



MEMORIA

CENTRUL DE REABILITARE
A VICTIMELOR TORTURII

ANNUAL REPORT 2025



Maximizing the relevance, effectiveness, and the impact of the rehabilitation programs and prevention activities, performed by A.O. RCTV Memoria

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FOREWORD

The 2025 year was an anniversary one for A.O. RCTV Memoria. It was also a challenging year, when A.O. RCTV Memoria had to adjust quickly to the changes linked to the major reductions in U.S. global foreign assistance, announced in January 2025. These changes created unprecedented programmatic, financial, development, communications, and staffing challenges.

Under new circumstances, we moved to new programming ideas, methodologies, and made efforts for funding the needed sources to secure the continuity of the rehabilitation programs for 743 beneficiaries - victims of torture, of war atrocities and of gender-based violence (GBV). This approach helped us to focus on organizational resilience and functionality, keeping the core staff and the essential services for our beneficiaries.

Over the year, A.O. RCTV Memoria stayed true to its mission to help victims of torture and of other forms of violence and to foster a society without torture and violence.

The Anniversary Conference, organized on [October 16, 2025](#) gathered together 94 participants from civil society, state authorities, donors, national and international institutions. The Conference released a [Statement with Recommendations](#) for all the relevant actors. In the anniversary context, was organized a Gala of gratitude with the designation of Dignity Ambassadors and the awarding of Diplomas of Gratitude. The event brought together partners, colleagues, supporters and beneficiaries of RCTV Memoria, in an atmosphere of solidarity and gratefulness.

The conference was also focused on the achievements recorded at the country level in the field of human rights, over a quarter of century. The achievements, but also the lessons learned, the current problems and challenges, as well as solutions and plans for the future were mentioned. Relevant issues and problems faced by victims in the courts, due to deficiencies in the medical documentation and investigation of cases of torture and other forms of violence, were also discussed.

In the Republic of Moldova, the phenomenon of torture and of gender-based violence still needs to be kept on the agendas of various institutions, with efforts to reduce, prevent and combat impunity, to develop better support and services for victims.

It is necessary and important to ensure that the rights of torture victims to rehabilitation, in accordance with art. 14 of the UN Convention against Torture (UNCAT) and of the General Comment No. 3 of the Committee against Torture, adopted on 13.12.2012, with specific recommendations for member states. As well, at the national level, the Law 137 (2016), 'On the Rehabilitation of Victims of Crimes (including Torture and Domestic Violence), requires a thorough review and clear implementation mechanisms.

On behalf of our beneficiaries, the A.O. RCTV Memoria team express sincere thanks and gratitude to our partners and supporters, to our donors, who supported the organization's activity throughout 2025.

It is important to express a special recognition and thanks to our Board and to all team members, for their commitment, resilience and sustained efforts, that have made possible to continue our work in a critical time, when it was needed more than ever, for majority of our beneficiaries.

ABOUT A.O. RCTV MEMORIA

The Public Association, Rehabilitation Center for Torture Victims "Memoria" (A.O. RCTV Memoria) is an apolitical and non-profit organization, located in Chisinau, Republic of Moldova. Being the only institution from Moldova, specialized in the rehabilitation of torture victims, A.O. RCTV Memoria was founded on November 13, 1999, and began operating in full on April 15, 2000.

Vision: A prosperous society in which the respecting of Human Rights is guaranteed, in which every victim of torture and of other crimes, will benefit from the needed services and medical care, will feel useful members of the society and will contribute to the social progress. As an experienced NGO, A.O. RCTV "Memoria" will be an active and important contributor in our society's reforms, development and prosperity.

Mission: comprehensive rehabilitation through appropriate medical, psychosocial and legal services, to victims of torture, of gender-based violence, and of other cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment, as well as promoting of a society without torture and violence.

