

Situation Report #5

Caritas Ukraine

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



Highlights: situation overview

- ▶ 4.4 million people affected including 580 000 children
- ▶ 3.8 million people in need (including 1 million children)
- ▶ Over 10 000 people killed and 24 000 injured
- ▶ No less than 2 700 civilians killed (Red Cross data), between 7 000 and 9 000 injured (estimates by OHCHR)
- ▶ 1 591 670 Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) (data of Ministry of Social Policy) including 225 886 children (UNICEF data)



490 000

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 residential settlements. The announced ceasefires - June 24 agreement to allow safe harvesting and 'school' ceasefire agreement of August 24 slightly lowered the overall intensity of fighting but sporadic clashes are taking place in all areas of critical concern.



The damages to civilian infrastructure are influencing everyday life of people on both sides of the 'contact' line. Since the beginning of 2017, the Donetsk Filter Station which supplies water to more than 345 000 people on both sides of the 'contact line' stopped functioning 13 times, hampering people's access to safe water. Other critical infrastructure, such as pumping stations, water treatment plants and power lines continue to be affected.

Farming which is one of the few income-generating activities for many households on both sides of the 'contact line' is seriously hampered by hostilities and mines. Due to numerous incidents hundreds of hectares of farm land were destroyed. Mines and unexploded ordnances threaten the lives of thousands people who continue to risk their lives to undertake agricultural activities – from the beginning of 2017, 27 people were killed and 62 injured because of mine-related incidents.

Current problems affecting IDPs and population of buffer zone: As of September 4 2017, the Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine has registered **1 591 670** IDPs. The share of employment among all internally displaced persons in Ukraine increased from 35% on March 2016 to 46% in June 2017, but the majority of IDPs still rely heavily on government support, with 61% of respondents indicating financial support received from the government among their main sources of income. The average monthly income, per person, for IDPs in Ukraine was UAH 2,017 (about USD 78) in June 2017. IDPs' access to social benefits still remains a concern. On 12 July, a draft Law enabling IDPs and conflict-affected people to receive pensions without restrictions was registered in the Parliament which is expected to remove obstacles for the payment of pension to NGCA residents. According to the Protection Cluster data from April 2017, only 391,000 people from NGCA received pensions (30% of pensioners). The adoption of the law can be attributed to the collective advocacy efforts of the humanitarian and human rights actors.

The so called '**grey**' (**buffer**) zone also remains a zone of tension because of continuing shelling. Food insecurity levels are still high – from 26% in NGCA to 7 -15% in GCA.

The fast approaching winter calls for the need of winterization. The Shelter/NFI Cluster developed 2017-18 Winterization recommendations that need to be taken into account by all actors. Due to strained coping mechanisms in GCA, the number of IDPs voluntarily returning to areas along the 'contact line' has increased. An estimated 9,326 households who could require extra assistance to afford basic winterization items.

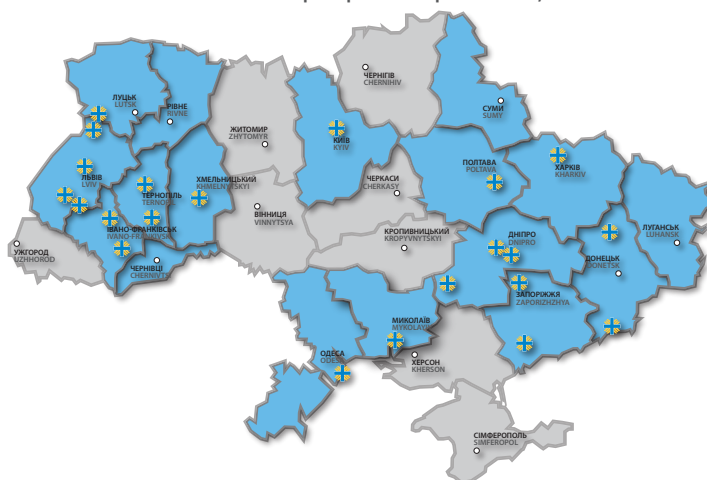
International Community Response for Crisis

Numerous international humanitarian organizations, including the UN system, national and international NGOs are involved in the humanitarian relief efforts coordinated by the 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.

