



One Year of War in Ukraine

24th February 2023



Photo by Caritas Moldova



ONE-YEAR OF CARITAS RESPONSE IN UKRAINE

THE WORK OF CARITAS IN UKRAINE AND IN NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES

PURPOSE & CONTENTS

The purpose of this report, marking one year since the start of the Russian invasion of Ukraine and the escalation of conflict in the country, is an occasion to take stock of the work of the Caritas network in response to the humanitarian crisis in Ukraine and in neighbouring countries.

This report is by no means exhaustive, but it is meant to showcase some of the activities of Caritas member organizations involved in the response across different sectors, and to provide information on the results achieved over the past year.

Caritas Internationalis will continue collecting information from responding Caritas, including those not featured in this Report, and will update the Confederation on the response of the Caritas network to the Ukraine crisis on a monthly basis.

A special thanks goes to all the Caritas staff and volunteers who have served Ukrainian people affected by the conflict, and to those who found the time to share their achievements in this challenging environment.



Caritas Ukraine's food distribution in Kamatorsk

INTRODUCTION

- **Humanitarian Context** **Page 3**
- **Timeline of Events** **Page 4-5**
- **Current Situation** **Page 6**

THE CARITAS RESPONSE IN A SNAPSHOT

- **Overview** **Page 7**
- **Figures and Infographics** **Page 8-11**

A LOOK INTO THE PROGRAMMES

- **The Reach of the Network** **Page 12-13**
- **Food, NFIs and Cash Assistance** **Page 14**
- **Shelter, WASH and Winterization** **Page 14**
- **Health and MHPSS** **Page 15**
- **Education and Child Protection** **Page 16**
- **Protection and Safeguarding** **Page 17**

- **CONCLUSION** **Page 20**



Caritas Slovakia volunteer cooking gingerbread with refugee children.

INTRODUCTION

THE HUMANITARIAN CONTEXT

On 24 February 2022, Russian forces launched a full-scale invasion of Ukraine, marking a dramatic escalation of the conflict which had started eight years earlier after the illegal annexation of Crimea and the military confrontations in the Donbas. The Russian army quickly gained control of large swaths of Ukrainian territory in the east, north and south of the country, while its aviation and artillery started wreaking havoc upon Ukrainian cities and civilian infrastructure. A rapid mobilization of Ukrainian troops allowed them to regain large territories in the north and to secure the areas around the capital Kyiv within the first two months of the conflict. At the time of writing this report, fighting is concentrated in southern and eastern regions of Ukraine. Still, military frontlines as well as humanitarian spaces continue shifting. Humanitarian access and conditions remain particularly critical in those oblasts where the Russian Federation has declared formal annexation, namely Donetsk, Luhansk, Kherson and Zaporizhzhia. In addition to causing countless casualties and displacement among civilians, the war has heavily damaged Ukrainian infrastructure, disrupting public services and energy supplies. These compounding developments left millions of Ukrainians, inside and outside their home country, in urgent need of humanitarian assistance, often being deprived of healthcare, education and social protection, as well as water, electricity and heating. The situation turned particularly dramatic in October 2022, when Russian missile and rocket attacks intensified, leaving the population even more vulnerable with the start of winter.

On this page you will see an illustrations of some of they events which has marked the conflict in Ukraine in the past year, and of some key moments in the Caritas response. The timeline is also available on Baobab at [Caritas - Document Details - Ukraine Timeline of Events \(Caritas logo\) \(2\).pdf](#)

START OF THE CONFLICT AND FIRST RESPONSE

CONSOLIDATION OF THE CARITAS RESPONSE

18 FEBRUARY 2022

First alert of military activity in Luhansk issued by Caritas Ukraine

24 FEBRUARY 2022

Russia launches a military offensive on Ukraine

26 FEBRUARY 2022

EA03/2022 UKRAINE: Response to Large Scale Attacks

1 MARCH 2022

Over 660,000 people have fled fighting in Ukraine (UNHCR)



PICTURE: Caritas volunteers at the Dorohusk border crossing (February 29th, 2022)

5 MARCH 2022

Russian troops commit mass atrocities in Bucha, killing civilians and prisoners of war

5 MARCH 2022

EA04/2022 MOLDOVA and EA05/2022 POLAND: Emergency Response for Ukrainian Refugees



STORY: Kids from an orphanage in Donetsk region arrived in Boryslav. The children were terrified, the children were ill, they were distant, very closed to others. They did not want to even say their name or age. Caritas Boryslav tried to play with them, paint together, just to create a safe space and make contact. Gradually, children started painting with black paint - really scary things - but then bit by bit added other colors (March 2022)

1 APRIL 2022

The number of people who fled Ukraine surpasses 3.6M people (UNHCR)



PICTURE: Caritas Ivano-Frankivsk staff working with children IDPs (April 2022)

6 APRIL 2022

EA11/2022 UKRAINE SPES: Continued Response to the War in Ukraine

12 APRIL 2022

Emergency Response Support Team (ERST) for Ukrainian crisis established

15 JUNE 2022

Partners' meeting of Caritas Ukraine, Caritas Spes and Caritas Poland in Warsaw

SIX MONTHS OF WAR IN UKRAINE

24 AUGUST 2022

7.5 million people have fled Ukraine and nearly 7 million Ukrainians are internally displaced, the fastest forced population movement since the Second World War (UNHCR)

24 AUGUST 2022

Caritas Ukraine and Caritas SPES release a press statement: "Stop the conflict immediately". Caritas starts preparing its winterization and education activities.



