



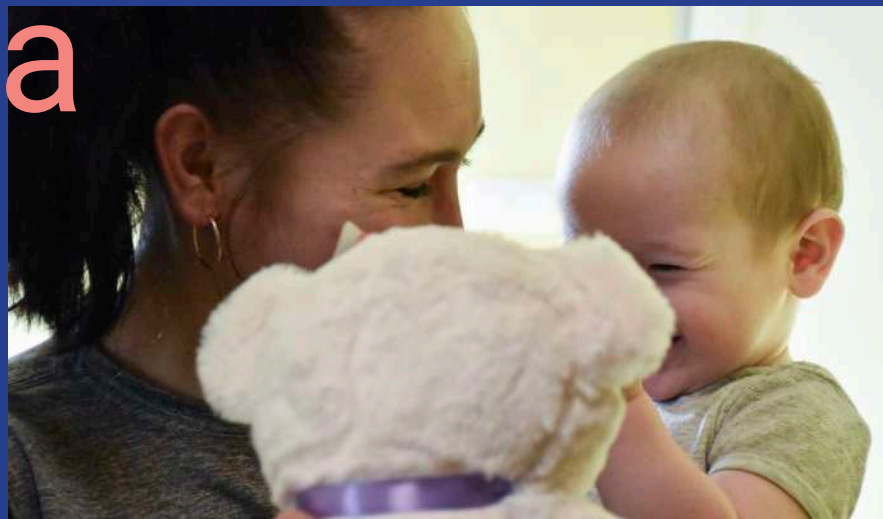
Annual Report
2023

Staying close to those in need

www.diaconia.md



Social Mission Diaconia



Diaconia is the social structure of the Metropolitan Church of Bessarabia, has been active throughout the Republic of Moldova since 2001.

Our Mission

“Diaconia” Social Mission develops models of social intervention, based on human approach according to the image of God, into a sharing and trust-worthy relationship with social partners.

Our Vision

An active society guided by Christian values as result of the permanent and coherent action of Metropolitan Church of Bessarabia through Diaconia, which represents the model of excellence in supporting the neighbour in need.



Our Values

Faith/Love towards the Neighbour/We Change Because We Care/Correctness/Responsibility/Perseverance/Solidarity.

In these times, the role of the Church and Diaconia becomes even more important



For over two decades, Diaconia has been and continues to be the outstretched hand of the Romanian Orthodox Church in Bessarabia towards those in need. In 2023, “Diaconia” Social Mission achieved great things and brought comfort to thousands of souls through its diverse and innovative programmes. From providing a hot meal and a safe place for refugees from Ukraine to supporting vulnerable families in our communities, Diaconia’s team has worked tirelessly with love and dedication to transform pain into comfort and despair into faith.

In these turbulent times, the role of the Church and Diaconia becomes even more important. Through every act of kindness, every gesture of support, and every word of comfort, we only reflect the light of Christ in the world.

On this occasion, we want to express our utmost gratitude and admiration. Thank you to everyone who has dedicated their time, resources, and energy to fulfill God’s will by serving others.

Yours in prayer to Christ the Lord
† PETRU

Archbishop of Chisinau, Metropolitan of Bessarabia and Exarch of the Lands

With love for Ukraine

Throughout 2023, “Diaconia” Social Mission continued its active involvement in providing assistance to refugees. In these difficult times, it is important to show solidarity, empathy, and care for those in need, which has been made possible through the following directions:

1. Primary Assistance

In 2023, Diaconia, in partnership with Caritas Odesa UGCC and financially supported by Caritas Ambrosiana, managed to respond to some of the urgent needs of the people affected by the war in Ukraine through the following projects:

- 1. Emergency aid for Ukrainian families affected by the destruction of the Kakhovka dam in Ukraine** - a project through which 4,000 people were supplied with drinking water and 650 people received bed linen.
- 2. Bridges of Solidarity** - a project where 111 Ukrainian refugee people benefited from summer camp activities:
 - 21 mothers and 34 children accommodated in Bălți;
 - 24 mothers and 32 Ukrainian children from the Odesa region.



3822

families received
vouchers for products

832

children received
winter clothes

1569

families received
firewood

Along with the warmth in the house, I also felt the warmth of the hearts of those who organised this aid for the needy. God bless them for good deeds.

Gereşan Nina

Ukrainian refugee, beneficiary of the
“NiN Ukrainian Refugee Support and Winterization
Programme in the Republic of Moldova”

By the end of December 2023, Diaconia provided material assistance to refugees and vulnerable people in the Republic of Moldova in a 50/50% proportion:

- Firewood was distributed to **1,569 families**;
- **3,822 families** (1,858 Ukrainian families and 1,964 disadvantaged Moldovan families) received help in the form of vouchers for food and hygiene products, blankets, and clothing.
- Out of the 3,822 families, **832 were children** (407 Ukrainian children and 425 Moldovan children) who received a winter jacket or winter boots.

2. Comprehensive and Individualised Assistance

A. Cash Assistance Programme for Refugees in Moldova

The programme provided cash assistance to people who fled Ukraine and entered Moldova.

Diaconia managed the southern part of the Republic of Moldova. The operators worked at 4 Refugee Documentation and Assistance Centres opened in Chisinau, Causeni, Cahul, and Comrat.

The programme was conducted in partnership with Caritas Moldova under the general coordination of UNHCR.

IMPACT:

- **50,000 people** received cash assistance;
- **3,800 vouchers** for essential products were distributed;
- **1,500 people** were assisted at home (those who were unable to reach the assistance centres).





