

REPORT 2023



OVER **PLN 270 MILLION**
IS THE TOTAL VALUE OF THE AID
CARITAS POLAND PROVIDED IN 2022



ACTIVITIES
IN POLAND



ACTIVITIES
ABROAD

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The report covers the activities of Caritas Poland and diocesan Caritas carried out from January to the end of December 2023.

THE FINANCIAL INFORMATION PRESENTED IN THIS PUBLICATION MAY BE CHANGED OR UPDATED.

THERE IS NO REST FROM SHARING GOOD

Suffering is in the world also to release love in us, that generous and selfless gift of oneself to those affected by suffering

- WROTE JOHN PAUL II IN THE APOSTOLIC LETTER “SALVIFICI DOLORIS”

Although exactly four decades have passed since then, these words have not lost their relevance, which is why we do not stop sharing good.

It is true that at the onset of 2023 we were secretly hoping for at least a moment of respite after the events of the previous year. The outbreak of war just beyond our eastern border meant our huge effort put by us into organizing help for those fleeing and for those who remained in Ukraine. We wanted to believe that the limit of misfortunes has been temporarily exhausted, which would allow us to focus on developing the existing areas of support in Poland and internationally. However, this hope has failed us. If we follow the history of Caritas in Poland, it’s clearly visible that we always had to be ready to respond as quickly and as adequately as possible to wars, crises and natural disasters.

The escalation of the conflict in the Gaza Strip, which took place in October last year, only confirmed that – colloquially speaking – being “on standby” makes sense. Our effective intervention there was possible because Caritas began supporting this part of the world four years ago, under the “Family to Family” program. The same program also allowed for an efficient assessment of the situation and for launching adequate aid after the earthquake in Syria, which in February 2023 turned to ashes had been reoborning after many years of war. This report contains information on exactly how this assistance looked like and what its scale was. On several dozen pages of this publication we provide reliable information about all areas of our involvement, also, the less obvious ones. We are aware that, apart from the major conflicts, there is still

another war taking place in the background, where a quick end is unlikely. In times of scientific progress and development of new technologies we have to fight for our common home – the Earth. As a result of climate change, we are experiencing violent weather phenomena that are increasingly reducing the places where we can live. Prolonged periods of drought are one of the main factors affecting the lives of Africans. Hunger particularly affects countries in the Sahel and the Horn of Africa, which is why we are present there with humanitarian aid.



Aware of the fact that the context of many aid activities is care for the natural environment, we are implementing the Caritas “Laudato si” project in Poland. Our motto in 2023 was “living in moderation”, so we advised against overconsumption and promoted responsible use of the goods and the natural environment around us. It is worth emphasizing that our commitment to care for the entire planet naturally fits into the assumptions underlying the work of Caritas, including care for every human. Food aid programs implemented in Poland provide

support to the poorest, the homeless, the elderly and those experiencing other types of exclusion. In 2023 we provided over 9,000 tons of food to our beneficiaries. Importantly, we obtained some of it as part of the “Caritas Pantry” program that saves food products from being wasted. Find out about this program in the first part of this report.

As aid secotrs workers we would like our work to not longer be needed, so it is our duty to continue to grow. Today, Caritas Poland is a professional humanitarian organization that complies with international standards. Fraternal cooperation is particularly important to us. In practical terms, this includes maintaining close relations within the global network of Caritas Internationalis and acting in line with the principle of “localization”, i.e. full respect for local partners in countries affected by crises. Thanks to this, we quickly recognize needs and provide effective help.

This publication describes the most important programs run by Caritas and presents specific figures illustrating the scale of assistance provided by Caritas last year. We are sharing this information with you because we are aware that we can earn public trust only by acting honestly and transparently. Building on it, we can grow and support more and more people in need.

With gratitude for your trust,

Fr. Ph.D. Marcin Iżycki

Fr. Ph.D. Marcin Iżycki
 Director of Caritas Poland

907,247
PEOPLE RECEIVED SUPPORT FROM CARITAS POLAND

PLN 110,716,972
IS THE VALUE OF FINANCIAL AND IN-KIND SUPPORT PROVIDED BY CARITAS POLAND THROUGH DIOCESAN CARITAS

9,384 TONS OF DONATED FOOD

PLN 38,093,257
IS THE VALUE OF COMPLETED PROGRAMS ABROAD

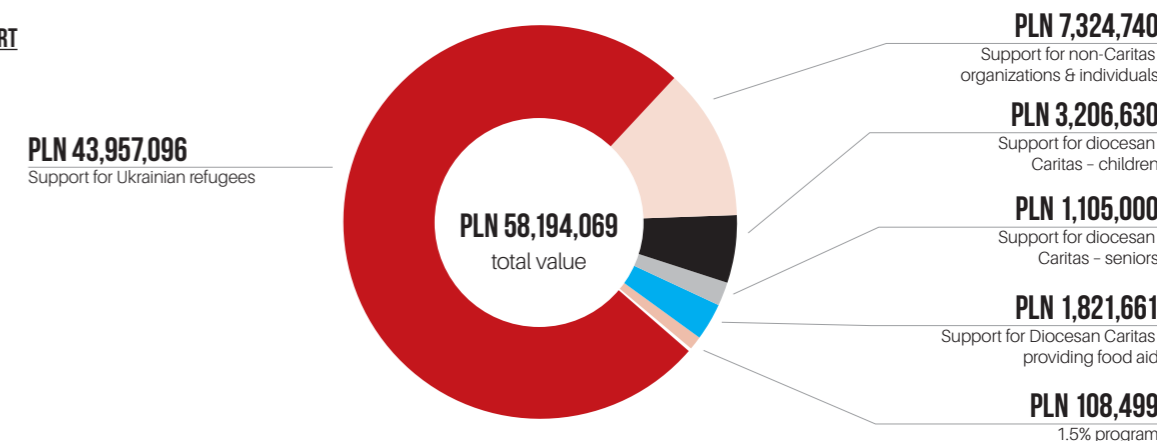
PLN 70,000,000
IS THE VALUE OF FINANCIAL AND IN-KIND AID PROVIDED ABROAD

37 NUMBER OF COUNTRIES CARITAS WAS PROVIDING SUPPORT TO

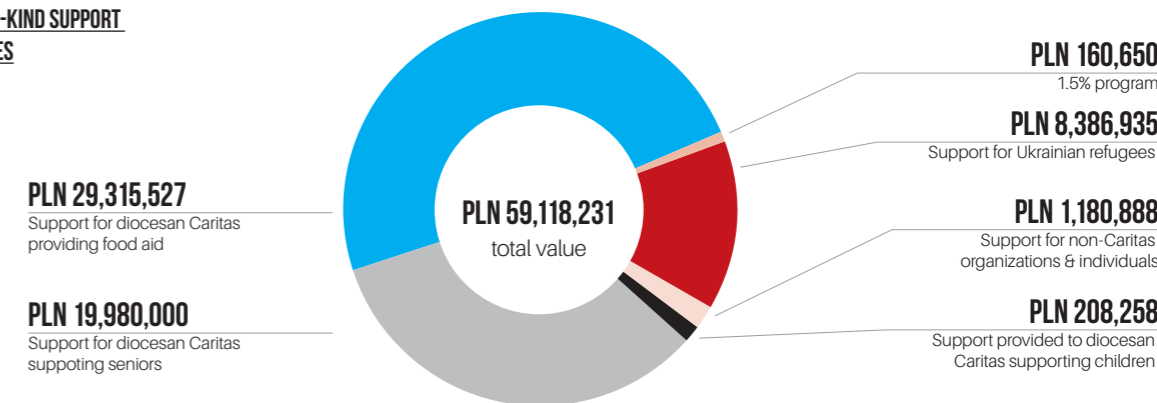
400,000+ BENEFICIARIES RECEIVED SUPPORT

UPPORT FOR INSTITUTIONS AND ORGANIZATIONS IN POLAND

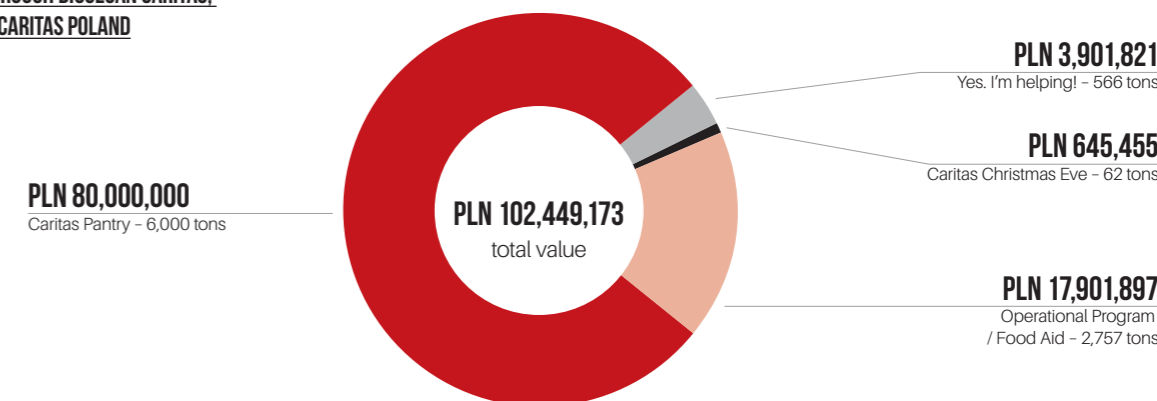
FINANCIAL SUPPORT



FINANCIAL AND IN-KIND SUPPORT THROUGH DIOCESES



FOOD SUPPORT THROUGH DIOCESAN CARITAS, COORDINATED BY CARITAS POLAND



ALMOST **1 M PEOPLE** SUPPORTED THROUGH DIOCESAN CARITAS IN 2023

OVER **PLN 200 M** IS THE TOTAL VALUE OF SUPPORT PROVIDED AND COORDINATED BY CARITAS IN POLAND IN 2023

CALENDAR OF EVENTS IN 2023

Jan. 2

Caritas Poland opened 18 "Points of Hope" in Ukraine, which provided necessary help and protection against darkness and cold.

Feb. 24

A year of support for Ukraine. Caritas helped 2 million people, and the value of financial and in-kind aid exceeded PLN 597 million. 32 Migrant and Refugee Assistance Centers operating in Poland.

Feb. 5-6

An earthquake hit Syria and Turkey. Caritas Poland donated USD 100,000 for urgent intervention. PLN 19 million was collected throughout Poland to help those affected.

Mar. 17-18

22nd edition of the "Yes. I'm helping!" program. 231 tons of food were collected throughout Poland by 21,519 volunteers in 1,847 stores. The food was distributed to 42,095 people in need.

Mar. 1

Caritas Poland continued expanding the "Family to Family" program in Ukraine to include the Diocese of Kharkiv-Zaporizhzhia, thanks to which assistance reached another 500 families (approx. 1,500 people).

Mar. 1

Caritas Poland took another facility in Yemen under its care, the Al Kuwait Hospital in Aden, thanks to which 45,000 people could benefit from aid worth PLN 2.2 million.

Apr. 23

"Day of Good". Several hundred events were held throughout Poland to celebrate the work of volunteers.

Apr. 5

The First Ladies of Poland and Ukraine, Agata Kornhauser-Duda and Olena Zelenska, visited the Migrant and Refugee Assistance Center in Warsaw.

Apr. 1

Caritas distributed 11,000 "For everyday shopping" cards to seniors throughout Poland. The value of the program supported by the Biedronka Foundation estimated at PLN 20.9 million.

May 16

Caritas Poland took part in the General Assembly of Caritas Internationalis in Rome.

Jun. 17

As a nationwide Caritas community, we pilgrimaged to the Sanctuary of Divine Mercy in Łagiewniki for the annual meeting of employees, volunteers and beneficiaries of Caritas.

Jun. 6

The Nova Kakhovka dam on the Dnipro river was blown up. Caritas Poland donated PLN 100,000 for urgent intervention to help residents of flooded areas.

7

8

9

10

11

12

Jul. 16

During relief camps in Poland we hosted Ukrainian children from areas affected by the war.

Jul. 1

The "Caritas Holiday Action" was launched, thanks to which 16,000 children and youth, including 3,000 from Ukraine, took part in summer camps.

Aug. 15

The "Day of National Solidarity with Slovenia" included fundraising efforts in churches throughout Poland for the people affected by floods. The total amount collected was over PLN 7 million.

Aug. 20

The 15th finale of the nationwide Caritas campaign "Schoolbag Full of Smiles". School supplies were given to 15,000 children from Poland and abroad.

Aug. 25

Caritas celebrated 10 years of the "We Can Do It" program, which supports people in difficult life situations.

Aug. 14

Caritas Poland donated 10 tons of in-kind aid to flood-affected Slovenia. That included food, textiles, hygiene products, desiccants and other chemicals.

Sep. 11

Aid for Morocco after the earthquake. As a result of the fundraising, Caritas donated PLN 225,000 for the people affected by the disaster of the disaster.

Sep. 19

Attack on a humanitarian aid warehouse in Lviv.

Oct. 10-12

A meeting of partners of several national Caritas from around the world. The main topic was the response to the refugee crisis caused by the war in Ukraine.

Oct. 21

The 24th "Ubi Caritas Gala" took place at the Orthodox Cathedral of St. Mary Magdalene in Warsaw.

Oct. 31

Caritas Poland received the "Top Brand" award for the second time. The distinction was an outcome of a study carried out by the editorial staff of "Press" magazine and PSMM Monitoring & More market research company.

Nov. 9

"Charity Forum". A prestigious meeting for key partners and donors, enabling the exchange and increasing knowledge about Caritas and its activities.

Nov. 11

"Caritas Pilgrimage to Czestochowa". Over 800 people experiencing a homelessness crisis participated.

Nov. 6

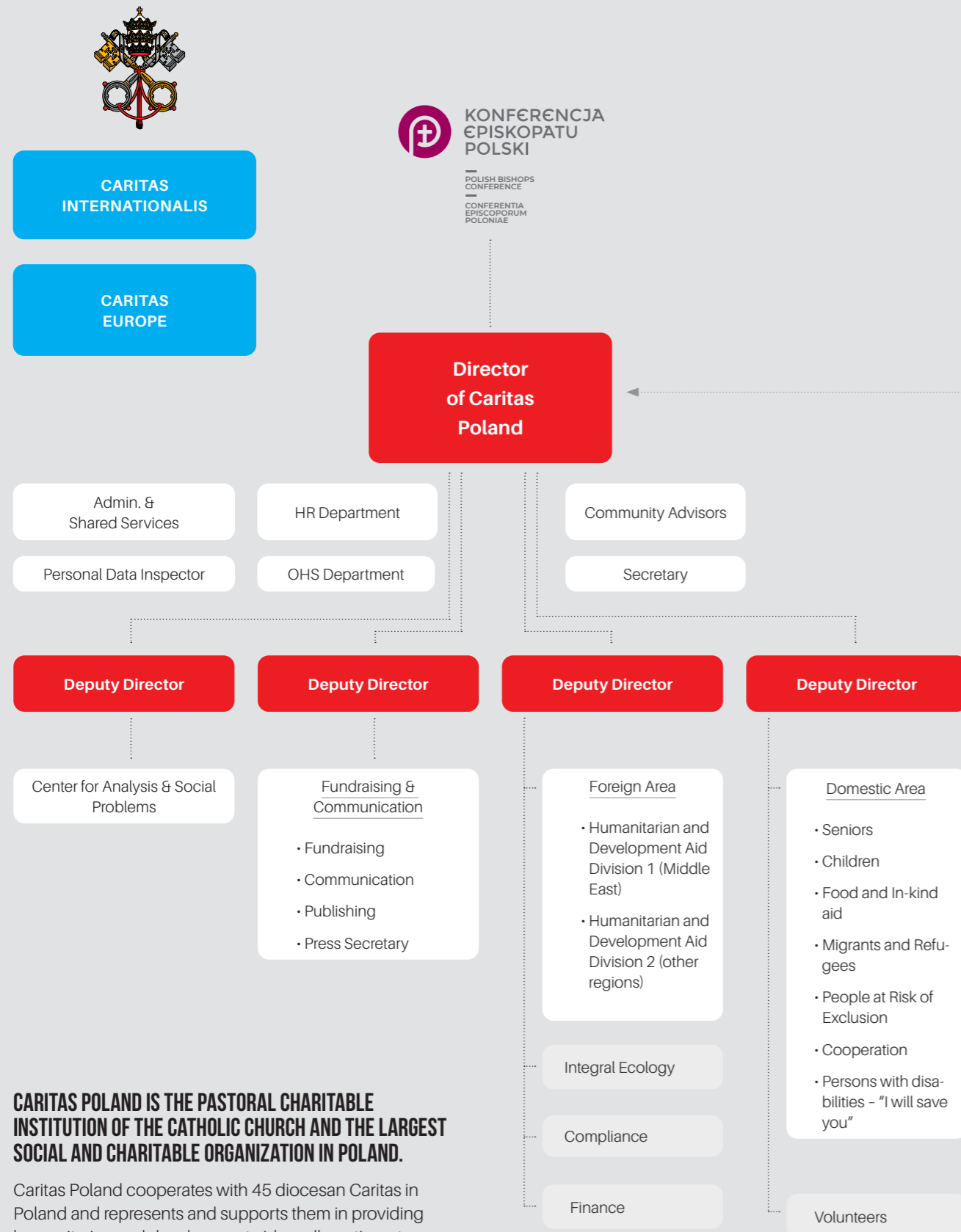
Gaza Strip. Caritas Poland donated PLN 100,000 for emergency support. Medical and psychological support, as well as food baskets and hygiene products were provided in cooperation with Caritas Jerusalem.

Dec. 8-9

The 23rd edition of the "Yes. I'm helping!" program. Caritas volunteers collected 335 tons of food in 2,150 stores throughout Poland.

Dec. 24

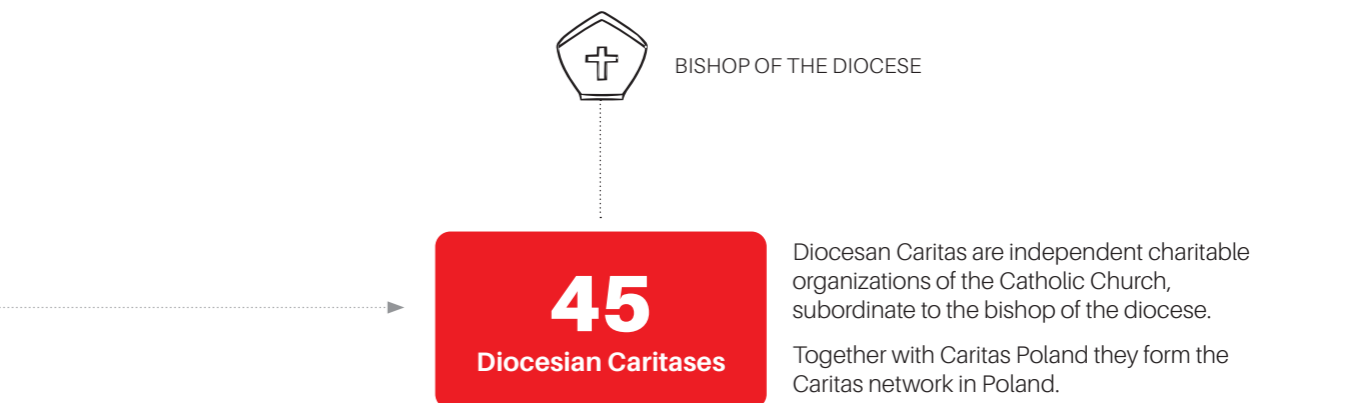
"Caritas Christmas Eve" in 90 Polish cities for 22,000 people in need.



