



ANNUAL REPORT 2017



WOMEN'S
LAW CENTRE



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MESSAGE FROM THE WLC TEAM

The WLC team is delighted to share with you the annual Activity Report, which reflects the key achievements of 2017.

During this year we continued to dedicate ourselves to preventing and combating domestic violence and gender-based violence phenomenon. Our activity contributed to raising the awareness of citizens, including of central public authorities, about the essence, causes and consequences of domestic violence. We believe that only by understanding the phenomenon and being aware of its seriousness we can promote changes and diminish the tolerance of the society to any form of domestic violence.

We are happy to have the opportunity to efficiently cooperate with authorities vested with competence to prevent and combat domestic violence. We would like to particularly highlight the cooperation with and the active involvement of the Ministry of Health, Labor and Social Protection, the General Police Inspectorate and the Forensic Medicine Center.

Together we implemented initiatives meant to contribute to reducing this phenomenon.

In 2017, our team provided assistance to 465 domestic violence victims. They were provided primary and qualified legal aid, psychological counseling and social assistance. Most importantly, we gave them hope for a peaceful and safe life. We are glad that in 2017 some beneficiaries managed to break the circle of violence and have decided to continue their lives by investing in their own education, business and personal development.

We are grateful to our development partners – OAK Foundation, Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, Swiss Cooperation Office, US Embassy, United Nations Development Fund, United Nations Reproductive Health and Rights Agency and International Women's Club for supporting our efforts to eliminate domestic violence from the life of women and children in the Republic of Moldova.



TEAM OF THE WOMEN'S LAW CENTER

„The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams”

Eleanor Roosevelt



Natalia Vicu

Executive Director



Eleonora Grosu

Program Coordinator



Daniela Josanu

Legal coordinator



Violeta Andriuta

Lawyer



Lilia Borzin

Social worker



Diana Pînzari

Communication Coordinator



Olga Sturza

Financial Manager



Victoria Sofian

Accountant



Anastasia Perciu

Program Assistant

31 NATIONAL CONSULTANTS and **4 INTERNATIONAL CONSULTANTS** worked together with the WLC in 2017. Together, we initiated the development of strategic documents in the area of domestic violence; we organized seminars and public discussions, capacity building and training sessions for **1706 persons from different fields, of whom 560 were young people from different districts** of the country.