A.O. RCTV Memoria implements its mission by:

- 1) Providing rehabilitation services using the [IRCT Global Standards on Rehabilitation \(GSR\)](#), adopted in October 2020 and that are the first internationally agreed-upon, evidence-based best practices for treating torture survivors. Covering physical, mental, social, and legal needs, these standards provide a framework for quality, trauma informed and survivor-centered comprehensive care, independency of services, safety and non-discrimination.
- 2) Promoting the rule of law and victims' rights to rehabilitation through daily support, advocacy at national and international levels.
- 3) Prevention of torture and of the interhuman violence, through organized conferences, workshops and trainings, exchanges of experience, and serving as a venue for thematic meetings, discussions and Open house Days.

The values of A.O. RCTV Memoria underlie all our actions. We are committed to:

- 1) the universality, indivisibility and interdependence of human rights, in accordance with international law and standards;
- 2) democracy, transparency, accountability and the rule of law;
- 3) freedom from torture and from other forms of violence;
- 4) the right to health as fundamental rights of every person;
- 5) the Principles of Medical Ethics recognized internationally, in particular those related to the role of health professionals in preventing torture other forms of violence;
- 6) cultural diversity and mutual respect, high professionalism, dedication to target groups and offering of qualitative and efficient services;
- 7) high individual and group responsibility, morality, team spirits, efficient partnerships and mutual support in the implementation of activities.

Torture was criminalized in Moldova in 2005, but the amendment of the Criminal Code only occurred after the events of April 7, 2009, therein exposing several systemic and legislative issues related to torture.

The Center offers nationwide rehabilitation services, including in rural areas and the Transnistrian region. Despite operating since the beginning, within a challenging socio-political context, marked by an inadequate legal framework and a heavily state-influenced justice system, the center has persevered.

Over the years, A.O. RCTV Memoria has been decisive in supporting the trauma healing and access to justice for torture victims, both in national and international courts. The European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) has considered the center's Evaluation and finding reports in about 40 cases of torture.

Cooperation: A.O. RCTV Memoria is an active member of the international network, coordinated by the International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims (IRCT).

At the national level, RCTV Memoria is an active member and contributor in various Human Rights initiatives and platforms, such as: the National Coalition "Life without Violence", the Platform for Gender Equality, the Platform for Active Ageing, the Platform for the Promotion of Sponsorship and Philanthropy and others.

TARGET GROUPS

Since April 2000, the center has assisted over 6,500 survivors from various target groups, who have experiences of extreme trauma, through torture or other forms of violence. Throughout the years, the organization has repeatedly mobilized rapid, specialized interventions for groups exposed to severe and collective violence, delivering multidisciplinary care, medical documentation, and sustained psychosocial support.

During 2025, we assisted the following beneficiaries:

- 1) **Survivors of torture and other cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment among citizen from Moldova or among asylum seekers, refugees from other countries.** These are people who suffered in various years, under various regimes, being persecuted, arrested, and subjected to various forms of physical and psychological torture.
- 2) **Survivors of gender-based violence** (including victims of sexual and domestic violence) among citizen from Moldova or among asylum seekers, refugees from other countries.
- 3) **Victims of war atrocities in Ukraine** – the major group assisted by RCTV Memoria staff during 2025.

Working with various target groups, helps us to analyze torture as a global phenomenon and its impact on political, religious, cultural, cultural, medical, social and psychological aspects (epidemiology of torture) at regional and international levels. The countries of origin of our beneficiaries include: Republic of Moldova, Ukraine, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Kirgizstan, Russian

Federation, Turkey, India, Somaly, Yemen, Angola, etc.

Our rehabilitation programs and services included medical, social, psychological and legal assistance, which are offered irrespective of nationality, age, gender, political opinion or place of residence, to those who are considered victims of torture according to the Article 1 of the UN Convention against Torture (UN CAT) and/or victims of interhuman violence, according to national and international law.

ANNUAL REHABILITATION PROGRAM

Survivors of torture and of other forms of interhuman violence need support to cope with various post-traumatic symptoms and with PTSD, to improve their physical and mental health and to prevent the delayed or chronic sequels of trauma.