PICTURE (right): Volunteers in Caritas Ternopil delivering winterization assistance.

10 OCTOBER 2022

Massive missile strikes by Russia hit several regions and cities in Ukraine, hitting energy infrastructures. Homes of 2.3 million people are damaged or destroyed.

10 OCTOBER 2022

CI and Caritas Ukraine releases Statement condemning the attacks

30 DECEMBER 2022

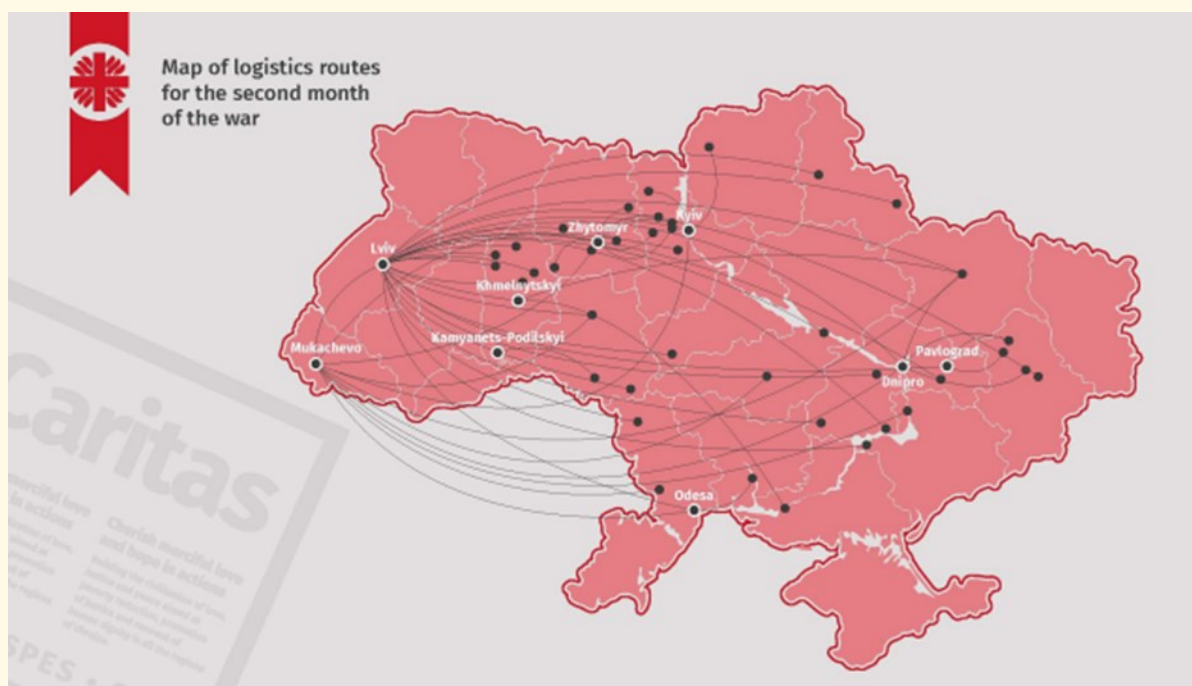
EA31/2022 UKRAINE for Humanitarian Response in 2023

24 FEBRUARY 2023

After Ukrainian troops liberate Kherson on November 11, Russian forces continue shelling the city until February 2023. As of 24 February 2023, hostilities in Ukraine continue, and Caritas organizations are engaged in planning and delivering the response for the new year.

CURRENT SITUATION

One year into the war, the future remains uncertain. Regular attacks on civilian targets continue to inflict casualties and to destroy important infrastructure, leaving millions without essential services and energy supplies. Military confrontations remain particularly intense in the East, where a recent Russian offensive on Bakhmut reduced the population by over 97% and left the city in ruins. The nearby settlement of Soledar was occupied by Russian forces in January 2023. Through the first weeks of 2023, fighting has been reported around Zaporizhzhia, Svatove and Kremmina, in the Luhansk area, and numerous airstrikes have continued to destroy civilian infrastructure across Ukraine, causing shortages in water and energy supplies. During the Catholic and Orthodox holiday seasons, many Ukrainians sought safety in bomb shelters, often having lost or being separated from their dear ones. By New Year's Eve, an alert was issued across all districts of Ukraine, as Russian forces were shelling major cities, including Dnipro, Kherson, Kirovohrad, Kyiv, Kharkiv, Odesa, Lviv, and Zhytomyr. Countless homes, hospitals and schools have been destroyed, and **18,817 civilian casualties** have been recorded (OHCHR, February 2023). In the areas most hardly hit by the war, up to 50% of health facilities are partially or completely non-functional, and a total of **5.7 million students** have been directly affected. According to the WHO, nearly a quarter of the Ukrainian population is at risk of developing a mental health condition. In the words of Rosemary DiCarlo, UN Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, 'has created a humanitarian and human rights catastrophe, traumatized a generation of children, and accelerated the global food and energy crises'. Constant efforts are needed to reach those in need of humanitarian assistance, and to mitigate the impact of the war on the lives of million Ukrainians.



