

Situation Report #4

Caritas Ukraine

Response to the Humanitarian Crisis
(as of April 30, 2017)



Highlights: situation overview

- ▶ 4.4 million people affected including 580 000 children
- ▶ 3.8 million people in need
- ▶ 9 940 people killed and 23 455 injured
- ▶ More than 2 000 civilians killed, between 7 000 and 9 000 injured (estimates by OHCHR)
- ▶ 1 583 827 Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) (data of Ministry of Social Polic) including 225 886 children (UNICEF data)



430 000

people received aid
from Caritas Ukraine
since May 2014

Situation in the conflict zone: The security situation in the conflict region remains extremely tense with regular cases of ceasefire violation and shelling in the residential settlements. According to OSCE, heavy weapons, including those prohibited under the Minsk protocol, continue to be used and are present in areas along the 'contact line', including in locations where civilian population continue to reside. Indirect shelling and increasing use of heavy artillery



continue to threaten the lives of people living in the conflict area, with disastrous impact in far and unexpected places. Several incidents demonstrate an alarming trend of indirect fire attacks by the parties to the conflict using heavy artillery from or against remote positions. This increases the risks for civilian casualties and undue humanitarian hardship for people living in these areas to occur.

During the escalation between 29 January and 3 February, OHCHR recorded 48 conflict-related civilian casualties (all in Donetsk region): 7 deaths and 41 injuries. More civilian casualties have been reported since 3 February, with total d up to 70 people (including 16 deaths in March 2017). According to the State Emergency Service of Ukraine in February at least 209 houses have been damaged in GCA.

Regular shelling continues along all line of conflict. Additional cases of damage of civilian infrastructure have been reported across the 'contact line' in Toretsk, Mariinka, Trudivske, etc. Because of shelling Donetsk Filter Station, which serves 400,000 people in GCA and NGCA, resumed operations and Avdiivka and close settlements is mostly without water supply. Electrical facilities continue to be damaged despite repeated calls on parties to the conflict to respect the civilian nature of infrastructure and de-militarise the adjacent areas to allow safe repairs. Though the most attention is

dedicated to Avdiivka which is was the most hot point February-March, many smaller settlements are also under fire. For example in Mariinka where 7 000 people live 53 apartment buildings and 980 private houses are damaged, 320 private houses and 5 apartment buildings are situated in the zone which is regularly under the fire and it is impossible to start construction works there.

Current problems affecting IDPs and population of buffer zone: As of April 25, 2017, the Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine has registered 1 583 827 IDPs.

Checkpoints still remain the theatre of violence. The record queues at checkpoints were registered in March, with over 960,000 crossings compared to 550,000 in February – the waiting time was up to 18 hours. This is largely due to the compulsory verification for IDP pensioners imposed by the Ukrainian Government (resolution #637, 28 December 2016) at Oshchadbank. At least one death and three emergency health situations at the checkpoints have been reported in March.

The National Security and Defense Council of Ukraine, on 15 March, terminated the movement of all commercial cargo across the 'contact line.' Although movement of humanitarian cargo and private vehicles are the exceptions to this rule, there are concerns over possible disruptions of humanitarian deliveries, and additional hardship for civilians.

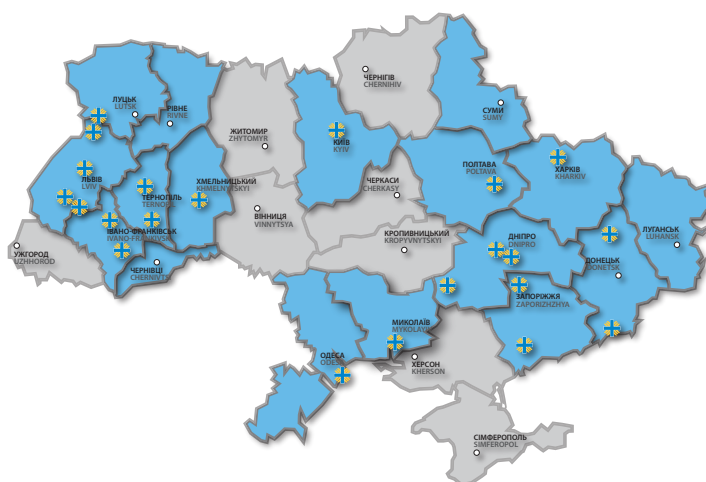
So called 'grey' (buffer) zone also remains zone of tension because of continuing shellings. Though the most of humanitarian attention is dedicated to Avdiivka which was the most hot point February-March, many smaller settlements are also under fire. For example in Mariinka where 7 000 people live 53 apartment buildings and 980 private houses are damaged, 320 private houses and 5 apartment buildings are situated in the zone which is regularly under the fire and it is impossible to start construction works there.

