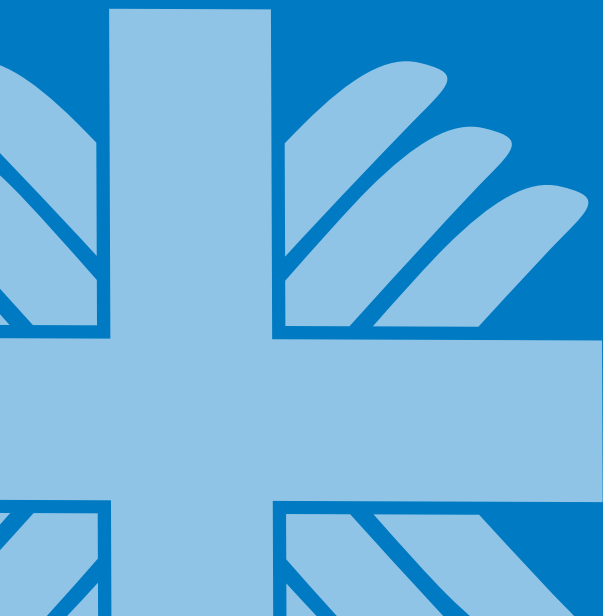


PARTNERSHIP PROPOSAL

«HAPPY US»

A national initiative for children, parents and educators



We create an environment where children develop through play, learn to overcome crises, be resilient and happy.

Eighty-three schools have supported the HAPPY US initiative in partnership with Caritas Ukraine since 2017 (project «RESILIENCE AND DEVELOPMENT: Psychosocial support for participants in the educational process»). Happiness spaces, created in Ukrainian schools specifically for this initiative, are at its heart...

Joint development unites. That's why we work with children, parents, and educators:

CHILDREN

Happiness spaces in schools, psychological support, camps, creative and developmental events, school parliaments

PARENTS

Trainings on happy and smart parenting, psychological support, integration activities

EDUCATORS

Open dialogues and professional support groups, a program to develop skills in a resource-oriented approach to parenting

Over 12,000 children, 1,500 educators, and 2,000 parents have already developed skills in creating a supportive environment for themselves and others.

The initiative is based on the scientifically proven "Safe space" methodology (NaUKMA):

Main ideas:

- A safe space – both physical and social, and systematic interaction are necessary for a sense of support, free development, and trust.
- Success is built on a person's strengths (resource-orientation).
- The child is able to cope with any difficulties, if there is a reliable adult around.
- Children should exercise their right to participate in making decisions that relate to their lives.
- Demonstrates measurable results in improving children's psycho-emotional state, developing their coping strategies, and the school climate in general.
- Developed by Kyiv-Mohyla Academy (NaUKMA) and Caritas Ukraine.
- Tested by the eight-year practice of Caritas Ukraine.
- Recommended by the Ministry of Education and Science for implementation in schools.

Seven steps made by the participants: seeing each other, understanding own and others' needs, recognizing emotions, tuning in to finding solutions, acting with benefit, resolving conflicts, and creating a circle of communication.

Caritas Ukraine intention:

At least 250 Ukrainian schools to join the HAPPY US initiative in 2025-2026. By 2027, school teams are prepared to implement the initiative by their own.

Geographical priorities:

- Communities that accept families with children and teachers forced to leave their homes due to the war
- Communities in the deoccupied territories
- Communities in frontline territories

Local capacities to develop the initiative. Schools will receive professional support in implementing the HAPPY US initiative from 47 local organizations of the Caritas Ukraine network and experts from the Education, Formation and Child Protection program of the national office of Caritas Ukraine. HAPPY US, with the support of Caritas, can touch at least 120 thousand children, 12 thousand parents, and 10 thousand educators per year.

Contribution of Caritas Ukraine: 360° support of schools in the implementation of all components of the project - arranging happiness spaces, teaching the methodology and developing the competencies of educators for the successful long-term implementation of the project, advocacy of the initiative at the community level, project management at the implementation stage.

Required contribution from the partner: financing of materials and equipment for happiness spaces, partial financial support to school psychologists and social workers involved in the implementation phase of the initiative in schools.

Partners of Caritas Ukraine in the implementation of the initiative since 2017

