

Agreement Symbol: MDA01/2022/000000075/004
Project Performance Report (Final Report)

PROJECT PERFORMANCE REPORT template
(Final Report - including for Multi-Year Agreement reporting)

Partner Name:	<i>Law Center for Advocates, Moldova</i>
Budget Year:	<i>2022</i>
Partner Code:	<i>1178006</i>
Cost Centre/s:	<i>21101</i>
Pillar/s:	<i>Pillar 1,2</i>
Situation/s: (if applicable)	<i>1900, 1203,2900</i>
Project Start Date:	<i>01.01.2022</i>
Project End Date:	<i>31.12.2022</i>
Total Project Budget:	<i>28,644,656.28 MDL</i>
Operation/Country:	<i>Moldova</i>
Impact Statement/s (with Impact Area):	<i>Favorable Protection Environments People fleeing Ukraine access protection and emergency assistance</i>
Outcome Statement/s (with Outcome Area):	<i>AC1A000 Access to territory BC1A001 Asylum procedures DC1A009 Vulnerability in asylum PC1A00C Integration CC1A002 Statelessness AC1A00G Government ensures access, reception and protection</i>
Output statement	<i>AC1A000108 - Access to territory in Moldova BC1A00110E - Asylum procedures in Moldova DC1A00910R - Vulnerability in asylum in Moldova PC1A00C112 - Integration and solutions in Moldova CC1A00210J - Statelessness prevented and reduced in Moldova AC1A00G11F - Ukraine emergency: Improvement and monitoring of reception conditions</i>
Reporting Period:	<i>01.01.2022-31.12.2022</i>
Date of Report:	<i>20.02.2022</i>

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1. OVERALL PERFORMANCE

During 2022 project implementation CDA:

- 118853 free-of-charge legal counseling and assistance provided for asylum-seekers and refugees and facilitate access to legal aid whenever possible.
- 320 border monitoring visits conducted
- 393 persons of concern received legal assistance at Protection desks in Cash enrollment centers
- 197 interventions with authorities registered in proGress
- 514 counsellings for non-Ukrainian refugees registered in proGress
- 24 monitoring visits to reception and detention conditions in all facilities under the supervision of the Ministry of Internal Affairs
- 17 trainings were provided to the Government with regard to access to territory and asylum procedures: trainings for border police, personnel of detention and accommodation center, child protection authorities on refugee law; facilitate capacity building for judges, public defenders, government personnel.
- 6 refugee status determination and integration systemic problems via judicial engagement and strategic litigation addressed
- CDA improved and maintained the communication with asylum-seekers and refugees, facilitating their participation in the activities organized by LCA during the implementation of project. CDA maintained close communication via “green line” and online requests that will allow prompt intervention to the cases.
- 44 applicants for stateless status, stateless people and people at risk of becoming stateless provided free of charge legal counselling and facilitated access to legal aid whenever possible.
- 65 CDA lawyers benefited on the job training in areas related to border monitoring, legal counselling, asylum, statelessness, GBV, PSEA, identification of vulnerabilities.

2. CHANGES AND AMENDMENTS

During the Implementation project was amended 4 times to cover the needs related to the emergency response plan for the situation in Ukraine. LCA created new 46 lawyers positions up to 31st of December which monitor borders and provide legal counselling and assistance and guidance to refugees in RACs and private households. ToRs for the border monitor officer and legal counselling officers have been modified and responsibilities have been added. In order to support and provide expertise to the Government Crisis Cell, Ministry of Labor, Social Protection and Family, Chisinau Municipality, CDA seconded consultants for the positions requested by these institutions. To be able to support the community initiative of Lyceum V. Suhomlinski in provision of Romanian language classes for refugees in Edineț, Balti, Ungheni, CDA contracted teachers and provided materials for classes.

3. ACTUAL PROGRESS ACHIEVED TOWARDS PLANNED RESULTS (MEASURING RESULTS)

1. Access to the territory in Moldova

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➤ **MONITORING VISITS AT MIGRATION ACCOMMODATION CENTER (MAC)**

During 01.01.2022-31.12.2022, LCA performed **12 protection monitoring** visits and 13 interventions to Migrant Accommodation Centre (MAC), 32 foreigners benefited of 69 individual counselling sessions. 29 people were placed in public custody in MAC. 7 foreigners from MAC with LCA support lodged asylum applications. Countries of origin of AS in detention- Russian Federation 4, Syria 5, Turkey 12, Azerbaijan-3 stateless Georgia 1.

