



**WOMEN'S
LAW CENTRE**



**ANNUAL REPORT
2023**

**THE VOICES OF WOMEN
SURVIVORS OF VIOLENCE ARE
AT THE HEART OF OUR WORK**

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ABOUT US

The Women's Law Centre (WLC) is a non-governmental organisation founded in 2009 by women lawyers to promote gender equality between women and men in public life and in the family, as well as to prevent and combat domestic and gender-based violence in the Republic of Moldova.

HOW WE ACT

In order to achieve real and lasting change in the lives of women in the Republic of Moldova, WLC advocates for a holistic approach to the phenomenon of domestic and gender-based violence. To this end, our activities are focused on several areas:

- we provide free legal advice and representation, social, psychological support and economic empowerment, as well as vocational guidance services for women survivors of domestic and gender-based violence
- we conduct information and awareness-raising campaigns for the general public
- we train professionals working in the public system
- we provide expertise on best practices in responding to cases of domestic and gender-based violence and in harmonising national legislation with international standards
- we monitor the implementation of existing legislation
- we provide expertise and promote legislative changes to ensure that the rights and interests of victims of domestic and gender-based violence are respected
- we conduct analyses, studies and surveys related to preventing and combating domestic violence and violence against women, as well as gender equality.

WLC MISSION

We contribute to promoting gender equality, preventing and combating domestic violence and violence against women in the Republic of Moldova by raising public awareness, strengthening the capacity of stakeholders in this field, providing holistic services to assist and protect women, researching the phenomenon of domestic and gender-based violence, analysing, monitoring implementation and supporting the process of harmonization of the national legislation with international standards.

VALUES AND OPERATING PRINCIPLES

- Respect for human rights
- A holistic approach based on legal and economic empowerment of women
- A victim-centred approach
- Respect for beneficiaries' decisions and providing necessary support
- Professionalism and impartiality
- Non-discrimination
- Accountability
- Teamwork

WLC VISION

Women and their children – victims or potential victims of domestic and gender-based violence – are protected by effective systems of prevention, monitoring and response to domestic and gender-based violence established at local and national levels.





Angelina Zaporojan-Pîrgari
Executive Director of the
Women's Law Centre
GREVIO member

**2023 WAS A
SPECIAL YEAR**

We are very pleased to present our annual activity report, which reflects the main achievements of 2023. We carried out our work based on the Strategic Development Plan for 2019-2024, which is based on four areas of intervention: Prevention, Protection, Research - Based Policies and Organisational Development.

2023 was a year in which we continued to champion women's rights through gender equality and a victim-centred approach to preventing violence against women, prosecuting perpetrators, protecting victims of domestic and gender-based violence, and developing policies and legislation. We continue to believe that major change can only be achieved with the participation of all professionals in the field, policy makers and the community to which we belong.

In 2023, the WLC team continued to make history in preventing and combating domestic violence and violence against women. This year made history in that we supported institutional reform by creating a new institution in the Republic of Moldova – the National Agency for Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence. At the same time, we were team leaders in the development of the new Country Program on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence for 2023-2027 and its action plan.

Highlights of the year included the launch, in partnership with the Ministry of Interior, of the Fatality Review Report of cases examined by the Commission in charge of monitoring and analysing domestic violence cases resulting in victims' death or severe harm to bodily integrity in 2022.

That same year, we developed and piloted the first Personal Growth Program, an integral part of WLC's Economic Empowerment Program, which was delivered to 15 women over the course of a month. As a result, the beneficiaries gained the skills and competencies needed to embark on the path to financial independence. The long-term goal of the Program is to make it accessible to as many women as possible who want to make sustainable changes in their lives. In addition to training in basic skills essential for employment, women have the opportunity to develop their own business ideas or take courses/trainings that will enhance their financial independence.

In 2023, more than 1,200 women walked through the doors of the Women's Law Centre and received legal advice, psychological and social assistance, vocational guidance and economic empowerment support.

Our team is grateful to the members of the Board of Administration and the General Assembly for their important contributions to the organisational growth and the guidance they provided

throughout the year with the projects undertaken by the Women's Law Centre.

We extend special thanks to community and state organisations, civil society colleagues, community leaders, youth, librarians, journalists and other professionals for sharing their passion for change and acting with sensitivity to promote gender equality and reduce gender-based violence in Moldova. Every day we demonstrate that important results can be achieved and that change for the better is inevitable if we work as a team and have a clear purpose.

On behalf of the WLC team and beneficiaries, we express our gratitude and appreciation to all our funders and donors for their generous contribution and support to the promotion of women's rights, assistance and protection of victims of domestic and gender-based violence from Moldova and refugees from Ukraine.

I am grateful to the remarkable WLC team, who through determination and dedication have once again been able to change thousands of lives this year.

This report is dedicated to the women and children of Moldova who have the right to live in safety, dignity and without violence.





2023 RESULTS IN FIGURES



1,231 survivors received assistance and support



6,629 followers on Facebook



53 awareness activities organised



More than **17,000** unique visitors to the website



280,000 people informed and sensitised



More than **15,000** de refugees supported (including in 2022)



458 criminal justice professionals trained



12 women economically empowered



36,000 informative materials distributed



9 media appearances



DOMESTIC AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE IS PREVENTED
BY REDUCING TOLERANCE OF THE PHENOMENON

Intervention
area –

PREVENTION



Advocating for zero tolerance of gender-based and domestic violence and building the capacity of professionals remain key priorities in the PREVENTION intervention area. We promote changes in the social and cultural patterns of behaviour of women and men to eliminate prejudices and other practices based on the idea of female inferiority or stereotypical roles of women and men. Promoting a human rights-based approach that initiates change at the individual, community and systemic levels is at the heart of work to prevent and combat domestic violence.



INCREASED PUBLIC AWARENESS ON GENDER-BASED AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

We organised **53 awareness** raising activities with the participation of professionals in the field, teachers, local NGOs, initiative groups, business associations and young people across the country. We organised workshops on the empowerment of women and girls in the localities of Ștefan Vodă and Bălți; information sessions for Moldcell female employees on gender stereotypes and discrimination. During the activities we addressed multiple forms of violence, including less recognised forms such as psychological, economic and digital violence.

More than **280,000 people** were informed about prevention and protection measures in case of gender-based violence. The WLC team participated in **9 TV, radio and online programs**. About **36,000 information materials** were distributed in public transport and outreach activities.

As part of the Campaign “16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence”, several activities were organised to raise awareness and inform the public, including:

- The **documentary exhibition “Don’t Blame the Clothes!”** at the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) featuring the stories and reconstructed clothes of nine women and adolescent girls from the Republic of Moldova at the time they were sexually assaulted or harassed. The launch of the exhibition was followed by a public lecture for the NIJ audience, where myths and stereotypes about sexual violence were debunked.
- Participation in the **“Ziarul de Gardă” podcast**, where for the first time the problem of femicide in Moldova was publicly discussed by investigative media.
- Information sessions and reading therapy sessions for women prisoners in Rusca and Pruncul prisons.