THE CARITAS RESPONSE IN A SNAPSHOT

AN OVERVIEW

When Russian troops invaded the Ukrainian territory on 24 February 2022, Caritas organizations in the country had already alerted the Confederation about the military escalation in Luhansk. Its staff was already there, and when the war erupted, it lost no time in relieving the suffering of the civilian population, joined by countless volunteers and local heroes. Diocesan Caritas and local parishes were the first to assist people impacted by the war, and to offer safety to those on the move, opening their spaces as temporary shelters. While member organizations inside and outside Ukraine were mobilizing resources in solidarity with the Ukrainian people, Caritas Ukraine and Caritas SPES personnel were already on the ground delivering food, clothing, hygiene kits, and medicines.

When Ukrainian people were forced to leave their land, Caritas staff and volunteers from neighboring countries were ready to receive them across the border and to respond to their basic needs. Within the first month of the conflict, four Emergency Appeals in Ukraine and in neighboring countries had been launched. By the end of 2022, 10 Emergency Appeals were launched, in addition to another 35 bilateral projects implemented by national and local Caritas. Thanks to the tireless work of about **6,000 Caritas staff** and **almost 35,000 volunteers**, the network was able to reach out to an estimated number of **3M beneficiaries in Ukraine** and of **2.3M beneficiaries in neighboring countries**, across multiple sectors as shown in the infographics below.

The **129 Caritas centers** across Ukraine and the neighboring counties were often the first and only spaces where conflict-afflicted people could find safety, receive basic services, and be referred to specialized support, usually through a customized case management system. Member organizations, institutions and private donors were able to mobilize around **EUR 135 million** for the Ukraine response. For Emergency Appeals alone, 153 separate contributions arrived from sister organizations and entities from all over the world, and EUR 6 million were raised through a CI's private fundraising campaign.

The Caritas Confederation was united in offering solidarity by sharing resources, expertise, good practices, and human support. Over the past year, the Emergency Response Support Team (ERST) and the supporting member organizations worked closely with responding Caritas in Ukraine and in neighboring countries. It was a joint effort of staff, volunteers and supporters, with an invaluable contribution from newly recruited Ukrainians who joined Caritas teams inside and outside of their country.

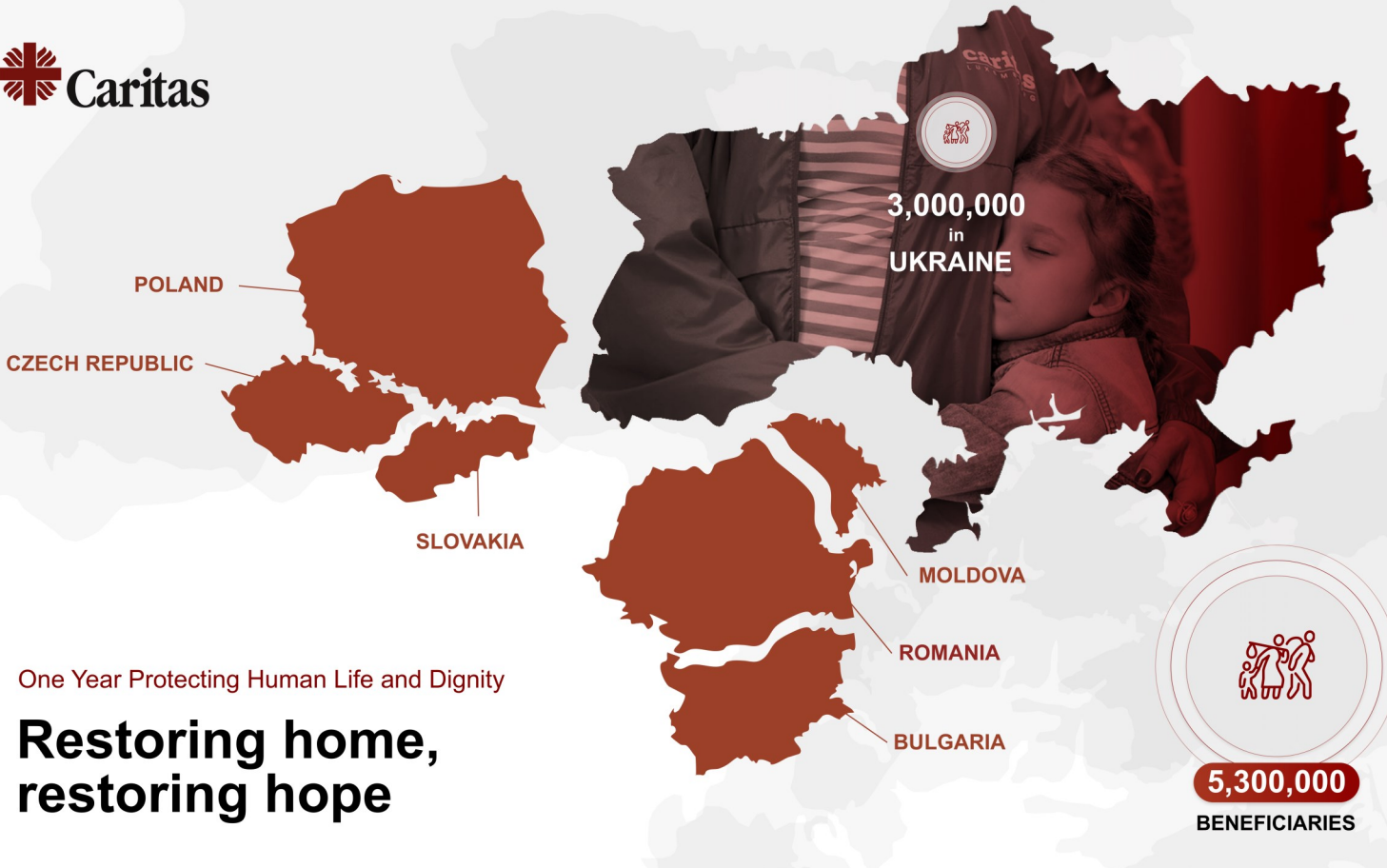
The information presented below shows some of the results achieved since the start of the war by Caritas Ukraine, Caritas SPES, Caritas Poland, Caritas Romania, Caritas Czech Republic, Caritas Slovakia, Caritas Moldova and Caritas Bulgaria. The data shown are derived from figures provided by the national Caritas and represent an estimation based on the most recent information available to them, according to their MEAL and registration systems. The objective is to illustrate the number of beneficiaries reached and of services delivered across different sectors inside Ukraine and in neighboring countries. Unfortunately, it was not possible at this stage to include the achievements of all supporting and responding Caritas, as well as local Caritas organizations, engaged in the response.

