

CUA SITUATION REPORT FOR 2025

OPERATIONAL CONTEXT

In 2025, Caritas Ukraine's activities aimed to comprehensively address both the immediate and long-term humanitarian consequences of the war through multisectoral support to the frontline and de-occupied territories, including civilian evacuation, food security, and the restoration of housing and energy infrastructure, access to water. The organization has focused on combining emergency assistance with long-term solutions, such as transforming collective centers for IDPs to assisted living, launching multiple programs restoring livelihoods, developing telemedicine, veteran rehabilitation, and strengthening local community resilience through PSS programs for children, families, communities. Important emphases remain the digitalization of assistance through cash payments, advocacy for the social rights of victims at the state level, and the implementation of innovative projects, including the creation of volunteer emergency response brigades and support for volunteer networks.

Serious challenges included a deteriorating security situation and energy instability stemming from systemic attacks on infrastructure throughout the country, with a special focus on highly populated regions. Hostile attacks on humanitarian warehouses and transportation, and the growing burden on communities hosting evacuees, have become additional challenges. The work continues under conditions of high security risks. Despite these challenges, in the fourth year of full-scale war, the Caritas network had a strong human resource in staff, volunteers and every person who supports us from abroad – through prayer and material help, which allowed the organization to provide humanitarian assistance at scale and continues to be one of the largest humanitarian networks in the country:

- **51 active Caritas local organizations** covering all regions of Ukraine (except for the occupied territories);
- Up to **400 active parish hubs** that implement Caritas project activities, with the capacity to scale up to **1,000 parish hubs** if needed;
- **2,568 employees**, including the national office of Caritas Ukraine;
- **Up to 1000 currently** active volunteers, and over **12,000** registered volunteers since 2022.

Through close cooperation with both the international network and local Caritas organizations, Caritas Ukraine in 2025 continued to adapt its response according to needs on the ground: from emergency assistance to strategic recovery and stabilization. The extensive structure and consolidation of our expertise into 12 program areas strengthened our role as a leading charitable player that combines practical work on the

ground with national advocacy for systemic change. Following a people-centered approach anchored in local communities, the network covers the entire country: from metropolitan areas to the most remote villages, where, through parish hubs and mobile teams, it provides access to services where other assistance often remains inaccessible.

4,2 MLN beneficiaries have been reached since February 24, 2022 (approx.396 thousand in 2025)	8,7 MLN services have been provided since February 24, 2022 (approx.1,9 mln in 2025)
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Advocacy: In 2025, Caritas Ukraine's advocacy activities focused on the systemic transformation of the humanitarian and social spheres, shaping the transition from humanitarian aid to sustainable social services. Key achievements included work with parliament and government ministries to improve the legal framework of humanitarian aid in Ukrainian legislation and to introduce basic sector concepts (such as "humanitarian organization" and "humanitarian response") into the legal field (Law of Ukraine "On Amendments to the Law of Ukraine "On Humanitarian Aid" Regarding the Regulation of Humanitarian Organizations" dated September 18, 2025, No. [4608-IX](#)) as well as active participation in government working groups reforming the system of social protection: promoting the introduction of innovative approaches to financing social services, which launched a competitive market for social services and opened up access to budget funds for non-governmental service providers; laying the foundations in the relevant law for the formation of fair and unified tariffs for social services; promoting the exemption of social services from value-added tax (VAT) for all service providers. Systematic advocacy for digitizing social service delivery processes has led to the creation of a digital case management tool that simplifies social workers' work on the one hand and facilitates prompt service delivery to people in need on the other.

Key priorities of Caritas Ukraine for 2026

Emergency response and humanitarian security

- This category covers immediate actions aimed at saving lives and ensuring physical survival in conditions of active warfare;
- Expanding the geography of assistance: Rapid response to shelling throughout Ukraine (including both frontline areas and rear areas);
- Preparing for winter: Providing resources in advance for winter survival amid the energy crisis, and providing immediate emergency relief as needed;
- Assistance at the border: Supporting those leaving the occupied territories;
- Providing protection support for the most vulnerable groups: elderly people who are alone, people with disabilities, families caring for relatives with serious illnesses, and those requiring continuous medical treatment.

Restoring people, communities and strengthening resilience

- Focusing on the psychological and physical health of those most affected by the war;
- Mental health care: Overcoming prolonged stress and developing resilience;
- Developing livelihood activities, helping people to find jobs, or to start their own businesses;
- Support for veterans and their families: Comprehensive rehabilitation and support during the transition to civilian life;
- Developing long-term solutions for housing, for those who have been displaced.

Socio-economic stabilization

- Transition from a “survival” model to a “self-sufficiency” model and sustainable living;
- Economic recovery: Grants for self-employment, small business support, and employment;
- Social housing: Creation of affordable housing in cooperation with local communities;

Institutional development and social dialogue

- Support systemic change on the national and local level to be able to meet the challenges and answer the needs caused by the war and contribute to civil society dialogue to strengthen the country from within;
- Social cohesion: work within communities to foster mutual understanding and to de-escalate internal conflicts;
- Localization and partnerships: continue working with other Ukrainian CSO’s to further the localization strategy in Ukraine, supporting increasing local leadership in the response, the creation of national consortia and advocating for the interests of victims/ people in need at the international level.

HIGHLIGHT ON THE EMERGENCY APPEAL 2025

From the beginning of 2025:

5,335 hygiene kits distributed	1,465 transit food parcels distributed
7,834 food parcels distributed	7,582 beneficiaries provided with drinking bottled water
338,936 liters of drinking bottled water distributed	1,409 beneficiaries evacuated

1,572 beneficiaries provided with services by the crisis centers	735 beneficiaries, visitors of child-friendly spaces
1,028 beneficiaries provided with solid fuel	418 beneficiaries provided with emergency shelter kits

Key focuses in 2025. In 2025, the Emergency Appeal program focused on providing **vital support to war-affected populations**, with particular attention to frontline, de-occupied, and high-risk communities. The priorities remained in **multisectoral support** (FSQR, WASH, MPCA, Shelter, Protection, Education, Social Cohesion, Volunteers) and assistance to IDPs and residents of frontline areas. Thank you to all who contributed to the Emergency Appeal 2025.