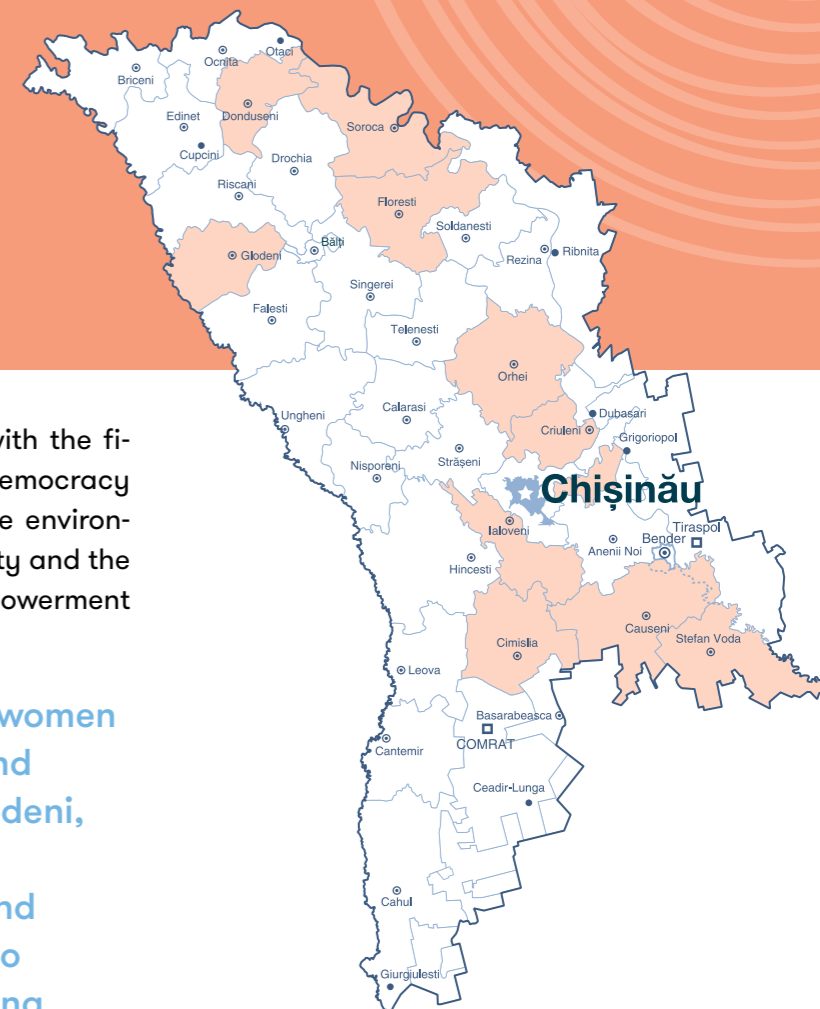


Project “Empowering Women, Local Communities and Refugees in Moldova”

The project, launched in August 2023 with the financial support of the United Nations Democracy Fund (UNDEF), aims to create a positive environment for the promotion of gender equality and the economic, social and educational empowerment of women in 10 districts of Moldova.

For this purpose, 30 people, 15 women (including 5 refugee women) and 15 men from Orhei, Soroca, Glodeni, Căușeni, Ștefan Vodă, Ialoveni, Criuleni, Cimișlia, Dondușeni and Florești districts were selected to undergo a training and mentoring program and develop project proposals in the field of gender equality, funded by grants of USD 10,000.

The first activity conducted under the project was an assessment of the perception of gender equality among the population of 10 districts. The results and findings of the assessment were described in a report and will be used by the WLC and participants in the process of developing projects to address gender equality issues and needs in each district.



The people selected for the project underwent a training course consisting of 5 modules: gender equality and fighting stereotypes; non-violent communication and conflict mediation on gender equality issues; a workshop with three gender equality advocates who shared their success stories and lessons learnt; identification and definition of needs at the community level in this area; communication with local authorities. The participants developed a specific action plan for each district and worked to identify important stakeholders in the community with whom they should collaborate on their projects.



Inspiring Stories

Over 14 years, the Women's Law Centre has helped more than 6,000 women who have experienced domestic violence, gender-based violence and discrimination at work or in the community. Our staff provided the support they needed confidentially and free of charge. Each time, they acted with the best interests of the beneficiary and her children in mind.

In 2023, we launched Inspiring Stories, a booklet in which we invite you to discover the stories of strong and determined women, not to judge, not to label, but to understand how you can change your destiny if you have courage, support and the right professionals. Here are five stories that will inspire you, make you think and offer expert answers to the most common questions of our beneficiaries.

* Angela: ● ● ●

„At the Women's Law Centre, I learned for the first time that women have the right to live a dignified life without fear. After 30 years of suffering, I had almost forgotten that I could be treated differently, that I deserve more than I get in marriage, that I am a human being. That support gave me the courage to move forward. I decided to get a divorce and I don't regret that step.”

* Ana: ● ● ●

„In the meantime, I started to rediscover myself. I had more free time for myself and my child. I was scared, I didn't know what would happen next, how I would organise my life. I realised that I didn't want things to be the same as before, but the future scared me too. Slowly, uncertainly, I started to leave my fortress. I participated in trainings, in activities organised by various NGOs. More and more new opportunities appeared, all I needed was motivation and confidence that I would succeed. With the help of the Women's Law Centre, I opened a small business - a massage parlour. I recalled the lessons I learnt as a student and now I provide massage therapy services in addition to my main job in a medical facility.”



* Olga: ● ● ●

„I revived an old passion of mine - embroidery. The Women's Law Centre, which helped me vocationally, provided me with an embroidery machine. I have been able to embroider many items that bring me extra income in my spare time. I embroider towels, handkerchiefs and decorate them. My craftsmanship was noticed by a folk art house, where I do embroidery, repair old clothes and sew new ones. I have a job.”

CAPACITY BUILDING OF PROFESSIONALS

We continued to strengthen the capacity of professionals responsible for ensuring effective implementation of the legislation on preventing and combating domestic violence and violence against women, and to connect them to better respond to the needs of victims.

We contribute to the prevention of gender-based violence by:

- System-wide elimination of stereotypes and negative social norms that perpetuate violence against women and contribute to gender discrimination;
- Raising awareness of forms of gender-based violence, including online violence and its impact on women and children;
- Ensuring a timely and effective victim-centred specialist response based on standardised operational standards and coordinated multidisciplinary intervention providing increased access to short and long-term specialist services for victims of gender-based violence;
- Strengthening the capacity of the criminal justice system to respond to cases of femicide, overcoming barriers to victim safety and holding perpetrators accountable.

In 2023, we organised:

 **16 trainings** →
  attended by **458 professionals** →
  **253** of whom were **women**

Strengthening a coordinated criminal justice response

We organized, in partnership with the National Institute of Justice, **9 trainings** for:

-  **125** judges and prosecutors
-  **15** prosecution officers and
-  **117** judicial assistants, prosecutorial advisers, and court clerks



In partnership with the Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA), the General Police Inspectorate (GPI) and the Integrated Law Enforcement Training Centre of the MIA (CIPAL), we organised **6 trainings** for:

112 police NCOs **53** police station chiefs

The trainings were launched in connection with the approval of the new Methodological Instruction on Police Intervention in Preventing and Combating Domestic Violence, in accordance with GPI Order No. 93 of 28 March 2023.

