**PROJECT PERFORMANCE REPORT (Revised Harmonized)\***

**Section 1: Basic Information – Project Data**

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| **Project title:** | *Legal aid to stateless persons in Moldova* |
| **Project Start Date:** | *01/01/2020* |
| **Project Planned End Date:** | *31/12/2020* |
| **Total Project Budget:** | *2,029,848.72 MDL* |
| **Situation(s):** | *1900* |
| **Operation/Country:** | *HUN RO ABC* |
| **Population Planning Group(s):** | *1HUNO Refugees and asylum seekers in Moldova* |
| **Goal(s):** | *PR Advocacy for protection and solutions* |
| **Cost Centre(s):** | *21101 Moldova* |
| **Partner Code:** | *1178006* |
| **Submitting Partner Name:** | *Law Center for Advocates, Moldova* |
| **Reporting Period:** | *01-01-2020 – 31-12-2020* |
| **Date of Report:** | ***05-02-2021*** |

**Section 2: Core Questions**

1. **Overall Performance:**

The important achievements of the project have been realized through:

* 496 direct counselling of the asylum-seekers, refugee and beneficiaries of humanitarian protection and identified their needs.
* 10 international border crossing points visited.
* 35 monitoring reception and detention conditions in Temporary Accommodation Centre and Migration Accommodation Center.
* building capacity of relevant state authorities involved in asylum context and ensuring that the rights and dignity or the asylum-seeker, refugee and beneficiaries of humanitarian protection are respected.
* addressing systematic issues on refugee status determination, national security, family reunification, discrimination and access to national social and health care via judicial engagement and strategic litigation.

The Government prohibited the entry of foreigners in Moldova, including the people in need of international protection. The restriction was imposed on March,17 and extended by 15 July 2020 determined by public health interests.

1. **Changes and Amendments:**

The first amendment to the Project Partnership Agreement was made in April 2020. Due to Covid -19 pandemic implementation of project activities have been postponed for the second half of the year. Seminars and trainings have been done online based on the restrictions announced by the authorities, resulting in costs savings of project budget.

1. **Measuring Results:**

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| **Results Chain** | | | | |
| **Population Planning Group:** | 1HUNO Refugees and asylum seekers in Moldova | | | |
| **Goal:** | PR Advocacy for protection and solutions | | | |
| **Rights Group:** | 1 Favorable protection environment | | | |
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| **Objective Name** | **111 Law and policy developed or strengthened** | | | |
| **Problem Description:** | The Moldova legal and policy framework requires further strengthening. Examples of gaps and challenges include: Response to referral mechanisms to address SGBV are still infancy. Awareness-raising about SGBV among the population of concern has only started recently, and SGBV cases are so far under-reported. There are gaps in the legal representation and support for unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) seeking asylum. Children protection authorities have limited information and safeguard during the RSD procedure. Medical assessment is used when authorities have doubts regarding the real age of child applicants prior the best interest assessment. The national child protection system is not able to provide protection and support for asylum-seeking children before a final decision on their status is issued. Asylum-seekers are in general not detained. However, almost one out of every 10 asylum-seekers registered in 2019 applied while in detention in the closed Migrants’ Accommodation Center (MAC) where foreigners pending removal are placed. While conditions in the MAC generally meet international standards, and detained asylum-seekers have access to legal counselling, Moldova legislation does not provide for alternatives to detention and allowed detention of families with children. | | | |