The most significant changes that have taken place in the program's activities in response to the challenges of 2025. In response to the changing humanitarian context, the program scaled up its activities in several areas: support for people returning from the temporarily occupied territories and evacuation of the population from Donetsk Oblast, and support for the work of the transit center in Pavlohrad (Dnipropetrovsk Oblast), which served as a key transit point of primary care, temporary shelter, and redirection of evacuees. To overcome the energy crisis in January 2026, an algorithm for the 2026 start-up activity to provide residents of the Kherson and Zaporizhzhia regions with portable power sources was developed.

Notable milestones. The Emergency Appeal team, in partnership with the Ombudsman's Office, has developed a response model for those evacuating from occupied territories, that combines humanitarian assistance with protection mechanisms. This ensures the safe and dignified return of people to Ukraine.

Main challenges and needs for the program in 2026. The key **challenges** remain the security situation, funding instability, and the growing needs of the population. The program's primary **needs** are to maintain operational flexibility, support staff and volunteers, and strengthen cross-sectoral coordination.

2026 priorities. The focus will remain on **evacuation pathways, support for people returning from occupation, energy resilience, using a cross-sectoral approach, and local capacity building**. The team aims to ensure that the assistance provided under the project meets the challenges in the country, is timely, and dignified.



From the beginning of 2025:

81,513 WASH-related services were provided
29,359 individuals received emergency water supply:
9,903 individuals benefiting from the provision of water storage tanks
8,207 individuals benefiting from the provision of bottled water
1,457 individuals benefiting from the provision of water trucking
28,550 individuals were beneficiaries of WASH non-food item distributions:
20,085 individuals benefiting from hygiene kit/items distribution (in-kind)
4,797 individuals benefiting from hygiene kit/items distribution (cash or voucher - NEW)
3,668 individuals benefiting receiving transit hygiene kits
15,204 individuals benefited from rehabilitated facilities
7,854 individuals benefiting from the sustainable connection or rehabilitation of water networks in facilities (incl. boreholes, water treatment equipment etc.)
9,300 individuals benefiting from the installation of institutional water treatment units (e.g. filters)
8,400 individuals benefiting from energy support for WASH systems

Key focuses in 2025. In 2025, the program combined emergency response in the frontline regions with stabilization measures. The key areas are **water supply** (urgent assistance with the supply of drinking water, the restoration of decentralized water sources), **sanitation and hygiene** (repair of the sanitary regions, showers, and internal water supply networks in institutions and places of temporary residence; provision of hygienic transit, sanitary, and anti-epidemic kits to people from vulnerable groups and evacuees), and **energy independence**.

The most significant changes in the program's activities in response to the challenges of 2025. The program shifted its focus to decentralized, sustainable water-supply solutions (boreholes and wells) during the war. Hygiene assistance was adapted to market

conditions, combining in-kind kits with vouchers. The program adjusted the geography of its activities and the formats of its support in response to the security situation. Thanks to flexible planning and coordination with local authorities, assistance was provided even in hard-to-reach frontline areas, avoiding duplication of efforts.

Notable milestones. In 2025, access to water for many of the affected population was successfully restored. This was achieved through the implementation of technical stabilization solutions for water supply (construction of wells and boreholes) and repairs of sanitary facilities in IDPs' areas. A significant achievement was the launch and scaling-up of the #WASHinWAR awareness campaign, as well as the presentation of Ukraine's experience in restoring its water system at major international venues in Lviv (Eco Forum) and Warsaw (ReBuild Ukraine).

Main challenges and needs for the program in 2026. Key **challenges** in 2026: instability of the frontline and systemic destruction of water infrastructure; increased displacement/evacuation and burden on host communities and institutions; energy instability as a risk to the continuity of WASH services. Key **needs** include strengthening coordination with local administrations and utility companies; improving the resilience of WASH systems and emergency preparedness; and systematic support to IDPs and vulnerable groups with basic WASH services.

2026 priorities. In 2026, the main priorities will be **emergency assistance to frontline communities** after shelling, further **restoration, and ensuring the sustainable, uninterrupted operation of local and centralized water supply/wastewater disposal systems**. At the same time, it is planned to improve sanitary conditions in IDPs' temporary accommodation and key institutions, and to provide basic hygiene products to vulnerable categories. All efforts will be closely coordinated with the authorities and utilities to maximize the effectiveness of the joint work.



Food Security and Quick Response (FSQR)

From the beginning of 2025:

12,273 individuals received in-kind food assistance (general food distribution and hot meals)
26,420 individuals received standard food kits for 1 month
370 individuals received emergency multi-sectoral assistance in kind
6,603 charity lunches served

Key focuses in 2025. The main priorities of the program were to **establish work in transit centers** (Pavlohrad, Lozova, Oleksandrivka, Sumy). Mechanisms have been developed to provide three hot meals a day, as well as warm clothing and hygiene. Special attention was paid to the needs of people with limited mobility evacuating through transit centers. Special attention was also paid to the **rapid development of an emergency response protocol** together with the State Emergency Service of Ukraine.

The most significant changes in the program's activities in response to the challenges of 2025. The team introduced a new "Emergency Food Kit": a one-time hot meal for emergencies. Such kits are convenient to use on trains when moving newly evacuated people, during shelling or blackouts. The advantages of the innovative solution include a quick response, efficient personnel hiring tailored to the region's specific situation, and no need for additional procurement or deployment of field kitchens. Joint work on the evacuation and comprehensive support for people returning across the border from Belarus in Volyn Oblast (Domanovo) has been established.

Notable milestones. As part of the program, advocacy efforts were made to expand the number of transit centers. As a result, together with other Ukrainian CSO's, the Office of the President of Ukraine and relevant ministries, transit centers were opened in Lozova and Voloske. During the year, with the support of the Security Unit of the Caritas Ukraine Country Forum and The European Commission Directorate-General for Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection (ECHO), we also launched a project to support volunteers who suffered losses and injuries during the evacuation from the area of active hostilities. From now on, Caritas will provide this kind of support to organizations working on evacuations from such dangerous locations. Additionally, Caritas Ukraine has strengthened its capacity to support the evacuation of people with limited mobility through the purchase of 4 units of specialized vehicles for that purpose.