We conducted a training workshop for the staff of the Police Family Justice Centre, which aimed to strengthen their knowledge and skills to provide specialised assistance to victims of domestic and sexual violence.



STRENGTHENED DIALOGUE AMONG MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL COALITION

We continue to be an active member of the National Coalition “Life without Violence”. We supported the 3rd International Conference on preventing and combating violence against women and girls and domestic violence, organised by the National Coalition, with a contribution of MDL 108,000. During a panel discussion on access to justice for women victims of violence, we shared with the public relevant data on the phenomenon of femicide in Moldova.



ARINA ȚURCANU
Avocată la Centrul de Drept al Femeilor



We contributed a total of MDL 692,060 to various capacity building activities for Coalition members, including administrative activities, such as:



2 workshops on creating a safe space to respond to the refugee crisis for professionals from domestic violence centers and service providers, Coalition members



A training program conducted by INOVATRIUM in Timișoara, Romania, where 14 representatives of the Coalition were trained in innovative educational methods



Organisation of the General Assembly of the National Coalition in June 2023



We contributed to the writing of the GREVIO's (Baseline) Evaluation Report on legislative and other measures giving effect to the provisions of the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence, responsible for Chapter “Prosecution”. This report was compiled on the platform of the National Coalition and presented to the GREVIO Committee in June 2023.



VIEW THE REPORT

Throughout 2023, we supported the engagement of National Coalition member organisations in policy development and other processes leading to systemic change in this area, drawing on the experience and expertise of these organisations.

Several organisations were involved in facilitating regional consultations on the National Programme for Preventing and Combating Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence 2023-2027 to identify needs and challenges at the local level, based on which specific recommendations for the Programme were formulated. At the same time, we organised a focus group for service providers, which was attended by 15 Coalition member organisations. They made specific recommendations to improve existing services. The opinions, suggestions and recommendations received during the consultations helped to shape the content of the new Programme.



Intervention area – **PROTECTION**

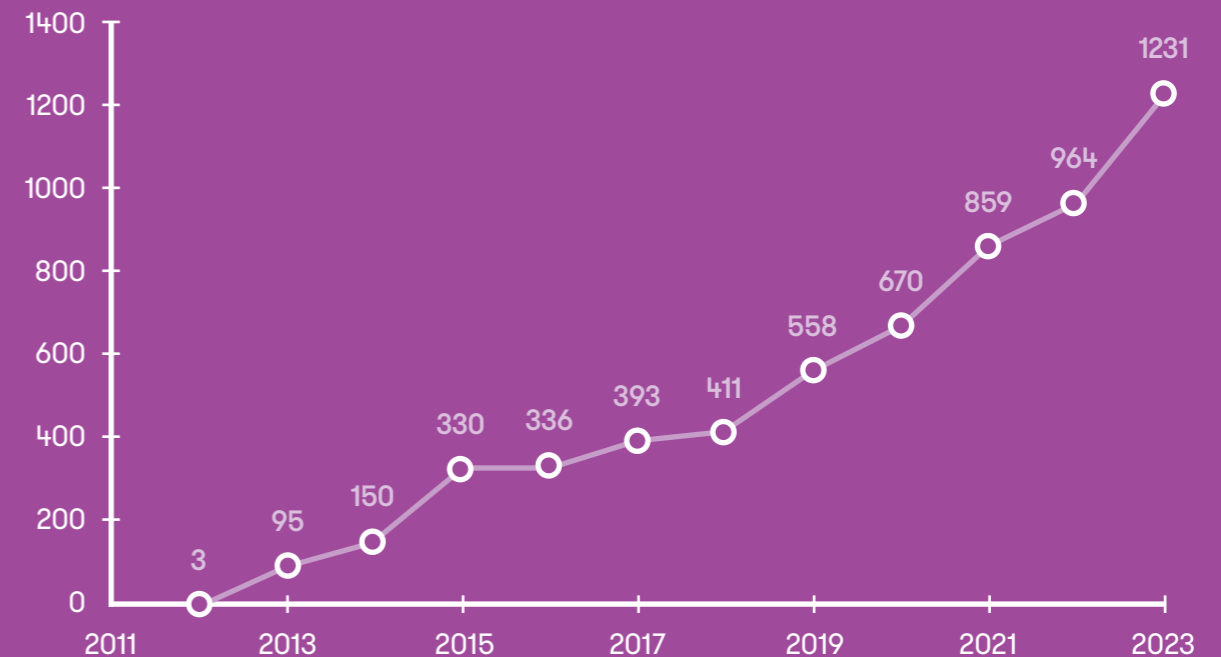
VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE ARE BETTER PROTECTED AND PERPETRATORS ARE PUNISHED

The specialised service for people affected by domestic violence has been operating as a day center within our organisation since 2012 and provides free legal aid and court representation, psychological, social assistance, vocational guidance and economic empowerment. In total, 6,000 people affected by domestic violence or other forms of gender-based violence have received specialised assistance and support. Since 2018, with the introduction of the toll-free helpline 0800 80000, there has been an increase in the number of calls from rural women.



1,231 PEOPLE WERE ASSISTED IN 2023

A 22% INCREASE FROM 2022





VICTIMS OF GENDER-BASED AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE RECEIVE SPECIALISED ASSISTANCE AND PROTECTION

BENEFICIARIES' SOCIAL PROFILE



1,225 beneficiaries are women and 6 beneficiaries are men. In the case of men who sought specialised assistance, the perpetrators are male: grandson, son, father or stepfather.



795 are mothers with minor children, of whom 188 are mothers caring for one or more children under 3 years of age.



51% of women who sought WLC assistance are married.

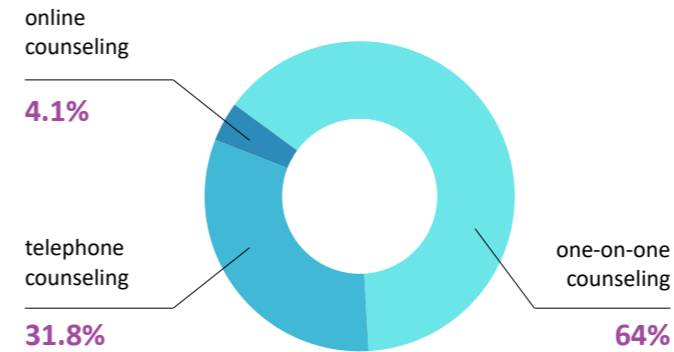


29 women with disabilities sought help in cases of domestic violence.

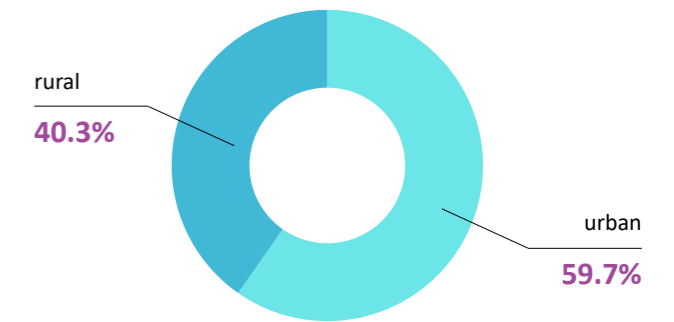


In 67% of cases, perpetrators used more than one form of violence at the same time. Psychological violence is the most common form of violence – in 86% of cases.