All of the AS seek asylum after they are placed in MAC. They usually do not know their rights. Usually the AS overstayed their legal term of 90 days on the territory only some illegally crossed the border (Persons originally from Turkey that illegally crossed the border were placed in MAC but didn't necessarily seek asylum in MD - according to the BP these people found out that they can easily seek asylum in EU countries if they are coming from UA which they tried to do, but were caught by the Border Police for crossing the MD border towards UA).

Strategic litigation on detention:

LCA provided information to the court for 2 AS in Comrat and the Court of Appeal in Chisinau and as a result AS was released from public custody.

LCA offered documents and provided info for 2 AS from Russian Federation in Balti Court, but they rejected the fact that they are AS and prolonged the public custody, the judge informed Asylum-Seeker that they will be free only when BMA will take a final decision. LCA had a meeting with the representatives from BMA to take a decision as soon as possible because these AS are in detention and should be a priority. The result is pending.

Findings/recommendation:

- National Legal Aid Council (NLAC) lawyers still lack sufficient information on asylum and do not come to discuss with beneficiaries in MAC. 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. The courts don't have enough translators, they are limiting to Russian and Romanian.
- LCA's lawyer claims/demands all the time for the AS to be released from custody from the moment they lodged asylum claims. Usually, the AS is in public custody for 6 months until the term is expired. The same reasons are invoked to the court by the BMA during prolonging the public custody, totally ignoring the AS request. BMA should apply in practice the law that permit the Head of BMA to release from custody foreigner from the moment he is no longer qualified to be placed in custody.
- BMA uses the lapses in the law and goes to the courts where their requests will be accepted with no proof. Foreigners are placed in public custody in MAC which is situated in Chisinau, but the court that examines this matter every month might be 150-200 km from it. This happens only because Chisinau Court (Riscani headquarters) decided no longer to examine this kind of demand because they examine only when

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there is an official document issued by the public authority, and a simple request as placing a person in public custody is not considered so.

- BMA continues to ask for foreigners to be placed in public custody, even when it is impossible to remove them from Moldova.

Impossible to remove from Moldova:

1. ASs
 2. People from countries of origin such as Iraq, Afghanistan, etc. that have no valid documents and our state cannot obtain the documents to return them to their country. Such countries are at war, and it is impossible to obtain any documents from them.
 3. People with Criminal cases (for which our Criminal Code lays down preventive measures and does not imply placing persons in public custody according to the Administrative Code or the Law of Administrative litigation). Criminal cases such as illegally crossing the border, extortion, manufacture of possession and use of false official documents (there was a case of a stateless person - in the end after 6 months, he was released from MAC and not forced to return).
- Therefore, further “placing in public custody” for the purpose of expulsion is not justified under the provisions of the European Convention on Human Rights (art. 5 letters ECHR) and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (art. 9 PIPDCP). As a result, persons are released upon expiry of the maximum period of 6 months of placing persons in public custody.
 - Contravention Code of the Republic of Moldova does not currently provide a way to revise decisions regarding the expulsion of persons.

Advocacy interventions with relevant state authorities:

- LCA informed the Ombudsperson Office about the exceeded term of detention in MAC and the quality of legal assistance provided by the state lawyers/public defenders.
- 4 trainings for the Border Police have been organized on asylum procedure in RM, legal status of Ukrainians, identification of vulnerabilities and referral services for 80 border police staff.

➤ **MONITORING VISITS AT IAC**

To monitor and prevent the cases of refolement, LCA performed 12 **monitoring visits to the International Airport Chisinau (IAC)** border crossing point and monitor Istanbul-Chisinau and Warsaw- Chisinau flights on Monday or Thursday at 20:40. LCA border monitor had access to the transit zone, and during the visits, no incidents were recorded. 23 foreigners claimed asylum at the airport until September 30 from: Azerbaijan - 2, United Kindom-1, Stateless (coming from Russia) - 1, Russia-6, Ukraine- 8, Belorussia-1, Tajikistan-2, Afghanistan -1, Uzbekistan- 1. These people do not seek asylum in Moldova. They apply for a VISA to travel, work or study in MD. After verifying their documents Border Police do no to grant access

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invoking that the VISA was forged. Also, there are situations with Ukrainian citizens the access is not granted if they do not have a valid passport, even though they are allowed to travel just with an ID all over EU countries.

