

Situation Report #1

Caritas Ukraine

Response to the Humanitarian Crisis
January-July 2016



Highlights: situation overview

- ▶ 3.7 million people affected
- ▶ 3.1 million people in need
- ▶ 9,470 people killed
- ▶ 21,880 people wounded
- ▶ 1.7 million Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)



287 000

people received aid
from Caritas Ukraine
since May 2014

Situation in the conflict zone: fighting along the contact line intensified in June, and the latest UN reports state an increase in the number of civilian casualties in eastern Ukraine. The war is severely affecting the daily life of civilians, with a growing sense of despair and isolation affecting especially those living in the buffer zone. These signs point to a long continuing struggle and long lasting social, medical and psychological problems in society.



Current problems affecting IDPs: As of July 4, 2016, the Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine has registered 1 790 267 internally displaced people (IDP).

At the beginning of 2016, the Government suspended all social payments and benefits to **450 000 IDPs**. The formal reason is to harmonize the IDP Law with by-laws and regulations related to residential registration. On June 8, the Council of Ministers adopted Resolution #637 "On some issues regarding social payments to internally displaced persons", which resumed payments to **90 000 IDPs** but in fact legalizes the suspension of social payments, including pensions, to IDPs. According to the Ministry of Social Policy, up to

350 000 IDPs and IDP pensioners affected by the suspension and verification procedure did not have their payments reinstated by mid-June. According to the aforementioned resolution, IDPs who receive social payments will be visited and checked by government mobile groups under unclear procedures, which adds more fear and confusion among the affected people.

The situation at all crossing points in the conflict zone worsened in June because of summer heat and increasing number of people crossing. According to OCHA reports, waiting periods at the busiest checkpoints in Zaitseve and Mariinka reached up to 36 hours in June. According to the Border Guard Service, the number of people crossing the "contact line" increased again in June: **816 000** crossings were recorded, 12% increase over May.

The summer heat worsens the humanitarian situation at crossing points: thousands of people need to wait in long lines under the burning sun without adequate access to drinking water, sanitation facilities or basic health care. As a result, the number of ambulance calls doubled in comparison to May (up to 10 times a day).



- ▶ Caritas Ukraine started to provide humanitarian assistance to war-affected people in April 2014, when the mass displacement of people in Ukraine began. Since then, for over two years, Caritas Ukraine has helped over **280 000** persons affected by the humanitarian crisis within new projects. During the reporting period of six months, **79 781** people in need received aid.
- ▶ Caritas Ukraine has a personalized approach to providing assistance to those in need. We conduct scrupulous assessment of needs before a project begins and render help regardless of nationality, religion, age, gender and political background but base our activities on Christian values.
- ▶ Funds received in 2016:
 - **EUR3 909 014,03**
 - **US\$1 663 131,74**
 - **UAH543 449,26**

Geography: Caritas Ukraine operates in **15 regions** of Ukraine, mostly in the western and in the eastern regions. To be close to the people in need, Caritas established its branches in regions and cities most densely populated by IDPs: Dnipro, Kharkiv, Odesa, Zaporizhia, Kamyanske (former Dniprodzerzhynsk), Sviatohirsk, Mariupol and Kramatorsk. Caritas also provides assistance to those who continue to live in the buffer zone, in the worst conditions, where shelling persists every day. Caritas' mobile teams reach out to these people from Zaporizhia, Mariupol and Kramatorsk delivering food and non-food items, medical kits, materials for reconstructing houses, portable heaters, heating fuel, and warm clothing in the winter.



Comprehensive Assistance: In April 2016, Caritas Ukraine opened the nation's first non-state Multifunctional Social Center in Dnipro. It is expected that the Center will provide assistance to more than **13,000** people yearly. The center was created in line with the best European practices and national experience. All services rendered here correspond to national standards of social services. All people in need, either IDPs or local residents, can receive quick and qualified help in various spheres under one roof.

The following are the main types of assistance that the Center offers: consultation (including individual and group psychological counseling, legal advices, a counseling hotline, home care, rental of medical equipment and supplies, social rehabilitation and adaptation, creative activities (Child Friendly Space, Theater for Children and Youth, Seniors Club, workshops), sports and recreational activities, social hairdresser, laundry, soup kitchen, and distribution of humanitarian food packages. In May–June 2016, up to 1,000 people received services at the center (including 250 daily in the soup kitchen). Services that are most in demand are: barber's service, child friendly space, summer camps for children and hotline for IDPs (130-140 calls daily).

Financial support is provided by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and Caritas Germany.

Early Recovery and Livelihoods:



2 204

beneficiaries

- ▶ **Business grants for IDPs:** providing grants for the development and growth of small businesses in Donetsk, Kharkiv, Luhansk, Poltava, Sumy and Zaporizhzhya oblasts. In February – June:
 - 1 714 application forms submitted;
 - 399 interviews with potential grantees;
 - 236 grants distributed totaling 4 390 000 UAH (59% of interviewed);
 - From all applicants: 60% women, 40% men.
 - Geography of grants distribution: Donetsk oblast – 13.5%, Kharkiv oblast – 34%, Luhansk oblast – 17.5%, Poltava oblast – 12.5%, Sumy oblast – 7%, and Zaporizhzhya oblast – 14.5%.
 - Grants by type of business: agriculture (25.5%), manufacturing (18.5%), service sector (43%), trade/commerce (13%).

