

# Situation Report #2 (2019)

# Caritas Ukraine

## Response to the Humanitarian Crisis (as of April 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 with **13 000** killed (OHCHR) and **30 000** injured.
- **29** civilian casualties from January 2019 (**7** killed, **22** injured).
- The total civilian death toll caused by the conflict reached at least **3 321** people and up to **9 000** injured.
- The number of civilian casualties has been decreasing - in 2018 there were 53% less than in 2017, and were at their lowest for the entire conflict period
- **1 376 517** IDPs (as of April, 22, 2019)
- Ukraine's economy is growing, but vulnerability and poverty rates remain high, especially in Donbas oblasts (the rate of **unemployment is 15%** in comparison to 8% in Ukraine in general)



**610 000** people assisted by Caritas since May 2014



**1 700 181.55 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 560 000 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

- Longer term interventions in the sector of WASH in eastern Ukraine through rehabilitation of existing water supply infrastructure and construction of new water supply sources (EA 09/2019)
- Renovation of schools in Luhansk oblast (UNICEF funded project).
- Continuous strengthening of cooperation with state and non-governmental organizations who work in the social sphere with a specific focus on attracting funds from private businesses, creating employment opportunities and developing a volunteer movement among former beneficiaries of the projects.
- Strengthening advocacy work based on requests from beneficiaries of different programs and on the needs which emerge from both humanitarian and development projects.

### New Projects

- **Safe school** – this project aims at renovating 7 schools in Luhansk oblast (GCA) with the financial support of UNICEF (total budget 99 000 €, duration: March 2019 – February 2020).
- **Rehabilitation Assistance to Former Soldiers and their Families Affected by the Protracted Armed Conflict in Ukraine** with financial support of The Australian Federation of Ukrainian Organisations (AFUO) (total budget 118 027 AUD, terms – April 2019 – April 2020).
- **Emergency response to the crisis in Ukraine** (water supply) through the newly launched Emergency Appeal (EA 09/2019: total budget 286,397 €, duration: April 1, – December, 31, 2019 ).

**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 Organisations.



## Activities by sector



### ***Food Security and Nutrition***

No less than 3 000 people reached

- **818** food relief packages
- **960** multipurpose grants



### ***WASH***

No service activities during the reported period

In January/February 2019 Caritas Ukraine carried out a WASH assessment in 44 settlements in Donetsk and Luhansk Oblasts to assess access to drinking water, water supply systems, sanitation, hygiene, sewage disposal and garbage. The assessment results informed the objectives of the Emergency Appeal (EA 09/2019).



### ***Emergency Shelter/NFI***

No less than 7 000 people reached (2272 households (HH))

- **1320** HHs in GCAs received winterization support (**1136** HHs fuel briquettes in the amount of 1,5 tons per household, **1136** HHs – 3 tons per HH)



### **Healthcare:**

*No less than 8 500 people reached*



**1425** people received cash grants/vouchers to purchase medicines

- **371** people received medical/hygiene packages (home care services)

- **264** IDPs and inhabitants of the buffer zone reached through the home care program in Eastern Ukraine

- **5490** consultations for relatives/close ones of people in need of medical assistance through home care

- **167** IDPs reached through home care services in Kharkiv, Khmelnytsky and Kramatorsk (out of the buffer zone).

### **Psychological assistance**

- **255** beneficiaries have been provided with individual consultations
- **287** beneficiaries participated in 114 group counselling sessions
- **289** beneficiaries received community based psychological assistance (in 5 locations of buffer zone in the framework of the project "Empowering communities in the provision of psychosocial support for people impaired by distress in the buffer zone").