| **Output** | | **Status Update on Progress Achieved** | | |
| ***111AA Advocacy conducted*** | | During the reporting period, the Law Center of Advocates (LCA) conducted the following activities:   * **Regular monitoring visits to relevant detentions facilities**   On 17 March, the Parliament declared a state of emergency in Moldova due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Started this date, the Bureau of Migration and Asylum has been restricted access to Migration Accommodation Center (MAC). One building of the Migration Accommodation Center was transformed as a COVID-19 center for personnel of the Ministry of Internal Affairs.  Due to pandemic physical access to MAC was restricted October 2020. Official letters have been submitted for granting access to LCA staff. During reporting period 23 visits have been performed to MAC, 151 counselling sessions performed for  During reporting period LCA performed 23 protection visits to Migrant Accommodation Center( MAC), 17 foreigners benefited of 151 individual counselling sessions. 4 foreigners with LCA support lodged asylum applications. Countries of origin of AS in detention- Turkey 3, Ukraine 1.  **Strategic litigation on detention:**  LCA represented 4 AS in 4 Chisinau court hearings as a result AS were release from public custody.  **Findings/recommendation**: the quality of legal assistance provided by NLAC lawyers is very poor; AS do not feel protected by NLAC lawyers; during the hearing, NLAC lawyers have a very poor presence and resume their speech to 1-2 minutes. In some cases, the lawyers do not even introduce themselves. As a recommendation LCA would advise AS release from custody from the moment he lodged asylum claim and not when duration of custody finish. of BMA has to realize legal provisions which allows the Chief of BMA to release from custody foreigner from the moment he is not qualified to be placed in custody.  **Advocacy interventions with relevant state authorities:**  - LCA informed the Ombudsperson Office about the exceed term of detention in MAC and the quality of legal assistance provided by the state lawyers/public defenders.  With LCA interventions the Ombudsperson’s Office in Moldova, during the December 2019, elaborated the [UPHOLDING THE RIGHTS OF THE FOREIGHN CITIZENS IN THE STATE CUSTODY (THEMATIC STUDY)](https://ombudsman.md/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/EN_Studiul_Situatia_str%C4%83inilor_FINAL.pdf). The study was published in July 2020.  **Trainings/info sessions:**  During the [Global 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence](https://16dayscampaign.org/2020/04/29/global-16-days-campaign-statement-and-call-to-action-domestic-violence-in-the-time-of-covid-19/) refugee women and men were involved in the Global campaign. LCA delivered one info session on SGBV to 5 female asylum seekers residents of TAC, in collaboration with Family Justice Centre, and one info session on non-discrimination and hate speech to 14 residents of TAC.  LCA did not realize one workshop for the child protection authorities. Letters on this issue were to the Chisinau child protection authority with support of BMA. Unfortunately, due to pandemic and staff turn-over at the authority, event was postponed for 2021. | | |
| **Performance Indicator(s)** | | **Site/Location** | **Performance Target** | **Actual progress** |
| # of advocacy interventions made | | Chisinau, Temporary Accommodation Center | 3 | 2 |