- ▶ **Individual consulting on employment** (for both IDPs and vulnerable groups of local population):
 - 198 consultations provided;
 - 43 persons placed in a job;
 - 54 persons found employment independently after Caritas consulting;
 - 133 persons assisted with resume preparation;
 - 97 found temporary employment.
- ▶ **Specialized site** <http://careerfornewlife.com/> is run by Caritas Kharkiv in the framework of the project "Employment for IDP", which contributes to job placement of IDPs through programs of training and development of cooperation with employers, and creation of workspace. As of June 30, 2016:
 - 292 IDPs registered;
 - 80 vacancies from 58 employers published
 - 34 registered for vocational trainings.

Financial support is provided by the Catholic Relief Service

- ▶ Project **"Creation of workplaces for a new life. Grants for employers"** started in June 2016 in Kharkiv, Kramatorsk and Zaporizhzhya.
- ▶ Project **"Help in social integration of internally displaced persons in Ukraine"** aims to establish and operate Integration Centers for Family Support to help develop stress resistance, build mature relationships in families and integrate into society through community building. The total planned number of adult beneficiaries is about 20,000, among whom are over 1 500 children. Geographical coverage of the project includes Dnipro, Kamyanske, Zaporizhia, Kharkiv, Kryvyi Rih and Melitopol. 1,028 beneficiaries have so far received assistance as of June 30, 2016.

The project is co-financed by the program "Polish collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland" and Caritas Poland

Emergency Shelter and NFI:



26 319 beneficiaries

- ▶ **Providing assistance in winterization in the war-affected regions of Ukraine:**
 - **751** electric heaters
 - **4,805** tons of fuel briquettes or wood distributed to 4,423 households

Financial support is provided by Caritas Austria and Cordaid

- ▶ **Repair of household and social facilities**

Since January 2016:

- **1,369** repairs of households including windows installation in Avdiivka, Mariinka, Krasnoholovka, Chermalyk and Talakivka.
- **9 repairs of social facilities** (schools, kindergartens, hospitals). Among them – sport school in Mariinka, Myronivska School, hospital in Luhanske village, Kramatorsk Maternity House, oncological clinic and gynecological department of the City Hospital in Mariupol, which are currently functioning as oblast-level medical institutions and have a significant increase in the number of patients.

Financial support is provided by Caritas Austria and Cordaid

Food and Nutrition Security:



32 412 beneficiaries

- ▶ **14,990** food packages distributed.
- ▶ Caritas Ukraine provided aid to more than **25,000** inhabitants of the buffer zone as part of the project of assistance to IDPs and inhabitants of the buffer zone. More than 2,000 food packages were delivered to residents of Ukrainian territories that are not under government control via the logistic center KPVV "Novotroitske". In particular, inhabitants of Alchevsk, Andriyivka, Horlivka, Dokuchayevsk, Chastka, Donetsk, Komsomolsk, Mospino, Novy

Svit, Olenivka, Telmanove, Yasne, Shakhtarsk, and Razdolne.

- Soup kitchen opened in Kramatorsk (up to 50 people) and Mariupol to provide hot meals to the needy – IDPs as well as locals.

Program of assistance is funded by the Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection Department of the European Commission (ECHO) via Caritas Austria

Health and Nutrition:



20 400 beneficiaries

► Improvement of health conditions of IDPs and inhabitants of buffer zone:

- Project “Medical and Psychosocial Support”, which started in May 2016, targets the vulnerable population in the buffer zone who require medical assistance. In May-June, **125** persons were selected and received appropriate training to provide homecare support to elderly people with chronic diseases. Additionally, four medical mobile teams work in the buffer zone. These teams include social workers, psychologists and medical staff. Altogether, they made 2,356 visits to vulnerable people to conduct health check-ups and needs assessments. As a result, four doctors provided consultations to **565** persons, of whom **375** persons were indicated as needing homecare support and receive this service from Caritas-trained personnel.
- **1,328** IDPs received prescription medication for chronic diseases (including **952** in the buffer zone);
- **5,600** medical kits distributed (including **4,880** in the buffer zone).

► Psychological support provided to 1,340 individuals.

► Work with children from crisis-affected families:

- Summer camps for children from the buffer zone: **152** children with psycho-somatic symptoms from Stanytsia Luhanska, Mariinka, Avdiivka, Myronivske, Svitlodarsk attended recreation camps in the Carpathian Mountains (Chernivtsi and Ivano-Frankivsk regions) and Sviatohirsk (Donetsk region).
- **93** parents of these children also received psychosocial support.

Financial support is provided by Caritas Austria, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Germany and Caritas Germany, Cordaid

► Implementation of Case Management Approach to Work with IDPs. The project is implemented in Kyiv, Odesa, Kramatorsk, Dnipro and Zaporizhia.

This is an innovative and unique approach for Ukraine where people in need are viewed through a comprehensive set of issues. Case managers serve as a “single window”. This ensures the simplification of procedures and faster access to available services. Most families request help in resolving legal, medical, psychological, humanitarian (clothing, footwear, food), and social issues. At the same time, a case manager prepares clients to deal with difficult situations independently and informed of the organizations and resources that are currently available in the community. People covered:

- 500 IDP families during the first stage (October 2015 – February 2016)
- New stage already in progress

Financial support is provided by UNDP

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.

International charitable foundation Caritas Ukraine

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