B. Anastasis Educational Day Centre, Balti

In May 2022, Diaconia opened an Educational Centre in Balti for refugee children, young people, and women housed/accommodated in Temporary Placement Centres for Refugees in the northern region of the Republic of Moldova.

At the Centre, the beneficiaries have access to formal and non-formal educational activities, personal development activities, and recreational activities, etc.

In 2023, **160 children** (92 Ukrainian children and 68 Moldovan children) benefited from the Centre's services.

Also, **53 women** (45 from Ukraine and 8 from the community) received psychological support and participated in various activities organised by the Centre's team.



C. “St. Anna” Multifunctional Centre for Child and Family

This project is designed to address the needs of the family nuclei facing various crises. It brings together under one roof viable solutions for a wide range of needs encountered by refugee women and children, as well as those from the community.

The “St. Anna” Centre offers individualised social assistance services, legal counselling services, access to educational activities for children, and a safe platform for open and regular interaction between social groups, especially women.



IMPACT:

- **4452** refugees sought help or support;
 - **619** people received psychological counselling;
 - **294** people received legal consultations;
 - **926** Ukrainian women socialised in a safe environment, benefiting from various creative workshops and sessions organised by a psychologist;
-
- **193** refugees received vocational counselling;
 - **1,504** families from the Republic of Moldova received food and hygiene products;
 - **258** children benefited from drop-off service (68 Moldovan children and 190 Ukrainian children);
 - **473** children benefited from the after-school service (147 Moldovan children and 326 Ukrainian children).

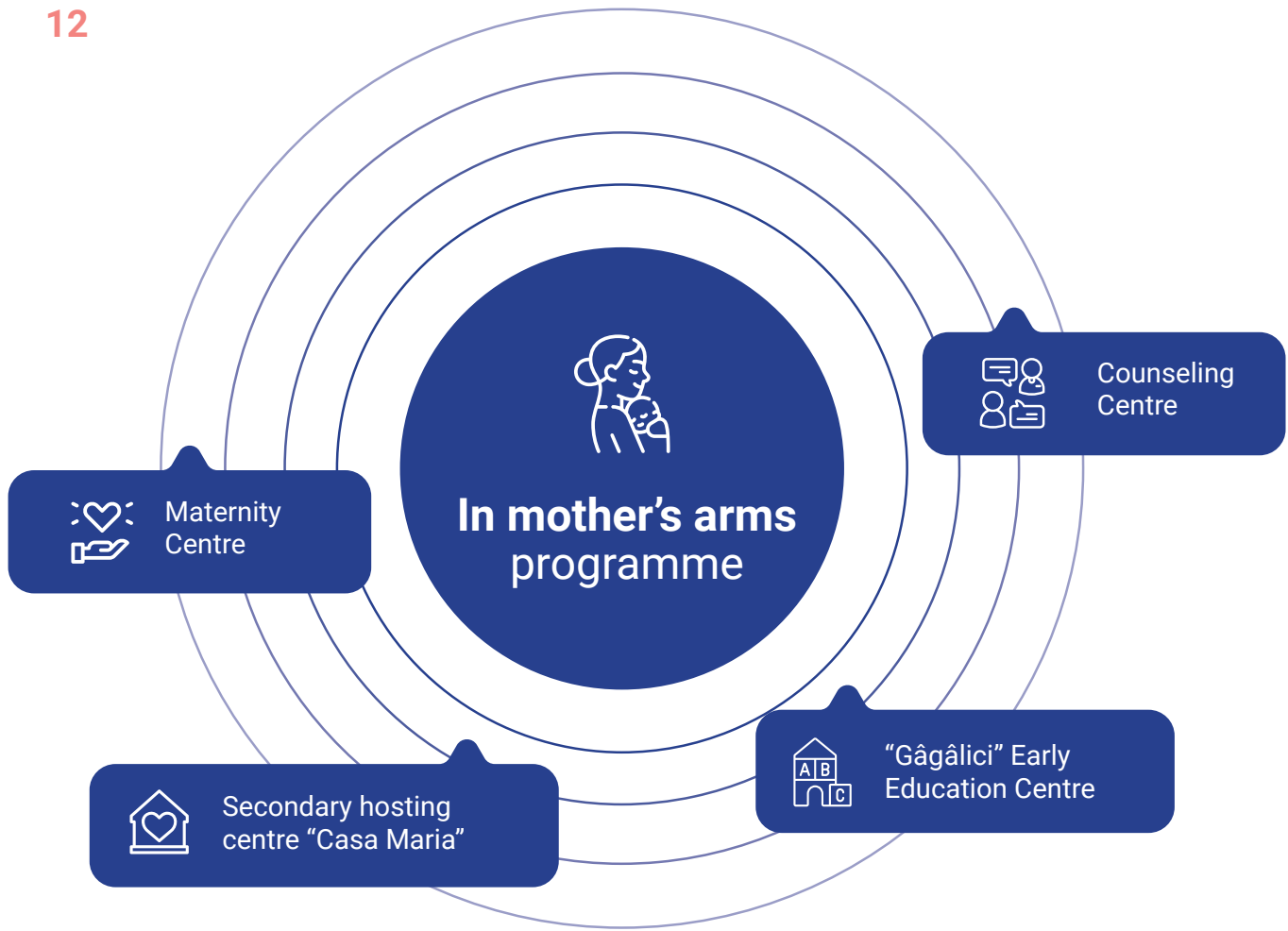
Watch the full video about
Diaconia's intervention in the
war situation in 2023



D. „St. Joseph the Merciful” Guest House

In December 2022, we launched a new service for refugees, offering Ukrainian mothers and children a safe and comfortable place to live, equipped with everything necessary.