One of the most significant achievements is joining the newly created joint coordination group on emergency response with the State Emergency Service of Ukraine (SESU). The program team has developed a methodology for creating warm tents as common support points for those affected by emergencies. These tents should become a unified standard for assisting Ukraine, even amid blackouts, shelling, and other disruptions.

Main challenges and needs for the program in 2026. The main **challenges** include an increase in the number of emergencies, which often extend beyond the frontline areas, making it difficult to respond quickly; and hostile attacks on humanitarian infrastructure, warehouses, and transport, which complicate logistics and the delivery of aid to the frontline areas. There is a growing **need** for additional support and protection for specialists working on the front line and ensuring evacuation.

2026 priorities. The program's strategic focus will shift to digitalization and the security of assistance through the introduction of **state mechanisms for targeted cash transfers** for food, hygiene, clothing, and medical supplies, thereby minimizing logistical risks and enabling a human-centered approach by adapting the system to the needs of people. The program envisages the creation of **unified "Warm Tents"** to coordinate the efforts of the SESU and social services during crises, as well as the launch of a **"Full Cycle Evacuation"** with continuous crisis support for people from the active combat zone to transit centers and places of permanent residence. In addition, it is planned to strengthen civil protection by developing emergency response procedures and establishing voluntary emergency response units based on the Caritas volunteer network.



Healthcare

From the beginning of 2025:

856,715 healthcare-Related Services were provided to **20,744** beneficiaries

191,017 medical services were provided to patients through the 10 medical centers of the Caritas Ukraine network, providing primary and specialized medical services, and 10,049 beneficiaries contracted with the National Health Service of Ukraine (NHSU)
435 telemedicine services were provided for 305 Home Care Center beneficiaries
22,652 stationary care services were provided to 178 beneficiaries at our Stationary Palliative Care (Hospice)
48,791 palliative care services were provided to 646 beneficiaries through 5 Palliative Care multidisciplinary mobile teams
504,420 Home Care services were provided to 2,198 beneficiaries through 23 Home Care centers
1,863 services of medical and rehabilitation rental equipment were provided to people in need

Consultations for relatives of beneficiaries, caregivers, social workers, and volunteers

4,437 consultations were provided for 2,850 people on the basics of basic care for formal and informal caregivers
1,386 beneficiaries received group psychological consultations through 571 sessions

1,713 beneficiaries received individual psychological counseling through **6,404** consultations

Caritas is currently operating **6** Homes for elderly displaced persons and residents with social and psychosocial services

569 volunteers are involved in supporting the provision of social and medical services

*Key focuses in 2025. **2025 was the year of systemic strengthening.*** Caritas Ukraine's healthcare program focused on strengthening the network of medical centers, integrating home care with telemedicine, developing rehabilitation services for veterans, and enhancing specialists' competencies through roundtables and online training. A key strategic focus was advocating for state funding for mobile palliative care and home care services as the basis for the sustainability of care.

*The most significant changes that have taken place in the program's activities in response to the challenges of 2025. **From a set of services to an integrated system of care.*** The program has moved from crisis response to **stabilization and development**, investing donor funds in long-term care models. In 2025, Caritas Ukraine integrated medical, social, psychological, and pastoral care, forming a continuous support pathway for a person: from crisis response to long-term support. The results of this approach proved that social care is impossible without medical, psychological, and palliative components.

Notable milestones. The health care program has become one of the key areas of Caritas Ukraine's systemic work. This is evidenced by the fact that today, 40% of all services are provided under this program, which is one of the three programs that attract state funding, and its volume is growing every year. The network includes 10 medical centers, including two highly specialized ones: Caritas Khmelnytskyi (psychiatric care, work with addictions) and Caritas Ivano-Frankivsk (hospice and mobile palliative care).

Main challenges and needs for the program in 2026. The main **challenges** are the changes to the funding model for palliative care, by the National Health Service of Ukraine (NHSU), which focused assistance on stationary palliative care institutions, and removed separate mobile units from the model, which jeopardizes support for thousands of seriously ill patients who cannot leave their homes; the growing need for physical rehabilitation, especially after veterans and civilian Ukrainians return to communities after treatment in large medical centers; and the risk of reduced international support in the absence of a clear government policy and a transparent market for social and medical services. Among the program's key **needs** are stable state funding for mobile palliative care and home care services, investments in the development of mobile and community-based rehabilitation, and support for Caritas' network model as an effective partner of the state in providing comprehensive services.

2026 priorities. **2026 is the year of scaling and deepening.** The key priorities include developing the rehabilitation area (launching mobile rehabilitation teams in January 2026), optimizing the multidisciplinary approach, and deeper integration of the Health Program areas. Special **emphasis** is placed on Caritas's networking and partnerships with communities, the central government, Ukrainian businesses, and international donors. As part of the **CARES (Community Advocacy and Resilient Mobile Care Services)** project, an all-Ukrainian **training** cycle "**Home Care in War**" is planned for professionals.



**Multipurpose
Cash Assistance
(MPCA)**

From the beginning of 2025:

19,741 individuals received multi-purpose cash assistance, UAH 10,800 per individual
3,126 received rapid multi-purpose cash assistance in the amount of 10,800 UAH per individual

Key focuses in 2025. In 2025, Multi-purpose cash assistance (MPCA) remained **one of the most relevant and flexible response modalities** for Caritas Ukraine amid a protracted and volatile crisis. The program prioritized highly vulnerable households affected by hostilities, displacement, and evacuation, particularly in frontline, transit, and hard-to-reach areas. Older persons (60+ years old - about 60% of recipients), people with disabilities or chronic illnesses, single-person households, and newly evacuated families constituted the majority of beneficiaries. MPCA also played a **critical role in the post-shelling response**, enabling rapid stabilization of basic needs while preserving dignity and choice.

