

Situation Report #4 (2019)

Caritas Ukraine

Response to the Humanitarian Crisis (as of October, 1, 2019)



Key figures

- **5.2 million** people affected, **3.5 million** people in need (including **0.5 million** 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).
- Up to **43 000** conflict-related casualties, including civilian losses. with **13 000** killed (OHCHR) and **30 000** injured.
- **115** civilian casualties from January 2019 (**16** killed, **99** injured).
- **1 410 615** IDPs (as of September 23, 2019)
- Ukraine ranks amongst the top 5 countries for civilian casualties as a result of landmines and ERW. Over **1,700** 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).



630 000 people assisted by Caritas since May 2014



6 833 867,23 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 620 000 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.

Activities by sector



Food Security and Nutrition

No less than 4800 people reached



- **2947** food relief packages were provided to **2509** beneficiaries
- **2382 beneficiaries have obtained 4 monthly** multipurpose grants each

New project «Securing multi-sectoral basic needs, including cash assistance, of particularly vulnerable conflict-affected people in the buffer zone, Eastern Ukraine» started from August 2019.



WASH

No less than 2500 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
 - The local WASH team responded to the crisis with water supply in Bakhchevyk, Obilne and Druzhne - the water in tanks was supplied from the well in Myrne.
 - Advocacy activities are taking place in 6 locations – legal and informational support, lobbying of the interests of the communities to local authorities.



Emergency Shelter/NFI

No less than 4 000 people reached (1364 households (HH))

- **1364** HHs in GCAs received winterization support through fuel briquettes (2 tons per household)



Healthcare:

No less than 11 000 people reached



- **1982** people received cash grants/vouchers to purchase medicines
- **210** people received medical/hygiene packages (home care services)

- **332** IDPs and inhabitants of the buffer zone reached through the home care program in Eastern Ukraine
- **6210** consultations for relatives/close ones of people in need of medical assistance through home care
- **120** IDPs reached through home care services in Kharkiv, Khmelnytsky, Lviv, Odesa, Kyiv, Ternopil, Ivano-Frankivsk and Kramatorsk (out of the buffer zone).

Psychological assistance

- **359** beneficiaries have been provided with individual consultations
- **1004** beneficiaries participated in group counseling sessions
- **774** 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 4200 people reached



- **764 consultations for employment** (509 SR, 90 SERP, 165 D); **107 employed** (59 SR, 48 SERP)
- **210 events on development of entrepreneurship skills** (78 SR; 132 SERP) with **2505 participants** (727 SR, 1778 SERP)
- **13 business schools** (4 SR, 9 SERP (3 Incubation programs and 6 acceleration programs), **389 participants** (98 SR, 291 SERP)
- **45 trainings on employment issues** (39 SR; 6 SERP), **523 participants** (451 SR, 72 SERP)



Education No less than 3000 people reached

- **2576** children in 17 locations in the buffer zone reached through recreational and psychological assistance

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)

- **17** family-friendly centers created in educational establishments of the buffer zone
- **338** parents are equipped with resources to better cope with crisis situations.



Integration and Peace building *No less than 21 500 people reached*



- **300 families** received accompaniment (**appr. 900** people) offered by **Family Integration Support Centers**.
- **1651** beneficiaries (IDPs, the members of the local community and ex-combatants) participated in **63** conflict transformation and peacebuilding events in **3** locations (Mariupol, Zaporizhyya and Odesa).
- **4125** beneficiaries (from them **1056** new and **3069** returning) received services in **6**

Centers of Social Cohesion and Socio-pastoral initiatives.

- **136** beneficiaries (**39** families) of IDPs, ATO and local communities participated in 7 week-long visits of families from the East of Ukraine (Mariupol/Volnovaha, Zaporizhyya, Odesa, Lozova and Izum) to the West (Kolomyia, Drohobych, Ivano-Frankivsk, Chortkiv and Stryi)
- Within the framework of the project of assistance to the **victims of human trafficking** the following has been achieved: **61** victims of trafficking identified, **25** potential victims identified, **53** beneficiaries received material assistance from the project, **223** beneficiaries received counselling services, **1612** people participated in prevention and awareness-raising events.

A new project "Bridging divides in conflict-affected communities in Ukraine: from healing to cooperation" started on August 1st, 2019.

