

Caritas Poland



# REPORT 2022

**412,000**

PEOPLE IN NEED HAVE RECEIVED  
FOOD AID IN POLAND

**47,500**

CHILDREN IN THE COUNTRY  
RECEIVED MATERIAL, EDUCATIONAL  
AND PSYCHOLOGICAL SUPPORT

**PLN 113 m**

NEARLY THAT MUCH WAS THE VALUE  
OF THE SUPPORT PROVIDED TO UKRAINE

**PLN 63 m**

HAS BEEN DONATED BY CARITAS  
POLAND TO HELP THE PEOPLE IN  
NEED IN COUNTRIES IN CRISIS

MORE THAN **PLN 320 MILLION**  
IS THE TOTAL VALUE OF THE  
SUPPORT CARITAS POLAND  
PROVIDED IN 2022.



ACTIVITIES  
IN POLAND



ACTIVITIES  
ABROAD



ACTIVITIES  
FOR UKRAINE



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The report covers the activities of Caritas Poland  
and diocesan Caritas from January to the end  
of December 2022.

THE FINANCIAL INFORMATION PRESENTED  
IN THIS PUBLICATION IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE  
OR UPDATE.



# TO SPEAK OF WELCOME IS TO RECEIVE

*It is true that the decision to leave is often dictated by fear, above all when persecution and violence force one to flee, and the abandonment of family and possessions that to some extent made survival possible comes as a shock. However, suffering, tremendous loss and often a sense of alienation ... do not nullify the dream of rebuilding life, with hope and courage, in a foreign country. In fact, those who migrate trust that they will be welcomed, receive solidarity assistance and meet people who, understanding the difficulties and tragedy of their neighbors, and recognizing their different values and resources, will be ready to show human kindness and share material goods (...).*

**Message of Pope Benedict XVI for the 99th World Migrant and Refugee Day**

The refugee crisis, which so far in our country appeared to be geographically distant and mentally, last year became ours. Although it sounds paradoxical, it was not a phenomenon to be considered solely in terms of drama.

For decades, we have had the comfort that in speaking out about the multitude of people leaving their homes, we could, soothing our conscience, speak of the need to welcome and support them. Today, words are no longer enough. We have to reckon with the fact that to speak of welcoming means to receive, because the refugees are among us.

Since the outbreak of the war in Ukraine, that is, almost all of last year, we as a society have had the opportunity to open up to others and test ourselves in action. As Pope Benedict XVI writes in the quoted passage, those who migrate trust that they will be welcomed.

In retrospect, we can say that this trust has not been disappointed. Before my eyes are the multitudes of volunteers who were at the border at the most difficult moment to welcome, feed, comfort, help. I pray for them, as well as for those who opened their homes to the refugees. This is extremely uplifting. I must admit that the involvement of people of good will has made the task of our organization easier. All of the programs and campaigns we have set up in quick succession to serve refugees and the people of Ukraine who remain in their homeland have received tremendous support. Thanks to donors, for months we have been able to efficiently provide material, financial, psychological, administrative assistance, conduct

integration classes, and provide shelter. The scale of this assistance is shown by the numbers, presented in the publication Caritas Poland. Report 2022, which we place in your hands.

The report captures, of course, not only the commitment to Ukraine, but the entirety of Caritas' last year's activities, confirming the fact that while sharing with our sisters and brothers across the eastern border, we did not limit the aid we provided at home. This was possible both thanks to the generosity of donors and the exceptional mobilization of forces within the organization itself. We carried out food support, assistance to seniors, the sick, the excluded, right up to material, educational and psychological support for children, often with better results than in previous years. Nor have we abandoned our efforts to help the poorest in countries facing humanitarian crises. We maintained the extremely difficult mission in Yemen by implementing health assistance there, implemented another edition of the Parcel for Venezuela program, expanded our largest foreign aid program Family to Family, responded to emergencies related to natural disasters and strengthened cooperation with Polish missionaries working around the world. At the same time, we took further steps important to the organization's institutional development and conducted the advocacy that is so vital to our work. I strongly encourage you to read the report and learn more about these and many other steps we took last year in pursuit of our core mission - the mission of mercy.

*Jos. Marcin Iżycki*

**Father Marcin Iżycki**  
Director of Caritas Poland



# RESPONSE TO THE CRISIS

MADE POSSIBLE  
BY EXPERIENCE



**IN THE SHORT SPAN OF THREE YEARS, AID ORGANIZATIONS IN POLAND HAVE TWICE FACED EMERGENCY SITUATIONS. THE FIRST WAS THE RESULT OF A PANDEMIC, WHILE THE SECOND WAS THE AFTERMATH OF RUSSIA'S INVASION OF INDEPENDENT UKRAINE IN 2022. FATHER MARCIN IŻYCKI, DIRECTOR OF CARITAS POLAND, TALKS ABOUT HOW CARITAS POLAND USES ITS EXPERIENCE IN SUCH SITUATIONS**

**Father Director, in the past year the public space has been dominated by a single topic - the attack on independent Ukraine. The outbreak of war is almost always a sudden event, fraught with many new and urgent challenges. How has Caritas Poland found itself in such difficult circumstances?**

The outbreak of war so close to the Polish borders has refocused the daily activities of part of Polish society on the need to provide immediate, unconditional aid to our Ukrainian sisters and brothers. Caritas Poland was one of the organizations that, from the very first days, became most involved in direct relief efforts for Ukrainian refugees. The experience of Caritas, built up in daily activities for the benefit of the other at home and abroad, resulted in a firm and broad involvement in supporting a new group of needy people for whom aid had to be organized in a short period of time - first at the border and then throughout the country.

**How did Caritas Poland carry out its mission in these activities? What made this particular organization able to respond so quickly and extensively to the urgent need that arose on our eastern border and beyond?**

Our greatest asset is our close cooperation with the network of diocesan Caritas, which on a daily basis provides tangible assistance to those most in need, regardless of external conditions, even as difficult as during the COVID-19 pandemic, since the goal of Caritas is to support those in need, and

these are most numerous precisely in emergency situations. Working hand in hand with partners at home and abroad, we were able to coordinate very quickly the collection of the necessary material resources - financial and in-kind - and get them to the places where they were most needed. As always, the support of thousands of Caritas volunteers throughout Poland proved invaluable. It was thanks to their commitment that we were able to bring aid to the border in the first weeks of the war. It was they who were on duty day and night to receive the refugees after their exhausting journey - hungry, frozen and scared. They were there of their own free will, because for them - as for Caritas as a whole - the most important thing is the person. Along with his needs, including the intangible ones, arising from the need to create good relationships.

**From what I hear, this support for refugees was a natural response for Caritas to meet the need. Has it hindered in any way its efforts to serve its existing beneficiaries - those in need in Poland?**

On the contrary! Such wide-ranging support for Ukrainians fleeing war has been possible precisely because of the effective integration of activities on the eastern border with the daily activities of Caritas Poland, including, above all, the projects in which we have gathered the most experience to date. Years of coordinating support for children have made it possible to more effectively support this group of refugees, which is, after all, the most vulnerable in the face of war. The same has been true of food aid and many other fields in which Caritas Poland operates. Crucially, however,

by increasing our involvement in helping migrants and refugees, we have by no means reduced the aid provided in Poland. In 2022, we continued almost all projects carried out in our most important areas. We also promoted the central role of the common good and human dignity, which we view through the prism of the Church's social teaching and integral ecology. We have also supported those in need outside Poland, providing development and humanitarian assistance in thirty-three countries on four continents. In a word, we have committed ourselves to supporting Ukraine, not only not limiting the aid we have provided so far, but actually taking advantage of the synergistic effects that arise from combining experience, good cooperation in domestic and foreign networks, and the generosity of Poles who have opened their hearts even wider than before.

**In the words of the Father Director, it is clear how large the scope of Caritas Poland's activities is. What are the plans for 2023? Will it be possible to continue such dynamic development?**

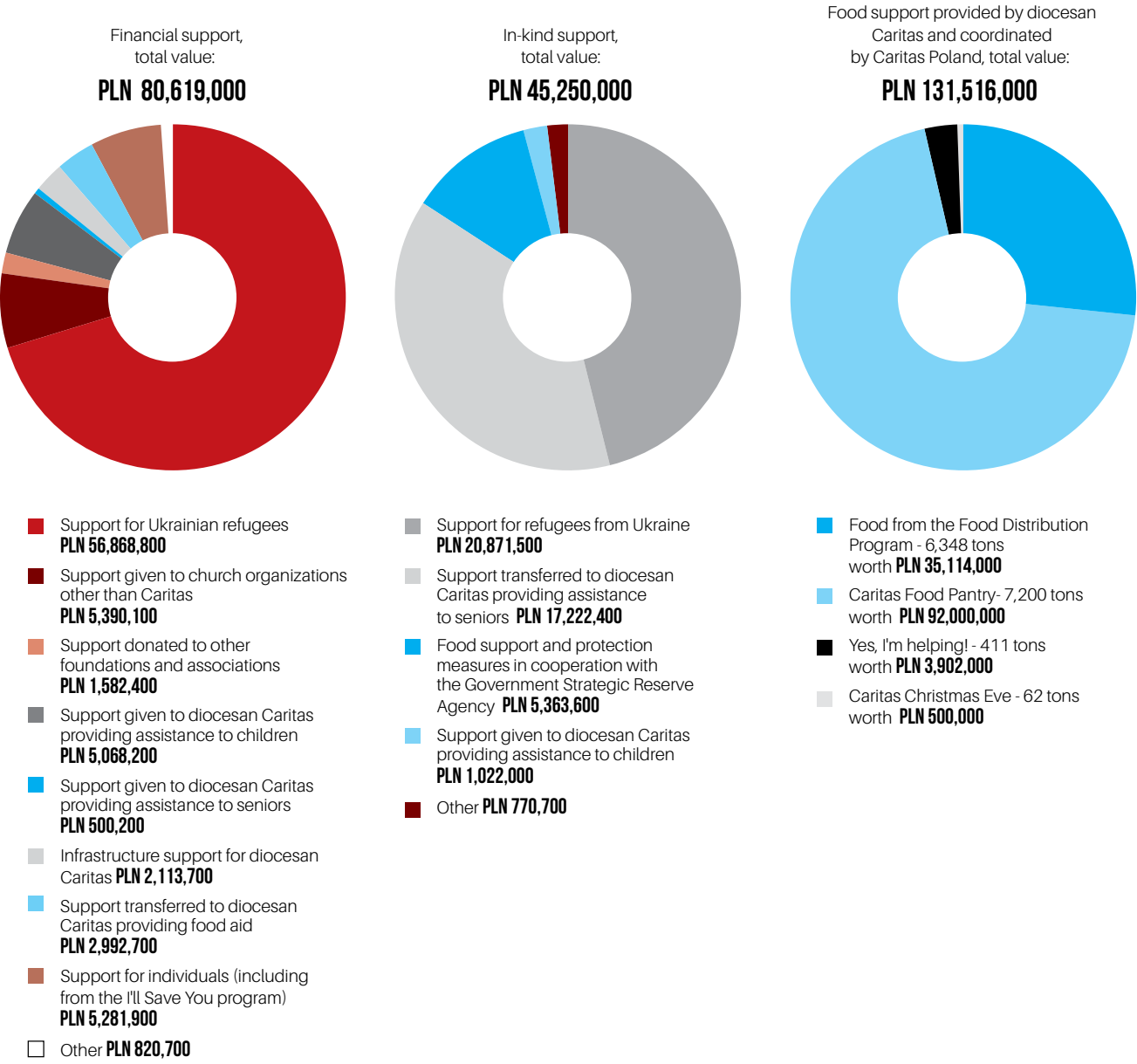
This will certainly be an important challenge. Further professionalization of operations is essential for this, which means, among other things, adopting and implementing the management standards developed in previous years by our international partners in the Caritas Internationalis network. Our overriding goal, however, will remain to provide assistance to those in need, both materially and more broadly socially. To this end, we will carry out active advocacy work to ensure that the voice of the disadvantaged and marginalized is increasingly heard at the level of public policies and central regulations. In 2023, one of our priorities will also be to continue the development of active volunteerism in the Caritas network in Poland, based on existing aid projects, but also on the initiatives of volunteers themselves. We will address difficult and topical issues, such as integral ecology and social exclusion, magnified by the current economic situation. The axis of our stakeholders' activities, however, will remain human dignity, which, realized through love of neighbor, is the overriding principle of Catholic social teaching.

**INTERVIEWED** Marcin Kawko





SUPPORT PROVIDED TO INSTITUTIONS AND ORGANIZATIONS IN POLAND BY CARITAS POLAND IN 2022.



MORE THAN **PLN 257 MILLION**  
IS THE VALUE OF AID PROVIDED AND  
COORDINATED IN THE COUNTRY BY CARITAS  
POLAND IN 2022.



# INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND THE CRISIS SITUATION

**ESTABLISHING COOPERATION WITH A NUMBER OF CHARITABLE ORGANIZATIONS, STRENGTHENING COOPERATION WITHIN THE CARITAS EUROPA AND CARITAS INTERNATIONALIS NETWORKS, STRUCTURAL AND INFRASTRUCTURAL CHANGES — THESE ARE JUST A FEW OF THE ACHIEVEMENTS THAT CARITAS POLAND HAS MADE IN THE PAST EXTREMELY DIFFICULT YEAR, ACHIEVING THE SET GOAL OF INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT.**

Caritas Poland, while providing assistance in the spirit of Catholic social teaching, must not overlook such an important aspect as self-development, allowing it to adapt to evolving social conditions, the development of modes of communication and many other variables. In doing so, it must also maintain total professionalism in the choice of methods and tools it uses. The successful implementation of Caritas Poland's strategic goals can only be accomplished by ensuring the further development of organizational competence, professionalization and the implementation of high standards of management, with transparency and accountability to beneficiaries, donors and partners. It might seem that 2022, marked by the refugee crisis, was not a year conducive to achieving the organization's development goals. Meanwhile, the need to organize immediate, efficient aid made it possible to strengthen cooperation with the Caritas Europa and Caritas Internationalis networks, make changes in the structure of Caritas Poland related to an increase in the number of jobs, and develop the infrastructure necessary for the efficient transport of humanitarian aid and the provision of professional support to refugees.

TEXT Marcin Kawko

## Key achievements in the institutional development of Caritas Poland in 2022

1

### SIGNIFICANTLY INCREASED COOPERATION WITH PARTNERS IN THE CARITAS NETWORK:

- Caritas Poland worked with 40 partners from across the Caritas Internationalis network,
- received support from partners for a total amount of almost PLN 51.5 million,
- representatives of 5 cooperating partners from the Caritas network resided permanently in the Caritas Poland office.

2

### CARITAS POLAND HAS ESTABLISHED CLOSER COOPERATION WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS SUCH AS UNHCR, IOM AND UNICEF.

3

### THE SCOPE OF SUPPORT PROVIDED TO MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES HAS BEEN EXPANDED:

- The Center for Assistance to Migrants and Refugees in Warsaw has gained a new - larger and better equipped - headquarters at 25 A Towarowa Street. Its area has increased from 120 to 700 sqm. As a result, Caritas Poland was able to increase the scope of support from about 1,000 beneficiaries in 2021 to more than 10,000 beneficiaries in 2022,
- 32 Help Centers for Migrants and Refugees have been established across Poland; they have replaced six previous centers providing such assistance.

4

### A CROSS-BORDER HUB OF MORE THAN 3,000 SQUARE METERS HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED IN CONNECTION WITH LARGE-SCALE HUMANITARIAN AID TO UKRAINE.

5

### THE NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES HAS INCREASED, WITH NUMEROUS STRUCTURAL CHANGES, SUCH AS THE CREATION OF A RISK AND COMPLIANCE DEPARTMENT AND THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MONITORING AND EVALUATION METHOD (MEAL).

6

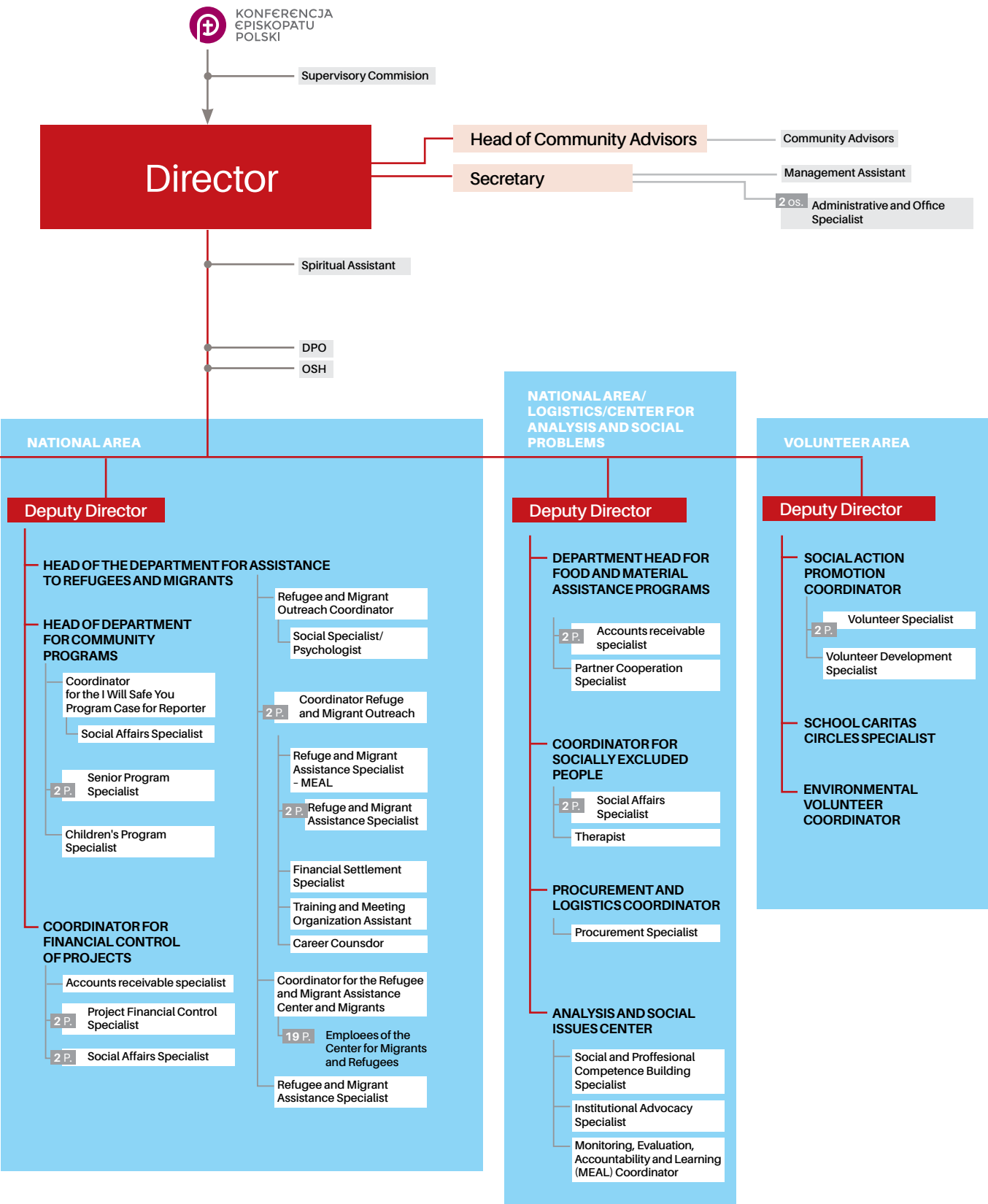
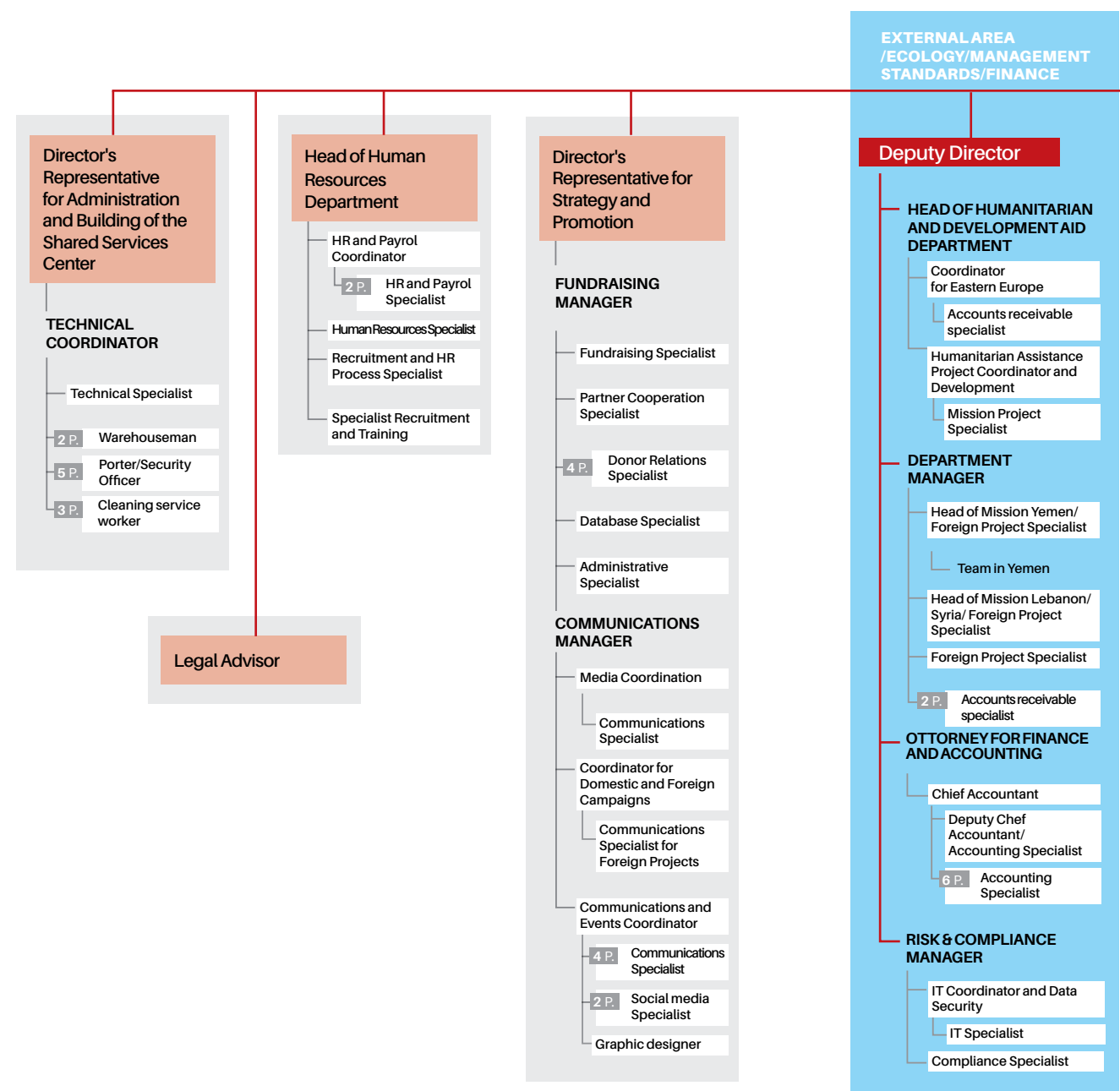
### THE CARITAS OBSERVATORY WAS TRANSFORMED INTO THE CARITAS POLAND CENTER FOR THE ANALYSIS OF SOCIAL PROBLEMS AND INTENSIFIED ITS RESEARCH ON SOCIAL CHANGE. IT ALSO CONTINUED ITS EFFORTS TO INFLUENCE THE POLICIES, PRACTICES AND MINDSETS OF DECISION-MAKERS AND THE INSTITUTIONS OF SOCIAL LIFE.