To support victims and help them to continue or to rebuild their lives with dignity, over the years, A.O. RCTV Memoria has developed a comprehensive model of rehabilitation, which includes: trauma screening and assessment, trauma healing and therapy, health care and monitoring of their status, psychosocial and legal support, as well as documentation of cases, for access to Justice or asylum. The resilience-based, Participatory, Victims- and Trauma-centered approaches were used and promoted during last years, including 2025.

REHABILITATION SERVICES, IN DETAILS AND PHOTOS

During the year 2025, RCTV Memoria provided necessary support and services to a total number of 743 persons, including: a) victims of torture (VoT)-140; b) 63 survivors of gender-based violence; c) 540 victims of war atrocities from Ukraine.

MEDICAL SERVICES. Two medical staff members provided services through 4082 in-house visits (including 1027 in-house visits for VoT); performing 151 (incl. 63 VoT) electrocardiograms (ECG). They also coordinated 714 External Referrals, for additional medical consultations, diagnostic investigations, and specialized treatment for 367 persons (incl. 310 for VoT). In 11 severe cases, Computer tomography (CT) and Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scans were performed at the German Diagnostic Center, to provide necessary diagnoses. 47 women benefited from free - screening at SANCOS clinic. The total amount spent for additional medical services, provided as External Referrals was 12 483,00\$, paid from various projects. Essential medication was prescribed and delivered through a pharmacy on a contract basis and also paid from various projects, in a total amount of 46 001,00 \$.

MENTAL HEALTH services were provided by our Psychiatrist/Psychotherapist in 2384 in-house visits (including 717 for VoT). These visits included: 1844 (including 602 for VoT) counselling sessions; 539 individual therapeutic sessions provided to 184 persons (274 for 39 VoT). 162 diagnostic tests have been undertaken for trauma assessments (HTQ, HCL-25, Taylor).

SOCIAL ASSISTANCE: were performed 814 in-house visits (including 201 visits by VoT) for informational support, counselling, eligibility and vulnerability assessments at registration, filling of social surveys, etc.

LEGAL ASSISTANCE: 1) For all beneficiaries: a) Case Evaluation and counselling: 247 persons through 539 legal counselling sessions to inform victims about their rights, legal procedures; b) preparations of documents and petitions in 39 cases, to facilitate their access to justice in the national Courts. 2) At the organizational level: legal monitoring of activity; Drafting and updating legal agreements (with national authorities and/or service providers).

DOCUMENTATION AND CERTIFICATION: 9 Evaluation and findings reports were issued, of which three for Asylum Seekers/VoT to facilitate access to asylum; One for a victim of sexual violence (refugee); and five for gender-based violence victims from Moldova. The other seven Evaluation and Finding reports were in progress and expected to be issued in the first trimester of 2025.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT was provided to the most vulnerable victims facing extreme poverty, among which asylum seekers, Ukrainian refugees and Moldovan nationals, to facilitate their access to rehabilitation and solve critical/essential issues. This support included: 1) Trip reimbursement- to 94 clients outside Chisinau, incl 16 VoT, in total amount of 827,00 \$; 2) Emergency packages for 5 beneficiaries (including 3 women with small children and 2 VoT recently released from prison) in total amount of 201 USD covered from UNVFVT.

HUMANITARIAN AID. In Moldova's challenging socio-economic conditions, we strive to help our clients to rebuild their lives with dignity, free from poverty and fears. Our focus remained on the most vulnerable: children, women (including pregnant, sick, elderly women, war widows etc.), persons with disabilities or with severe/chronic illnesses. Additionally, through the "Social Wardrobe" clothes, shoes and other essential items, were distributed to 32 persons (incl. 12 VoT) from private donations. As a client-oriented organization, we have expanded our fundraising efforts to secure diverse support from private donors, philanthropic organizations, and community initiatives. This allowed us to ensure sustainable assistance. In Christmas eve, voucher assistance for food and clothing (apr. 40 Euro each) was distributed to 34 persons (21 VoT and 13 vulnerable women with children). This was made possible through cooperation and support from the Gender Centre. With the support of Run Pink Moldova, a dedicated corner for oncologic patients (offering with wigs, adapted clothes and breast prostheses) has also been created in our center. 9 women benefited from these specialized items, which contributed to their comfort and emotional wellbeing during treatment.

PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT:

In 2025, the mental health team of RCTV Memoria continued to uphold its commitment to victim-centered and trauma-informed approaches, by organizing various group sessions,

focused on art-therapy and creative workshops for women facing multiple vulnerabilities.



Craft workshops: art therapy within the psychosocial program.



Activity organized under the umbrella of the Gender Equality Platform, with the support of Gender-Centru, which is part of a program to empower women-led organizations in their efforts to prevent and respond to gender-based violence. This initiative is supported by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and funded by the United Kingdom, co-funded by Church World Services.



Within 14 organized sessions, a total number of 190 beneficiaries attended the planned activities, co-funded by the Church World Services, the Platform for Gender Equality, and the IRCT. The sessions integrated cognitive-behavioral techniques, mindfulness, stress-management practices and creative expression, offering both psychosocial healing and

opportunities for empowerment. Special attention was paid to victims of torture and refugees from Ukraine, who benefited from counselling, informative and psychoeducational support.

These group sessions aimed to strengthen resilience, improve emotional connections and self-confidence, while also creating safe spaces for dialogue on trauma, rights and empowerment. The most relevant activities are presented below:

Craft Workshops (March–April 2025) organized for 63 participants. These sessions were focused on war-related trauma, stress management, resilience and women’s rights,



April 15, 2025 - Ecotherapy - a bridge between the soul and nature



Activity organized under the umbrella of the Gender Equality Platform, with the support of Gender-Centru, which is part of a program to empower women-led organizations in their efforts to prevent and respond to gender-based violence. This initiative is supported by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and funded by the United Kingdom, co-funded by Church World Services.



encouraging emotional expression and connection through creative activities. Alongside the artistic component, participants discussed the importance of psychological and legal support, available services for violence prevention, and practical strategies for strengthening resilience.

On April 15, 2025, a thematic session with elements of ecotherapy (planting houseplants and vegetable seedlings),

with 17 participants (14 women from Ukraine, 3 women from Moldova) was organized. Alternative methods of stress management based on connection with nature were discussed.



18 July, 2025 Informative session with practical elements of psychotherapy: "Panic attacks, anxiety, and cardiovascular diseases."



Activity performed within the project "NO ONE LEFT BEHIND" NEW STEPS FOR BETTER SERVICES IN THE EMERGENCY RESPONSES" with financial support of Church World Services. Period of implementation 16.09.2024-31.03.2025.

The workshops, with elements of ecotherapy and storytelling were held under the theme "Where the Nature and the Inner Reflection Meet". These workshops provided a space for participants to reflect, to heal, and find inspiration through connection with nature and storytelling.

On 3 of July, 2025 the interns from University of Denver, USA guided 18 participants in interactive English lessons. On July 18, 2025 was organized an informative session with main focus on somatic after-effects and stress management techniques. Seventeen Ukrainian refugee women, mainly diagnosed with heart diseases and experiencing war trauma-related anxiety, participated in the session led by the Center's medical specialists. The session aimed to equip participants with stress and anxiety management skills and improve their psycho-emotional well-being. A.O. RCTV "Memoria" team noticed that the majority of the Ukrainian refugees, had experience of anxiety disorders, depression, panic attacks, and psychosomatic conditions.

