



ANNUAL REPORT 2024

CENTER FOR DURABLE SOLUTION DIALOGUE (CDSD)
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1. Mission and Tasks of the Organization

The Center for Durable Solution Dialogue (CDS) is an independent, neutral, impartial and nonprofit think tank dedicated to creating durable solutions for individuals displaced by conflict and natural disasters. The core focus of the organization is to foster innovative ideas, research, advocacy and practical interventions that alleviate the plight of displaced and other conflict affected persons and contribute to their long-term well-being.

CDS is committed to deepening the understanding of the complex challenges faced by displaced individuals and communities, recognizing the unique needs and aspirations of each person affected. Through rigorous analysis, collaboration, and advocacy, CDS strives to generate sustainable solutions that address the root causes of displacement, promote resilience, and empower affected populations to rebuild their lives with dignity.

2. Services Provided by the Organization

Research, Knowledge Sharing, and Policy Advocacy:

- **Comprehensive Legal Analysis and Archives:** Conducting detailed reviews and analyses of laws and policies, creating an extensive legal archive accessible to humanitarian, development and civil society actors.
- **Policy Papers and Recommendations:** Developing evidence-based policy papers and strategic recommendations to influence policy-making processes for protection and promotion of rights IDPs and people affected by the war in Ukraine.
- **Stakeholder Collaboration:** Engaging with government institutions, international agencies, NGOs, and affected communities to facilitate dialogue and policy formulation.

Training and Capacity Building:

- **External Training Programs:** Organizing targeted training sessions for government officials, civil society members, and local duty bearers on pressing legal and humanitarian and durable solution issues.
- **Workshops and Peer Learning:** Facilitating regular workshops and peer-to-peer learning sessions for lawyers and specialists to discuss recent legal developments and best practices.

2.1. Additional Services Offered by the Organization

Legal Aid and Legal Services:

- **Mobile Legal Clinics:** Organizing mobile clinics to provide rights-awareness materials dissemination, group awareness sessions, individual legal counseling, and case management services.
- **AI-Driven Legal Services:** Development of AI platforms offering automated legal opinions on critical issues such as housing, land, and property (HLP) rights, civil documentation, gender-based violence (GBV), social protection, and small business regulations.
- **Legal Hotline Services:** Establishment of telephone hotline services offering timely legal consultations and referrals.
- **Office-Based Legal Consultations:** Providing personalized legal aid at CDSO offices via scheduled appointments through hotline or digital platforms.
- **Integration with Digital Platforms:** Collaborating with other legal aid actors and integrating CDSO's services with existing digital legal aid platforms to enhance beneficiary access.

Local Self-Government (LSG) Services:

- **Vulnerability Mapping:** Conducting assessments of local population vulnerabilities to guide targeted interventions.
- **Capacity Assessments:** Evaluating the capacities of local self-government structures to inform policy advocacy and program design.
- **Local Business and Market Environment Analysis:** Assessing local economic environments to identify sustainable opportunities for displaced communities.
- **Civil Society Capacity Building:** Conducting assessments and supporting local civil society organizations in strengthening their capacities to respond effectively.
- **LSG Resource and Infrastructure Assessment:** Evaluating local resources, infrastructure, and market opportunities to improve local governance and community resilience.
- **LSG Engagement and Advocacy Tools:** Developing tools and methodologies for effective local self-government engagement and policy advocacy.
- **Sustainability and Risk Assessments:** Analyzing sustainability factors and identifying risks associated with partnerships and interventions to ensure effective programming.

3. Main Achievements

Overview:

2024 marked the first full operational year for the organization, characterized by significant strides in advancing its value proposition among humanitarian and development actors. CDSO successfully enhanced its reputation in research, legal analysis, and policy advocacy, becoming a trusted partner among stakeholders. The organization built a stable, experienced team, expanded expertise across multiple thematic areas, and fostered strong networks within the humanitarian and development communities. The achievements of 2024 have laid a strong foundation for expanded activities and sustainable organizational growth in 2025. Key highlights of the year are outlined below.