The full infographics on One Year of Caritas Response are available on Baobab at the following link:

[Caritas - One Year Anniversary of War in Ukraine](#)

FIGURES AND INFOGRAPHICS

UKRAINE AND NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES



One Year Protecting Human Life and Dignity

Restoring home, restoring hope

CARITAS SPES AND CARITAS UKRAINE



One Year Protecting Human Life and Dignity

Restoring home, restoring hope



Number of Services Provided

| Service Category | Caritas Spes | Caritas Ukraine |
|-------------------------------|--------------|-----------------|
| Food & Non-food items | 1,807,960 | 1,906,176 |
| Shelter | 284,015 | 353,393 |
| Health & Psychosocial support | 62,637 | 130,347 |
| Protection | 79,725 | 296,988 |
| WASH | 846,527 | 691,112 |
| Cash assistance | 11,742 | 95,852 |

CARITAS POLAND



One Year Protecting Human Life and Dignity

Restoring home, restoring hope

Beneficiaries



15,704,597
Food & Non- Food Items Delivered*

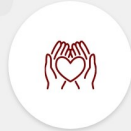
*This figure is referred to the number of units distributed



176,000
Shelter



64,000
Health & Psychosocial support



255,031
Protection



7,287
Education

POLAND

One Year of War in Ukraine
24th February 2023

CARITAS ROMANIA



One Year Protecting Human Life and Dignity

Restoring home, restoring hope

Beneficiaries



11,916
Food & Non-food items



2,588
Shelter



537
Education



2,540
Protection



2,712
WASH

ROMANIA

One Year of War in Ukraine
24th February 2023



One Year Protecting Human Life and Dignity

Restoring home, restoring hope

Beneficiaries



34,331

Food & Non-food items



10,862

Shelter



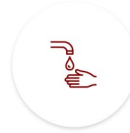
22,583

Health & Psychosocial support



135,067

Protection



2,652

WASH

MOLDOVA

One Year of War in Ukraine
24th February 2023

CARITAS SLOVAKIA



One Year Protecting Human Life and Dignity

Restoring home, restoring hope

Beneficiaries



66,113

Food & Non-food items



894

Shelter



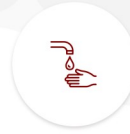
137

Health & Psychosocial support



3,432

Protection



36,510

WASH



7,905

Education

SLOVAKIA

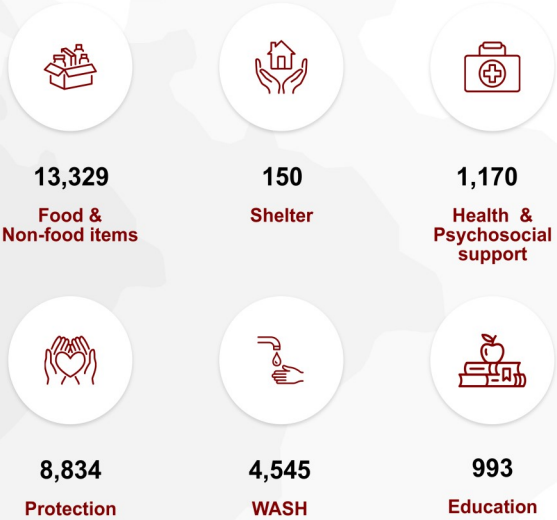
One Year of War in Ukraine
24th February 2023