On August 21, 2025, RCTV Memoria organized an informational session for 18 Ukrainian refugees (16 women, 2 men) about trauma after-effects, including sleep disorders. Key topics included causes of sleep disorders such as stress, anxiety, hormonal imbalances, nutritional deficiencies, and chronic illnesses; the effects of sleep disorders on heart health, immunity, and emotional well-being; as well as practical prevention and management techniques like controlled breathing, muscle relaxation, guided meditation, aromatherapy, and sleep hygiene.



October 31, 2025, was organized the informative session about depressive disorders for 25 persons (2 men and 23 women). This session was designed to improve the psycho-emotional status of beneficiaries and to develop practical skills for managing depressive symptoms. The participants learned techniques for overcoming depression and practicing

mindfulness.



On 28 November 2025 and 03 December AO RCTV Memoria organized two creative workshops, to create lavender relaxation pillows (Pillows with Memories) and fabric-scrap toy-making. These activities brought together 12 participants (11 women, 1 man) and respectively, 11 participants (11 women). The workshops combined art-therapy techniques,

sensory relaxation, and creative recycling, offering participants a safe and supportive environment to express emotions, reduce stress, and strengthen social connection. On 06 December, 2025 our beneficiaries participated in the Winter Charity Bazaar (27th edition), where six survivors joined; one Ukrainian beneficiary from Kherson sold handmade toys, earning 200 EUR (4,500 MDL) — a tangible example of economic empowerment and income generation activity.



19.12.2025 - Ecotherapy session - a bridge between the soul and nature



Activity performed within the project "IMPROVED REHABILITATION SERVICES FOR BETTER SOCIAL REINTEGRATION OF SURVIVORS OF TORTURE FROM MOLDOVA" with financial support of IRCT. Period of implementation 1.09.2025-28.02.2026.

a) On 19 December, 2025 the 2nd thematic session with elements of ecotherapy (planting houseplants and vegetable seedlings) was organized. 11 participants learned how to plant houseplants, discovering their symbolic meanings; and the benefits of connecting with nature.

ADVOCACY, PREVENTING TORTURE AND OTHER FORMS OF VIOLENCE

PUBLIC AWARENESS BUILDING

During 2025, A.O. RCTV Memoria team members organized or participated in various events, ✓ to increase the visibility of own activities or to highlight the donors' contributions for rehabilitation;

✓ as well as for Advocacy and public awareness building on victims' rights;

✓ for prevention of torture and gender-based violence (GBV).

Among the most relevant actions, can be listed:



16.10.2025 - Conference - 25 years Anniversary of RCTV Memoria.



Activity performed within the project "IMPROVED REHABILITATION SERVICES FOR BETTER SOCIAL REINTEGRATION OF SURVIVORS OF TORTURE FROM MOLDOVA" with financial support of IRCT and Church World Services. Period of implementation 1.09.2025-28.02.2026.

The Anniversary Conference "25 Years in Support of Victims: The Right to Rehabilitation, Prevention of Torture and Gender-Based Violence", organized on 16 October 2025. The event gathered 94 participants from civil society, state authorities, international institutions, donor organizations and

expert-practitioners. Discussions were focused on rehabilitation, prevention, monitoring of the cases and the state accountability. the access to justice, legal and institutional gaps, and practical steps to strengthen victims' support

On 17 October 2025, RCTV Memoria hosted an **Open House Day**, welcoming 22 visitors—including civil society representatives, beneficiaries and university students. The event offered a tangible view of the center's services and activities, helping visitors to better understand to identify opportunities for collaboration, referrals and ensure students form Master Degree with a place for internship.

CAPACITY BUILDING AND TRAININGS FOR PROFESSIONALS

In 2025, A.O. RCTV Memoria continued to consolidate its organizational capacity, through improving internal policies, strengthening professional competencies and increasing institutional resilience.

The team members demonstrated exceptional flexibility, adaptability to crisis contexts and unwavering commitment to beneficiaries, often remaining the only available source of specialized support for victims of torture and other forms of inhuman or degrading treatment.