7

### CONFIRMATION OF CARITAS POLAND'S EFFECTIVENESS WAS THE AWARD FOR TAKING FIRST PLACE IN THE 15TH TOP BRAND SURVEY 2022 IN THE FIELD OF CHARITABLE PROJECTS.



# STRUCTURE OF CARITAS POLAND





# POLAND

## THE INVOLVEMENT OF CARITAS IN CHARITABLE, EDUCATIONAL AND DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES IN THE COUNTRY:

- Food aid
- Support for senior citizens
- Support for the sick
- Assistance to the socially excluded
- Assistance to children and families
- Integral ecology in Caritas activities
- Assistance to migrants and refugees
- The direct activities of Caritas Poland Caritas Polska

## LAST YEAR WAS A TEST FOR CARITAS IN ITS ABILITY TO ACT IN A CRISIS SITUATION AND EFFICIENTLY IMPLEMENT ORGANIZATIONAL CHANGES.

The year 2022, which was marked by the war across our eastern border, brought new humanitarian challenges and unexpectedly rapid development of the country department at Caritas Poland. After the conflict in Ukraine began, more than a dozen people from Caritas national organizations – the United States, Germany, Switzerland, as well as Caritas Ukraine and Caritas-Spes - worked in the office for several weeks. New employees were also hired. Due to the involvement of virtually every department in supporting Ukrainian visitors, Caritas Poland opened a second office and a Center for Assistance to Migrants and Refugees at 25 A Towarowa Street. Supporting thousands of people, the center has expanded both in terms of space and staff; it has also gained the

support of 30 volunteers. Most of the staff and volunteers are Ukrainian refugees of various professions.

In 2022, the area of food aid expanded especially intensively with in-kind assistance and cooperation with donors. During the first period of the conflict in Ukraine, more than 200 companies offered to donate food and the most necessary items for refugees in Poland and those who remained in the war-stricken homeland. In order for this assistance to take place efficiently, Caritas Poland secured an additional two warehouse spaces in Warsaw, as well as delivery trucks, logistical support and modern storage space in Lublin. Caritas Poland's cooperation with the Caritas Europa network

and Caritas Internationalis has resulted in funding to support Ukrainian refugees in Poland through the Migrant and Refugee Assistance Centers.

The new situation has also led to the development and strengthening of cooperation with diocesan Caritas, both in terms of humanitarian aid funding, as well as day-to-day crisis management and advocacy in public administration bodies. Crisis management and the development of humanitarian aid in a situation of war across our eastern border was the biggest challenge of 2022, which influenced the comprehensive development of the entire organization.





FOOD AID

## Food aid Operational Program 2014-2020 – Subprogram 2021

The Food aid Operational Program 2014-2020 was established to bring food aid to the needy. Caritas Poland, through a call for proposals, was selected as a partner organization to participate in the program. Thanks to Caritas employees from 26 dioceses across Poland, between December 2021 and the end of October 2022, 6,348 tons of food products worth PLN 35.1 million were distributed to nearly 282,000 of those most in need, including those with the lowest incomes, the elderly, the homeless, those with disabilities and, this year, up to more than 48,600 migrants. Aid could be obtained at 770 food distribution points. These were mainly parishes, social welfare centers, eateries and facilities run by Caritas and other cooperating organizations. Local partner organizations issued 727,426 food packages and 214,811 meals. As part of the implementation of Subprogram 2021, regional partner organizations conducted 1,468 workshops for 26,765 participants in 16 provinces on social inclusion, healthy eating and counteracting food waste.

Nationwide program;  
Subprogram 2021 implemented  
DECEMBER 2021 TO OCTOBER 2022

beneficiaries	<b>281,613 PEOPLE</b> in need
support	<b>6,348 TONS</b> food products worth PLN 35.1 MILLION
<a href="https://caritas.pl/projekty/program-operacyjny-pomoc-zywnosciowa">caritas.pl/projekty/program-operacyjny-pomoc-zywnosciowa</a> 	

**FUNDING SOURCES:** Ministry of Family and Social Policy, European Fund for Assistance to the Most Deprived (FEAD)

## Caritas Food Pantry

Food waste on the one hand and poverty on the other are problems that Caritas is trying to counteract with the Caritas Food Pantry program. This is a nationwide program to collect and distribute wholesome food products withdrawn from sale. Mainly, these are refrigerated products with a short shelf life, including meat, fish and dairy products, baked goods, and vegetables and fruits. The food is donated to the most needy in the form of packages or meals at the food distribution points of the Caritas Food Pantry, Parish Caritas Teams and other establishments. In 2022, the stores donated nearly 7200 tons of food worth about PLN 92 million. The program was implemented by diocesan Caritas and non-profit organizations in about 1,350 stores and warehouses of various retail chains. Cyclical food support was provided to more than 60,000 people. Partners of the campaign were the store chains Biedronka, Carrefour, Lidl, Netto, Kaufland, Selgros, Aldi, Eurocash Group, Auchan and Bi1. Caritas Poland coordinates the implementation of food take-back procedures, establishes cooperation with new market chains and negotiates the terms of supra-regional cooperation with external partners. The partners implement the program in accordance with the Food Waste Prevention act.

Nationwide program,  
YEAR-ROUND


beneficiaries	about <b>60,000 PEOPLE</b> in need
support	<b>7,200 TONS</b> of food worth PLN 92 MILLION
<a href="https://caritas.pl/projekty/spizarnia-caritas">caritas.pl/projekty/spizarnia-caritas</a> 	

**FUNDING SOURCE:** business partners

## Food collection "Yes, I'm helping!"

"Yes, I'm helping!" is a nationwide campaign conducted on a large scale by Caritas since 2011. It is organized twice a year - before Christmas and before Easter - to share food with the needy. The 20th and 21st editions of the collection were held in 2022. About 20,000 volunteers dressed in red Caritas vests were on duty at 1,595 stores, such as Biedronka, Lidl, Carrefour, Kaufland, Lewiatan, Mila, Netto, Stokrotka, Społem, Auchan and Bi1. The Caritas baskets contained food with a long shelf life, including milk, flour, sugar, pasta, rice, corn flakes, oil, canned goods, jams, sauces and powdered soups, tea, breakfast cereals, drinks, sweets, as well as cleaning products. A total of 410,718 kilograms of products went to nearly 50,000 people: families with many children, single parents, the homeless and sick, aid facilities run by diocesan Caritas, and war refugees from Ukraine.

Nationwide action organized  
TWICE A YEAR


beneficiaries	<b>50,000 PEOPLE</b> in need
support	<b>411 TONS</b> of food worth PLN 3,901,821
<a href="https://caritas.pl/projekty/tak-pomagam">caritas.pl/projekty/tak-pomagam</a> 	

**FUNDING SOURCE:** business partners

## Caritas Christmas Eve

Caritas Christmas Eve is a nationwide action held every year on December 24 or the day before. Diocesan Caritas are involved, inviting the poor, homeless, lonely to share a table and break a wafer, so that they do not feel abandoned and forgotten. The idea of the event originated in Poznań, where for the past 16 years the poor have gathered at a common Christmas Eve at the grounds of the Poznań International Fair. Since 2017, other cities have also organized the action. In 2022, 85 cities and about 2,000 volunteers from 37 dioceses across Poland were involved in organizing the Caritas Christmas Eve. 62 tons of food were used to prepare the Christmas Eve supper - with borscht, carp and Lenten cabbage. Twenty thousand people sat at the Christmas Eve tables, including many guests from Ukraine. The largest Christmas Eve meetings were held in Poznań, Bydgoszcz, Elk, Kielce, Kraków, Zamość, Sosnowiec, Toruń, Gliwice, Zabrze, Bielsko-Biala, Lublin, Zielona Góra, Szczecin, Przemyśl, Radom, Łomża and Tarnów. In addition, many meetings were organized in smaller groups - in communities, nursing homes and many other places where Caritas provides assistance on a daily basis. The campaign has been supported from the beginning by Selgros.

Nationwide action organized  
ONCE A YEAR

beneficiaries	<b>20,000 PEOPLE</b> in need
support	<b>62 TONS</b> of food worth PLN 500,000
<a href="https://caritas.pl/projekty/wigilia-caritas">caritas.pl/projekty/wigilia-caritas</a> 	

**FUNDING SOURCE:** business partners  
**MEDIA PATRONAGE:** TVP Info



ABOUT **412,000**  
PEOPLE IN NEED RECEIVED FOOD AID,  
INCLUDING ABOUT 340,000 WHO RECEIVED  
REGULAR ASSISTANCE

MORE THAN **14,000**  
TONS OF FOOD DONATED  
TO THE PEOPLE IN NEEDY

MORE THAN **PLN 131.5 MLN**  
IS THE VALUE OF  
DONATED FOOD



REFUGEES FROM UKRAINE  
HAVE ALSO BEEN INCLUDED  
IN THE FOOD PROGRAMS





## Caritas Food Pantry

Caritas' Food Pantry program, rescues food from stores and donates it to the needy.

Nearly 337,000 tons of food is wasted in trade in Poland, and non-governmental organizations (including Caritas) have received a total of just over 18,500 tons of food products from retailers. This is only about 5.5% of the food wasted in the trade..

That's still not enough in relation to the needs and aid capacity we have!

**337,000 TONS**  
**OF FOOD IS WASTED**  
**IN TRADE IN POLAND**

**ONLY 5,5%**  
**OF FOOD WASTED IN TRADE**  
**IS RECEIVED BY NGOs**  
**FROM VENDORS**

## DID YOU KNOW THAT:

about **179 KG**

of food per year  
is thrown away by one European

about **235 KG**

of food per year is thrown  
away by one Pole

**1/2 OF THE BAKED GOODS**

that were purchased end  
up in the trash in Poland

**1/3 OF THE VEGETABLES**



## Yes, I am helping!

Pasta, rice, groats, coffee, tea, sugar - these and other products with a long shelf-life land in Caritas baskets during the "Yes. I'm helping!" campaign. During the Easter and Christmas holidays, this is a huge support for the poor, homeless, elderly or sick.



**20 000**

**VOLUNTEERS WERE ON DUTY IN STORES IN**  
**DECEMBER'S CAMPAIGN "YES I'M HELPING!" IN 2022.**  
**THANK YOU!**





SUPPORT FOR SENIORS

**11,000** SENIORS USED THE "FOR EVERYDAY SHOPPING" CARD REGULARLY

**20,000** SENIORS RECEIVED CARITAS ENVELOPE FOR LIFE

MORE THAN **PLN 17.8 MILLION** IS THE VALUE OF SUPPORT UNDER SENIOR PROGRAMS

MORE THAN **4,500** VOLUNTEERS INVOLVED IN HELPING SENIORS

"For everyday shopping" card

An annual program in cooperation with the Biedronka Foundation to help seniors 60+ - poor, lonely, socially and socially excluded, living in small towns or villages. Those in need receive financial support on a prepaid card for 10 months. The card is used to pay for purchases in the Biedronka store chain. It can be used to pay for groceries, cleaning products and personal hygiene items (excluding alcohol, tobacco, pet products and textiles). The last, fifth edition of the program ran from April 2022 to January 2023. The assistance of PLN 160 per month on a prepaid card was given to 11,000 people from 45 diocesan Caritas. Beneficiaries who were unable to get to the store on their own or needed help with shopping could use the assistance of 4,500 volunteers. The program was accompanied by educational and workshop activities aimed at senior volunteer leaders. In 2022, 10 two-day training sessions were held, attended by 450 volunteer leaders.

Program implemented from 2018 for 10 MONTHS A YEAR	
beneficiaries	11,000 SENIORÓW
value of support	PLN 17,600,000
kind of support	prepaid card
karta.caritas.pl	
FUNDING SOURCE: Biedronka Foundation	

Caritas Life Envelope

20,000 Caritas Life Envelopes were distributed to 20,000 seniors in 2022. This is the 3rd edition of the action, which is designed to make it easier for medical services to access the health data of seniors in need of help in critical situations. The action is aimed primarily at the elderly, lonely, chronically ill and disabled, but also at their caregivers, volunteers and paramedics called to help. At the same time, the Caritas Life Envelope is a practical item containing information about a senior's health that is easily accessible to emergency services. The envelope contains a card on which the senior's basic information is written: name, PESEL, blood type, past illnesses, allergies, medications taken, and contact to a loved one who should be notified in an emergency. Seniors place the envelope in the refrigerator (on the top shelf of the door), a place easily accessible to rescuers in any home. The envelope also includes a sticker for the refrigerator and a business card for the wallet in case medical assistance is needed away from home. The envelopes are given to seniors by diocesan Caritas volunteers, who can also help their charges fill out the cards. The 2022 Caritas Life Envelopes were funded by the Biedronka Foundation.

ANNUAL ACTION implemented from 2020	
beneficiaries	20,000 SENIORS
value of action	PLN 55,800
Caritas.pl/koperta	
FUNDING SOURCE: Biedronka Foundation	

Lunches for Seniors

Caritas Poland has been promoting the "Lunches for Seniors" program in diocesan Caritas since the beginning of the pandemic and has been implementing it in Warsaw. In 2022, this assistance was provided by support from the Ignacy Łukasiewicz PGNiG Foundation. Warm, nutritious, two-course meals were delivered to seniors' homes 2-3 times a week. Beneficiaries- of the program are sick, lonely people who are no longer able to cook for themselves. The number of lunches and seniors to whom meals are taken depends on the funds provided by donors. In 2022 more than 8,000 lunches were distributed to nearly 200 needy people in Warsaw. The project was implemented with Caritas Poland's own funds and funds received from the PGNiG Foundation. The aim of the project is to help elderly people at risk of social exclusion due to poverty, dependence or disability. However, the form of this assistance also provides the seniors with something much more valuable - constant and eagerly awaited contact with a volunteer delivering a meal to their home.

ANNUAL PROGRAM implemented from 2020	
beneficjenci	nearly 200 SENIORS
value of support	PLN 164,584
kind of support	nearly 8,000 LUNCHES
karta.caritas.pl	
FUNDING SOURCES: Caritas Poland, PGNiG Ignacy Łukasiewicz Foundation	

Educational and advocacy activities on senior citizen issues

Caritas organizes numerous eventsof an educational, media and advocacy at the local and national level, presenting the problems of seniors and working out increasingly effective forms of assistance for the elderly. In 2022, these included:

- numerous online workshops for coordinators and leaders of senior programs implemented by Caritas. Their purpose is to disseminate expertise on activities with seniors and exchange local experiences;
- participation of Caritas employees in bodies and councils related to decision-making or reviewing draft laws on decisions or giving opinions on draft laws on senior citizens' issues. An example of such activity is the membership of Caritas Poland's representative on the Senior Policy Council of the Ministry of Family and Social Policy.





## SUPPORT FOR SICK

**PLN 6,765,070** AMOUNT  
COLLECTED THROUGH THE  
WEBSITE "URATUJECIE.PL"  
AND SMS COLLECTIONS

**PLN 4,696,052** AMOUNT  
DISBURSED TO HELP BENEFICIARIES  
(FROM FUNDS RAISED THROUGH THE  
"URATUJECIE.PL" WEBSITE AND SMS  
COLLECTIONS)

**51** NUMBER OF PEOPLE  
ASSISTED IN 2022


## "I will Save You" program and collection service "uratujecie.pl"

One of the most important missions of Caritas Poland is to help the sick and people with disabilities. In response to the needs of such people, in April 2015 the program "pomagam.caritas.pl" was created, which from April 2019 has been operating as the "I will Save You" program. The core of the program is an online charity "uratujecie.pl", which combines collections conducted online with social integration with joint action by individuals, businesses and institutions for the benefit of those in need. The goal of the program is to build circles of help made up of individuals and companies supporting people in need. Funds raised by Caritas through online collections are intended to save the lives and health of adults and children whose treatment and rehabilitation depend on huge sums of money, far beyond the capabilities of individuals and families. The collections are communicated on the website "uratujecie.pl", promoted in social media and on the Caritas Poland homepage. The program's financial support is available to disadvantaged, sick, poor people who have exhausted the possibilities of public funding. 2022. Caritas Poland has set up 40 new collections. You can learn the stories of all the people Caritas is helping by going to the website "uratujecie.pl".

## "Case for a Reporter" - program that supports the collections of " I will Save You"

Hosted by Elżbieta Jaworowicz, the TVP1 program has provided significant support for the "I will Save You" program since January 2021. This is because text message collections announced in the "Case for a Reporter" program have been included in Caritas collections. The mechanism is simple: stories of beneficiaries are presented in the TVP1 program in the form of reports. On the day of the broadcast of the program, a month-long SMS collection is launched for the heroes of the reports. At the same time, individual collections are opened for these people on the uratujecie.pl website, which allows to reach a wider range of donors and makes it easier for TV viewers to make donations. Close cooperation with the editors of the "Case for a Reporter" program has contributed to greater recognition of the uratujecie.pl service, attracting a large group of new donors and a significant increase in the amount of donations. In 2022, 37 SMS collections announced in the "Case for a Reporter" program were established, including 17 collections for adults and 20 collections for children. The amount of donations raised by SMS collections amounted to PLN 4,883,350. The purpose of most of them was to subsidize medical treatment (e.g. expensive surgeries, treatments and medicines) and rehabilitation.

### YEAR-ROUND Program

number of collections	<b>76</b> of which 30 were started before 2022; in 2022, the following completed 7 collections
funds raised	<b>PLN 1,881,721</b>
value of support	<b>PLN 4,696,052</b> (funds paid out to beneficiaries, coming from the "uratujecie.pl" website and SMS collections)
uratujecie.pl 	

**SOURCE OF FUNDING:**  
contributions from individual donors

### YEAR-ROUND Program

beneficiaries	<b>37 PEOPLE</b>
value of support	<b>PLN 4,883,350</b>
source of support	<b>SMS COLLECTIONS</b>

**SOURCE OF FUNDING:**  
contributions from individual donors  
**PARTNER:** TVP1





HELP FOR THE SOCIALLY EXCLUDED

**PLN 240,139** IS THE VALUE  
OF PROGRAMS IMPLEMENTED  
BY CARITAS POLAND FOR SOCIALLY  
EXCLUDED PEOPLE

## "We Can Do It!"



more at

40

"We Can Do It!" homelessness and addiction recovery program is aimed at young people - primarily those leaving closed treatment or other detention centers. It is also addressed to those willing to finish serving prison sentences and is implemented on the premises of prisons. The prerequisite for participation is a firm desire to undertake therapy, persevere in abstinence, break with pathological environment and take up work and efforts to stabilize life. Psychological and therapeutic assistance is offered, support in the form of covering the costs or subsidizing the rent of an apartment during the first period of participation, paying for a city card, food and material assistance, subsidizing courses and training, as well as studies. The series of meetings includes learning practical life skills, as well as further education, cultural and recreational activities. The program is maintained solely by donations from individual donors. It is implemented in the Warsaw area but is aimed at candidates from all over Poland.