Throughout 2023, the guest house hosted 18 beneficiaries: 9 mothers and 9 children received the help and support needed to regain their independence.



IN MOTHER'S ARMS PROGRAMME

Year Launched: 2011

Goal: Ensuring every child's right to grow up in a family.

- ✦ **The Maternal Centre** is intended for mother-child couples or pregnant women in emergency situations. Here, a multidisciplinary team develops an individual intervention plan aimed at strengthening the relationship between mother and child, developing child care skills, and managing resources to create a mechanism for autonomous living. They also find a safe and comfortable space to stay with their children.



- ✦ **The Consultancy** is a sensitive tool through which we measure and respond to the needs of families where the mother-child relationship requires more attention and support.

They receive psychological, social, legal, spiritual assistance, and monthly material support (food packages, hygiene products, medicines, etc.).

IMPACT:

In 2023, through the dedication and commitment of social workers and the kindness of our donors and partners:

- **21 mother-child couples** benefited from care assistance in the Maternal Centre;
- **12 mother-child couples** were assisted in the community;
- **180 families** in temporary crisis enjoyed support based on their needs.



I want to raise my little boy in safety and give him what I never had - love from my mother

Maria, an 18-year-old girl, carries a heavy burden – abandonment by her parents, humiliation, and violence. Nearly a year ago, she became the mother of little Andrei, whom she loves with all her heart. Her parents disappeared when Maria was just a child, leaving her in the care of her grandmother until she was 12 when she had to step into a placement centre.

In search of love and a safe shelter, Maria fell in love with a man who seemed to offer her what she wanted the most: peace and affection she had never experienced. Her expectations were quickly shattered after Andrei's birth when her husband turned into a jealous and abusive monster.



"He was very jealous, forbade me to leave the yard, I had to stay in the house. When he came home, he started hitting me. I had many bruises, and a big scar on my back remains."



With her last strength, Maria managed to gather just a few clothes for her little one and ran, seeking shelter at the "In Mother's Arms" Maternal Centre. Here, she felt for the first time the warmth and safety of a family.

"I quickly got used to the educators. From the first day, I found warmth here, I felt that I had someone to tell my pain to. I have a hard time opening up to anyone, but here I managed, and even my little boy adapted immediately."

For three months, for Maria and her baby, home means the Maternal Centre. For three months, they have enjoyed peace, care, and love. "I want to raise my little boy in safety and give him what I never had – love from my mother."



- **„Gâgâlici” Early Education Centre** is a nursery-kindergarten where children (from 6 months to 3 years) learn to explore the world through free movement and autonomous play, surrounded by affection and attention.

Throughout 2023, the Centre was attended by **34 children**:

- 21 children from the community;
- 9 children beneficiaries of the Maternal Centre “In Mother’s Arms”;
- 4 Ukrainian refugee children.

The service is intended for single mothers and families in various vulnerable situations. It also facilitates the professional integration of women by providing them with a safe and warm space for their children.







THE "SOLIDARITY GUIDE" RESOURCE CENTRE



Year Launched: 2015

Goal: To support and stimulate social initiatives in the community.

The “Solidarity guide” Resource Centre is a support tool for community initiatives in identifying needs and finding community-level responses.

✦ A. Community Centres

Community Centres are places where non-formal education activities for children, volunteer activities, and social services based on identified needs (canteen, wardrobe, social bath, and/or laundry, etc.) are constantly organised.

✦ B. Community Facilitation

Another intervention area of the Programme involves a paradigm shift from direct intervention to initiative through formal and informal local leaders.

The goal of the project is to contribute to the creation of revitalised, cohesive, and supportive rural communities in the Republic of Moldova.



✦ C. Youth Parliament

The Youth Parliament is designed as a community intervention solution aiming to empower young people from rural areas to make changes in their communities.

✂ D. Parent's Arms

The project involves remote support for vulnerable families with schoolchildren by providing material support (food, clothes, hygiene products, school supplies, etc.).



IMPACT:

In 2023, we managed to support 51 communities with multifaceted assistance.

Activities included:

- 12 community events;
- 6 Local Initiative Groups and 6 Youth Parliaments in Action conceived and implemented projects in their communities;
- 50 pupils and 25 pensioners from 18 communities were supported through the projects: Parent's Arms and The Rod of Hope.

3 Community Centres operated in the localities of Cania, Saseni, and Coscalia. Here, over 122 children benefited from playful and educational activities, and 39 volunteers were involved in community activities initiated by the Centres.



The Resource Centre continued to fulfil its mission of responding to social needs in parishes through various initiatives and projects aimed at supporting local communities. The main objectives of the centre were guiding parish centres towards autonomy and supporting social initiatives in the community.

Pr. Ioan Cosoi

Coordinator of the Resource Centre



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✂ E. Clothing Bank

Year Launched: 2016

The Clothing Bank is a model of excellence in implementing a social solidarity mechanism through which we have managed for 7 years to demonstrate that with local resources, we can clothe thousands of people.

The collected goods are distributed in the network of social wardrobes from parishes. The beneficiaries of the donations are people in need: socially vulnerable families, the elderly, the homeless, etc.

Impact 2023

60

tons of material goods
collected and distributed

35

beneficiary
communities

4000

needy people assisted
thanks to donations

Support our projects on www.diaconia.md



Throughout 2023, through 5 boxes (located in Chişinău at Petrom gas stations), approximately 69 tons of goods were collected and distributed to thousands of people in 27 localities across the country.