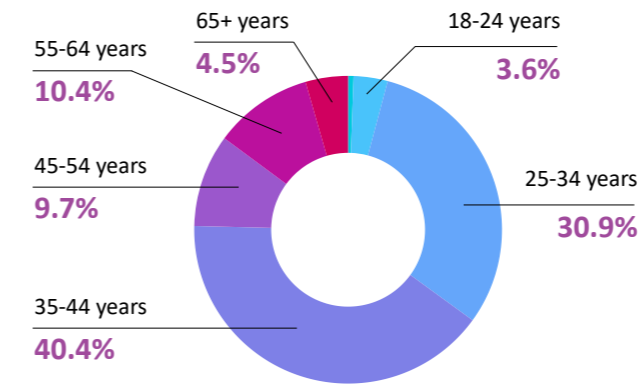
The way of addressing



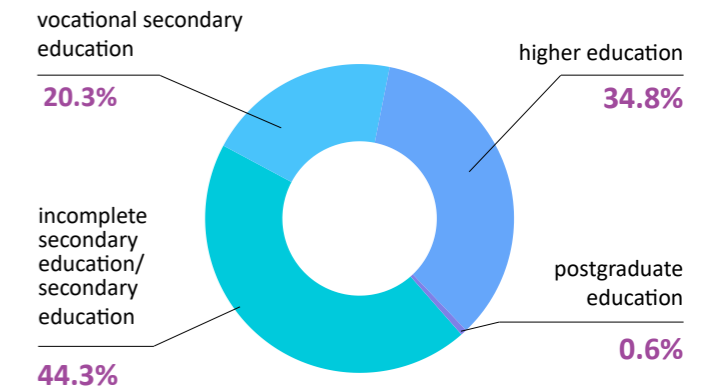
Area of residence



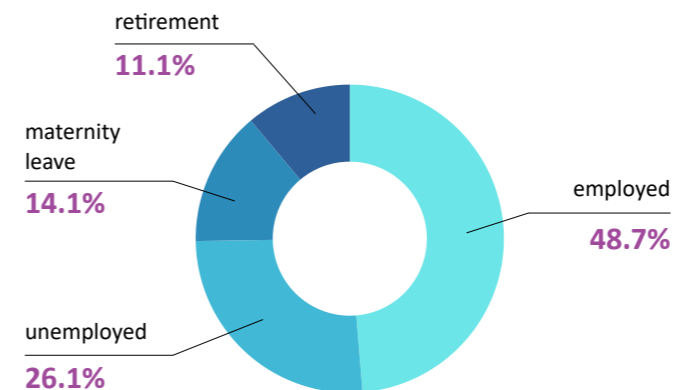
Age



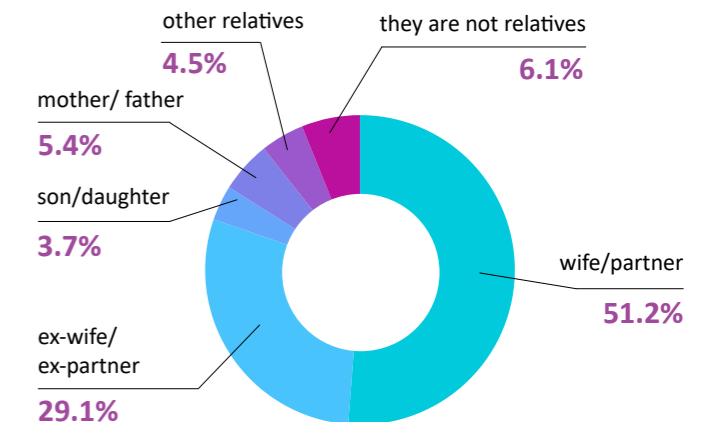
Education



Occupational status



The victim's status in relation to the perpetrator



Legal aid:



446 people

were informed about their rights in cases of domestic violence



265 applications

for the issuance of protection orders were made



716 people received assistance in preparing applications to the court and complaints to law enforcement agencies. Most of the applications concerned the application of protection measures



244 de protection orders were issued



lawyers reported **22 completed cases**, resulting in final and irrevocable judgements



the total amount of moral damages recovered in cases handled by WLC was **MDL 280.000**



WLC lawyers represented women's interests in court in **60 cases**. Of the total number of cases, **87% were criminal and contravention cases, 13% were civil cases**

Strategic litigation

In 2023, WLC continued to represent **8 cases of victims** of domestic violence and violence against women before the European Court of Human Rights.



Psychological assistance:



217 women

received psychological counselling to overcome the crisis situation



106 women

received long-term counselling in cooperation with the Institute for Family and Social Initiatives



79 psychological assessment reports

were prepared

Social assistance:



432 people

were counselled on issues related to state benefits, pensions, allowances or material aid



18 cases

were assisted with placement in an accommodation center



83 mothers

and **179 children** received material aid in the amount of **MDL 144.864,77**



Career guidance and economic empowerment



In 2023, out of 1,225 women affected by domestic violence who sought help from the WLC, **861 women are financially dependent** on their partner, forcing them to endure years of violence or return to their abuser.

About **65 per cent of the women have secondary or incomplete education**, which reduces their chances for stable employment, good working conditions and decent wages.

To address this problem in a holistic and effective way, we launched a career guidance and **economic empowerment programme** in 2018. The programme aims to provide women with the resources and support they need to regain financial independence and build a secure life for themselves and their children.

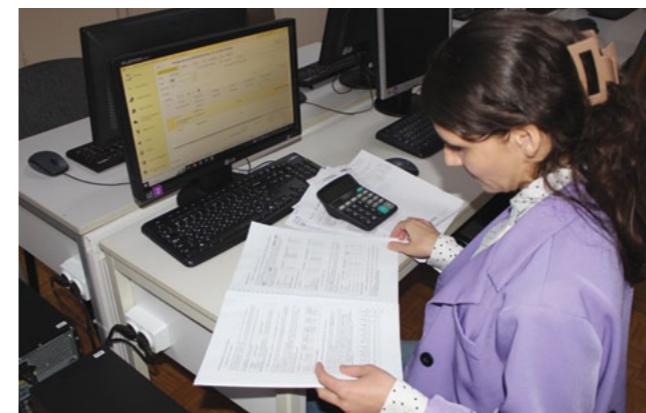
In 2023, 12 women participated in the economic empowerment programme. We provided them with career guidance and supported their decision to pursue professional development. The women who wanted to rewrite their history were supported by the WLC professionals in choosing a field of study, received career guidance and had access to personal development opportunities. As a result, the women gained the courage and confidence to embark on the path of transformation.