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| **Objective Name** | **114 Access to the territory improved and risk of refoulement reduced** | | | |
| **Problem Description:** | Although the law provides for access to the territory and the asylum procedure, there are allegations of denial of access to procedures. Border guards are reluctant to grant asylum-seekers access to the territory following instructions of their superiors who prioritize national security. | | | |
| **Output 1** | | **Status Update on Progress Achieved** | | |
| **114AA Advocacy conducted** | | **Two trainings for border police personnel on ensuring access to the territory and asylum procedure for people in need of international protection** (2).  On October 15th, 16th, 22nd and 23rd, LCA in collaboration with Ombudsman office held 4 trainings for border police officers from Chisinau Airport. Due to pandemic restrictions 60 border police officers were trained on access to the territory for asylum seekers, by 15 officers per training according to their working shifts. | | |
| **Performance Indicator(s)** | | **Site/Location** | **Performance Target** | **Actual progress** |
| # of advocacy interventions made to promote access to entry points and detention centres | | All regions of Moldova | 2 | 4 |
| **Output 2** | | **Status Update on Progress Achieved** | | |
| **114AI Systematic and independent border monitoring established or conducted** | | During the reporting period, the Law Center of Advocates (LCA) continued to monitor that the people in need of international protection have access to territory and fair asylum procedure through:   * **Border monitoring visits**:   **13 visits at International Airport Chisinau**  - To monitor and prevent the cases of refoulment, the LCA performed 13 monitoring visits to the IAC border crossing point and monitor Istanbul-Chisinau flight each Friday at 20:40.The lawyer of LCA had access to the transit zone, and during the visits, no incidents were recorded. 10 foreigners claimed asylum at the airport during 2020. Reports of the monitoring visits to the IAC were shared with the General Inspectorate of Border Police  **Main findings**: Due to the pandemic situation, COVID-19, International Airport Chisinau has limited flights, with rigorous evidence of all persons that arrive. International Airport Chisinau has the information panel and the updated leaflets on asylum in Moldova. There are 2 functional rooms for asylum seekers. Since 2013-2020 they had 45 cases of asylum-seekers, according to the Register of asylum-seekers. There were cases when border police personnel ignore the asylum claims; they stated Moldova doesn’t have an asylum authority, and it is impossible to ask asylum. Asylum-seekers were admitted on the territory only after the LCA interventions.  **9 Monitoring visits to terrestrial International Border Crossing Points:**  LCA, in cooperation with the General Inspectorate of Border Police (GIBP), Bureau for Migration and Asylum (BMA), and Ombudsperson’s Office Moldova (Torture Prevention Directorate personnel), organized **2 joint multifunctional monitoring visits** at the Tudora-Starokazacie, Palanka-Maiaki and Border Police sector Tudora 2, Ocnița – Sokireani BCP and Otaci -Moghilev-Podolsk BCP, and the North Regional Directorate of the General Inspectorate of Border Police. The aim of the visits to monitoring the effective implementation of legislation concerning the access to the territory and asylum procedure of the people in need of international protection and the observance of the, including asylum seekers. Ocnița and Otaci BCP have asylum information info boards. Otaci BCP has no facilities for asylum-seekers, persons wait up to 5 hours to be taken by authorities. In 2014-2019 they were 8 asylum claims, according to Register of asylum-seekers. **The Ocnița BCP** has no register and facilities for AS. AS are transferred to Border Police Sector Ocnița where are 2 rooms for asylum seekers, located in the basement of the police sector, one room for men and children and the other for women and children.Also, they have a kitchen, toilet, and a shower separate from the rooms. Rooms are not suitable for persons with disabilities.  LCA conducted the **7 monitoring visits** at the border crossing points with the Ukrainian border: Criva-Mamaliga BCP, Larga-Kelmenti BCP, and Valcinet-Moghileov-Podolsk BCP, including the Border Police Sector Criva, Basarabeasca-Serpniovo-1 BCP including railway and police sector, Mirnoe- Tabaki BCP, Vulcanesti-Vinogradnoe BCP including Police sector, Giurgiulesto-Reni BCP .  1.BCP Criva - Mămăliga has one info board, there are not AS registered in the register. There is no asylum room at BCP, but there are 2 rooms at border police sector Criva, 3-5 km away.  2. BCP Valcinet is a railway BCP; there are 7 AS claims in the register during 2015-2019, there is one info board, use the regional asylum room in Ocnita.  3. Border Police Sector Criva had zero asylum-seekers. There are 2 rooms for asylum-seekers, located in the police sector.  4.BCP Basarabeasca-Serpniovo was closed due to pandemic and info-board moved to railway BCP, use the room of the border police sector. No records in the register from 2018.  5.BCP Mirnoe-Tabaki has one info board, register moved to border police sector Vulcanesti, 20 km away.  6.BCP Vulcanest-Vinogradnoe has no info board, activity suspended due to pandemic, register moved to border police sector Vulcanesti, 50 km away.  7. BCP Girgiulesti-Reni has one info board, last date in the register 2014, use the room at border police sector Reni, 1 km away.  **Advocacy with the Ombudsperson Office Moldova**  - LCA assisted the Ombudsperson Office in preparing an evaluation report for Border Police Unit from Airport Chisinau, the report with recommendations was sent to Border Police in February 2020.  - The Ombudsperson Office elaborated [a comprehensive report](http://ombudsman.md/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Raport_vizita_PTF_24.06.2020_pe-site.pdf) regarding the multifunctional team visits to BCP Palanca and Tudora and the Border Police Department of the East Regional Directorate of the General Inspectorate of the Border Police of the Ministry of Internal Affair (MIA). | | |
| **Performance Indicator(s)** | | **Site/Location** | **Performance Target** | **Actual progress** |
| # of border monitoring visits conducted and recorded | | All regions of Moldova | 8 | 10 |