Thanks to the partnership and support provided by Monaco Aide & Presence and Petrom Moldova, we manage to do exemplary work. We remain deeply grateful and thank all the people who increasingly contribute to helping those in need.

- The partnership between Moldova for Peace and "Diaconia" Social Mission enabled the distribution of essential clothing to 4,000 families, helping approximately 10,000 people in 2023. This collaboration was crucial in providing consistent and necessary support to the most vulnerable members of our community.*

We express our deep gratitude for the valuable collaboration and hope to strengthen the support offered to our communities in the future.

Natalia Rahmistriuc,

Coordinator at Moldova for Peace



Assisted Communities by the Clothing Bank



✦ F. Eco-Initiatives in Parishes in Romania and the Republic of Moldova

The project aims to initiate environmental education and identify solutions for increasing ecological responsibility in the Romanian Orthodox Church in Romania and the Republic of Moldova.

The project involved the participation of 16 teams (8 from the Republic of Moldova and 8 from Romania) represented by 160 young members of the parishes of the Romanian Orthodox Church, who benefited from information and education in the field of ecology, aiming to initiate and implement local projects.



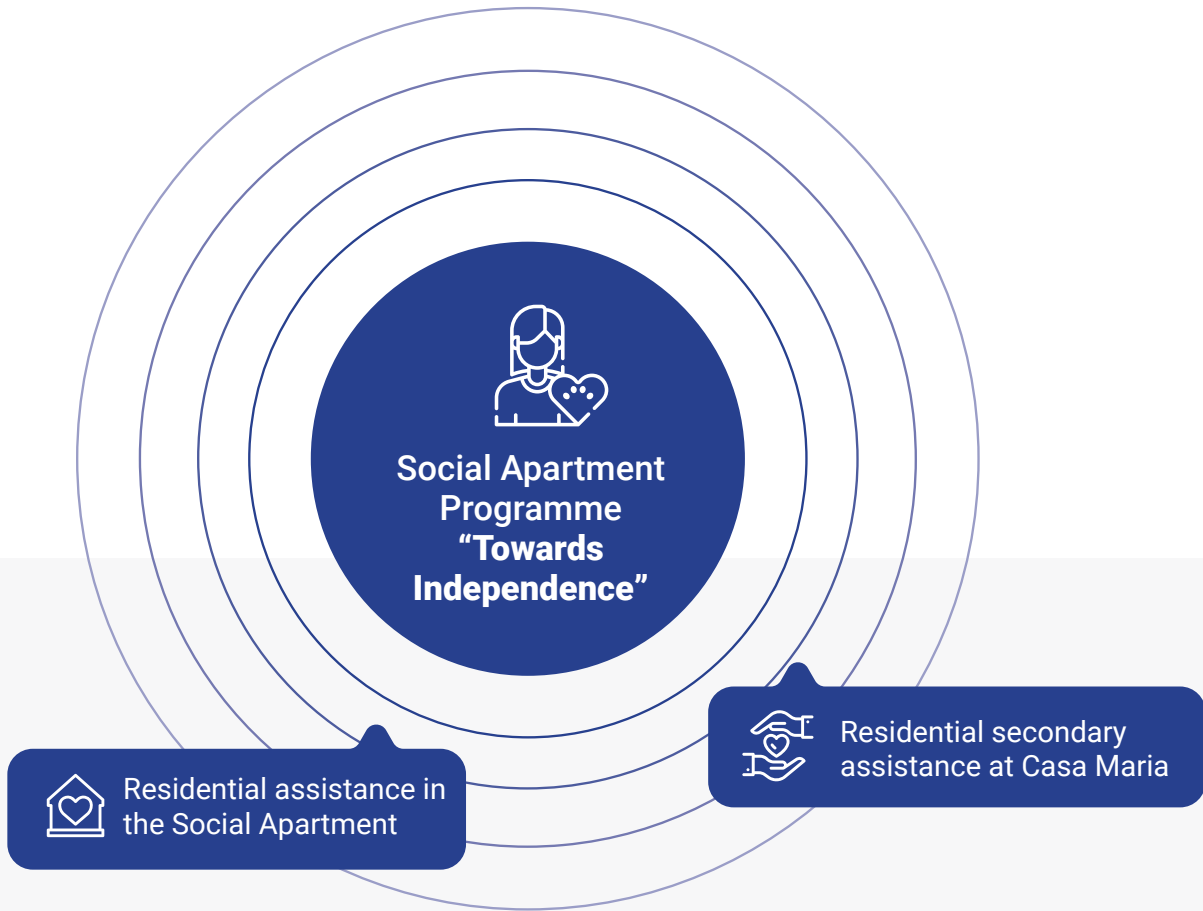
IMPACT:

- Organising and conducting the **“Eco Practices School”** camp involving 21 young people from 3 countries: Moldova, Romania, and Italy.

The camp aimed to provide knowledge and practical methods about the environment and its protection, embedding ecological practices in daily life and behaviours.

- Organising two events: **World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation and Earth Hour**, with the involvement of 16 parishes that organised outdoor activities for young people to appreciate nature.





Social Apartment Programme "Towards Independence"

Year Launched: 2007

Goal: To ensure the development of reintegration capacities of teenage girls aged 16-18 who are orphans or social orphans.

✦ **“Towards Independence”** programme ensures the social integration of young girls with the status of children left without parental care who come from residential institutions or alternative care services, as well as girls at risk from socially vulnerable families.