CARITAS POLAND IS THE PASTORAL CHARITABLE INSTITUTION OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH AND THE LARGEST SOCIAL AND CHARITABLE ORGANIZATION IN POLAND.

Caritas Poland cooperates with 45 diocesan Caritas in Poland and represents and supports them in providing humanitarian and development aid on all continents. Caritas Poland is a member of the Caritas Internationalis confederation based in the Vatican (170 national Caritas) and Caritas Europe based in Brussels (46 national Caritas).

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE



- Diocesan and equivalent Caritas units in Poland**
- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| Białystok,
Częstochowa,
Gdańsk,
Gniezno,
Katowice,
Krakow,
Lublin,
Łódź,
Poznań,
Przemysł,
Szczecin-Kamieńska,
Warmia,
Warsaw,
Wrocław,
Bielsko-Żywiec, | Bydgoszcz,
Drohiczyn,
Elbląg,
Ełk,
Gliwice,
Kalisz,
Kielce,
Koszalin-Kołobrzeg,
Legnica,
Łomża,
Łowicz,
Opole,
Pelplin,
Płock,
Radom, | Rzeszów,
Sandomierz,
Siedlce,
Sosnowiec,
Świdnik,
Tarnów,
Toruń,
Warsaw-Praga,
Wrocław,
Zamość-Lubaczów,
Zielona Góra-Gorzów,
Field Ordinariate of the Polish Army,
Przemysł-Warsaw (Greek Cath.),
Wrocław-Koszalin (Greek Cath.),
Olsztyn-Gdańsk (Greek Cath.) |
|---|---|---|

FOOD AID

Donated food:
9,384 TONS

Food aid beneficiaries:
380,000 PEOPLE

Value of food:
PLN 114,741,697

Value of in-kind aid:
PLN 11,000,000



Problem:

About **1/3** of food bought in Poland is wasted (235 kg is the average amount of food thrown away in Poland per person every year)

Nearly **5%** of Poland's population lives in extreme poverty and require food assistance

Food aid programs have been implemented by Caritas Poland for years and are one of the pillars of its activities in response to the basic needs of various groups of people. The programs support the poorest people, but also the homeless, elderly and those experiencing other types of health, economic and life challenges that make daily life difficult.

In recent years we have observed increasing stratification and income differences among vulnerable social groups such as seniors, migrants, refugees and single parents. The rising cost of living, energy prices, inflation and other geopolitical factors make it more and more difficult for many of the poorest people to meet their needs on their own. The implementation of government programs is complemented by longterm partner-

ships built between Caritas Poland and business as part of the "Caritas Pantry" programs and the "Yes. I'm helping!" and "Caritas Christmas Eve" food collections. Thanks to them, diocesan Caritas support people all over Poland.

Food aid programs not only support the poorest people but also prevent food waste. 4.8 million tons of food are wasted every year in Poland and consumers are responsible for 60% of this volume. Also, business entities cannot find adequate methods to counteract such a scale of waste - only slightly over 5% of unsold food goes to NGOs. Caritas Poland has for years been building a bridge connecting its organizations, business and those in need, supporting the latter in the spirit of integral ecology.

AMOUNTS OF FOOD FROM VARIOUS SOURCES DONATED TO PEOPLE IN NEED BY CARITAS POLAND AND DIOCESAN CARITAS

"Caritas Pantry"	6,000 tons
Operational Program "Food Aid" 2014-2020 - Subprogram 2021	2,757 tons
"Yes. I'm helping!"	566 tons
"Caritas Christmas Eve"	62 tons

Beneficiaries
234,201 PEOPLE

Donated food
2,757 TONS

wartość wsparcia
PLN 17,901,897

OPERATIONAL PROGRAM "FOOD AID" 2014-2020 - SUBPROGRAM 2021

The Operational Program "Food Aid" 2014-2020 was launched to provide food to the people most in need. Volunteers and employees of 26 diocesan Caritas distributed 325,836 parcels and 158,062 meals. This support was offered at over 761 food distribution points. 20,402 migrants and ref-ugees also benefited from it.

Diocesan Caritas conducted 1,210 co-financed workshops for 26,299 participants.

Source of funding: Ministry of Family and Social Policy, Fund for European Aid to the Most Deprived (FEAD)

Beneficiaries
~ 60,000 PEOPLE

Donated food
6,000 TONS

Value of aid
PLN 80,000,000

Donors
1,350 STORES

"CARITAS PANTRY"

It is a nationwide program for the collection and distribution of nutritious food products withdrawn from sale. These are mainly refrigerated products with long shelf life, including meat, fish, dairy, bread, vegetables and fruit. Food is distributed to those most in need in the form of packages or meals at food distribution points of the "Caritas Pantry" program, Parish Caritas Teams and other facilities. The partners of the campaign were chain stores: Biedronka, Carrefour, Lidl, Netto, Kaufland, Selgros, Aldi, Eurocash Group, Auchan and Bi1. Caritas partners implement the program in accordance with the Act on Counteracting Food Waste.

Source of funding: business partners

Beneficiaries
57,000 PEOPLE

Donated food
566 TONS

Value of food
PLN 3,901,821

FOOD COLLECTION "YES. I'M HELPING!"

It is a nationwide campaign conducted twice a year - before Christmas and before Easter. Over 20,000 volunteers wearing red Caritas vests were on duty in 1,595 stores, such as Biedronka, Lidl, Carrefour, Kaufland, Lewiatan, Mila, Netto, Stokrotka, Spolem, Auchan and Bi1. Caritas baskets contained food with long shelf life, including milk, flour, sugar, pasta, rice, cornflakes, oil, canned food, jams, instant soups and sauces, tea, breakfast cereals, drinks, sweets as well as cleaning supplies.

Beneficiaries
22,000 PEOPLE

Cooperating municipalities
90 CITIES AND TOWNS

Volunteers
2,100 PEOPLE

"CARITAS CHRISTMAS EVE"

90 towns and cities across Poland and 2,100 volunteers from 36 dioceses were involved in the organization of "Caritas Christmas Eve" in 2023. 62 tons of food were used to prepare Christmas Eve supper - with borscht, carp, and cabbage stew. 22,000 people, including many guests from Ukraine, sat at Christmas Eve tables. The largest Christmas Eve meetings took place in Bydgoszcz, Poznań, Krakow, Szczecin, Lublin, Kielce, Łomża, Koszalin, Radom, Skarżysko-Kamienna and Sosnowiec. In addition, many meetings were organized in smaller groups - in communities, nursing homes and many other places where Caritas provides services on a daily basis.

Source of funding: Selgros Cash & Carry

Value of aid
PLN 350 000

New beneficiaries
4,000 PEOPLE

Institutional beneficiaries
30 SOUP KITCHENS

"CARITAS SOUP KITCHEN"

This program aims at investment and renovation support for soup kitchens run by diocesan Caritas. The funds were invested in renovations, kitchen utensils, equipment and special containers for transporting meals, among others. Thousands of needy people visit Caritas soup kitchens every year. Therefore, it is necessary to constantly invest in renovations, utensils and equipment.

Source of funding: Lidl

Value of aid
PLN 11,027,294

Institutional beneficiaries
114 FACILITIES

Value of aid transferred abroad
PLN 259,157

IN-KIND SUPPORT

The project has a significant impact on meeting the material needs of the poorest and needy people in crisis, through provision of cleaning supplies, hygiene products, clothing, food and other necessities. In 2023, Caritas Poland donated PLN 11,027,294 worth of in-kind aid, supporting diocesan Caritas, care homes, support centers, orphanages and other facilities. PLN 1.2 million of in-kind aid was transferred through the Migrant and Refugee Assistance Center and PLN 259,152 directly to beneficiaries abroad.

SUPPORTING SENIORS

Value of program for seniors
PLN 21,789,584

Institutional beneficiaries
32 HOSPICES

Assessments of long-term care institutions run by diocesan Caritas and religious congregations

2 DIAGNOSES



Demographic trends in developed countries, including Poland, clearly show that the aging of society has rapidly increased. In the context of dropping fertility rates, an increase in the standard and length of life, but also migrations of younger generations, supporting seniors is becoming a crucial social challenge. The change in the family model from a multi-generational family towards a nuclear one, with members often living away from their loved ones, poses a challenge to social security systems that will not be easy to cope with. Today, over 20% of society are elderly people who, on the one hand, need institutional and health support and, on the other hand,

should remain active members of their communities for as long as possible. Caritas Poland, together with diocesan Caritas, supports seniors in securing their basic living and health needs, but also becomes an advocate for older people, representing their interests. In the past year and in the coming years, Caritas plans to strengthen the voice of the community in the area of long-term and hospice care, also through assessing the needs and supporting care institutions. In the local environment and in parishes, Caritas animates social life, providing older people with an opportunity to be active, volunteer, have access to senior clubs and feel needed and involved.

LONG-TERM CARE IN POLAND – THE SCALE OF AID FROM DIOCESAN CARITAS

185	Long-term care facilities
62	Hospice and palliative care facilities
12,615	Patients in Caritas hospices and long-term care facilities
pln 5,200	Average monthly cost of a patient's stay in an inpatient facility
~ 2300	Employees in Caritas palliative care facilities
1756	Volunteers in Caritas palliative care facilities

Problem:

People 65+ represent 20% of the population in Poland. This rate is expected to grow to **25%** and 30% in the years 2030 and 2050, respectively.

There is a **lack** of systemic aid for older people in local communities and inter-sectoral coordination of care

Beneficiaries
11,000 SENIORS
Volunteers
4,000
Program value
PLN 20,900,000

“FOR EVERYDAY SHOPPING” CARD

It is an annual program aimed at helping poor, lonely and socially excluded seniors aged 60+. Those in need receive financial aid for 10 months in the form of prepaid cards for shopping in Biedronka stores. Food products, cleaning supplies and personal hygiene products can

be purchased using it. Around 11,000 people received this support from 42 diocesan Caritas, with PLN 185 worth of aid per month. Beneficiaries who were unable to get to a store on their own or needed help with shopping could rely on assistance from around 4,000 volunteers. The program was

accompanied by educational activities and workshops addressed to leaders of voluntary service for seniors.

Source of funding:
Biedronka Foundation

Value of aid
PLN 670,000
Beneficiaries
32 HOSPICES
Participants
16 DIOCESAN CARITAS

CARITAS HOSPICES

Following the diagnosis of the needs of hospices run by diocesan Caritas, a support program for them was launched. In 2023, support was provided to 32 hospices ran by 16 diocesan Caritas. Guidelines for a media and fundraising campaign for hospices

were developed and a number of meetings were organized to network diocesan Caritas active in the field of long-term care. Additionally, there was a study visit to hospices initiated by Caritas of the Diocese of Kielce and co-organized by Caritas Poland.

Representatives of diocesan Caritas hospices also participated.

Source of funding: “1.5%” program

Beneficiaries
50 SENIORÓW
Lunches served
~ 8,000
Value of aid
PLN 164,584

“LUNCHES FOR SENIORS”

Warm, nutritious, two-course meals were delivered to seniors' homes 2-3 times a week. The beneficiaries of the program were sick and lonely people who were no longer able to cook for themselves. The aim of the project was to help older people at risk of social

exclusion due to poverty, dependency or disability. Moreover, this form of support also provides elderly people with something much more valuable – long-awaited regular contacts with volunteers delivering meals to their homes

Source of funding: Mercure, Bank Pocztowy S.A., Lotto Foundation “Senior Caritas Est”

Beneficiaries
100 SENIORS
Events
50 MEETINGS
Value of activities
PLN 55,000

“SENIOR CARITAS EST”

It is an integration and activation program in which several dozen seniors participate in weekly animated meetings, trips and pilgrimages. Since the beginning of the pandemic, online meetings have been held once a

month on the Meet platform. Seniors also like to use the blog – a journal of meetings kept by one of the program participants. Training organized by Caritas Poland helped them master the basic tools for communicating online.

Source of funding: own funds

Study visits
2
Visits
1

ADVOCACY – EDUCATIONAL, MEDIA AND ADVOCACY ACTIVITIES RELATED TO SENIORS

Caritas employees and volunteers host, and participate, in numerous educational, media and advocacy events at the local and national levels, presenting the problems of elderly people and developing more effective forms of helping the elderly.

- Report by Ph.D. Rafał Bakalarczyk: “Aging society – forecasts, challenges, opportunities”, extended edition, July 2023

- Report on long-term and hospice care provided by diocesan Caritas and religious congregations presented at the meeting of directors of diocesan Caritas (Nov. 2023) and at a meeting with representatives of religious congregations (Dec. 2023)
- Cooperation with Caritas Europe
- Participation in the 3rd World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly, organized by the Vatican's

- Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life (June 2023)
- Membership of a representative of Caritas Poland in the Council for Senior Policy of the Ministry of Family and Social Policy
- Participation in radio broadcasts (e.g. Radio Plus, Radio Poland, Radio Maryja, Radio dla Młodych)

SUPPORT FOR PEOPLE WITH RARE AND CHRONIC DISEASES AND PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

Persons with disabilities supported by diocesan Caritas

50,000

Funds collected in 2023 by "uratujecie.pl" and text message collections in the "Case for a Reporter" television programs

PLN 6,308,335

Active collections on the "uratujecie.pl" website

97 COLLECTIONS



It is hard. The costs of sustaining and treating a bedridden person are enormous. Care has to be comprehensive and requires many types of therapy. Care for the sick can take up to 24 hours a day.

CAREGIVER FOR A PERSON WITH A DISABILITY

Problem:

*There are nearly **5 million** persons with disabilities in Poland, of whom over 3 million have the confirmed status of a disabled person.*

*Many disabilities and chronic diseases require treatment that is not reimbursed by the public health insurance and families are **unable to cope with such costs** on their own*

There are nearly 5 million persons with disabilities in Poland. Every day, they experience barriers to independent living, self-reliance and social integration. Treatment, rehabilitation and overcoming accessibility limitations (e.g. at unsuitable workplaces) are a huge financial burden for persons with disabilities and their families.

Often, without external support, caregivers must limit their professional activity to care for a person with a disability and support him or her in daily life tasks.

Caritas has been involved in helping sick and disabled people for years. Diocesan Caritas run rehabilitation, treatment and educational facilities, as well as occupational therapy workshops, which are an important element of institutional support for families affected by a disability.

Caritas Poland financially supports people in the most difficult situations by enabling them to conduct public collections on the "uratujecie.pl" charity website. Funds collected are used to finance medical treatment, rehabilitation and support in to overcome health and social challenges that significantly exceed the resources of individuals or families.

New fundraisers **35**

"I WILL SAVE YOU" PROGRAM AND THE CHARITY WEBSITE "URATUJECIE.PL"

The "I Will Save You" program is based on a charity website that combines online collections with social integration through joint action of private individuals, businesses and institutions. The aim of the program is to build support circles composed of individual people and companies. Funds collected online are intended to save the lives and health of adults and children whose treatment and rehabilitation require huge amounts of money, far beyond the capabilities of individual people and families. Collections are communicated on the "uratujecie.pl" website and promoted in social media and on the home page of Caritas Poland. The financial aid from the program can be used by people in difficult life situations, those who are sick and poor, who cannot count on public aid. You can read the stories of people aided by Caritas Poland by visiting www.uratujecie.pl.

Number of charity text messages **- 53**

CHARITY SMS IN THE "CASE FOR A REPORTER" PROGRAM SUPPORTING COLLECTIONS ON "URATUJECIE.PL"

The TV program "Case for a Reporter" has for years been helping to collect significant amounts of money to support people in need. From 2021, fundraisers in the "Case for a Reporter" were included on the "uratujecie.pl" website in 2021. The stories of people in difficult life situations are communicated in the form of a TV reportage. A month-long charity text message fundraiser is launched on the day of the broadcast. The collected funds are used to help the interviewees. At the same time, collections are created on the website, which creates a synergy effect and reaches a wider group of donors, providing an opportunity to make donations online. Close cooperation with the editorial team of the "Case for a Reporter" program allowed us to build greater recognition of the uratujecie.pl website, attract a large group of new donors and significantly increase the value of donations.

AID FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Beneficiaries receiving annual scholarship support

~800 STUDENTS

Beneficiaries of Caritas Poland programs in 2023

43,573 CHILDREN

Children who took part in summer camps

16 000 OSÓB



Problem*:

The percentage of children experiencing violence, poverty and needing specialist support is growing in Poland.

66% of children experience violence from peers

32% of children experience violence from close adults

26% of children are sexually abused without physical contact

23% of children are emotionally neglected

20% of children experience parentification

14% of children witness violence at home

According to the report of the European Anti-Poverty Network published in 2023, extreme child poverty is increasing in Poland – the number of children in extreme poverty increased by approx. 26,000 in 2022 – up to 396,000 compared to 371,000 in 2021 (an increase from 5.3% to 5.7%). Extreme poverty in families with disabled children has also increased significantly – from 5.2% to 6.7%. A significant increase in the number of extremely poor families in Poland means that more and more children need support. Children from families suffering from poverty often cannot focus on lessons because they are hungry. They also get sick more often and skip classes. Many of them do not have a place to do their homework, which deepens the learning gap. Just like their peers, they have their own interests and dreams, but poverty makes them feel inferior and they do not believe in their own abilities. Some of these children have already experienced trauma in their lives caused by the death or illness of a loved one or other social problems, including addiction in their family. The number of children in need of support has also increased significantly in recent years taking into account children who fled the war in Ukraine. Carrying out the

service of mercy, Caritas Poland undertakes several activities to improve the situation of children in Poland. One of such initiatives is the “Wings” scholarship program within which 13,500 children received educational support. Caritas Poland, together with the network of diocesan Caritas, supports children, creating opportunities for them to develop and grow in a safe and friendly environment. In addition to running community centers and care points in dioceses, Caritas Poland has been supporting children with scholarships and subsidizing active recreation (“Caritas Holiday Action”) for years, and in recent years it has organized or financed stays and care for migrant and refugee children. Caritas Poland actively counteracts all forms of violence and exploitation of children that may occur in their environment, using prevention and early response mechanisms in accordance with national and humanitarian standards regulating the principles of child protection.

Diocesan Caritas operate in the most difficult environments, supporting the development and ensuring the safety of children both in educational institutions and during summer holidays.

Beneficiaries in 2022/23

900 STUDENTS

Beneficiaries in 2023/24

780 STUDENTS

Value of aid in 2022/23

1,505 000 ZŁ

Value of aid in 2023/24

PLN 1,296,000

“WINGS” AND “TWO TALENTS”

“Wings” is a multi-year scholarship aid program addressed to primary and secondary school students who need support due to their families’ poor financial situation. The aid includes providing meals at school, clothing, school supplies and co-financing trips and excursions. The scholarship is PLN 1,500. “Two Talents” is a scholarship subprogram dedicated to students who are successful in sports, music, acting and other fields. Thanks to the scholarship, they can take part in activities that develop their passions (e.g. sports, interest groups), participate in excursions and buy items needed to pursue their passions (e.g. musical instruments or sports equipment). The amount of the scholarship is PLN 2,000. In the 2022/23 and 2023/24 school years scholarships were also awarded to children and youth from Ukraine who continued their education in Polish schools.