The most significant changes that have taken place in the program's activities in response to the challenges of 2025. Caritas Ukraine has adapted to the significant reduction in MPCA funding through strong coordination within the Cash Working Group, including participation in the rotational Rapid MPCA mechanism, ensuring timely post-shelling assistance while avoiding duplication. Remote registration modalities were further expanded, allowing assistance delivery in high-risk areas and in small, remote settlements (up to 5,000 inhabitants) with limited or no humanitarian presence.

Notable milestones. In 2025, the MPCA reached 22,867 individuals, totaling UAH 246,963,600 in transfers, including 19,741 MPCA and 3,126 Rapid MPCA recipients. Post-distribution monitoring confirmed high relevance and quality of assistance: over 90% of respondents rated MPCA as timely and appropriate, and over 95% were satisfied with the

modality and delivery process. Expenditures were primarily directed towards medicines (over 65%), food (over 40%), utilities, and heating. The remote MPCA registration approach was recognized as an innovative practice and received international recognition at a humanitarian innovation festival.

Main challenges and needs for the program in 2026. The main **challenges** for 2026 remain further funding constraints, a growing number of vulnerable households, and persistent security risks. The widening gap between needs and available resources underscores the critical role of MPCA as the most context-appropriate modality of assistance, as reflected in the humanitarian cash community's joint advocacy initiatives.

2026 priorities. Priorities for 2026 include **safeguarding MPCA** as a core response modality, further strengthening digital and remote delivery solutions, reinforcing inter-cluster coordination, and supporting a gradual transition to unified cash approaches (UCT) in line with Cash Working Group (CWG) guidance and HNRP 2026 priorities.



Shelter

From the beginning of 2025:

44,524 Shelter-related services provided, including Winterization and CCCM-related ones, in particular:

5,487 people received housing repairs (light and medium repairs of homes damaged by the Russian air attacks)
1,355 IDPs received housing repairs
592 households received an Emergency Shelter Kit
3,425 people secured startup grants and cash for rent
1,686 people received standard and non-standard NFI
190 individuals supported through refurbishment of collective sites

Winterization services provided

12,404 Winterization services provided:

8,586 people received winter energy
642 people received heating appliances,
2,876 people received cash for utilities
300 individuals supported with NFI for winter

CCCM-related services:

6,856 CCCM related services provided

352 people received winter heating, materials, and fuel (heating appliances, solid fuel)
654 individuals received winter repairs and maintenance (minor repairs and insulation work for the thermal envelope)
458 individuals benefiting from items and equipment for communal use and individual use (in-kind)
4,762 individuals benefiting from establishment of rules of stay

Key focuses in 2025. The main priorities of the program in 2025 focused on mid and **long-term housing solutions** in the context of the protracted humanitarian crisis, including: repairs to communal housing for IDPs; repairs to IDPs' homes; assistance to IDPs with rental housing; and home insulation. We also focused on **restoring housing** damaged by Russia's attacks, **improving living conditions in collective centers**, and **preparing vulnerable households for the winter**.

The most significant changes in the program's activities in response to the challenges of 2025. In 2025, the focus of humanitarian organizations in the shelter sector shifted towards the Crescent of Humanitarian Response. At the same time, the Shelter programme CUA successfully completed repairs of 125 houses and apartments to address communal housing needs across four oblasts (Dnipropetrovsk, Odesa, Mykolaiv, Kherson). However, the implementation of the communal housing project for IDPs at certain sites had to be paused due to the need to resolve legal and regulatory mechanisms required for the introduction of housing solutions. The most critical challenge remains with the prolonged procedures for connection to electricity and gas supply networks, without which the housing units cannot be commissioned and made ready for occupancy.

Notable milestones. In 2025, the program team strengthened its participation in strategic housing working groups, contributing to the development of housing policy. Social

infrastructure facilities in the communities were also restored: the St. Panteleimon municipal hospital in Sumy and a community center in the Kharkiv region.

Main challenges and needs for the program in 2026. The three main **challenges** for the program in 2026 are the growing mid and long term housing needs due to the ongoing humanitarian crisis, the lack of a clear path for IDPs to leave collective centers and move to separate housing, and the lack of a national assessment of IDP housing **needs** and a legislative framework for the effective implementation of social housing projects. In 2026, we need to strengthen the team's systematic work and cooperation with specialized Clusters and government authorities to find solutions to the challenges. Duty of Care principle in all projects remains a priority.

2026 priorities. In 2026, we plan to provide maximum **support for housing issues to residents of frontline regions** and to create **long-term, effective housing solutions** for IDPs (financial assistance with rent and social support from a case manager). The program will help **transform collective centers** into social service providers. Another priority is strengthening community resilience by **restoring critical infrastructure** and **implementing energy-efficient solutions**.



**Education,
Formation, and
Child Protection**

From the beginning of 2025:

99 Child Friendly Spaces established (at Caritas and schools)
26,826 children of different ages have been covered by the Child Friendly Spaces / Child Centers services
11,851 classes on Social and Emotional Learning, First Psychological Aid and Mental Health, and Psychosocial Support activities were held for children in educational institutions.
5,585 children covered by PSS activities
2,130 catch-up and accelerated learning sessions were provided to children
323 Specialists who work with children are trained and equipped with methodological materials
9,446 personalized school kits for children were distributed

2,438 children were provided with recreational services during the summer and winter holidays, in Ukraine and abroad, including day camps at school, joint camps for parents and children, and other types of camps
1,211 evacuated and internally displaced children with families were provided with psychosocial activities and leisure activities in shelters, including informal educational activities to catch up on educational losses and development of social skills
28 sets of interactive roll-ups and cards on the Psychosocial education tool "Mental Health - The Way of Superheroes" were distributed to various local Caritas teams and public schools (in Ukraine and abroad)
2,329 participants in advocacy campaigns: educators, school principals, representatives of education departments and divisions
1,768 children covered by case management services
400 children participated in the activities of the children's parliaments
4,730 parents covered by the services in Child Friendly Spaces /Child centers/ Safe Spaces in schools
23,989 group sessions for children
1,456 group sessions for parents (training parenting skills, stress management, improving communication with children, etc.)
3,926 individual counseling sessions for parents
13,398 individual counseling sessions for children
858 joint child-parent events
2,663 participants participated in integration activities: children, parents, and teachers from local communities and IDPs engaged in joint interaction and adaptation
2,510 teachers and other specialists received Psychosocial support and wellbeing support
111 training events and supervisions held for project staff