In 2022, four participants aged 20-21, from dysfunctional homes, not in education or employment, and from backgrounds at risk of drug addiction, were admitted to this program. Two participants remained in the program, making progress in the rehabilitation process. Both have taken up jobs in directions consistent with their interests. Both have started extracurricular education in high schools, which they once discontinued. In their free time, they are active in the "Your Passion" foundation, which engages young people with musical interests. They are happy to volunteer in Caritas Poland actions. The progress they have made in getting their lives in order has also spurred positive changes in their family homes. Because they both expressed interest in matters of faith, they received pastoral assistance. The "We Can Do It!" group also includes two people who are continuing their extramural studies with a high average after a year of addiction treatment at Monar. In addition, a graduate of the program and his family have received help.

### YEAR-ROUND Program

beneficiaries **7 PEOPLE**

value of support **PLN 149,672**

More about the "We can do it!" program: [caritas.pl/projects/homeless-damy-rade](https://caritas.pl/projects/homeless-damy-rade)



FUNDING SOURCE: individual donors

## "A little warm for a homeless person"



more at

40

This The annual campaign, conducted in the autumn and winter by Caritas Poland and the Warsaw Municipal Police, aimed at homeless people staying outside shelters, in all districts of Warsaw. Last year's eighth edition of the campaign was held the slogan "Homelessness is not chosen, the homeless become". In 2022, patrols of the Warsaw Municipal Police delivered food and clothing to the homeless. In total, in last year's campaign the homeless received 2850 liters of nutritious soup with bread, 5000 canned goods, 200 warm blankets, 900 pairs of woolen socks. The soup was prepared by the kitchen of the Okopowa Center operating at Caritas Poland, and the bread was supplied by the Caritas Warsaw Archdiocese shelter on Żytnia Street. Caritas Poland also purchased 12 pairs of winter boots and women's warm jackets for the homeless in cases verified by patrols. As in previous years, before Christmas, the patrols handed out parcels of candy, toiletries and gifts to the homeless, which were prepared by volunteers from the "We Can Do It!" homelessness and addiction recovery program.

The deputy director of Caritas Poland, Fr. Tomasz Roda, also went to the homeless to share a wafer with them.

### ANNUAL action conducted in the autumn and winter period

beneficiaries about **500 PEOPLE**

value of support **PLN 32,220**

[caritas.pl/bezdomni](https://caritas.pl/bezdomni)



PARTNER: Municipal Guard of the Capital City of Warsaw

## Pilgrimage of the homeless to Jasna Góra

This is an annual action, held in November. The 17th nationwide pilgrimage of the homeless to Jasna Góra, organized by Caritas Poland in cooperation with Caritas of the Archdiocese of Częstochowa, as well as other diocesan Caritas, took place in 2022. As in the previous year, it was attended by 600 pilgrims from various centers run by diocesan Caritas. Many groups came from considerable distances. The motto and watchword of the pilgrimage was a passage from 2 Corinthians: "Christ became poor for us." In the introductory part, after a welcome and a word from the director of Caritas of the Archdiocese of Częstochowa, Fr. Mark Bator, there was an occasional concert by the Renewal in the Holy Spirit community, combined with the testimony of Gregory Czerwicki, author of the book "You are not condemned." After Mass in the Chapel of the Miraculous Image, participants and organizers enjoyed a shared meal, after which gifts and provisions for the return journey were distributed. The November pilgrimage of the homeless organized by Caritas is already a tradition, and is an opportunity for caregivers to integrate with the homeless, as well as for spiritual strengthening, consolation and experiencing joyful moments in community.

### ANNUAL action conducted in november

beneficiaries about **600 PEOPLE**

value of support **PLN 48,000**

[caritas.pl/bezdomni](https://caritas.pl/bezdomni)



FUNDING SOURCES: Caritas Poland, Caritas of the Archdiocese of Częstochowa

## Street Medical Patrol



more at

40

Street Medical Patrol has been operating in Warsaw since 2017. It is a joint venture between Caritas Poland, the Warsaw Municipal Police and the We Are Hope Association, which runs a clinic and provides medical and rescue assistance to the homeless

and poor who do not have insurance or the necessary conditions for such assistance. UPM patrols reach hard-to-reach areas of the homeless with first aid rescue. This is made possible by a car equipped with equipment provided by Caritas Poland and branded with the logos of Caritas, the Municipal Police and the We Are Hope Association. In more severe cases, the patrols direct or transport patients to the clinic, where there is the possibility of receiving assistance from volunteer nurses and doctors of various specialties. In addition to providing rescue and medical assistance, UPM's rescuers provide information and support in exiting homelessness, and sometimes also shop and provide clothing and other necessities to those in need. Over the years, they have saved lives many times.

In 2022, Street Medical Patrol made 124 patrol trips to all of Warsaw's districts and carried out 530 safety inspections of homeless places. In 135 cases medical intervention was needed, and in numerous cases referral to a clinic or hospital was needed.

### YEAR-ROUND Program

beneficiaries about **400 PEOPLE**

value of support **PLN 10,247**

[caritas.pl/bezdomni](https://caritas.pl/bezdomni)



PARTNERS: Municipal Police of the capital city of Warsaw, We Are Hope Association





### Caritas Christmas Eve

In 2022, Christmas Eve suppers were held in 85 Polish cities, extending support to 20,000 needy people. 2 thousand volunteers took part in their organization. It's quite a challenge if the Christmas Eve is held, for example, in the huge hall of the Poznań International Fair!



### For the sake of seniors

*I wouldn't be doing very well if it weren't for your help, soups from you. This is the truth. I reported to social welfare about a month ago, but I haven't heard from welfare until today," says one of Caritas' charges, who has been fighting the effects of Heine-Medina.*

A warm two-course dinner delivered to the home two or three times a week is a huge and much-awaited help for many elderly people. Last year Warsaw alone benefited 200 seniors, who received a total of 8,000 lunches.

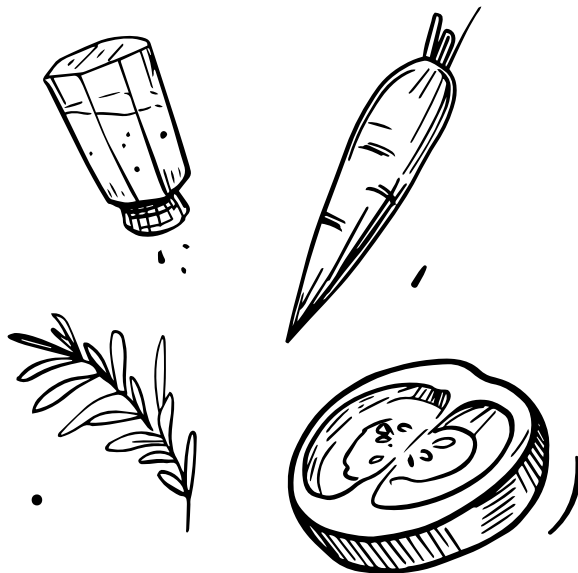


### Dining facilities for the poor and the homeless

The eatery on Żytnia Street in Warsaw serves about 150 hot meals on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, but is open every day. The Caritas kitchen in Częstochowa, on the other hand, dispenses about 100 hot meals a day, five days a week, and offers dry provisions at the weekend. Throughout Poland, 83 eateries run by diocesan Caritas feed the needy.

### WIGILIA CARITAS

2 TONS	thousand meters
4.5 TONS	fried carp
5,000 LITERS	red borscht
7,000 METERS	Christmas tablecloths







## HELPING CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

### The Christmas Eve Children's Aid Work

This is the oldest Caritas program, in existence since 1994 until today. As part of it, during Advent, candles are distributed in parishes throughout Poland. The funds collected through their distribution are used for children's summer vacations, free meals, scholarships, and support for the youngest in rehabilitation and treatment. The funds also support children outside our country. Since 2000, the campaign has had an ecumenical character. Currently, it is conducted by Caritas together with the Diakonia of the Evangelical-Augsburg Church, the Diakonia of the Evangelical-Reformed Church and the Eleos Orthodox Mercy Center. In 2022, Caritas distributed some 2 million candles as part of the 19th WDPD. Funds raised in this way went to support Polish children, and 10 gr from each candle went to support missionary works targeting children - mainly for nutrition, including in areas affected by drought and warfare. Supporting the program was an information and promotional campaign conducted by Caritas Poland, in which Polish Television, among others, joined.

**ANNUAL Program**  
carried out during the Advent season

beneficiaries **CHILDREN AND TEENAGERS**

kind of support Funds raised from the distribution of **2 MILLION CANDLES**

caritas.pl/swieca 

**PARTNER:** Polish Television

### Caritas Academy for Children

The program was inaugurated at the "Caritas Children - Back to School" event in August 2021, in response to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic affecting students, and includes classes to strengthen children's well-being and activities in education, mental health, physical fitness and prevention. In 2022, classes were held in mixed groups (Polish and Ukrainian children), which in turn was Caritas' response to the migration crisis. An additional goal of the classes was to integrate Polish and Ukrainian children. In 2022, the classes were conducted during colonies held as part of Caritas' Vacation Campaign, and from September - in socio-therapeutic day care centers. Twenty-three workshop days were implemented, with about 1,100 children participating. The Academy included innovative Dream Rescuers workshops, conducted by trainers from the Foundation for Social Development. The workshops were motivational in nature and focused on strengthening self-esteem, concretizing dreams, encouraging the development and realization of interests. Important elements of the workshops were strengthening the good atmosphere in the peer group, eliminating risky behavior and learning to cope with crisis situations. As part of the Academy, a report on children and adolescents in a situation of social isolation caused by the COVID-19 pandemic was prepared together with representatives of the Catholic University of Lublin.

Program implemented **FROM 2021**

beneficiaries **1,100 CHILDREN**

value of support **PLN 142,256**

caritas.pl/dzieci 

**FUNDING SOURCE:** HP

### Schoolbag Full of Smiles

The nationwide campaign has been running for 15 years. It consists of donating backpacks with complete school equipment to children at the end of summer vacation. The campaign is carried out by diocesan Caritas and Parish Caritas Teams, which raise funds or ready-made school kits for students among diocesan and parishioners and institutional partners. The main goal of the campaign is to increase educational opportunities for students from less affluent families. The TPU campaign has been joined for years by the presidential couple. In 2022, backpacks with layettes went to more than 10,000 children, including about 4,000 Ukrainian children, as well as children from Belarus and Lithuania. The culmination of the campaign is the finale, which for years has been held in the markets of major large cities, including Zamość, Przemyśl, Lublin and Rzeszów. In 2017-2022, the finale took place on the grounds of Caritas of the Przemyśl Archdiocese. Last year's 14th final was held on August 21 in Sanok. One of its elements was the ceremonial handover of 500 school bags with school supplies; 150 bags went to children from Ukraine. The schoolbags included notebooks, pencil cases, notebooks, pens, crayons, as well as educational games, dictionaries and puzzles. The event, accompanied by artistic performances, was broadcast by Polish Television.

**NATIONWIDE action**, conducted in late August and early September

beneficiaries **10,000 STUDENTS**

kind of support **10,000 BACKPACKS**  
with school supplies

caritas.pl/dzieci 

**FUNDING SOURCES:** individual and business donors  
**AMBASSADORS:** president of the Republic of Poland Andrzej Duda and first lady Agata Kornhauser-Duda

### Wings

The program is aimed at elementary and secondary school students who need support due to the poor financial situation of their families. Assistance, depending on need, consists of providing school meals, clothing, school supplies and subsidizing trips and excursions. Compensatory and extracurricular activities and tutoring are also paid for. The amount of the scholarship is PLN 1,500. The program also includes the Two Talents scholarship subprogram for successful students, e.g. in sports, music, acting. Thanks to this scholarship, they can take part in activities that develop their passions (e.g. training, interest groups), participate in trips and purchase items needed to realize their passions (e.g. musical instruments or sports equipment). By creating opportunities for young people to develop in their chosen field, Caritas strengthens them in the belief that it is worthwhile to pursue their goals. The amount of the scholarship is PLN 2,000. In the 2021/2022 school year, 344 scholarships were awarded under the Wings program for a total of PLN 516,000, and 170 scholarships in the Two Talents subprogram for a total of PLN 340,000. In the 2022/2023 school year, scholarships were also awarded to children and young people from Ukraine who are continuing their education in Polish schools. Under the Wings program, 364 scholarships were awarded to Polish children and 226 scholarships to Ukrainian children, for a total amount of PLN 885,000. Under the Two Talents program, 165 scholarships have been awarded to Polish children and 145 scholarships to Ukrainian children, for a total of PLN 620,00.

**ANNUAL Program**

beneficiaries **514 STUDENTS** in the 2021/2022 school year and **900 STUDENTS** in the 2022/2023 school year

value of support **PLN 856,000** in the school year 2021/2022 and **PLN 1,505,000** in the school year 2022/2023

caritas.pl/dzieci 

**FUNDING SOURCES:** Mattel, HP, 1%



## Caritas Holiday Action

This is one of Caritas' largest and oldest initiatives. It has been conducted every year during the summer for 25 years. It was created with a view to children from families who cannot afford a fully paid vacation trip. All diocesan Caritas teams are involved in the campaign. Among others, wards of parish and socio-therapeutic day care centers, as well as children and young people covered by the Wings program, go on summer camps, half-day camps and trips. The aim of the Caritas Holiday Campaign is to equalize developmental and social opportunities for children from impoverished families. Thanks to collections conducted by Caritas, they have the opportunity to benefit from holiday trips that their families cannot afford. Diocesan Caritas has 40 centers of its own, but for the vacations, due to the interest in the campaign, more than 100 additional vacation spots need to be rented. In 2022, a total of about 14,800 children took part in the action, including 2,000 children from Ukraine. The vacation stay included a rich educational and and and recreational program.

Annual action, conducted  
DURING THE SUMMER PERIOD

beneficiaries

**14,800**  
CHILDREN AND TEENAGERS

kind of  
support

**SUMMER VACATION**

caritas.pl/dzieci



**FUNDING SOURCES:** Diocesan Caritas (funds from the Christmas Eve Children's Aid), Caritas Poland, Mastercard, HP

## Respite stays

The campaign organized in response to the needs of children from Ukraine residing in war zones. The 14-day turnouts are a time for relaxation, rest, a break from the sad reality. In 2022, 2 periods were held, in September and November, in Rajske. They were attended by a total of 217 children (80 in the 1st turnout and 137 in the 2nd turnout) from internally displaced families and from the areas most affected by warfare. The selection of the children involved a partner, Caritas Ukraine, which is well versed in the situation of the inhabitants of the post-particular regions of Ukraine. The program, which was arranged by Caritas of the Archdiocese of Przemyśl, was designed to give the children moments of joy, as well as to allow them to engage in a variety of educational, sports or artistic activities. Among other things, meetings were organized with representatives of interesting professions, such as policemen, firefighters and paramedics.

Action carried out for the first time  
IN 2022

beneficiaries

**217**  
UKRAINIAN CHILDREN

kind of  
support

**PLN 466,050**

caritas.pl



**FUNDING SOURCES:** Jeronimo Martins, owner of the Biedronka chain of stores

## Children's Day

Caritas Poland, as well as diocesan Caritas, has been involved in Children's Day activities for several years. 2022. Caritas Poland prepared 20,000 Boxes of Happiness, which were given, among others, to the wards of facilities run by diocesan Caritas. The specially designed boxes contained candy, mascots and books. The Boxes of Happiness went among others to children from the Complex of Schools and Placements Special Schools and Institutions in Mocarzewo, run by the Resurrectionist Sisters.

Program implemented **ONCE A YEAR**

beneficiaries

**20,000** CHILDREN

value of  
support


**PLN 300,000**

caritas.pl/dzieci



**FUNDING SOURCE:** Jeronimo Martins, owner of the Biedronka chain of stores





**47,530 CHILDREN**  
RECEIVED MATERIAL SUPPORT,  
EDUCATIONAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL  
SUPPORT, INCLUDING CHILDREN  
FROM UKRAINE





# INTEGRAL ECOLOGY

## — CARITAS LAUDATO SI PROJECT

"Integral Ecology of the Encyclical Laudato si' in the Action of Caritas Communities and Local Communities" (Caritas Laudato Si' for short) is a 4-year project ending with a summary in 2022. As part of the project, Caritas Poland, in cooperation with diocesan Caritas, promoted Pope Francis' teaching contained in the encyclical "Laudato si'".

The overall goal of the project was to raise environmental awareness and shape the public's ecological attitudes by promoting the principles of sustainable development. In the final year of the project, the "Share your heart" campaign was prepared, which, using a promotional spot, enabled the creation of 90 dividers throughout Poland. Unfortunately, this campaign was interrupted by the outbreak of war in Ukraine. The activities promoting moderation in consumption were modified and moved to the Internet, where a 5-episode podcast was created titled "The Time to Listen. The time for listening is over." Importantly, however, this campaign, whose foundation is against consumerism, has become a pillar of Caritas Poland's continued commitment to promoting integral ecology in the coming years. In addition, the vast experience Caritas Poland gained from the project allowed it to develop an environmental policy for the organization itself, which was presented at the project's closing conference in July 2022.



*I make an urgent call to renew the dialogue on how we build the future of our planet. We need a confrontation that brings us all together, because the environmental challenge and its human roots concern and affect us all. The global environmental movement has come a long and rich way, spawning many civic groups that have helped awaken awareness.*

(Pope Francis, "Laudato si'" 14)



laudatosi.caritas.pl



CaritasLaudatosi



si.laudato



Cartitas Laudato si





CARITAS  
LAUDATO SI PROJECT  
IN NUMBERS

263

local ecological projects organized with the support of Caritas Poland, which included the creation of flower meadows, apiaries, water harvesting installations, educational paths, herb drying and fruit processing plants, waste segregation sites and much more

90

allocators organized nationwide

164

conferences, seminars and workshops

25

educational articles in the traditional press

42,000

copies of the quarterly magazine "Caritas"  
- special issue dedicated to integral ecology

11,350

copies of the encyclical "Laudato si'"  
in a special ecological edition

61,650

people who visited the website [laudatosi .caritas .pl](https://laudatosi.caritas.pl)

2,946,644

people within the reach of the promotional campaign  
On Caritas Laudato Si social media

29,137,783

people in the range of educational, promotional  
and informational projects carried out

PLN 100,000

value of grants awarded to project contractors in 2022 .  
(5 grants of PLN 20,000 each)

PLN 1,091,727

value of the project implemented in 2022

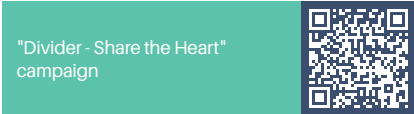
PLN 7,391,263

the value of the entire project implemented over 4 years (2018-2022),  
including the share of the NFEP&WM in the amount of PLN 6,964,360

**FUNDING SOURCES:** the National Fund for Environmental Protection  
and Water Management and Caritas Poland's own funds

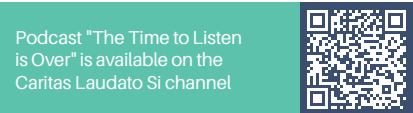
Campaign  
"Share your heart"

One of the main causes of the nature crisis is consumerism, which characterizes the modern market economy. The first step towards countering this problem is to raise awareness of the role played by our consumer decisions, which is why Caritas Poland has prepared a promotional spot entitled. "Divider - share your heart!", which was aired on public television channels and posted on the Internet. The spot encouraged the creation of dividers in local communities - meeting points for meeting other people and exchanging no longer used items. As part of the Caritas Laudato Si project, 90 places equipped with cabinets were created for exchanging such items.



Podcast "Listening  
Time is Over"

Aware of the growing popularity of podcasts, Caritas Poland has prepared a 5-episode podcast titled. "Listening Time is Over." It covers topics such as the message of the encyclical "Laudato si'", combining the perspective of global thinking with local action, agriculture and the impact of consumer decisions on food production, biodiversity from the perspective of the forest and the city, and the activities of the international movement Economy of Francis.