International Community Response for Crisis

Numerous international humanitarian organizations, including the UN system, national and international NGOs are engaged in the humanitarian relief effort coordinated by UN. In December 2014 the cluster system was introduced, with 7 clusters engaging in life-saving activities throughout the country. Currently there are 186 humanitarian actors delivering aid in Ukraine. Although only 6.6% of necessary funding for 2017 was covered by different donor structures.

Caritas Ukraine Response

- ▶ 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 nearly **430 000** persons affected by the humanitarian crisis within new projects.
- ▶ 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 January – April 2017:
 - • **EUR 2 504 611**
 - • **USD 482 117**
 - • **UAH 1 219 805**



Geography: Caritas Ukraine operates in **17 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 the most dense in terms of IDPs regions and cities: Dnipro, Kharkiv, Poltava, Odessa, 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 the shellings continue every day. Caritas employees reach out to these people by cars from closes offices (Zaporizhia, Mariupol, Kramatorsk) and deliver food and non-food items, medical kits, materials for reconstruction of their houses, portable heaters, heating fuel, warm clothing in winter.

Avdiivka Crisis

Avdiivka – Eastern Ukrainian city closest to the conflict line appeared under terrorists' fire from January 29. Most of population of the city (which according to different sources vary from 25 000 to 15 000) are elderly people, including 1900 children living there. As a response to the humanitarian crisis in the city from the first day Caritas has mobilized its full potential in the Eastern region and capacity of National Office in Kyiv. On 30.01.17 Caritas Mariupol together with State Emergency Service organized **heating point** for people of Avdiivka on the city stadium "Chemist", where Caritas tent was set. Also Caritas helped with food for the **four field kitchens** run by Emergency Service.

- On the first day **1000 food packages were distributed**
- **250 food packages** were provided to **elderly people** who are under the care of state social services.
- On the next day **1000 more food packages** were distributed by Caritas staff.
- **Qualified doctor** was working in Caritas tent from the very beginning providing consultations, routine health checks and basic medications.
- **100 medical kits** with basic medications were distributed for families with children.
- Caritas Kramatorsk brought to the city **sleeping bags, emergency medical kits, fuel and candles**. The emergency need assessment was provided.
- 10 – 15 Caritas staff members (from offices in Mariupol, Zaporozhzhya) present in Avdiivka all the time from Monday, January 30 (on rotation basis).
- On February 2 Caritas **evacuated to Svyatohirsk 60 children (including 9 children of pre-school age) and 23 adults** (mothers and grandmothers of children). All evacuated received psychological assistance, necessary medications and hygienic sets.

Stories from Avdiivka:

I spoke with one of people near Caritas tent, the father of Andrew [Andriy Bukhvak, Director of Caritas Zaporizhzhya]. He speaks pure Ukrainian language, I asked if this leads to conflicts with the locals.

- No, during the war, people talk to each other the same language - the language of compassion.
- Do you think that the locals are not lost to Ukraine?
- In no case. But we should fight for them and support them"

(General story about Avdiivka with chapter about Caritas tent: <https://focus.ua>)

The problem is that people agree to leave very slowly, they hope for the best. For them it became normal to live in constant shelling, without electricity. Those who wanted to leave, had already left. Here there are old people who do not want to leave their homes, their children, who have to take care of them, and plant workers, "tied" to the workplace. I fear that a large wave of evacuation will not be until the buildings will start to fall. There is a feeling that people will stay here as long as they can. The most tragic is that children still remain in Avdiivka»

*(from interview of Hryhoriy Seleshchuk, Head of Humanitarian Projects, Caritas Ukrain
<http://gazeta.ua>)*