340 women received vocational counselling, employment opportunities or skills training were identified

12 women were economically empowered. Some of them received contracts for qualification/training in a trade or profession, others received specialised equipment to work in a profession. **12 grants** were offered for a total amount of **MDL 157,061**

8 occupational therapy workshops were organised, and **73 women** participated





Personal Development Program

A new component of WLC services is the Personal Development Program, developed in 2023 by our organisation in collaboration with psychotherapists and career coaches.

What does this program offer beneficiaries?

- the opportunity to pursue the profession they want
- the ability to negotiate a salary that they deserve
- the ability to manage, with more confidence, the money they earn
- the opportunity to take courses/training that will give them financial independence
- self-confidence to rebuild their lives
- the opportunity to start income-generating activities.

In autumn 2023, a group of 15 beneficiaries participated in the pilot version of the Program. For a month, the participants engaged in exercises and activities on self-reflection and harmonious relationships, stress management and goal setting, developing basic conflict resolution skills and assertive communication skills.





COMPREHENSIVE AND
COORDINATED POLICIES
ARE ADOPTED AND
IMPLEMENTED

Intervention area – RESEARCH - BASED POLICIES

In 2023, we continued to be at the forefront of domestic violence reform in Moldova and actively contributed to advancing gender equality by aligning national legislation and policies with international standards. We continued an open dialogue with the government and local public authorities on policies to prevent and combat domestic violence and violence against women.



LEGAL AND POLICY FRAMEWORKS ALIGNED WITH INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS

- We continued to participate in the monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the Istanbul Convention, contributing resources and expertise to the preparation of a shadow report for the GREVIO Committee.
- We supported the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection in the development of the second National Programme for Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence, which was adopted on 31 May 2023.
- We provided support and expertise in drafting national legislation to establish the National Agency for the Prevention and Combating of Violence against Women and Domestic Violence. To this end, we prepared a feasibility report on the establishment of the Agency and the proposed model, and drafted amendments to Law No 45/2007 on the Prevention and Combating of Domestic Violence. A model regulation for the functioning of the new National Agency and the National Coordinating Council was drafted. Government Decision No 926 on the establishment of the National Agency was approved on 29 November 2023.
- We provided expert support to the Ministry of Culture in drafting the Internal Regulation on Preventing and Combating Sexual Harassment. The Regulation is in the process of being harmonised and is expected to be adopted in 2024.
- We provided guidance and expertise to strengthen operational mechanisms for law enforcement intervention in cases of domestic violence. We contributed to the development of the lethality assessment questionnaire included in the Methodological Instruction on Police Intervention in Preventing and Combating Domestic Violence, approved by GPI Order No. 93 of 23 March 2023.



ADVOCACY ACTIVITIES BASED ON RESEARCH AND EVIDENCE

- În 2015, WLC first conducted a survey “Men and Gender Equality in the Republic of Moldova”, which provided a holistic picture of men’s and women’s lives, attitudes, behaviours and perceptions of gender equality among men and women.

In 2023, we plan to conduct a repeat survey based on the IMAGES methodology, which will provide up-to-date data on previously measured trends in gender relations.

At the same time, in order to understand how the level of gender equality has evolved, in partnership with the MLSP and UNFPA, we prepared the Report “Gender Equality in the Republic of Moldova: trends and good practices”, which presents an analysis of the changes registered in four areas: family policies; gender-based violence; reproductive health and men’s participation in family life, child-rearing and education.

The research methodology included 17 individual in-depth interviews with experts in these four areas. The report makes a number of recommendations to improve the effectiveness of the proposed interventions from a holistic, evidence-based approach.

In November 2023, the results of the qualitative research were presented, validated and finalised during a workshop with key stakeholders in the field of gender equality.

The results of the analysis and mapping served as a starting point for a repeat survey “Men and Gender Equality in the Republic of Moldova”, which will be published in 2024.

ADVOCACY ACTIVITIES BASED ON RESEARCH AND EVIDENCE

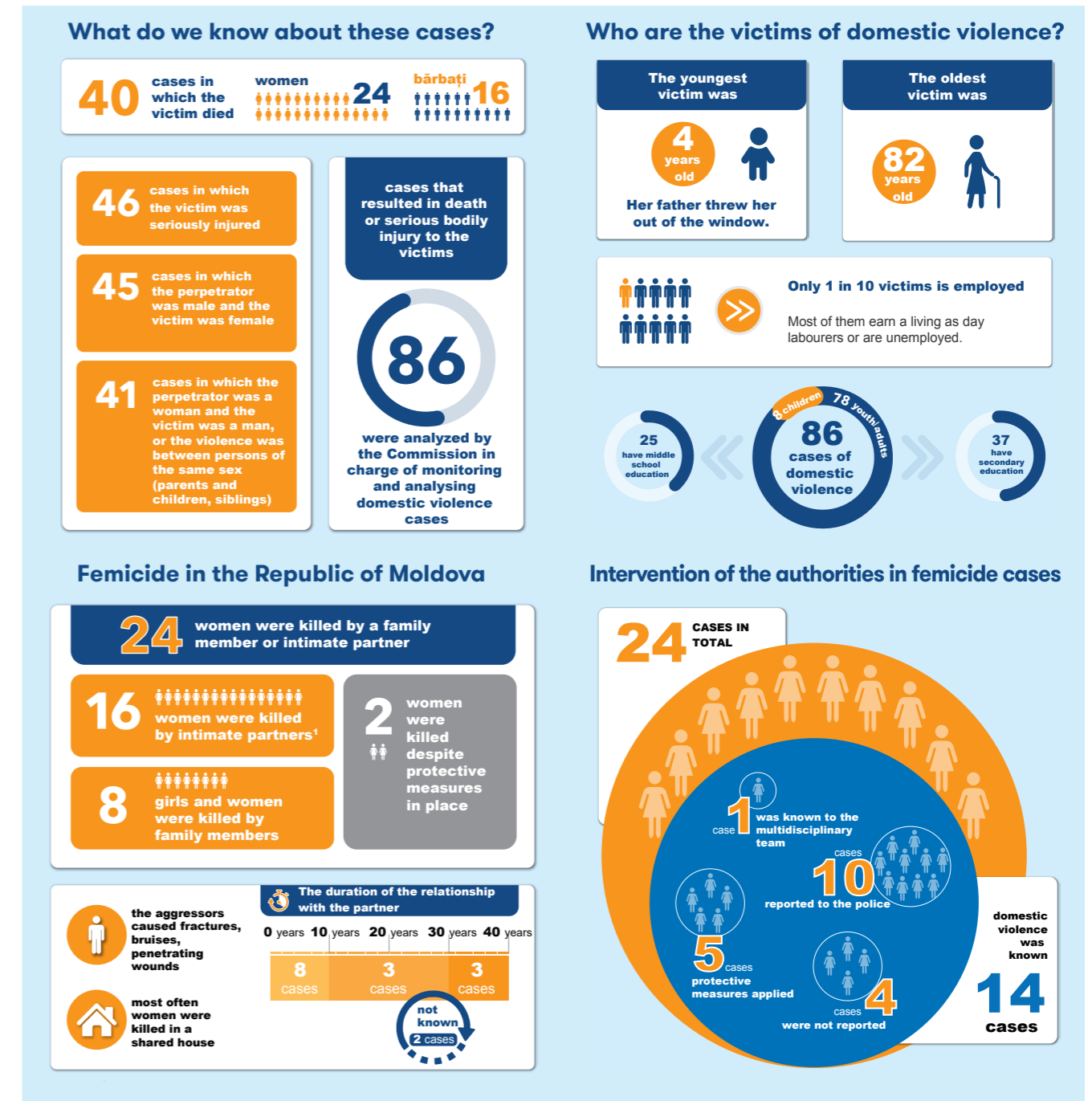


In partnership with the Ministry of Internal Affairs, we developed and released the “Fatality review report of cases examined by the Commission in charge of monitoring and analysing domestic violence cases resulting in victims’ death or severe harm to bodily integrity in 2022”.