Key focuses in 2025. Caritas focused on expanding children's access to safe spaces through the **development of children's social centers, child-friendly spaces, and "Happiness Space" rooms** in schools (children's projects were implemented in almost 80% of local organizations); transitioning to a **single standard of assistance to children**. The camps and rehabilitation programs, such as "Under the Umbrella of Care" and "Green School", which combine recreation, psychological rehabilitation, education, and live communication for children affected by war, have also become an important area of focus. CUA aimed at **strengthening cooperation with the state**, working together on the strategy for psychological services in education, supporting children without parental care and families in difficult life circumstances at the local level, and Caritas' participation in the national Coalition of Partners.

Notable milestones. The work with children was scaled up and qualitatively strengthened. The number of children's spaces in schools increased from 18 to 51 across 6 regions. In cooperation with leading Ukrainian and international universities, we developed practical programs and materials for working with children that serve now as the methodological basis. Speech therapists, tutors, case managers, and child protection lawyers joined the team and strengthened support for children with special educational needs, in cooperation with the Inclusion program.

Main challenges and needs for the program in 2026. **Challenges** for the program include exclusive targeting of assistance only to the most dangerous regions, which leaves families in safer areas unsupported and forces IDPs to return to risk areas with their children to access aid. Secondly, funding cuts and instability are leading to the loss of service sustainability. The key **needs** are: preserving and supporting the already established scaling up in schools, communities, and local Caritas organizations; ensuring basic safety conditions for children and families; building a sustainable system of professional support for professionals, and combining uniform approaches with a sensitive individual approach to each child and family.

2026 priorities. The program plans to strengthen **cooperation within the Caritas network** and partners, deepen partnerships **with the state**, and ensure sustainability in the transition from humanitarian response to recovery. Being prepared to **work with the long-term consequences of the war**, including the return of evacuated children, reintegration of vulnerable groups, creating favorable conditions in communities, and developing **cross-border cooperation** to make returns as safe and humane as possible.



Livelihood

From the beginning of 2025:

839 C4W (Cash for Work) /C4J (Cash for Jobs) grants provided
792 Agricultural Grants for the households provided
223 people completed educational sessions
354 people completed Agro educational sessions
330 individuals received Mentoring support

Key focuses in 2025. The program focused on strategic project scaling by developing **unified methodologies** and standard operating procedures (SOPs). An important vector

is the implementation of the **Livelihood Center model** to develop beneficiaries' economic self-sufficiency, as well as the creation of sustainable platforms of communities of project participants to continue to share experiences and mutual support.

The most significant changes that have taken place in the program's activities in response to the challenges of 2025. In 2025, the program scaled up from 7 to 10 projects, significantly strengthening agricultural expertise and clearly delineating roles within the teams. Key innovations included the introduction of business coaching (REMARKET project) to motivate participants and the launch of TVET (a system that combines formal education, on-the-job training, and advanced training), which provided 161 SUN project participants with vocational training or retraining. In addition, the partnership with the BOARD community has reached a higher level, together with new employment support tools, ensuring the quality development of the program's economic component.

Notable milestones. The key achievements were the establishment of strategic cooperation with international partners (Mercy Corps, Joint Emergency Response in Ukraine (JERU), Right to Protection), which confirmed the program approach's competitiveness, and active participation in the Food Security and Livelihoods Cluster (FSLC), with the prospect of leadership in 2026. An important step was gaining membership in the [SME Resilience Alliance](#) under the auspices of the Ministry of Economy and GIZ. Other significant achievements included streamlining internal processes by developing clear rules (SOPs) and creating a unified methodology for social entrepreneurship.

Main challenges and needs for the program in 2026. The main **challenges** remain staff shortages amid project expansion and the need to develop systematic management approach, which, through a clear structure, delegation, and synergy with specialized departments (MEAL, Communication, lawyers etc.), will ensure effective support for the growing number of projects and program staff. For further development, there is an urgent **need** to establish cooperation with other CUA departments, resolve legal obstacles to taxation of employment payments, and develop mechanisms to engage minors aged 14-18 in the labor market to overcome the staff shortage.

2026 priorities. The program team will focus on **strategic and organizational expansion**. The ambitious goals in the planned Strategic plan for the program include **increasing the project portfolio and team staff by at least 50%**, accompanied by the formation of an **internal group of technical advisers and experts**. The key event of the year should be the Livelihood Forum organized by CUA, which will further consolidate the program's role as a leading platform for economic resilience.

Relevance of programs in the context of war. Given the current situation in Ukraine and the growing number of evacuees, we see an urgent need to develop new projects

aimed at **training, employment and financial support in the form of** agro and business grants for the affected population to strengthen their integration into safer communities.



Social Protection and Human Rights

From the beginning of 2025:

78,225 individuals received information services via hotline, call center, reception desk
5,040 individuals received case management services
5,665 individuals received crisis intervention services
5,081 individuals received legal support
869 individuals received Cash for Protection Grants
1,128 individuals successfully protected their rights

Key focuses in 2025. In 2025, the program focused on implementing a **two-tiered strategy for emergency response** in frontline areas and resilience building in safe regions. Within the "eastern crescent" (7 oblasts), mobile teams focused on **comprehensive support** (crisis intervention, legal assistance, and the Cash for Protection component) and case management for people with the highest protection risks in communities along the "frontline arc". In the rear areas, with the support of NiN and Caritas Austria, **adaptation programs for vulnerable groups** (people with disabilities, single mothers) were implemented, strengthening their self-sufficiency.

The most significant changes that have taken place in the program's activities in response to the challenges of 2025. One of the crucial changes was the transition from emergency assistance to a **stabilization and development** model, including systemic advocacy for the rights of vulnerable groups and community capacity building. In response to the new challenges, unique projects to support civilians released from captivity were implemented, and response points were organized for people returning from the temporarily occupied territories (TOT) through the Domanove checkpoint (Volyn). The process is being implemented in close coordination with the Ombudsman's Office and the Prosecutor General. Multidisciplinary protection teams were established in Zhytomyr, Ivano-Frankivsk, and Ternopil to strengthen support for veterans and military families in the northwest of the country.