### **Early Recovery & Livelihoods**

*No less than 600 people reached*

- **127** consultations for employment, **12** employed
- **28** events on development of entrepreneurship skills (**283** participants)
- **2** business schools (**41** participants)
- **14** trainings on employment issues (**139** participants)



### **Education**

*No less than 3000 people reached*

- **2147** children in 17 locations in the buffer zone reached through recreational and psychological assistance

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



### ***Integration and Peacebuilding*** *No less than 16 000 people reached*



**662 families** received accompaniment (**1612** people) offered by **Family Integration Support Centers** in **6** locations.

- **13 987** people (IDPs, the members of the local community and ex-combatants) participated in **2167** conflict transformation and peacebuilding events in **9** locations
- **4** integration visits of families from Mariupol and Berdyansk to Kolomyia and Drohobych, **65** participants. **44** families and **20** volunteers were

involved as tutors for people in need of integration

- **1754** people received services in 6 Centers of Social Cohesion and Socio-pastoral initiatives.
- Within the framework of the project of assistance to the **victims of human trafficking** the following has been achieved: **15** victims of trafficking identified, **13** potential victims identified, **58** beneficiaries received counselling services, **409** participated in prevention and awareness-raising events.

### **Complex/ Comprehensive Assistance**

- **Social centers on crisis management and self-help for people and communities affected by the conflict** (Kramatorsk, Mariupol, Zaporizhia, Kyiv) – **5031** people received assistance:
  - Crisis centers (call-center, counselling, case management)
  - Community Development Centers (social space for community activation, self-support groups)
  - Resource centers: lobbying and advocacy
- **Multifunctional Social Center in Dnipro: 2090** people have been provided with social and humanitarian services (69% IDPs and 31% locals). Services that are most in demand are: soup- kitchen, medical and legal consultations, home care services, psychological assistance, and hotline for IDPs (**1237** calls). The new service is "Supported Accommodation" – provision of housing on a temporary basis and social support for women with children who have suffered from domestic violence. The priority in 2019 is to ensure the financial sustainability of the project (paid services, fundraising, social entrepreneurship).

## Key challenges

- The presidential elections and new president elected with different/unclear conflict response plan may lead to significant changes in the humanitarian activities, especially on the availability of resources for assistance to IDPs and people remaining in the zone close to the line of conflict.
- Prices of heating materials have grown in 2019.
- Number of conflict escalation cases along contact line grows. The access to a number of settlements with the highest severity level is closed.
- Governmental institutions still do not have the capacity to coordinate activities of humanitarian players like UNHCR clusters have. The process of taking the lead on coordination of the humanitarian intervention by the government goes much more slowly than planned.
- The number of elderly people along the contact line is growing; most of them have no family members to take care of them because of labor migration. The demand on home care services in the buffer zone is very high.
- The closeness to the zone of conflict has greatly reduced the business activity in the region, which significantly reduced the flow of money to the local budget. The communities themselves are not able to finance social projects.
- Political risks to provide assistance in Non-Government Controlled Areas (NGCA).



## 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.
- Caritas Ukraine will continue to search for additional funding sources to sustain its project activities throughout the country.



- **Introducing an advocacy component in all ongoing projects** has become the new priority for the next three years. This should help to strengthen the impact of the projects and to find new approaches for the exit strategy.

## Human Interest Stories

### History of Vira

Vira is over 60 years old and lives alone in the village Bobrove in Luhansk oblast. She has a problem with

her legs and often cannot walk. When the shelling begins she feels scared, lonely and cannot sleep. Her children live far from their native village and she has nobody to assist her.

After the presentation of the project: "Empowering communities in the provision of psychosocial support for people impaired by distress in the buffer zone" in her village, she came to answer the questionnaire and shared her problems with project staff. From the moment she started talking about her experience and problems, she started feeling better. Now, after she has had individual sessions with a psychologist, she has developed a coping strategy and is better able to deal with this stressful situation.

Vira is not lonely anymore. She regularly calls her children, has conversations with a neighbor (they are having tea parties together), she also attends holidays organized by the community. Vira's success is a success of the project, because the assistance arrived at the right time and was effective.

### **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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