ABOUT THE WOMEN'S LAW CENTER

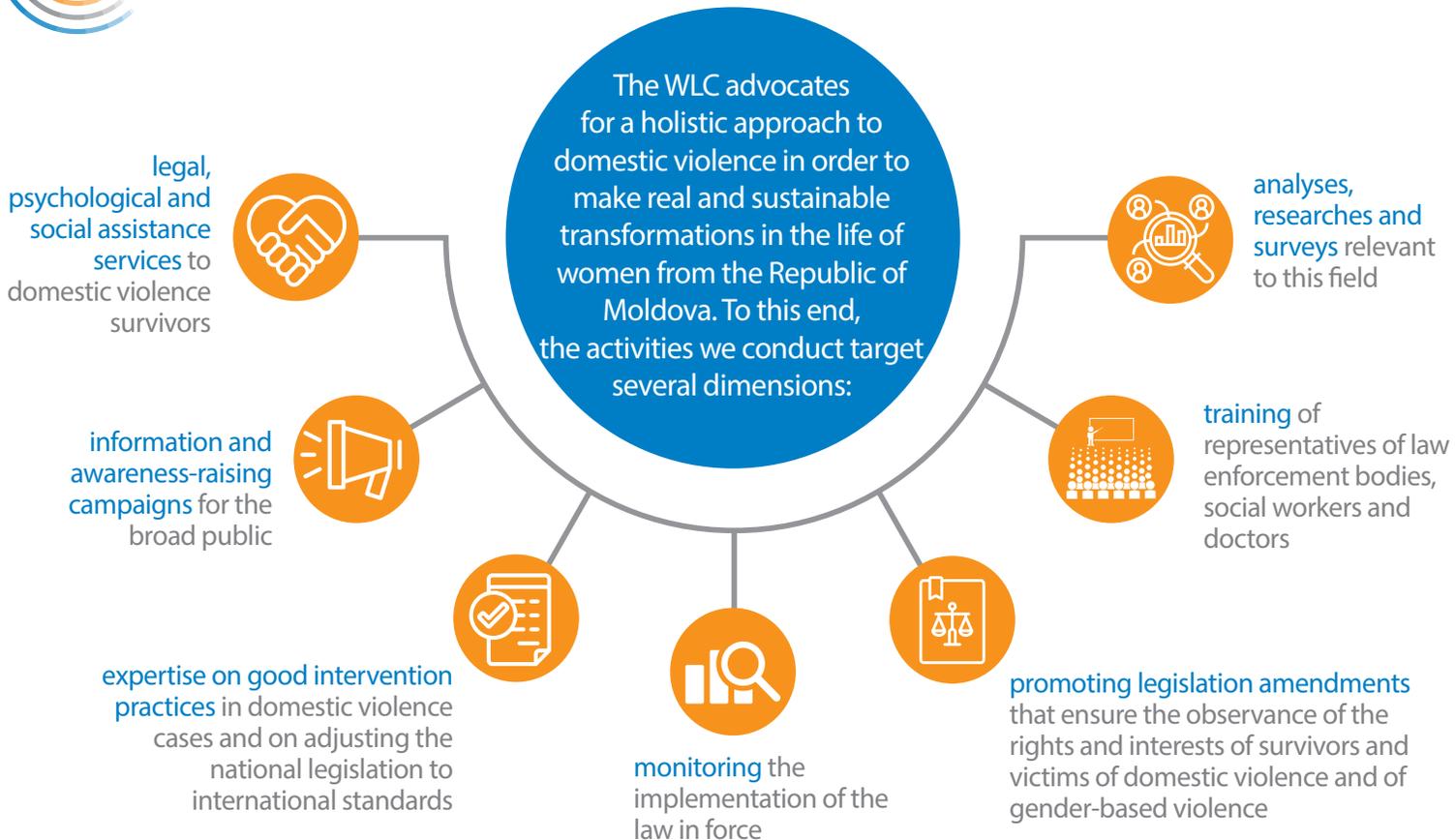
THE WOMEN'S LAW CENTER

is a non-governmental organization set up in 2009 by a group of Moldovan women lawyers to promote gender equality and help prevent and combat domestic violence in Moldova. At the same time, the organization provides free legal and psychological support to women who are domestic violence victims and engages in the process of adjusting the legislation to the European standards, advocating recognition, respect and protection of women's rights as human rights.

WHY DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE?

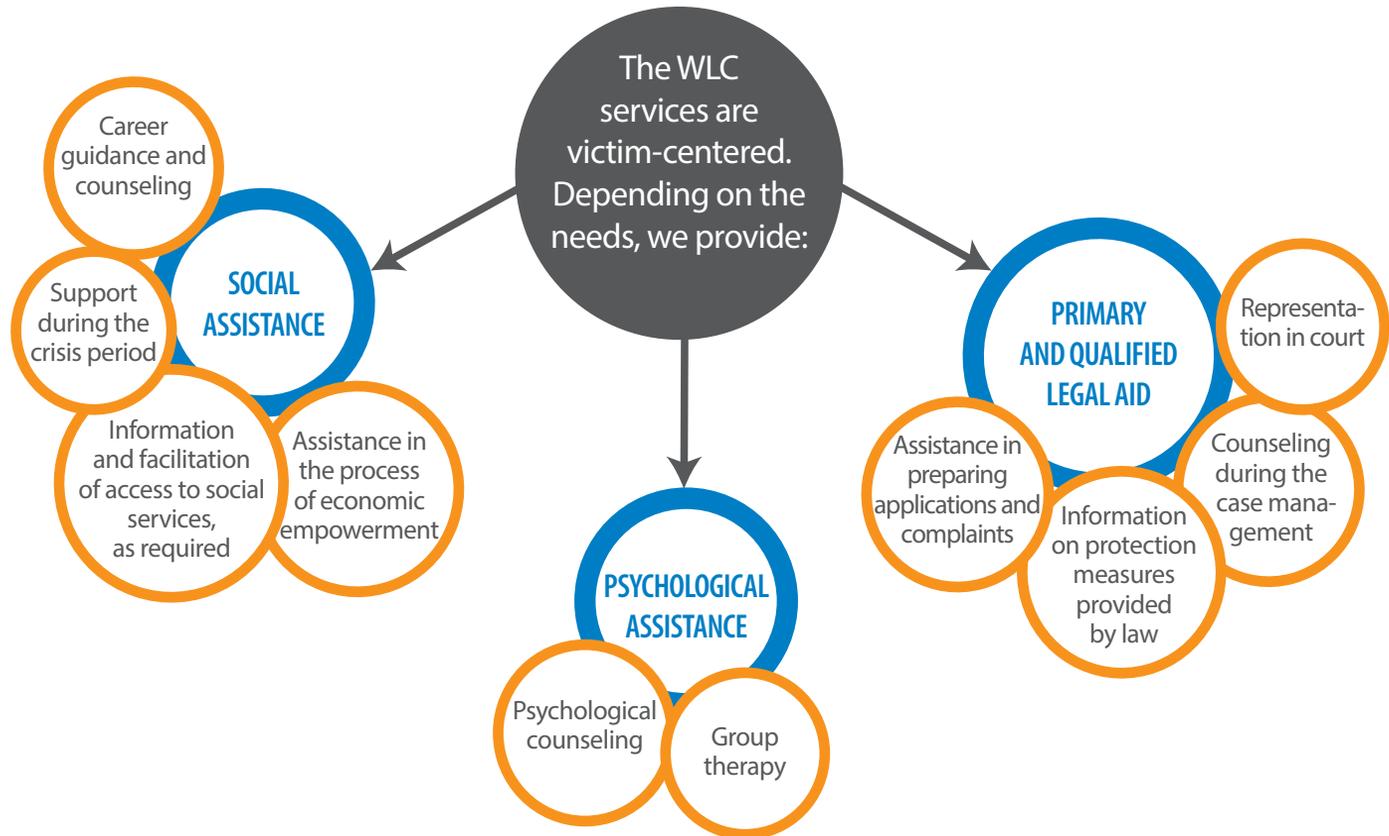
Violence against women and domestic violence is widespread in the Republic of Moldova. The estimates suggest that more than 63% of women and girls aged 15-65 have experienced at least some form of violence during their lifetime. Gender inequality, gender stereotypes and attitudes are deeply rooted in our society and make women accept and tolerate violence. According to the data of IMAGES survey, only 8.4% of the abused women reported the cases to the police due to the low degree of satisfaction with the action taken by the police. This means that thousands of women and their children live in a traumatic environment, depend economically on the perpetrator, do not have a support network and as a result, they perpetuate violence from one generation to another.