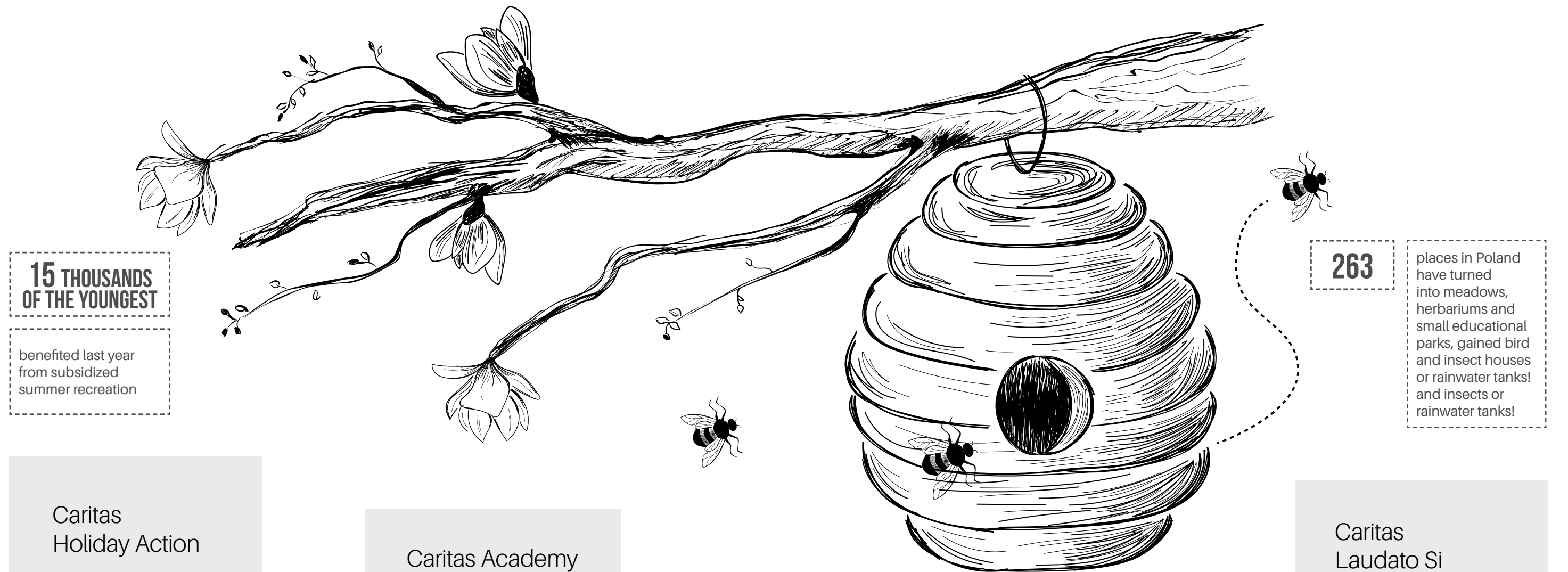
Environmental  
strategy and policy

"Caritas Poland's Environmental Strategy" and "Caritas Poland's Environmental Policy" are documents that set the direction for Caritas Poland in implementing environmental solutions in the organization's daily operations. The purpose of these documents is to strive for the sustainability of all Caritas Poland activities in order to eventually achieve full climate neutrality.

The "Environmental Policy" outlines the principles of future activity, including the steps of the organization's necessary transformation, as well as a series of concrete steps for practical implementation of the assumptions contained in the document. "Environmental Policy" includes a clear ideological statement, distinguishing Caritas Poland's environmental activities from common sustainable development activities by referring to Catholic social teaching.

"Environmental Strategy" is, in turn, a comprehensive foundation on which Caritas Poland will strive to achieve climate neutrality in 2050. The document presents an analysis of the potential challenges and opportunities of the necessary transition. Specific steps to be taken in the process are also indicated. The organizational specificity of Caritas Poland and the meaning and message of its activity of working for integral human development are taken into account.





**15 THOUSANDS  
OF THE YOUNGEST**

benefited last year  
from subsidized  
summer recreation

**263**

places in Poland  
have turned  
into meadows,  
herbariums and  
small educational  
parks, gained bird  
and insect houses  
or rainwater tanks!  
and insects or  
rainwater tanks!

## Caritas Holiday Action

*There are a lot of cool people, there is never boredom, everything is well organized, there is something to do, you can go home satisfied and remember for a long time.*  
Jasiek, 13 years old

Caritas' summer vacation campaign is conducted for children from impoverished families. In 2022, nearly 15,000 of the youngest benefited from the subsidized summer vacation. Pictured is the vacation in Mikoszewo.



## Caritas Academy for Children

*During the workshop, we said that differences are not a threat, but a richness that people bring to our lives.*  
Krzysztof Derewecki, trainer

An important element of the colony trips was the Dream Rescuers workshop, implemented as part of the Caritas Academy for Children project.



## Schoolbag Full of Smiles

*We try to choose fashionable, colorful backpacks, so that the endowed children do not feel inferior," says Pawel, who once again completed school supplies as part of the Schoolbag Full of Smiles campaign.*



## Caritas Laudato Si

In 2022, we wrapped up Caritas' 4-year Laudato Si project, which involved green initiatives at parishes and schools. Now it's time to visit all those places where flower meadows, herbariums, insect houses, rainwater tanks, fruit processing plants and dividers were created, and see how everything grows, greens and develops. And there are already 283 such places in Poland!







## HELPING MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES

**IN 2022, CARITAS POLAND PROVIDED SYSTEMATIC ASSISTANCE TO MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES OF VARIOUS NATIONALITIES. THIS ASSISTANCE CONSISTED OF ESTABLISHING AND SUPPORTING CENTERS FOR FOREIGNERS RESIDING IN POLAND.**

### Assistance Centers for Migrants and Refugees

Caritas opened its first Migrant and Refugee Assistance Centers in 2018, in Warsaw, Szczecin and Kalisz. It supported refugees from Afghanistan in them, among others. In the spring of 2022, due to the urgent need to support refugees from Ukraine, Caritas Polska and diocesan Caritas opened 32 new facilities in Poland. They are run by Caritas Poland and diocesan Caritas, and provide free assistance in finding work and housing, learning the Polish language, translating documents, dealing with official matters, as well as offering psychological and legal support. Staff and volunteers share kindness and warmth with those in need, conducting integration activities for the youngest. They help refugees find their way in their new reality and build a sense of security. In addition, the 2022 centers also provided financial, material and food aid to refugees.

Assistance provided to migrants and refugees during the year,  
**FROM FEBRUARY 2022 TO FEBRUARY 2023.**

beneficiaries **180,200 PEOPLE**

psychological support **64,000 PEOPLE**

Polish language learning **6,500 PEOPLE**

finding employment **6,400 PEOPLE**

Addresses of Caritas CPMiUs



**FUNDING SOURCES:** Emergency Appeal announced through the Caritas Internationalis network and Caritas' own resources

### Center for Assistance to Migrants and Refugees in Warsaw



more at  
**40**

As part of its work for migrants, Caritas Poland directly operates the Center for Migrants and Refugees in Warsaw. Due to the war in Ukraine, the majority of the facility's beneficiaries are Ukrainian, but numerous support and integration activities are also implemented for refugees of other nationalities. The center provides foreigners with psychological assistance and counseling, in-kind and social assistance, help in organizing daily affairs such as contacting offices, renting housing, preparing letters and applications, and translations. In 2022, the value of donated in-kind assistance amounted to about PLN 4 million, the value of financial assistance - about PLN 827,500, and the value of emergency housing assistance - PLN 190 thousand. More than 6 thousand refugees received psychological and social assistance, and more than 10 thousand benefited from various forms of counseling and information support. From July to December 2022, 16 groups of beneficiaries took Polish language courses at the Center, with the course for one group lasting an average of 90 hours, at a cost of PLN 10,800 -11,700 per course. The Center employs 12 staff members and is assisted by 36 volunteers.

The center has been funded under the EA 18/2022 program **SINCE JULY 2022**

[caritas.pl/projekty/centrum-pomocy-migrantom-i-uchodzcom-w-warszawie](https://caritas.pl/projekty/centrum-pomocy-migrantom-i-uchodzcom-w-warszawie)



**FUNDING SOURCES:** funds raised under EA 18/2022 and Caritas Poland's own resources.

### EA - Caritas Poland Foreigners Assistance Program

The program was aimed at people who crossed the Polish-Belarusian border and experienced the consequences of the humanitarian crisis. It assumed support for foreigners during detention, which is part of the procedure for applying for international protection in Poland, and support for those directly on the border. Implementation of the project was planned for the entire year 2022 (and was extended by 3 months). The program concerned all persons detained in Guarded Centers for Foreigners (SOC), with a special focus on children. Throughout the period of the program's implementation, this number fluctuated constantly. At the start of the program, there were 1,846 people in 9 centers, while in December 2022 there were 607 people in 6 centers.

By the end of 2022, Caritas Poland under the program:

- issued 1,095 aid kits,
- equipped two SOC centers with art and educational items,
- developed and retrofitted children's spaces (playgrounds, day care centers) at two SOC centers
- organized dozens of animation and educational workshops, in which about 1,000 children participated,
- donated 80 aid kits to the Border Police for people at the border (as part of a pilot for greater distribution).

The program started **IN JANUARY 2022** and running **TILL MARCH 2023**

value of the program **PLN 1,112,104**

amount spent under the program in 2022 **PLN 724,608**

**FUNDING SOURCES:** Emergency Appeal announced through the Caritas Europa network

### Volunteer assistance: Center for Refugees in Linin



more at  
**40**

In 2022, the activities of Caritas volunteers in Poland focused on helping refugees from Ukraine. In terms of this assistance, various initiatives were organized, the most important of which were the operation of Tents of Hope and assistance at the Polish-Ukrainian border, as well as support for foreigners in the Linin center.

The center in Linin is a temporary shelter for refugees from various countries (including Ukraine, Afghanistan and Chechnya), where they are awaiting regularization of their status in Poland. Since October 2021, Caritas Poland has taken the center under its care, organizing material and psychological support for its residents. The main recipients of the activities are mothers with children coming from Chechnya and residing for several years in Poland without refugee status or the right to work.

During this time, integration meetings were organized, during which the center's charges learned about interesting places in Warsaw and the Polish language and culture. They participated in three trips of several days with the Seven Angels community. It was a time filled with meetings, fun and workshops that allowed them to discover talents, share them and do things together.

In 2022, 20 meetings and a dozen workshops were held. Several hundred people were assisted (the exact number is difficult to determine due to the high turnover of the center's charges) - including about 450 people who received one-time support and 30 who received permanent care. In addition, one family of 10, with the support of Caritas Poland, was given the opportunity to live outside the center. In 2022, about 20 volunteers assisted in providing assistance to the center's charges.



# DIRECT SUPPORT

CARITAS POLAND IN FAVOR OF  
THE PEOPLE IN NEED IN POLAND

CARITAS POLAND IS A NATIONAL CARITAS ORGANIZATION THAT COORDINATES AND FINANCES RELIEF ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT MAINLY BY DIOCESAN CARITAS. HOWEVER, CARITAS POLAND CARRIES OUT SOME PROJECTS AND ACTIONS DIRECTLY. IN 2022, IT WAS THUS INVOLVED IN HELPING MIGRANTS, SENIOR CITIZENS AND THE SOCIALLY EXCLUDED, AS WELL AS THE SICK AND CHILDREN.

The cooperation between Caritas Poland and diocesan Caritas is carried out on a partnership basis - both in nationwide projects and in the case of support for specific aid facilities run by Caritas and religious congregations and other church organizations. There are three areas in which Caritas Poland also conducts direct activities for people in need, which provides ample opportunity to verify the forms of support proposed in the projects and the standards and procedures developed.

## Migrants and refugees Seniors

are supported at the Warsaw Center for Assistance to Migrants and Refugees and at the Center for Refugees in Linin.

**THE CENTER FOR THE ASSISTANCE OF MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES** in Warsaw is an outpost of Caritas Poland, which currently has 12 employees and the support of 36 volunteers. Most of those seeking help at the Warsaw CPMiU are refugees from Ukraine, but the facility also provides assistance to refugees from other countries.

➔ **MORE ABOUT WARSAW CPMiU ON PAGE 39**

**REFUGEE CENTER IN LININ** is a unit of the Office for Foreigners. Caritas Poland has been involved in directly helping those staying there, especially children. The assistance is mainly integration activities and preparing the residents of the center for independent functioning outside it.

➔ **MORE ABOUT THE CENTER ON PAGE 39**

from Warsaw and the surrounding area are benefiting from the **SENIOR CARITAS EST** program. This is an integration and activation program run by Caritas Poland since 2019. As part of it, dozens of seniors participate in weekly thematic meetings, trips and pilgrimages. They also meet for festive treats organized on the occasion of holidays. Since the beginning of the pandemic, online meetings are held once a month on the Meet platform. The seniors also enjoy the blog - a chronicle of the meetings kept by one of the program's participants. Training sessions organized by Caritas Poland have helped them master basic tools for communicating over the Internet.

number of program participants	75 PEOPLE
number of events and meetings in 2022	56
value of activities in 2022	PLN 29,000

## Socially excluded people

facing mainly the problem of homelessness are supported directly by Caritas Poland through the "We can do it!", "A little warmth for the homeless" and Street Medical Patrol programs.

**WE GET IT!** is a program aimed primarily at young people leaving homelessness. Each year, people are admitted to the program and receive comprehensive support, including material support. They participate in therapeutic classes, workshops, as well as receive assistance in starting education and work.

➔ **MORE ABOUT THE PROGRAM ON PAGE 24**

**SOME WARMTH FOR THE HOMELESS** is a program run by Caritas Poland in cooperation with the Warsaw Municipal Police. The beneficiaries are homeless people staying outside shelters, in non-residential places in the capital. Caritas Poland primarily funds food and clothing

➔ **MORE ABOUT THE PROGRAM ON PAGE 25**

**STREET MEDICAL PATROL** is a program run by Caritas Poland in cooperation with the Warsaw Municipal Police and the We Are Hope Association. The aim of the program is primarily to provide medical assistance to homeless people staying in non-residential places in all districts of Warsaw. This is often life-saving assistance.

➔ **MORE ABOUT THE PROGRAM ON PAGE 25**

## Support provided by Caritas Poland to facilities run by other church organizations

In 2022, Caritas Poland also provided support to specific facilities run by other church organizations. This support was largely related to the refugee crisis resulting from Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Faced with this situation, various church organizations, including male and female orders of the Catholic Church, took in several thousand refugee families into their headquarters, convents and care facilities. Caritas Poland has provided funds in the amount of PLN 1,000,000 to the Conference of Major Superiors of Male Religious Orders in Poland and PLN 1,000,000 to the Conference of Major Superiors of Female Religious Congregations in Poland as support for facilities that have sheltered refugees.

Last year, Caritas Poland also provided support to 12 other church organizations in the amount of PLN 1,400,000 for aid projects. These included the construction of a children's hospice in Wolomin, the construction of a home for people with disabilities in Mocarzewo, and the construction of modular homes in Laski for Ukrainian families with blind children.

**PLN 3,400,000**  
VALUE OF SUPPORT PROVIDED TO  
ESTABLISHMENTS RUN BY OTHER  
CHURCH ORGANIZATIONS



# UKRAINE

THE INVOLVEMENT OF CARITAS  
IN HELPING REFUGEES FROM  
UKRAINE RESIDING IN POLAND  
AND RESIDENTS OF UKRAINE  
WHO REMAIN IN THEIR  
HOMELAND

Caritas has been tirelessly bringing aid to the people of Ukraine since the beginning of the war - both those seeking refuge in Poland and those who remained in their homeland.

During the first period of the conflict and crisis on the Polish-Ukrainian border, Caritas Poland and diocesan Caritas provided emergency assistance, with the resources available at the time and using the multitude of volunteers who volunteered their services, including at the border. As the conflict dragged on and it became clear that it would not end quickly, Caritas decided that it needed to create mechanisms to provide permanent and well-organized assistance.

At the same time, it had to be a two-pronged assistance - directed both to refugees from Ukraine residing in Poland and those who remained in the war-stricken homeland. Permanent assistance to refugees began to be provided by Caritas-run Migrant and Refugee Assistance Centers emerging throughout Poland. In addition, many refugees from Ukraine, especially children, have been included in the national programs run and implemented by Caritas over the years and aimed at various groups in need.

To support Ukrainian residents remaining in their homeland, Caritas Poland has developed new activities to address specific needs, as well as to take advantage of the Family to Family program that has been in place for 7 years, the largest foreign aid program run by Caritas Poland. New projects include . Parcel for Ukraine, modeled on the already functioning Parcel for Venezuela campaign, financial assistance implemented as part of Polish Aid in cooperation with the Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Points of Hope allowing residents of attacked localities to survive blackouts.

Help for refugees from  
Ukraine in Poland

1

**SUPPORT FOR REFUGEES IN THE FIRST  
WEEKS OF THE WAR**

2

**HELP FOR UKRAINIAN CHILDREN  
IN FOSTER CARE**

3

**RAPID RESPONSE APPEAL  
FINANCIAL SUPORT**

4

**PERMANENT ASSISTANCE TO REFUGEES  
IN POLAND WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK  
OF ASSISTANCE**

Help for the people  
of Ukraine

1

**CROSS-BORDER  
HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE**

2

**PARCEL PROGRAM  
FOR UKRAINE**

3

**PROGRAM FAMILY  
TO FAMILY**

4

**PROGRAM  
POLISH ASSISTANCE**

5

**HOPE  
POINTS**





ASSISTANCE IN POLAND

Tents of Hope and aid in the border belt

During the first period of the war in Ukraine, it became paramount to provide food, necessities and shelter to those crossing the border. In the border strip, Caritas Poland set up Tents of Hope, where volunteers were on duty day and night, serving warm meals, offering temporary shelter or providing information. Caritas provided food, thermoses and blankets to all reception points, in cooperation with border services. Diocesan Caritas also organized in-kind collections, food distribution points and points for mothers with children, and provided information and shelter. During the busiest time on the Polish-Ukrainian border, Caritas issued more than 2 million meals. During this most difficult period, some 31,000 Caritas volunteers provided assistance to refugees, including some 1,300 at the Polish-Ukrainian border.

Diocesan Caritas activities for refugees from Ukraine

From the first days of the war in Ukraine, diocesan Caritas provided extensive support to refugees residing in Poland and sent direct humanitarian aid to Ukraine. These activities were carried out, among others, with funds provided by Caritas Poland - donations and funds from a collection in churches across Poland conducted on February 27th, 2022.

DIOCESAN CARITAS ACTIVITIES ON BEHALF OF REFUGEES FROM UKRAINE IN NUMBERS

2,000,000

refugees from Ukraine received assistance, including 405,000 seniors

3,900,000

food parcels worth PLN 126,100,000 went to refugees

1,500,000

in-kind packages worth PLN 131,100,000 went to refugees

PLN 5,600,000

is the value of food donated to refugees under the Food Aid Operational Program

Support for children and young people in foster care

The program will be implemented FROM AUGUST 2022 TO JULY 2023.

beneficiaries

251 CHILDREN AND TEENAGERS from Ukraine in foster care

value of support

PLN 6,749,190

caritas.pl/ukraina



FUNDING SOURCE: Caritas Germany

"Comprehensive support for Ukrainian children in foster care and their caregivers" is a program implemented by Caritas Poland and diocesan Caritas from August 1, 2022 to July 31, 2023, and funded by Caritas Germany. It is aimed at unaccompanied children and young adults from Ukraine. It consists of funding for centers that have taken children in foster care into their care. The funds have been used to pay for lodging and food (PLN 40/day), employ additional staff, provide access to medical assistance, educational and therapeutic support, vocational and language courses, safeguarding and child protection training. The funding was provided to 4 centers that received evacuated groups of children in foster care from institutions in Ukraine - the Caritas center of the Archdiocese of Czestochowa, the Caritas center of the Diocese of Bielsko-Zywiec, the Care and Education Facility in Krzydlina Mała run by the Sisters of Notre Dame on the territory of the Caritas Archdiocese of Wrocław, and the Caritas center of the Archdiocese of Warmia.

Financial support under Rapid Response Appeal

The program implemented FROM MARCH TO JUNE 2022

beneficiaries

6,148 REFUGEES from Ukraine

value of support

PLN 3,480,000

caritas.pl/ukraina



FUNDING SOURCES: Rapid Response Appeal within the Caritas Internationalis network

From March to June 2022, Caritas Poland provided financial support to refugees from Ukraine with funds collected by Caritas Internationalis through the Rapid Response Appeal. Support in the form of Sodexo cards reloaded with an average of PLN 960 per person for 3 months was given to 6,148 people affected by the conflict in Ukraine and residing on Polish territory. This group included 3,308 children, 621 elderly, 581 disabled and 2,198 adults. A total of 2,460 families received support. The amount of funds distributed under the project was PLN 3,480,000. Monetary assistance was provided to refugees through Caritas of the Radom Diocese, Caritas of the Sandomierz Diocese, Caritas of the Przemyśl Archdiocese and Caritas of the Lublin Archdiocese. Also financed was the cost of renting a warehouse in Lublin, which is used to deliver in-kind donations from Poland and Europe headed to Ukraine. During the project, the warehouse was used to reload donations from 180 trucks.