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| **Objective Name** | **213 Access to and quality of status determination procedures improved** | | | |
| **Problem Description:** | There is no mechanism to identify and address specific needs of the applicants during the asylum procedure including victims of sexual exploitation and abuse, survivors of sexual and gender-based violence and unaccompanied and separated children. National security concerns often influence decision-makers. At the administrative level, asylum-seekers are provided legal aid only during RSD interview, while pre-and post-interview counselling is nor ensured. Free of charge state legal aid is available for all asylum-seekers with low income, public defenders ate often not familiar with asylum issues and are reluctant to take RSD case. Following a general judicial reform at the beginning of 2019, most judges trained in asylum law have moved to other courts and new judges are not familiar with it. | | | |
| **Output** | | **Status Update on Progress Achieved** | | |
| **213AA Advocacy conducted** | | During the period January-December 2020, the Law Center of Advocates (LCA) made the following advocacy interventions:   * **Provided free-of-charge legal counselling for asylum-seekers, refugees and beneficiaries of humanitarian protection and identified their needs.**   During the reporting period, the LCA assisted:  - 178 beneficiaries (178 refugees and 75 asylum-seekers) benefited of 496 counselling sessions during the reporting period on Refugee Status Determination Procedure (RSD), integration rights; employment, social and national health care system, and naturalization process:  - 165 communications with 76 people of concern.  - 355 interventions with state authorities in respect of (asylum authorities, border authorities, civil authorities, free legal aid authorities) to facilitate the communication between the government and the asylum-seekers and refugees.  - LCA assisted 11 asylum-seekers during personal interviews. In general, the asylum-authority respects the standards and guarantees of the interviews at the Asylum and Integration Directorate. Some case-owners/decision counsellors are particularly adept at creating an optimal interviewing environment and appropriately questioning the asylum-seekers. LCA identified cases were some decision counsellors missing the relevant material fact of the asylum application. In these cases, a second interview was required.  **Temporary Accommodation Center**  Due to the Health Emergency, the Bureau for Migration and Asylum has restricted access to Temporary Accommodation Center (TAC) for asylum-seekers up to 23 September 2020.  All the legal counseling sessions/communication with people accommodated in TAC were conducted online through Viber group, by phone and email. LCA maintained the communication with asylum-seekers accommodated in TAC via phone and Viber/WhatsApp. At least one time per week, the LCA legal counselor phoned all the people accommodated in TAC.  - 4 regular visits at Temporary Accommodation Center monthly were conducted, 52 individual counseling sessions (including 22 in-person counseling and 30 online counseling via phone and email) with 41 asylum-seekers from Bangladesh, Uzbekistan, Iraq, Turkey, Ukraine, Russian Federation, United States of America were held.   * **Strategic litigation concerning the integration of refugees, child protection, detention of asylum-seeking families with children, alternatives to detention, human rights standards, non-discrimination, asylum-seekers’ access to health insurance, food and assistance.**   The Law Center of Advocates represented **16 persons in national courts**: 11 **cases** at Chisinau Court, 3 **cases** at Chisinau Court of Appeal and 2 **case** at the Supreme Court of Justice. **20 applications** before the national courts (first Court (11), Court of Appeal (7) and Supreme Court of Justice (2) and **53 hearings** in national courts (first court (**37**) and Court of Appeal (15). In July 2020, with LCA interventions during the national court, one asylum-seeker from Turkey has been recognized the refugee status.  **(1) Guarantees of the asylum-seekers during the Refugee Determination Procedure**  The Law Center of Advocates (LCA) represented 8 **persons in 9 cases** concerning the asylum guarantees for asylum-seekers from Turkey, Nigeria, Bangladesh, Kirghizstan and Uzbekistan.  Relevant issues for strategic litigation: the asylum authority did not assess the applicants’ evidence; the asylum interviews and decisions do not reflect all the material facts of the asylum application; lack of credibility assessments; in case of one unaccompanied children, the state authorities invoke national security; declared the asylum-seekers as ‘undesirable people’ for public order danger; rejected access to ordinary RSD procedure in the second asylum application; the individual asylum application of a child asylum-seeker (16 years old) was examined by asylum authority in the same RSD procedure with her mother's application without a personal interview.  **(2) National security**  - 2 individuals in 2 cases of asylum-seekers from Turkey  A family of asylum-seekers from Turkey during the asylum procedure was declared 'undesirable persons.' In LCA's opinion, the State does not have to return asylum-seekers until the end of the RSD procedure. Additionally, Turkish authorities asked their extradition, but Moldovan authorities did not use the extradition procedure, which offers more procedural guaranties for the asylum-seekers. In one case, the Court accepted the LCA application and canceled the BMA decision.  In total, at the end of the reporting period, the Law Center of Advocates (LCA) had 6 pending cases at Chisinau Court, 4 pending cases at Chisinau Court of Appeal.  In 2020, LCA initiated 11 new cases before the courts: 4 RSD cases, 2 naturalization cases and 5 cases on public custody.   * **Legislative monitoring**   - On 9 July, the LCA sent a Parliament member the text of proposals to include asylum-seekers in three relevant pieces of laws, which will offer asylum-seekers the possibility to procure the health insurance policies.  - On 14 July, the LCA sent to BMA its recommendation on the draft of the guide “Mechanisms for needs assessment and referral of asylum seekers in a vulnerable situation” elaborated by BMA.  - On 4 August, LCA sent to the Ministry of Interior, Mr. Octavian Troscenco – the Head of Migration and Asylum Policy Department, the recommendation for amendment of the “Extradition” Chapter from the Code of criminal procedure. The LCA recommended to include the beneficiaries of all forms of international protection in the list of persons whose extradition is forbidden.  - On 19 August, LCA sent to the Ministry of Interior (Mr. Octavian Troscenco) and the Moldova International Organisation for Migration (IOM) rapporteur (Mrs. Maria Vremis) the recommendation to the Moldova Report on Global Compact for Migration. LCA reported that the Moldova migration authority do not apply the mesures of alternatives to immigration detention.  Additionally, LCA informed the Rapporteur about joint Report of the Ombudspersons Office and LCA regarding the situation of foreigners in Moldova, issued in December 2019.  - On 21 August was published the new Law no. 724/2020 about the integration of foreigners on the territory of the Republic of Moldova. The new Law will come into force on 1 January 2021.  On 21.08.2020, the final version of the new Law on integration was published in the Official Gazette, into in force in January 2021.  At 13th of November the Constitutional Court decided the following shall be declared unconstitutional:  - "in the decision will not be mentioned the reasons underlying it" from article 55 par. (3) Thesis II;  - "Such data and information may not in any form, directly or indirectly, be brought to the attention of the foreigner declared an undesirable person, including within the examination in court of the appeal against the decision on declaring the foreigner an undesirable person." from article 56 par. (2); "And e)" of Article 60 para. (4);- "(1) and" of Article 63 para. (4) of Law no. 200 of July 16, 2010 on the Regime of foreigners in the Republic of Moldova.   * **Monitor Refugee Status Determination (RSD) jurisprudence**   **84 RSD cases** monitored at the judicial level. At the end of year there were 23 cases pending before the Chisinau Court; 10 cases before the Court of Appeal, and 3 cases pending before the Supreme Court of Justice):   * Decisions issued by Asylum and Integration Directorate:   **30 negative decisions issued by the administrative instance, monitored by LCA** in 2020:   * Harm does not lead to persecution – 29 cases from Kirghizstan, Nigeria, Armenia, Tajikistan, Ukraine, Russian, Turkey, USA, Iraq and Uzbekistan. * Exclusion/Nationality security – 1 case from Tajikistan.   **36 decisions issued by the national courts**:  31 decisions of the first court: 1 positive decision (the court cancelled the negative BMA’s decision and ordered to grant refugee status); 30 negatives, and **5** cases closed.  19 decisions of the Court of Appeal – 15 rejected cases, **3** case closed and 1 case the court cancelled the negative BMA’s decision and ordered to grant refugee status .  **10** decisions of the Supreme Court of Justice decisions – 6 negative cases, and 4 cases canceled Court of appeal decision and sent cases back to the court of appeal for a new examination.  Lawyers who represent the cases:   * NLAC lawyers – 69 cases (7 lawyers). * LCA lawyer – 10 cases (one lawyer). * Private lawyers – 5 cases (3 lawyers). * **Guiding public defenders in asylum cases**   Law Center of Advocates (LCA) assisted the public defenders in asylum cases for improving professional skills in the representation of asylum cases. Relevant protection information was provided to 6 lawyers/public defenders in asylum and public custody cases: sharing with the new courts practice concerning the examination of the public custody cases; facilitating the communication and signing of the representation document between the state-guaranteed lawyer and the asylum seeker; sharing with country origin information.  In **33 cases,** LCA facilitated the access of the asylum-seekers to free legal assistance provided by the National Legal Aid Counsel thought the public defenders. Main LCA interventions: coaching on relevant material facts related to the asylum application, facilitating the communication between asylum-seekers and lawyers, and using COI in RSD procedure (judicial phase).   * **One meeting with refugees on naturalization process**   On 29 September 2020, LCA organized one meeting with refugees regarding the process of naturalization in Moldova.  - 29 refugees were informed about the naturalization requirements; the mandatory test for citizenship that includes the Language and Constitutional test; the procedure and the term of examination.   * **Training for judges**   On October 8th and 9th, 2020, LCA held a two-day training for 14 judges on "Evidence and Credibility Assessment in Asylum Cases and Judicial Review".  The beneficiaries of the training were judges from the Chisinau Court of Appeal and Chisinau Court (Rascani), tasked with the examination and judgement of asylum cases. There were trained on burnout prevention, assessment of evidence in asylum cases, country of origin information.  LCA participated at online training for Ukrainian Judges “Ensuring the Right to Asylum in Forced Return and Expulsion Procedures”. Training was organised by NGO “10th of Apryl”, a UNHCR partner from Odesa (Ukraine) and Ukrainian National School for Judges.  The LCA presented peculiarities of litigation in the cases regarding provision of international protection, forced return and expulsion in the practice of the Republic of Moldova | | |
| **Performance Indicator(s)** | | **Site/Location** | **Performance Target** | **Actual progress** |
| # of events, workshops and seminars organized | | Outside Chisinau, Contracted entities (tbc), Chisinau, Temporary Accommodation Center | 5 | 5 |
| # of advocacy interventions made for establishment or improvement of government status determination procedure | | National courts. | 1 | 1 |