One Year Protecting Human Life and Dignity

Restoring home, restoring hope

Beneficiaries



CZECH REPUBLIC

24th February 2023

CARITAS BULGARIA



One Year Protecting Human Life and Dignity

Restoring home, restoring hope

Beneficiaries



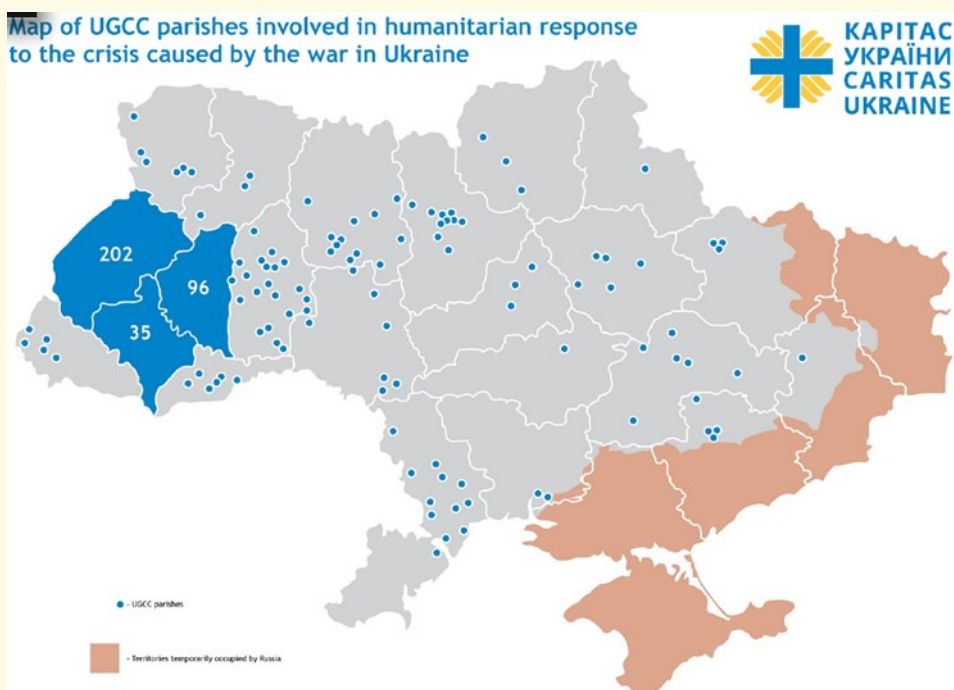
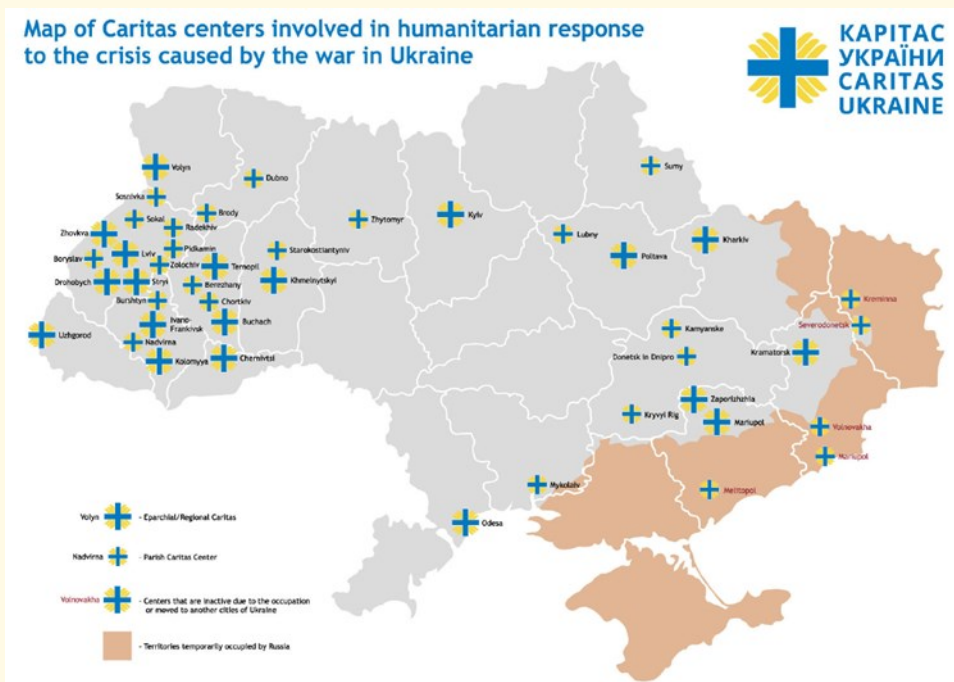
BULGARIA