Establishment and maintenance of 26 Migrant and Refugee Assistance Centers under the EA 18/2022 program

The program implemented FROM JULY 2022 TO JUNE 2023

project budget

PLN 34,762,076

expenses in 2022

PLN 8,122,533

caritas.pl/pomoc-w-polsce/migranci-i-uchodzcy



FUNDING SOURCES: Caritas Internationalis network

The EA 18/2022 program "Caritas support in Poland for people from Ukraine affected by the conflict" is being implemented from July 2022 to June 2023, based on funds provided by Caritas Internationalis. Funds were raised from donations made by national Caritas. Under the program, 26 Migrant and Refugee Assistance Centers have been established. The Centers are staffed with people designated to handle the project and implement program activities. The program provides for the following activities implemented by CPMiU:

- integration and psychosocial activities,
- support in finding employment: conducting Polish language courses, career counseling and job placement,
- running safe places for children - play rooms, day care centers,
- psychological support, individual consultations and workshops for children and adults,
- support in housing, i.e., referral to collective housing facilities and assistance in private rental of apartments,
- financial support in the form of payment cards or blik codes.

Ultimately, the program will support 69,000 beneficiaries using the CPMiU and will provide 34,500 Parcels for Ukraine, benefiting 103,500 people remaining in Ukraine. An important part of the program is a redirection system, whereby any person who cannot find the support he or she needs at CPMiU will be redirected to the right place (e.g., an office, school, other organization).

The established network of CPMiUs has made it possible to establish cooperation with various organizations and government entities, including the UNHCR, the Norwegian government through Caritas Norway, as well as private donors who can donate needed items through the Centers

MIGRANT AND REFUGEE ASSISTANCE CENTERS ESTABLISHED WITH EA 18/2022 FUNDS IN NUMBERS:

- 34,655 refugees from Ukraine registered at CPMiU
- 9,293 people participated in integration activities (excursions, Christmas meetings, going to the cinema, theater, etc.).
- 2,163 persons participated in Polish language courses
- 1,082 people received support in accommodation
- 27,002 people benefited from redirections to other Caritas programs and institutions and organizations

In addition, by the end of 2022, 17,277 packages had been delivered to the needy in Ukraine under the Parcel for Ukraine program.

➡ MORE ABOUT THE OPERATION OF ALL 32 CPMiU ON PAGE 38



WHEN I WAS AT THE BORDER WITH UKRAINE LAST FEBRUARY, I SAW A MIRACLE. THE MIRACLE OF THE OPENNESS OF PEOPLE'S HEARTS. ON THE ONE HAND, HUNDREDS OF PEOPLE FLEEING WAR, AND ON THE OTHER, HUNDREDS OF VOLUNTEERS WAITING FOR NEWCOMERS WITH HOT SOUP, A CUP OF TEA, A WARM BLANKET, READY TO BRING ALL KINDS OF HELP.

Father Marcin Iżycki,  
Director of Caritas Poland

## Przemyśl, February 24th, 2022

Agnes was walking home when she heard on the radio what had happened. She thought her help would come in handy. She worked in the kitchen as a volunteer for hours on end, with no respite, as the terrified, cold and hungry refugees kept coming in.



## Dorohusk, border area

Parcels of basic hygiene and food items await refugees arriving from Ukraine. In the first weeks after the war broke out, volunteers were on duty day and night at points like the one pictured here.



## Children in foster care

In Ukraine they had a substitute for a home - an orphanage - but as a result of the war they lost that as well. Today the smiles are back on their faces, as they have found a safe haven in a center near Czestochowa. They were helped in taming their new place by a star - Ida Nowakowska, ambassador of programs for children run by Caritas Poland. Throughout the day, with her usual great commitment, she led physical and artistic activities.



## Assistance Centers for Migrants and Refugees

Braiding. You can only do it well if it's peaceful and safe around you.... In the photo, Aleksandra with her daughter at the Center for Assistance to Migrants and Refugees in Lublin - one of 32 functioning throughout Poland. The centers employ a total of over 300 people, some of whom are refugees from Ukraine.







ASSISTANCE IN UKRAINE

Cross-border  
in-kind assistance

Since the beginning of the war, there has been a constant flow of aid to Ukraine from Caritas Poland and diocesan Caritas. Among the donated items are food, hygiene products, medical supplies, medicines, wheelchairs and electricity generators. The scale of this aid is enormous, so the speed and fluidity of humanitarian shipments has been greatly improved in the months since the war began. This was made possible by measures to streamline logistics and cooperation with partners affiliated with the international federation Caritas Internationalis, primarily Caritas in Ukraine - Caritas-Spes and Caritas Ukraine, as well as the US Catholic Relief Services, Caritas Switzerland and Caritas Germany. As a result of joint efforts, a cross-border hub of more than 3,000 square meters was established with a warehouse managed by Caritas employees of the Lublin Archdiocese.

Parcel  
for Ukraine

The action runs  
**TILL APRIL 2022**

beneficiaries

**83,000 FAMILIES**  
across Ukraine

value of support

Over  
**PLN 29,000,000**

caritas.pl/ukraina  
cartitas.pl/paczkadlaukraina

**FUNDING SOURCES:**  
individual and business donors

The campaign was launched by Caritas Pol-ska just a month after the war began. It is a response to the situation of Ukrainian residents who have difficulty buying basic food and hygiene items. The aid is directed mainly to families with many children, families whose fathers fought or died during the war, the elderly, the sick and disabled, and single mothers. It is designed to secure the basic needs of families. Each package contains a set of products sufficient for a family of three for two weeks. A set of suggested products is posted at [cartitas.pl/paczkadlaukraina](https://cartitas.pl/paczkadlaukraina). These include, for example, pasta, rice, canned goods, coffee, tea, sugar, toilet paper, soap, toothpaste and bandage plasters. Individuals and business donors are joining the campaign, packing the packages themselves and handing them over to the parishes participating in the campaign.



30 trucks per day

We have gone to a much higher level of logistics. We have arranged this work so that we are able to load and unload more than 30 trucks every day. I encourage everyone to join in helping Ukraine, because all the tools that are needed to transport this aid are ready. We look forward to your support. As for the Parcel for Ukraine, we have managed to reorganize the work under this action, and thanks to this the packing of parcels is very efficient. What do we need? What we need most is for people to open their hearts to continue helping Ukraine. Each gift goes to a specific person, and the demand is growing. The Ukrainian offensive is moving forward, villages are being recaptured where people live who haven't received any help for a long time.

**Jacek Jęczmionka**, humanitarian aid dispatch coordinator for Ukraine at Caritas of the Lublin Archdiocese

Family to Family  
- Ukraine

The program implemented  
**FROM OCTOBER 2022**

beneficiaries

**620 FAMILIES** from the diocese of Kiev-Zytomyr (in 2023, after the addition of the Kharkiv-Zaporozhsky diocese, at least 1120 families will receive assistance)

value of support

**PLN 2,000,000** in 2022 (total budget until December 2023 - PLN 10,783,877)

caritas.pl/rodzina  
caritas.pl/ukraina

The Family to Family program is the largest foreign aid program run by Caritas Poland. In October, Ukraine was included in the program, as the fifth country to benefit from such support. The program involves monthly financial support in the form of bank transfers provided to Ukrainian families most in need. In 2022, such assistance was extended to families from the Kyiv-Zytomyr diocese, which consists of the four oblasts of Kyiv, Zhytomyr, Cherkasy and Chernihiv, directly affected by the hostilities. In 2023, families from the Kharkiv-Zaporozhsky diocese were added to the program. In qualifying families for the program, Caritas Poland uses the assistance of its sister organization Caritas-Spes, which operates locally. The support received can be used by the families for their most urgent needs - such as food, medicines, renovation of a destroyed house, fuel, paying rent. The program, through regular tranches, gives beneficiaries a sense of security and stability, so much needed during the war.

Polish  
Aid

The project runs  
**FROM OCTOBER TO DECEMBER 2022**

beneficiaries

**1,162 FAMILIES** - 426 families (1293 people) from Odessa and 736 families (1391 persons) from Nikolaev

value of support

**PLN 2,487,319**

**FUNDING SOURCES:** polskie Ministerstwo Spraw Zagranicznych

The program, financed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs with the full name "Supporting families in financial distress, particularly the internally displaced in Odessa and Nikolaev and their regions, by providing them with financial resources to get through the winter." This was a one-time cash assistance that provided beneficiaries with the ability to solve urgent problems related to housing, food and relocation to places of safety. Assistance was provided to the most vulnerable categories of families, including internally displaced families (IDPs), families with many children, pregnant women, infants, children with disabilities, and single-parent families. Receiving financial assistance gave beneficiaries the opportunity to plan spending and allocate funds with the interests of their families in mind.

Points  
of Hope

The project runs  
**FROM DECEMBER 2022**

number of Hope Points

**18**

value of support

**PLN 1,410,000**

**FUNDING SOURCES:** Caritas Poland, Government Agency for Strategic Reserves

Points of Hope is Caritas Poland's response to the aftermath of Russian missile attacks, as a result of which residents of Ukraine began to face prolonged blackouts of electricity, heating and water. Residents of large cities were particularly affected by the effects of the blackouts, and it was there that Points of Hope were launched. Each Point was equipped with a power generator, hot water, lighting, Internet, a source for charging mobile devices, a place to rest, a first aid kit, and a children's corner. 18 Points of Hope have been launched in major cities: Kyiv (2), Zhytomyr (2), Chernihiv (1), Cherkasy (1), Konotop (1), Kharkov (2), Krzemenchuk (1), Khmelnytskyi (1), Vinnitsa (2), Odessa (3), Kherson (1), Nikolayev (1). Up to 700 people can use the Points of Hope each day. For the Points of Hope, Caritas has prepared, among other things, electric generators, heaters, Starlink internet receivers, portable charging stations for devices, thermopots, more than 7,000 folding chairs, first aid kits, blankets, coloring books, crayons and other items for children. The tents, flashlights and blankets came from the Government Strategic Reserve Agency.



**PLN 112,723,896**

**THE TOTAL AMOUNT ALLOCATED  
BY CARITAS POLAND FOR UKRAINE  
IN THE YEAR 2022**

**MORE THAN PLN 597,700,000  
TOTAL VALUE OF AID TO UKRAINE  
PROVIDED BY CARITAS POLAND  
AND DIOCESAN CARITAS IN 2022**

**UKRAINE - TARGETED COLLECTION  
IN CHURCHES 27.02.2022**

**PLN 35,891,679**

#### Helping people in need in Ukraine

Type of assistance	Amount
Parcel for Ukraine - distribution of food and hygiene parcels	PLN 29,000,000
Financial support for families in difficulty in Odessa and Nikolaev	PLN 2,487,300
Family to Family program - Ukraine	PLN 2,000,000
Points of Hope - Counteracting the effects of blackouts in Ukrainian cities	PLN 1,410,000
<b>Total amount of support transferred to Ukraine</b>	<b>PLN 34,897,300</b>

#### Helping Ukrainian refugees in Poland

Type of assistance	Amount
Activities of Assistance Centers for Migrants and Refugees in 26 cities in Poland	PLN 12,201,200
Financial assistance in the form of e-codes, Sodexo cards, etc .	PLN 5,642,500
Food and material assistance	PLN 14,850,100
Support in a variety of ways from funds donated to diocesan Caritas and from church collections	PLN 39,971,700
Subsidized stay in centers of Caritas and other church organizations	PLN 2,792,200
Support for construction and renovation work of facilities and housing for refugees from Ukraine	PLN 2,350,000
Comprehensive support for Ukrainian children in foster care and their caregivers	PLN 3,191,300
Caritas summer campaign for Ukrainian children	PLN 504,200
Respite stays for Ukrainian children	PLN 466,000
Scholarship programs Wings and Two Talents scholarship programs for children and young people	PLN 629,000
Christmas meeting for Ukrainian children	PLN 308,000
Schoolbag Full of Smiles for Ukrainian children	PLN 209,000
Assistance at the border (Tents of Hope)	PLN 308,400
Organization of the Wind of Hope Festival - Ukraine	PLN 67,500
<b>Total value of support for refugees from Ukraine in Poland</b>	<b>PLN 83,491,200</b>



# WORLD

**THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE FLAGSHIP FAMILY TO FAMILY PROGRAM, THE MAINTENANCE OF THE CHALLENGING MISSION IN YEMEN, OR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NEXT EDITION OF THE SUPPORT PROGRAM FOR VENEZUELAN ARE JUST SOME OF THE GOALS THAT CARITAS POLAND HAS SET FOR ITSELF IN THE PAST YEAR AS PART OF ITS COMMITMENT TO FOREIGN ASSISTANCE.**

## THE MAIN DIRECTIONS OF CARITAS POLAND'S OVERSEAS ACTIVITIES:

Middle East (leading programs are Family to Family and School to School)

Ukraine

Latin America (the main program is Parcel for Venezuela)

Africa

Asia

## THE MAIN SECTORS OF FOREIGN AID ACTIVITIES:

Cash assistance financial support

Support for micro-entrepreneurs

Education

Medical assistance

Food aid

Amounts transferred for foreign aid (in EUR and USD) have been converted into PLN according to the average exchange rate of the National Bank of Poland as of 30.12.2022

The key focus in the area of foreign aid became effective humanitarian assistance carried in Ukraine while maintaining the level of support for other projects carried out in dozens of countries around the world. Caritas Poland's overseas activities last year included both humanitarian and development aid. Each time they responded to needs communicated by local partners.

Caritas Poland, as a member of the Caritas Europa confederation and Caritas Internationalis, is constantly expanding

the areas of assistance implementation of activities at every stage - from the detailed identification of needs on the ground, through the planning of activities and their implementation, to the detailed evaluation and reporting of the project. It implements both comprehensive projects in coordination with other leading Caritas in the network, as well as initiatives in cooperation with other - local and global - church and secular organizations. In addition, it also supports relief projects working with Polish missionaries around the world.





## FAMILY TO FAMILY PROGRAM

in 2022

**BENEFICIARIES**

**6,355 FAMILIES**

**FROM SYRIA, LEBANON, THE GAZA STRIP AND IRAQI KURDISTAN**

**166 FAMILY BUSINESSES**  
**IN SYRIA AND IRAQI KURDISTAN**

**AMOUNT TRANSFERRED**

**PLN 10,800,000**

Since the beginning  
of the program

**THE NUMBER OF BENEFICIARIES  
INCREASED FROM 150 FAMILIES  
IN 2016 TO 6,355 FAMILIES IN 2022**

**AMOUNT TRANSFERRED**

**PLN 74,600,000**



HUMANITARIAN  
ASSISTANCEDEVELOPMENT  
ASSISTANCE support for  
microentrepreneurs

**THIS IS THE LARGEST  
FOREIGN HUMANITARIAN  
AID PROGRAM  
IMPLEMENTED BY  
CARITAS POLAND.  
IT HAS BEEN IN PLACE  
SINCE OCTOBER 2016  
AND INITIALLY COVERED  
ONLY FAMILIES IN SYRIA.  
IT NOW ALSO OPERATES  
IN LEBANON, GAZA  
AND IRAQI KURDISTAN,  
AND FROM 2022 - ALSO  
IN UKRAINE\*.**

The Family to Family program provides monthly cash assistance to the most disadvantaged families. Its additional component is support for small family businesses such as car repair store, tailor store, grocery store and other services. In this way the entrepreneur can start his or her own business and thus become independent of monthly financial allowances. The component functions in Syria and Iraq.

In the past year, 6,355 families from four countries in the Middle East received assistance from the Program. In addition, 141 family businesses in Syria and 25 in Iraqi Kurdistan benefited from the support. Since 2018, Caritas Poland has funded a total of 570 microenterprises in the Middle East (545 in Syria and 25 in Iraq). The amount of support under the entire Family to Family program, from its inception until the end of 2022, amounted to PLN 74.6 million, and PLN 10.8 million in 2022 alone.

Donors to the program include hundreds of individuals, as well as parishes, bishops, religious congregations and private companies. The donors receive regularly information from Caritas Poland about families and ongoing activities through a unique mailing list. The mechanism of the Family to Family program launched seven years ago remains in place: donations arrive first to Caritas Poland and then are redirected to our local partners. The beneficiaries receive the funds in cash or to their bank account every month. This way they can use the money for the most urgent purposes of their choice, such as paying rent, electricity, buying food or medicine.

## Syria

This is the first country to be included in the Family to Family program. Although the hostilities now only cover the area around Idlib province in northern Syria, the situation in the country is still dire. The war has left behind broken and homeless families, poverty, unemployment and rampant inflation. Currently, 15.3 million Syrian citizens are in need of humanitarian assistance, including 6.5 million children (according to OCHA). The situation is particularly difficult for the 6.8 million internally displaced persons, as well as those who have emigrated to neighboring countries. Monthly support from the Family to Family program and assistance to micro-enterprises is restoring hope to Syrians and decreases anxiety about tomorrow.

Assistance under the program is possible thanks to the cooperation of Caritas Poland with the Hope Center, an organization present in Syria, which handles, among other things, the qualification of families for the program and the distribution of support.

## Palestine –The Gaza Strip

Since 2020, the Family to Family program has been operating in the Gaza Strip, which is particularly difficult to access for aid organizations. Caritas Poland's partner is Caritas Jerusalem, which has offices in Gaza. The humanitarian situation in the Gaza Strip has remained very unstable for years. Palestinians living in this small area have for years been victims of the ongoing conflict between Israel and the Palestinian Authority. It has resulted in a blockade imposed in 2007 on imports of goods and border crossings. Of the Gaza Strip's population of 2 million, 1.3 million (58%) people are in need of humanitarian assistance. The poverty of the population is also a result of unemployment, which stood at 44% in 2022, and remains particularly high for women (65%).

Many families lack safe shelter, livelihoods and even clean water. Humanitarian organizations estimate that nearly 57,000 housing units are in need of repair. Admittedly, many families are trying to make repairs on their own, but not all can afford to do so due to their difficult socioeconomic situation. Children, the elderly and the sick are in a particularly dire situation, deprived of decent living conditions.

## Lebanon

On August 4th, 2020, an explosion of stored chemicals occurred in the port of Beirut. More than 200 people were killed, more than 5,000 injured, and the port district turned into rubble. The disaster aggravated the country's years-long socio-economic crisis.

The prompt for the reactivation of the Family of Families program in Lebanon in 2021 was the accumulation of problems which Lebanese families have to face. At the same time, Caritas Poland's previous good experience with Caritas Lebanon made it possible to think about the effective introduction of assistance mechanisms under the Family to Family program. Population of Lebanon is about 6.7 million, from which as many as 2.3 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance. 1.5 million refugees from Syria who have taken refuge in Lebanon are in a particularly difficult situation.

## Iraqi Kurdistan

Iraqi Kurdistan has been included in Family to Family program since 2021. The region have been marked by numerous wars, including acts of terror by ISIS. These have targeted Yazidi and Christians families in particular. The number of the latter has declined from about 1.5 million to about 300,000 in just a few years. Native Christians were either fleeing the conflict or dying at the hands of ISIS militants. The need to support these specific populations was a major factor in Caritas Poland's decision to expand the program. The decision was also supported by the presence of a project partner on the ground - the Eagle Watch Foundation - with which Caritas Poland has been conducting other activities since 2018.

In 2022, 2.5 million people in Iraq are in need of humanitarian assistance. The country continues to struggle with the problem of internally displaced persons, hundreds of thousands of whom still live in camps. While Iraq is recovering from the crisis, humanitarian needs remain very high.

\* **MORE ABOUT THE FAMILY TO FAMILY  
PROGRAM - UKRAINE ON PAGE 49**





MIDDLE EAST

## Lebanon

During 2022 Caritas Poland implemented in Lebanon Family to Family program(see more on page 54) as well as three other programs to support victims of the blast and education sector.

### HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

#### Hand in Hand project

The program, which supports victims of the chemical explosion in Beirut, was implemented by three Caritas organizations (Poland, Switzerland and Lebanon) from June 2021 to June 2022. The housing crisis that had been going on for 30 years (lack of affordable housing and no real institutional assistance from the state) was only aggravated by the August 2020 explosion. The project renovated a complex of 5 buildings with social housing for 48 families. The project also guaranteed temporary employment in the renovation for 150 construction workers. Caritas Poland allocated PLN 792,324 for this purpose. The total value of this project is nearly PLN 4.5 million.

The Program was implemented  
FROM JUNE 2021 TO JUNE 2022.

beneficiaries	<b>150 PEOPLE</b> tenants of 48 apartments and 150 construction workers (14 Lebanese and 136 Syrians)
amount of support	<b>PLN 792,324</b>

PARTNERS: Caritas Lebanon, Caritas Switzerland

### HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

#### Support for schools

A third of Lebanon's children (400,000 out of 1.2 million) are out of school due to the crisis. As a result of the tragic explosion at the port of Beirut, 183 educational institutions in the capital metropolitan area alone were damaged. 80% of Lebanon's 235 Christian schools are on the verge of bankruptcy - they lack the funds to continue operating in the crisis and to pay basic operating costs (such as teachers' salaries or purchase of fuel for generators). The families of the students are unable to support the schools because they barely have enough money for tuition. Caritas Poland has supported 9 schools in Beirut (5 Roman Catholic, 3 Maronite and 1 Greek Catholic) with PLN 770,316. 35% of this amount was directed for the continuation of operations, and 65% for children's school fees. With this support, 1,459 children have been given the chance to continue their education.