Notable milestones. A key achievement was the scaling up of the Resilience Centers network. In total, 72 such centers have been opened with the support of Caritas Ukraine experts. Significant progress was made in strengthening the network's professional

resilience through more than 300 individual and group supervision and training sessions. Two more significant milestones were: the unification of the Resilience Centers' work through the development of specialized guidelines and close cooperation with the Ministry of Social Policy, and the establishment of a strategic partnership with UNHCR and active participation in the Protection Cluster.

Main challenges and needs for the program in 2026. **Challenges** for the program include the intensification of hostilities and new waves of evacuations, which increase the workload of teams in the frontline and rear areas; a dynamic increase in the number of beneficiaries who have experienced acute traumatic experiences and a high risk of professional burnout due to work in high-risk areas.

Given these challenges, the team **needs** to strengthen staff expertise through regular supervision and the implementation of unified work standards (SOPs) for all centers. The primary vector remains attracting resources for Protection programs in the central and western regions to ensure the successful long-term integration of IDPs.

2026 priorities. The strategy focuses on **expanding crisis response and case management**, with particular attention to people with reduced mobility in temporary accommodation. **Cross-sectoral integration** is also a priority, as well as piloting a **joint strategy with Shelter/CCCM on the social integration** of residents of collective centers. The program aims to deepen **partnerships with government institutions** (the Ministry of Social Policy, the Fund for Social Protection of Persons with Disabilities, and the National Social Service) to improve standards and financing mechanisms for social services.



Inclusion

From the beginning of 2025:

144,280 services provided for people with disabilities and their caregivers
27 inclusion centers provided services for 16,582 unique beneficiaries
11,942 households used the services of inclusive spaces
556 events to enhance the skills of more than 200 specialists working with people with disabilities and their families

Key focuses in 2025. The team focused on expanding **comprehensive services for persons with disabilities** (supported accommodation, mobile assistance teams, social taxis, inclusive spaces), specialized **psychosocial support for disabled veterans and**

civilians affected by the war: systematic **integration of barrier-free and universal design principles** into all programmatic approaches; and **active advocacy** for the rights and dignity of people with disabilities.

The most significant changes that have taken place in the program's activities in response to the challenges of 2025. In 2025, the program shifted the focus from short-term assistance to long-term solutions. It expanded the geography and delivery formats through mobile teams, enabling it to reach remote and frontline communities with limited access to services. We managed to integrate economic self-sufficiency components through social entrepreneurship and retraining, as well as by strengthening inter-programmatic cooperation, enabling the implementation of inclusive approaches across 15 joint network projects.

Notable milestones. The key achievements of the year include scaling up the network to **27 inclusive spaces** in 23 locations in Ukraine and the successful development of an assisted living model in Stryi (Lviv oblast), which provides autonomous living for 20 people with intellectual disabilities. Essential milestones included the launch of mobile social and rehabilitation services in four regions, support for the public sector through a system of mini-grants that 50 specialized organizations used, in addition to direct assistance, and a large-scale advocacy, education, and awareness campaign in more than 10 regions to promote inclusive, barrier-free standards.

Main challenges and needs for the program in 2026. The main **challenges** include the steady increase in the number of people with war-related disabilities, limited resources of communities and government systems, and a high level of emotional and professional stress on staff working with vulnerable groups. Therefore, the program **needs** long-term, predictable funding to support and scale up sustainable services, invest in capacity building for local teams and staff support, and strengthen cross-sectoral cooperation with government agencies to integrate services into community systems.

2026 priorities. The program will focus on **scaling up assisted living and day services** as alternatives to institutional care, as well as on fully **institutionalizing barrier-free principles** across all Caritas structures. Particular attention will be paid to **strengthening the economic independence** of people with disabilities through social entrepreneurship, deepening national-level advocacy for rights, and implementing unified standards and monitoring systems.



Mental Health and Psychosocial Support

From the beginning of 2025: 158,491 PSS related service provided, in particular:

44,835 Psychosocial Services (Individual and Group) provided

29,549 People received psychosocial services

Key focuses in 2025. The team focused its attention on providing **crisis psychologists' consultations** with separate support for different categories of the population: adults, children, veterans, and families of military personnel (including those killed and missing). During the year, Caritas psychologists managed to **develop common standard operating procedures (SOPs)** for working with children, veterans, and families of military personnel (including those killed and missing). Thanks to the systematic approach, it was possible to provide professional support and training for social workers in the methods of **first psychological aid to people in crisis**, and to develop **recommendations for accompanying evacuees** and **strengthening inter-project cooperation** of the network.

The most significant changes in the program's activities in response to the challenges of 2025. This year, we at CUA have significantly expanded the toolkit for project psychologists, including the introduction of the Eventica program, which has enabled us to scale up open psychoeducational events to strengthen community mental health. The team has intensified training for psychologists, social workers, and project staff, and significantly expanded its work with veterans and families of military personnel.

Notable milestones. Cooperation with psychologists of the Resilience Centers was successfully launched and scaled up, and an effective system of accounting for psychosocial services was implemented. Safe spaces have been created for Caritas staff's professional development, where specialists learn self-care and first-aid techniques.

Main challenges and needs for the program in 2026. The first main **challenge** is the intensification of hostilities, which requires expanding services for newly evacuated people and developing appropriate methodologies and recommendations. Another challenge is the potentially difficult situation regarding basic needs (electricity, water, heat), so the team will intensify its efforts to strengthen resilience and facilitate the response to humanitarian needs. And third is the increase in the number of veterans and military families, which will require us to expand project work with these target groups in the regions.

2026 priorities. The priorities are to implement new methodologies to **support veterans, military families, and evacuees**, update safety standards, and provide **psychosocial support for children**. Particular attention will be paid to maintaining the **team's professional resilience** through burnout programs, scaling up Eventica psychoeducation, and strengthening partnerships with Resilience Centers.