3 HOW DO WE ACT?



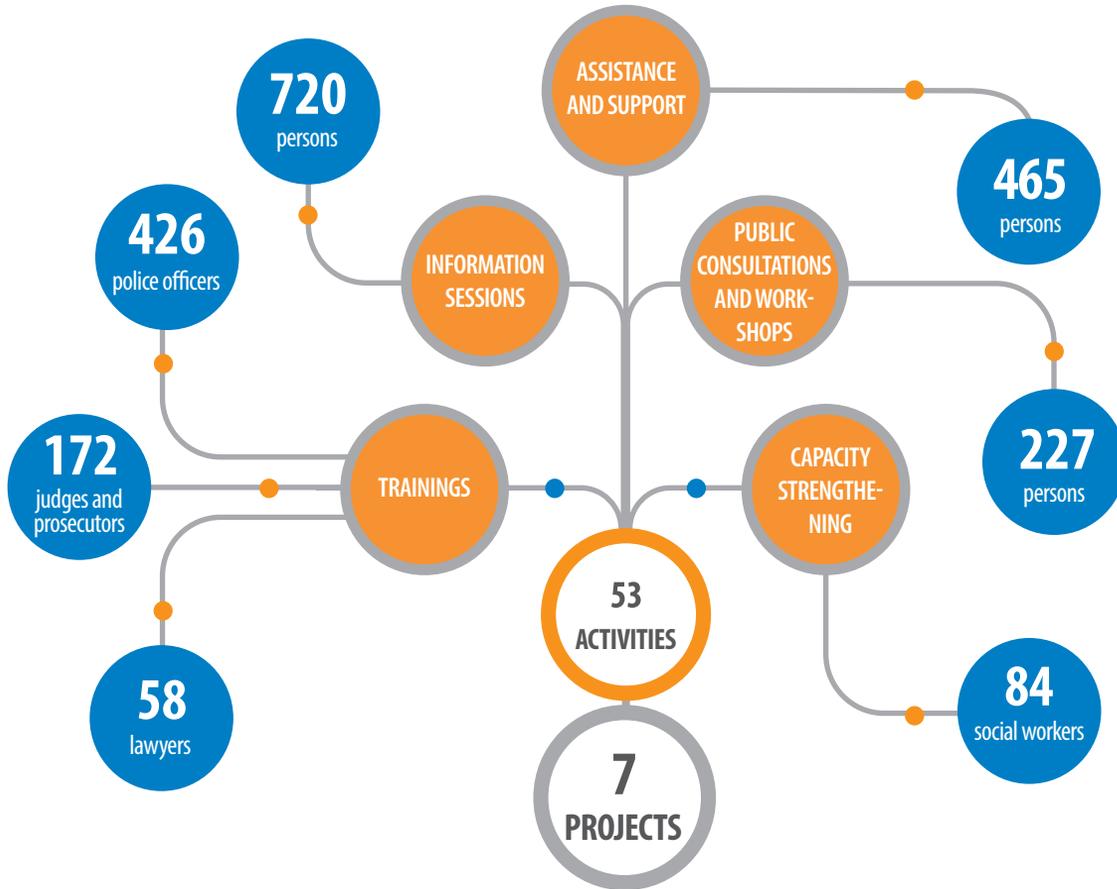


WHAT KIND OF SERVICES DO WE PROVIDE





5 IMPORTANT ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2017





SUPPORT AND PROTECTION FOR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VICTIMS

PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSISTANCE

159 VICTIMS received psychological assistance

11 VICTIMS received long-term psychological assistance

20 were included in the BENEFICIARIES support group

123 PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT REPORTS

109 REPORTS for adults

14 PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT REPORTS for victims' children



LEGAL AID

465 VICTIMS received primary legal aid

72 VICTIMS qualified for legal aid

109 PROTECTION ORDERS issued

12 CONVICTION SENTENCES were pronounced

115.000 lei Non-pecuniary damages amounting were paid as well as pecuniary damages amounting **8396 lei**



SOCIAL ASSISTANCE

10 VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE received help in accessing specific services such as healthcare and placement

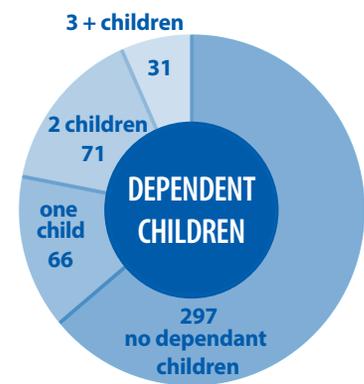
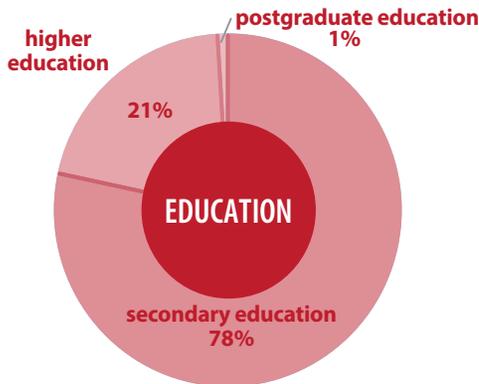
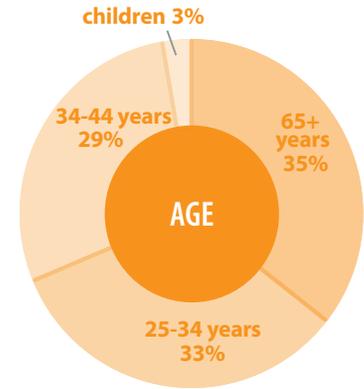
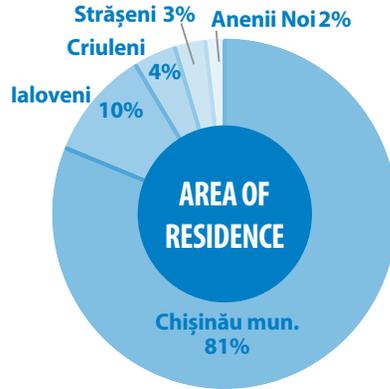
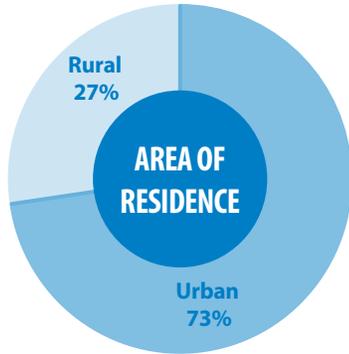
12 VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE received food packages or material aid

