continue to be addressed and coordinated with all other stakeholder agencies working to prevent domestic violence against women in Romania.

Policy

- Support the possible reinstatement of the Inter-ministerial Commission Against Violence to promote a multi-sectoral action plan to address violence against women.
- Prioritize child abuse and violence against women.

¹³ Adapted from the WHO Multi-country study 2005

- Develop a comprehensive health sector response to the impact of violence against women.

Advocacy

- Enlist Romanian leaders and celebrities to speak out against violence and to help educate the general population.
- Conduct campaigns and activities to establish systems to monitor violence, collect data, and measure attitudes and behaviors of the population.
- Sensitize the legal and justice systems to the particular needs of female victims of violence.

Services

- Strengthen formal and informal support systems for women living with violence.
- Use reproductive health services as entry points for identifying and supporting women in abusive relationships and for delivery of or referral to support services.
- Make environments safer for women.

VI. Resources

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Annex 1. DV Coalition Member Organizations 2006

1. Asociația Grupul Roman pentru Apararea Drepturilor Omului - GRADO

Str. Cupolei nr. 5, bl. 2B, sc.B, ap.55, sector 6 Bucuresti

Rodica Nita

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2. Asociația pentru Promovarea Femeii din România – APFR

Str. Letea nr. 46 , Timisoara, jud.Timis

Vasile Moldovan

tel.0256/293 183, 0788 676 154

e-mail: apfr@mail.dnttm.ro

3. Asociația PAS ALTERNATIV

Str. Sitarului nr. 33, Bl. E21, sc.B, ap. 6, , Brasov, Jud. Brasov, cod 500260

Iolanda Beldianu

tel.0268/475 913, 0745 852 646

e-mail: pass1bv@yahoo.com

4. Asociația Femeilor Jurnaliste din România - ARIADNA

Str. Stirbei Voda, nr. 16, ap.21, et.5, sector 1, Bucuresti, cod 010112

Georgeta Adam

tel/fax: 021/314 60 14,0744 376 605

e-mail: gadam@easynet.ro

5. Asociația Femeilor Intreprinzatoare PRO FAMILIA

Str. N. Titulescu 21, Bistrita, Jud. Bistrita-Nasaud

Maria Gicuta

tel/fax: 0263/233 101,

e-mail: afiprofamilia@yahoo.com

6. Asociația Femeilor din Roman „FEMINA 2000”

Str. Roman Mușat, bl 14, mez., Roman, jud. Neamț, cod 611009

Elena Iancu

tel/fax: 0233 742 167, 0744 618 157

e-mail: femina2000@topall.ro

7. Asociația Femeilor Impotriva Violentei – ARTEMIS CLUJ

Str. Dorobantilor nr. 76/61, Cluj-Napoca, jud.Cluj

Sorina Bumbulut

tel/fax:0264/592 6

e-mail: afiv-artemis@cluj.astral.ro

8. Asociația pentru Libertate și Egalitate de Gen – A.L.E.G

B-dul Coposu 10,sc.B, ap.20, Sibiu, jud.Sibiu

Camelia Blag

tel/fax:0269/242 078
e-mail: aleg-romania@yahoo.com

9. Fundatia Centrul de Mediere si Securitate Comunitara – CMSC

Str. Pantelimon nr. 32, et. 5, Iasi, jud. Iasi, cod 700080

Laura Albu

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e-mail: info@cmsc.ro

10. Fundatia Societatea de Psihoterapie si Interventie Psihosociala „CATHARSIS”

Sos. Nicolina, nr. 21, Bl. 954, Sc. A, et. 1, ap. 2, Iasi, Jud. Iasi

Marcel Nedelcu

tel.0256/293 183,0788 676 154

e-mail: nmarcelo@yahoo.com

11. Fundatia VERITAS

Str. Piata Cetatii nr. 8, Sighisoara, jud. Mures, cod 545400

Dorina Lazar

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12. Asociația ”Fundatia CONEXIUNI”

Str. Dorobanti, nr. 25/12, Deva, jud.Hunedoara

Lenuta Agalita,

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e-mail: angalital@yahoo.com

13. Fundatia Sanse Egale pentru Femei – SEF

Str. Împăcării nr. 17, bl. 913, tr. 1, et. 1, apt. 3, Iași, jud.Iasi

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14. Fundatia Institutul Est European de Sanatate a Reproductiei –IEESR

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15. Asociația Societatea Doamnelor Bucovinene

Str. Ana Ipatescu nr. 9, Bl. 3D, ap. 6, Suceava, jud. Suceava, Mihaela Grosu

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16. Biserica Reformata „Casa Sperantei”

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Delia Antal

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