**Safe Migration and
Combating Human
Trafficking**

From the beginning of 2025:

6,995 individuals benefited from informational and preventive events

754 beneficiaries received reintegration and counseling services, 155 of them were survivors of human trafficking

270 informational events held (round tables, work meetings, actions, lectures, trainings, seminars)

10,307 reintegration, counseling, information services provided

Key focuses in 2025. In 2025, the program focused on **raising awareness of safe migration** and **preventing exploitation, identifying victims** and providing **comprehensive assistance**, and supporting the reintegration of Ukrainian citizens after an extended stay abroad. An important focus has been on the **professional development** of specialists and on partnerships with government agencies and international and non-governmental organizations.

The most significant changes in the program's activities in response to the challenges of 2025. In response to the challenges of the year, the program launched a new [cross-border project](#) (Ukraine-Romania-Moldova) aimed at reducing the adverse effects of the war, supporting people abroad, in transit, and on their way back home, and preventing the risks of exploitation. In Ukraine, the project is being implemented in Odesa and Chernivtsi regions. Also in 2025, experts from Caritas Central and Eastern Europe completed [an advocacy](#) report for the Ukrainian Refugee Response Learning Platform, which was presented in Brussels and focused on the temporary protection of Ukrainians.

Notable milestones. Among the key achievements of the year is the large-scale work of the centers in Kyiv, Odesa, Chernivtsi, Ternopil, Ivano-Frankivsk, and Drohobych to train at least 800 specialists to identify victims of human trafficking and provide them with comprehensive assistance. An awareness-raising campaign "Life is fragile, but Caritas is there for you" was also implemented, which included a [film](#) and [book of](#) the same name, presented at the national and international levels, including at the Office of the Ombudsman of Ukraine and libraries in various cities.

Main challenges and needs for the program in 2026. The program's **challenges** include stable funding, particularly for counseling on legal migration, and strengthening cooperation with the Ministry of Social Policy to improve anti-trafficking legislation and the activities of the Unity Centers in EU countries.

2026 priorities. The program's strategy focuses on **ensuring the safe return and reintegration of Ukrainians** from abroad, as well as **expanding assistance to vulnerable categories**, including victims of conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV). The priority is to **advocate for victims' rights** and **improve systemic approaches** to protection and support across the network.



**Strengthening
Social Cohesion**

From the beginning of 2025:

3,034 volunteers involved

1,098 facilitated events in communities (trainings for initiatives, round tables, discussions)
--

6,392 people participated in community events

Key focuses in 2025. In 2025, the Caritas Ukraine team continued **foster social cohesion** and a **community-oriented approach** through integration activities for various target groups, working with veterans and military families, community development, and systematic support for community facilitators, making social cohesion and community development a crosscutting topic in Caritas programs. The program also focused on further **nurturing a culture of volunteerism** within the network, providing spiritual support, and assisting projects with a volunteer component.

The most significant changes in the program's activities in response to the challenges of 2025. In response to the challenges of 2025, the program has refocused top work with long term volunteers, increasing youth involvement in volunteering, and developing corporate volunteering as a separate area of cooperation with businesses and partners.

Notable milestones. During the year Program provided 12 microgrants for the development of accessibility and psychosocial support in communities, developed communication standards for veterans, IDPs, and authorities, of the brochure "Community-oriented approach: A Vision That Changes Communities"; and the resumed peacebuilding efforts, strengthening communities through training local organization specialists based on the author's CUA Methodology of Integration Measures and the implementation of dialogue practices. To optimize volunteering, an online course and a mobile application were created, and volunteer work in emergency situations was systematized. The team strengthened internal CUA volunteering and developed cooperation with the State Emergency Service to help victims of shelling and blackouts.

Main challenges and needs for the program in 2026. The key **challenges** remain the complexity of dialogue among conflict groups, limited funding, and volunteers' emotional burnout. To overcome them, it is necessary to ensure stable financial support, develop tools to motivate activists, and support the professional sustainability of coordinators.

Priorities for 2026. The priorities include completing and **implementing the three-year Communication Strategy for Community Development, Volunteering, and Peacebuilding**. The program plans to scale up the original methodology of the Integration Activities Laboratory to the entire Caritas network, turning pilot practices into systemic work tools. The key focus will be on **institutionalizing the developed dialogue mechanisms** in cooperation with the authorities and further **capitalizing on the experience** through national media platforms. In the area of volunteering, the team plans to build youth and **corporate volunteering programs** and launch an **online course on first psychological aid for volunteers**. Special attention will be paid to systemic community support.

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STORIES

CARITAS UKRAINE

Story 1.

Energy in Every Acre: Meet the Kharkiv Pensioner Cultivating Hope and Harvest



A cheerful, energetic woman is Lyudmila, a pensioner from the Kharkiv region and a participant in our agricultural project.

"My pension is small. To improve my financial situation, I took up gardening and poultry farming. A little for sale... Well, okay, not quite a little, more than half," she smiles.

There are people like that, you look at them, and you want to act. Where do they get so much energy and positivity, especially now? When Ms. Lyudmila lists what she grows, she runs out of fingers on her hands: potatoes, beets, carrots, broccoli, cauliflower and white cabbage, sweet and hot peppers, cucumbers, onions, celery, leeks, tomatoes...

As soon as the Malynivska community announced the Caritas agricultural project, she applied. *"I am very grateful to Caritas. Thanks to the grant, I fulfilled my dream, I bought a greenhouse. And also, poultry and feed for it, to breed and sell. And even a good brush cutter," she smiles again.*

Ms. Lyudmila's story is an example of how not to wait, but to act. Don't give up, don't look for excuses, but find opportunities and continue to live actively.

The project is implemented by the charitable foundations Caritas Kharkiv and Caritas Poltava in partnership with Caritas Ukraine with financial support from the international humanitarian organization Catholic Relief Services (CRS).

Story 2

From Watercolor Dreams to War-Torn Realities: Vlada's Journey Home (Vladyslava, 11 years old, Tyaginka village, Kherson region)



Before the war, the girl's life was like a watercolor painting, bright, light, full of colors and dreams. She lived with her family in the village of Tyaginka in the Kherson region, together with her grandfather, he grew wheat, sunflowers, and watermelons.