The Humanitarian Response Plan for 2017 is funded only at 25% leaving a gap of 154 mln USD (including 97 mln of critical requirements).

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 490 000 persons 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. .
- ▶ Funds received in April – August 2017:
 - **EUR: 4 339 615**
 - **USD: 805 936**
 - **UAH: 8 794 520**



In Ukraine, we are faced with a forgotten war and an invisible humanitarian crisis. This crisis has impoverished millions of Ukrainians and deprived them of their basic needs and fundamental rights. The most vulnerable – the elderly, disabled, and children – daily face the harsh realities of this war. The international community must help to end this war and re-focus on this unseen humanitarian crisis, which is the only prospect for providing hope to those affected by the war in Ukraine.”

Andrij Waskowycz, President of Caritas Ukraine

Geography: Caritas Ukraine operates in **20 regions** of Ukraine, mostly in the western and in the eastern regions. To be closer to people in need, Caritas established its branches in regions and cities with the largest shares of IDPs: 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, despite harsh conditions and constant shelling. Caritas staff from Zaporizhia, Mariupol and Kramatorsk offices reach out to these people with food and non-food items, medical kits, materials for reconstruction of their houses, portable heaters, heating fuel and warm clothing in winter.

Early Recovery and Livelihoods:



> **15 000** beneficiaries

- ▶ **Business grants for IDPs:** providing business grants for war-affected self-employed people in Kramatorsk, Mariupol, Kharkiv, Zaporizhia, Poltava, Sumy and Dnipro oblasts. In April 2015 – September 2017:
 - **1 975** grants distributed. (CRS and GMFA projects)
- ▶ **Vocational grants for IDPs:** providing grants for the gaining new skills and professions in Donetsk, Kharkiv, Zaporizhia and Dnipro oblasts. In 2017:
 - **2 833** grants distributed. (CRS and GMFA projects).
 - **1 660** employment consultations provided.
- ▶ **Job Fairs** for IDPs were organized in Kharkiv, Zaporizhzhya and Kramatorsk (**15** job fairs, **4 484** 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 **268** people.
- ▶ **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. In 2017, **2 267** persons visited Business center in 5 locations (Mariupol, Kramatorsk, Dnipro, Zaporizhzhia and Kharkiv. 1375 of them received consultations and 1004 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. **158** workplaces were created in 2016-2017.

Supported by: Catholic Relief Services, Caritas Germany, German Ministry of Foreign Affairs and USAID.

- ▶ Project “**Creation of Centers of Family Support as a model of integration of IDPs and host communities in Ukraine**” aims to establish and operate Integration Centers for Family Support to help develop stress resistance, build mature relationships in families and foster integration in society through community building. The geographical coverage of the project includes Kharkiv, Zaporizhzhia, Kryvyi Rih, Kamianske, Kolomyja, Drohobych and Ivano-Frankivsk. During May- August 2017 a total of **8 960** hours of consultant’s support for families were provided as well as **1 368** individual consultations and **28** integration events for **560** people.

The project is co-financed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland and Caritas Poland

- ▶ **Peacebuilding projects** are looking to promote peacebuilding on a national level, in society and in politics and by so doing to decrease the risks of conflict escalation. From June 2016 to - September 2017 peacebuilding related events in Odesa, Zaporizhzhia, Kyiv, Drohobych, Ivano-Frankivsk, Kamianske, Kramatorsk and Kharkiv reached over **4 088** people. This includes IDPs, the members of the local community and ex-combatants.

The project “Conflict Management and Mitigation (CMM) and Peacebuilding” is supported by CRS. The project «Linking People for Peacebuilding: from Healing to Cooperation» is supported by Caritas Germany and German FFO.



