



# W A G E

*Our vision is a world in which women and girls enjoy equality, freedom from violence and poverty, and meaningful inclusion in the processes that shape their communities, nations, and international affairs.*

## ABOUT WOMEN AND GIRLS EMPOWERED (WAGE)

Women and Girls Empowered (WAGE) is a global consortium to advance the status of women and girls, led by the American Bar Association Rule of Law Initiative (ABA ROLI) in close partnership with the Center for International Private Enterprise (CIPE), Grameen Foundation, and Search for Common Ground (Search). WAGE works to strengthen the capacity of civil society organizations (CSOs) and private sector organizations in target countries to improve the prevention of and response to gender-based violence; advance the women, peace and security agenda; and support women's economic empowerment. In this context, WAGE provides direct assistance to women and girls, including information, resources, and services they need to succeed as active and equal participants in the global economy and public life. WAGE also engages in collaborative research and learning to build a body of evidence on relevant promising practices in these thematic areas. To account for the deeply interconnected nature of women's and girls' experiences, WAGE's initiatives employ approaches that are highly collaborative, integrated, and inclusive. WAGE is funded by the U.S. Department of State Secretary's Office of Global Women's Issues.

## OUR WORK IN MOLDOVA

Reducing Barriers to Women's Economic Empowerment in Moldova is a multi-disciplinary program aimed at building and supporting an alliance of women's organizations to improve the enabling environment for Moldovan women engaged in economic activity. Launched in October 2020, and implemented by CIPE and ABA ROLI, the program works to strengthen the organizational capacities of women's business associations (WBAs) and women's civil society organizations (WCSOs) to represent and provide business development support and other services to Moldovan women and to foster collective action among WBAs and WCSOs to address legal and societal barriers to women's participation in the economy.

## CENTRAL PROGRAM GOALS

- 1** To strengthen the organizational capacities of women business associations (WBAs) and women's empowerment organizations (WCSOs) to represent and provide services to Moldovan women.
- 2** To foster collective action among WBAs and WCSOs to address legal framework implementation gaps and societal barriers to women's economic empowerment.





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## REDUCING BARRIERS TO WOMEN'S ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT IN MOLDOVA

Women's organizations in Moldova have the potential to support and represent the interests of Moldovan women, but many organizations lack resources or capacity. WAGE believes if women's organizations have increased organizational capacity to serve and advocate for the interests of Moldovan women and are better equipped to address legal, regulatory, and societal barriers to women's economic empowerment – including gender-based violence – through collective action, then these organizations will have greater ability to advance women's participation in the economy, ultimately resulting in Moldovan women leading more resilient, independent, and economically sustainable lives.

### OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Capacity Building for Women's Organizations	WAGE will assess the capacity and needs of women's organizations and will offer targeted capacity building through a combination of group training workshops, one-on-one coaching, and small grants to implement action plans developed with technical support from WAGE.
Fostering Collective Action Among Women's Organizations	WAGE will establish and support a Women's Empowerment Alliance that will address barriers women face to entrepreneurship and employment. The Alliance will produce an assessment of the opportunities and barriers to women's economic empowerment, using a participatory process guided by WAGE's Women's Economic Empowerment assessment tool. The Alliance will then develop and advocate policy recommendations to diminish the identified barriers.

## PARTNERSHIPS

WAGE seeks to establish meaningful partnerships with and among government, CSOs, women entrepreneurs and business associations, and the private sector to ensure a holistic approach to addressing the multifaceted problems facing female entrepreneurs in Moldova. By engaging with established entities with proven methodologies that WAGE will work to enhance, WAGE takes a locally relevant and sustainable approach to addressing key development challenges in Moldova. WAGE's partners in Moldova, including the Center for Entrepreneurship and Economic Policy (CAPE) and the Women's Law Center, house some of the best experts on gender-related issues and policy advocacy in Moldova.