Sources: Mitall, Archdiocese of Cologne, own funds

Beneficiaries

4,500 STUDENTS

Value of aid

PLN 752,000

“SCHOOLBAG FULL OF SMILES”

The idea of the program is to provide children with backpacks and kits of school equipment at the end of the summer holidays. The campaign is carried out by diocesan Caritas and Parish Caritas Teams which raise funds or collect school supplies for students among diocesans, parishioners and institutional partners. The Polish presidential couple has been involved in the campaign for years. Its culmination is the finale which takes place annually in the main squares of large cities. In 2023, schoolbags were donated to the Migrant and Refugee Assistance Centers in Warsaw and in Supraśl and during the finale of the campaign in Bircza (in the Archdiocese of Przemyśl), providing 4,500 children with PLN 752,000 worth of in-kind aid.

Source of funding: individual and business donors
Ambassadors: President of the Republic of Poland Andrzej Duda and First Lady Agata Kornhauser-Duda

Beneficiaries

1,800 DZIECI

Value of aid

PLN 236,127

“CARITAS ACADEMY FOR CHILDREN”

During the “Caritas Holiday Action” in 2023, the “Caritas Academy for Children” organized “Dream Rescuers” workshops. The workshops were aimed at motivating and strengthening young people’s self-esteem, realizing their dreams and encouraging them to develop and pursue their interests. 1,800 Polish and Ukrainian children participated. Workshops were also conducted for Ukrainian children in 28 Migrant and Refugee Assistance Centers.

Source of funding: Caritas Austria

Beneficiaries

16,000 CHILDREN

& YOUTH

Beneficiaries from Ukraine

3,000 CHILDREN

Value of aid

PLN 1,743,160

“CARITAS HOLIDAY ACTION”

The aim of the “Caritas Holiday Action” is to enhance the development and social opportunities of children from poorer families. Thanks to fundraisers conducted by Caritas in Poland, they participate in summer camps and trips that their families would not be able to afford without the support. Diocesan Caritas have 40 centers of their own but during the holidays, due to the interest in the campaign, it is necessary to rent over 100 additional places for recreation. The summer camp includes a rich educational and recreational program.

Source of funding: own funds

Candles distributed

~2 MILLION

The launch of the program

1994

“CHRISTMAS EVE CHILDREN’S AID WORK”

This is the oldest Caritas program, continuing since 1994. As part of the program, candles are distributed in parishes throughout Poland during Advent. In 2023, as part of the 20th edition of the “Christmas Eve Children’s Aid Work”, Caritas distributed approx. 2 million candles. The funds collected were used to support Polish children, for their summer holidays, free meals, scholarships, as well as aid for the youngest in rehabilitation and treatment, and 10 gr from each candle is allocated to support children in other countries – mainly nutrition among others, in areas affected by drought and war.

Partner: Polish Public TV

Beneficiaries

20,000 CHILDREN

Value of aid

PLN 300,000

CHILDREN’S DAY

Caritas Poland, as well as diocesan Caritas, have been involved in Children’s Days for several years. In 2023, Caritas Poland prepared 20,000 “Happy Boxes” which were distributed, among others, to those under the care of facilities run by diocesan Caritas. The specially designed boxes contained sweets, mascots and books. The boxes were distributed to children from the Complex of Special Schools and Institutions in Mocarzewo run, among others, by the Sisters of the Resurrection.

Source of funding: Jeronimo Martins (owner of the Biedronka store chain)

* Based on the report of the Empowering Children Foundation: “Diagnosis of violence against children in Poland in 2023”

HELPING THE SOCIALLY EXCLUDED

Soup kitchens run by diocesan Caritas

75

Daily beneficiaries of diocesan Caritas soup kitchens

11,000

Homeless people in Poland in 2022*

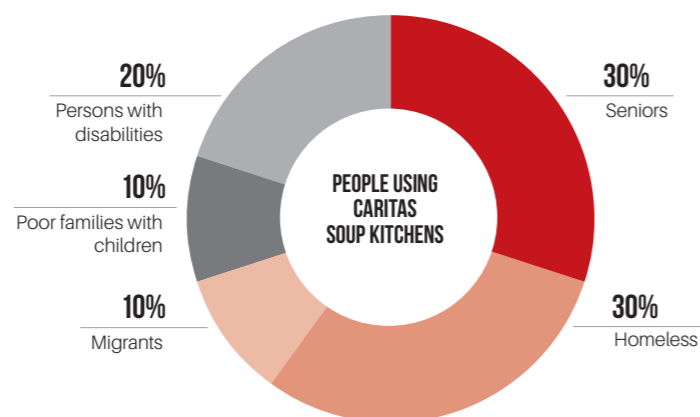
35,000



The pandemic, the war in Ukraine and high inflation mean that more and more people are affected by social exclusion, poverty and, in extreme cases, homelessness. Experts from the European Anti-Poverty Network estimate that the scale of homelessness in Poland could have doubled in 2022. Housing problems often coexist with job loss, illness, family problems or difficult living conditions. When the spiral of poverty and exclusion starts, it is very difficult to stop this process on one's own.

Caritas Poland has been running programs for people in a homelessness crisis in Warsaw for years, acting as an advocate for people without a roof over their heads, especially in the autumn and winter.

Diocesan Caritas constitute a support network for people in crisis throughout Poland. They run several support points for the homeless (soup kitchens, warm places, baths, day and night shelters), not only distributing the necessary in-kind aid, but also spreading hope and promoting dignity and respect to every person who asks for help. They also help people in crisis intervention centers and manage shelters for mothers with children.



Helping is a natural human need, even a reflex of the heart. I often see in the street someone stopping next to a beggar or a homeless person, showing concern for the fate of someone who has had worse luck in life than us. Such a meeting, even a short one, can instantly change something in the lives of both of them. Helping people who are poor and lost can be a unique and fruitful therapy. Who knows who the greater beneficiary in this process of returning to the authentic sources of charity is: the recipient or, perhaps, the donor.

JANUSZ SUKIENNIK, FOUNDER OF THE PROGRAM FOR OVERCOMING HOMELESSNESS AND ADDICTION "WE CAN DO IT!" AT CARITAS POLAND

* Estimated number, but it can be even twice as high

"WE CAN DO IT!"

Beneficiaries **7 PEOPLE**

Value of aid **PLN 80,000**

It is a program for overcoming homelessness and addictions, aimed at young people - primarily those leaving closed therapy centers and other treatment facilities, at risk of social exclusion. It is also addressed to prisoners at the end of their sentences, carried out in jails. The condition for participation is a strong will to take part in therapy, persistence in abstinence, leaving a pathological environment, rejoin the labour market and striving for life stability. The program offers psychological and therapeutic help, initial support in the form of paying or subsidizing the residential rent or public transport fares, food and in-kind aid, and co-financing courses or training, as well as formal higher education. The series of meetings includes learning practical skills and educational, cultural and recreational activities. The program is supported solely by contributions from individual donors. It is carried out in Warsaw but enrolls candidates from all over Poland.

Source of funding: individual donors

"SOME WARMTH FOR A HOMELESS PERSON"

Beneficiaries **~300 OSÓB**

Value of aid **PLN 32,220**

It is an annual campaign conducted in the autumn and winter by Caritas Poland and the Warsaw Municipal Police, addressed to homeless people staying outside of shelters, in all districts of Warsaw. It was organized for the 9th time. In 2023, MP patrols distributed food and clothing to the homeless. During the campaign, the homeless received 3,200 liters of nutritious soup with bread, 5,000 canned food, 150 warm blankets and 700 pairs of woolen socks. The soup was cooked by the kitchen of the Okopowa Center operating at Caritas Poland, and the bread was provided by the Caritas shelter of the Archdiocese of Warsaw at Żytnia street. Caritas Poland also purchased 45 sleeping bags, 16 new foam mattresses, several pairs of winter shoes and fur hats, safety razors and sanitary pads. As in previous years, before Christmas, patrols handed out parcels with sweets, hygiene items and gifts to homeless people, prepared by volunteers from the "We can do it!" program for overcoming homelessness and addiction.

Annual campaign conducted in the fall and winter
Partner: Warsaw Municipal Police

PILGRIMAGE OF THE HOMELESS TO CZESTOCHOWA

Beneficiaries **600 OSÓB**

Value of aid **PLN 48,000**

It is an annual event held in November. As in previous years, in 2023, on November 11, before the World Day of the Poor, the 18th pilgrimage of over 800 homeless people to Czestochowa took place. That day, there were more smiles on their faces than expressions of sadness. That year the pilgrimage was held under the motto: "Do not turn your face away from any poor person". Pilgrims from 20 dioceses were welcomed at 10:00 in the Chapel of St. Joseph, where a conference led by Father Michał Ciechanowski was conducted, he talked about various types of poverty. Afterwards, the participants listened to a moving testimony of Grzegorz Kleszcz, a converted three-time Olympian. Father Ph.D. Marcin Iżycki, Director of Caritas Poland, also delivered a speech to the audience. The Director of Caritas of the Archdiocese of Czestochowa, the host, emphasized that the motto of this year's pilgrimage, "Do not turn your face away from any poor person", suggested that there is not only material but also emotional poverty, which is particularly sad. Then the pilgrims went to the Chapel of the Mother of God, where, under the lead of Andrzej Przybylski, Auxiliary Bishop of Czestochowa, holy mass was celebrated.

"STREET MEDICAL PATROL"

Beneficiaries **~400 PEOPLE**

Value of aid **PLN 10 247**

Homeless person locations **774**

Medical support provided **797**

CONSULTATIONS

"Street Medical Patrol" has been operating in Warsaw since 2017. It is a joint project of Caritas Poland, the Warsaw Municipal Police and the "We are Hope" Association which runs a clinic and provides medical and emergency assistance to the homeless and the poor who are not covered by national insurance or cannot use such assistance for other reasons. Patrols deliver first aid to difficult to find places where the homeless live. In severe cases, patrols direct or transport patients to clinics where it is possible to use the help of volunteer nurses and doctors of various specializations. In addition to providing emergency medical care, rescuers offer information and support in overcoming homelessness. Sometimes they also do the shopping or provide those in need with clothes and other necessities. They have saved people's lives many times over the years.

Year-round program
Partners: Warsaw City Police, "We Are Hope" Association

INTEGRAL ECOLOGY IN THE ACTIVITIES OF CARITAS POLAND

Viewers of ecological retreats

36,000 VIEWS

Audience of media campaigns

86,000 PEOPLE



In today's world, ecology is becoming an inseparable element of integral activities. The "cry of the poor and the cry of the earth", which Pope Francis writes about in the encyclical "Laudato si'", have become a signal for introducing an unprecedented standard of help. The main goals of the project are attention to the incurred environmental costs, the promotion of positive attitudes and good practices by Caritas Poland, and care for the integral development of volunteers, beneficiaries and all stakeholders of Caritas Poland. This emphasis reveals new levels for the organization that need to be taken into

account at deeper levels. It is becoming increasingly obvious that the proposal of living in the spirit of "Laudato si'" can be a response to the crisis and difficulties of today's world. This awareness accompanies the creation of a network of Caritas "Laudato si'" Communities of Action, which is strengthened by local initiatives, "Green Embassy" trips, conferences, workshops and a social campaign. The project brings a new quality of speaking about ecology in the Church and seeks a language that does not lead to any extremes.

In 2023, the motto of Caritas "Laudato si'" activities was MODERATION - living in moderation, counteracting overconsumption, responsible use of things and the natural environment, building awareness and commitment. Following the guidance offered in the encyclical "Laudato si'", Caritas Poland has focused its commitment on inspiring and strengthening grassroots social activities that have a real impact on the environment around us and on translating the principles of integral ecology into the practice of Church life. From the very beginning, the idea was to build a community that would respond to the need for long-term action. A community has been created around Caritas "Laudato si'" - leaders of local initiatives in parishes and Catholic organizations, scientists, social activists and observers in public space who follow the message we formulate and believe it to be credible, objective and focused on the good of man as a being living in harmony with nature.

ECOLOGY IN NUMBERS

75% the decrease in the amount of insect biomass in protected areas (!) in nearby Germany over the last 27 years

USD 20 trillion the amount of money we lose annually due to the loss of biodiversity of fauna and flora, leading to a shrinkage of benefits from natural ecosystems (food, air, water, etc.)

247 kg average annual food waste per person in Poland

4793 kg the amount of waste each Pole produces on average per year - more than the weight of an Indian elephant!

"GREEN EMBASSY"

Spreading awareness about the project and animating activities within it required something special. This is how the "Green Embassy" was established, which consists of a hybrid car reaching every place in Poland, a tent with an attractive exhibition promoting sustainability, a program of workshops and conferences covering selected topics related to environmental care, and additional attractions in the form of

eco-quizzes, educational games and films, among others. The combination of an accessible workshop format and lectures by specialists leads to the fact that the Embassy the Embassy's offer covers on the most important ecological challenges that local communities face every day. All Caritas "Laudato si'" activities were based on close cooperation with specialists involved in the project at the national and local levels. The aim of objective to coop-

erate with them with them is to adopt a broader perspective in which the issues of environmental protection and counteracting the climate crisis is linked with economic and social problems. The economic system is the matrix through which the causes of many imperfections of the modern world should be investigated. Caritas Poland focused its pro-environmental efforts on one of the biggest problems of the modern world: consumerism.

SAINT FRANCIS'S SUNDAY

The culmination of "Time for Creation" is Saint Francis's Sunday, which took place on October 8 last year. The "Laudato si'" team participated in a meeting in Olsztyn, in the Parish of Christ the King in Zatorze, where one of the Caritas "Laudato si'" Action Communities operates. On the eve of Saint

Francis's Sunday in Rokitno (Diocese of Zielona Góra-Gorzów) a meeting of rosary associations from the diocese was held. The "Laudato si'" team of the "Mobile Embassy" explained to a wide range of participants why we talk about integral ecology in the Church. Moreover, the project partner - Caritas of

the Diocese of Zielona Góra-Gorzów, together with employees and volunteers of the shelter for homeless men in Żukowice, presented their activities and prepared a stand with organic refreshments.

SOCIAL CAMPAIGN "LESS WASTE, MORE REFLECTION"

Another dimension of the Caritas "Laudato si'" team's activities were nationwide social campaigns related to pro-environmental activities. The sense of a common mission has become a driving force for the Caritas "Laudato si'" team to promote and support interesting initiatives and ideas related to improving the condition of environment. All materials prepared as part of the project are based on experience and knowledge of specialists and were provided free of charge. The audience is expanded through comprehensive media activities on

television, online, in the press, radio and social media, through cooperation with influencers, as well as by creating promotional materials. The largest event that also received the widest media coverage was the "Less waste, more reflection" campaign organized on All Saints' Day. Its aim was to encourage Poles to replace plastic products brought to graves with more natural decorations or, simply, with a reflection, which matters the most on this occasion, leading to conscious self-limitation in the use of material goods.

The project's timeline is from September 1, 2023, to December 31, 2024.

PLN 1,358,914 - total value of the project.

The amount of funding from the National Fund for Environmental Protection and Water Management is 88.28% of eligible costs, i.e. PLN 1,199,614.

HELPING MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES

Ukrainian refugees staying in Poland
1,000,000 PEOPLE

Ukrainian refugees registered in Caritas Assistance Centers
92,000 PEOPLE

Caritas Assistance Centers in Poland
28 CENTERS

Value of Caritas Poland aid to people from Ukraine in Poland
PLN 54,695,318



There are approx.
1 million
 refugees from Ukraine
 in Poland

Seniors and persons
 with disabilities, as well
 as people who want to
 become
independent
 but need support in
 Economic inclusion,
 integration and learning
 Polish

Caritas opened the first Migrant and Refugee Assistance Centers in 2018, in Warsaw, Szczecin and Kalisz. It supported, among others, refugees from Afghanistan. In the spring of 2022, due to the urgent need to support refugees from Ukraine, Caritas Poland and diocesan Caritas opened an additional 32 facilities in Poland. Since July 2022, over 92,000 beneficiaries have been registered in these centers across the country. These are people covered by or applying for international protection in Poland and particularly those affected by the conflict in Ukraine. The centers are most often visited by women, children, teenagers and elderly.

In the second year of providing support to Ukrainian refugees (2023), Caritas Poland focused on areas related to integration, i.e. learning Polish, labor market inclusion in the Polish labor market and integration with society. Refugees who feel relatively safe in our country and have employment and a roof over their heads are usually willing to take steps to improve their mental well-being. The centers help them deal with war trauma and find their place in our country. There are individual and group sessions, art and music workshops and integration activities for children, teenagers and seniors. The centers provide refugees with free social and psychological assistance, Polish language courses, help in finding employment, legal advice, official translations, and offer place for children to play and for adults to integrate. The centers' mobile teams reach people affected by economic, health care and communication exclusion, and reach refugees living in small towns.

Beneficiaries -
 Ukrainian children
373

Value of aid
PLN 715 520

RESPITE STAYS – “CARITAS AUTUMN ACADEMY”

The campaign was organized in response to the needs of children from Ukraine living in war zones. Respite stays are 14 days of relaxation, rest and detachment from the sad reality for children. The children who benefited from respite stays came from internally displaced families, from areas that suffered the most as a result of war.

Sources of funding:
 Jeronimo Martins and own funds

Beneficiaries
296 CHILDREN

Caregivers
34 PEOPLE

Facilities
5

AID FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH IN FOSTER CARE (ALL PROJECTS)

The program was addressing to unaccompanied young people from Ukraine. It involved providing financing to centers that had capacity to accommodate children in their facilities. These funds were used to pay for accommodation and meals (PLN 40/day), employ additional staff in the centers, provide access to medical aid, educational and therapeutic support, vocational and language courses, training in child safeguarding and protection. This funding was granted to 4 Caritas that welcomed young people: Caritas of the Archdiocese of Czestochowa, Caritas of the Diocese of Bielsko-Zywiec, Caritas of the Archdiocese of Wroclaw (the Care and Education Facility in Krzydlina Mala run by the Sisters of Notre Dame) and Caritas of the Archdiocese of Warmia. The staff and caregivers employed by these facilities provided broadly defined financial, educational, medical, psychological and therapeutic aid. Aid for children and caregivers was possible thanks to funding from several projects (listed below).