24th February 2023

A LOOK INTO THE PROGRAMMES

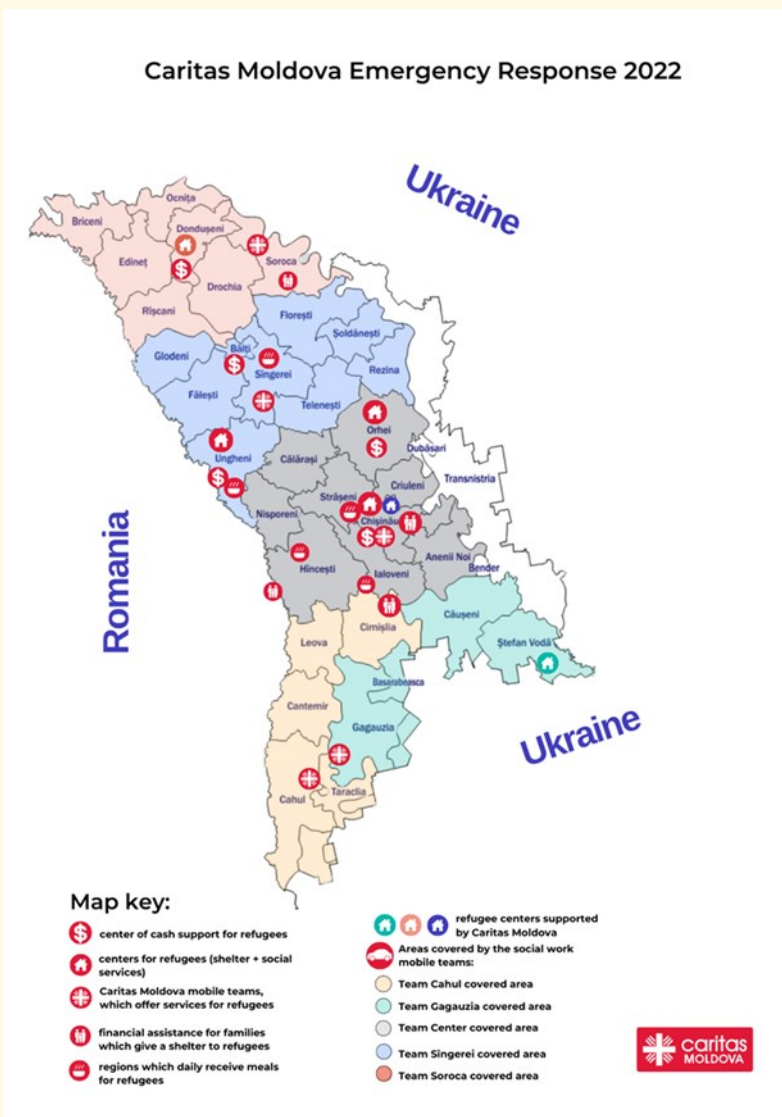
THE REACH OF THE NETWORK

Over the past year, Caritas organizations inside Ukraine and in neighboring countries, with the support of the Confederation, were able to reach **5.3M beneficiaries**. This result was possible thanks to the tireless work of Caritas staff and volunteers disseminated across the territory. The first emergency responses sprung from local parishes and then organized around Caritas centers at the Diocesan level, the major hubs for the Caritas response to the humanitarian crisis caused by the conflict. This map produced by Caritas Ukraine gives an idea of its geographic outreach, and of the number of local centers involved in the response.



A LOOK INTO THE PROGRAMMES

The capillary nature of the Caritas network, the commitment of its personnel and the solidarity from the whole Confederation, allowed Caritas to cater to the basic needs of people affected and displaced by the war, providing emergency food, essential items, medicines, hygiene kits, and shelter in proximity of conflict areas, in safe spaces across the country, and beyond the borders of Ukraine. The emergency aspects of the response required an impressive logistic effort. Caritas Ukraine alone mobilized **2,115 tons of humanitarian convoys** and distributed **9,819 tons of food kits** since the beginning of the conflict. Caritas SPES was able to dispatch **456 cargo vehicles** and distribute **5,076 tons of emergency aid**. As the conflict unfolded, Caritas teams expanded the volume and the variety of their activities, launching multi-purpose cash interventions, offering social services, and developing case management systems to protect beneficiaries and respond to their specific needs. While Caritas distribution points in Ukraine and at the borders remained fundamental to deliver emergency assistance throughout the conflict, the establishment of Caritas integrated centers responded to the increasing complexity of needs as the conflict continued and longer term solutions became necessary. As another illustration of the reach of the Caritas network, the map on the right, produced by Caritas Moldova, shows the geographic distribution of its centers and its mobile teams, who reached beneficiaries with a variety of services, such as food packages, vouchers, NFIs, medical care, and counseling.



Over the past year, national and local Caritas exchanged information, best practices and lessons learned to find innovative solutions and overcome the numerous challenges they faced. In the next paragraphs, you will find some highlights from the programmes implemented by Caritas organizations in Ukraine and in neighboring countries, across different sectors.

FOOD, NFIs AND CASH ASSISTANCE

Some of the first emergency actions carried out by responding Caritas organizations consisted in the distribution of food baskets, cash and essential items to the people affected by the conflict in Ukraine, largely women and children. These were among the priority sectors through the first six months of the response, and continued as new areas were hit by military operations and new waves of displaced people sought refuge in safer locations. Distribution points and mobile teams were established across Ukraine, at borders and in neighboring countries to deliver food parcels, vouchers, clothing and other NFIs. Out of a total **5.3M people served** through the Caritas response, this sector represented one of the largest interventions in terms of beneficiaries reached. Inside Ukraine alone, over **3.7M food parcels** were distributed since the beginning of the conflict.

Picture: Distribution of hot meals at the Kovel railway station (Caritas Ukraine, March 2022)



Caritas Poland distributed food and NFIs through its “Tents of Hope” at various distribution points around Poland. At all 8 border-crossings with Ukraine, new arrivals could rest for a moment, get first-necessity assistance (food, heating, child care) and receive information on transportation, accommodation and other services.

SHELTER, WASH AND WINTERIZATION

The outreach of the Caritas network allowed national and local organizations to receive thousands of Ukrainian people affected by the war, whose houses were often destroyed and whose hometowns were unsafe. Numerous religious buildings opened their doors and were often the first places where displaced people could find safety. Inside Ukraine and in neighboring countries, the Caritas network provided shelter to almost **500,000 people**, in addition to other forms of rent support and cash assistance. Shelters were established and maintained as healthy environments respecting standards of hygiene. For example, all refugee centers run by *Caritas Moldova* are connected to water sources and have access to WASH facilities that meet minimum Sphere standards, ensuring the welfare and dignity of Ukrainians. WASH facilities such as running water, showers, and laundry services are available and functioning for all refugees. Each refugee received a hygiene kit containing soap, shampoo, toothbrush, toothpaste, diapers, and hygiene kits for women. Caritas shelters became important centers for the distribution of food, NFIs, and hygiene kits, as well as for the provision and referral to other services. For its Emergency Appeal, *Caritas SPES* established 10 transition centers in conflict-affected areas – including Kyiv, Kharkiv, Dnipro, Odesa, Zaporizhzhia – and 26 longer-term shelters or residential camps.