► Providing assistance in winterization in the war-affected regions of Ukraine:

- **900 tons of fuel briquettes** were distributed in the buffer zone reaching 577 households
- **300 families** from NGCA received coal supply.
- **2 950 persons** received a cash grant (2015 UAH) for winterization needs

► Repair of household and social facilities

- Improvement of infrastructure in Volnovakha Hospital included the provision of a ventilator "Breeze" for adults and children 6+ years, an incubator for newborns; equipment and tools for laparoscope; 2 shadowless lamps for surgery 9 reflex ceiling, a shadowless lamp for surgery, universal and hydraulic operating table. The total budget amounts to - 68 2121,12 EUR (provided by Ministry of Internal Affairs of Czech Republic and MEDEVAC Project).
- Cash grants for shelter repairs in buffer zone (Popasna, Mariinski, Artemivskii raions and Avdiivka). 334 grants were distributed in spring 2017 and **4 196** people have been provided with NFIs (funded by CRS).
- Renovation works were completed in 13 schools in Kharkiv, Mykolayiv, Zaporizhya, Kherson, Odesa, Lviv, Zakarpattia, Ivano-Frankivsk, Chernivtsi, Rivne, Ternopil, Volyn and Khmelnytsky impacting 4850 students and 665 staff (*supported by CRS through US Government, OFDA and CRS private funding*)

► Multipurpose emergency cash grants for most vulnerable groups of IDPs and locals:

- **Cash grants** in amount of 7500 UAH (250€) distributed for winterization works in private household. **344 households have received assistance, funded by CRS.**
- **16 663 multi-purpose cash grants** distributed (Caritas Germany).

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

Supported by: Caritas Germany through the German Ministry of Foreign Affairs - GMFA, Caritas Austria, Cordaid, CRS, Holy Father Initiative for Ukraine funds and USAID.

Food and Nutrition Security:



>14 000 beneficiaries

- **13 741 food and hygiene relief packages** were distributed in 2017.
- **325 grants** for agriculture inputs, varied from 7 500 to 25 000 UAH, were distributed in Donetsk oblast to help households secure food stability.

Supported by: Caritas Germany through the German Ministry of Foreign Affairs- GMFA and Catholic Relief Services(CRS) through Church of Later Day Saints donation.,



Personal Stories of People

Mayorsk, Donetsk region

Maria Denysivna, 78 years old, lives with husband in five-storey building in the outskirts of Mayorsk.

Long line of people and cars on Mayorsk crossing point can be clearly seen from the windows broken by the frags. Maria's apartment is on the last, fifth floor. All the roof is chopped by splinters. The building is totally without electricity; water appears from time to time. But it can be used only for technical needs.

"If shelling we are not hiding. There is no necessity – I want only to die quicker. I even asked the soldiers to kill me – I'm already not able to endure all of it. We are living in one room with my hubby. In winter I use the heater to have some warmth, thanks that we have such electricity [she shows the temporary line from the first floor]. But it was so cold – it was blowing from all holes. We slept in the same clothing as used during the day. Thanks God that in this room there was no water from the ceiling. In all other or windows are broken, or rain from ceiling".

Maria Denysivna shows mold on the walls in the corridor. Old wall-hangings are totally wet because of broken roof. "I bought some candles in the shop, so I have some light in the evenings, just walk with candle. I have problems with legs, doctors in the hospital in Artemivsk told that all is because of nerves. I have psoriasis".