Vlada loved her room very much: it was home to her toys, books, and dreams. Together with her younger brother Mykhailo, they built forts out of pillows,

invented new games, and laughed so loudly that the whole house echoed. But on February 24, 2022, everything changed...The morning began with a call from friends. And then — the sound of explosions. The earth shook. The children's dreams were interrupted by loud, terrifying blows. The family hurriedly gathered their belongings and left for the village where her husband's parents lived.

After a month away, they returned home, even though Tyahynka was already occupied. At the time, the authorities did not quite understand why everyone was whispering, why her mother was hiding her phone, why they couldn't laugh loudly or play near the gate. Her childhood seemed to freeze in the shadow of fear. But she continued to study.

Despite the threats, her eyes lit up when the online Ukrainian language lesson began. The authorities knew: she was Ukrainian, this was her school, her life, her freedom.

Her mother did not sleep at night, she was afraid for her daughter, for her son, for someone finding out about her work. There were searches, there were soldiers who took everything from their neighbors' homes. Vehicles drove down the street, and they hid behind the curtains, afraid to even breathe.

But there was one morning that changed everything. "November 11. My mother was standing at the gate. And suddenly... somewhere on the horizon, a flag. Blue and yellow. She couldn't believe it. But people ran to the center of the village, hugging each other, crying and shouting: "It's ours! We're free!"

It was a moment of true freedom. But the joy was short-lived. The Russian army began shelling the village from the left bank. And the family was forced to flee again. This time, with nothing. The house, the room, the toys, the furniture: everything disappeared under the rubble of war. Only photographs and memories remained with Vlada.

Now the girl lives in one of the villages in the Kherson region. She is 11 years old. She studies online and dreams of becoming a dentist and opening a coffee shop. She has small desires: a guitar, a motorcycle, and a big dream: to return home. To that room with pink wallpaper and the light of a child's eyes. To that world where there was no fear, only love, school, volleyball, and her mother's delicious meals.

"I dream of living in a peaceful country without war," says Vlada. And her words are like a promise to all of us.

PHOTOS

CARITAS UKRAINE



Photo 1. The mobile multidisciplinary team of Caritas Ukraine provides professional assistance to palliative patients during prolonged power outages as part of the CHANCE 2 project, Ukraine, 2025, with financial support from Erzdiözese Freiburg.



Photo 2. The Caritas Kharkiv charity kitchen team prepares a festive Christmas menu for people who have been evacuated from shelling as part of a humanitarian aid project, Kharkiv, 2025, supported by CRS, [link](#)



Photo 3. Volunteer Pilgrimage 2025



Photo 4. Children from among local residents and internally displaced persons during classes at the Caritas Kramatorsk Child-Friendly Space in Zhovti Vody, 2025. ([link](#))



Photo 5. Registration for repairment UNHCR Project 2025. Caritas Mariupul in Dnipropetrovs region



Photo 6. The Caritas Poltava team warms up those in need with tea and warm conversation during severe frosts, 2025, [link](#)

MEDIA

Caritas Ukraine in media and selected publications (specialized media, international media, international organizations):

https://elle.ua/stil-zhizni/afisha/chas-tvoriti-diva-socialni-iniciativi-do-yakih-varto-doluchitisya-ciei-zimi/	https://ecopro.academy/news/granti-ta-navchannya-dlya-rozvitku-biznesu-v-mezhah-proektu-remarket/
https://www.stern.de/politik/ausland/ukraine---ein-sehr-kleines-nadeloehr-im-sehr-grossen-krieg-36851756.html	https://caritas.pl/blog/2025/08/07/droga-superbohatera-niezwykle-szkolenie-dla-pomagajacych-dzieciom/
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https://www.vaticannews.va/uk/pope/news/2025-11/papa-caritas-internatsionalis-uvaznist-do-tykh-pro-khto-zabuti.html	on.orf.at/video/14285891/15924668/nachbar-in-not-unterstuetzt-in-der-ukraine
https://ugcc.ua/data/karitas-ukrayny-vyznachyv-novi-kroky-rozvytku-merezhi-medychnyh-tsentriv-7837/	on.orf.at/video/14285886/15924613/alltag-und-hilfe-in-der-ukraine
https://ugcc.ua/data/u-ternopoli-pry-parafiy-ugkts-zapratsyuvava-onovlena-blagodiyana-pralnya-7803/	https://www.caritas.org/2025/07/3-years-on-caritas-continues-to-bring-light-and-hope-to-ukraine-2-2/?fbclid=IwY2xjawLdIFleHRuA2FlbQIxMABicmlkETFwd2IUdVQwNGFnbmJxZERZAR7TITMcbkFmjchHi6JMLOFJbU6itFB-gEcZiIEOy8qi7pCq2hAaZhuV35XvHAaem_4xf9FzK5OHqDfiJi1liKA
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https://edyna.media/lifestyle/dosug/38655-svitlo-shto-obyednuye-blagodiyana-aktsiya-rizdvyana-svichka-karitas	https://cafod.org.uk/news/international-news/school-bags-for-ukraine
https://risu.ua/u-kyevi-prezentovali-pereklad-pershogo-apostolskogo-povchannya-papi-leva-xiv_n160130	https://www.vaticannews.va/uk/pope/news/2025-07/papa-estate-ragazzi-dity-z-ucraijiny.html?fbclid=IwQ0xDSwLTbGJleHRuA2FlbQIxMQABHvyYz5aAYd_H3FRfuxCgJqsUYDOjALdAhC_csl-9lfx67C_a7lf6CMKcP_Lm_aem_uxZHPdXXlNgNwDJB21isHg
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	levu-xiv-pro-marichku-yaku-vbyly-rosiyany-7045/
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https://cnewa.org/magazine/beacons-of-hope/	https://ugcc.ua/data/dlya-podolannya-gumanitarnoy-kryzy-potribno-diyaty-razom-karitas-ukrayny-do-epyskopiv-ugkts-6921/
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