Picture: Mother and daughter in a Caritas-run centre for displaced people outside of Lviv. Photo taken by Mickael Franci for Cordaid (Caritas SPES, May 2022)



The presence of Caritas shelters and centers across Ukraine and in neighboring countries was fundamental for the organization of winterization activities at the onset of the conflict, and for the preparations for the cold season, beginning at the end of summer 2022. The coming of winter in Ukraine coincided with the intensification of shelling and missile attacks on Ukrainian cities, targeting in particular energy supplies. The Caritas network provided fuel and heating material, enabling thousands of households to cope with harsh winter temperatures.

HEALTH AND MHPSS

The war has had a heavy impact on the physical and mental health of the civilian population, injuring countless people, affecting **763 hospitals** and disrupting healthcare services across Ukraine. Millions of people have been left without access to healthcare facilities, and WHO estimates that some **14.5 million people** in Ukraine were in need of health assistance in 2022, in particular those with vulnerabilities and chronic conditions. Through the Caritas response, about **120,000 Ukrainians** have received or have been referred to medical services, in addition to those who accessed medicines through NFI kits or cash assistance. An important element of the Caritas response was the provision of mental health and psychosocial support services, adapted to different contexts and groups of people. For example, the “House of Hope” in Odesa, run by *Caritas SPES*, supports vulnerable families, and since the escalation of the conflict is providing emergency NFIs, hygiene kits and medical/psychological assistance to IDPs in Odesa and people affected by the conflict in Mykolaiv. The team was also able to organize other forms of community-based psychosocial activities. Like other Caritas, *Caritas Romania* recruited Ukrainian-speaking psychologists to offer psychological support to individuals and groups, but also to children attending Caritas educational programs. *Caritas Czech Republic* has provided psychological care and assistance to refugees in the Czech Republic and at the border, and has reached internally displaced people in the Lviv region. It deployed psychologists, social workers and counselors, and trained local staff and volunteers in psychosocial practices.

Picture: Caritas Czech Republic staff offering psychological support to an internally displaced person in Brody, Lviv region (May 2022)



"Psychological support is one of the core services that humanitarian organizations can currently provide. We are therefore trying to transfer knowledge from the Czech Republic to our colleagues in Ukraine, who are now directly helping people on the ground," explains Evžen Diviš, *Caritas Czech Republic* regional manager.

EDUCATION AND CHILD PROTECTION

Education has been one of the most challenging sectors in the Caritas response. The International Day of Education, on January 24th, was an important moment to take stock of the impact of war, which has disrupted education services for over **5 million Ukrainian children**. This figure includes students in Ukraine who are attending school through a mix of in-presence and online education, which is often disrupted due to unsafety and lack of electricity, and Ukrainian students abroad, the majority of whom are not formally enrolled in the host countries' education systems. One main challenge lies in the fact that, while Caritas organizations can support education activities, they cannot substitute education institutions. For instance, *Caritas Romania* reported less than 10% of the **47,500 school-aged Ukrainian refugees** are registered in Romanian schools. Yet, the Caritas network has supported the learning of pupils in the Ukrainian school system and facilitated the attendance of classes remotely, in addition to providing parental assistance and safe spaces for education. National and local Caritas supported pupils with educational and recreational material. It offered local language courses to teenagers and adults as well, to facilitate integration, employability and access to other services. In neighboring countries, Caritas has supported about *20,000 Ukrainian students*, taking into consideration also the social and emotional role that school plays in the development of children. Initiatives where Ukrainian and local children attended schools or kindergartens together took place, for instance, in Bulgaria and in Moldova, showing the sense of trust for Caritas within local communities. In Ukraine as in neighboring countries, education was accompanied by light psychosocial and recreational activities, taking place in youth clubs, kindergartens and child-friendly spaces.



For *Caritas Ukraine*, an important aspect in the protection of IDP children and families was the creation of a team and space where the children could feel themselves in a safe environment. A center for mother and child "*Yanholiatko*" (little angel) was established, where children spent time in the circle of animators and felt safe. Parents bring their children to the center and have time to complete paperwork and register for assistance.

In Focus: Since September 2022, Caritas organizations in Romania have opened seven educational centers for children from Ukraine. These centers offer the support for children continuing their education in Ukraine via online schooling and distance learning. All of them are registered in Ukrainian schools so that their formal education is not interrupted. Additionally, the centers offered activities for children, teenagers and youth, including social clubs and summer schools. Education of their children became one of the major concerns of Ukrainian families living in Romania, especially when realizing that they might stay in Romania for a longer period. During the spring months, some children were able to participate in distance learning organized by schools in Ukraine. Romanian schools offered the possibility to attend school as “auditors”, but only a very small number of children actually attended school in Romania. As a first step to support children from Ukraine in their education, the social service centers in Baia Mare, Bucharest, Oradea and Satu Mare organized summer schools for children of all age groups (preschool, primary school, secondary schools). These summer schools have the aim to support children to recover what they have missed since February 2022, but also to spend their time in a meaningful way. Regular participation in these school activities (three to five days a week) helps also the families to resume a daily routine and a more organized life. All teachers (except Romanian language teachers) were recruited from the Ukrainian community and are paid by Caritas. The social service center in Bucharest employed a Ukrainian specialist for therapy and activities for children with disabilities, who is working individually with children, whose families request this kind of support. There is a high demand for this kind of service (which is not offered by any other organization) and the program will be further developed.