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| **Results Chain** | |
| **Population Planning Group:** | 1HUNO Refugees and asylum seekers in Moldova |
| **Goal:** | PR Advocacy for protection and solutions |
| **Rights Group:** | 8 Logistics and Operations Support |

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| **Objective Name** | **811 Operations management, coordination and support strengthened and optimized** |
| **Problem Description:** | UNHCR will continue strengthening programme management mechanisms including projects monitoring, verifications of implementing partner’s financial reports as well as physical verification of projects. The Office will build on monitoring and project control measures established with emphasis on results and impact, performance monitoring, financial reporting, and internal controls through close follow-up on the project partnership agreements. UNHCR and its partners will have the required level of programme support by the scope of programmatic interventions. UNHCR will place priority on improving reporting mechanisms for partners. Moreover, the office will follow up on audit observations and follow up to ensure efficiency and improve programme implementation where applicable. |

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| **Output** | **Status Update on Progress Achieved** | | |
| **811AH General project management services provided** | During reporting period LCA used the resources allocated under this objective for the overall improvement of LCA premises. One room in the office was equipped with new furniture, allocated to project and accounting staff, there were made improvement based on security rules. Resources have been used for the cleaning of the office and accounting database. | | |
| **Performance Indicator(s)** | **Site/Location** | **Performance Target** | **Actual progress** |
| Other project management services and support established, maintained and/or provided (yes/no) | All regions of Moldova | Yes (100%) | Yes (100%) |

1. **Affected Persons:**

**Demographic Data for Population of Concern (Affected Persons)**

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| **Population Planning Group:** | | | | *Refugees and Asylum Seekers in Moldova (1 HUNO-RAS)* | | | | |
| **Age Group** | **Male** | | | | **Female** | | **Total** | |
| **in numbers** | | **in %** | | **in numbers** | **in %** | **in numbers** | **in %** |
| 0-4 | 3 | | 1.07% | | 3 | 1.07% | 6 | 2.14% |
| 5-17 | 11 | | 3.93% | | 14 | 5.00% | 25 | 8.93% |
| 18-59 | 151 | | 53.93% | | 78 | 27.86% | 182 | 81.79% |
| 60 and > | 15 | | 5.36% | | 5 | 1.78% | 20 | 7.14% |
| **Total:** | **180** | | **64.29%** | | **100** | **35.71%** | **280** | **100%** |
| **Major Sites:** | | Chisinau, Balti, Orhei, Calarasi, Mereni, Rezeni. | | | | | | |

1. **Participation of and Accountability to the Affected Population:**

Law Center of Advocates (LCA) provide to asylum-seekers and refugees (women, men, boys and girls) access to timely, accurate, and relevant information on their rights and entitlements, the national programs (access to social, economic, documentation and education rights), and the projects implemented by the UNHCR partners in Moldova. LCA facilitated communication between government authorities and persons of concern.

Law Center of Advocates elaborated and approved the mechanism of complaints. The affected people can report the incidents to email - complaints@cda.md. The information is placed in Temporary Accommodation Center visible for all people accommodated in TAC.

