

# **Psychosocial Support for Children and their Parents/Caregivers in the Buffer Zone of Eastern Ukraine**

# Preconditions

The project is upscaling of earlier initiatives of Caritas Austria and Caritas Ukraine aimed at the improvement of psychosocial condition of children from the buffer zone.

This project is aimed at the improvement of psychosocial well-being of children, strengthening their resilience and capacity to alleviate the effects of crisis.



# Project implementation terms

I phase:

October 2017 – September 2018

II phase:

October 2018 year – September 2019

III phase:

October 2019 – September 2021 (not aproved so far)



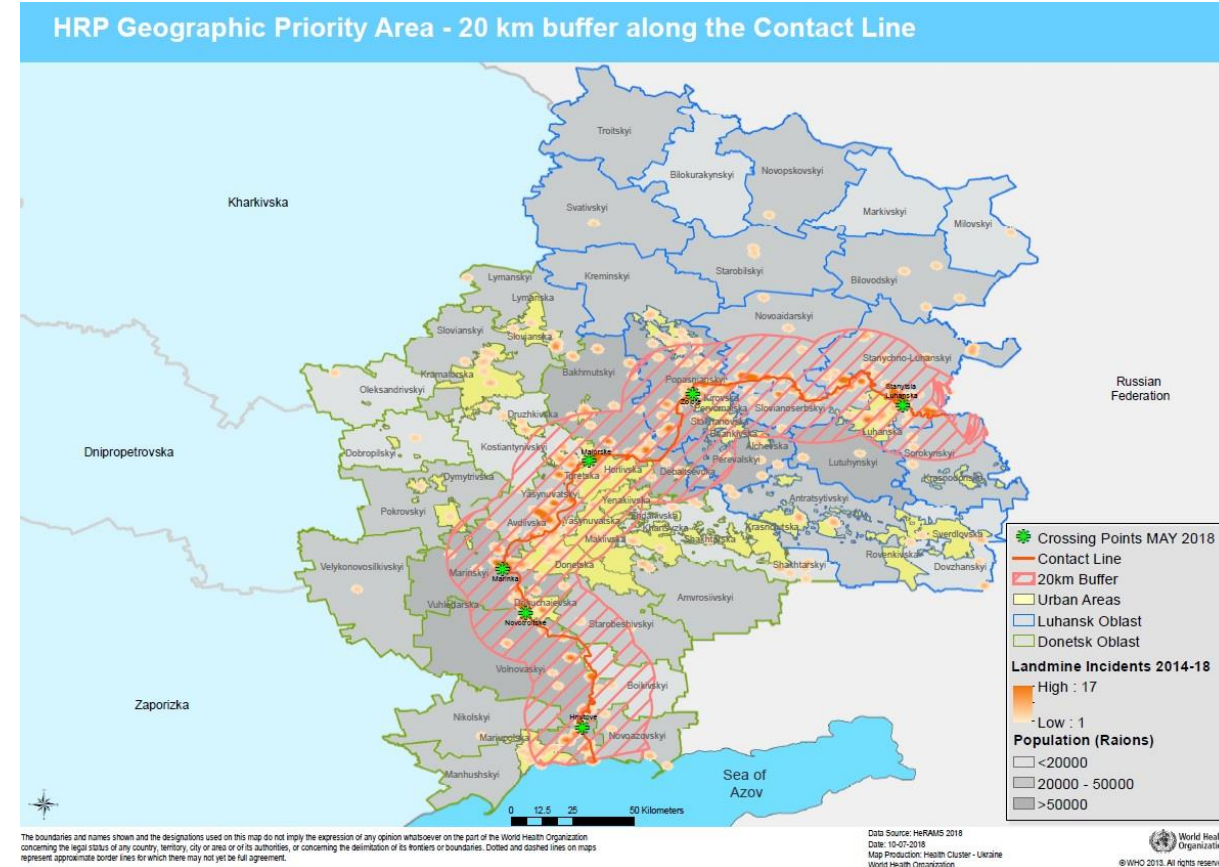
# Project geography

Project take place in 16 locations along the contact line(17 schools) with 3 Caritas Partners:

Caritas Mariupol

Caritas Kramatorsk

Myloserdia Lugansk



# Project geography

- ✓ Luganske, Myronivske, Berestove, Verhnokam'yanske and Zvanivka in Bakhmutsky rayon, Orlivka near Mariinsky rayon (Caritas Kramatorsk);
- ✓ Myrne, Andriivka, Novotroits'ke, Bakhchovyk and Olginka in Volnovasky rayon, Elizavetivka, Pervomayske in Yasinuvatsky rayon (Caritas Mariupol);
- ✓ Vilkhove, Nyzhnio Vilkhove, Valuyske and Kondrativske in Stanychno-Luhansk rayon (Myloserdia Lugansk).





# Target groups



- ✓ Children of school age
- ✓ Parents/caregivers and other family members
- ✓ Teachers at schools



# Project modality

- ✓ Child friendly spaces (CFS) are established at **17 schools** in 15-kilometer zone next to contact line at government controlled area (GCA);
- ✓ Each CFS has two social workers (over 65% of social workers of our project are teachers at schools where CFS is operating).  
In total we have **36 social workers**
- ✓ CFS activities are aimed to provide a supportive environment for improving the ability to develop, play and build long-term, trustful relationships with peers and social workers. Activities are also intended to improve ~~their~~ skills, mobilize for active engagement, interact with others, support for peer-to-peer relationships and parenthood



# Cooperation with National Ukrainian Kyiv Mohyla Academy (Center of psychological health and psychosocial support)

- ✓ All social workers of the project were trained of the NaUKMA's methodology - a development program for the formation of stress resistance of children **"Safe Space"**. This methodology was developed in 2015 in cooperation with UNICEF and aimed at increasing the resilience to stress after psychotraumatic events;
- ✓ All social workers will be trained by NaUKMA to provide parental group activities aiming to increase awareness about the role of parents in improving psychological wellbeing and supporting their children;
- ✓ In the current phase Caritas Ukraine is piloting a new project in cooperation with NaUKMA to provide on the job coaching to teachers in implementing New School Reforms (5 pilot coaches will be trained).





# Achievements of the I phase

- ✓ Child Friendly Spaces are established in **17 schools** in the buffer zone of Donetsk and Luhansk oblast and operate on everyday basis;
- ✓ **Over 2500 children along the contact line** have the opportunity to develop, play and build long-term, trustful relationships with peers and social workers, develop resilience and socialize;
- ✓ **Over 1200 children** were supported with "Safe space" methodology ( Cycle of 7 sessions);
- ✓ **Over 60 events** were organized for children;
- ✓ **Over 340 parents** were taking part in parenting groups, where they received information on how to create more favorable and caring environment for their children and family.



# Advantages

- ✓ Caritas operates in very challenging locations where other organizations do not provide PSS support;
- ✓ Caritas provides everyday assistance to children (when most organization work as mobile teams);
- ✓ Caritas hire people from communities – all knowledges and experience remain in the community;
- ✓ Caritas in cooperation with NaUKMA use approved and effective methodologies.



# Perspectives

- ✓ 350 000 € is year budget of the project needed to support over 2500 children and their parents along the contact line on every day basis;
- ✓ **Additional 50 000 € per year** will support deeper analysis in influence of pilot project with NaUKMA – on the job coaching of teachers in implementing New School reform;
- ✓ Opportunity to expand the project to additional schools outside of the buffer zone;
- ✓ Opportunity that on the job coaching of teachers will be certified by the Ministry of Education & Science.



# Art therapy, Stanytsia Luhanska, February 2018



# Football Cup, Stanytsia Luhanska, June 2018





# Events to International Child Protection Day, June 2018





















# Our everyday activities







# Parental groups







[caritas-ua.org](https://caritas-ua.org)