Reports of the monitoring visits to the IAC were shared with the General Inspectorate of Border Police. Due to the war that started February 24th 2022 and until April 15th 2022 International Airport Chisinau was closed, there were no flights for security reasons. After April 16th 2022, the air routes are only through and from Romania. IAC has an information panel and updated leaflets on asylum in Moldova. There are 2 functional rooms for asylum seekers. 1 room is used by FRONTEX since the war started.

Daily there are people that are denied access in Moldova because they did not meet the conditions (especially Turkish citizens). These people are sent to wait in the transit zone until they will be returned. Sometimes the next flight might be in a couple of hours, but sometimes it might take up to 3-5 days. These people are not provided food or water for this period. They sleep on the chairs in the airport (departure area). Sometimes the Border Police would even take their phones from them, so they could not call anyone during this period.

➤ **Border monitoring Multifunctional Team visits (MFT)**

1. **MFT visit on 7 June 2022**, which includes representatives of CDA, BMA, GIBP, Ombudsperson office and UNHCR jointly monitored **1 Sector of the border police Criva and BCP Criva**. This BCP was chosen by the MFT because on May 23rd the representatives from CDA and UNHCR didn't have access to the BCP territory.

Main findings: This is a common crossing point, UA border police are the ones who are verifying the documents of the people at the entrance to MD. BCP had 54 asylum requests since February 26, 2022, 53 UA men, 2 UA women and 1 person from the Philippines. All of them, except 3 men, were taken to Criva Border Police Sector to be registered, and after this, the border police took them to Calareseuca where they would deliver them to BMA. Those 3 men were registered in the Criva Border Police Sector and then released because this was happening in the early days of the war when there were no precise procedures on how to process them. The Border Police informed that they are driving these ASs on their own even though according to the agreement with BMA they should be the ones who are. On May 23rd the representatives from CDA and UNHCR didn't have access to the BCP territory. MFT was informed that the access was not granted by the Customs Service and not by GIBP. According to the MOU, the assurance of access is provided by GIBP.

Recommendations: BCP needs a place for children to play and a baby care space. No representatives from guardianship authority. Access to the BCP territory for UNHCR staff should be granted and cannot be declined according to their mandate. Also, for CDA, the access should not be restricted because we are working on a project with UNHCR.

Criva Border Police Sector

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Main findings: 2 rooms for AS. The toilet and shower are not in the same space but can be provided. The register for AS is in electronic form. While monitoring the system broke and the Border Police could not provide the electronic information. In the end, they found the Register that was dated June 26th, 2022, including all the AS from February 26th 2022. The handwriting was done by the same person and the same pen which is strange as the shifts change every 12 hours.

Monitoring report of the visit was sha

In practice, the Ombudsman person is writing a report about the main findings where according to them, they state all the human rights that were or might be violated by BP. He also includes the recommendations which are mandatory for the BP. After this, the BP execute the instructions of the ombudsman and are making the changes or are coming up with a solution that was done in order to obey his recommendations.

2. Access to and quality of status determination procedures improved

During 01.01.2022-31.12.2022, the LCA assisted,

- 166 beneficiaries, (72 refugees and 94 AS
- 55 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.
- 5 online visas for refugees Those who receive refugee status in RM can invite their family members to Moldova via online visa process. CDA helped 5 refugees to apply for an online visa for their wives with children or mothers to come to Moldova

LCA provided legal counselling and assistance during RSD procedure for 33 individual asylum applications. Individual interviews are of particular interest as they are with 3rd country nationals usually with Russian or Belarusian citizenship, but who have a residence permit in UA for several years.

Temporary Accommodation Centre

- 24 regular visits were performed at Temporary Accommodation Centre.
- 115 individual counselling sessions were conducted with 77 asylum-seekers from Ukraine, Syria, Turkey, Georgia, Russian Federation.
- 10 asylum seekers have been redirected to the National Aid Council (NLAC)

Info sessions:

8 info sessions have been organised for Temporary Accommodation Center (TAC) near airport for 105 asylum seekers on „Rights and obligations of AS”.

Representation in Courts:

LCA represented 6 beneficiaries in national courts:

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1 case at Chisinau Court, 1 pending cases at Chisinau Court of Appeal, and 3 pending cases at the Supreme Court of Justice. Cases solved in favour of beneficiaries and BMA has to grant protection to beneficiaries.