The report showed that in Moldova, violence against women remains widespread and largely unpunished. The report identified a number of shortcomings, such as insufficient attention to the crime of gender-based violence, numerous previous complaints of domestic violence filed by victims, inadequate investigation of reported cases.

The report presents a wide range of recommendations, including: the need to amend the legislation, the inclusion of the concept of femicide in national strategies and policies.

FATALITY REVIEW OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CASES RESULTING IN VICTIMS’ DEATH OR SEVERE HARM TO BODILY INTEGRITY IN 2022



WLC HAS THE CAPACITY TO PROMOTE AND PROTECT
WOMEN'S RIGHTS AND CONTRIBUTE TO ENDING
VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN



Intervention area – **ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

We continued to develop the organisation, maximising the potential, efficiency and effectiveness of our team, promoting organisational values and culture within the organisation. We invested in the team capacity building, and financial sustainability and diversification of funding sources were among our strategic priorities throughout 2023.

MOTIVATED AND HIGHLY EFFECTIVE WLC EMPLOYEES

Team members have attended at least 3 specialised trainings to improve their knowledge and skills in the areas in which they work on a daily basis: courses and coaching on the general regulation on preventing and combating sexual harassment and exploitation, combating human trafficking, strategic planning and fundraising, women's access to justice, innovations in ECtHR procedures and accounting.

We organised 4 team building events to increase team motivation, commitment and performance. A unique event was the teambuilding activity focused on creating a sense of group cohesion and defining a common understanding of effectiveness at individual and organisational level, led by Romanian expert Silvia Mişu, trainer and consultant in areas such as coach training and organisational management.



PROCESSES AND REGULATIONS ARE IMPROVED AND APPLIED

We have developed a new internal policy on the prevention, detection, recording, reporting and review of cases of sexual harassment, exploitation and abuse in WLC's work, which was adopted in September 2023. The purpose of this policy is to ensure a safe, respectful and non-discriminatory environment for all beneficiaries and all staff, partners and members of the organisation.

WLC IS A FINANCIALLY SUSTAINABLE ORGANISATION

We continue to work on diversifying our funding sources. We submitted 10 project proposals in 2023, of which 5 have been accepted and a further 2 are under active discussion. Our funding sources are diverse, including 3 institutional grants and 10 projects.

In 2023, we began preparations for a fundraising event to support women affected by domestic violence to be held in April 2024. The funds raised will go to women participating in the Personal Development Program developed by our organisation in collaboration with psychotherapists and career coaches. This program serves as a bridge to professional/vocational training and enables women survivors to gain the confidence to rebuild their lives.



SUPPORT FOR REFUGEES

Since 2022, as the humanitarian crisis caused by the war in Ukraine emerged, we mobilised to support women and children seeking asylum in Moldova. In 2023, we continued to support refugees through support programs and safe spaces, providing refugee women and their children with comprehensive support to prevent and combat gender-based violence.



Project
**POWER OF LIBRARIES TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE
 IN PEOPLE'S LIVES DURING REFUGEE CRISIS**

June 2022 – September 2023
 IRC

- **10 safe spaces for women and children**, both refugees and members of the host community, created in 10 libraries across the country
- **475 recreational activities**, including information sessions with professionals on various topics, crafts, cookery workshops, reading clubs, film nights, Romanian language courses, book clubs, museum visits, sports competitions, concerts, etc.
- **50 information sessions** on prevention and response to gender-based violence, gender equality, employment opportunities, information on temporary protection status, sessions for young girls on sexual violence, sexual consent, etc.
- **120 psychosocial support group** sessions for refugee women
- **200 hygiene kits** distributed to women and girls
- **180 school bags** with supplies for refugee children
- **4,481 unique beneficiaries** visited safe spaces, participated in activities or received services.

Project
**PROTECTING REFUGEES AND HOST
 COMMUNITIES FROM GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE
 ON BOTH BANKS OF THE NISTRU RIVER**

September 2022 – July 2023
 OSCE Moldova

- **5 local libraries** involved in the project from Cimișlia town; Căușeni town; Ermoclia village from Ștefan Vodă district; Crihana Veche village from Cahul district; Hîrtop village from Taraclia district
- **15 awareness-raising sessions** on gender-based violence attended by 589 women and girls
- **10 psychosocial support sessions** for refugee women
- A comprehensive information guide on all forms of gender-based violence was produced. **2,500 handbooks** were distributed in Romanian and Russian
- **More than 100 women** were referred, advised, counselled or assisted on issues related to gender-based violence, available services or temporary protection status.
- **35 recreational activities**, including computer courses; information sessions on topics such as protection of personal data on the Internet, healthy lifestyle, hate speech and sexism in media, healthy family relations; creative workshops, weaving and embroidery, quilling, etc., in which 896 people participated



Project
INVOLVED CITIZENS. COHESIVE COMMUNITIES



April 2022 – April 2023
 OXFAM

- **12 mobile teams** consisting of three professionals: a lawyer, a psychologist and a social worker, visited 393 localities in Moldova, following a door-to-door methodology, and provided qualified counselling to refugees from Ukraine and local residents hosting them
- **8,772 refugees** and **2,889 local** residents received legal, psychological and social support under the project. The refugees with a high risk of vulnerability received material aid and gratuitous financial aid
- **22 community initiatives** received financial support and were implemented in localities in the north, center and south of the country. Recreational areas, playgrounds and sports grounds were created for both refugees and local residents, meeting and activity rooms were set up to facilitate communication and social integration, libraries with books in Romanian and Ukrainian were equipped, interaction and socialisation activities were organised – all to strengthen the social cohesion of those who fled the war.

Project
EMERGENCY RESPONSE TO THE CRISIS IN UKRAINE



iulie 2022 - iulie 2023
 CARE through the SERA Romania Foundation, CARE France and FONPC

- **5 libraries** were transformed into safe and friendly spaces in Soroca, Ialoveni, Hârbovăț (Anenii Noi), Cărpineni (Hâncești) and Boșcana (Criuleni). The libraries were equipped with furniture, IT equipment, provided with board games, books and other goods
- **5 community initiatives** for social and cultural cohesion were implemented in Căușeni, Șoldănești, Calfa and Gura Bîcului (Anenii Noi) and Ialoveni
- **5 training activities** for 15 people responsible for project implementation
- **5,278 refugees** benefited from psychological groups, social, cultural and religious cohesion activities, access to integrated services and humanitarian support
- **25 psychosocial support sessions** for women and girls
- **705 hygiene kits** were distributed to refugees.