- ▶ **Business grants for IDPs:** providing business grants for war-affected self-employed people in Kramatorsk, Mariupol, Kharkiv, Zaporizhia and Dnipro. In April 2015 – March 2017:
 - **794** grants distributed. (CRS and GMFA projects)
- ▶ **Vocational grants for IDPs:** providing grants for the gaining new skills and professions in Donetsk (Kramatorsk, Sloviansk), Kharkiv, Zaporizhia (Zaporizhia, Berdyansk) oblasts. In 2017:
 - **627** grants distributed. (CRS and GMFA projects).
 - **997** job consultations provided.
- ▶ **Job Fairs** for IDPs were organized in Kharkiv, Zaporizhzhya and Kramatorsk (10 job fairs, **864** visitors total).
- ▶ **Cash for work:** temporary employment of qualified specialists from IDPs in socially responsible business projects (for example renewal of destroyed infrastructure in buffer zone) was provided for **197** persons.
- ▶ **Business centers for IDPs** are providing consultations for on legal and accounting issues for IDPs who are starting or renewing businesses as well as co-working spaces. From July 2016 up to May 2017 there are 1.119 persons who received service in 5 business centers (820 received consultations and 299 received co-working space).
- ▶ Project **“Creation of workplaces for a new life. Grants for employers”** started covers Kharkiv, Donetsk, Poltava, Zaporizhzhya and Donetsk regions and is aimed on support of businesses ready to create working places for IDPs. **34** workplaces were created.

Financial support of above activities is provided by the Catholic Relief Service, German Ministry of Foreign Affairs and USAID..

- ▶ Project **“Help in social integration of internally displaced people 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. Geographical coverage of the project includes Dnipro, Kamyanske, Zaporizhia, Kharkiv, Kryvyi Rih and Melitopol. **816** hours of consultations via hot-line were provided.

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



- ▶ **Providing assistance in winterization in the war-affected regions of Ukraine:**
 - **900 tons of fuel briquettes** were distributed (for 577 households) in ‘grey zone’
 - **2950 persons** received a cash grant (2015 UAH) for winterization needs (Jan 2016-Feb 2017, GMFA)
- ▶ **Repair of household and social facilities**
 - Assistance in construction works in Mariinka and Krasnohorivka is provided (funding from Pope for Ukraine initiative through Caritas Mariupol): **windows in 70 households in Mariinka are restored**, in Krasnohorivka the process of windows restoration for 70 more households is in process.
- ▶ **Multipurpose emergency cash grants** for most vulnerable groups of IDPs and locals:
 - **Registration for cash grants (February, 2017).** Cash grants in amount of 7500 UAH (250€) distributed for construction works in private household. **368 people registered for grants** (103 from Avdiivka, others from Stepne, Berezove, Solodke, Krasnohorivka, Nevelske, Pervomaiske).
 - **125 households** received regular financial assistance (**cash-grants**) 800 UAH each (Mariinka, Krasnohorivka, Kurakhovo, Georgiivka, Maksymilianivka).

- **137 multi-purpose cash grants distributed** (Novoivanivka, Toshkivka, Zoloye, Shchastia, Mayorsk, Vrubivka, Chermalyk, Pavlopil, Prymorske).
- **50 grants for restoration of** farming property of citizens distributed.
- **January 2016 – April 2017:** 9087 persons received a cash grant amounting 1690-3256 UAH (GMFA)

Equipment of the modular mobile units (emergency mobile camps) is finished.

Financial support is provided by GMFA (or German Ministry of Foreign Affairs), Caritas Austria, Cordaid, USAID, CRS and Pope for Ukraine project



Story about Caritas working in the buffer zone

Hello, Caritas! There village Lastochkino near Avdiivka. There is no electricity here also, no water. There are regular “arrivals” [shelling] at night. There are bedridden elderly there as well as and nursing babies. People here also need help”- such messages arrive to Caritas Kramatorsk very often. In recent weeks the focus of the entire country was concentrated on Avdiivka. Perhaps that’s why the city has received considerable assistance. But there are other towns and villages the line of fire. But they much less appear in TV-news and reportages of well-known journalists. As long as our politicians are preparing for the next diplomatic negotiations about so called “gray zone” people here try to solve their immediate problems. But, actually to live in the ruins, without the help of charitable organizations is indispensable. Caritas Kramatorsk visited several such villages. Social workers of organization brought there blankets, medicines, food packages. And also they brought sympathy. Anyone who had to communicate with the representatives of the Caritas Kramatorsk, from the first seconds felt the warmth of attention. Because for people working there every beneficiary of charitable programs is a close and dear person, who is always in need of support. But as long as fighting continues the number of people in need of assistance is constantly growing.

Father Basil (Ivanyuk), the Director of Caritas Kramatorsk told about Caritas ‘secret’ how not to be broken under such load of work:

– Most of our staff are IDPs who actually understand those are coming for assistance. Our people provide medical and psychological assistance, bring medicines, food and warm clothing. It is not enough to pray or to put on the flag. You need to go to where you are needed. Where people are waiting for help and mercy”.