The Program was implemented  
FROM JANUARY TO DECEMBER 2022.

beneficiaries	<b>9 SCHOOLS</b> Beirut, attended by <b>1,459 CHILDREN</b>
project budget	<b>PLN 770,316</b>

PARTNER: Caritas Lebanon

### HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

#### The initiative "I was naked, and you clothed me."

An initiative was led by the Congregation of the Sisters of Jesus and Mary to protect children from the cold winter weather and enable them to go to school in comfort. Children from four schools in the Beirut area received a set of quality appropriate winter clothes (jacket and boots). During December distribution, 1,000 sets of clothing were distributed.

The action runs  
IN DECEMBER 2022.

beneficiaries	<b>1,000 CHILDREN</b>
value of support	<b>PLN 162,308</b>

PARTNER: the Congregation of the Sisters of Jesus and Mary



# Syria

In Syria, Caritas Poland implemented the humanitarian program Family to Family in 2022 (more on page 54) as well as two educational programs.

DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE

## School to School

School to school is a formal education program which responds to the dramatic situation of the education sector in Syria. Today, there are still many children out of school. 70% of educational facilities in Aleppo have been affected by the hostilities between 2012 and 2016. Fundings for the program is raised through Polish schools. In the 2021/2022 school year, Caritas Poland supported 8 educational institutions in Aleppo by equipping classrooms and a school laboratory, providing textbooks and school supplies, installing a photovoltaic system and stoves for space heating during the winter, and purchasing an ultrasound machine and equipment for physiotherapy classes for a center for children with special needs. In addition, workshops were held at each of the eight schools to educate on personal hygiene, personal space, anti-bullying, safety and violence prevention, among others. The workshops were attended by 1,742 children. At the end of each session, children received a set of notebooks and school supplies tailored to their age. Training sessions were also held for 56 teachers from supported educational institutions.

DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE

## Educational Program Daycare Children University

Children University is a non-formal education program to organize activities in an afternoon day care center. The center operates in Aleppo are open for children between the ages of 6 and 16. The center's educational program engages children in an interactive way and emphasizes experience as a learning tool. In 2022, the center provided 110 students with a safe and healthy environment, offering both educational and psychosocial support, as well as opportunities for active leisure activities

The program was implemented FROM MAY TO DECEMBER 2022.

beneficiaries	110 CHILDREN
project budget	PLN 185,251

PARTNERS: Christian Hope Center, St.Nicholas Foundation

Multi-year program; the most recent completed edition was implemented FROM NOVEMBER 2021 TO JUNE 2022.

beneficiaries	8 SCHOOLS 1722 students and 56 teachers
project budget	PLN 76,151

PARTNERS: Christian Hope Center, St.Nicholas Foundation, Caritas of Radom Diocese

DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE education

# Support for migrants in Egypt and Israel

**Egypt.** The aim of the projects is to support formal education and refugees. It is implemented by the Combonian Missionaries, who run 2 schools for refugees and migrants in Cairo - Lwanga and St. Joseph. The project has funded salaries for teachers, administrative and security staff at the schools to ensure the continuity of the education for the 2021/2022 school year. Refugee and migrant children from Sudan and Eritrea who fled to Egypt need a place to learn. In Egypt, they are not enrolled in local schools. In the same time, it's unlikely that they will soon be able to return to their country of origin. The amount of support provided by Caritas Poland under the project is PLN 117,248.

**Israel.** Non-formal education, child protection and support for migrants and asylum seekers were the objectives of a project conducted in Israel in 2022. The project aimed to subsidize day care centers for the children of migrant women trying to regularize their legal situation in Israel. The grant from Caritas Poland, was used to pay the salary of one of the teachers at the day care center in Jerusalem from March 2022 to March 2023. The beneficiaries of the project are migrant mothers of children receiving day care at the center. Their children in Israel are not covered by government support. In addition, non-Jewish women who come to Israel on work contracts lose their legal residency status if they get married or get pregnant. The Jerusalem day center is attended by 28 children. The center is open six days a week. The amount of support provided by Caritas Poland under the project is PLN 88,036.

PLN 205,284  
AMOUNT ALLOCATED  
TO SUPPORT AND EDUCATE  
REFUGEES IN EGYPT AND ISRAEL



Projects co-financed within the framework of Polish development cooperation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland



HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

Jordan

Housing and support for urban refugees are the objectives of the project "Supporting urban Syrian refugees and the poorest Jordanians in four provinces of Jordan by providing them with shelter and resources to survive the winter (Module II)," implemented from January to September 2022 by Caritas Poland in cooperation with the Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs under the Polish Aid program. Jordan is estimated to be home to nearly 670,000 registered Syrian refugees, more than 80% of whom live outside the camps, within the major cities of Amman, Irbid, Zarka and Mafraq. The local housing market has not been able to cope with the huge influx of people, and as a result, unfavorable practices have begun to emerge, such as inflating rental prices, renting out unsuitable housing space, or not having any rental contracts at all. According to the latest UNHCR data, the biggest challenge for urban refugees in Jordan is the winter months, when people struggle with the cold and sub-zero temperatures in poorly insulated rooms, basements or makeshift shelters. In 2022, under Module II of the project, 250 households received financial support to pay rent for 6 months. The assistance was provided in the form of dedicated ATM cards.

II module of the project implemented  
**FROM JANUARY TO SEPTEMBER 2022.**  
duration of the entire project  
**OCTOBER 2021 TO SEPTEMBER 2022.**

beneficiaries	<b>250 HOUSEHOLDS</b> (175 Syrian and 75 Jordanian)
amount of support (module II)	<b>PLN 1,768,900</b>
value of the entire project	<b>PLN 3,289,900</b>

**PARTNER:** Caritas Jordan

HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

Palestine - the Gaza Strip

This region, which is among the poorest in the Middle East, was covered by Caritas Poland's Family to Family program (see page 55 for more). Additionally, project funded by Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs was carried out. "Support for Gaza residents in food security and shelter (Module II)" included humanitarian assistance, food and housing support. It covered three locations in the Gaza Strip: Beit Hanoun, Beit Lahia and Shujayieh. The project provided 300 families with two food packages each. The parcels contained a variety of high-quality dry and canned goods in quantities sufficient for several months. In addition, the project repaired the housing units of 60 families in the same locations. The premises had been damaged as a result of warfare, and lacked needed appliances. Some family members were also suffering from health problems due to the harsh living conditions.

Duration of the module:  
**JANUARY - DECEMBER 2022.**  
Duration of the project:  
**OCTOBER 2021 - DECEMBER 2022**

beneficiaries	<b>360 FAMILIES</b>
amount of support (module II)	<b>PLN 1,170,224</b>
value of the entire project	<b>PLN 2,153,824</b>

DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE

Palestine - Bethlehem Support for people with disabilities

Supporting people with disabilities is the objective of the project called "Integral Support for People with Disabilities in the West Bank of the Palestinian Authority (Module II)," implemented by Caritas Poland in cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, under the Polish Aid program. Following the success of Module I, four additional rehabilitation centers were supported in 2022. New treatment options for people with disabilities, especially in rural areas, have emerged in Bethlehem province. Eight specialized therapy rooms have been equipped. 10 adults with disabilities were trained in micro-project management and received support to start their own small income-generating projects. In addition, 10 more beneficiaries were employed by various local institutions. This allowed them to gain professional competencies and gain self-confidence. Thanks to project activities, on International Day of Persons with Disabilities, 9 people with disabilities staged a play, for which they had been preparing for several months under the guidance of a professional director. A social media campaign was also carried out as part of Module II, which is extremely important, as it helps break down the country's entrenched culture of shame associated with disability.

II module of the project implemented:  
**JANUARY 2022 - DECEMBER 2023**  
Duration of the entire project:  
**AUGUST 2021 - DECEMBER 2023**

beneficiaries	<b>about 2,000 PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES</b>
amount of support (module II)	<b>PLN 1,472,558</b>
value of the entire project	<b>PLN 3,970,510</b>

DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE

Palestine - Hebron and the Gaza Strip Support for people with disabilities and vocational activation

Supporting people with disabilities, assisting them to enter the labor market are the objectives of the project called "Integral support for people with disabilities in the Palestinian Authority's Hebron province and vocational activation of women and young people entering the labor market in the Gaza Strip (Module I)," implemented by Caritas Poland in cooperation with the Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, under the Polish Aid program. As part of the project, five specialized therapy rooms were retrofitted at three rehabilitation centers in Hebron, and two of the centers were renovated to better accommodate people with disabilities. Assistive devices, including mobility equipment, vision aids or hearing aids, were provided for 100 people with disabilities, according to their needs, in order to improve their quality of life. The project also conducted awareness sessions and a social media campaign that reached more than 192,000 people. What's more, a group of women and youth in Gaza Strip received intensive training in micro-project management to gain the skills necessary to create and maintain small income-generating enterprises.

I module of the project implemented:  
**SEPTEMBER - DECEMBER 2022**  
Duration of the entire project:  
**SEPTEMBER 2022 - DECEMBER 2024**

beneficiaries	<b>about 1,300 PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES AND 30 PEOPLE</b> entering the labor market
amount of support (module II)	<b>PLN 1,419,664</b>
value of the entire project	<b>PLN 5,372,600</b>





**PLN 6,581,346** AMOUNT OF  
SUPPORT PROVIDED THROUGH PROJECTS  
CARRIED OUT BY CARITAS POLAND WITH  
THE POLISH MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
IN THE MIDDLE EAST



HUMANITARIAN  
ASSISTANCE

## Yemen - Caritas Poland's mission

The world's most profound humanitarian crisis continues to play out in Yemen, the poorest country in the Middle East. Although a bloody civil war has been going on there for eight years, other world events are taking attention away from Yemen, condemning it to media oblivion. The main problems for Yemenis are malnutrition and lack of access to potable water and free health care. Meanwhile, the health service has been in a state of collapse for many years - underfunded or not supported at all by the government. Only international aid can alleviate the situation. Caritas Poland is prioritizing the expansion and support of health centers in the region - this is the kind of support Yemenis have been engaged in since 2018.

Caritas Poland established an office in Aden in early 2022. Owning an independent office in Yemen has enabled Caritas Poland to move from the category of donor and aid coordinator to the position of a local organization with its own structures. The office has hired more than a dozen qualified humanitarian aid workers (all Yemeni nationals), whose work is managed by the Head of Mission, an expat from Poland. The new team co-designed and implemented the 2022 humanitarian program and communicated directly with the Yemeni Ministry of Health and other state bodies. One of the sources of funding for activities in Yemen in 2022 was the announced Emergency Appeal, to which the Caritas Internationalis confederation, including Caritas Poland, responded.

Polish Humanitarian Action and the Dutch organization Cordaid, a member of the Caritas confederation, were partners in implementing activities carried out under the 2022 appeal. Medical support in the Aden region was carried out by Caritas Poland together with PAH, while cash for food aid in the Taizz region was provided by Cordaid. The total number of beneficiaries reached by the appeal was 43,042 people - 41,376 in Aden and 1,666 in Taizz. The primary goal of the appeal was to reduce mortality and morbidity and generally improve health, hygiene, sanitation, and create conditions for safe motherhood through interventions at the targeted health facilities.

A similar range of activities was provided for all supported clinics: repairing infrastructure, subsidizing staff salaries, supplying essential medicines, and purchasing medical equipment and hygiene products.

In 2022 Caritas Poland implemented Module II of the grant awarded by the Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs under the Polish Aid program. Thanks to these funds, two mobile clinics - off-road vehicles equipped with basic medical equipment and a supply of medicines - were purchased in 2021. In 2022, they continued their work, bringing aid to hard-to-reach villages scattered across the mountainous northwestern part of Abjan province. The same project also succeeded in buying medical equipment for the Rasad district hospital. This hospital was the base for the mobile clinics purchased. Caritas Poland provided it with comprehensive support, including cash benefits for employees and the purchase of medicines.

**PLN 1,550,000**  
HAS BEEN ALLOCATED  
TO HELP THE POOREST  
YEMENIS IN 2022,  
INCLUDING:

**PLN 800,000**  
WAS OBTAINED FROM CARITAS  
INTERNATIONALIS (INCLUDING  
CARITAS POLAND) IN RESPONSE  
TO THE EMERGENCY APPEAL

MORE THAN **PLN 750,000**  
WAS OBTAINED FROM THE POLISH  
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AS  
PART OF THE POLISH AID PROGRAM







VENEZUELA

**PLN 1,875,693**  
**VALUE OF THE THREE  
 EDITIONS OF THE PROGRAM**

HUMANITARIAN  
ASSISTANCE

## Parcel for Venezuela

Venezuela is a country that impresses with its unique nature and diverse, multicolored culture. Unfortunately, in recent years these undeniable qualities of the country have been overshadowed by the devastating humanitarian and political crisis that has been ongoing there since 2014. Lack of access to electricity, empty shelves in stores, high inflation and crime are the reality of the country's residents. Although the situation has begun to stabilize somewhat recently, it is estimated that about 80% of the population is still affected by poverty. Venezuelan residents cannot count on social support from the state, meanwhile, a large number of families are unable to meet their basic needs on their own, and some are experiencing hunger. The problem of finding a job, and thus being able to meet daily needs, is the reason why some 6 million Venezuelans have left the country since the crisis began. In search of stability, they have emigrated to neighboring countries, including Colombia, where nearly 2 million Venezuelans already reside.

In response to this massive humanitarian crisis, Caritas Poland launched the "Parcel for Venezuela" program in 2020, under which the poorest who have migrated to Colombia receive the most desperately needed food and hygiene products and food vouchers. In addition, part of the aid goes to the most needy Colombian families with no regular income. The 3rd edition of the program has been expanded to include 2 training modules - health prevention issues (1) and helping expatriates regularize their status and gain access to social benefits (2).

The Parcel for Venezuela program has been generously supported by Caritas Poland donors since its inception. In 2022, the amount of PLN 937,980 was donated for the implementation of the 3rd edition of the program. A total of 10,306 people (mainly members of large families and elderly and disabled people living alone) received food aid, while 5,480 people benefited from training.

The program is being implemented in Colombia and mainly targets Venezuelan expatriates.

The 3rd edition of the program implemented  
**FROM FEBRUARY TO AUGUST 2022.**  
 The 1st edition of the program began **IN MAY 2020.R.**

beneficiaries

**10,306 PEOPLE** covered  
 by food support (packages and  
 food vouchers) and **5,480 PEOPLE**  
 covered by information activities

amount of  
support  
(3rd edition)

**PLN 937,980**

**FUNDING SOURCE:** contributions from donors





## MISSIONARY PROJECTS

Supporting Missionary Projects is a very important area of Caritas Poland's activities. Currently, more than 1,700 Polish missionaries are working in dozens of countries on all continents. They evangelize and bring aid to those most in need. They build schools and hospitals, organize feeding programs, care for the elderly and people with disabilities. Caritas Poland supports the activities of many Polish missionaries with funds provided by donors. **In 2022, 30 Missionary Projects received funding from Caritas. They were carried out in South Sudan, Bolivia, Argentina, Kazakhstan and Bangladesh.**

**30** MISSIONARY PROJECTS  
IN AFRICA, ASIA,  
LATIN AMERICA,  
AND EASTERN EUROPE

**PLN 1,414,000**  
CARITAS POLAND  
DONATED THE FOLLOWING  
AMOUNT FOR THEIR FUNDING

HUMANITARIAN  
ASSISTANCE

### South Sudan feeding the poorest students

South Sudan is a country whose people have suffered from war, famine and extreme poverty for a very long time. The Yirol mission, where Father Krzysztof Zębik, a Combonian, serves, is located in the so-called Lakes Region and covers almost 5,000 square kilometers. Conflicts between tribes, vast distances to travel, a rainy season that lasts half a year are the realities of a missionary's daily work. He carries out his work often risking his life. Despite these difficulties, he sacrificially carries out activities in two areas - evangelization and education. There are 3 schools in the mission area, attended by about 3,000 students. For these children, war conflicts, killing people, attacking and burning villages are realities they know very well. The missionary, along with his fellow missionaries, is doing everything possible to help them and their families where possible. 2022. Caritas Poland donated funds for the missionary's child nutrition programs.

DEVELOPMENT  
ASSISTANCE

### Bolivia support for education of girls from poor families

Sister Katarzyna Kociolek of the Daughters of Divine Charity has been working for several years at a mission located in the high Andes Mountains. She administers the operations of a school complex, and also conducts evangelization and charity work among Bolivia's poorest residents. He regularly visits families living in villages scattered in hard-to-reach mountain areas. "Faith and Joy" is the name of the schools for which she is responsible, and at the same time the most important message that Sister carries to those most in need during her daily missionary work. Thanks to financial support from Caritas Poland, a boarding school for dozens of schoolgirls from Bolivia's poorest families has been renovated.

HUMANITARIAN  
ASSISTANCE

### Argentina feeding children and Indian families

Bordering Paraguay, the Puerto Libertas mission, run by the Order of Friars Minor, is one of the poorest in Argentina. Families living there live modestly, often without the ability to provide their youngest children with a daily, wholesome meal. Caritas Poland has supported the "Cup of Milk" program for several years. Also in 2022, it donated funds to support this initiative, through which more than 300 children receive a nutritious meal three times a week. Food support is also given to members of the local Guarani tribe, who receive a food parcel with basic products once a month.

HUMANITARIAN  
ASSISTANCE

### Kazakhstan meals for orphans

Father Artur Zaráś has been working on a mission in remote Kazakhstan, 300 km from the Chinese border, since 2013. Poverty, lack of work and addictions are the problems of the local community that he encounters on a daily basis. There are care centers at the mission, which help orphans or half-orphans, as well as mothers who find themselves in difficult situations. These are the only facilities of their kind in Kazakhstan. Currently, 6 houses house several dozen children. Thanks to the missionary's work and efforts, they can grow up in dignified and safe conditions, learn, develop their abilities and interests. They are provided with warm meals, clothes, toys, school supplies. They are cared for and looked after. The cost of running the facilities is very high, so Caritas Poland donates funds to subsidize meals for the wards.

DEVELOPMENT  
ASSISTANCE

### Bangladesh education of children in rural areas

Father Paweł Kociotek of the Congregation of Salesian Fathers has been working in Bangladesh for many years. It is a country where Christians make up 1% of the population. Most come from different tribes with very different traditions. Christians live in villages and engage in agriculture. They are often treated as second-class people. They live in houses made of clay, without electricity or health care. The situation of local children is particularly difficult, which is why Caritas Poland has been supporting the activities of five schools run by the missionary for several years. In 2022, the donated funds paid for teachers' salaries, among other things. This is an extremely important initiative, as the schools are attended by the poorest children from local villages. Their parents are overwhelmingly illiterate. Education is the only chance for these children to get out of poverty in the future.





OTHER FOREIGN PROJECTS

DEVELOPMENT  
ASSISTANCE

Georgia  
support for local  
entrepreneurship

Georgia is a remarkable and diverse country that is famous for its unique tradition of cheese products. In 2022, Caritas Poland implemented Module II of a project funded by the Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs to support local farmers in improving cheese-making skills, improving the quality of production and promoting their business. Support was provided to selected entrepreneurs living in the Kakheti region, one of the poorer regions in eastern Georgia. The donated funds financed training on, among other things, innovative production techniques and standards, as well as on the principles of micro-enterprise, promotion and establishing business relations. Specialized equipment was purchased for cheese production and cheese quality testing. A number of activities were implemented to promote cheese production, targeting both local customers and foreign tourists (website, presentations and workshops). An important element of the project was to support women living in rural areas who are involved in cheese production. They received in support that enabled them to expand their business to include services aimed at tourists. As part of the project, a Tourist Cheese Trail was created, which is a unique proposition.

Duration of the entire project:  
SEPTEMBER 2021 TO SEPTEMBER 2022

liczba modułów	3
beneficiaries of module II	about 100 LOCAL ENTREPRENEURS
value of module II	PLN 335,250
value of the entire project	PLN 832,875

FUNDING SOURCE: Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Polish Aid)

HUMANITARIAN  
ASSISTANCE

Germany  
assistance to  
flood victims

In 2021 Germany experienced a massive natural disaster. After very heavy rains, the flood wave that swept through the Ahr River valley damaged several thousand buildings along the Ahr River. More than 100 people died, nearly 800 people were injured, and at least 17,000 lost their belongings or suffered significant damage. Caritas Poland has allocated €500,000 (PLN 2,344,950) to help those affected. The funds have been earmarked for financial aid, the reconstruction of damaged homes and farms, as well as the opening of the so-called Meeting Place, where various forms of support for flood victims are organized (including workshops, integration meetings, psychological consultations).

Project duration:  
MARCH 2022 TO FEBRUARY 2025

number of modules	1
beneficiaries	about 1,695 PEOPLE
amount of support	PLN 2,344,950

HUMANITARIAN  
ASSISTANCE

Greece  
support for refugees  
and volunteers

In 2022, Caritas Poland provided funds for two projects on the Greek island of Lesbos. This was a continuation of the assistance directed to those in the refugee camp, victims of the 2015 migrant crisis. The Greek islands have become a temporary home for a huge number of refugees from Syria, Afghanistan, Iraq and sub-Saharan African countries. The two main thrusts of the projects were organizing vocational courses for refugees and funding food vouchers for volunteers helping in the camp. The aim of the courses was to prepare participants for their chosen profession and enable them to become gainfully employed in the future. Provisions included courses for carpenters, mechanics, electricians, as well as computer and English language courses. In turn, the project to finance food vouchers for volunteers was a kind of gratification and an important motivational element.