- **Danish Refugee Council (DRC) Project Completion:** CDSO, in collaboration with its partner EVERLEGAL law firm, successfully completed an extensive collaboration with the DRC, producing 100 detailed Briefing Notes addressing critical legal and protection topics such as social protection, housing, civil documentation, GBV, and rights of internally displaced persons. This project showcased CDSO's capacity for in-depth research and effective delivery under tight deadlines.
- **Leading a Major National Initiative on Housing:** To strengthen momentum around social housing initiatives in Ukraine, UNHCR, in collaboration with the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), commissioned a major housing study in 2024. The study team, comprising experts from multiple organizations including CDSO, the Housing Institute, and Ernst & Young, was selected through a competitive bidding process. Isaac Robinson, Executive Director of CDSO, was chosen to lead the study, while Yurii Sukhonos, CDSO's Advisor on Financial and Business Solutions, provided expert guidance on financial aspects. Conducted over three months, the study involved extensive desk research and fieldwork, culminating in a comprehensive 110-page report. The final report attracted significant attention from both national and international organizations, leading to numerous requests for presentations and potential collaborations with CDSO. The Report can be accessed using [the link](#)
- **Contributed to UNHCR-led Access Study:** CDSO provided legal and analytical support to "Access Study: Understanding Effective Coverage and Barriers to the Ukrainian State Social Protection System", conducted under the PeReHID Initiative with UNHCR, UNICEF, and IOM. Isaac Robinson, CDSO's Executive Director, worked to ensure that legal frameworks and protection concerns were effectively integrated into the study. Their input helped shape the study's recommendations on addressing gaps and barriers in Ukraine's social protection system during wartime. The Access Study can be accessed using [the link](#)
- **Management Sustainability:** A key achievement of the year was securing a three-year employment commitment from the Executive Director, Isaac Robinson. Isaac holds an LL.M from Columbia University (USA) and a BA (Honours School of

Jurisprudence) from the University of Oxford (UK). With over 25 years of global experience in humanitarian program management, Isaac has worked extensively in displacement contexts across Ukraine, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Uganda, Kenya, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Kosovo, Serbia, and North Macedonia. His professional background includes senior roles with the United Nations, Norwegian Refugee Council, Asian Development Bank, USAID, and Danish Refugee Council. Isaac's leadership significantly enhances CDSD's organizational sustainability, as he joined on a semi-voluntary basis, committing to full-time, pro bono service during periods when project funding is limited. His involvement not only strengthens the quality of CDSD's programs but also provides critical stability during challenging funding periods.

- **Robust Project Pipeline:** At the end of 2024, CDSD had a robust pipeline comprising five proposed projects. These include a local self-government initiative developed jointly with the Estonian Refugee Council, a housing research and analysis project in collaboration with the Housing Institute of Ukraine, a humanitarian funding proposal submitted to the Ukraine Humanitarian Fund (UHF) developed together with the Estonian Refugee Council, and a needs assessment consultancy submitted to Dorcas Ukraine. Funding decisions for these proposals are expected in the first quarter of 2025. While funding outcomes cannot be guaranteed, CDSD is encouraged by the extent and quality of project development in 2024, particularly its strengthened capacity for collaboration with prominent national and international partners.

4. Organizational Structure

Board of Directors:



Dr. Natalia Madzigon (Founder): a durable solutions specialist, has worked extensively with UNHCR, Norwegian Refugee Council, Danish Refugee Council and other agencies in emergency and early-recovery contexts. As the founder of CDSD, Natalia provides ongoing guidance and strategic vision.



Yurii Sukhonos: MBA from IESE Business School, Barcelona; dual master's degrees in International Public Law and International Economic Relations from Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv. Brings expertise in finance, economics, and business strategy. Oversees financial governance, advises on economic strategies, and helps ensure accountability and transparency.

Senior Management Team (SMT):



Daria Kravets, CDS head: has over 9 years of experience in marketing, PR, and project development. She holds a Bachelor's Degree in Marketing from Kyiv National Economic University and a Certificate in Digital Marketing from the Ireland Digital Marketing Institute. She also successfully completed a 6-month program "Business & Human Rights Accelerator" from UN Global Compact. Provides overall leadership and day-to-day management of the organization, translating Board-level guidance into operational strategies. Leads fundraising, partnerships, communications, and project development activities. Coordinates with the Senior Management Team to develop programs and ensure timely implementation. Reports to the Board of Directors, presenting organizational progress, financial updates, and strategic plans.



Isaac Robinson, Executive Director: Over 25 years of global experience in humanitarian program management across multiple displacement contexts, including Ukraine, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Uganda, Kenya, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Kosovo, Serbia and Northern Macedonia. Isaac holds an LL.M from Columbia University, USA, and a BA (Honours School of Jurisprudence) from the University of Oxford, UK. Previous employers include the United Nations, Norwegian Refugee Council, Asian Development Bank, USAID, and Danish Refugee Council.

CDS Associates:



Khrystyna Kozak: Khrystyna holds a Master's degree in International Relations with a specialization in Peace Studies from the University of Notre Dame (USA), a Master of Law with honors in Human Rights from the Ukrainian Catholic University, and a Bachelor of Law with honors in Civil Law from Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv. In the past she has served with international organizations such as UNHCR, the World Food Programme (WFP), and the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), and gained legal sector experience at leading Ukrainian law firms Arzinger and Yurimex. Most recently, she has contributed to the work of the International Register of Damages for Ukraine.