Sources of funding: Caritas Germany, UNICEF

MAIN PROJECTS IMPLEMENTED BY CARITAS POLAND FOR MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES

Donor	Title	Timeline	Grant amount (PLN)
Caritas Internationalis	Emergency Appeal 18/2022 - Caritas support in Poland for people from Ukraine affected by the conflict	07/2022 - 09/2023	38,124,239
Caritas Internationalis	Emergency Appeal 29/2022	10/2023 - 06/2024	4,059,066
Caritas Norway	Emergency financial assistance and services	11/2023 - 06/2024	3,764,980
Caritas Germany	Comprehensive aid for Ukrainian children in foster care and their guardians	08/2022 - 01/2024	6,744,465
UNICEF	Comprehensive aid for evacuated Ukrainian children and their guardians	10/2023 - 04/2024	1,802,794
UNHCR	Providing protection and integration services	02/2023 - 12/2023	11,129,071
Own funds	Respite stays for Ukrainian children	Year round	288,600
Own funds	“Wings” and “Two Talents” - scholarship programs also supporting Ukrainian children	Annual	509 500
Own funds	Co-financing for religious establishments that accepted refugees from Ukraine	08/2023 - 12/2023	1,937,000

MIGRANT AND REFUGEE ASSISTANCE CENTERS IN POLAND



Beneficiaries registered

92,000 PEOPLE

Beneficiaries who received psychological and psycho-social support or participated in various types of integration activities

70,000 PEOPLE

Participants of Polish language courses

10,000+ PEOPLE

Beneficiaries supported with finding employment

14,000 PEOPLE

Beneficiaries supported with administrative and legal support

10,000 PEOPLE

TWO YEARS OF AID FOR UKRAINE



1,000,000

NUMBER OF BENEFICIARIES IN POLAND AND UKRAINE



PLN 87,000,000

VALUE OF AID PROVIDED IN POLAND TO PEOPLE FROM UKRAINE IN 2023



92,000

NUMBER OF BENEFICIARIES REGISTERED IN THE MIGRANT AND REFUGEE ASSISTANCE CENTERS

CARITAS' AID IN POLAND



270,000

NUMBER OF BENEFICIARIES OF THE "PARCEL FOR UKRAINE" PROGRAM IN 2023



PLN 31,500,000

VALUE OF THE "PARCEL FOR UKRAINE" PROGRAM IN 2023



PLN 10 MILLION

BUDGET OF THE "FAMILY TO FAMILY" PROGRAM IN 2023

CARITAS POLAND'S AID IN UKRAINE



CAREER COUNSELING, PROFESSIONAL COURSES, RECOGNITION OF DIPLOMAS, EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT



TRANSLATION OF DOCUMENTS



POLISH LANGUAGE COURSES



LEGAL SUPPORT



EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT



PSYCHOLOGICAL AND PSYCHO-SOCIAL SUPPORT, INTEGRATION ACTIVITIES FOR SENIORS, ADULTS, CHILDREN AND TEENAGERS



FINANCIAL AND IN-KIND AID



CHILDCARE



REDIRECTION TO REFERRAL TO OTHER SERVICES OR OTHER ORGANISATIONS

NEARLY **PLN 70,000,000**
 — IS THE AMOUNT OF FINANCIAL AND IN-KIND AID PROVIDED
 ABROAD IN 2023 BY CARITAS POLAND

IN **37** COUNTRIES
 ON **4** CONTINENT

The crisis in Ukraine caused by the war had impact on international activities of Caritas Poland. The key assumption in the field of the work abroad was to provide effective humanitarian aid in Ukraine without compromising existing programs and projects implemented in dozens of countries around the world. Caritas Poland's international activities include both humanitarian and development aid. They always respond to the needs communicated by local partners.

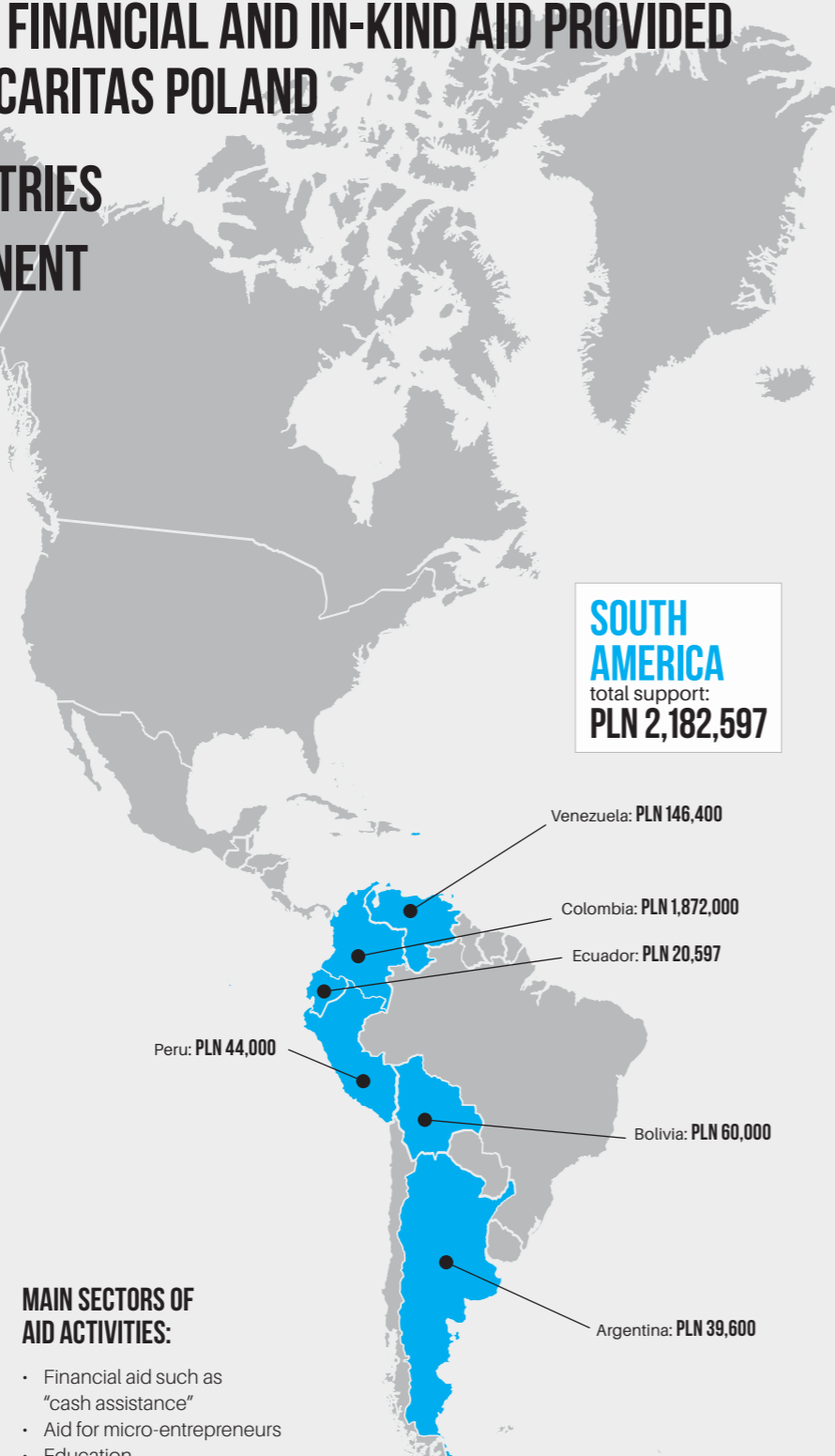
Caritas Poland, as a member of the Caritas Internationalis Confederation and its regional association Caritas Europe, constantly expands the areas of programs and develops tools used run programs efficiently at every stage - from detailed identification of needs on site, through planning and implementation of activities, to detailed evaluation and reporting of projects. Caritas Poland implements comprehensive projects in coordination with other leading networked Caritas, initiatives in cooperation with other local and global ecclesial and secular organizations, and micro-projects in cooperation with religious congregations and missionaries.

MAIN REGIONS OF ACTIVITIES ABROAD OF FOREIGN ACTIVITIES:

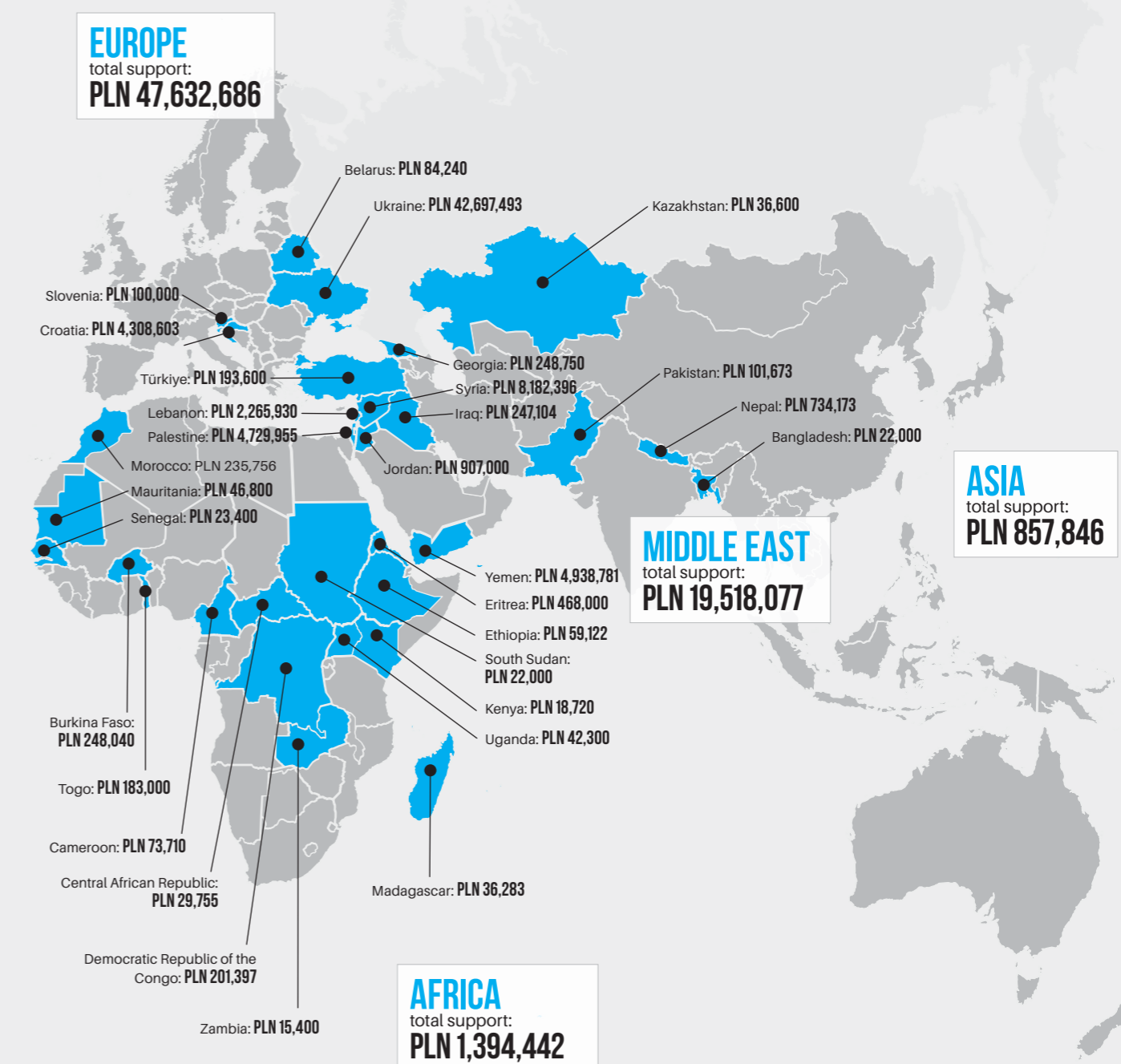
- Middle East - including the "Family to Family" and "School to School" programs
- Eastern Europe, especially Ukraine
- Latin America - including the "Parcel for Venezuela" program
- Sub-Saharan Africa
- Asia

MAIN SECTORS OF AID ACTIVITIES:

- Financial aid such as "cash assistance"
- Aid for micro-entrepreneurs
- Education
- Health and nutrition
- Food security
- Emergency response



SOUTH AMERICA
 total support:
PLN 2,182,597



EUROPE
 total support:
PLN 47,632,686

MIDDLE EAST
 total support:
PLN 19,518,077

AFRICA
 total support:
PLN 1,394,442

“FAMILY TO FAMILY” PROGRAM

Beneficiaries of the cash assistance program in 2023

6,890 FAMILIES

Value of aid in 2023

PLN 16 290 412

Since the beginning of the “Family to Family” program, Caritas Poland has donated to support families in the Middle East

PLN 80 MILLION

It has donated over to support people in Ukraine since 2022

PLN 10 MILLION



CASH ASSISTANCE AND SUPPORT FOR MICRO-ENTERPRISES IN FOUR MIDDLE EASTERN COUNTRIES AND UKRAINE.

THE “FAMILY TO FAMILY” PROGRAM, WHICH BEGAN IN OCTOBER 2016, CONTINUED IN 2023. IT PROVIDED AID TO FOUR COUNTRIES IN THE MIDDLE EAST: SYRIA, LEBANON, PALESTINE AND IRAQ. AN ADDITIONAL COMPONENT OF THE PROGRAM IN 2023 WAS TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO FAMILIES IN UKRAINE.

THE CASH SUPPORT PROGRAM REACHED ALMOST 7,000 FAMILIES IN 2023.

The objective of the “Family to Family” program is cash assistance to cover the most urgent needs of families affected by crisis. The program’s donors are parishes, bishops, religious congregations, private companies and hundreds of individuals. In response to the needs of the affected people and the changing context in which these families live, a support component for small family businesses was introduced to the program. Thanks to it, those families who have a feasible business idea receive one-off support (for the purchase of equipment, shop furnishing, etc.) to become independent from monthly financial allowances.

The mechanism of the “Family to Family” program initiated in 2016 remains valid. Donors donate Caritas Poland financial resources to support families in dire need, to help families in dire need. Families receive monthly cash allowances or bank transfers to cover their urgent needs, such as paying rent or purchasing food or medicines. We support people who need it most – the elderly, lonely, disabled, as well as large families, or people to whom no one has reached out to help.

The program has been expanded since 2020 to include families in the Gaza Strip, and in 2021 the participation of families in Lebanon was re-inaugurated and families from Iraqi Kurdistan were introduced to the program. In 2023, the “Family to Family” program was also extended to support families in Ukraine due to the ongoing war there.

Cash assistance beneficiaries

5321 FAMILIES

Number of beneficiaries

18,600 PEOPLE

Family businesses supported

77 ENTREPRENEURS

SYRIA

It is the first country covered by the “Family to Family” program. Although hostilities now affect only the Idlib province in the northern part of Syria, the situation in the country is still dramatic. The war left behind separated families, homeless people, poverty, unemployment and rampant inflation. Currently, 15.3 million inhabitants of Syria need humanitarian aid, including 6.5 million children (according to OCHA). The situation of 6.8 million internally displaced people and those who have emigrated to neighboring countries is particularly difficult. Monthly support from the “Family to Family” program and assistance for micro-entrepreneurs restores hope to Syrians and eases anxiety about tomorrow. Assistance under the program is possible thanks to the cooperation of Caritas Poland with the Hope Center organization acting on site, which is responsible for registration and selection of families to the program, and distribution of the support.

Cash aid beneficiaries

190 FAMILIES

LEBANON

On August 4, 2020, there was an explosion of chemicals stored in the Port of Beirut. Over 200 people died, over 5,000 were injured, and the port district turned into rubble. This disaster deepened the socio-economic crisis that had been going on in the country for years. The reason for reactivating the “Family to Family” program in Lebanon in 2021 was the accumulation of problems faced by the affected families. At the same time, the previous good experience of Caritas Poland with its partner, Caritas Lebanon, allowed us to think about effective introduction of support mechanisms under the “Family to Family” program. As many as 2.3 million people out of the country’s population of approx. 6.7 million need humanitarian aid. The 1.5 million Syrian refugees who have taken refuge in Lebanon are in a particularly difficult situation.

Cash aid beneficiaries

60 FAMILIES

Beneficiaries

180 PEOPLE

PALESTINE – GAZA STRIP

The “Family to Family” program has been operating in the Gaza Strip since 2020. This area is difficult to access for aid organizations. The partner of Caritas Poland is Caritas Jerusalem with operational presence there. The humanitarian situation in the Gaza Strip has been very unstable for years and has deteriorated dramatically during the escalation of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict on October 7, 2023. A blockade was imposed in 2007 on the import of goods and border crossings. Even before the conflict escalated, 1.3 million people of the Gaza Strip’s 2 million population (58 %) needed humanitarian aid and unemployment was 44% (65% for women). Due to the escalation of the conflict, more than a million people have been internally displaced, and restrictions on the delivery of humanitarian aid have put the entire population at risk of starvation. Schools in the Gaza Strip ceased to function, and many health care facilities were destroyed in the last three months of 2023. Children, the elderly and the sick are in a particularly dramatic situation.

Cash aid beneficiaries

100 FAMILIES

Family businesses that received support

6 ENTREPRENEURS

IRAQI KURDISTAN

This was another location covered by the “Family to Family” program in 2021. Until recently, the country and region were exposed to terrorist attacks from ISIS. These were especially directed towards Yazidis and Christians. The number of the latter decreased from approx. 1.5 million to approx. 300,000 in just a few years. Indigenous Christians fled the conflict or died. The need to support these specific social groups was an important factor for Caritas Poland to expand the program. The decision was also made thanks to the presence of a trusted project partner on site, the Eaglewatch Foundation, with whom Caritas Poland has been implementing other projects since 2018. Around 2.5 million people in Iraq needed humanitarian aid in 2022. The country continues to struggle with the large number of internally displaced people, hundreds of thousands of whom still live in provisional camps. Even though Iraq is recovering from the crisis, its humanitarian needs remain very high.

UKRAINE

Caritas Poland assistance in Ukraine



Beneficiaries of the "Parcel for Ukraine" in 2023

270,000 PEOPLE

Cash aid beneficiaries

2,801 PEOPLE

Value of assistance under the "Parcel for Ukraine" program in 2023

PLN 31,500,000

Value of aid under the "Family to Family" program in Ukraine in 2023

PLN 10,000,000+



We helped at the border, organized humanitarian transports, and now we implement regular aid programs also in Ukraine. We mainly focus on those regions of Ukraine that are most affected by hostilities or those that are a refuge for internally displaced people. Daily attacks and shelling affect civilians and have humanitarian consequences. The situation is dramatic. According to the UN, as many as 17.6 million people in Ukraine need humanitarian aid, which means they do not have access to basic services. Nearly 3 million people live on the front lines. We search for those most in need in cooperation with the Roman Catholic Caritas Spes Ukraine and the Greek Catholic Caritas Ukraine and implement our programs with them.

IRENEUSZ KRAUSE, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF CARITAS POLAND RESPONSIBLE FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

On February 24, 2022, the Russian Federation launched a full-scale invasion of Ukraine, dramatically escalating the over 8-year simmering conflict into a full-scale war. Russia's ground forces quickly gained control of large areas in the north, east and south, while air and artillery attacks wreaked havoc on cities across Ukraine. The Ukrainian counteroffensive resulted in the withdrawal of Russian forces in the north of the country, including areas around the capital Kiev. In 2023, fighting continued in the east and south of the country. In October, attacks on energy infrastructure intensified, further hindering the use of public services and utilities, including water, electricity, heating, health care, education and welfare. The energy crisis exacerbated the humanitarian needs resulting from the deteriorating situation, which intensified the scale of internal and international migration. The situation is even more difficult in the winter. The destruction of the Nova Kakhovka dam and other local disasters within this general crisis required immediate humanitarian intervention.

The "Parcel for Ukraine" and "Family to Family" launched in 2022 are the main and long-term aid programs of Caritas Poland, which also operate in other countries. Since the beginning of the war, aid to Ukraine has also been provided directly by diocesan Caritas.

Partners: Caritas Spes, Caritas Ukraine

Beneficiaries
2,801 PEOPLE

Value of direct aid
PLN 10 000 000

"FAMILY TO FAMILY" – UKRAINE

As part of the "Family to Family" program, we provided financial assistance to people in Ukraine affected by the ongoing war. With support from Caritas Spes, help reached the most needy families and lonely people. Support within the "Family to Family" program in 2023 covered:

- 1,300 people (633 families) in the Kiev-Zhytomyr Diocese,
- 1,501 people (503 families) in the Diocese of Kharkiv-Zaporizhia.

paczki przekazane do Ukrainy w 2023 roku

90 000 PACZEK

średnia wartość paczki
350 ZŁ

wartość pomocy
PLN 31,500,000

"PARCEL FOR UKRAINE"

Donations in kind (food and hygiene products) for people affected by the armed conflict in Ukraine. Parcels are prepared in dioceses according to the list of products published on the Caritas Poland website. The estimated value of one parcel is PLN 350. Around 90,000 such parcels were delivered to Ukraine in 2023.