Duration of both projects:  
OCTOBER 2022 TO SEPTEMBER 2023

number of modules	1
beneficiaries	about 200 PEOPLE
value of support	PLN 371,407

HUMANITARIAN  
ASSISTANCE

Nepal  
medical  
assistance

Caritas Poland began relief efforts in Nepal in 2015 in response to one of the most tragic events in the country's history, an unusually strong earthquake. Since then, it has systematically supported the local community with medical projects in cooperation with Caritas Nepal. A 3-year project has been underway since 2020, with Caritas Poland providing funds for the operation of 5 rural health centers. These are the only centers providing medical assistance that the poorest Nepalese families living in hard-to-reach mountainous areas are able to reach. Funds donated by Caritas Poland have made it possible to rebuild clinics destroyed by the earthquake, as well as to purchase medicines and various equipment, including wheelchairs, stretchers, birthing kits, professional examination beds, and sterilizers for medical instruments. Comprehensive support was also provided to the centers' staff, for whom periodic training courses were organized to improve professional skills.

Three-year program implemented  
FROM DECEMBER 2020 TO NOVEMBER 2023.

number of modules	3
beneficiaries of module II	more than 5,000 PEOPLE
value of module II	PLN 1,489,911
value of the whole program	PLN 2,979,812

HUMANITARIAN  
ASSISTANCE

Mexico  
crisis management  
training

February 2023 marked the end of a project in cooperation with Caritas Mexico, which responded to the aftermath of the cataclysmic earthquake in Mexico. The project implemented activities targeting the local community to provide the knowledge and tools needed to respond to unexpected emergencies. Local communities and Caritas Mexico staff were trained in selected issues of the crisis management area. In addition, a nationwide emergency management protocol was developed and specialized equipment was purchased. The project was implemented in three Mexican dioceses: Tehuantepec, Tuxtla Gutiérrez and Cuernavaca.

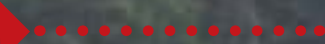
Project duration:  
APRIL 2021 TO FEBRUARY 2023.

number of modules	1
beneficiaries	more than 1,000 PEOPLE
value of support	PLN 613,106



**PLN 4,215,175**  
THE TOTAL VALUE OF OF OTHER  
PROJECTS IMPLEMENTED IN AFRICA,  
ASIA, LATIN AMERICA AND EUROPE

Other foreign  
projects supported  
by Caritas Poland  
in 2022.

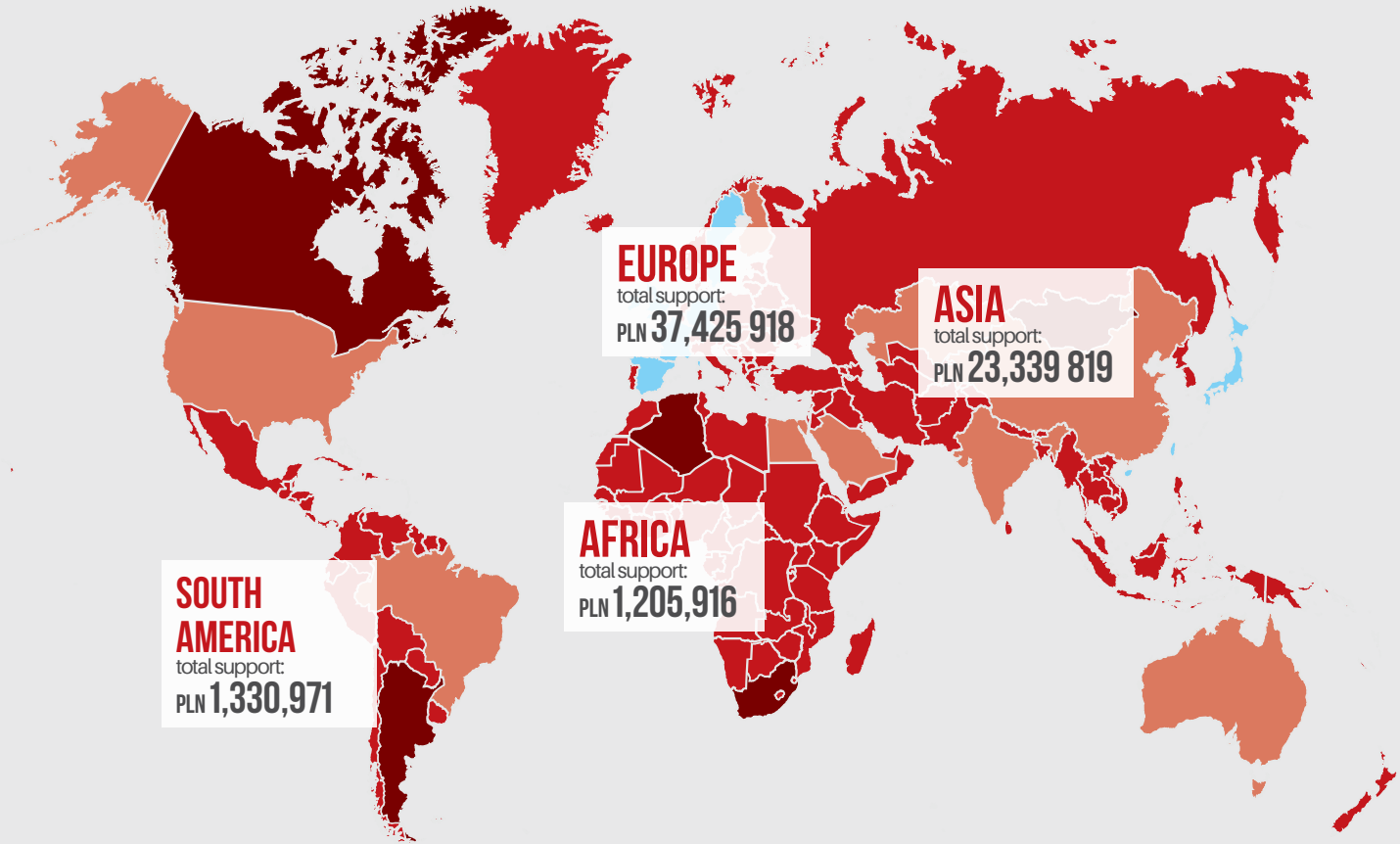


COUNTRY	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	BUDGET
Afganistan	Social and psychological support for Afghans	PLN 468,990
Burkina Faso	1.Subsidizing colonies for children 2. Equipping the Missionary Aid and Education Center	PLN 68,684
Argentina	Subsidizing meals for children	PLN 48,420
Bangladesh	Subsidizing salaries for teachers	PLN 26,732
Bolivia	Subsidizing the renovation of a dormitory for poor schoolgirls	PLN 18,760
Democratic Republic of the Congo	Medical assistance for children	PLN 22,009
Democratic Republic of the Congo	Purchase of medicine and food for internally displaced persons	PLN 44,018
Egypt	Supporting the education of refugees from South Sudan and Eritrea	PLN 234,495
Greece	Food vouchers for volunteers working in the refugee camp	PLN 83,321
Georgia	Support and promotion of local entrepreneurship and quality cheese production	PLN 333,783
Israel	Day care centers for migrant children in Israel	PLN 88,036
Cameroon	Funding for the replacement of the roof of a religious house	PLN 23,450
Cameroon	Subsidizing an agricultural project	PLN 18,760
Cameroon	Subsidizing the construction of a kindergarten	PLN 75,038
Kazakhstan	1.Feeding children 2. Purchasing equipment for a community center	PLN 66,027
Kazakhstan	Helping the most needy	PLN 17,607
Colombia /Venezuela	Food aid for the poorest families and the elderly	PLN 937,980
Lebanon	Distribution of winter clothing for children ("I was naked and you clothed me")	PLN 162,308
Lithuania	1.Feeding children 2. Purchasing equipment for the kindergarten	PLN 14,070
Mauritania	Educational program for prisoners	PLN 46,899
Mexico	Support for local communities affected by the earthquake	PLN 326,964
Mongolia	Subsidizing a library for children	PLN 70,349
Nepal	Medical assistance to local communities affected by the earthquake	PLN 1,489,911
Germany	Support for flood victims	PLN 2,344,950
Pakistan	Supporting the education of refugee children from Afghanistan	PLN 84,418
Central African Republic	Equipment for the dental office	PLN 9,000
Rwanda	Subsidy for chapel equipment	PLN 7,035
Rwanda	Purchase of an incinerator for medical waste	PLN 132,054
Rwanda	Construction of a hall for schoolchildren	PLN 44,018
South Sudan	Supporting the nutrition program	PLN 154,063
South Sudan	Helping the poorest families	PLN 45,339
South Sudan	School feeding	PLN 232,107
Syria	Children University	PLN 185,251
Tanzania	1.Feeding children 2. Purchasing school supplies	PLN 31,910
Tanzania	Purchase of medicines	PLN 10,327
Ukraine	Subsidizing the heating of the Caritas Drohobych building	PLN 5,000
Ukraine	Subsidizing the holiday trip of young people	PLN 4,000
Ukraine	Subsidizing the operation of the kindergarten	PLN 30,240
Ukraine	Subsidizing the operation of the kindergarten	PLN 17,000
Ukraine	Purchase of food parcels and medicines	PLN 9,000
Ukraine	Co-financing of half-day camps for children	PLN 6,000
Ukraine	Subsidizing a medical aid station for the homeless	PLN 5,000
Zambia	School scholarships	PLN 6,713



Foreign assistance  
Summary

MORE THAN **PLN 63 MILLION**  
IS THE AMOUNT OF SUPPORT  
PROVIDED ABROAD IN 2022  
BY CARITAS POLAND  
ON **4** CONTINENTS  
IN **33** COUNTRIES



COUNTRY	VALUE OF SUPPORT
AFRICA	
Central African Republic	PLN 9,000
Rwanda	PLN 183,107
Tanzania	PLN 42,236
Zambia	PLN 6,713
Egypt	PLN 234,495
Sudan	PLN 232,107
Cameroon	PLN 117,248
Burkina Faso	PLN 68,684
South Sudan	PLN 199,402
Democratic Republic of the Congo	PLN 66,027
Mauritania	PLN 46,899
Total support in Africa	PLN 1,205,916
SOUTH AMERICA	
Argentina	PLN 48,420
Bolivia	PLN 17,607
Colombia/Venezuela	PLN 937,980
Mexico	PLN 326,964
Total support in South America	PLN 1,330,971

COUNTRY	VALUE OF SUPPORT
ASIA	
Pakistan	PLN 84,418
Kazakhstan	PLN 83,634
Bangladesh	PLN 26,732
Mongolia	PLN 70,349
Afghanistan	PLN 468,990
Nepal	PLN 1,539,953
Georgia	PLN 333,783
Syria	PLN 7,330,667
Iraq	PLN 910,122
Lebanon	PLN 1,271,566
Israel	PLN 88,036
Palestine	PLN 4,873,354
Yemen	PLN 4,503,083
Jordan	PLN 1,755,130

Total support in Asia	PLN 23,339,819
EUROPE	
Lithuania	PLN 14,070
Greece	PLN 83,321
Germany	PLN 2,344,950
Ukraine	PLN 34,983,577

Total support in Europe	PLN 37,425,918
TOTAL SUPPORT FOREIGN PROJECTS IN 33 COUNTRIES	
	PLN 63,302,624



# SUPPORTING AREAS

THE POINT OF CARITAS, LIKE OTHER AID ORGANIZATIONS, IS THE PERSON IN NEED. THE STRENGTH OF CARITAS IS ALSO THE PERSON, BUT ESPECIALLY THE ONE PROVIDING SUPPORT.

The strength of Caritas, therefore, is the multitude of employees, but above all, thousands of volunteers, ready to give their time, talents and energy to their neighbor. This commitment, although called supportive, is actually the most important part of the organization's activities. It is the basis without which all programs and declarations make no sense. Appreciating this role, Caritas Poland is supporting volunteering more and more strongly and better through training, integration, strengthening the structure, as well as the formation program. It shows that volunteering is not only about giving donations or collecting money in cans, but also the ability to recognize needs in local communities. Also those that are not obvious, such as spiritual poverty or loneliness.

The second supporting area for Caritas Poland's activities, although quite different from volunteering, is the reorganized 2022 Center for Analysis of Social Problems. This is the kind of element without which it would be difficult to put the organization's commitment to mercy ministry into a coherent and logical whole. The activity of the Center is not based on grassroots, on-the-ground action, as volunteerism does, but on analyzing the condition of society and its needs. The knowledge gained in this field is used to strengthen Caritas' activities in areas where help is most needed. In addition, it is used to carry out advocacy activities that make it possible to sensitize the public to the needs of the poor, and thus attract donors whose commitment makes it possible to bring effective, appropriate assistance.

## AREAS THAT SUPPORT THE ACTIVITIES OF CARITAS POLAND:

Volunteering

Center for Analysis  
of Social Problems





## VOLUNTEERING

### There is more good - school volunteering

The project ran from June to the end of December 2022 as part of the "Positive School" activities involving the implementation of science-based educational, educational, intervention and prevention projects and programs, including universal, indicative and selective prevention programs. Its goal was to create so-called wise volunteering, which involves going beyond the standard version of action volunteering by building relationships between volunteers and people in need. This goal was achieved through the implementation of 75 social projects for the benefit of the school community and the local environment activating volunteer activities. The project helped young people to carry out a social task in school communities and living places. It contributed to sensitization to the needs of others and activation. It supported the development of young volunteers' psycho-social skills, mainly in dealing with threats to development and healthy functioning, and involved them in the local environment.

The project involved 75 guardians of school caritas volunteerism and 795 volunteers - students from public and non-public elementary and secondary schools, operating in the and non-public elementary and secondary schools, working in School Caritas Circles of the archdiocese of Lodz, Lublin, Poznan, Szczecin-Kamienna and the diocese of Bydgoszcz.

Since 1995, School Caritas Circles have brought together children and youth from elementary and secondary schools, educators and pastoral caregivers around the idea of helping their neighbors in need. Volunteering has become a lifestyle for more than 54,000 volunteers and for more than 3,800 SKC caregivers affiliated with nearly 2,700 School Caritas Circles.

### Guide for School Caritas Circles

Guide will help School Caritas Circles members in preparation workshops, common pray and integration. Guide include play and project scenarios, different materials for preparation meetings, activities and instructions to create new School Caritas Circles group.

Guide for Supervisors  
of School Caritas Circles  
- downloadable version:



### Volunteering abroad

Caritas Poland has long been involved in helping the needy outside Poland, implementing aid programs, but also sending volunteers to places where their help is badly needed. In 2022, after training, Caritas volunteers traveled to the Greek islands, where they helped in refugee camps. The first steps have also been taken to organize volunteer assistance in activities carried out by Polish missionaries.

#### Volunteering abroad - Greek islands.

This activity was undertaken in cooperation between the Volunteer Department and the Foreign Department of Caritas Poland. In response to the announcement hung on the caritas.pl website, 28 willing people applied. Eventually, five trained volunteers went to the Greek islands. These individuals had the opportunity to provide concrete assistance to people who had fled war or difficult living conditions in their countries of origin - refugees and those seeking international protection. The work consisted primarily of food distribution. Volunteers were also tasked with teaching English, conducting classes for children, and learning practical skills that would be useful to refugees once they left the camp.

#### Volunteering abroad (missionary)- support for missionaries.

At the end of 2022, the volunteer department at Caritas Poland began discussions with missionaries about the possibility of volunteer support for the works they carry out. At the beginning of January 2023, the first meeting was held with missionaries supported by Caritas Poland. The purpose of the meeting was to learn in detail about missionary work, especially the specifics of the mission in Cameroon. The meeting was led by Sister Veronika Sakowska, a Pallotine Sister who has been working in Cameroon for 16 years. The sister shared her rich experience.

# DZIEŃ DOBRA<sup>pl</sup>

### Day of Good

The Day of Good, Caritas' patronal holiday, which last year fell on April 24, was celebrated nationwide for the first time, with the participation of thousands of volunteers, and linked to a media campaign. On that day, festivals animated by Caritas volunteers took place in many parishes, inviting people to share their good fortune with visitors from Ukraine, but also from Afghanistan, Chechnya and many other places around the world. The celebration had two main goals. The first was to celebrate together, full of joy, the great holiday of helping, in which a huge number of people are involved every day. The second was to support "Places That Have Become Home." These places are Caritas-run facilities of various types throughout Poland, including family orphanages, day care centers, single mother's homes and crisis centers. In many of them refugees from Ukraine have found shelter. Proceeds from fundraising events conducted on the Day of Good by Caritas volunteers were earmarked for such centers. The highlight of the Day of Good was a concert organized in cooperation with Polish Television as an expression of solidarity with Ukraine.





VOLUNTEERING

### A page from a volunteer's diary

For me, volunteering in a refugee camp on the Greek island of Lesbos, was one of the best experiences. When I returned to Poland after those 2.5 months, I felt as if I had woken up from a dream. My approach to life had completely changed. While escaping from the "rat race," I finally felt that I had begun to live life to the fullest. I worked on various technical projects. I helped build a social space for single men to enjoy their free time there, we renovated a house for volunteers, and we built a café in one of the containers where everyone could have free coffee or tea. We also helped with projects of other organizations, such as UNHCR and Euro Relief, for example. The group I worked with were mostly middle-aged men from Afghanistan and Sierra Leone. These were people who had previously worked as carpenters, electricians or construction workers, whose skills came in very handy in the camp. I could not complain about the lack of work and boredom.

One of the most important things I learned there is that money is not as important in life as building relationships with people and helping. No matter what country you come from, what god you believe in, or what color your skin is. What matters is what you have in your heart and what kind of person you are.

As for my cooperation with Caritas Poland and the Movement on the Ground, I have to say that these people have become like family to me there. I always received help from them, we could joke with each other, but most importantly - to help people effectively. I met the nicest, very positive and open people there. To this day I keep in touch with volunteers from other countries.

If I could recommend someone to go to Greece for volunteering, I would without a doubt, and would even encourage them to do so.

Wojtek Zacharski

## CENTER FOR ANALYSIS OF SOCIAL PROBLEMS

FOR ALMOST THIRTY-THREE YEARS, CARITAS POLAND HAS BEEN HELPING INDIVIDUALS AND SOCIAL GROUPS WHO ARE EXPERIENCING VARIOUS TYPES OF CRISES: SOCIAL, SOCIAL, MENTAL OR SPIRITUAL. PROVIDING MULTIDIMENSIONAL ASSISTANCE, IT ACTS IN A PROFESSIONAL AND COMPREHENSIVE MANNER, WITHOUT OVERLOOKING ITS ROLE AS AN ADVOCATE FOR THE POOR. THIS REQUIRES CONSIDERABLE KNOWLEDGE IN MANY AREAS OF SOCIAL LIFE AND EXPERIENCE GAINED SOMETIMES FOR YEARS, WHICH IS WHY THE SUPPORT OF CARITAS POLAND'S CENTER FOR THE ANALYSIS OF SOCIAL PROBLEMS IS SO IMPORTANT HERE.

In bringing aid to those most in need, Caritas Poland operates on the basis of the principles of social life as defined by Catholic social teaching: the principle of the common good, subsidiarity, solidarity and charity. These principles are mutually conditional, meaning that the individual "must contribute to the common good in order, in turn, to realize his or her goals and objectives in life through participation in it. (...) the good must be done collectively, collectively, collectively, socially, that is, to create common values, oriented, however, towards the human person".

Caritas Poland's mission is not only to practice mercy towards individuals at risk of social exclusion, the poor, the sick, the homeless, but also to practice social pastoralism, which, in relation to Caritas Poland's goals, means both the need to provide charitable assistance and to influence, through advocacy, structural changes in society so that they do not generate poverty or violate the principles of social coexistence. This approach, popularized during the pontificate of St. John Paul II, is known as the Church's preferential option (charity) for the poor.

Caritas Poland's advocacy, coordinated by the Caritas Observatory (now, as of December 2022, reformed as Caritas Poland's Center for Analysis of Social Problems), refers to all activities that aim to influence the policies, practices and mindsets of decision-makers and institutions of social life. In practice, this means that advocacy activities are carried out in key areas dedicated to different categories of people at risk of social exclusion: children and adolescents, seniors, the homeless, addicts, prison leavers, migrants and refugees, and countries dealing with the effects of conflicts and natural disasters.

As an advocate for the poor and excluded and integral ecology, the organization promotes integral human development, just

and inclusive public policies, world peace and equal access to the earth's resources. At the same time, in order to increase the professionalization of institutional advocacy and capacity for structural change, it seeks to build partnerships and undertake collaborations with diocesan and parish Caritas and strategic partners with similar advocacy goals.

Caritas Poland intensively supports the development of Caritas volunteering in Poland as a necessary investment in the future of the organization, conducting formation activities, improving the competence of volunteer organizers and volunteers, and building relationships with diocesan Caritas. Social campaigns to promote integral human development and social participation are also an important aspect of advocacy.