Danylo Nedvetskyi: Danylo holds an Advanced LL.M. in Public International Law (Peace, Justice and Development) from Leiden University (Netherlands), and both Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Law from the Institute of International Relations of Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv. He has extensive experience in legal and advocacy roles with international organizations such as the Danish Refugee Council in both Ukraine and Moldova, Global Rights Compliance LLP in The Hague, and the Ukrainian Red Cross Society. Most recently, Danylo serves as an expert consultant on Ukrainian legislation at the Centre of Law Advocates (CDA) in Moldova, providing training and strategic guidance on Ukrainian digital services and legal issues affecting displaced persons from Ukraine.



Svitlana Teteria: Legal Specialist with a Specialist's Degree in Law from the National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy. Svitlana has nine years of legal practice in agriculture, land law, dispute resolution, employment, human rights, and commercial law, including extensive experience with USAID-funded projects and legal training.



Oleksandr Demchuk: Legal Specialist with a Master of Law from Taras Shevchenko National University, Kyiv. Oleksandr has 12 years of experience in dispute resolution, human rights, commercial, administrative, and civil law, with involvement in USAID-funded projects such as CO-HATY, ENGAGE and AGRO.

5. Main Sectors and Clients

Sectors

- Humanitarian Protection
- Housing, land and property (HLP) rights
- SME and Micro SME (Conflict and displacement focused)
- Civil Society (focused on capacity building)
- Development (Focused on IDP durable solutions)
- Local Self-Government (capacity building)
- Policy Advocacy (cross-cutting)

Clients (Target group for funding)

- Conventional humanitarian and development donors in Ukraine
- Embassies and diplomatic missions
- INGOs in Ukraine
- Private foundations

6. Main Projects Completed

- **Danish Refugee Council (DRC) Project Completion:** CDSD, in collaboration with its partner EVERLEGAL, successfully completed an extensive collaboration with the Danish Refugee Council, producing 100 detailed Briefing Notes addressing critical legal and protection topics such as social protection, civil documentation, GBV, and rights of internally displaced persons. This project showcased CDSD's capacity for in-depth research and effective delivery under tight deadlines.
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7. Awards and Appreciation



"In the last year Estonian Refugee Council has turned to CDSD for its exceptional technical talent and wide reaching network to co-design project proposals. Their protection and legal expertise have been a compliment to ERCs digital, cash and livelihoods expertise in Ukraine. We hope 2025-2026 will bring an opportunity to collaborate in the field".

Jessica Carlson, Country Director, Estonia Refugee Council, Ukraine



"Colleagues from CDSD have made invaluable contributions to the study on Municipal Housing".

Roberto Vila-Sexto, Executive Director, Housing Insitute, Former Country Director, Norwegian Refugee Council, Ukraine



"The humanitarian training provided by the CDSD team was an outstanding experience that deepened our understanding of legal work in emergency contexts. We sincerely appreciate their expertise and commitment".

Andriy Porayko, Partner, EVERLEGAL



"CDSO brought food for thought in public forums, complementing our efforts to improve legislative frameworks for the protection of IDP rights in Ukraine. CDSO Executive Director, Isaac Robinson, took an active part in the Commission's forums on resolving housing issues for IDPs in Zakarpattia in May 2024 and on IDP rights protection in Khmelnytskyi in October 2024, where he consistently proposed forward-looking, durable solutions for IDPs".

Pavlo Frolov, Member of Parliament and Head of the Temporary Special Commission on the Protection of Property and Non-Property Rights of IDPs and Others Affected by Russia's Armed Aggression

8. Partners

- Danish Refugee Council (donor 2024)
 - EVERLEGAL (Co-implementor)
 - Earnst & Young (Co-implementor)
 - Housing Institute (Co-implementor)
 - Estonian Refugee Council (Co-project development)
 - Vilshanska Rural Hromada, Zhytomyrska Oblast (proposed co-implementor)
 - Chervonenska Rural Hromada, Zhytomyrska Oblast (proposed co-implementor)
 - Zbarazka Urban Hromada, Ternopil'ska Oblast (proposed co-implementor)
 - UNHCR (housing study donor)
 - NRC (housing study donor)
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9. Donors

- Danish Refugee Council
 - Housing Institute
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10. Financial Part

Please find a detailed Report on the use of income of a non-profit organization CDSO at the [LINK](#).

11. Audit Certificate

Please find a detailed independent auditor's report on the annual financial statements of the NGO CDSO at the [LINK](#).

12. Contact Information

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