

Situation Report #5 (2019-2020)

Caritas Ukraine

Response to the Humanitarian Crisis
(as of January, 1, 2020)



Key figures

- **5.2 million** people affected, **3.4 million** people in need (including **430 000** children, **0.3 million** in NGCA (out of the buffer zone); **2.7 million on the buffer zone**; **0.5 million** in GCA (out of the buffer zone).
- No less than **3 344** civilians killed from the beginning of the conflict, no less than **7 000** injured (UN).
- **145** civilian casualties from January 2019 (**18** killed, **127** injured), in 2019 the lowest level of losses recorded (in comparison to 217 in 2018).
- **1 433 454** IDPs (as of January 8, 2020)
- Ukraine ranks amongst the top 5 countries for civilian casualties as a result of landmines and ERW. **1 848** casualties have been recorded since 2014, including **128** children injured and **38** killed.
- According to OCHA the economic situation of conflict-affected people continues to worsen, while funds to assist them fall short. Integration of internally displaced persons in Ukraine remains a challenge.
- Escalation in fighting is threatening **access to safe water and sanitation** for 4.1 million people, including 500,000 children (UNICEF) with a total of **67** serious incidents in 2019.



700 000 people assisted by Caritas since May 2014



8 910 432 Euro funding since January 1, 2019

Caritas Ukraine Response

Caritas Ukraine started to provide humanitarian assistance to conflict-affected people in April 2014, when the mass displacement of people in Ukraine began. Since then, Caritas Ukraine has helped nearly 700 000 people affected by the humanitarian crisis. Caritas Ukraine places people in need at the heart and forefront of all its responses and is guided by the humanitarian principles and Christian values. Scrupulous assessments of needs are conducted before a project begins and help is provided regardless of nationality, religion, age, gender and political background.

Key developments

- Continuous strengthening of cooperation with international humanitarian agencies, state and non-governmental international and local organizations who work in the social sphere with a specific focus on the Buffer Zone.
- Strengthening advocacy work based on requests from beneficiaries of different programs and on the needs, which emerge from both humanitarian and development projects.

Key donors: German Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Caritas Germany/BMZ, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Republic of Poland, Caritas Poland, Catholic Relief Services, LDS, Caritas Austria, Renovabis, CNEWA Canada, Caritas Denmark, Austrian Development Agency, Dorcas, Caritas France, Caritas Espanola, Caritas Korea, Caritas Internationalis, Apostolic Nunciature in Ukraine, Embassy of Japan in Ukraine, Kindermissionswerk, Caritas Italiana, Caritas Australia, Caritas Internationalis, UNODC, UNICEF, The Australian Federation of Ukrainian Organizations, Swiss Confederation through Swiss Cooperation Office in Ukraine.

Activities by sector



Food Security and Nutrition

No less than **7700** people reached



- **4695** food relief packages were provided to 4250 beneficiaries
- **1963** multipurpose grants covering needs of no less than **3 900 beneficiaries** distributed



WASH

No less than **27 100** people reached



- Caritas Ukraine has carried out assessments and developed response plans in all **5** target locations in Eastern Ukraine
- Successful drilling of wells in 4 locations completed (**27070** people reached)
- The local WASH team stands responded to the crisis with water supply in Bakhchevyk, Obilne, Myrne and Druzhne - the water in tanks was supplied from the well in Myrne (**700** people reached)
- The advocacy activities in 6 locations (Myrne, Andryivka, Kamynka, Bahchovik, Krasnohorivka, Mariinka) – legal and informational support, lobbying of the interests of the communities to local authorities (**26 950** people reached)



Emergency Shelter/NFI

*No less than **6 700** people reached (2481 households (HH))*



- 2481 HHs in GCAs received winterization support through fuel briquettes (2 tons per household)



Healthcare:

*No less than **13 000** people reached*

- **2815** people received cash grants/vouchers to purchase medicines
- **456** people received medical/hygiene packages (home care services)
- **379** IDPs and inhabitants of the buffer zone reached through the home care program in Eastern Ukraine

- **6440** consultations for relatives/close ones of people in need of medical assistance through home care
- **258** IDPs reached through home care services in Kharkiv, Khmelnytsky, Lviv, Odesa, Kyiv, Ternopil, Ivano-Frankivsk and Kramatorsk (out of the buffer zone).