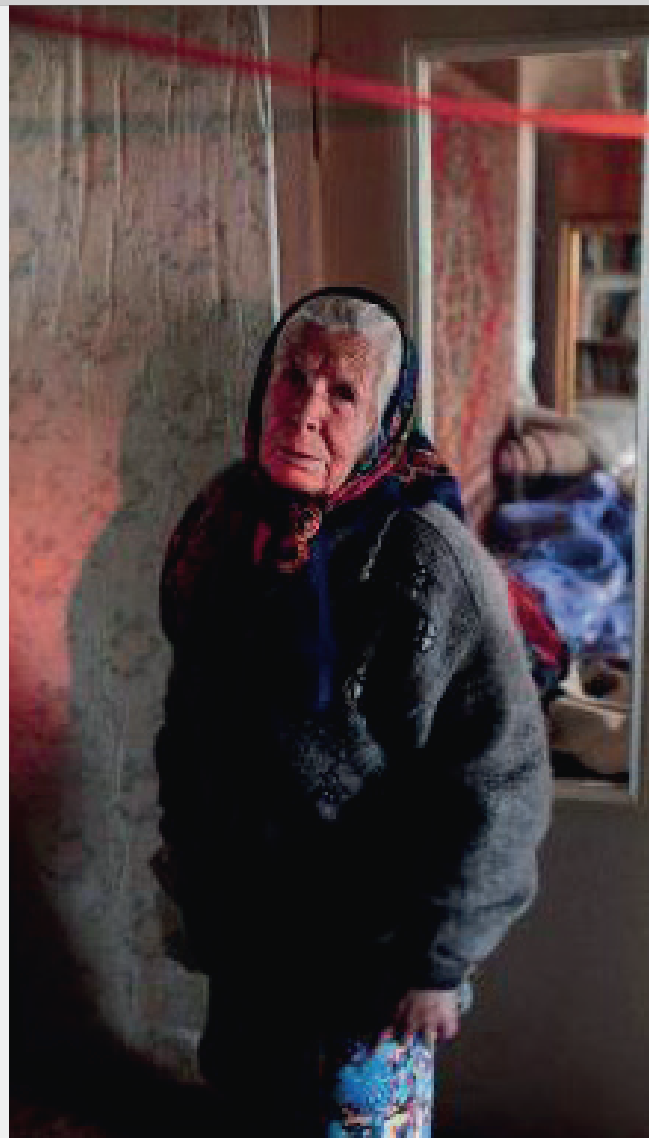
In Mayorsk in addition to absence of electricity there is a problem with drinking water. The one appearing from time to time in the taps is for technical needs only. The normal work of pump station is impossible without electricity. Power line was broken during the shelling. Any repairs in the gray zone are impossible because of mines.

"I'm bringing water by myself from the plug in the garden. Just taking bottles. But this water is only to clean the dishes or do the washing. For food we use this water which is here in the bottles. Thanks to volunteers who regularly bring it"

Mariinka, Donetsk oblast

Vira's family received food packages and fuel briquettes from Caritas.

"We would like if the shelling will be stopped, if there will be no shoots today, tomorrow and the day after tomorrow. This is the only one our wish. Our main problem is with coal. We received gas boiler, but there is no gas and it's looking like that it will not appear soon. They put the two kilometers of pipes but cannot move anymore – everything is mined there. The coal is very expensive. Thanks God the pension was increased but it is still not enough to buy fuel. We are very grateful that there are people who are taking care of us, giving food and fuel briquettes".





► 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 in need of medical assistance. 6 medical mobile teams (composed by social workers, psychologists and medical staff) provided consultations and medical check-ups in 24 settlements of the region to **1 200** people. **200** community members were trained to become qualified community caregivers and were compensated for their services (cash for work). **600** people are receiving homecare support from Caritas-trained community caregivers. The cash for work component revealed to be particularly impactful.
- **2 955** inhabitants received cash grants for **purchase of medicines** 575 UAH each.
- **385 basic medical kits** have been distributed.
- **Psychological assistance** was provided to **562** individuals, **800** individuals participated in psychosocial group meeting and **906** in various educational events.

► Homecare services, social care and medical services for vulnerable IDPs

- Caritas reached 192 very vulnerable IDPs in Kharkiv and Dnipro through homecare services (106 people), social assistance (30 people) and medical assistance (56 people).
- Caritas also reached **5 759** people through medical aid (cash/vouchers) and provided psychosocial support to **7 535** people in Dnipropetrovsk, Kharkiv, Zaporizhia, Kramatorsk, Mariupol.
- The Multifunctional Social Centre in Dnipropetrovsk continues to provide specialized and comprehensive social services for IDPs and the most vulnerable groups of population in Eastern Ukraine. A total of **10 160** people have been reached to date.