OTHER SUPPORT PROJECTS IN UKRAINE

Caritas Poland also supported smaller initiatives by co-financing Ukrainian institutions providing medical and rehabilitation aid (including co-financing the construction of a hospital near Drohobych and co-financing an elevator in a rehabilitation and treatment center).

"Points of Hope" in Ukraine

18 POINTS

Daily beneficiaries
~ 700 PEOPLE

"POINTS OF HOPE"

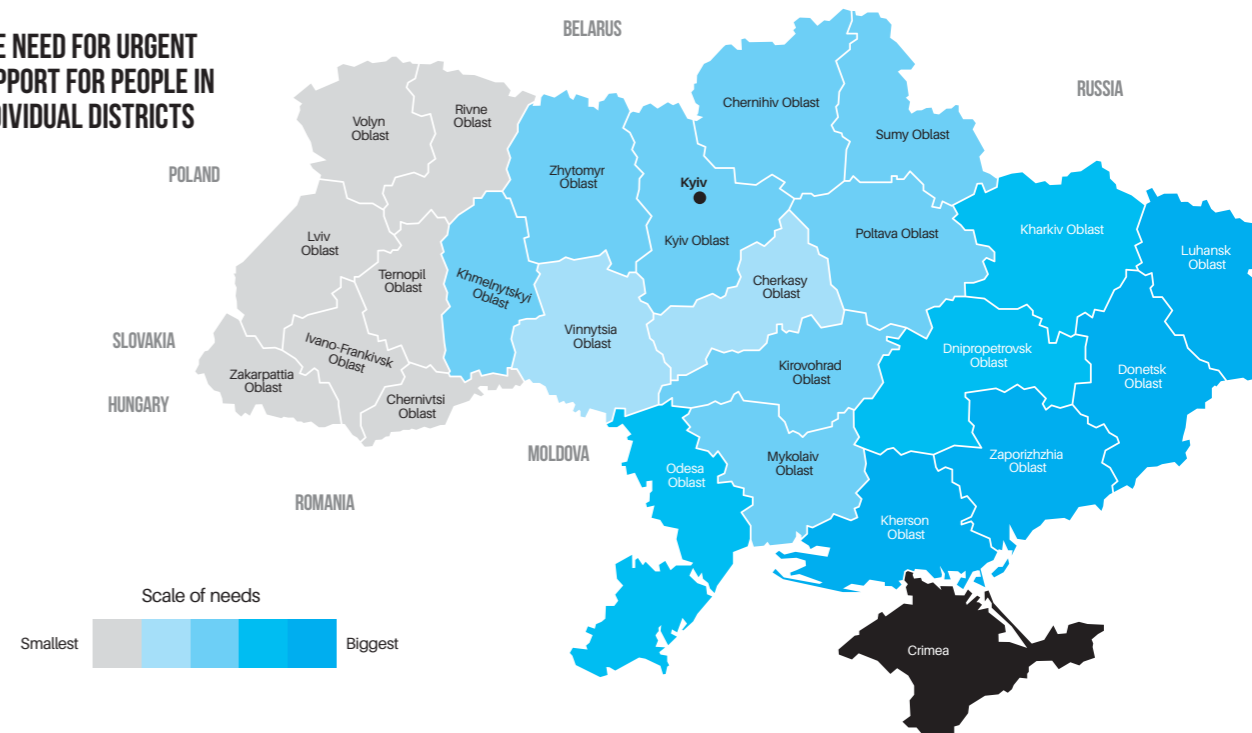
"Points of Hope" are safe places to hide from missile attacks, with access to electricity, water and heating. Families living in multi-apartment buildings often do not have alternative sources of electricity or gas supply, so they cannot heat or cook meals. Families with small children and persons with disabilities suffer the most. Within the program 18 "Points of Hope" were established in Ukraine, including in Odessa, Mykolaiv, Kherson, Kremenchuk, Kharkiv, Kiev, Zhytomyr, Vinnytsia and Khmelnytskyi. Approx. 700 people could use the "Points of Hope" every day.

Beneficiaries
86 PEOPLE

AID FOR CIVILIANS AFFECTED BY FLOODS AFTER THE DESTRUCTION OF THE DAM IN NOVA KAKHOVKA

As a result of the war and the blowing up of the dam in Nova Kakhovka, many people lost their possessions, and their houses were flooded or destroyed. Due to the need to respond to this crisis, 39 households (86 people) received support in the form of construction materials needed for post-flood works and to protect their houses for winter.

THE NEED FOR URGENT SUPPORT FOR PEOPLE IN INDIVIDUAL DISTRICTS



CROATIA

Pomoc dla osób poszkodowanych w wyniku trzęsienia ziemi

Value of aid
PLN 5,700,000

Houses rebuilt
29

New water tanks installed
21



Families who lost their homes as a result of the earthquake were placed in places of temporary residence. Now many of them can return to their renovated homes. Just like the Oštrić family of four who had been living in temporary accommodation since the earthquake. Caritas always tries to support people who find themselves in difficult life situations. We would like to thank all donors who made the families' dream of returning to their homes a reality.

**FATHER TOMISLAV GLAVNIK,
DIRECTOR OF CARITAS CROATIA**

At the end of 2020 central and eastern Croatia was hit by the largest earthquake in the country's history. Seven people were killed, and dozens were injured. Residential buildings, schools, shops, offices and farm buildings were destroyed. Two earthquakes (the first with a magnitude of 6.3 on the Richter scale, the second slightly weaker – with a magnitude of 5) destroyed urban infrastructure as well as houses and farm buildings. In response to this disaster, Sunday, January 24, 2021, was announced the "Day of Solidarity with Croatia" by Archbishop Stanisław Gądecki, President of the Polish Episcopal Conference. Collections were organized in churches on that day to help those affected by the disaster. These funds and donations transferred to Caritas Poland's bank account and contributed via charity text messages exceeded PLN 5.7 million. Caritas Poland also supported the humanitarian appeal "Help in providing shelter to families affected by the earthquake in Croatia" with the amount of PLN 110,386.

The project was continued in 2023 under two aid components: 1 – renovation and reconstruction of houses affected by the earthquake in the Banovina region, 2 – acquisition and installation of underground water tanks in places affected by the earthquake in the Glina commune, and purchase of a truck cistern. As part of the project implemented together with Caritas Croatia, the number of people with access to clean water was increased and the living conditions of the population were including 29 most affected families were supported, 14 single-family houses have been renovated, another 12 are undergoing renovation works of varying advancement. Work is underway to build foundations for 7 prefabricated houses, 21 water tanks have also been installed.

SLOVENIA

Catastrophic flood

Value of financial aid
PLN 100,000

In-kind aid (donations)
10 TONS

Funds raised for reconstruction
PLN 7,000,000



Thanks to our donors, friends and colleagues, we could send a special plane carrying the most needed things, such as food with long shelf life, hygiene products and desiccants thanks to which the inhabitants of flooded areas will be able to return to their homes faster. I thank everyone who is with us and helps.

**FR. PH.D. MARCIN IŻYCKI,
DIRECTOR OF CARITAS POLAND**

In 2023, Slovenia faced the effects of the largest and most disastrous flood in its history. Losses were estimated at several hundred million euros. Many people lost their possessions – their houses cannot be renovated at all or are seriously damaged. Most of their equipment was also destroyed, including household appliances. Moreover, the disaster caused power outages and deprived residents of access to clean water. Two-thirds of the country's territory was affected by the disaster.

In response to the dramatic situation, Caritas Poland decided to provide PLN 100,000 worth of aid for which Caritas Slovenia purchased the most necessary items for flood victims.

In addition to financial aid from Caritas Poland, Slovenia also received in-kind aid, including desiccants for flooded homes and clothes and food with long shelf life. In addition, food and textiles (clothes, towels, bedding) that the organization received from the Lidl retail chain, as well as hygiene and chemical products, shovels, spades, brushes, blankets and dryers were transported to Slovenia by plane. Transport by a Lockheed C-130 Hercules aircraft was the result of a successful cooperation with

the Armed Forces General Command and Caritas of the Field Ordinariate of the Polish Army. All this was donated to Caritas Slovenia, which distributed the aid to those most in need.

Caritas Slovenia has been on the ground since the beginning of the crisis, providing accommodation for evacuees, hot meals, medicines, clothes and other basic items, among other things. It also participated in the needs and damage assessment, and the distribution of financial aid from the local government and foreign donors. Caritas Slovenia's facilities and commercial sales outlets collected the most necessary products including cleaning supplies, kitchen utensils and household appliances, bedding and towels, hygiene products and non-perishable food. Caritas Slovenia also helps in cleaning and drying houses thanks to support from volunteers.

August 15, 2023, was the "Day of National Solidarity with Slovenia" combined with collections in churches throughout Poland for the people affected by floods. The campaign collected over PLN 7 million.

SYRIA

Value of aid
PLN 8,182,396

Beneficiaries
20,000 PEOPLE



12 YEARS OF CRISIS

16 million people	people in Syria need humanitarian aid
13 million people	are at risk of hunger
More than 1 million children	under the age of 5 are malnourished and 1 in 4 suffers from anemia
Nearly 2.5 million children	do not go to school, thousands of schools have been damaged and require repair
20%	% of Syrian girls aged 15-19 are mothers or pregnant
More than 7 million people	people in Syria are internally displaced

Caritas Poland, together with its partner, Hope Center, and other smaller organizations, runs a number of projects supporting people in Syria. Most of the beneficiaries are Christian families of various denominations. Cash assistance is provided in the local currency, and an additional component is support for small family businesses aimed at those families, in which at least one person can become employed. We also support schools and smaller initiatives serving local communities.

Apart from the "Family to Family" program, Caritas Poland also provides assistance in two other areas. The first is financial aid for the reconstruction of local businesses and vocational education. The second is education implemented through the "School to School" program and supporting educational community centers in Aleppo.

Renovated
2 SCHOOLS

"SCHOOL TO SCHOOL"

Educational support in Syria provided by Caritas Poland is a response to the dramatic situation in the education sector after the war. For years, the growing generation has been deprived of regular education, many school buildings have been completely destroyed or require general renovation, and teachers lack educational tools for capturing the interest of students and enriching lessons. The decision to continue the "School to School" project, launched in 2019, is dictated by the still very difficult political and economic situation in Syria. As part of this edition of the program, 10 schools in Aleppo have been equipped with educational aids, such as materials for biology, chemistry, music and sports classes, as well as electronic equipment: projectors, speakers and photocopiers. The Al Ikhlas school in Hama and Kilikija school in Aleppo, which were damaged during the earthquake, have also been renovated. The implementation of the "School to School" program is possible only thanks to charity campaigns conducted by teachers and students in Polish schools.

Project budget
PLN 221,008

beneficjenci
269 CHILDREN

"CHILDREN'S UNIVERSITY"

The "Children's University", opened in 2022, is a continuation of the community center for children from Aleppo, which has been operating since 2018. In this facility, children can learn and develop their talents as part of a dedicated program of activities. They can study one of four education paths: medical, technical, media and life sciences. As before, in addition to educational activities, children took part in outdoor activities and integration trips, and received psychological support, especially after the earthquake. As a result of this disaster, the university building was damaged, so in 2023 it was necessary to relocate the operations to a new building.

Partner: Christian Hope Center, Saint Nicholas Foundation

Value of aid
PLN 2,793,809

EARTHQUAKE IN TURKEY AND SYRIA

On February 6, 2023, a tragic earthquake occurred in Turkey and Syria, with the epicenter near the Turkish city of Gaziantep. As a result of this event, as well as aftershocks that lasted for months, tens of thousands of people died, hundreds of thousands of buildings were damaged or destroyed, and millions of people were left homeless. Caritas Poland, in cooperation with partners, helped 8,836 beneficiaries by providing mattresses, sleeping bags, blankets and food, as well as psychological, renovation and financial aid. PLN 2,793,809 was allocated for this purpose.

Caritas Poland has been supporting local entrepreneurs for several years by providing financial resources for setting up small businesses. In 2023, 77 entrepreneurs were supported. The project is aimed at people in a difficult financial situation, who need a reliable source of income to support their families. They do not need to have experience in running a business, but they are usually required to have professional experience in the industry in which they want to operate. Primarily, the support enables, purchasing equipment necessary to follow a profession, e.g. as a car

mechanic or tailor. The decision to grant funds is preceded by an analysis of the prospective beneficiary's business plan in terms of long-term risks and opportunities, as well as a background survey. Caritas Poland also allocated funds for vocational training, under which young people learn from selected specialists. The funds are used for scholarships for students and remuneration for trainers.



Lebanon and Syria are connected vessels that influence each other – one country is collapsing; the other is in conflict; normalization in one is impossible without stabilization in the other.

DOMINIK DERLICKI, HEAD OF MISSION IN LEBANON AND SYRIA

POLISH AID



polska pomoc

Projects co-financed under the Polish Aid development assistance programme of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Value of aid
PLN 5,616,005

beneficjenci
5,550 PEOPLE



The key to success are people, who will make the best of what they receive for their own work or to benefit their communities.

**SYLWIA CIEŚLAR-HAZBOUN,
FOREIGN PROJECTS SPECIALIST
AT CARITAS POLAND**



Budget in 2023
PLN 248,750
Project grants
40

SUPPORT AND PROMOTION OF LOCAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND QUALITY CHEESE PRODUCTION IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF AKHMETA, KAKHETI REGION, GEORGIA (MODULE 3)

Georgia is a unique and diverse country, famous for its special cheese-making tradition. In 2022, Caritas Poland implemented the second module of the project financed by the Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, aimed at supporting local farmers in improving their cheese-making skills and quality of production and at promoting their activities. In 2023, during Module 3 financed by the MFA, the beneficiaries expanded the Alaverdi Blue / Tourist Cheese Route website, adding an online store in three languages: Georgian, English and Polish. You can now find local cheeses and other products, producer profiles and other details on the site. The website is promoted on 12 social media platforms. The online store attracts a diverse clientele, saving on operating costs for the beneficiaries.

Budget in 2023
PLN 970,428
beneficjenci
300 PEOPLE

INTEGRAL AID FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES IN REMOTE LOCATIONS IN THE WEST BANK OF THE PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY (MODULE 1)

As part of the project, the rehabilitation center in Dura in the West Bank of the Palestinian Authority received comprehensive support. The center has a physiotherapy and occupational therapy room, a speech therapy room, two special education rooms and a spacious playground. A cooperative kitchen was also established at the rehabilitation center in the Dura municipality. Thanks to these activities, the rural community in the Dura municipality has access to advanced rehabilitation services, and at least 25 mothers of disabled children have an accessible source of income, engaging in the cooperative kitchen. The center will serve 300 people. The project also purchased wheelchairs for 96 persons with disabilities in order to improve their quality of life and social interaction.

Budget in 2023
PLN 955,500
Beneficiaries
2,560 PEOPLE

MEETING THE BASIC NEEDS OF JORDANIANS AND THE POOREST REFUGEES IN PREPARING FOR WINTER AND PROVIDING SHELTER IN URBAN AREAS (MODULE 1)

The project was aimed at helping beneficiaries survive the winter and improving housing stability. In the first module, 512 of the poorest households received financial resources to survive the winter and were also educated on how to use heating devices safely and ergonomically to save energy and avoid threats, such as fire.

Budget in 2023
PLN 1,490,880
Rehabilitation centers
6 FACILITIES
Beneficiaries
1,800 PEOPLE

BETHLEHEM – INTEGRAL AID FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES IN THE WEST BANK OF THE PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY (MODULE 3)

As part of Module 3 of the project, comprehensive assistance was provided to rehabilitation centers, support was provided in the professional activation of adult persons with disabilities, and a social campaign was carried out to promote positive attitudes towards the activation of such people in society. 6 community rehabilitation centers received equipment to carry out profitable activities, contributing to their sustainability. Adults with disabilities entered the labor market by taking up work in local companies and institutions or starting their own business. Their families took part in sensitization sessions on supporting their family members.

As part of the social campaign, a documentary film "I am like you" was produced with the participation of local singer Lina Sleibi, and a paid social media campaign was launched. The aim of the campaign was to build attitudes of openness towards including persons with disabilities in social life. The documentary was a positive ending not only of the third module, but also of the entire 3-year intervention.

Budget in 2023
PLN 1,949,875
Beneficiaries
850 PEOPLE

INTEGRAL AID FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES IN THE HEBRON PROVINCE OF THE PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY AND PROFESSIONAL ACTIVATION OF WOMEN AND YOUNG PEOPLE ENTERING THE LABOR MARKET IN THE GAZA STRIP (MODULE 2)

The second module of the project, implemented in 2023, initiated positive changes in the community of persons with disabilities in Palestine. 3 therapy rooms were equipped in 3 rehabilitation centers in the Hebron province, serving 850 people in need. In addition, 2 therapeutic rooms in Taybeh were equipped. Thanks to the purchased sensory sets, 52 children with various disabilities can continue therapy under the supervision of their parents at home, and another 108 beneficiaries with disabilities received supporting equipment. The implementation of this project will significantly improve the services offered to persons with disabilities in disadvantaged communities. The project integrally has not only met the most urgent needs, but also laid the foundations for sustainable support and social transformation. The actions taken during the project are permanent and bring a positive change in the lives of the beneficiaries even after its completion. However, the escalation of the conflict in the region prevented the implementation of professional activation projects in the Gaza Strip.