Annually, 6 girls receive accommodation, comprehensive assistance (social, psychological, spiritual, vocational), and the opportunity to obtain a profession at a vocational school or short-term professional courses.



IMPACT:

So far, 17 generations of girls have been assisted through the Social Apartment project, which has helped them believe in their power and learn that people can be kind and loving.

Since 2007, 102 girls from all districts of the Republic of Moldova have been carefully guided on their path “Towards Independence.”

20 girls have benefited from the extended phase of the Programme in the assisted social housing.

✦ I want to have a profession and become independent

At just five years old, Cristina was taken from her biological family by a social worker. Her father was ill and struggled to take care of her, while her mother rarely came home due to her drinking habit. Thus, the small and shy girl ended up in a family of professional parental assistants. They wanted a girl very much, and Cristina needed a family to give her love.

Although she was very attached to her biological father, Cristina acknowledges that she was blessed to end up in the family of professional parental assistants. It was here that she felt loved for the first time: *“They have been by my side for 11 years. They gave me education, a home, food, and most importantly – parental love and care. They became my parents; they are the mother and father without whom I would be very sad.”*

When she was younger, she often wondered why her mother abandoned her, why she gave birth to her but didn't stay by her side.

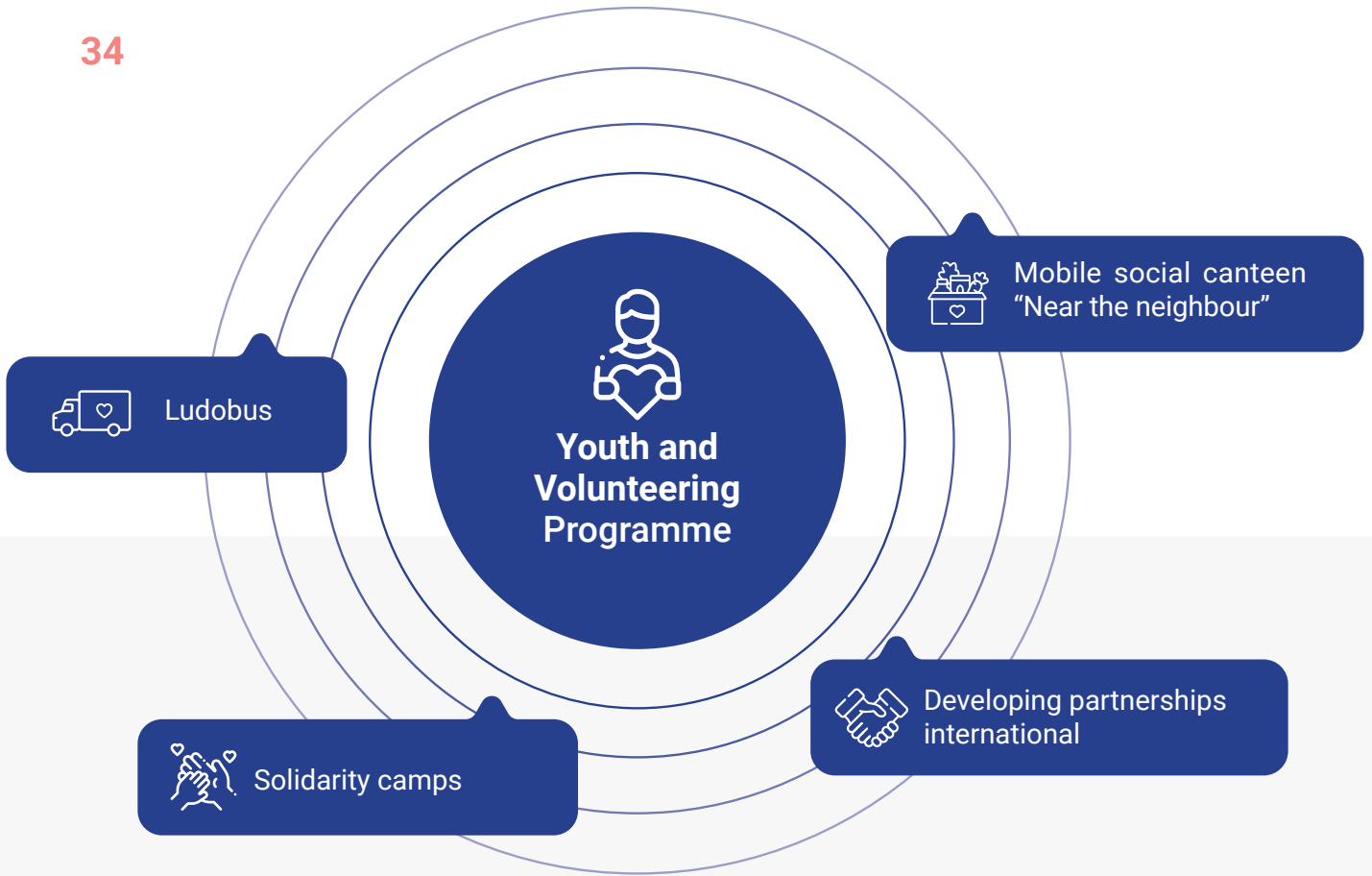


Over time, she realised it was pointless to ask these questions: „I don't remember what my biological mother looks like. And I don't dare judge her for the choices she made.”

Cristina is now 17 years old, very gentle, and radiates warmth and kindness. She modestly says she learned these qualities from the family she grew up in and now shares them with those around her. After finishing middle school, they were the ones who supported her to join the “Towards Independence” Social Apartment: „I am very happy that I got the chance to be part of this project. I want to have a profession and become independent.”