1. **Risk Management and Integrity:**

To address the minor challenges, the Law Center of Advocates conducted meetings with the relevant state authorities such as the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Bureau of Migration and Asylum, the National Legal Aid Council, the Ombudsperson, the Charity Center for Refugees.

For the Law Center of Advocates, the partnership with the state authorities will continue to be a strategic point in assistance the asylum-seekers, refugees, and beneficiaries of humanitarian protection.

All the staff is familiarized with LCA policies and mechanisms regarding the combatting and reporting misconduct, including fraud, corruption, sexual exploitation and abuse, violation of human rights, and non-ethical conduct. All employed LCA staff signed the consent of the UNHCR Code of Conduct.

1. **Exit Strategy and Sustainability:**

**Referral Mechanism on requests for delivery of qualified legal aid for asylum-seekers during the asylum procedure**

Free of charge state legal aid is available for all asylum-seekers with low income. An agreement between the National Legal Aid Council (NLAC), Bureau of Migration and Asylum (BMA), and Law Center of Advocates (LCA) provided the facilitation of the LCA to refer the asylum cases to the state legal aid assistance. Following the new amendments concerning the participation of public defenders during the asylum interviews, BMA and NLAC initiated the consultations to establish a Referral Mechanism on requests for delivery of qualified legal aid for asylum-seekers during the administrative asylum procedure. Although the BMA agreed to invite the public defenders at the administrative level, no case was registered.

**Capacity building**

LCA considers that improving the capacities of the government institutions/personnel in the asylum context constituted one pillar of sustainability and that protection and welfare of persons of concern will not be affected:

- border police personnel trained on access to the territory and asylum procedure for people in need of international protection.

- the public defenders and lawyers improved the ability to analyze and lead the cases related to asylum.

- enhancing the capacity of the guardian authorities’ personnel on good practices, tools, and protection of unaccompanied children.

- enhancing the ability of the social and medical staff and the police officers on sexual and gender-based violence responses and prevention systems.

1. **Lessons Learned:**

In the pandemic Law Center of Advocates faced challenges that imposed search of alternative solutions for the implementation of the project activities.

***Law Center of Advocates will continue to lobby and advocates before the Moldova Government:***

* need to pursue the monitoring of detention practices targeting asylum-seekers and build the capacity/raise awareness of Officials of the Bureau for Migration and Asylum and Asylum to ensure protection and basic-need of asylum-seekers in Moldova.
* to introduce asylum-seekers as a category of beneficiaries of health insurance in the Law on compulsory health insurance. Asylum-seekers will be ensured individually by paying the health insurance policy similar to other foreigners that have the right of temporary residence on the territory of the Republic of Moldova.
* to create a placement area for unaccompanied children asylum-seekers at the Temporary Accommodation Centre for Asylum Seekers, or at other relevant centers.
* to create special services for unaccompanied children asylum-seekers based on the principle that all children on the territory of the Republic of Moldova benefit from the same rights as children citizens of the Republic of Moldova.
* to continue strategic litigation by representing in Court of all asylum-seekers that were detained in Migration Accommodation Center.
* to advocate through the Ombudsperson Office and other National/International Human Rights Institutions for creating the alternatives of detention and avoiding the detention of asylum seekers
* to train judges in the field of Law 200/2010 on foreigners’ provisions regarding asylum seekers and applicants for statelessness.
* monitor the situation of deprivation of liberty of asylum-seekers and foreigners with specific needs.
* to start strategic litigation if the practice of illegal deprivation of liberty of asylum-seekers in MAC will continue
* to continue monitoring the respect of the rights of foreigners under the public custody.
* together with Ombudsperson Office will create flyers with the rights and obligations of foreigners under the public custody (easy-to-read).
* to facilitate the visa procedure for beneficiaries of international protection applying for a visa. The e-visa system does not support the application for a visa based on family reunification. In the majority case, refuges with a positive decision for family reunification cannot exercise their family and asylum right.

**Section 3: Additional Questions**

1. **Value for Money/Cost Effectiveness:**

The total grant of the Partner Project Agreement is 2,029,848.72MDL.

At the end of the reporting period, the rate of expenditure is aligned with the rate of implementation 94,43% of the total budget.

The Law Center of Advocates (LCA) managed to achieve all the targets/expected results during the year.

During the implementation of the project, the Law Center of Advocates did not register any cost overruns or high costs output/objective.