LEBANON

Value of aid programs in 2023

PLN 2,265,930

Beneficiaries

3,700 PEOPLE



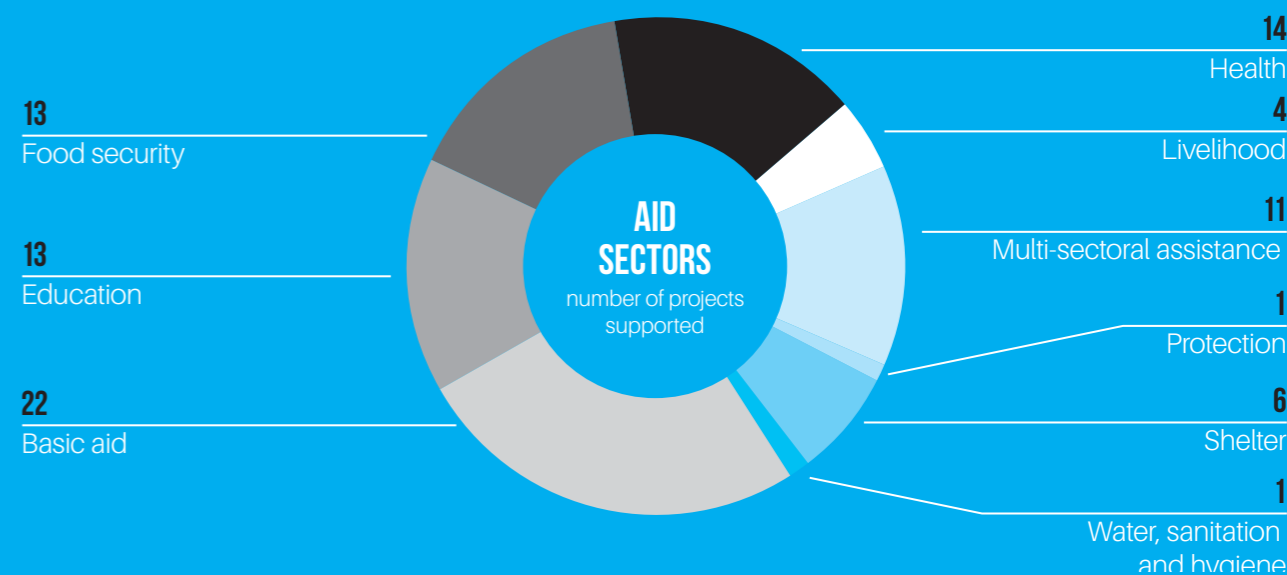
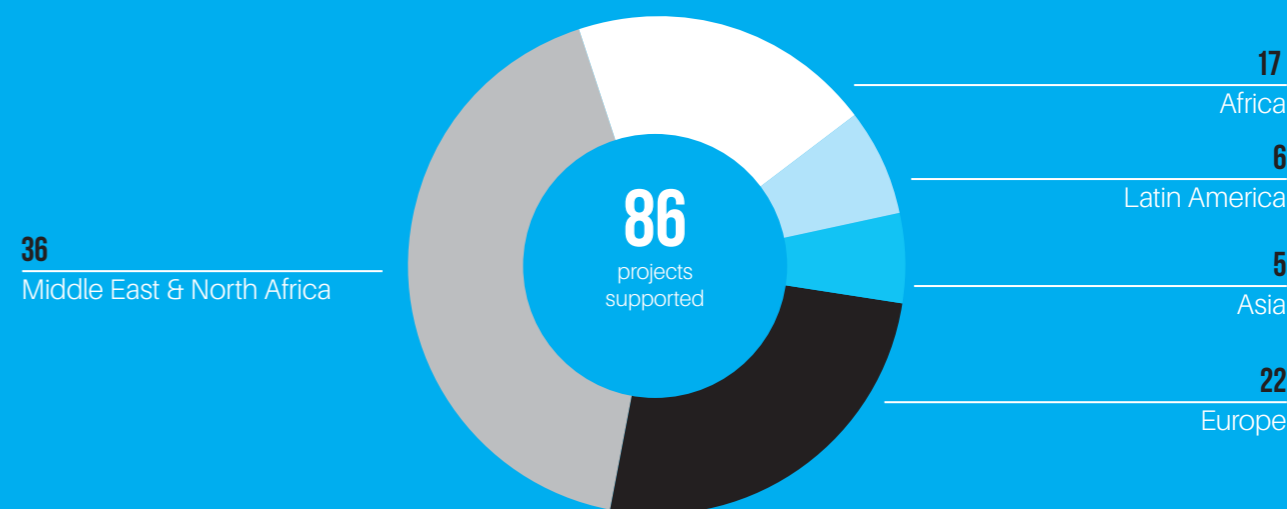
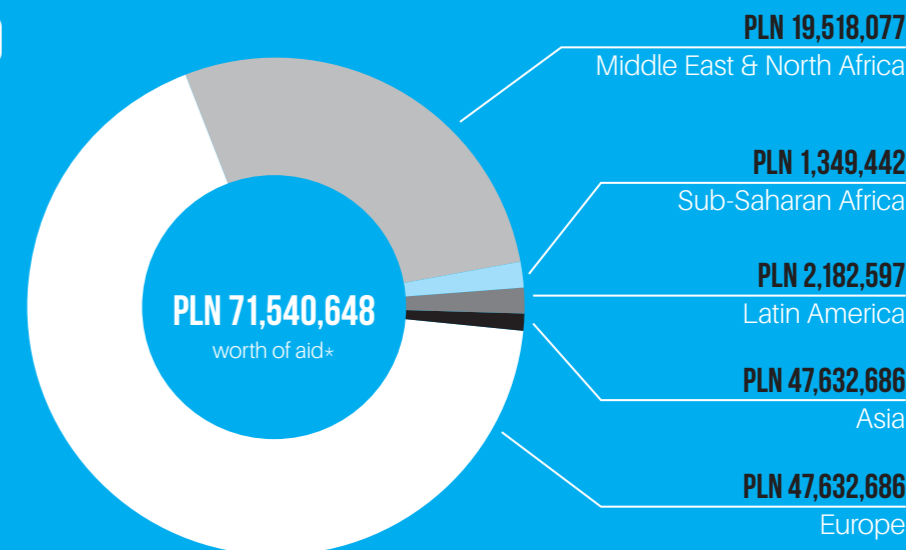
Problem:

Due to the conflict in Gaza, over **90,000 people in Lebanon have been internally displaced**, 355 people died (including 26 women, 12 children and 19 medical workers), and over 1,000 were injured. 1,240 hectares of agricultural land was burned, and 340,000 farm animals were killed. Water supply infrastructure was damaged, 6 health centers and 72 schools were closed

Lebanon is a country that has been in a political, social and economic crisis for many years. Almost 4 million inhabitants need humanitarian aid. Over 80% of households have problems meeting basic needs, and almost 70% are in debt. Unemployment is nearly 30%, of which almost 50% among young people. Since the beginning of the crisis in 2019, the cost of products in the basic food mix has increased by almost 2,000% and approx. 2 million inhabitants do not know where their next meal will come from. Therefore, in cooperation with the Apostolic Vicariate of Beirut, 375 poor residents were given parcels with food and hygiene products.

The crisis is also affecting children's access to education. More than 10% of them do not go to school for economic reasons, and in the case of Syrian refugees it is 60% (430,000). 700 school starter kits were provided to children in the south of the country and a computer laboratory was equipped at the school in Aynata, in cooperation with the Polish Military Contingent in Lebanon. Caritas Poland also equipped the orphanage for girls in Tibnin with photovoltaic panels, thanks to which 65 residents of the orphanage gained uninterrupted access to electricity. During the winter, an annual distribution of warm clothes was carried out for poor schoolchildren in Beirut. As part of this edition, 1,027 sets of winter clothing were distributed. Lebanon is also covered by the "Family to for Family" program.

HUMANITARIAN AND DEVELOPMENT AID WORLDWIDE



* Exchange rate of Dec. 30, 2022: EUR 1 = PLN 4.68 USD 1 = PLN 4.40

CARITAS POLAND'S MISSION IN YEMEN

Project value
PLN 4,938,781
 Medical consultations
 for beneficiaries
92,544



Yemen – a country on the edge of the world, on the edge of memory.

RADOSŁAW STERNA, HEAD OF THE CARITAS POLAND MISSION IN YEMEN

The UN managed to negotiate a six-month ceasefire between the conflict parties in 2022. That brought some relief to residents and enabled NGOs to provide more help, but the situation for ordinary people is still far from bearable. The Yemenis desperately need help, which is why Caritas Poland prioritizes the expansion and support of health centers in this region.

An estimated 21.6 million people were in need of humanitarian aid or protection in 2023, a slight decrease from the 23.4 million people in need the previous year. Malnutrition and lack of access to drinking water and free health care are still the main problems. The latter has been in a state of collapse for many years: underfinanced or completely deprived of support from the state administration. Only international assistance can, to a certain extent, alleviate this crisis. Caritas Poland has been involved in supporting Yemen since 2018.

MISSION'S ACTIVITIES IN YEMEN IN 2023

Caritas Poland works in Yemen directly through its own team of employees on site. The partner in the action launched under the appeal in 2023 was the Dutch organization Cordaid, a member of the Caritas confederation. Medical support in the Aden region was provided by Caritas Poland, while food aid in the Taizz region was delivered by Cordaid. The primary goal of the appeal was to reduce mortality and morbidity, and overall improve health, hygiene and sanitary conditions for the Yemenis, as well as to create conditions for safe motherhood through interventions in selected health clinics.

Providing care for pregnant women and newborns was particularly important because health services in Yemen for this particular social group are at an extremely low level. This is evidenced by the increasing maternal mortality rate: from 5 per day in 2013 to 12 per day in 2019. This is one of the worst indicators in the region. At the same time, the number of pregnancies increased during the conflict. In 2020, at least 44.3% of households included pregnant or breastfeeding mothers, compared to 23.4% before the conflict. A similar scope of support is provided for all clinics: repair of infrastructure, subsidizing staff salaries, supply of necessary medicines and purchase of medical equipment and hygiene products.

HEALTH SUPPORT IN NUMBERS

92,544	Medical advice given to beneficiaries, mostly women and children
82	Health care workers mobilized to work through cash benefits
1,635	Babies born
10	Midwives trained and paid for work
8,593	Medical consultations provided by midwives to mothers with children
20	WASH volunteers trained and receiving benefits
60,384	People instructed by volunteers on hygiene and sanitary rules

COLOMBIA AND VENEZUELA

- Project value
PLN 1,872,000
- Beneficiaries provided with nutritional support
2,192 PEOPLE
- Beneficiaries covered by information activities
5,480 PEOPLE
- Vouchers and food parcels
3,288 PIECES



Venezuela is a country that captivates with its unique nature and diverse culture. Unfortunately, in recent years, these undeniable values have been effectively obscured by the devastating humanitarian and political crisis that has been taking place since 2014. Lack of access to electricity, empty shelves in stores, high inflation and crime are the everyday reality of Venezuelans.

Although the situation has recently begun to stabilize, it is estimated that approx. 80% of society is still affected by poverty. The policies of the ruling parties mean that Venezuelans are left to their own devices and cannot count on social support from the state. Many Venezuelan families are unable to meet their basic needs and some of them even suffer from hunger. Problems with finding employment and, consequently, meeting everyday needs have been the reason why approx. 6 million Venezuelans have left the country since the beginning of the crisis. They emigrated in search of stability to neighboring countries, including almost 2 million to Colombia which borders Venezuela.

In response to this huge humanitarian crisis, Caritas Poland launched the "Parcel for Venezuela" program in 2020, under which the most needed food and hygiene products and food vouchers are donated. This support goes to the most impoverished Venezuelans who have emigrated to Colombia and whose situation is still very difficult. Additionally, part of the aid goes to the most needy Colombian families without a regular income.

The 4th edition of the project was expanded in 2023 to include 2 training modules: preventive healthcare, helping emigrants regulate their status and gain access to social benefits.

The "Parcel for Venezuela" program has been generously supported by Caritas Poland donors from the beginning. In 2023, as part of the 4th edition of the program, Caritas provided EUR 200,000, and Jeronimo Martins Colombia contributed another EUR 200,000. 2,192 people (mainly from large families and elderly people living alone) received food aid and benefited from social, legal and health training. 3,288 food parcels and 3,288 shopping vouchers were also provided.

Partner: Jeronimo Martins Colombia

Problem:

80% of society is affected by poverty

2 million Venezuelans have fled the humanitarian crisis to Colombia

NEPAL

Health assistance for residents of hard-to-reach mountain regions at risk of natural disasters

- Project value in 2023
PLN 734,173
- Beneficiaries
2,000 PEOPLE



IMPROVING ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE

20 000	People who gained access to hospital care
5	Medical facilities renovated and equipped
68	People who received support in professional activation (local volunteers)
326	People who took part in specialist medical training
5541	Consultations conducted by mobile medical teams in hard-to-reach towns
265	Pregnant and breastfeeding women who received nutritional support and supplementation

Caritas Poland has been present in Nepal since 2015, when it became involved in support after one of the most tragic events in the country's history - an earthquake with a magnitude of 7.8 on the Richter scale. Since then, it has been implementing further projects on site through its partner organization - Caritas Nepal. In 2023, Caritas Poland implemented the program for "Strengthening the resilience of local communities to the effects of natural disasters through supporting the health sector, reducing the risk of natural disasters and aid for disabled people", regarding health protection and the ability of local communities to cope with the effects of natural disasters.

The program, launched in December 2020, provides 3 years of support for 5 rural health centers so that they can provide help to people living in difficult-to-reach mountain areas. The project includes the purchasing of equipment and medicines, training for staff, co-financing the treatment

of patients in hospitals through a system of redirection, and organizing "health camps", i.e. trips of medical teams to hard-to-reach areas to provide on-site medical support. Trained volunteers work in these local communities to connect individual levels of the health care system. As part of the project, 13 substantive training sessions were conducted for health center staff.

Caritas Poland in its program for Nepal prepared a component supporting the resilience of local communities to crises, bearing in mind the lessons learned from the earthquake. Crisis management committees were established in each of the 5 locations. Their members received training and were equipped with rescue equipment and with volunteers trained in first aid and crisis intervention. Each committee has a budget for preventive action, identified through an analysis of risks and needs in specific locations.

AFRICA

Value of aid
PLN 838,926

Beneficiaries of nutritional support
1,000



Beneficiaries
178 HOUSEHOLDS

Value of aid
PLN 248,040

Children examined and fed
1,000 YOUNGEST

BURKINA FASO – FOOD AND MEDICAL AID

Child feeding projects carried out in cooperation with Caritas Burkina Faso. As a result of internal displacement, lack of water and terrorism, nearly 6 million people in Burkina Faso need humanitarian aid.

The biggest problem is the experience of hunger. There are 5 phases of food insecurity in food crises. More than 3 million people in Burkina Faso are in the crisis phase (phase 3), and the situation of 261,000 people is described as an emergency (phase 4). Burkina Faso is facing an unprecedented scale of extreme forms of malnutrition and hunger.

Caritas Poland actively helps in Africa, supporting food, medical and educational aid programs, such as the construction of schools. All projects are implemented in cooperation with local Caritas and missionaries. Thanks to the feeding program, 178 households received food parcels three times in 2023. 534 parcels were delivered. Additionally, 100 children underwent medical examinations and received nutritional supplements. 300 sets of supplements were donated.

Beneficiaries
1,835 PEOPLE

Value of aid
PLN 46,800

MAURITANIA – PENITENTIARY SUPPORT FROM CARITAS MAURITANIA

The project is implemented in partnership with Caritas Mauritania and is addressed to people in prison. The project aimed to provide legal and social assistance to beneficiaries, improve their professional qualifications and everyday living conditions. Thanks to the project, the living conditions of approx. 1,835 inmates have improved, of whom approx. 655 received social and legal support and approx. 1,065 expanded their knowledge and improved their professional competences. 20 meetings on prisoners' rights were also organized

Problem:

Every day **278 million** people in Africa wonder when they will eat their next meal

10 million children in the Sahel region need humanitarian aid

40% of Burkina Faso's population lives below the poverty line

3 million people in Burkina Faso are relocatees fleeing terrorists and hunger

85% of internally displaced people in Burkina Faso are women and children

THE SITUATION OF INHABITANTS OF AFRICA

Conflicts, devastating diseases, ongoing climate change and the resulting natural disasters. Africa faces many problems and one of the most serious is hunger, experienced by nearly 300 million people. Inhabitants of the Horn of Africa and the Sahel are in a particularly difficult situation – these are regions where the greatest threats are catastrophic droughts and terrorist attacks, forcing people to migrate. We cannot remain indifferent to such suffering, which is why Caritas Poland for years has been implementing humanitarian and development projects in various countries on the continent.

It is estimated that approx. 300 million Africans suffer from food insecurity, and over 400 million have limited access to drinking water. This situation is largely due to ongoing climate change and the conflict in Ukraine. International organizations are alarming that in 14 African countries the food crisis has already entered phases 3 and 4 on the 5-point food insecurity scale. One of these countries is Burkina Faso, where Caritas Poland, among other activities, is implementing a food aid project.

Long-term malnutrition

It causes emaciation in children, which translates into underweight and slow or completely inhibited growth. Cognitive functions and memory are weakened, a child does not develop properly, loses immunity and is more exposed to infections. A situation in which a malnourished child does not have access to clean and safe drinking water threatens their life because diarrheal diseases devastate the body even more. In the critical phase, one literally starves to death.

MISSIONS

The whole world

Missionary projects
21 PROJECTS
 Value of aid
PLN 800 000
 Campaigns
2



Hot African countries, wild Amazon jungle, endless Asia – Polish missionaries work in these and many other, remote corners of the world and their activities are supported by Caritas Poland.

Supporting missionary activities is a very important area of Caritas Poland's work. Today, over 1,700 Polish missionaries work in dozens of countries on all the continents. They evangelize and help those most in need. They build schools and hospitals, organize feeding programs and take care of the elderly and disabled. Caritas Poland presents selected profiles of Polish missionaries, whose activities were supported thanks to donors in 2023.

Thanks to the daily work of missionaries, we know exactly where the poor, sick and suffering are in the world, and the aid provided by donors through us directly reaches those in need, thousands of kilometers from Poland.

**FR. PH.D MARCIN IŻYCKI,
 DIRECTOR OF CARITAS POLAND**

SELECTED MISSIONARY PROJECTS

SOUTH SUDAN – FEEDING PROGRAMS

The people of South Sudan have been suffering from war, famine and extreme poverty for a very long time. The Yirol mission is located in the so-called Lakes Region and covers almost 5,000 km². That is where Father Krzysztof Zębik MCCJ, a Combonian, serves. Conflicts between tribes, huge distances to cover and a rainy season lasting half a year – these are the realities of the missionary's daily work. Father Krzysztof often puts his life at risk. His work is in evangelization and education. There are three schools in the mission area, attended by approx. 3,000 students. War, murders, attacks and burned villages are fresh memories and unhealed wounds for these children. Father Krzysztof and his brothers try to help them. Caritas Poland supports the missionary's work by financing child feeding programs and other activities.

*Father Krzysztof Zębik,
 Comboni Missionaries*

ARGENTINA – FEEDING

Since 2007 Father Sylwan has been serving in the parish of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, together with his brothers, bringing aid to local communities, including the Guarani Indians. The diocese is located in an isolated northern part of the country where poverty has become much worse in recent years. The parish is located on the outskirts of the jungle in the province of Misiones. Charitable works are determined by the local needs of the inhabitants of the diocese. For many years the fathers have been running the "Cup of Milk" children's feeding program and donating food parcels to Guarani families – local tribes originating from Paraguay. For many years, Caritas has been donating funds to run both programs.

*Father Sylwan Jędryka,
 Order of Bernardine Friars Minor*

BANGLADESH – EDUCATION

Father Paweł Kociołek SDB, a Salesian, has been working in Bangladesh for many years. Christians account for 1% of the local population. They come from different tribes with very different traditions. They are engaged in agriculture and live in mud houses, without electricity and without health care. Often, they are often treated as second-class citizens. The situation of local children is particularly difficult, which is why Caritas Poland has been supporting five schools run by Father Paweł for several years, attended by the poorest children from nearby villages. Their parents usually cannot read or write. Education is the only chance for these children to escape poverty in the future.

*Father Paweł Kociołek,
 Congregation of Salesian Priests*

BOLIVIA – EDUCATION

Sister Katarzyna Kociołek FDC from the Congregation of the Daughters of Divine Love has been working in a mission located in the high Andes for several years. She is responsible for a school complex and conducts evangelization and charity activities among the poorest inhabitants of Bolivia. She regularly visits families living in villages scattered in hard-to-reach mountain areas. Faith and Joy are the names of the schools where Sister Katarzyna works. At the same time, this is the most important message that she brings to those most in need during her daily missionary work. Caritas Poland has recently supported the renovation of a boarding house for poor girls, which is located in the mission.

