

# CDA ANNUAL REPORT 2023

## Summary

In 2023, CDA implemented a series of projects:

1. Project “Legal assistance for stateless persons in the Republic of Moldova”, funded by the Embassy of the United States of America;
2. The project “Decentralised aid for Ukrainian refugees”, funded by the international humanitarian organisation Oxfam;
3. The “Rule of Law, Human Rights and Justice” project, funded by the International Organisation of the Francophonie;
4. Project “Strengthening Access to Justice by Empowering Moldovan Refugees with Legal Knowledge”, funded by Sweden through the UNDP Global Programme on Strengthening the Rule of Law, Human Rights, Justice and Security for Peace and Sustainable Development
5. Project “Promoting adequate, dignified and safe living conditions in Ukraine and Moldova for victims of the armed conflict in Ukraine”, implemented by HEKS Moldova, with financial support from the Austrian Development Agency (ADA), NACHBAR IN NOT (NiN) Foundation and Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe;
6. Project “Improve the living conditions and well-being of people fleeing the Ukrainian crisis in Moldova”, implemented by HEKS/EPER, with the support of Norwegian Church Aid.

During 2023, CDA provided support to refugees in 8 Cash enrollment centers in Donduseni, Balti, Orhei, Ungheni, Causeni, Cahul, Chisinau and Comrat. CDA monitored border with Ukraine and Romania in respect of legal provision for asylum seekers and unaccompanied children.

CDA provided legal counselling and assistance to 113853 refugees from Ukraine in refugee accommodation centers and host communities. Collaboration agreements with local social assistance directorates, mayoralties and police offices have been established, which contribute to best coordination of efforts.

CDA addressed 12 difficult cases through strategic litigation at administrative and judicial levels.

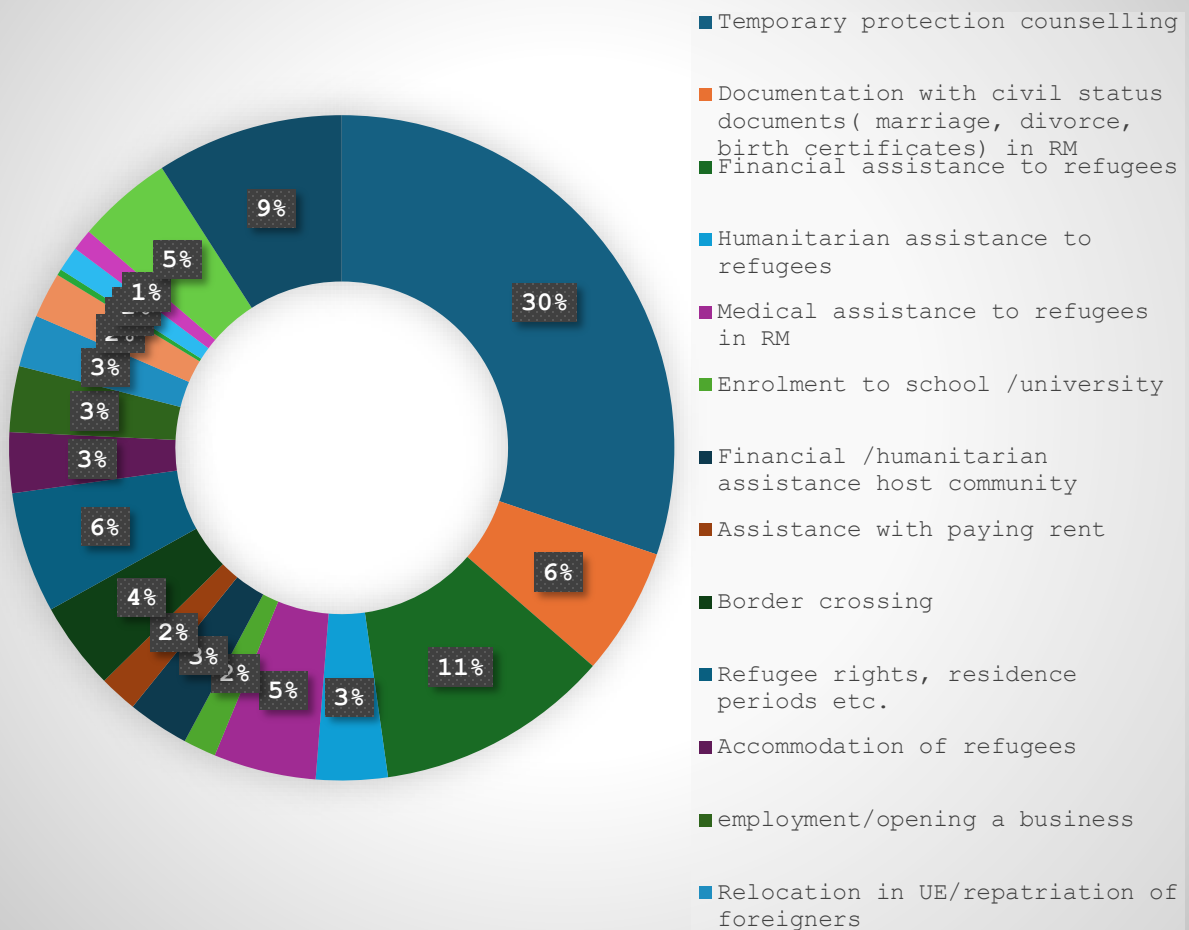
Annual evaluation of services provided by CDA was organised and assessed the rate of satisfaction with services provided.