3. Monitor Refugee Status Determination (RSD) jurisprudence

38 RSD cases monitored at the judicial level. At the end of reporting period there were 19 cases pending in the Chisinau Court: 15 pending cases in the Court of Appeal, and 4 case pending in the Supreme Court of Justice.

3 decisions issued by the national courts in the reported period:

- 3 positive decisions at the Supreme Court

Lawyers who represent the cases:

- NLAC lawyers – 30 cases (7 lawyers).
- LCA lawyer – 3 cases (one lawyer).

Strategic litigation:

The BMA rejected asylum application or a family which members have 2 citizenships (Kirgizstan and Kazakhstan). Additionally, they have children who are citizen of the Republic of Moldova because they born on the territory of the Republic of Moldova. The CDA represented the family at the BMA and agreed with the BMA that the family members to apply repeatedly for asylum, because general situation in Kazakhstan was uncertain, because of an attempted government overthrow and street violence. Their return to Kirgizstan is impossible because of previous interethnic violence in Osh region of Kirgizstan (the applicants are Uzbek ethnic).

3. *Integration and solutions in Moldova*

25 refugees were counselled on integration and naturalization procedure. 41 cases of naturalization are active. 6 cases received citizenship.

- 11 interventions with public authorities regarding naturalization cases.
- 2 awareness raising sessions for Ghindesti town and Ghindesti village have been organised on integration of refugees and avoiding statelessness situations.
- 13 refugees counselled on access to Romanian language classes, employment, business opening.

4. *Vulnerability in asylum in Moldova*

LCA provided legal counselling and assistance for more than 10,000 refugees from Ukraine on documentation issues, access to medical services, employment rights and enrollment to schools.

LCA provided 1 training for 25 Ștefan Voda social assistance and child protection authorities. A communication network was established with authorities. 4 info-sessions on local level in Ștefan Voda region organised for 50 local authorities including child protection.

CDA assisted 156 cases regarding children without documents, separated children, unaccompanied children, their access to territory and to a safe environment.

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CDA have an active role in identifying children at risk and mediating the relationship between children, border police and child protection authority. On March 15 was the first successful case of intervention of child protection authority, at the border, in a case of a child at risk. In the period of 24th February-15th March, child protection focal point on the governmental level was ignoring the calls from border police, BMA, CDA. Starting from April 14, 2022, Emergency situation commission included in their decision, annex 3 how to act in case of unaccompanied children at the border. Now, guardianship authority is present at all BCPs and act according to the law.

Palanca, Otaci, Cahul- Oancea, Giurgiulesti-Reni, Giurgiulesti-Galati, Sculeni BPCs Guardianship Authorities is present and take children into their custody. No incident with children had occurred.

The rest of the BCPs: no Guardianship Authorities. No information about them or even a telephone number. No BMA representatives due to the lack of staff.

Issues identified:

Children between 16-18 years old can freely exit Ukraine without accompanying person and without power of attorney. MD Border police allow them the access to the territory. The problem appears when these children are trying to cross MD-RO border. According to the RM law they are children and cannot cross the border without parents or power of attorney.

Child protection authority has a proactive role at the border; however, they have no specific instructions on what to do further with the children they took into custody. There are only very broad strategies, instructions.

There is a need to develop intersectoral instructions for border police, BMA and child protection authorities in their mandate to intervene in cases of children at risk.

5. Ukraine Emergency: Improvement of monitoring of reception conditions.

➤ **MONITORING VISITS AT the BCPs and BPSs MD**

Since February 24 CDA performs daily **320 monitoring visits to the border crossing points** at Palanca, Otaci, Cahul, Giurgiulesti. Once a week we visit Ocnita, Criva-Mamaliga, Unguri, Briceni, Lipcani, Larga, Mirnoe-Tabaki, Cismichioi, Costesti-Stanca, Sculeni, Leuseni, Tudora, Basarabeasca, Ceadar-Lunga1, Ceadar-Lunga2, Vulcanesti-Vinogradnoe where is reduced flow of cars and pedestrians. Lately, no requests for asylum.

Etulia – Fricăței BCP temporary closed

CDA also performed some visits to the Border Police Sectors, such as Valea Perjei BPS, Tudora BPS, Criva BPS and Basarabeasca BPS.