1. **Coordination:**

No changes in the coordination mechanism during the implementation of the project:

- close cooperation with the UNHCR Regional Representation for Central Europe regarding the protection and programme/financial issues.

- regular meetings and communications with relevant governmental institutions – the Bureau for Migration and Asylum, the National Legal Aid Council, the General Inspectorate of Border Police; the Department of Penitentiary Institution; the Public Agency Service; the Ombudsperson Office.

- good cooperation with the local NGOs: ‘Memoria’ NGO specialized in assistance of victims of torture and trauma people; ‘Life without domestic violence’, and the ‘Casa Marioarei’ NGOs specialized in assistance of victims of domestic violence and abuse; ‘Moldovan Association of Judges’ NGO specialized in trainings for judges in achieving the outcomes of the project.

1. **Partners/Third Parties:**

N/A

**PMC-11: Annual Feedback Forms**

**PARTNER TO UNHCR ANNUAL FEEDBACK FORM**

**Year: 2020**

**Country: Moldova, Republic of**

**Agreement Symbol: MDA01/0000000068/001**

UNHCR aims to enhance partnership and project management in order to achieve the desired results in providing protection to refugees and other Persons of Concern. Please provide concise comments and suggestions (a maximum of 2 pages, to be submitted with the end-of-year report):

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1. Was your organization invited to participate in the Country Operations Plan? | YES  NO |
| If so, did you participate in the Country Operations Plan?  YES  NO | |
| 1. Was your organization informed about the outcome of the Operations Plan by mid-November? | X YES  NO |
| If yes, when? | |
| 1. Was the Project Partnership Agreement signed before the 2nd week of January? | x YES  NO |
| If no, when? | |
| 1. Was there a common understanding reached during the negotiation process leading to the Project Agreement? | x YES  NO |
| If no, please explain | |
| 1. Was there timely release of funds in accordance with the terms of the Project Partnership Agreement and implementation rate? | x YES  NO |
| If no, please provide further detail | |
| 1. Was a joint monitoring plan developed within the first trimester of the Project? | x YES  NO |
| 1. Was the monitoring plan implemented accordingly? | x YES  NO |
| If no, please provide further detail | |
| 1. Did UNHCR provide timely feedback on Partner financial and performance reports? | x YES  NO |
| 1. Was your organization correctly informed about project closure and was it implemented in time? | x YES  NO |
| If no, please provide further detail | |
| 1. Was your organization informed of the results of the project audit? | x YES  NO |
| 1. In cases of UNHCR budgetary constraints, was the agreed Project Budget adversely affected? | YES x NO |
| If so, was your organization informed in a timely manner? X YES  NO | |
| 1. Was your organization able to get in touch with UNHCR personnel when needed? xYES  NO   If no, please provide further detail | |
| 1. Do you have any suggestions for improvement in terms of partnership and project management? | |

Name of Partner Organization:

Name of the Authorized Official (same as the person who signed the Project Partnership Agreement):

Signature: Date:

**The “8+3” template - A new way of standardizing, simplifying and harmonizing humanitarian reporting**

**FEEDBACK QUESTIONNAIRE**

This short feedback survey is designed to help those managing the common reporting pilot evaluate how well it is working, how it affects the overall reporting process, and to collect concerns or feedback about the template itself. These will be used to evaluate the overall pilot success, to develop suggestions for modifying the template or other aspects of the pilot, and to develop future recommendations for the harmonizing and streamlining reporting work stream.

It is important to fill these out at the same time partners finalize the reporting template, and submit these questions with their final report, to the donor. If, for reasons of confidentiality, partners do not wish to fully answer these question in the same form as their donor report, they may send a copy of their answers to[HarmonizingReporting@gppi.net](mailto:HarmonizingReporting@gppi.net)***.***

1.       How long did this report take you to develop material for and fill out (excluding these pilot questions)? Was that roughly the same, more, or less than other reporting? It took 1 week to develop and compile the report.

2.       Have you also had to submit reporting on this common template to other donors? Which? Was it beneficial to have a similar template? No.

3.       Were there questions that you found less useful than others in capturing project impact, or important humanitarian elements? Were there questions you would have added? No

4.       Were there other reporting steps required for this project other than this reporting template, for example additional supporting documentation requests, requests for additional reports or updates by donors, or other? No.