Cristina follows the culinary courses with great enthusiasm and is now preparing for her first exam. She really enjoys what she is learning and eagerly awaits starting her practice. The Social Apartment has become a new home – a new chance she received to spread her wings in the big world.





Youth and Volunteering Programme

Year Launched: 2007

Goal: Contributing to the development of initiative and active civic engagement among children and young people.

Ludobus

Ludobus is an innovative non-formal education service designed to provide children in rural areas access to play and education. It is a minibus equipped with a diverse toy library with activities and games for all ages.

For volunteers, Ludobus represents a new area where they can volunteer throughout the year, using their creativity in the service of communities while gaining new skills and growth opportunities.



IMPACT:

In 2023, **25 hardworking and brave volunteers** brought the joy of play to **18 communities** for **2,242 children**.

Both volunteers and children had unique moments of entertainment, outdoor activities, and creative workshops with diverse themes: electrical safety and food waste prevention.

This was possible thanks to our partners, Premier Energy Distribution and Kaufland Moldova, who covered the logistical costs for the workshops conducted as part of the project.

✦ Solidarity Camps

Day camps are organised by several volunteer teams from Italy and the Republic of Moldova. Each camp programme includes games, non-formal education activities for children, and social activities (home assistance for the elderly, ecological activities, etc.).



IMPACT:

3 summer camps were organised in Inesti, Cetireni, and Ialpujeni, where many children eager for fun gathered.

This year, the camps lasted 10 days each. The activities were conducted by 18 Moldovan and Italian volunteers.

In the 3 localities, team games, creative workshops, fantastic acclimatisation, communication, and experience exchange were carried out.

Young people also engaged in community work (helping the elderly, ecological actions).

Development of International Partnerships

Diaconia signed partnership agreements with two international organisations from Italy: Caritas Ambrosiana and Associazione BIR.

The projects involve long-term activities in the host organisation and training for volunteers.



”

Another year in which the volunteer department has refined personalities and strengthened characters. These young people are our pride, the messengers of kindness, and an example of social engagement for all humanity.

Daniela Groza
Volunteer Coordinator

✦ “Near the Neighbour” Mobile Social Canteen



Year Launched: 2013

Goal: It is the tool through which Diaconia cultivates social solidarity, giving everyone the chance to be a good person.

For 10 years, the **“Near the Neighbour” Mobile Social Canteen** has been offering the joy of a hot meal daily to many elderly and needy people in Chisinau.

It is a model of care for the neighbour. A place where the elderly find not only a hot meal but also a reason for joy born from interaction with people experiencing the same needs.

IMPACT:

Throughout 2023, at the two distribution points (Serghei Lazo Park and Mezon Park), thanks to the involvement of a group of **25 volunteers**, **40.160 hot meals** were offered to hundreds of beneficiaries.

She was a teacher for 40 years and now stands in line at the social canteen for a hot meal

Mrs. Irina has kind eyes and is always sociable with the volunteers and people waiting, like her, for a hot meal at the social canteen. She smiles and seems to have no problems at nearly 80 years old.

"It's the third spring since I've been coming here for food," she says emotionally. "I dedicated 40 years to my students. I felt useful and thought it would always be that way. But old age came, and I was left only with memories. It's sad, but it seems this is my fate. I have no one to rely on." She worked all her life as a Russian language teacher. Today, she has a pension of 3,800 MDL. She carefully spends every penny and is grateful she can save on food thanks to the canteen lunch.

"My husband has been bedridden for 10 years. I take care of him, feed him, and stay by his side. It's hard, very hard, but we have each other, and I find peace in being useful and managing together. The pensions are divided between medicines and bills, so everything the young people serve us here are meals we can hardly afford."

We asked her if she had children, and it was the only moment she ran out of smiles. Her eyes filled with tears, and she indicated she didn't want to address the subject because it hurt.

"We have a daughter. Alone, without a family, and sick as well. We help her with what we can."



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Systemic Change

HOPE - Holistic Approach to Child Protection in Moldova

Year Launched: 2021

Goal: Contributing to the strengthening of the child protection system and violence prevention in Moldova.



Diaconia is one of the programme's implementers and is responsible for establishing a mechanism (children's parliaments) for preventing and combating violence in 10 schools in Moldova. Training children, parents, and teachers on non-violent conflict resolution mechanisms.

In 2023, the following were achieved:

- 33 information sessions on child participation in decision-making processes, with the participation of 117 teachers, 249 children, and 36 parents;
- A summer camp called “DemocraCity” with the participation of 44 young people;
- 20 training sessions for members of Children’s Parliaments on “Project Writing”;
- 20 mini-grants in the 10 partner schools in the project;
- 4 anti-bullying presentations conducted by students using the peer-to-peer learning method;
- 50 sessions on developing/reviewing the child protection policy, involving 306 people from 10 educational institutions: 156 teaching staff and 150 children;
- 10 Child Protection Policy documents: 8 reviewed and 2 developed.

The project has been implemented by Diaconia in partnership with Caritas Austria (main applicant), CCF (Child Community Family), and Regina Pacis Foundation, and is funded by the European Union in the Republic of Moldova, the Austrian Development Agency, and Caritas Austria.



Through the HOPE project, we have planted seeds in the hearts of children, contributed to the realisation of dreams, and discovered together, learning valuable life lessons. We have also promoted a non-violent environment in 10 schools across the country, emphasizing values such as tolerance, equality, and empathy. I remain certain that everything done from the heart, with passion, faith, and responsibility, will bear beautiful fruits.