*Sister Katarzyna Kociołek,
 Congregation of the Daughters of Divine Love*

HUMANITARIAN AND DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS SUPPORTED IN 2023

Partner	Region	Country	Aid sector	Project goal	Value (PLN)*
Caritas Burkina Faso	Africa	Burkina Faso	Food security	Purchase of food parcels for internal emigrants	234,000
Congregation Apostolate Catholique-Peres Pallottins	Africa	Burkina Faso	Multi-sectoral assistance	Summer camps for children - 2nd edition	14,040
Congregation of the Sisters of Angels	Africa	Democratic Republic of the Congo	Food security	Aid for a health center in a refugee camp	105,917
Congregation of the Pallottine Missionary Sisters of the Catholic Apostolate	Africa	Democratic Republic of the Congo / Bunkeya	Food security	Purchase of food for people in camps and health centers	44,000
Congregation of Carmelite Missionary Sisters	Africa	Democratic Republic of the Congo / Goma	Basic assistance	Purchase of a power generator for the hospital	51,480
Caritas Eritrea / CAFOT	Africa	Eritrea	Multi-sectoral assistance	Emergency Appeal 34/2023	468000
Congregation of the Franciscan Sisters of St. Anna	Africa	Ethiopia	Food security	Children's feeding program in Dongora	59,122
Congregation of Brothers of the Christian Schools	Africa	Cameroon	Education	Purchase of books and school supplies	26,910
Congregation of the Pallottine Missionary Sisters of the Catholic Apostolate	Africa	Cameroon / Yaoundé	Sanitation	Construction of a deep well	46,800
Congregation of the Missionary Sisters of the Holy Family	Africa	Kenya	Education	Classroom construction	18,720
Salesiens de Don Bosco	Africa	Madagascar	Food security	Ankilioaka mission - feeding children and providing medical aid to the elderly	36,283
Caritas Mauritania	Africa	Mauritania	Basic aid	Promoting access to rights and reintegration of detainees	46,800
Congregation of the Comboni Missionaries of the Heart of Jesus	Africa	South Sudan / Yirol	Education	Construction of a new kindergarten	22,000
Initiative for Sustainable Development (I3D) Foundation	Africa	Central African Republic	Health	Purchase of solar panels for a dentist's office	29,755
The Ursuline Sisters of the Roman Union	Africa	Senegal	Education	Purchase of solar panels for a boarding school	23,400
Caritas Uganda	Africa	Uganda	Shelter	Construction of an orphanage	42,300
Congregation of the Missionary Sisters of the Holy Family	Africa	Zambia/Mansa	Shelter	Finishing construction of a kindergarten building	15,400
Parish of Puerto Libertad	Latin America	Argentina	Food security	Feeding children / purchasing food parcels for poor parishioners and Guarani Indians	39,600

* Exchange rate on Dec. 30, 2022: EUR 1 = PLN 4.68 / USD 1 = PLN 4.40

Partner	Region	Country	Aid sector	Project goal	Value (PLN)*
Diocese of Daule	Latin America	Ecuador	Health	Outpatient clinic equipment	20,597
Caritas Colombia / Jeronimo Martins	Latin America	Columbia	Food security	Purchase of food parcels and vouchers	936,000
Apostolic Vicariate of Amazonia	Latin America	Peru	Basic assistance	Purchase of materials for roof replacement at Santa Clotilde Hospital	44,000
Parish of Asunción de María	Latin America	Venezuela	Food security	Purchase of food for children and pensioners	93,600
Parish of St. Anthony in Upata	Latin America	Venezuela / Upata	Health	Adaptation of a room and purchase of medical equipment	52,800
Diocese of Mymensingh	Asia	Bangladesh	Education	Help for five rural schools	22,000
Caritas Astana	Asia	Kazakhstan / Astana	Food security	Purchase of food for needy families	13,200
Parish of the Immaculate Conception in Kapchagay	Asia	Kazakhstan / Kapchagay	Food security	Purchase of food for children in an orphanage	23,400
Caritas Nepal	Asia	Nepal	Health	Strengthening community resilience to the effects of natural disasters and aid for persons with disabilities	653,978
Caritas Pakistan	Asia	Pakistan / Jaranwala	Multi-sectoral assistance	Aid for Christians - victims of an attack carried out by Muslims	101,673
Caritas Belarus	Europe	Belarus	Basic assistance	Social assistance	84,240
Caritas Croatia	Europe	Croatia	Shelter	Reconstruction of houses and installation of water systems	4,308,603
Caritas Georgia	Europe	Georgia	Livelihood	Support and promotion of local entrepreneurship and quality of cheese production in the municipality of Akhmeta, Kakheti region, Georgia (Module 3)	248,750
Caritas Slovenia	Europe	Slovenia	Basic assistance	In-kind aid for flood victims	100,000
Caritas of the Field Ordinariate of the Polish Army	Europe	Türkiye	Multi-sectoral assistance	Purchase of supplies for those affected by the earthquake in Turkey	100,000
Caritas Türkiye	Europe	Türkiye	Multi-sectoral assistance	Rapid Response EA03/2023	93,600
Caritas Spes	Europe	Ukraine	Basic assistance	"Points of Hope"	1,842,747
Caritas Spes	Europe	Ukraine	Basic assistance	Financial aid for the reconstruction of houses after the flood caused by the destruction of the dam in Nova Kakhovka	250,000
Caritas Spes, Caritas Ukraine	Europe	Ukraine	Basic assistance	"Parcel for Ukraine" - material and food aid for families	31,500,000
Caritas Spes	Europe	Ukraine	Basic assistance	"Family to Family" program	8,459,459
Caritas of Sambir-Drohobych Diocese	Europe	Ukraine	Health	Hospital construction	120,000
Caritas Spes	Europe	Ukraine	Health	Donation of electric wheelchairs	42,287
Caritas of Sambir-Drohobych Diocese	Europe	Ukraine	Health	Building a hospital	25,000
Caritas Ukraine International Charity Foundation	Europe	Ukraine	Multi-sectoral assistance	Emergency Appeal EA31/2022	448,000
Diocese of Kamianets-Podilskyi	Europe	Ukraine	Shelter	Construction of an elevator shaft	100,000
Eaglewatch Foundation	ME-NA	Iraq	Multi-sectoral assistance	"Family to Family" program	247,104

Partner	Region	Country	Aid sector	Project goal	Value (PLN)*
Cordaid	ME-NA	Yemen	Health	Partnership agreement under EA 5/2023	1,361,617
Caritas Jordan	ME-NA	Jordan	Shelter	Meeting the basic needs of Jordanians and the poorest refugees in preparing for winter and providing shelter in urban areas (Module 1)	907,000
Caritas Lebanon	ME-NA	Lebanon	Basic assistance	"Family to Family" program	1,373,655
Caritas Spes, Caritas Ukraine	Europe	Ukraine	Basic assistance	"Parcel for Ukraine" - material and food aid for families	31,500,000
Caritas Spes	Europe	Ukraine	Basic assistance	"Family to Family" program	8,459,459
Caritas of Sambir-Drohobych Diocese	Europe	Ukraine	Health	Hospital construction	120,000
Caritas Spes	Europe	Ukraine	Health	Donation of electric wheelchairs	42,287
Caritas of Sambir-Drohobych Diocese	Europe	Ukraine	Health	Building a hospital	25,000
Caritas Ukraine International Charity Foundation	Europe	Ukraine	Multi-sectoral assistance	Emergency Appeal EA31/2022	448,000
Diocese of Kamianets-Podilskyi	Europe	Ukraine	Shelter	Construction of an elevator shaft	100,000
Eaglewatch Foundation	ME-NA	Iraq	Multi-sectoral assistance	"Family to Family" program	247,104
Cordaid	ME-NA	Yemen	Health	Partnership agreement under EA 5/2023	1,361,617
Caritas Jordan	ME-NA	Jordan	Shelter	Meeting the basic needs of Jordanians and the poorest refugees in preparing for winter and providing shelter in urban areas (Module 1)	907,000
Caritas Lebanon	ME-NA	Lebanon	Basic assistance	"Family to Family" program	1,373,655
Caritas Jerozolima	MONA*	Palestyna	zdrowie	Integralne wsparcie dla osób z niepełnosprawnościami w prowincji Hebron Autonomii Palestyńskiej oraz aktywizacja zawodowa kobiet i młodych osób wchodzących na rynek pracy w Strefie Gazy	1 949 875
Caritas Jerusalem	ME-NA	Palestine	Health	Integral aid for persons with disabilities in the West Bank of the Palestinian Authority	1,490,880

Partner	Region	Country	Aid sector	Project goal	Value (PLN)*
Greek Catholic Church	ME-NA	Syria	Basic assistance	"Family to Family" program - Syria	
Latin Church	ME-NA	Syria	Basic assistance	"Family to Family" program - Syria	
Greek Orthodox Church	ME-NA	Syria	Basic assistance	"Family to Family" program - Syria	
Syriac Orthodox Church	ME-NA	Syria	Basic assistance	"Family to Family" program - Syria	
Congregation des Freres Maristes Alep-Syrie	ME-NA	Syria	Basic assistance	"Family to Family" program - Syria	
Armenian Orthodox Church	ME-NA	Syria	Basic assistance	"Family to Family" program - Syria	2,161,412
Maronite Church	ME-NA	Syria	Basic assistance	"Family to Family" program - Syria	
Syriac Catholic Church	ME-NA	Syria	Basic assistance	"Family to Family" program - Syria	
Armenian-Catholic Church	ME-NA	Syria	Basic assistance	"Family to Family" program - Syria	
Chaldean Church	ME-NA	Syria	Basic assistance	"Family to Family" program - Syria	
Kościół Chaldejski	MONA*	Syria	podstawowe potrzeby	program „Rodzina Rodzinie” - Syria	
Sisters of Jesus and Mary Congregation	ME-NA	Syria	Basic assistance	Immediate aid after the earthquake	140,400
Mekhitarist Congregation and Schools in the Middle East	ME-NA	Syria	Basic assistance	Humanitarian aid in Aleppo	23,400
Poznan University of Technology	ME-NA	Syria	Education	Scholarships for students from Syria in Poznań	37,350
Sisters of Jesus and Mary Congregation	ME-NA	Syria	Education	"School to School" program - reconstruction	81,282
Sisters of Jesus and Mary Congregation	ME-NA	Syria	Education	"School to School" program - aid for schools	116,279
Sisters of Jesus and Mary Congregation	ME-NA	Syria / Aleppo	Food security	Food parcels for families affected by the earthquake	234,000
Sisters of Jesus and Mary Congregation	ME-NA	Syria	Food security	Food parcels (Redemptoris Missio grant)	96,408
Caritas Syria	ME-NA	Syria / Aleppo	Health	Medical aid	663,390
Sisters of Jesus and Mary Congregation	ME-NA	Syria	Livelihood	Micro-projects for entrepreneurs	800,467
Sisters of Jesus and Mary Congregation	ME-NA	Syria / Aleppo	Livelihood	Micro-projects for entrepreneurs	936,000
Des Freres Maristes Alep-Syrie	ME-NA	Syria / Aleppo	Livelihood	Training and aid for micro-entrepreneurs	608,400
Sisters of Jesus and Mary Congregation	ME-NA	Syria	Multi-sectoral assistance	"Children's University"	221,008
Caritas Switzerland	ME-NA	Syria	Multi-sectoral assistance	Emergency Response	1,638,000
Melkite-Greek Catholic Patriarchate of Antioch & All East	ME-NA	Syria	Basic assistance	Emergency Appeal 08/2023	448,000

VOLUNTEERING

THE DEVELOPMENT AND PROFESSIONALIZATION OF VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES IN POLAND IS AN IMPORTANT TASK OF CARITAS POLAND, WHICH INTENDS TO SUPPORT VOLUNTEERS ASSOCIATED WITH DIOCESAN CARITAS. OVER 66,500 PEOPLE THROUGHOUT POLAND WERE INVOLVED IN 2023 IN VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES, ASSOCIATED AND ORGANIZED IN 41 VOLUNTEER CENTERS, 9 ACADEMIC CARITAS TEAMS, 4,287 PARISH CARITAS TEAMS, 3,190 SCHOOL CARITAS CIRCLES AND 50 PRESCHOOL CARITAS CIRCLES.



Volunteers participating in the Parish Caritas Teams' pilgrimage
1,250 PEOPLE
Published information
10 SETS

SPIRITUAL FORMATION SUPPORT

Formation activities executed by Caritas Poland as part of the Volunteer Department were carried out in several areas. In 2023, as part of the "GIFTed" initiative, 10 sets of spiritual formation materials were prepared and distributed monthly via the website, excluding summer holidays. 10 online formation meetings were also held, attended by 300 people, during which the "topic of the month" was discussed, also described in the materials.

As part of the formation activities, the National Pilgrimage of Parish Caritas Teams was organized, in which members of Parish Caritas Teams, volunteers of School Caritas Circles,

employees of diocesan Caritas and charitable circles participated. In 2023, the meeting took place on June 17 at the Sanctuary of Divine Mercy in Łagiewniki. The meeting was intended to integrate the volunteer community and build relations and was attended by 1,250 people from 35 dioceses and archdioceses.

Representatives of the Volunteer Department of Caritas Poland also participated in the World Youth Day, together with 57 people delegated from diocesan Caritas. During the meeting, it was possible to strengthen formation by participating in general development workshops on the Christian faith and

shaping social attitudes. A representative of Caritas Poland also participated in the Young Caritas workshops in Posenhofen, Germany, organized by Caritas Europe.

Formation support also includes activities related to conducting retreat days at diocesan Caritas for members of the Parish Caritas Teams and School Caritas Circles volunteers, in order to deepen faith and knowledge in the field of charity and care activities. Three retreats were held in 2023 - in Katowice, Szczecin and the Montessori Primary School in Warsaw.

Published guide
1,000 COPIES
Workshops for catechists
12
Coordinators' meetings
3

AREA OF COMPETENCE FORMATION

As part of building and developing competences in volunteer management in dioceses, strengthening cooperation and communication between Caritas Poland and diocesan Caritas in the area of volunteer support, three meetings of diocesan volunteer coordinators were held (February 7-9, May 25-26, November 15-16). The workshops were attended by 29 participants from 20 dioceses in February, 21 participants from 13 dioceses in May and 39 participants from 24 dioceses in November. Training for catechists and guardians of School Caritas Circles was also held in dioceses. 12 workshops were carried out in 2023 throughout Poland (Kielce, Ostrołęka, Słupsk, Warsaw, Radom, Łomża, Zielona Góra, Wrocław, Kołobrzeg, Szczecin, Poznań and Lublin). A "Guide for School Volunteer Circles" was written and published. The "Guide" contains proposals for meeting scenarios and organizational and legal tips on operating of School Caritas Circles. 1,000 copies of the manual were printed.

Integration of volunteers
467 MEETINGS

"DAY OF GOOD"

The patronal holiday of Caritas, taking place on April 22, 2023, on Divine Mercy Sunday, was preceded by the Divine Mercy Week. As part of the activities in the field of volunteering, liturgical and formation materials were prepared for the Church in Poland (sent by the Charity Commission of the Polish Episcopal Conference). 467 local meetings integrating volunteers and other people involved in Caritas activities were held throughout Poland as part of the "Day of Good".

Caritas Poland's volunteers
50 PEOPLE

DEVELOPMENT OF THE CARITAS POLAND VOLUNTEER CENTER

The Caritas Poland Volunteer Center has its own headquarters at 25 Chłodna street in Warsaw. By creating a place for volunteering, we managed to engage regular volunteers working for refugees and seniors. Currently, the Center in Warsaw cooperates with 50 local volunteers who participate in regular formation meetings.

PROO PROGRAM OF THE NATIONAL FREEDOM INSTITUTE

A number of activities are planned as part of the program to institutionally strengthen the area of volunteering in Caritas Poland and diocesan Caritas. The program includes, among others, research carried out by volunteers and coordinators, formulating a strategy for the development of Caritas volunteering in the coming years, as well as a number of innovative activities integrating the volunteer environment in Warsaw and strengthening cooperation between volunteers throughout Poland by designating new areas of activity in the spirit of "Laudato si'", i.e. integral ecology, building local communities and inter-generational relations. The activities planned in the project will continue in 2024.

"SCHOOL TO SCHOOL" AND "BUDDY TO BUDDY" CAMPAIGN

The campaign promoted attitudes of solidarity and aid for peers in need in Polish schools. A collection of school supplies for children from Syria and Lebanon was organized. 200 boxes of such items were prepared and distributed to those in need.

Presentations on volunteer activities
27 REPORTS
Competition winners
5 PEOPLE

"FESTIVAL OF GOOD" 2023

A grant competition was held for School Caritas Circles, promoting volunteering initiatives. To participate in the competition, candidates had to send a presentation regarding the campaign and program activities carried out by their School Caritas Circles. This year, the participants submitted 27 reviews of their activities. During the competition finale, which was a two-day meeting of the winners at Caritas Poland, the five most interesting presentations were awarded (School Caritas Circles in Rzepin, Nowe Miasto Lubawskie, Poznań Strzeszyn and Ruś).

Beneficiaries
70 PEOPLE
Volunteers
6 PEOPLE

"GOOD HOLIDAY"

Two holiday trips were organized as part of the campaign:

- Summer camp in Chust for children and teenagers from the war-affected areas of Ukraine, on July 1-8. 70 children, 6 volunteers and a guardian took part in them.
- Integration and workshop trip with residents of the Center for Foreigners in Linin and volunteers from School Caritas Circles from Ruś (Diocese of Warmia) on August 21-26. 20 people participated in it.

CARITAS POLAND'S CENTER FOR THE ANALYSIS OF SOCIAL PROBLEMS

(former Caritas Observatory)

Advocacy of Caritas Poland in the implementation of social charity



The mission of Caritas Poland is not only the practice of mercy towards individuals at risk of social exclusion, the poor, the sick and the homeless, but also social pastoral care, which in relation to the goals of Caritas Poland means both the need to provide charitable aid and to influence structural changes in society through advocacy activities to reduce poverty and cultivate the principles of social coexistence. This approach, popularized during the pontificate of St. John Paul II, is known as the Church's "preferential option (love) for the poor".

In addition to providing standard and basic forms of assistance, Caritas Poland promotes the idea that creating a better world is possible. Caritas Poland's Center for the Analysis of Social Problems conducts a systematic diagnosis of social phenomena, and the outcome of this work is used to conduct advocacy activities for people in need. In this way, we demand fair treatment of the poor, excluded or those at risk of social exclusion, and we engage in shaping public opinion, as well as conducting broadly understood social education.

Among the analytical and advocacy activities carried out in 2023, cooperation with the Council of Experts operating at the Center deserves special attention. Representatives

of Caritas Poland and experts take part in the work of councils, teams, committees and working groups established as advisory and support units in the Ministry of Family and Social Policy (Social Welfare Council, Senior Policy Council, National Committee for the Development of Social Economy), the Ministry of Justice (General Council for Social Readaptation and Assistance to Convicts), Caritas Europe (Communication Working Group, Humanitarian Working Group, International Cooperation Working Group, Social Economy Working Group) and Caritas Internationalis (Special Group on Integral Ecology).

Caritas Poland's Center for the Analysis of Social Problems also conducts ongoing research, analyzes and prepares reports on the activities of Caritas Poland and diocesan Caritas, reflected in annual reports, thematic publications, internal studies and strategic planning.

Last year, the Center, in accordance with the recommendations of the Caritas Internationalis Management Standards regarding audit, expanded activities in the area of MEAL (Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning) in the organization, strengthening knowledge management standards in the organization.