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BCPs Palanca, Tudora-2, Otaci, Cahul, Giurgiulesti Ocnita, Criva-Mamaliga, Unguri, Briceni, Lipcani, Larga, Mirnoe-Tabaki, Cismichioi, Costesti-Stanca, Sculeni, Leuseni, Tudora-2, Basarabeasca, Ceadar-Lunga1, Ceadar-Lunga2, Vulcanesti-Vinogradnoe have the old information panel. **All the BCPs** and the sectors of the border police Valea Perjei, Tudora, Criva and Basarabeasca have updated leaflets on asylum in Moldova, but is not being accessible to the public.

There are 3 functional rooms for asylum-seekers at the sector of the border police Tudora-1 which is located from the BCP "Palanca" and "Tudora-2" for about 10 min driving. (The visit took place on April 7, 2022) Surveillance cameras that they had in these 3 rooms last year have been removed. *CDA was informed that the rooms at the Sector Police are not used for AS since all of them are taken to the camp refugee. It is the temporary Refugee Camp (sorting center in the tents) at the Palanca where people can stay no longer than 72 hours.*

There are 2 functional rooms for asylum-seekers at the sector of the border police Basarabeasca which is located from the BCP Basarabeasca for about 2 min driving.

Palanca registered the biggest nr of asylum seekers, with 4921 -1/1/2022-12/31/2022

	Nr. of visits	ASs	Illegal crossings	Separated children	Persons counselled
AEROPORT	116	67		93	118
BASARABEASCA	18	0	0	0	28
BRICENI	36				38
CAHUL	172	16	17	4	606
CIADIRLUNGA- Maloiaroslavet 11	21				21
CIADIRLUNGA- Novie Troiani 2	15				9
CISMICHIOI	12				5
COSTESTI	33	61			78
CRIVA	48				53
GIURGIULESTI- GALATI	90		3		518
LARGA	26		2		17
LEUSENI	23	4	10	5	90
MIRNOE	18			1	23
OCNITA	47				45
OTACI	242	45	21	48	1613
PALANCA	397	4921	1183	164	11465
LIPCANI-RADAUTI	35		5		16
GIURGIULESTI-RENI	98	13		9	355
SCULENI	34			1	96
TUDORA	35	308		2	86
UNGURI	30				35
VULCANESTI	27				24
Total	1573	5435	1241	327	15339

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Issues identified:

- People with specific needs: single mothers, pregnant women with or without children, old persons, people with disabilities coming to Moldova and leaving for UA
- Special Investigation Unit profiling asylum seekers
The people who are seeking asylum are mostly men. Before Bureau for Migration staff takes their request in written form the Special Investigation Unit is taking them to the second floor of the BCP Palanca, in a room where they are being interrogated without a lawyer. Several of the ASs confessed to CDA that they were stripped until their underwear/boxers. The main question is how they passed all the military checkpoints and how much did they pay to the UA to get to Palanca BCP. None of the ASs informed CDA that Special Investigation Unit asked for bribes.
After they are being interrogated Special Investigation Unit are releasing them without making sure that they will make it back to Migration. From the second floor until the 1st floor where BMA has an office all of these men were harassed by the UA Border Police. There was a situation when 1 AS entered the next door on the 1st floor where the UA Border Police have an office. Because he didn't file a request for asylum in written form the UA BP held him in their custody. CDA with MD BP got him out of the UA office and directed him to BMA's office.
- Number of AS decreased, because there are military checkpoints until BCP PALANCA where men are prevented to pass.
- Ukrainians run from Mykolaiv, Odessa, Kharkov and reach BCP by organized buses, or by private individuals. Most people said they intend to transit Moldova and go to EU countries. Ukrainians that are staying in MD usually have relatives. Only some of them declared that they will remain in RM, they stated that they can't afford to travel further.
- Number of men crossing the border illegal increased in 4th quarter of 2022.
- Increased number of asylum seekers at Airport from : Turkey, Iran, Syria, Tajikistan.
- In some cases, UA embassy provided travel documents for Ukrainians willing to return to UA, flying from EU countries with internal passport only.
- **Ukrainians returning to Ukraine.** Some of them said that they need clothes, cars, tires for the car, women said that they are going back to see the men, others are tired of living abroad and they want to go home, especially because they know more people than already have returned. Others said that they are no longer able to sustain living in other countries, such as Moldova or Romania. Also, Ukrainians today are returning because they heard that the war is calming down in their area. 80% are single mothers with children, 20% Elderly.
- Moldovan Border Guards were provided 10 trainings and respect the asylum procedure and allow access to the territory for asylum seekers. The procedure is well implemented, compared with the beginning of the war. There are still issues with

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some situations out of ordinary protocols. Border Police are waiting for requests for asylum coming from people and do not make the profiling in order to understand if the person needs asylum or not.