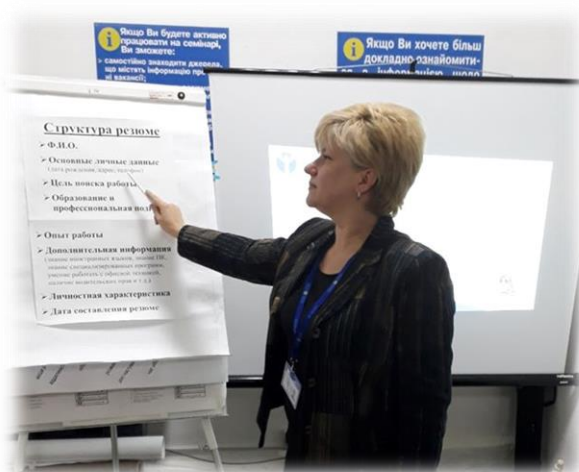


Psychological assistance

- **1207** beneficiaries have been provided with individual consultations
- **2361** beneficiaries participated in group counseling sessions
- **901** beneficiaries received community based psychological assistance (in 5 locations of the buffer zone within the framework of the project "Empowering communities in the provision of psychosocial support for people impaired by distress in the buffer zone").



Early Recovery & Livelihoods¹ *No less than **4800** people reached*



- 833** consultations for employment, **131** employed
- **246** events on development of entrepreneurship skills with **2830** participants
 - **16** business schools, **448** participants
 - **60** trainings on employment issues, **621** participants



Education *No less than **3200** people reached*

¹ Data from three projects "Strengthening resilience of conflict affected communities in the East and South of Ukraine" (SR), "Sustaining Economic Recovery for Peace" (SERP) and Social Center in Dnipro (D)



- **2695** children in 17 locations in the buffer zone reached through recreational and psychological assistance
- **17** family-friendly centers created in educational establishments of the buffer zone
- **401** parents are equipped with resources to better cope with crisis situations.



Integration and Peace building
No less than 30 000 people reached



- **700 families** received accompaniment (**appr. 2500** people) offered by **Family Integration Support Centers**.
- **1884** beneficiaries (IDPs, the members of the local community and ex-combatants) participated in **75** conflict transformation and peacebuilding events in **3** locations (Mariupol, Zaporizhya and Odesa).
- **6325** beneficiaries (from them **2089** new and **4276** returning) received services in **6 Centers of Social Cohesion and Socio-pastoral initiatives**.
- **153** beneficiaries (**45** families) of IDPs, ATO and local communities participated in week-long visits of families from the East of Ukraine to the West/
- Within the framework of the project of assistance to the **victims of human trafficking** the following has been achieved: **61** victims of trafficking identified, **53** beneficiaries received material assistance from the project, **1612** people participated in prevention and awareness-raising events.

Complex/ Comprehensive Assistance

- **Social centers on crisis management and self-help for people and communities affected by the conflict** (Kramatorsk, Mariupol, Zaporizhia, Kyiv) – **14 921** reached.



- Crisis centers (call-center, counseling, case management)
- Community Development Centers (social space for community activation, self-support groups)
- Resource centers: lobbying and advocacy

- Multifunctional Social Center in Dnipro:** 2422 people have been provided with social and humanitarian services (28% IDPs and 72% locals). Services that are most in demand are: soup- kitchen, medical and legal consultations, home care services, psychological assistance, livelihood services, including social accompaniment at job search and grants for education and start-ups (1545 cases in total) and hotline for IDPs (5368 calls). The priority in 2019 is to ensure the financial sustainability of the project (paid services, fundraising, social entrepreneurship).



Key challenges

- Although presidential and parliamentary elections are over future developments impacting the conflict are unclear. The last President's attempts to adopt the so-called Steinmeier formula which tries to get around a dispute by blocking the implementation of the 2014-2015 Minsk agreements creates opportunities as well as risks. According to civil society, the demilitarization of selected settlements in the form proposed by the President and Government will create a 10 km wide and 380 km long "gray zone" which will create new risks to the lives and health of local residents. Such concern is driven by the high level of terrorist threats in the buffer zone and surrounding areas. Also the question of access to medical services, water supply, renovations of civilian infrastructure emerge as it is still unclear if these settlements still belong to GCAs.
- In such an unclear situation it is hard to make any predictions on future developments of the situation and potential target areas of intervention, as well as on the projects currently implemented in the buffer zone.
- The problem is also that the Ukrainian conflict is on its sixth year and is decreasingly on the radar of international donors, even if the people affected by the humanitarian crisis are still very much in need of assistance.
- Also, the situation in the East of Ukraine is still perceived as an internal Ukrainian problem when in reality it is also a serious humanitarian crisis.