More: <http://tehnopolis.com.ua>



- ▶ **4400 food and hygienic packages** were distributed in Avdiivka and closest surroundings.
- ▶ **682 food packages** were distributed in Mariinka, Krasnohorivka, Umanske, Semenivka, Novoivanivka, Toshkivka, Zoloye, Shchastia, Mayorsk, Vrubivka.
- ▶ **22258 food and hygiene relief packages** were distributed in Jan 2016 – Apr 2017 (GMFA project)

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



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

- Project “Medical and Psychosocial Support to Vulnerable Groups of Population in Controlled and Non-controlled Areas of Ukraine” which started in May 2016, targets the vulnerable population in the buffer zone of Donetsk and Luhansk regions who require medical assistance. 6 medical mobile teams (including social workers, psychologists and medical staff) provided consultations and medical check-ins in 24 settlements of the region and selected to medical assistance **1164** persons. **450** persons were indicated as needing homecare support and currently are receiving this service from Caritas-trained personnel and **150** local activists trained for delivery of paramedical assistance and home care.
- **500** inhabitants received cash grants for **purchase of medicines** 575 UAH each. (Mariinka, Krasnohorivka, Novoivanivka, Toshkivka, Zoloye, Shchastia, Mayorsk, Vrubivka, Chermalyk, Volnovakha, Bakhchovyk, Andirivka, Talakivka).
- **385 basic medical kits** distributed.
- **Psychological assistance** was provided to **1900** people evacuated from Avdiivka during escalation of conflict.

▶ Psychosocial support in CUA projects.

The objective of PSS activities is to reduce the level of anxiety, adaptation and integration stress of adults and children, internally displaced people and residents of the buffer zone, and to enhance their emotions' management skills through the providing systematic psychological support.

Our psychologists provide:

- Telephone counseling
- Initial consultations in cooperation with social workers
- Individual counseling for adults
- Individual counseling for children
- Group work with adults (peer groups)
- Group work with children
- Parent-child groups
- Outdoor activities: educational and cultural
- Organization of summer camps

This component is an essential part of 6 current projects of CUA. Since 2014 about **40 000** people received our PSS services all around Ukraine. In January – March 2017: **1200** persons get PSS assistance. **858** persons took part in **96** educational events and **580** persons took part in **67** integration events.

▶ Work with children from crisis-affected families:

- **Child friendly spaces** – development and leisure centers for children from for IDP families – were attended by **493** children (Kharkiv, Severodonetsk, Slovyansk, Zaporizhzhya, Dnipro, Svyatohirsk, Poltava). The first aim of such center is to provide psychological assistance to children who were forced to flee their homes in a comfortable space for communication, recreation, learning and self-expression. From 2015 **3500** children used the services of the centers.

- **1800** children studying in 8 schools in villages of buffer zone as well as 180 parents and 80 teachers received weekly PSS support.

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

Story from Novotroitske

These children often sleep with their parents in the basement at nights, and go to school in the morning. And in school they sometimes behave strangely, what is noticed by the teacher. More than 600 schoolchildren from the front-line settlements of Novotroitsky, Andreevka and Mirny are under the coaching of psychologists from Caritas Mariupol. For a year social workers and psychologists are coming here to help children to overcome fear and disorder, teach communication and inspire faith in their own strength.

Today psychologists and social workers “came to Novotroitske - a small town on the border with the uncontrolled territory. As locals say, war is only a stone’s throw away. Children and teachers from the secondary school are already waiting for group and individual consultations.

Fear, isolation, difficulties in communicating with peers, long adaptation, sudden aggression or strange behavior – all these are reasons to apply for the help of specialist. This is the opinion of the family psychologist Natalia Anisimova.

“This child behaves strangely” - this phrase makes it possible to draw attention to this child. School teachers see such things. Previously the reason was dysfunctional family, or relationship in the class, but now there are a lot of cases post-traumatic syndrome, all is connected with the war. There are stresses at every step, but there is no security, “says the psychologist.

More: <http://www.radiosvoboda.org>

Upcoming activities

Caritas Ukraine is providing regular needs assessments and intensive fundraising activities on continuation of existing projects and start of new activities. In particular currently Caritas is applying to Caritas Internationalis with Protracted Crisis Appeal on Healthcare and psychological support for people affected by armed conflict in Ukraine in 10 cities of Western Ukraine – the region mostly not covered by humanitarian projects for IDPs.

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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