Internships and Volunteering Program:



Between June and August 2025, RCTV Memoria hosted two interns from the University of Denver, USA / International Disaster Psychology department. Their contribution was highly appreciated by beneficiaries and staff members. They also helped us to develop a tailored Self-Care Portfolio for each staff member, enhancing organizational wellbeing and resilience. On 25 July 2025 was organized the

workshop, "Teambuilding and Prevention of Psycho-Emotional Burnout" (Pensiunea Butuceni, Orhei) for 10 participants (8 staff and 2 interns). The agenda included: short theory modules, Power point presentation, as Hands outs – various techniques as: Progressive Muscle Relaxation (PMR) and breathing exercises, Task-Oriented Self-Care (TOSC) practice, personalized prevention planning and a culinary master-class, for teambuilding.

The workshop strengthened team bonding, staff resilience, delivered efficient self-regulation tools for fieldwork, and advanced organizational prevention measures to protect staff working with deeply traumatized beneficiaries.



02.12.2025 - Workshop on Post-traumatic stress disorders, facilitated by experts from the Erik Holst Foundation (Switzerland) with support from ICAR Foundation (Romania)



Activity performed within the project "IMPROVED REHABILITATION SERVICES FOR BETTER SOCIAL REINTEGRATION OF SURVIVORS OF TORTURE FROM MOLDOVA" with financial support of IRCT. Period of implementation 1.08.2025-28.02.2026.

On 2 December 2025, a **workshop** on post-traumatic stress disorder and burnout prevention was organized with experts from the “Erik Holst” Foundation, supported by ICAR Foundation (Romania). The training addressed trauma evolution, documentation of chronic and delayed PTSD, crisis management and therapeutic relationships grounded in empathy, trust and continuity of care.

OUR DONORS

The year 2025 was a difficult and crucial for RCTV Memoria. Thanks to our donors and support, we managed to survive as NGO and to continue to help victims of various forms of inter-human violence, while operating in a very difficult context with limited funds, and striving to solve the stringent issue of securing an adequate premises for our rehabilitation programs.

*Dear donors and partners,
Thank you for trust and generosity, we managed to provide comprehensive rehabilitation services to 743 persons!*

Thanks to our joint efforts, many survivors have been able to overcome their trauma, experience the true meaning of a supported healing journey, and restore their resilience and human spirit.