Perspectives of work

- Caritas Ukraine is looking to maintain an active involvement in all activities and meetings of Humanitarian Clusters and in the work of the Humanitarian Country Group, which are carried out under the auspices of the UN. Currently the tendency of international organization to wind down the work in Ukraine is observed. For Caritas which still sees the humanitarian activities as its top priority, it is a challenge but also a positive factor as it can profile itself as the main responder in some sectors of activity (i.e. WASH).
- Caritas Ukraine will continue to look for additional funding sources to sustain its project activities throughout the country.

Human Interest Stories

Help for Workers of Coal Mines in Buffer Zone



Most people living in the zone of conflict are in some way related to the coal mines. Wage delays and closing of mines are typical for the situation there and the families found themselves in a difficult situation. Due to the disastrous impact of the conflict on the economic situation, miners are often the only ones who work in the family, which means that the responsibility of all

other family members lies on their shoulders. The analysis of life of such families showed that their urgent need is food. The local authorities of Zolote-4 settlement located directly on the conflict line appealed to the Caritas Severodonetsk with the request for help for the miners and their families in need. The living standard in the town are very low, the socio-economic situation is worsening day by day, bringing people with new difficulties, and the wage delay only increases the emotional stress of the population. It is worth remembering that at present, Gold-4 is still one of the hottest points near the demarcation line, which also has a negative impact on the living conditions of local people. After analyzing of the results of the survey conducted, the Caritas Severodonetsk team decided to respond to the request and to provide assistance in the form of food packages for families of miners with children. Team members received many heartfelt words of gratitude from the beneficiaries!

Public Initiatives Work!

What is it necessary to transfer of the cluttered yard into the brand new playground? The staff of Support Space from Caritas Kramatorsk knows the answer. It is necessary to have the cohesive community, the desire to work together for change, and support from Caritas in the form of a mini-grant. As the result on November 30th the new playground was open near the school in the Druzhba village, located close to Toretsk in the buffer zone. All the equipment was purchased in the framework of the community initiative development program.

Thanks to the active position of the young director of the local school it became the center of community cohesion, so the villagers responded to his request and helped clear and tidy up the territory of the future playground. This was a great background for positive decision of the commission on grant provision for this community-based initiative. Therefore, local children with cheerful songs and dances welcomed Caritas Kramatorsk specialists on the opening ceremony.



The Story of Alla: from Bank Specialist to the Owner of Sewing Workshop



Alla, originally from Luhansk, moved to Odessa in the fall of 2014. At that time she worked in the large system bank as a top manager, so she moved to a new position at the same bank. But soon the bank was closed due to problems and she had to look for a job. She tried different options, but finally realized that she no longer wanted to be a hired worker. She had childhood dream – to be the designer. Alla's friend forced her to fill in the application for participation in the business acceleration program of the project "Long-term economic recovery for peace". It was her chance. Alla became the winner of Business Accelerator 1.0 Odessa - the training program for entrepreneurs who want to grow their business.

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"For me it was first and foremost an opportunity to lift my head from everyday life and to see something new, – the woman says. – We had an ambitious motivated group, the work with it seemed to fill me with thenew energy. The knowledge I gained while studying was very useful to me. The business development grant allowed me to streamline the processes; new equipment enabled me to attract new profitable customers. Today I have practically no free minute! Mom is sometimes upset that her daughter sews jeans, having a banker's education and 8 years of senior management experience. But I'm much happier! The reason we work, and work quite well, is the willingness to meet the client. We work with all fabrics, we deprive the client of the choice of accessories, we work a lot to make all in time. You just have to not be afraid, not lazy, and be ready to learn».

About Caritas in Ukraine

International charitable foundation Caritas Ukraine is a humanitarian non-governmental organization which aims to help people in need regardless of their religion, nationality or social status. Caritas provides social development programs and humanitarian services to members of vulnerable communities in Ukraine supporting social development and fostering the traditions of charity and social work. The strategic mission of Caritas Ukraine is to develop philanthropy and to encourage community participation in charitable work according to Christian moral and ethical teachings.

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