Picture: Caritas Romania Education Center in Oradea (September 2022)



PROTECTION AND SAFEGUARDING

In order to protect all people involved in Caritas programmes, at the start of the crisis, different CI member organisations coordinated to produce awareness raising material on safeguarding and on the risk of human trafficking of people displaced in Ukraine or fleeing the country, with a fundamental support from *Caritas Europe*. A dedicated safeguarding focal point was part of the Emergency Response Support Team (ERST) to accompany the affected member organizations in Ukraine and in neighbouring countries. In parallel, several member organisations provided bilateral support (e.g. on safe recruitment, policy development, roll-out, and training). The CI Introduction to Safeguarding e-learning was translated and published in Hungarian, Polish and Ukrainian. Member organisations who submitted an Emergency Appeal as part of the Ukraine response have been assessed or are currently being assessed against the global CI Safeguarding Management Standard. Within *Caritas SPES Ukraine*, there is a training programme in place to ensure all staff are aware of CSU safeguarding policies and procedures and focal points at National office and diocesan level are in place. A feedback and complaint mechanism has been set up for all project sites and visibility and awareness of the hotline number was high among programme participants. “There is a hotline so staff, volunteers and programme participants can make a complaint or report something” (CSU staff). A policy around the management of sensitive and non-sensitive complaints was adopted at the diocesan and national level. In parallel with the development of safeguarding policies and with the design of safe and dignified programming, national and local Caritas rolled out activities to ensure the safety and well-being of beneficiaries. Over **600,000 Ukrainian people** have been involved in protection and social support services.

Picture: Recreational summer camp at Beskid Żywiecki (Caritas Poland, September 2022)



In Focus: Caritas Poland developed a number of social integration and protection services tailored to the different groups attending their centres. The aim of this component was to generate a greater sense of independence, integration with the local community as well as among other refugees, and to foster greater social cohesion. Each Centre offered a package of social and community services. These activities ranged from child-friendly and adult group activities to larger community-building events, including, among others choir groups, book clubs, film projections or sport events. The majority of Centres have launched thematic group activities, ranging from senior support groups, single mothers support groups to art workshops. Some of the most successful activities featured support groups for the elderly, for women, for parents, and for children, which were facilitated by professionals and saw the participation of people from the refugee as well as from the host community. For instance, participants of the “Senior Club”, both Ukrainian and Polish, could spend time together learning their respective culture, language or habits, and attend cultural or recreational activities in their cities. During summer, 4,000 Ukrainian refugee children were included in the Caritas Holiday Action and took part in Polish-Ukrainian summer camps financed by Caritas Poland. The organized activities consisted of an educational and recreational programme, social cohesion and psychotherapeutic activities as well as various types of workshops (artistic, culinary, popular science). Meetings were also organized with representatives of various professions, including policemen, firemen, and paramedics.

CONCLUSION

This year of war has inflicted great suffering on the people of Ukraine, leaving visible as well as invisible scars. Thanks to the unrelenting work of Caritas staff, volunteers and local heroes who reached out their hands to those in need, the network was able to have an impact on the lives of 5.3M people affected by the conflict. Different Caritas organizations offered support in the form of food, clothing, shelter or social services, among others. They represented a place of safety for people fleeing the horrors of war, many of whom are women, children and elderly. Caritas centers, in spite of the many challenges, are places where people can experience warmth and a sense of normalcy.

Caritas staff inside and outside Ukraine will continue working to strengthen their response for 2023 and will always remain close to those affected by the war, adapting to changing contexts and catering to the specific needs of beneficiaries.

Over the next months, Caritas Internationalis will keep updating the Confederation on the activities and on the achievements of the member organizations responding to the crisis in Ukraine and in neighboring countries. This will be an opportunity also to dedicate more space to the programmes implemented by the network, highlighting challenges, best practices and lessons learned.

We would like to conclude this report by quoting the words of hope expressed by Father Vyacheslav, Director of Caritas-Spes Ukraine, and by Tetiana Stawnychy, President of Caritas Ukraine.

"I don't believe the war will end just by concluding a peace treaty. The war will only end when we are able to forgive all those terrible things we've witnessed, when we rebuild not only our homes but also restore our souls and memories. What's most difficult is that the pictures of war will be flashing through our minds all our life. However, I realise that Church, love and hope are remedies. We can share these remedies with people who are close to us'."*

Father Vyacheslav, Director Caritas-Spes Ukraine

"Our response is related to our core: on the one hand, toe are the community that cares about the safety of everyone teho belongs to it, and on the other hand, toe are the community that is united around the mission of helping those in need. For me, every visit to our local centers is like a breath of fresh air. Their sense of community, mission and perseverance in fulfilling our mission and doing good is very noticeable. They really appreciate this opportunity to serve others and, to some extent, it is also a healing moment, not only for those tee help, but also for ourselves. So, overall, I think this passion to help people in need continues, it's just a matter of discerning in each circumstance how best to do it."

Tetiana Stawnychy, President of Caritas Ukraine

The present Report as well as other material produced on the occasion of the one year of the war on Ukraine are available on Baobab at the following link: [Caritas - One Year Anniversary of War in Ukraine](#)