9 WOMEN were included in an economic empowerment program

3 WOMEN were helped to find a job



SOCIAL PROFILE OF THE WLC BENEFICIARIES





SOCIAL PROFILE OF THE WLC BENEFICIARIES

TYPE OF VIOLENCE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VICTIMS WERE SUBJECTED TO

PSYCHOLOGICAL



364
CASES

PHYSICAL



307
CASES

ECONOMIC



222
CASES

SEXUAL



20
CASES

SPIRITUAL



10
CASES

COMBINED FORMS OF VIOLENCE



163 CASES

10 CASES



151 CASES

8 CASES



31 CASES

3 CASES





SPECIAL ACTIVITIES CONDUCTED IN 2017



ACTIVITIES AND INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF WLC ARE SUPPORTED BY





RESULTS OF THE PROJECTS IMPLEMENTED IN 2017



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC
Agenția Elvețiană pentru Dezvoltare și Cooperare

Project title: *Enhancing access to justice, legal aid and psychological support to women in detention*

Key achievements:

▶ **77 women** were informed about their rights, **77** received legal services, **17** women received psychological counseling, **7** mothers re-established communication with children, **3 women** were helped with the examination of the applications for release on parole, **2** submitted a second appeal to the Supreme Court of Justice. In one case, the appeal was accepted and the case was sent to retrial

▶ **2 women** are in the process of initiating a review procedure, **2** women's complaints against deprivation of parental rights are examined, **2** beneficiaries managed to recover the ownership over the house, **5** beneficiaries obtained state-guaranteed legal aid

▶ **A training seminar was organized for 14 employees of Rusca Prison No 7.** Every woman in detention will receive a Practical Guide – “Choose a safe life” - with information on domestic violence and women's rights

‘When you are in prison all you want is to serve the sentence as fast as possible and to go back to your family. Many of us have endured years, a whole life of beatings and humiliation, and when you get here, you feel your world collapsing. Thank you for reviving our hopes, for helping us see the light at the end of the tunnel.’ – beneficiary of the project.



Project title: *Economic empowerment and support in crisis situations for women victims of domestic violence*

Key achievements:

9 women were included in the economic empowerment program:

▶ **A sewing machine** was purchased for a young entrepreneur who makes baby clothes for pre-term newborns

▶ A mother of three developed **a small hen farming business**

▶ **A notebook** indispensable for a design student from the Technological College was procured

▶ A young woman is supported to attend **massage classes**

▶ A woman decided to invest in **English courses** for career promotion purposes

▶ A young woman is helped to **study at university**

▶ A young woman with locomotor disabilities attends **individual hand-made courses**

▶ A mother of three was helped to find **a job and a place to live**

▶ A victim of violence was helped to **overcome the crisis situation** after the perpetrator set her house on fire

‘I want to thank you for the initiative to help women passing through difficult moments, for supporting and motivating us to move on and overcome any obstacle. I'm glad to be part of this program and be able to follow my dream’ – Victoria, entrepreneur.



RESULTS OF THE PROJECTS IMPLEMENTED IN 2017



Project title: *Strengthening national capacity to integrate sexual and reproductive health rights into the response of the healthcare system to gender violence*

Key achievements:

- ▶ **3 public consultations** were organized and attended by **86 specialists** who analyzed the 4 pillars of the National Strategy to Prevent and Fight Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence – Protection, Prevention, Integrated Policies and Prosecution
- ▶ **The Action Plan Implementing the National Strategy** was developed and subjected to public consultations and the costs related to the implementation of the actions were estimated
- ▶ We organized **3 round tables** to develop Standard Operating Procedures for social service providers, police and doctors as a part of the multi-sector response to cases of domestic violence

'This exercise is a first attempt of the Government to strategically address the phenomenon of violence against women and of domestic violence. Expectations are high, so it is important to have a common vision and act step by step.' – Lilia Pascal, Head of the Policy Department for Equality between Women and Men within the Ministry of Health, Labor and Social Protection.



Project title: *Strengthen the response capacities of the representatives of law enforcement bodies in cases of domestic violence in Moldova*

Key achievements:

- ▶ Two **international consultants trained 12 monitors** who documented court hearings on cases of domestic violence and human trafficking in the Court of Appeals and the Chisinau District Court.
- ▶ **158 cases** were selected for monitoring: 30 from the Court of Appeals of which 18 on domestic violence and 12 on trafficking in human beings; 128 from the Chisinau District Court, of which 25 civil cases and 25 contravention cases, 78 criminal cases, of which 45 on domestic violence and 33 on trafficking in human beings.