Mariana Cosoi
Project Coordinator



Programme for Strengthening the Child Protection System Capacities



Goal: Increasing the capacities of NSAA (National Social Assistance Agency) and child protection specialists to professionally assist families in crisis situations.

The project involves approximately 230 social workers, 80 professional parental assistants, parent educators, 40 social service managers, and 30 representatives from 9 social assistance directions.

In the second phase of the project, the 6 TSAS (Territorial Social Assistance Services) from the first phase (Rascani, Drochia, Glodeni, Straseni, Nisporeni, Causeni) were joined by 3 more TSAS from Moldova (Cantemir, Soldanesti and Anenii Noi).



IMPACT 2021 - 2023:

- 3 training courses for child protection specialists from 3 districts (Anenii Noi, Soldanesti, Cantemir):
 1. Legal aspects in assisting children at risk;
 2. Child protection policy in child care services;
 3. The role of the social worker in community mobilisation.
- 120 specialists informed and trained in aspects related to child protection;
- Guidance in developing and approving their own Child Protection Policies in 6 TSAS;
- Development and piloting of a Methodology for identifying training needs dedicated to social workers in 9 districts.



The vulnerable child protection policy intervenes to stop marginalisation, discrimination, and bullying of any child. This document gives us, as specialists within a social institution, the possibility to protect children and respond promptly to a specific situation involving one of the children at the Centre. In this context, I would like to thank Diaconia for their effort to provide us with this important and valuable document in our daily activity at the 'Caldura Casei' Placement Centre for children separated from their parents.

Marin Grigoraş

Manager at the 'Caldura Casei' Placement Centre
for children separated from their parents, Drochia



Partnerships for Inclusive and Resilient Social Canteen Services

Humanity wastes about 1 billion tons of food annually. One-third of good food for consumption ends up in the trash instead of feeding thousands of adults and children who endure hunger. Many of them are encountered in our social services.

On May 25, 2023, Law No. 299 of November 3, 2022, on preventing food loss and waste came into effect.

The law establishes a framework for recognising the transfer of food products in a coherent effort to prevent waste.

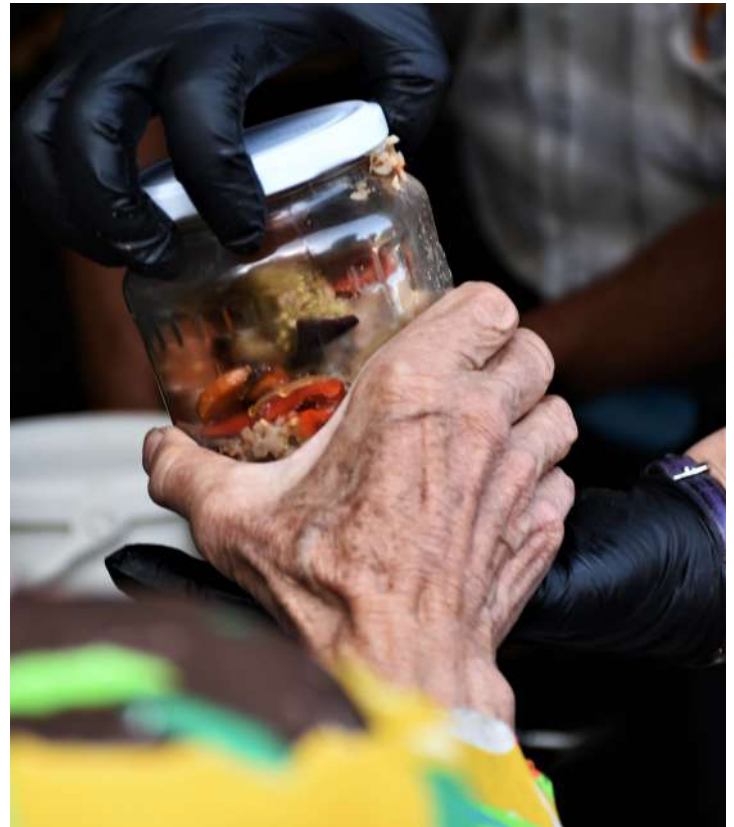


It prioritises anti-waste mechanisms, putting the preservation of food in human consumption at the forefront.

In this context, several actions were taken to improve the regulatory framework, including related ones:

- Legislation of the food waste reduction concept.
- Establishment of a working group with national and international experts, public authorities, and civil society.
- Meetings with representatives of economic agents from the agri-food chain.
- Development of legislative proposals and related framework modifications.

This action is part of the advocacy campaign initiated by Diaconia in the “Partnerships for inclusive and resilient social canteen services” project, supported by the European Union. The concept of food waste reduction was legislated in the Republic of Moldova for the first time.



🕒 Advocacy actions

On June 20, 2023, Diaconia took over the presidency of the **Promotion and Development Of Philanthropy Platform (PDPP)**, being a founding member since 2019.

PDPP is composed of 45 civil society organisations that promote and conduct philanthropic activities.

In the 2023 action plan, the key activities included:

- Convincing authorities to amend fiscal legislation to stimulate philanthropists and sponsors through tax facilities according to Law No. 1420 of October 31, 2002.
- Collaborating with a local commercial bank to offer products and banking services to civil society organisations at reduced costs.



✍ In 2023, Diaconia was involved in several activities through the **National Council of NGOs:**

- Contribution to the development of the National Programme for the development of civil society 2024-2027;
- Initiating collaboration with the Public Services Agency to identify and solve reported problems and support civil society development.

Diaconia has been a member of the National Council of NGOs since 2022.



