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## Local Government Support Project in Moldova

The **USAID Local Government Support Project (LGSP)** is a four-year project aimed at assisting local governments in the design and implementation of policies and procedures that contribute to good governance, develop local capacity to meet decentralized authorities and responsibilities for services in a transparent manner, and provide basic services that spur the growth of local economies and make services more cost effective and efficient.

**LGSP has three interrelated goals:**

- **To improve municipal service delivery, including planning, service management, and service quality and quantity**, through strategic action planning that supports infrastructure improvements and the extension of more effective/efficient service delivery.
- **To increase revenues available to local governments and improve financial management**, through strengthening municipal financial management capacities and optimizing municipal revenue generation potential.
- **To increase municipal energy efficiency**, through the development of local energy efficiency plans, analyzing the feasibility of energy efficiency projects, and the realization of energy efficiency gains.

All 32 rayon centers, Comrat municipality of autonomous territorial unit of Gagauzia are eligible to participate in LGSP. Chisinau and Balti municipalities are eligible for limited technical assistance package within the LGSP. In turn, LGSP partner towns and cities are expected to then engage and collaborate with surrounding mayoralties in implementing inter-municipal action plans that improve services, increase own-source revenues, and enhance energy efficiencies. Partner towns will also benefit from LGSP assistance in securing domestic and international financial assistance, attracting domestic and foreign investment, creating public-private partnerships, promoting gender equality, and creating new opportunities for youth engagement in developing vibrant and prosperous communities across the country. Partner towns will be selected in groups of 12-15 that will each receive technical assistance over a period of 18 months.

LGSP offers an **Excellence in Municipal Management (EMM)** certification program that will provide core competency technical assistance to towns, followed by tailored, demand-driven technical assistance. EMM is structured to provide towns with practical tools that yield tangible results.

To assist LGSP in selecting partner towns, as well as to measure the progress made over the life of the project, LGSP will publish an annual **Municipal Performance Index (MPI)**. Through the annual collection of quantitative data and in-depth surveys of citizens and local leaders, the MPI will measure municipal performance across LGSP's three components. MPI data will guide technical assistance delivery, and, more importantly, demonstrate the value and impact of the reform and development efforts of each partner town.