The worst life in the buffer zone is for pensioners and people with disabilities. In most cases social services are not working there. The able-bodied people often move to controlled areas taking their children, and parents remained in the buffer zone. We were informed about an 82-year-old woman in need of help. I went to her. She was standing in the garden with sapwood trying to weed something with a small clip. She needed help but also still took care of her mother, who is 102 years old. To care for such people we attract their neighbors. For caring for pensioners they receive cash aid from Caritas – so called ‘cash-for-work’ grants. Part of money can be spent for their needs, and part need to be used for the needs of people they are in charge. They receive money on bank card in parts. What I see - people are willing to cooperate with us. I remember the case in 2014 when we brought water to one village. We came to the head of village administration to inform about our activities, talked about Caritas, offered support. He listened us carefully. Then he asked: “So you are from Lviv?” I replied that yes. Then he buried his hands and said: “And we all were told by TV that you came to kill us! And you brought water!”

*Hryhoriy Seleshchuk,
Head of Humanitarian Programs Department, Caritas Ukraine*



► **New Perspectives of Home Care Project**

- 52 active women from the buffer zone joined the Caritas Mariupol team as caregivers for home care activities. After specialized trainings they were providing assistance to 156 people 5 days a week – they carry out hygienic procedures, perform household work. Almost all girls-caregivers established warm relationship with people they are helping and the elderly people received not only physical assistance, but also human communication, which is so important in their current condition.
- In addition to its humanitarian mission, the project also has a great social benefit. 52 people received new professional skills which can help them in the future life. Active women from the project team started to communicate more with each other and with fellow villagers, and already in some places they are already planning community work outside the framework of the project.

► **Work with children from crisis-affected families:**

- **Children, youth and family centres** – leisure centers for vulnerable children and their families, both internally displaced and local, were attended by **596** children and **110** parents (Kharkiv, Severodonetsk, Slovyansk, Zaporizhzhya, Poltava). These centres aim at providing assistance to children who have difficulties to integrate by providing them with a safe space to communicate, express themselves, establish positive recreation, learn and thereby restore their resilience. Since 2015 about **4 200** children benefitted of the services of these social centers.
- A total of **3 477** children attended Child Friendly Spaces in Kharkiv, Donetsk and Luhansk Oblasts
- **Psychosocial Support** was provided to over **1 200** children living in the buffer zone (children 7-17 y.o. in schools in Myronivske, Luhanske, Myrne, Andriyivka, Novotroyitske, Kamyanka, Bakhchovyk, Avdijivka, Pervomajske, Orlivka, Stanytsya Luhanska, Vilkhove, Kamyshne, Valuyske, a group of preschoolers in Krasnohorivka, children with disabilities in Svitlodarsk). A total of 440 parents and 32 teachers also benefitted from non-specialized psychosocial support provided through regular meetings and mobile PSS services.

Supported by: Caritas Austria, Austrian Development Agency (ADA), Caritas Germany (through German MFA and Diocese Rottenburg/Stuttgart funding), Cordaid, CRS (funded by US Government and OFDA)



CI Protracted Crisis Appeal

At the request and on behalf of Caritas Ukraine, CI launched the Protracted Crisis Appeal "EA 17/2017-Healthcare and psychosocial support program for conflict affected people in Ukraine". The three-year program is looking to improve health and psychosocial conditions of IDPs and local vulnerable people in Western Ukraine. The program will be meeting urgent medical care and psychosocial support needs while addressing the root causes of the problem through a strong advocacy component with the Ministry of Health.

The Protracted Crisis Appeal has been launched in May 2015. To date, Caritas Ukraine received only 130 000 euro out of the 1 317 214 euro needed to implement the Appeal. Additional contributions are urgently needed from the global Caritas Confederation.

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

Contact person: **Hryhoriy Seleshchuk**

Email address: **hseleshchuk@caritas-ua.org**

Phone: **+380 44 590 5160**

www.caritas-ua.org