The BP should pay attention to the people that are crossing the BCPs in general. In case of the vulnerable persons, BP should be drawing more attention to them because it is a more delicate situation. The same applies to the AS. If there are people that show signs of fear, etc.

On the day that the war started at Tudora BCP, more than 100 persons were denied access to the territory just because they did not know the word asylum. They invoked that they cannot go back and that they are afraid for their life but didn't ask for asylum. Most of them were parents with babies from 1 month to 1 year old and couldn't pass the border because they didn't have valid passports for the children.

All of them have been waiting to cross the border from 8 a.m. Border Police didn't accept their request for asylum until 3 p.m. when CDA (LCA) arrived at the BCP Tudora and explained to Border Police that the fear for their life in UA is a way to request asylum and it is not necessary for people to know the legal terms. After this situation Border Police started processing (accepting the request for asylum) all the women and children, men or elderly that didn't have the right papers.

- There are gaps in profiling and identifying persons with vulnerabilities among refugees.
- Cases of separated children are identified daily and referred to guardianship authority.

Recommendations:

- It is important to establish what will be the further steps taken against those men that are illegally crossing the border and what decisions will be taken. In daily practice, the on-duty chief (Shift Leader) of the border police is processing and takes the statements of people without entry stamps, then puts only the exit stamp in their passports before sending them to Romania. These documents are forwarded to the Police Inspector in Ungheni where they are registered as an R-2 criminal case. Those involved are not informed that this process began a criminal case against them.
The only way to cross the Border from UA to with MD for men is to either seek asylum at the BCP or to cross illegally the border. The men usually are afraid to seek asylum in MD. Especially since June 1st. If a person seeks asylum their passports it is held by Migration, even though they are writing afterwards that they want to cancel their request. You can get it back only in 2 weeks to 1 month until the BMA gives you an answer on your withdrawing requests.
- People must be informed about the necessary documents to cross the borders so they will not be turned away by Moldovan border police.

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- BMA should be assisting the Border Police in case of asylum-seekers at the popular BPC's all the time. Border Police complaint that BMA does not provide any support on calls or logistics for the border police related to refugees crossing the border.
- Guardianship Authority must provide a 24 h contact for the Border Police in case they need assistance.

LCA is providing legal counselling and assistance in 69 RACs all over the country. LCA staff provide legal counselling at all protection desks for cash enrolment (Causeni, Orhei, Moldexpo, Comrat, Ungheni, Donduseni, Cahul), Blue Dots (Otaci, Palanca Bus Station, Moldexpo RAC) and register and preregister persons for EU airlifts program. LCA staff take an active part in protection and monitoring exercise, thus 933 individual monitoring questionnaires were completed.

While in Chisinau refugees are mostly hosted in RACs, in the territory refugees are in private houses. The biggest number of refugees is attested in Causeni and Stefan Voda region.

CDA provided a total of 118853 individual counselling to refugees all over the country. 72 refugees benefited of Romanian language classes provided by lyceum Suhomlinski in Balti, Edinet, Otaci and Ungheni.

Ministry of Education Order no.178 of 15 March 2022 on the enrolment in general education institutions of children from refugee families from Ukraine, art.140 of the Education Code, the Decision of the Commission for Exceptional Situations of 15.03.2022, the Asylum Law, Law no.274/2011 on the integration of foreigners in Moldova states the right of refugee children to be enrolled in schools in the same conditions and RM citizens. With the efforts of LCA child protection officer and legal counsellors in Causeni, a new group of children was opened to accommodate 20 Ukrainian children in the local kindergarten.

With support of CDA, Ombudsperson Office prepared two reports on monitoring the observance of the rights of foreigners from Ukraine in the context of the state of emergency for the period from February 25 to April 30, 2022 with recommendations for the key state actors in managing the Refugee response plan on the reception conditions. <https://cda.md/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/Final-Raport-nr.1-persoane-stra%CC%86ine-refugiate-engl.pdf> The report mentioned first recommendation granting temporary protection for foreigners from Ukraine.