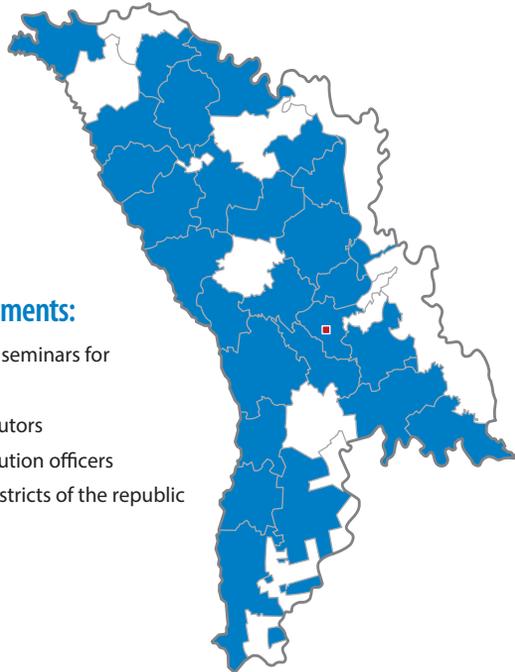
'This project gave us the opportunity to get involved in activities that can improve the efficiency of courts. Our participation in training means that the civil society, including lawyers, matters. We all want a genuine justice.' – Mariana Sargarovschi, Monitor.



RESULTS OF THE PROJECTS IMPLEMENTED IN 2017



Project title: *Strengthen the response capacities of the representatives of law enforcement bodies in cases of domestic violence in Moldova*



Key achievements:

- 7 training seminars for
- 84 judges
- 63 prosecutors
- 26 prosecution officers
- over 30 districts of the republic



Project title:
IMAGES in Moldova, stage II

Key achievements:

- A one-week training course led by one international consultant was organized
- 25 specialists from key ministries and civil society attended the course
- About 15 meetings with different target groups: priests, perpetrators, fathers, mass media, NGOs and public authorities were organized
- The COMBI strategy was developed

'The COMBI training was one of the most challenging lessons in communication. I developed my skills in observation and behavioral analysis, I learned to apply communication tools that had behavioural impact at international level.' – Elena Nofit, Participant.

Project title: *Support of the National Coalition 'Life Without Domestic Violence'*

The National Coalition 'Life without Domestic Violence' was established on 29 April 2014 with the aim to respond effectively to the needs of domestic violence victims. Currently, 22 non-governmental organizations and public institutions working in the field of preventing and combating domestic violence are members of the National Coalition. WLC has been chairing the Secretariat of the National Coalition 'Life Without Domestic Violence' for two years.

Key achievements:

- The accreditation procedure for social service providers was analyzed
- A team building session was organized
- Joint awareness raising events were organized: One Billion Rising and the Christmas Fair

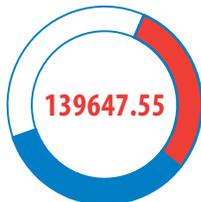
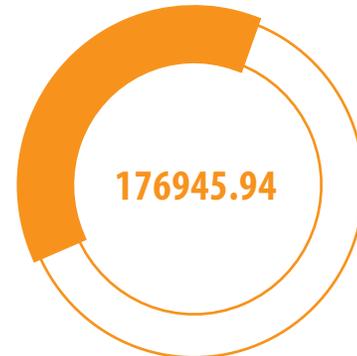
10 BUDGET IN 2017

BUDGET IN 2017: 478.958,78 USD

PROGRAM ACTIVITIES



ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES



PREVENTION



PROTECTION



PROSECUTION



POLICY



ORGANIZATIONAL
DEVELOPMENT



GOVERNMENT

Ministry of Health, Labor and Social Protection
Ministry of Internal Affairs
Ministry of Justice
General Police Inspectorate
General Prosecution Office
National Institute of Justice
Department of Penitentiary Institutions
Forensic Medical Center
National Council for State Free Legal Aid

NON-GOVERNMENTAL

Members of the National Coalition 'Life without
Domestic Violence'
Gender Equality Platform
East Europe Foundation
SOCIOPOLIS Investigation and Advisory Center
Partnership for Development Center
Institute for Family and Social Initiatives
Reproductive Health Training Center
Global Rights for Women
Women Against Violence Europe

FINANCIERS

OAK Foundation
Embassy of Sweden in Moldova
United States Embassy in Moldova
UNFPA Moldova
Swiss Cooperation Office
UN Women Moldova
International Women's Club of Moldova



87, Mihail Kogălniceanu Street
MD 2009, Chisinau, Republic of Moldova
Mobile: (+373) 68 855 050
Site: www.cdf.md
Email: office@cdf.md
Facebook: [@cdfmd](https://www.facebook.com/cdfmd)