Complex/ Comprehensive Assistance

- **Social centers on crisis management and self-help for people and communities affected by the conflict** (Kramatorsk, Mariupol, Zaporizhyya, Kyiv) – **11 270** people received assistance:
 - 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: 2005** people have been provided with social and humanitarian services (**43%** IDPs and **57%** 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 (**173** cases in total) and hotline for IDPs (**4 228** 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 the situation with further development of situation with the conflict is unclear. The last President's attempts to adopt the so-called Steinmeier formula which tries to get around a dispute blocking implementation of the 2014-2015 Minsk agreements creates opportunities as well as risks. The bilateral disengagement of Ukrainian and Russian-backed separatist troops announced along the front line met different reactions in the society including protests in 32 cities and villages of the country. According to the 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 up" which will create the new risks to the lives and health of local residents. Such concern is driven by the high level of terrorist threat in the buffer zone and surrounding areas. Also the question of access to medical services, water supply, renovations of civilian infrastructure will appear as nobody from officials explains whether these settlements still belong to GCA.
- In such an unclear situation it is hard to make any predictions on future developments of the situation and potential zones of intervention, as well as the project currently implementing in the buffer zone.
- The problem is also that the Ukrainian conflict lasting for sixth year is currently not in the top of the news and is becoming less interesting to the international donors with new more actual world problems arising. With a tendency of moving to the frozen conflict the situation in the East of Ukraine is still considered as internal Ukrainian problem but the problems of the people influenced by the conflict didn't disappear with the decreasing of international donors' interest, they are even widening.

Perspectives of work

- Active involvement in all activities and meetings of Humanitarian Clusters and 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 see the humanitarian activities as its top priority, it is a challenge but also a positive factor as there is less competition in some sectors of activity.
- Caritas Ukraine will continue to search for additional funding sources to sustain its project activities throughout the country.

Human Interest Stories

The story of Natalia



Natalia is providing master classes on soap making in Berdyansk organized by Caritas Zaporizhzhia as a part of 'Strengthening social cohesion' project. After monitoring of the types of self-employment that will be easier to implement in Berdyansk – resort city on Azov Sea, the project experts have identified soap making as the one with the biggest potential.

Natalia is the IDP from Makiivka living in Berdyansk from 2014. Soap making was her hobby – she learned how to make different kinds of soap and started her small business there. "You can make not only cute soap with different flavors and colors as a gift, but also beautiful bouquets from it. It is an opportunity to create a wide range of soaps, and in Berdyansk it is a novelty on the market. Many people here cannot find a job, and soap making is the way to solve the problem' – Natalia says.

When Caritas started courses for IDPs looking for self-employment in the region, Natalia agreed to work as a trainer. At Caritas workshops she taught how to make soap, what types of packaging can be used, main marketing principles. The participants started with simple tasks - they used a small number of forms and ingredients, but many of them created real masterpieces. After that, some members of the group sold the results of their work at the fairs and it brought them additional income.

Natalia noted that, while teaching others, she is not afraid of competition, because everyone goes their own way and each product has its own buyer. In the same way, she is happy to share her experience and ideas with those who embarked on this creative journey with her.

Providing master classes inspired Natalia to make soap making her main business – she now knows that this is a real income opportunity for her.

The story of Alina and Olexiy



The couple of Alina and Olexiy have been living in Kharkiv for the last 5 years. They remember the date when they were forced to leave their home town Horlivka – it was on May 7, 2014, when the shelling started and the tanks appeared on the streets.

After changing some locations they appeared in Kharkiv where they had never been before and knew nobody. "It was very hard, - Alina says. – We left our home when it was hot, we had only one bag with summer clothes, we had no idea that we were leaving for such a long period. When we found an apartment in Kharkiv there was nothing there – just two chairs. Thanks God we met a man, who was also from our town and he told us about Caritas. And everything changed. We received a grant to purchase winter clothes, assistance with home arrangements. We both have serious chronic diseases so we became the beneficiaries of Home Care program. Natalia, who is the social worker regularly visiting the couple is also an IDP coming from their home town Horlivka. She's helping them with everyday tasks, house chores and goes out with them for a walk as they mostly spend time at home. 'We often talk about our town, our house. – Olexiy says. – We know that it survived from shelling. Even glasses are unharmed. But our apartment is there and we are here. We hope to return when Ukraine will be there. But now we live here..."

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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