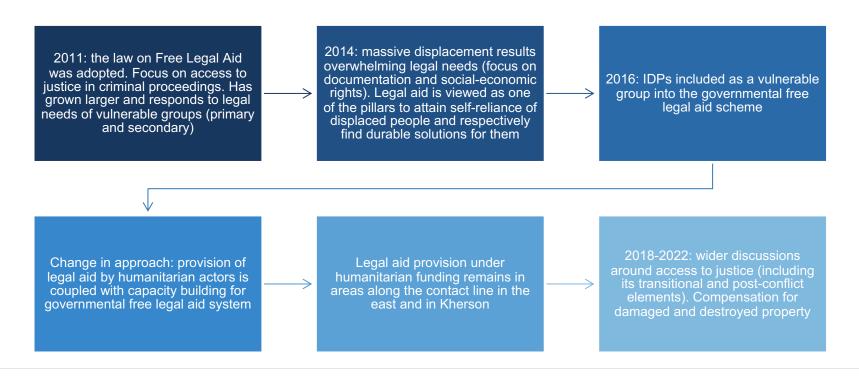
# Legal aid and access to justice in crisis settings

**Example of Ukraine** 



### Legal and policy framework in the context





### Free legal aid system in Ukraine

- Present everywhere in the country, but areas of active fighting
- Rather effective in information sharing and awareness raising





### Partnerships with duty bearers

- Capacitation of Free Legal Aid System/ courts:
  - Knowledge
  - Experience
  - Skill-building
  - Advocacy
- Engagement with development actors:
  - Coordination on existing approaches, strategies and responses
  - Quality control elaboration



# 2022 till present

How has response changed?



### Immediate legal needs

- Exponential growth in needs, destruction of FLA infrastructure, depleted human capacity of free legal aid
- . Themes:
  - Birth and death registration
  - Personal documentation
  - Employment related issues
  - HLP
- Widening network of local partners



#### Coordination

# In May 2022 called for the establishment of a specific working group on Legal Aid

28 actors including FLA and a private legal company

#### Age and Disability Technical Working Group

Engagement with the Assembly of Organizations of Persons with Disabilities

#### Coordination with HLP Technical Working Group

Joint advocacy and awareness raising



### Standards of legal aid provision

Legal aid is <u>accessible</u> (where is it provided? By whom? In which language? Channels of legal aid provision? Is it accessible with sight impairments? Other functional impairments?)

Legal aid is <u>effective</u> (Who provides legal aid? How simple it is written/explained? Is result reached to address the need of a beneficiary? Were all possibilities to assist exhausted? In case of special legal assistance, was a person referred?)

Legal aid is <u>confidential</u> (where do you store files? Do you seek person's agreement to collect and use their personal data?)

Legal aid is <u>timely</u> (when a case referred to you from other partner, how much time it takes to contact the beneficiary?)

Legal aid is <u>appropriate</u> (does it respond to the need? Is there a difference in providing legal aid to men and women, boys and girls? Do you inform people on how the assistance will be provided, what are possible challenges etc.?)



### Learning and growing

- Quality of legal aid provision
  - How to measure?
- Cross-fertilization through coordination and exchange:
  - Multiple initiatives, thematic nots
- Feedback from beneficiaries
  - Relevance
  - Effectiveness



## Thank you for your attention!

Lidiia Kuzmenko, Protection Officer UNHCR, Representation in Ukraine Kuzmenko@unhcr.org