General department of emergency situations was provided technical support through covering the electricity bills for Palanca, Cahul Temporary shelters for refugees, Balti, Calaraseuca RAC.

LCA seconded a Roma community mediator and a reporting officer for the Crisis cell of the government.

7 trainings were provided for newly employed staff of CDA on different topics: asylum legislation, identification of vulnerabilities, child protection, humanitarian principles, GBV and

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LGBTQI. These were training for the 60 new CDA legal counsellors on asylum law, identification of vulnerabilities, LGBTQI organized by CDA trainers.

LCA provided 10 trainings for the staff of other NGOs involved in the Ukrainian refugee response plan on national asylum system.

6. *Statelessness prevented and reduced in Moldova*

During reporting period:

- 37 stateless persons received legal counselling and assistance
- 7 new stateless status applicants assisted during the SSD procedure.
- LCA organised an all over the country awareness raising session with local authorities on identification of stateless and undocumented persons and their referral to LCA. CDA distributed calendars with information on CDA services, statelessness, refugees, undocumented persons to all local authorities in RM.
- CDA, focused not only on refugee groups which flow from the Ukraine side, where cases of risk of Statelessness were found, but also focused on the local cases. Collaboration with Social Assistance workers helped us to identify the cases of risk of Statelessness.
- CDA in their regular visits to the RAC's detected the new cases which we started to work with.
- Persons fleeing Ukraine with family roots in RM were interested to apply for the Moldovan citizenship, 4 procedures were started.
- 5 cases of refugees and foreigners who reached legal terms of residence were assisted on naturalization procedure.
- 1 case represented to the court on refusal of PSA to accept the application for the Moldovan ID/Passport because of birth certificate lack.
- Largest number of the cases at risk to be stateless are kids born in Ukraine or Russia with no birth certificates or any other birth confirmation. CDA assist and to try to speed up this kind of cases with support of „10 Kvitnea” NGO.

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Output(s) Statement	Key Output activities	Output Indicator(s)	Pop. Type	Output Targets by Pop. Type					Achieved until 31 December 2022	Comments
Access to territory in Moldova	Conduct regular to monitor access to information, availability and access to legal assistance and interpretation services, referral of asylum-seekers with specific needs to the relevant services	# of PoC assisted with civil status registration or documentation	Refugees and asylum seekers	160 (80 newly registered AS+ 80 pending AS from 2021)					160	
Asylum procedures in Moldova	Facilitate capacity building of government personnel, judges, public defenders and interpreters involved in the RSD procedure, including on topics such as identification of vulnerabilities, LGBTI and SEA (4 trainings)	# of government officials trained on status determination	Refugees and asylum seekers	80 persons					80	
Vulnerability in asylum in Moldova	Develop capacity and expertise among guardians and social workers to effectively implement child protection procedures through 2 trainings. Increase the capacity of the personnel of the detention centre, including on topics such as identification of vulnerabilities, LGBTI, HIV and SEA (1 training)	# of trained participants (UNHCR and partner workforce and government authorities) who increased their GBV knowledge and skills on prevention and response	Refugees and asylum seekers	40					40	
Integration and solutions in Moldova	Support persons of concern's integration in local communities through counselling on rights and obligations provided to 200 individuals.	# of PoC having their naturalization facilitated	Refugees and asylum seekers	50					47	
		# of individuals attended		60					72	

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		Romanian language classes								
Statelessness prevented and reduced in Moldova	Facilitate the access of applicants for stateless status to legal aid and provide information on the statelessness procedure. Provide legal counselling to stateless people on the integration program and naturalization procedure.	# of PoC receiving legal assistance	Stateless people	40					42	
Ukraine emergency: Improvement and monitoring of reception conditions	Provide legal counselling and assistance to all arrivals on their rights and obligations in the host country, reception arrangements, available services and legal options (including asylum procedures)	# of individuals receiving legal assistance	Refugees and asylum seekers under Ukraine emergency	50000					118853	
		# of individuals attended Romanian language classes		60					72	
Ukraine emergency-Coordination and leadership	Recruitment of 19 consultants for Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, 2 consultants for Chisinau municipality, 2 staff for Crisis cell Payment of electricity bills.	# of Government offices receiving support	Refugees and asylum seekers under	1					3	

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

Signature (or e-signature):

Date: 20.02.2023