✍ From December 14, 2023, Diaconia is a member of the Coordinating Council, represented by Veaceslav Silivestru for a 3-year term, elected at the General Assembly of the **Alliance of NGOs active in the field of Social Protection of the Child and Family (ASPCF).**

Diaconia actively participated and contributed to several meetings of the thematic working groups for implementing the "RESTART" Reform and the National Child Protection Program 2022-2026. Additionally, the organisation was a member of the **National Council for the Protection of Children's Rights (NCPCR).**

We change because we care

A. “Table of Joy” Easter Campaign



Yellow code of kindness for the 14th consecutive year. Year after year, the “Table of Joy” Easter Campaign becomes a true Festival of Solidarity, involving hundreds of volunteers.

Traditionally, the project culminated with the national collection of non-perishable food products conducted in the largest store chains in Chisinau and across the country.



IMPACT:

Thanks to the generosity of thousands of donors, in 2023, 39 tons of food products were collected in a single day.

The campaign took place in 100 stores in 24 localities in the country, where over 700 volunteers welcomed buyers with the call to donate non-perishable products to support social canteens.



Andrei Porubin and Sorina Obreja, as well as companies like Maib and Ogilvy Moldova, participated as volunteers in the campaign.

All of the collected donations were transformed into hot meals distributed throughout the year at Diaconia's Mobile Social Canteen and in food packages distributed to the people in need.



B. Fundraising Products

In 2023, supporters of our causes chose to give objects of solidarity on different occasions.

All those who purchased these small, emotion-filled symbols offered from afar care and safety to the beneficiaries of the Maternal Centre and teenage girls from the “Towards Independence” Programme.



C. Christmas Campaign “In Mother’s Arms”

This is a large-scale awareness campaign aimed at supporting mother-child couples in crisis situations, assisted within the “In Mother’s Arms” Programme.

Several awareness and fundraising actions were organised for this purpose.

IMPACT:

- **2473 martisoare** (traditional Romanian spring ornaments) reached all corners of the world, bringing the joy of nature’s rebirth at the beginning of spring.
- **2471 special greeting cards** brought the magic of the winter holidays to loved ones, partners, donors, and the teams of 22 companies.





This year, as part of the Christmas campaign, Diaconia organised a **Charity Fair “From Mothers for Mothers”** to support mothers and children from the “In Mother’s Arms” Maternal Centre.



We were joined by six strong women, six supportive mothers who brought toys and clothes for women and children for sale to support our cause:

Corina Dascălu, Eugenia Apostu, Gabriela Damir, Olesea Sfeclă, Violeta Botezatu, Mariana Percic, Katy Black

The general public was invited to join the event and be part of the generous community that wants to bring a bit of happiness to the families at the Maternal Centre.



We participated in the **International Charity Bazaar** with a stand of Christmas-themed products made by volunteers, mothers from the Maternal Centre, and teenagers from the Social Apartment.

We organised a **book launch: “Unknown Romania”** by Cristina Herea-Chiciu.

The launch was conducted for charity purposes and to promote the book, raising public awareness of the difficult realities faced by mothers in difficult situations. In this context, the author gave a lesson of courage and perseverance to the mothers at the Maternal Centre.

10 photographers chose to promote kindness and generosity during the campaign.

They donated the value of a photo session to the Maternal Centre. The photographers were very receptive and eager to help the mothers and children at the centre.

All the financial resources collected from the actions mentioned above were fully donated to the benefit of the mother-child couples hosted by the “In Mother’s Arms” Maternal Centre to support the urgent needs of mothers and children for whom this place has become home.

In 2023, thanks to the involvement of volunteers and donors, we managed to accumulate the following resources:



Budget 2023

3,354,459 MDL



2,014,930

702,292

130,753

362,330

144,154

Eradicating
extreme
poverty and
emergency
programmes

Specialised
assistance
programmes
for family
and children

Promoting
solidarity and
volunteering
programmes

Community
intervention

Administrative
and institutional
costs

Board of members



ÎPS Petru

Metropolitan of Bessarabia and
Exarch of the Plains, President
of the board of directors



Nicolae Crețu

Priest, Councillor
Metropolitan



Marin Sîrbu

Businessman
(2019- 2023)



Ana Groza

Executive director of the foreign
investors association
(november 2023 - present)



Corneliu Țăruș

Child protection
expert



Steluța Andreeva

Expert in strategic
communication

We stayed close to those in need, providing them with support and necessary help

2023 was a year in which we strengthened our capacity after a difficult year. This report is just a slight reflection of the work of a large team that continued to be empathetic and resilient in the face of all challenges.

It was crucial to respond promptly at the beginning of the refugee crisis, but it was equally important to continually stay by the side of those who fled the war, providing them with the support and help needed to integrate into the Republic of Moldova.



It was the year we literally brought warmth to the homes of thousands of Moldovan and Ukrainian people through a massive distribution of firewood across all districts in the country.

We were also pleased to offer intervention models through our traditional programmes, covering more age categories.

Diaconia is the social instrument of the Church, mandated by the Metropolitan of Bessarabia to provide immediate assistance to communities to address their issues and guide them towards solutions. In 2024, we aim to continue feeding, educating, sheltering, and helping those who need support.

IGOR BELEI,

Executive Director of the Religious Institution "Diaconia" Social
Mission of the Metropolitan Church of Bessarabia

Thanks

We thank all the volunteers, partners, donors, and journalists thanks to whom we managed to have impactful projects for communities and beneficiaries in 2023. By showing care and solidarity, we lay the foundation for a responsible society where every person is supported and valued.



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Out of love for the neighbour





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