Thus, we can see that advocacy is the kind of assistance provided that not so much improves the difficult and sometimes even traumatic situation of individuals and communities on an ad hoc basis, but tries to initiate permanent changes in human mentality and social structures to a more just and primarily human welfare-oriented one.

In the near future, Caritas Poland intends primarily to intensify its advocacy work. The reorganized Observatory, or Center Analysis of Social Problems of Caritas Poland, as a kind of think tank of the organization, will continue to conduct broadly understood research on the social situation in Poland and around the world and seek solutions to various types of problems involving individuals and entire communities. It will also support the activities of Caritas Poland's substantive areas. Proper coordination of the above-mentioned activities is to be ensured by substantive teams dealing with specific areas of work at Caritas Poland. These are: the team for humanitarian and development aid, the team for migrants and refugees, the team for children, seniors and people at risk of social exclusion, the team for integral ecology, the team for volunteering, the team for the implementation of Catholic social teaching and the team for socially excluded people and groups.

TEXT by Urszula Bejma, PhD.



# DIOCESAN CARITAS

## COOPERATION AND ACTIVITIES

**JONE OF CARITAS POLAND'S GREATEST STRENGTHS IS HELPING THE NEEDY THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY. THIS IS POSSIBLE THANKS TO THE ORGANIZATION'S APPROPRIATE STRUCTURE, WITH CARITAS POLAND BEING THE CENTRAL ENTITY, COORDINATING NATIONWIDE PROGRAMS AND SUPPORTING 45 DIOCESAN CARITAS, WHICH ARE FULLY AUTONOMOUS ENTITIES, IN THEIR DAILY ACTIVITIES. THE DIOCESAN CARITAS PARTICIPATE IN PROGRAMS INITIATED BY CARITAS POLAND, WHILE ALSO ORGANIZING THEIR OWN UNIQUE RELIEF ACTIONS. PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT ELEMENTS OF THEIR ACTIVITIES ARE THE ASSISTANCE CENTERS THEY RUN FOR VARIOUS GROUPS OF CLIENTS.**

### Cooperation within the organization

Although Caritas in Poland is comprised of dozens of autonomous entities, it remains, both practically and conceptually, a single organization responsible for bringing the ministry of mercy to those most in need. Of great importance for the coherence and effectiveness of this service is the cooperation of Caritas Poland with diocesan Caritas.

In 2022, Caritas Poland's interaction with diocesan Caritas was implemented on a number of key levels. First was the support of specific social groups in nationwide programs coordinated by Caritas Poland and implemented by a network of diocesan Caritas coordinators and volunteers. The purpose of these programs was to support specific social groups, such as seniors and children, but also to provide direct food and in-kind assistance.

Another level of cooperation, extremely important especially in 2022, was the support of migrants and refugees, focused primarily in the Migrant and Refugee Assistance Centers run by diocesan Caritas, as well as along the border with Ukraine, where a huge role was played especially by the border diocesan Caritas, i.e. Caritas of the Lublin Archdiocese, Caritas of the Przemyśl Archdiocese and Caritas of the Zamojsko-Lubaczów Diocese.

A third level of support for day-to-day relief activities was organizational, advisory and advocacy support at the central level, which was implemented through participation in various social councils at ministries responsible for social affairs and in the Caritas Europa and Caritas Internationalis networks.

Another supporting element was the promotion of relief activities, including in the form of social campaigns in the national media and information about the charitable and welfare activities of diocesan Caritas through television and radio.

An important field of cooperation between Caritas Poland and diocesan Caritas in 2022 was infrastructural support. Caritas Poland provided selected entities involved in assisting the excluded and disabled in dioceses with funds to develop equipment for care facilities and treatment facilities.

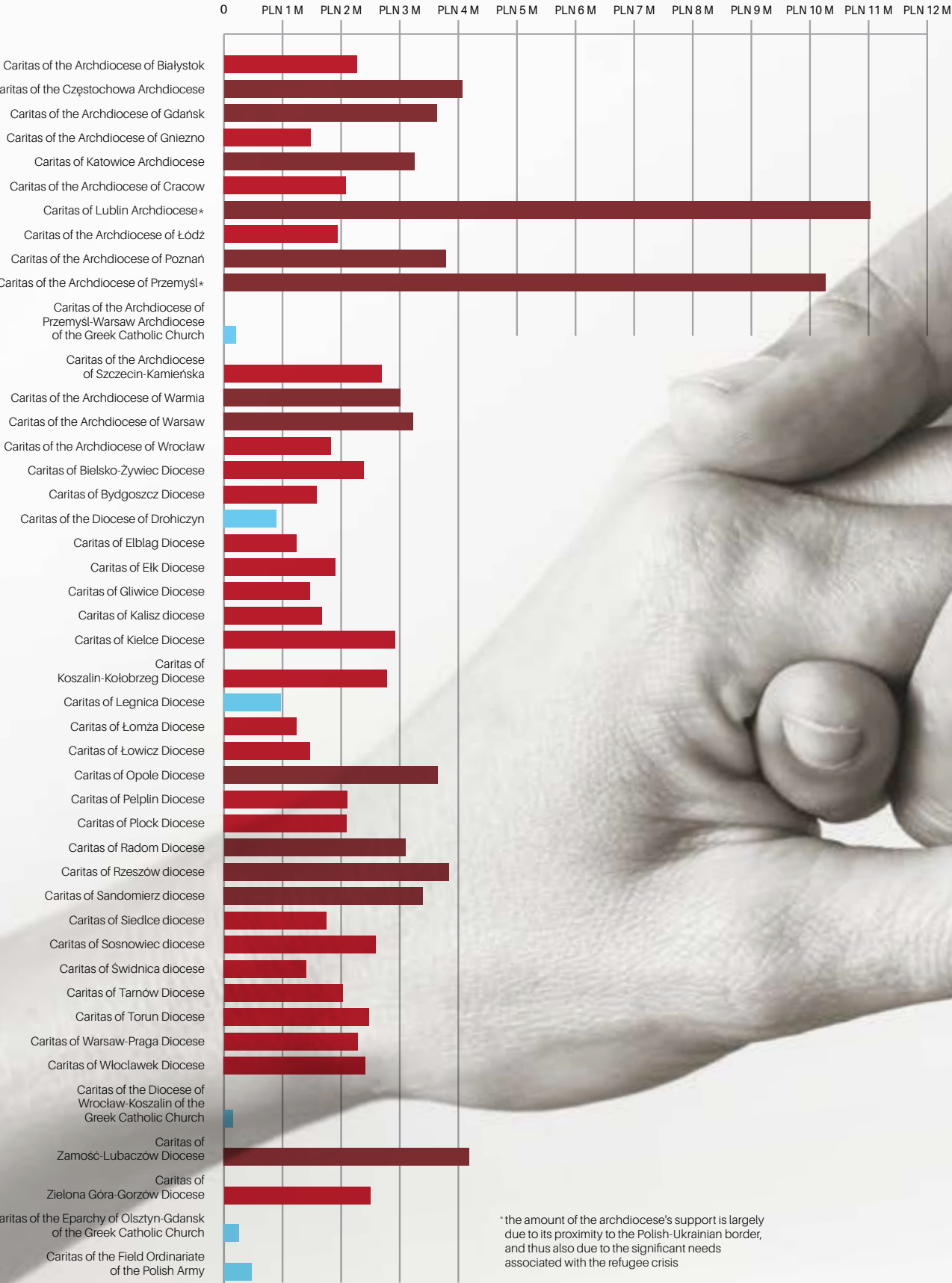
In the near future, the development and scope of cooperation is planned by creating an organized platform for diocesan Caritas to request funding for specific initiatives. Existing cooperation will also be continued and developed so that the organization can even more effectively reach out to those most in need.

### KEY PROGRAMS IMPLEMENTED BY DIOCESAN CARITAS IN 2022

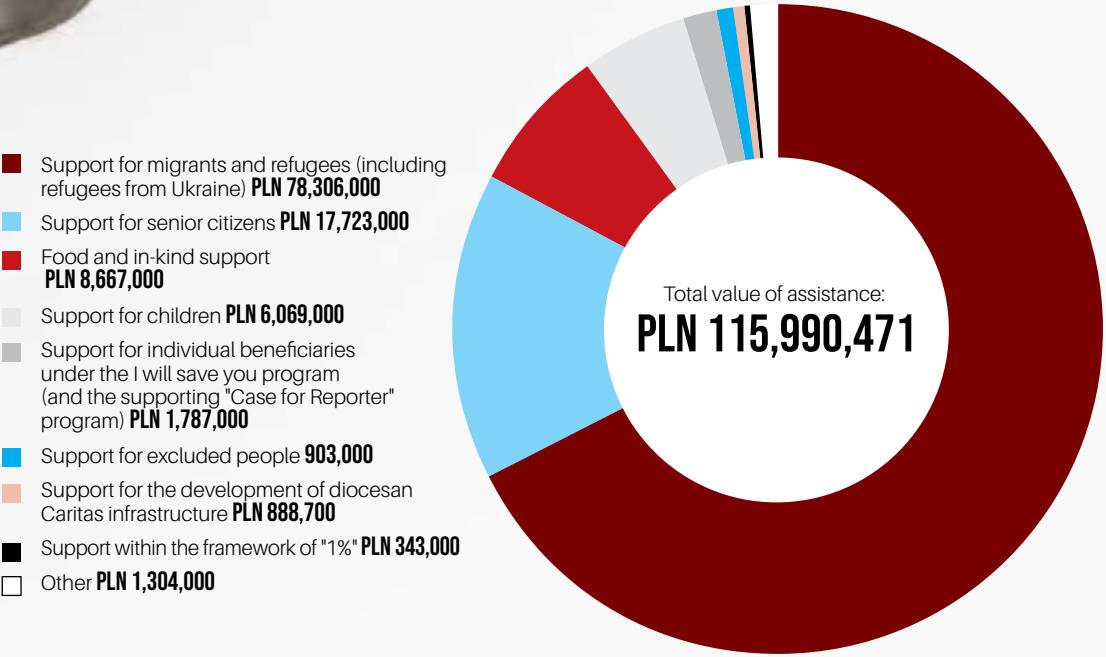
Number of diocesan	Program	Number of beneficiaries
44	"FOR EVERYDAY SHOPPING" CARD	11,000 BENEFICIARIES + 4,500 VOLUNTEERS
26	FOOD AID OPERATIONAL PROGRAM	260,000
35	CARITAS FOOD PANTRY	60,000
26	ASSISTANCE CENTERS FOR MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES	70,000
37	WINGS	900



VALUE OF FINANCIAL AND IN-KIND SUPPORT PROVIDED TO DIOCESAN CARITAS BY CARITAS POLAND



THE VALUE OF AID PROVIDED TO DIOCESAN CARITAS BY CARITAS POLAND UNDER THE MAIN AREAS OF SUPPORT





Diocesan Caritas activities

**THE REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF DIOCESAN CARITAS IN 2022 WAS BASED ON A REPORTING QUESTIONNAIRE DISTRIBUTED ONLINE TO 45 UNITS ON FEBRUARY 22, 2023. A RETURN RESPONSE WAS RECEIVED FROM 42 DIOCESAN CARITAS, WHICH MEANS THAT 3 DIOCESAN CARITAS CENTERS (CARITAS OF THE GDANSK ARCHDIOCESE, CARITAS OF THE ELK DIOCESE, CARITAS OF THE WROCLAW-KOSZALIN DIOCESE) DID NOT JOIN THE REPORT. THE QUESTIONNAIRE INCLUDED QUESTIONS ON: THE STRUCTURE OF DIOCESAN CARITAS, THE ACTIONS AND PROGRAMS CARRIED OUT, THE CATEGORIES AND NUMBER OF BENEFICIARIES, AND THE TYPE AND NUMBER OF AID FACILITIES RUN BY CARITAS.**

Data on the structure of diocesan Caritas

Caritas in Poland is a network of independent diocesan Caritas units that carry out social and charitable activities resulting from the organization's statutes and internal structure, which is made up of employees and volunteers at various levels. Figures on the structure of diocesan Caritas in Poland are presented in Table 1. Based on the data provided by the units that responded to the questionnaire, it is possible to distinguish those diocesan Caritas that employ the largest number of employees and have the most volunteers. These summaries are presented in Tables 2 and 3.

Charity activities carried out by diocesan Caritas

The beneficiaries of Caritas units in Poland are various categories of excluded people and at risk of social exclusion, to whom material, psychological and spiritual assistance is directed. Assistance provided by diocesan Caritas is dedicated to, among others: families, children and young people, senior citizens, the sick, the homeless and addicts.

Diocesan Caritas, which provided assistance to the largest number of beneficiaries, are presented in Table 4.

Beneficiaries find professional assistance in specialized facilities run by diocesan Caritas. The range of facilities providing short-term or long-term assistance includes a total of 588 different centers and outlets operated by most diocesan Caritas. They are run for the benefit of people in difficult life situations. Table 5 shows the type of activity and the number of establishments that carry it out (the selection of charitable activities in the table was determined by the number of their indications in the reporting questionnaires).

Table 1. Summary data on the structure of diocesan Caritas

	Employees, volunteers, facilities	Number
1.	Employees employed by diocesan Caritas	9,762
2.	Academic Caritas Teams	11
3.	Parish Caritas Teams	9,029
4.	School Caritas Circles	2,698
5.	Preschool Caritas Circles	36
6.	Volunteers	61,138
7.	Facilities run by diocesan Caritas	588

Table 2. Caritas diocesan headquarters and their subordinate facilities with the largest number of employee

	Diocesan Caritas	Number of employees
1.	Caritas of the Diocese of Kielce	1,850
2.	Caritas of the Diocese of Katowice	1,186
3.	Caritas of the Archdiocese of Przemyśl	1,182

Table 3. Diocesan Caritas with the highest number of volunteers

	Diocesan Caritas	Number of volunteers
1.	Caritas of Łomża Diocese	8,000
2.	Caritas of the Archdiocese of Poznań	6,000
3.	Caritas of the Diocese of Rzeszów	4,220

Table 4. Diocesan Caritas that provided assistance to the largest number of beneficiaries (excluding assistance provided to migrants and refugees)

	Diocesan Caritas	Number of beneficiaries
1.	Caritas of the Diocese of Warsaw-Praga	142,824
2.	Caritas of the Diocese of Radom	13,760
3.	Caritas of the Diocese of Koszalin-Kołobrzeg	10,788

Table 5. Most popular charitable activities carried out by diocesan Caritas in specialized facilities and centers


	Type of activity	Number of establishments
1.	Food distribution points under Caritas Food Pantry program	506
2.	Rehabilitation equipment rentals	136
3.	Ad hoc assistance points	121
4.	Sociotherapeutic day care centers	114
5.	Eateries	85
6.	Senior citizen clubs	83
7.	Occupational therapy workshops	64
8.	Rehabilitation centers	55
9.	In-patient and home hospices	53
10.	Community nursing homes	51
11.	Life windows	49
12.	Nursing homes	36
13.	Shelters for the homeless	33
14.	Care and treatment facilities	25
15.	Mother and baby homes	21








DONORS


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Significant business donors







































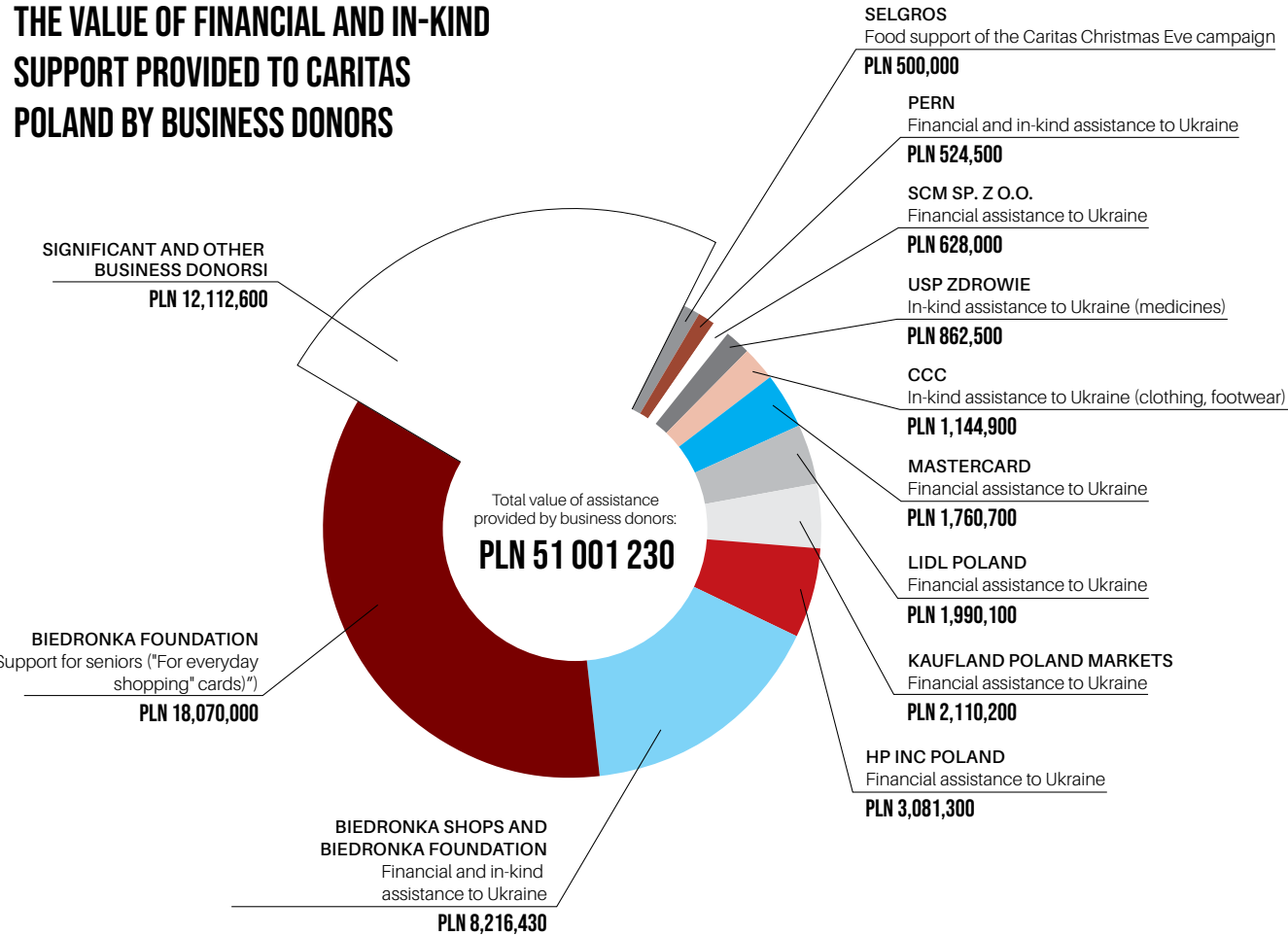








THE VALUE OF FINANCIAL AND IN-KIND SUPPORT PROVIDED TO CARITAS POLAND BY BUSINESS DONORS



Value of receipts and costs of publicly funded projects

Project name	Source of funding	Amount transferred in 2022
Food aid Operational Program	FEAD	PLN 3,491,155
There is more good - school volunteering	Ministry of Education and Science	PLN 316,716
Raise awareness and shape the ecological attitudes of society in Poland by translating the principles of integral ecology of the encyclical Laudato si' into a practical dimension in the life of the church and local communities	The National Fund for Environmental Protection and Water Management	PLN 978,678
Support for families in difficult financial situations, especially internally displaced persons in Odessa and Nikolaev and their regions, by providing them with financial resources to get through the winter	Ministry of Foreign Affairs	PLN 2,484,062
Supporting urban Syrian refugees and poorest Jordanians in four Jordanian provinces	Ministry of Foreign Affairs	PLN 1,755,130
Inclusive support for people with disabilities in the West Bank of the Palestinian Authority	Ministry of Foreign Affairs	PLN 1,472,558
Inclusive support for people with disabilities in the Palestinian Authority's Hebron province and vocational activation of women and young people entering the labor market in the Gaza Strip	Ministry of Foreign Affairs	PLN 1,419,665
Support to Gaza residents for food security and shelter	Ministry of Foreign Affairs	PLN 1,170,225
Supporting the provision of essential life-saving medical services to the population affected by the humanitarian crisis in the Abjan province of Yemen through comprehensive support to the Rasad hospital and the operation of mobile clinics	Ministry of Foreign Affairs	PLN 771,167
Support and promotion of local entrepreneurship and quality cheese production in the municipality of Akhmeta, Kakheti region, Georgia	Ministry of Foreign Affairs	PLN 333,783
TOTAL		PLN 14,193,138





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**Consultation:** Marcin Kawko

**Graphic design and typesetting:** MH

**Photos:** Caritas Poland, Caritas diocesan,  
Caritas Poland partners, Adobe Stock

In preparing this report, we had the good of the environment in mind, so we chose wood-free paper from a manufacturer that meets the requirements of environmental certifications, including: EMAS (European Eco-Management and Audit Scheme), FSC (Forest Stewardship Council), PEFC (Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification)



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