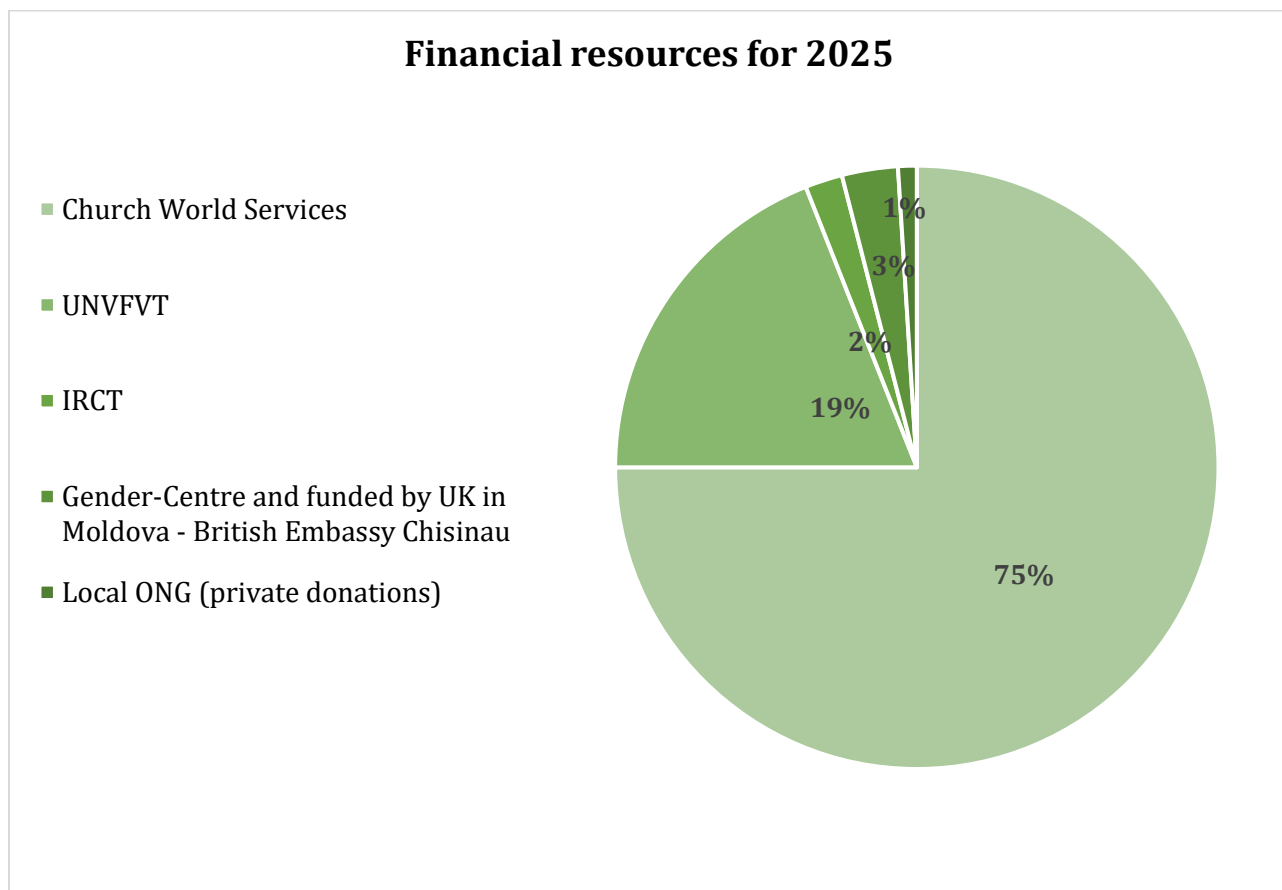
*We are very grateful for your valuable support!
Thank you for helping us to help victims!*



FINANCIAL RESOURCES FOR 2025

Total budget: 200 289,00 USD.

Donors name	Project name	Period of implementation
Church World Services	“No one left behind”. New steps for better services in the emergency response.”	15.09.2024-14.09.2025
UNVFVT, UN Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture	„Rehabilitation of torture victims from Moldova” P.322 DA 2025	01.01.2025-31.12.2025
IRCT, International Rehabilitation Council for Torture victims.	“Improved rehabilitation services for better social reintegration of survivors of torture from Moldova”	01.09.2025-28.02.2026
Gender-Centre and funded by UK in Moldova - British Embassy Chisinau	“The role of economic empowerment in the rehabilitation of Ukrainian refugees and victims of GBV”	01.02.2025-15.04.2025
Local ONG (private donations)		01.01.2025-31.12.2025



HOW YOU CAN HELP US

If you're empathic, experienced, enthusiastic, and committed to help others, you can join us. These are several ways you can contribute to the work of the Rehabilitation Centre for Torture Victims "Memoria" (A.O. RCTV Memoria) and help us to make a real difference in the lives of our beneficiaries:

- 1) **Redirect 2%** of Your Income Tax to A.O. RCTV Memoria, to support our mission. Fiscal Code: **1010620006734**. It could be a small amount from you, but it could be a significant help to someone in need.
- 2) **Become a Corporate Partner.** If you represent a company, you can support us by donating: cash, various goods, supplies or providing some services.
- 3) **Volunteer with us.** If you are a student or a young professional eager to make a difference, to learn, to gain experience and skills, you can apply for a short-term or long-term volunteering. As well, A.O. RCTV Memoria could be a right place for a internship, if eligible.
- 4) **Join us as a staff member.** Sometimes we are looking for dedicated and compassionate professionals to join our staff. Please keep an eye on our announcements about available job opportunities.