Project
SUPPORTING MOLDOVAN COMMUNITIES IN HOSTING UKRAINIAN REFUGEES

October 2022 – March 2023
 GIZ Moldova

- **70 teachers, psychologists and social workers** from Ștefan Vodă, Căușeni and Ungheni districts, who provide psychosocial support to target groups in refugee centers, schools, social establishments and all beneficiaries, participated in training workshops, experience exchange and professional capacity building
- **A guide and practical tools** for teachers, psychologists and social workers to provide psychosocial support in the refugee crisis were developed
- **36 trainings on tolerance**, empathy and non-violent communication, attended by 851 adolescents, students, teachers and social workers from Ștefan Vodă, Căușeni and Ungheni district settlements.

FINANCIAL REPORT

■ REVENUE

During 2023, WLC received funds totaling **USD 1 668 278,05**, of which:

WLC Strategy Funds:

• Sida (Embassy of Sweden)	USD 285 144,12
• OAK Foundation (ARC)	USD 130 442,93
• The Sigrid Rausing Trust	USD 123 978,74
• UN Women	USD 97 684,82
• UNDEF	USD 59 210,00
• UNFPA	USD 46 774,21
• US Embassy/Te Doy	USD 17 500,00
• Donations, 2% designation and membership fees	USD 2 386,49

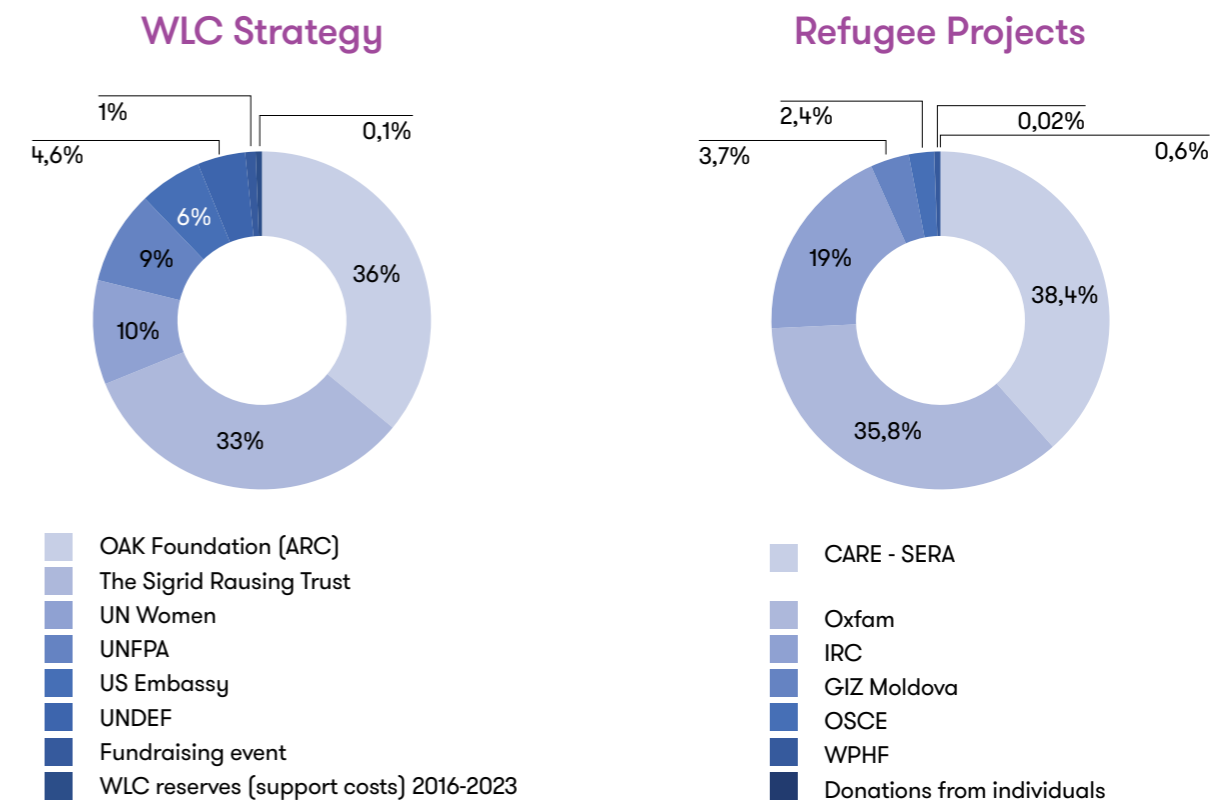
Refugee Projects Funds:

• SERA-CARE	USD 355 180,34
• Oxfam GB	USD 310 024,81
• IRC	USD 212 856,79
• OSCE	USD 27 094,82

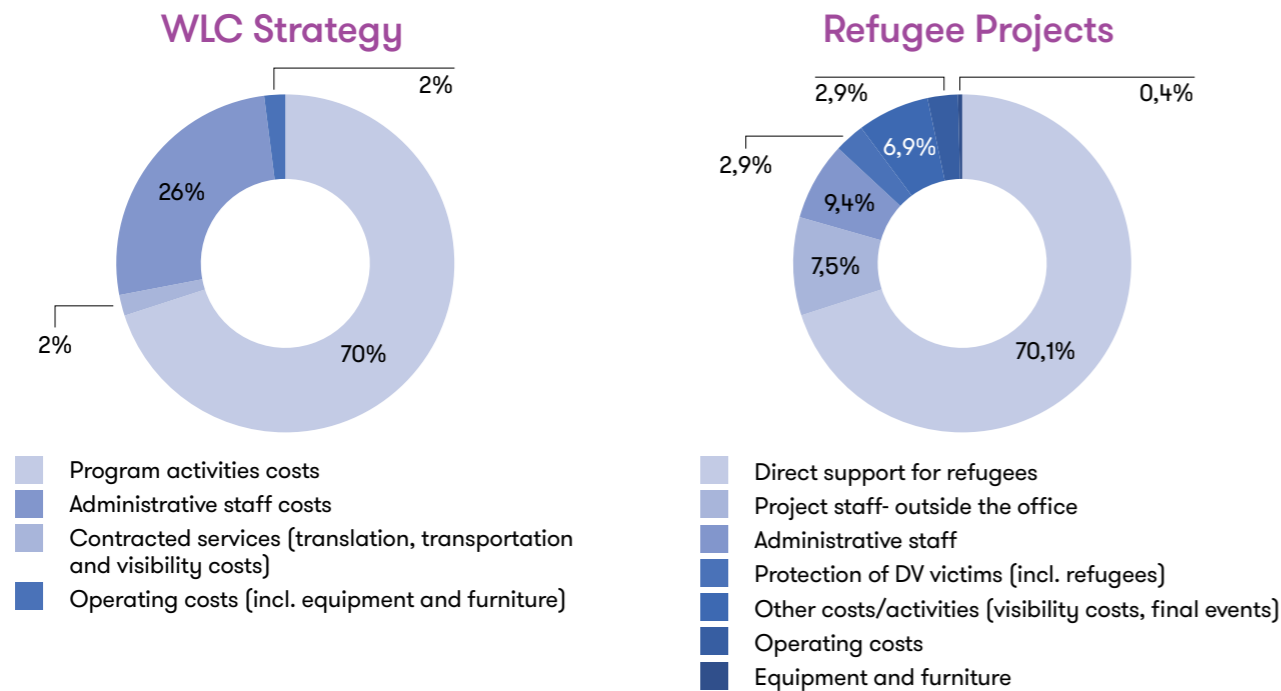
■ EXPENDITURES

In 2023, the WLC expenditures totalled **USD 1 647 392,14**

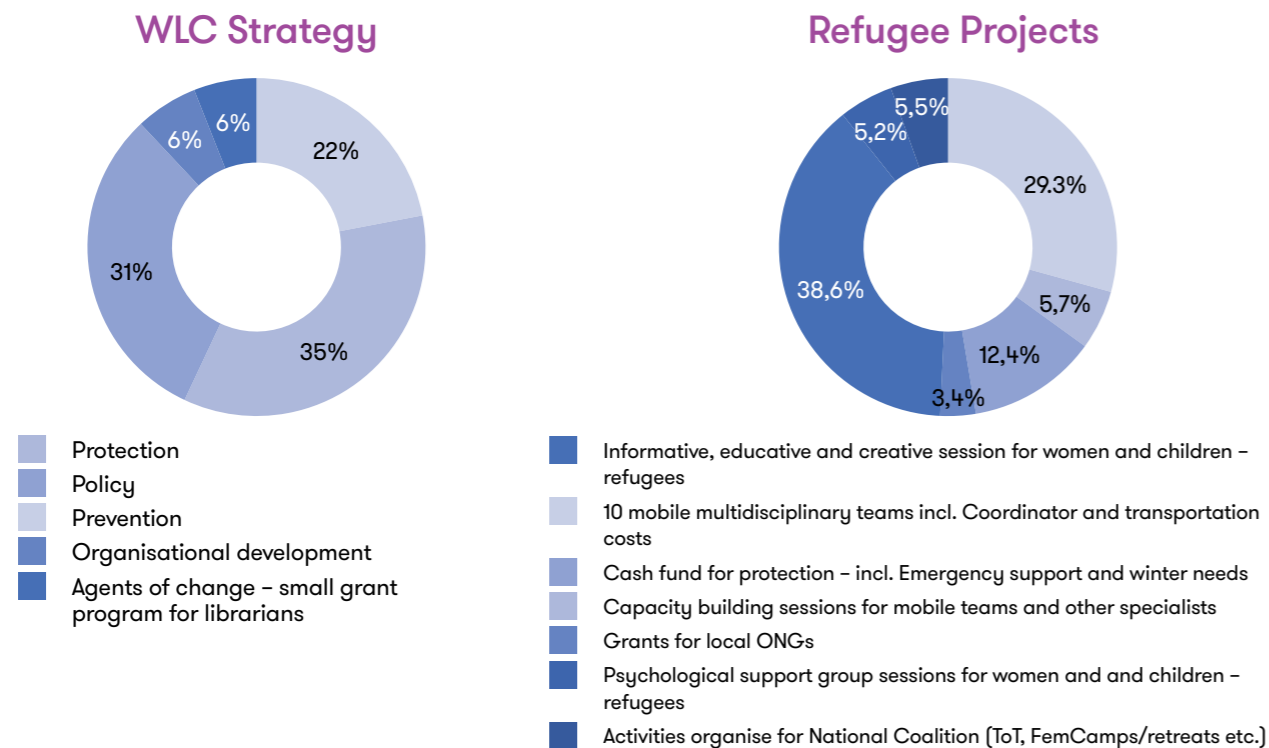
(**USD 528 913,88** – WLC Strategy and **USD 1 118 478,26** – Refugee Projects), the sources of which are:



The main areas of expenditure:



Expenditure on programs of activities:



Angelina Zaporojan-Pîrgari
Executive Director

Eleonora Grosu
Program Coordinator

Viorica Ursachi
Project Manager

Daniela Josanu
Coordinator of the Specialised Service for the Support of Domestic Violence Victims

Olga Sturza
Financial Manager

Victoria Sofian
Accountant

Diana Pînzari
Communication Specialist

Evelina Pîrău-Namesnic
Public Relations and Communications Assistant
Program Assistant

Nicoleta Cocoșă
Legal Advisor

Tatiana Timotin
Vocational Counsellor

Aurelia Gorea
Psychologist

Lilia Borzin
Social worker

Anna Lachi
Office Manager

Mihaela Baran
Project Assistant
(terminated as of August 2023)

Ina Brenici
Financial Assistant
(terminated as of July 2023)

Diana Bistrea
Logistics and Procurement Assistant

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

WLC BOARD OF ADMINISTRATION

Xenia Siminciuc
Ana Iliescu
Alexandru Clivadă
Mariana Ianachevici
Gheorghe Caraseni
(left in October 2023)

THANKS TO OUR COLLEAGUES INVOLVED IN IMPLEMENTING PROJECTS FOR REFUGEES

Anna Susarenco	Mariana Hîncu
Nadejda Costin	Elena Ceceva
Ala Taran	Olesea Cotoman
Adrian Trifan	Ecaterina Grigorean
Denis Dima	Natalia Lungu
Cristina Lesnic	Olga Matasari
Crina Balea	Mihaela Cimbriciuc

Special thanks to Mariana Buruiană, Executive Director of WLC, who led the team until June 2023.

140 national and international consultants and experts worked together with WLC in 2023. Together we developed reports and strategy papers on domestic violence, organised seminars and public discussions, trainings and training sessions.

PARTNERS

GOVERNMENTAL PARTNERS

The Parliament of the Republic of Moldova
Ministry of Labour and Social Protection
National Agency for Preventing and Responding to Violence
against Women and Domestic Violence
Ministry of Internal Affairs
Ministry of Justice
Ministry of Health
Ministry of Culture
General Police Inspectorate
National Administration of Penitentiaries
National Probation Inspectorate
General Prosecution Office
Superior Council of Magistracy
National Institute of Justice
Forensic Medicine Center

NON-GOVERNMENTAL PARTNERS

Members of the National Coalition “Life without Violence”
Gender Equality Platform
Centre for Investigations and Consultation SOCIOPOLIS
Institute for Family and Social Initiatives
Association of Librarians of the Republic of Moldova
Association of Women Entrepreneurs of Moldova
International Women's Club of Moldova
Global Rights for Women
Women Against Violence Europe

FUNDERS



THE
SIGRID
RAUSING
TRUST

OAK
FOUNDATION

arc

OXFAM

INTERNATIONAL
RESCUE
COMMITTEE

CARE

Suedia
Sverige

UN
WOMEN

JNFPA

cooperare
germană
DEUTSCHE ZUSAMMENARBEIT

giz Deutsche Gesellschaft
für Internationale
Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

SER
ROMANIA



dte
FOUNDATION

Women's Peace &
Humanitarian Fund
A United Nations & Civil Society Partnership

osce Organization for Security and
Co-operation in Europe
Mission to Moldova



WOMEN'S LAW CENTRE

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Legal counselling

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