Advocacy interventions of CDA in collaboration with state authorities contributed to improvement of the situation of beneficiaries of temporary protection and stateless persons in Moldova.

## Legal counselling and assistance strategic direction

During 2023, CDA legal counsellors provided legal counselling and assistance to 113853 individuals, Ukrainian and third country nationals who flee the war in Ukraine. Legal counselling and assistance was available in all 32 raions and Transnistria region to all refugees, asylum seekers, stateless, undocumented persons and foreigners in need.

### Totals counsellings



With support of local authorities, CDA organise 836 info sessions for 10300 refugees from Ukraine. 717 info sessions have been organised for the 1564 staff of local authorities.

### **Temporary Accommodation Centre**

CDA lawyers provide individual counselling in Temporary Accommodation Centre( TAC) and Migrant Accommodation Centre(MAC). Total of 369 counselling have been provided to 154 residents of TAC.

24 protection monitoring visits Migrant Accommodation Centre (MAC), 32 foreigners benefited of 69 individual counselling sessions. During 2023 there were 153 persons placed in MAC, out of them 23 requested asylum.

### **Refugee determination procedure**

54 asylum seekers assisted during RSD procedure. 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. Those with negative decisions are referred to National Legal Aid Council to be assisted with appeal and court representation.

### **Persons with specific needs**

CDA provided legal counselling and assistance to 110 persons with specific needs, especially elderly, persons with physical or mental disability. Most of the case relate to late intervention of the IGM mobile team for registration to temporary protection.

28 persons from RAC for older persons and persons with disabilities from Chisinau were scheduled appointments with UA consulate in Balti. All of them confirmed their status with UA authorities.

2 persons with mental disabilities are in the procedure of establishing judicial protection measures ( a guardianship is named by the court), Moldovan civil court decision are recognised on the territory of Ukraine

### **Gender Based Violence**

CDA assisted 30 cases of gender-based violence against children and women. Most of the cases violence was expressed by members of their families. In 3 cases victims have been assisted to lodge claims to the court and protection ordinances have been issued by police. In 2 cases victims have been children Also, they have been referred to relevant actors for specialised support. Most of the domestic violence victims do not want to declare the perpetrators to police.

### **Child protection**

2521 children were assisted with legal representation on documentation, 461 separated children were documented with temporary protection with support of CDA. 532 best interest assessments were done by protection desk staff to assess the situation of separated or unaccompanied children on the territory of Moldova as well as ensure proper legal representation.

A round table was organised in collaboration with Ombudsman for children on the “Difficulties in children documentation in Transnistrian region”.

### **Statelessness and citizenship**

During 2023, 50 stateless persons and 64 persons were assisted on the facilitation of naturalisation procedure, citizenship recognition or getting stateless status. 13 persons acquired Moldovan citizenship.

## **Capacity development strategic direction**

### **Local community engagement to support social cohesion and integration**

During reported period, CDA conducted 54 social cohesion events in 10 localities across the country. The events were attended by refugees and members of the local community, with the aim of fostering social cohesion and bringing these two groups closer together.

### **Capacity building of district authorities about refugee rights and national asylum law**

During the reporting period, the CDA conducted 25 trainings for 670 social workers on topics such as "Asylum procedures in the Republic of Moldova", "Legal representative and legal guardian of displaced children from Ukraine and the role of social protection staff and guardianship authorities".

1 training on Refugee Status Determination Procedure was organised for 12 staff of the General Inspectorate for Migration.

In collaboration with National Institute for Justice, CDA provided a training for 25 judges and lawyers from all over the country on subjects of refugees status determination procedure, stateless status determination procedure, hate speech and crimes based on the discrimination towards refugees.

### **Capacity building of CDA legal advisors about international and legal frameworks applicable to refugees, refugee rights and asylum procedures**

In reported period, CDA conducted 4 capacity building sessions for CDA lawyers on topics like "The role of lawyers in the asylum application examination procedure", "Asylum procedures in the Republic of Moldova", "Legal representative and legal guardian of children displaced from Ukraine and the role of the social protection system staff and guardianship authorities". The sessions were delivered by specialists in the field of children's rights and the asylum system to 84 lawyers.

CDA developed and disseminated 4 guides, 3 leaflets, 3 posters, produced and promoted 19 video spots on topics such as the rights of refugees, asylum seekers, beneficiaries of international and

temporary protection, stateless or foreigners, prevention of gender-based violence and human trafficking.

## **Monitoring and Advocacy strategic direction**

CDA elaborated 2 studies: “Study of the implementation of temporary protection granted on the territory of the Republic of Moldova to displaced persons from Ukraine” and “Study on the capacity of the national asylum system.”

In 2023, after years of advocacy interventions of CDA, legislative safeguards were introduced to help prevent statelessness at birth. This amendment to Citizenship Law expands the opportunity for children born in situations where their parents' citizenship or international protection status puts them at risk, to acquire Moldovan citizenship.

CDA together with UNHCR advocates for amendments to TP Government decision on several issues related to exclusion of the period absence from the country, extension of the list of persons considered members of the family of the beneficiaries of temporary protection, extension of medical services for beneficiaries of temporary protection.