Advocacy is a type of assistance that not only temporarily improves the difficult and sometimes even traumatic situation of individuals and communities, but also initiates lasting changes in human mentality and social structures, to make them more just and focused primarily on human well-being.

PH.D. URSZULA BEJMA, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF CARITAS POLAND



1,632 FACILITIES AND POINTS OF VARIOUS TYPES WHERE CARITAS IN POLAND PROVIDES ASSISTANCE IN DIOCESES

1,946
EMPLOYEES IN DIOCESAN CARITASH

66,616
VOLUNTEERS

4,297
PARISH CARITAS TEAMS

17,463
EMPLOYEES IN UNITS RUN BY DIOCESAN CARITAS

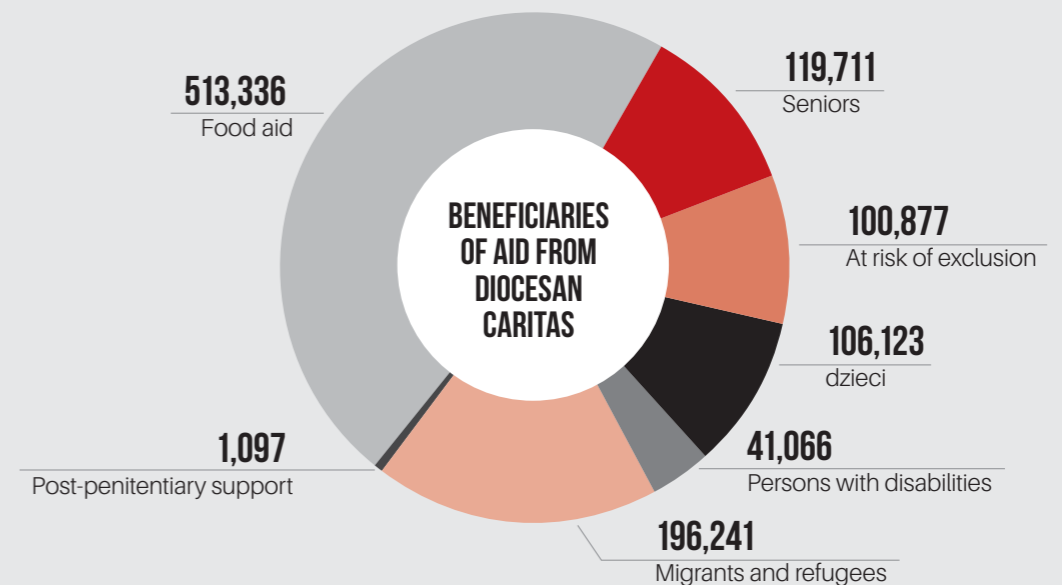
9
ACADEMIC CARITAS TEAMS

3,202
SCHOOL CARITAS CIRCLES

50
PRESCHOOL CARITAS CIRCLES



NEARLY **1 MILLION PEOPLE** RECEIVED HELP THROUGH DIOCESAN CARITAS IN 2023



DIOCESAN CARITAS

Cooperation of Caritas Poland with diocesan Caritas



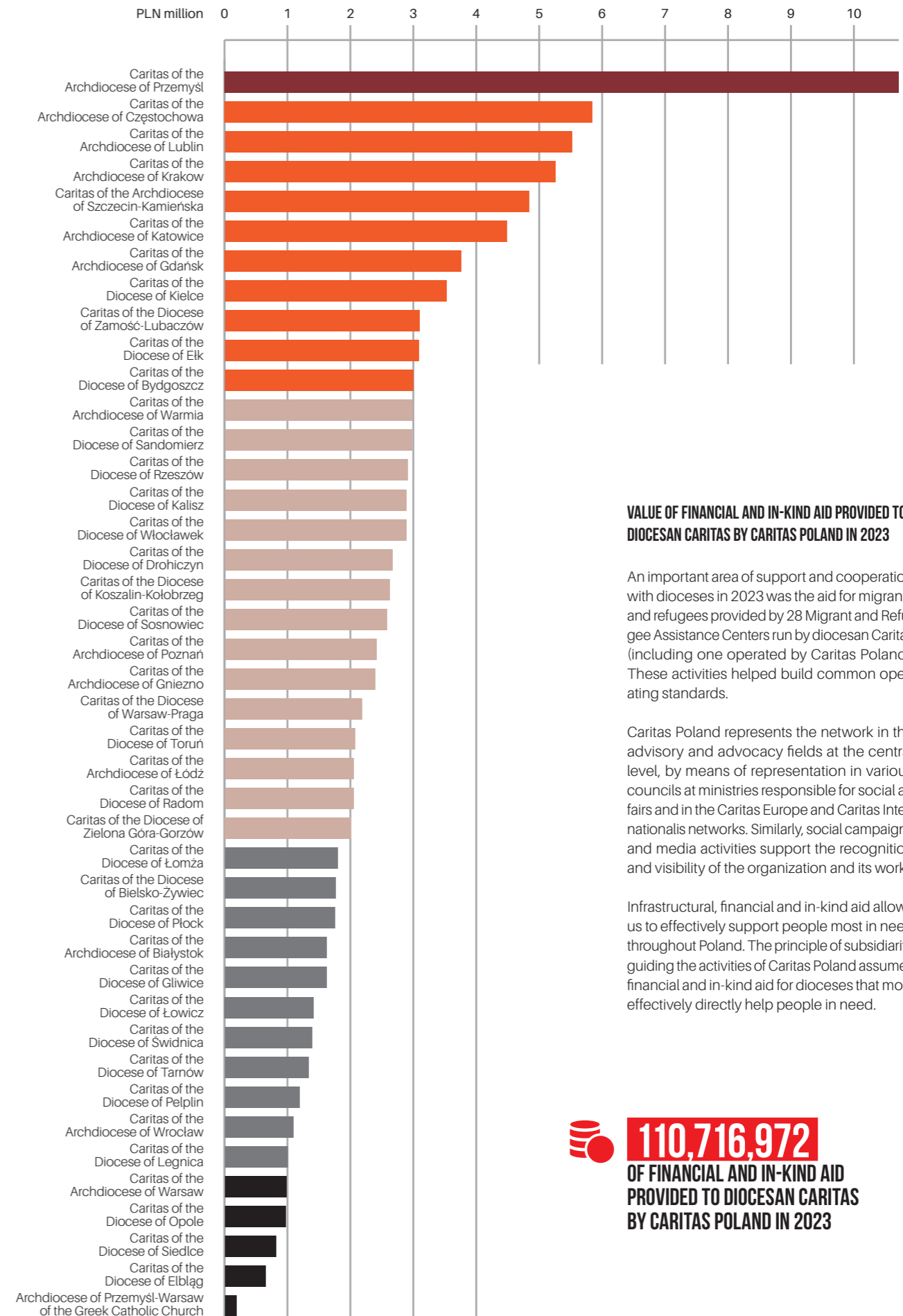
DIOCESAN CARITAS INVOLVED IN NATIONWIDE CARITAS PROGRAMS

Program / campaign	#
"For Everyday Shopping" card	42
"Christmas Eve Children's Aid Work"	40
Food collection "Yes. I'm helping!"	38
World Day of the Sick	38
"Happy Box"	38
"Caritas Pantry"	37
"Day of Good"	37
"1.5%" campaign	36
"Caritas Christmas Eve"	35
"Sunday of Mercy"	34
"Wings" program	32
"Caritas Holiday Action"	28
"Two Talents" program	22
"Schoolbag Full of Smiles"	18
Caritas hospices	16

One of the greatest strengths of Caritas in Poland is that it can offer help to those in need throughout the country. This is possible thanks to its efficient organizational structure, in which Caritas Poland is the central coordinator of nationwide programs and supporter of diocesan Caritas which are fully autonomous in their daily activities. However, Caritas remains, both practically and conceptually, one organization, responsible for carrying out the service of mercy among the most needy.

Cooperation is achieved through jointly implemented programs coordinated by Caritas Poland (in the area of food aid, aid for seniors, children, etc.) and implemented in dioceses.

In 2023, we had a number of nationwide programs coordinated by Caritas Poland and implemented by coordinators and volunteers from the network of diocesan Caritas.



VALUE OF FINANCIAL AND IN-KIND AID PROVIDED TO DIOCESAN CARITAS BY CARITAS POLAND IN 2023

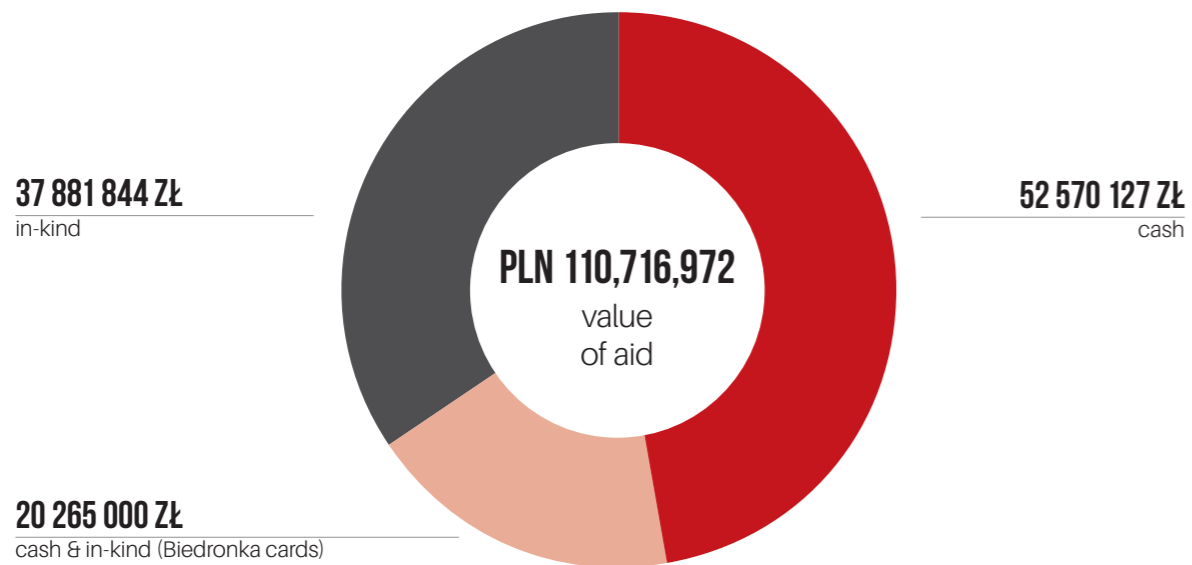
An important area of support and cooperation with dioceses in 2023 was the aid for migrants and refugees provided by 28 Migrant and Refugee Assistance Centers run by diocesan Caritas (including one operated by Caritas Poland). These activities helped build common operating standards.

Caritas Poland represents the network in the advisory and advocacy fields at the central level, by means of representation in various councils at ministries responsible for social affairs and in the Caritas Europe and Caritas Internationalis networks. Similarly, social campaigns and media activities support the recognition and visibility of the organization and its work.

Infrastructural, financial and in-kind aid allows us to effectively support people most in need throughout Poland. The principle of subsidiarity guiding the activities of Caritas Poland assumes financial and in-kind aid for dioceses that most effectively directly help people in need.

110,716,972
OF FINANCIAL AND IN-KIND AID PROVIDED TO DIOCESAN CARITAS BY CARITAS POLAND IN 2023

CARITAS POLAND'S AID TRANSFERRED THROUGH DIOCESAN CARITAS IN 2023



”
Caritas in dioceses is not only the work of charitable institutions; it is the involvement of people of good will who devote their hearts, experience and time to the needy in their community. Employees and volunteers often say that their motto is “not to refuse help to anyone” – even if it is hope, a kind word or restoring a sense of dignity and being noticed.

MAGDALENA FAC-SKHIRTŁADZE,
 CENTER FOR THE ANALYSIS OF SOCIAL PROBLEMS, CARITAS POLAND

ACTIVITIES OF DIOCESAN CARITAS

The report on the activities of diocesan Caritas in 2023 was based on a questionnaire sent online to 45 units on January 16, 2024. Responses came from 43 diocesan Caritas, which means that only one diocesan Caritas was omitted in the report. The questionnaire included questions about structures of archdiocesan and diocesan Caritas, campaigns and programs, categories and numbers of beneficiaries and types and numbers of aid facilities run by Caritas.

Caritas in Poland is a network of independent diocesan Caritas conducting social and charitable activities resulting from the organizations' statutes and internal structures, composed of employees and volunteers at various levels. Based on the data provided by the units that

responded to the survey, it is possible to distinguish those diocesan Caritas that employ the largest number of employees, have the largest number of volunteers and provide assistance to the largest group of beneficiaries, offering targeted and professional assistance in the facilities they run.

The activities of Caritas in Poland involve many people, including those working pro bono publico, who provide help to those in need. The summary shows not only the importance within the network of institutional involvement of employees and specialists, but precisely the actions of people from their internal need to help in their immediate environment of a city, school or parish.

STRUCTURE OF DIOCESAN CARITAS

Caritas of the...	Direct employees	Employees insubordinate units	Active volunteers 2023	Est. no. of beneficiaries
Diocese of Kielce	604	1,188	2,500	38,971
Diocese of Sandomierz	181	175	1,500	75,500
Diocese of Płock	147	163	1,110	4,425
Archdiocese of Wrocław	112	318	2,000	30,000
Diocese of Siedlce	97	76	4,324	8,127
Diocese of Sosnowiec	92	116	2,450	1,450
Archdiocese of Szczecin-Kamieńska	77	66	600	25,000
Diocese of Łomża	76	7	8,000	22,700
Diocese of Bydgoszcz	59	37	977	60,000
Diocese of Legnica	48	398	600	10,000
Archdiocese of Poznań	40	250	8,604	3,582
Archdiocese of Lublin	39	29	200	6,800
Archdiocese of Katowice	26	470	1,050	55,000
Diocese of Koszalin-Kołobrzeg	25	108	1,200	12,250
Diocese of Zielona Góra-Gorzów	25	26	3,000	43,000
Diocese of Opole	24	502	3,041	42,125
Diocese of Kalisz	24	79	80	12,373
Archdiocese of Łódź	24	55	2,100	7,000
Archdiocese of Przemyśl	20	1,180	2,200	14,000
Diocese of Gliwice	20	203	920	32,677
Diocese of Świdnik	19	29	114	15,110
Archdiocese of Warsaw	18	240	1,000	71,000
Archdiocese of Cracow	15	440	1,740	67,011
Diocese of Warsaw-Praga	15	212	1,712	110,349
Diocese of Elk	15	116	3,500	17,842
Archdiocese of Białystok	12	119	230	2,350
Archdiocese of Częstochowa	10	40	180	9,770
Archdiocese of Gniezno	9	90	1,500	17,500
Archdiocese of Gdańsk	8	400	1	25,000
Diocese of Tarnów	8	300	3,200	3,200
Diocese of Bielsko-Żywiec	8	27	700	10,500
Diocese of Rzeszów	7	454	4,800	28,299
Diocese of Radom	7	153	2,855	17,550
Diocese of Włocławek	5	615	780	20,930
Diocese of Łowicz	5	48	500	3,500
Diocese of Drohiczyń	5	35	850	14,000
Diocese of Pelplin	5	20	1,752	7,206
Diocese of Zamość-Lubaczów	4	59	1,900	6,400
Diocese of Elbląg	4	1	400	1,200
Diocese of Toruń	3	244	680	26,847
Olsztyn-Gdańsk Eparchy of the Greek Catholic Church	3	21	45	1,500
The Field Ordinariate of the Polish Army	1	0	25	400
Archdiocese of Przemyśl-Warsaw of the Greek Catholic Church	0	0	50	300
Total	1946	17,463	66,616	968,744



It seems to me that what the people staying here need the most is time spent together with others. That is why, I think, our role as care volunteers is very important. Listening to and sharing our everyday affairs can make patients happy. Making sure that during those days in the hospice they do not feel like they are in a ward or hospital, but at home

PIOTR SITO, HOSPICE VOLUNTEER

CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES OF DIOCESAN CARITAS

The work of Caritas in Poland also includes activities of several specialized institutions aiding the individual, most sensitive groups of recipients. Diocesan Caritas often respond to pressing social problems of their local communities, dealing with people most in need of support, help and care.

Caritas institutions carry out public activities in the area of helping people in homelessness crisis, supporting children and seniors, long-term care and activation of persons with disabilities. The Church, as a long-term institution, often becomes a guarantee of reliability and stability in the implementation of commissioned activities for local authorities, and diocesan Caritas can often help where other welfare institutions fail.

Below we present a summary of the number of points and facilities run by diocesan Caritas.

An important element of their activities is long-term help for sick and dependent people, also in the field of palliative care. A study conducted in November 2023 shows the scale of the involvement of diocesan Caritas in this area.

Helping people in hospices means not only medical care but also holistic support for the patient and his or her family, spiritual support in passing away, aid for the family and relieving the suffering of a person in terminal condition.

FACILITIES AND AID POINTS OF DIOCESAN CARITAS

Type of facility / point	#
"Caritas Pantry" food distribution points	356
Rehabilitation equipment rentals	186
Protected apartments	119
Socio-therapeutic clubs	98
Senior clubs	89
Occupational therapy workshops	73
Rehabilitation centers	73
Soup kitchens	67
Emergency aid points	59
Baby hatch (Okno Życia)	45
Shelters for the homeless	33
Legal advice offices	26
Baths	26
Nurseries / preschools	20
Social integration centers	18
Mother and baby / single mother homes	18
Night shelters	16
Educational centers	12
Warm rooms	12
Crisis intervention centers	10
Vocational activity facilities	10
Family clinics	9
Pharmacies / pharmaceutical points	9
Addiction treatment centers	1

LONG-TERM CARE OF DIOCESAN CARITAS

Long-term care facilities	#
Home nursing teams	63
Community self-help homes	31
Social welfare homes	25
Day care homes	26
Nursing and medical facilities	16
Long-term home care teams	9
Respite day care homes	4
Nursing homes	1
Nursing and care facilities (general)	4
Nursing and care facilities (psychiatric)	1
Medical day care homes	1

HOSPICE CARE OF DIOCESAN CARITAS

Hospices	#
Home hospices	38
Inpatient hospices	16
Palliative medicine clinics	6

DIOCESAN CARITAS AS ADVOCATES FOR THE POOR

Diocesan Caritas are also strongly involved in educational and advocacy activities for people in need. They continue expanding their contacts with local media, local governments, commissions and thematic teams in their areas. They are involved in activities for the protection and safety of children, in interdisciplinary teams to counteract violence, and in solving the most difficult problems related to poverty and the threat of homelessness.

DEVELOPMENT NEEDS OF DIOCESAN CARITAS

Diocesan Caritas operate extensively, and their activities are diversified and tailored to the needs of various people in their communities. The need to fulfill public tasks and formal requirements, but also the desire to maintain large-scale activities and continuous institutional and organizational development require strengthening and improving quality.

The top needs listed by diocesan Caritas are project management, communication, promotion and fundraising, but volunteering is also one of the main areas recognized as crucial. Compared to the scale of volunteer involvement in dioceses, Caritas, despite its professionalization, remains an organization that engages people of good will, who out of their heart, help those in need.

CONTRIBUTIONS OF ARCHDIOCESAN AND DIOCESAN CARITAS FOR HUMANITARIAN COLLECTIONS IN 2023

Ukraine collections, February 26, 2023	6,440,640.83
Slovenia collection, 2023	6,294,213.14
Earthquake Türkiye / Syria collection	12,320,164.11
TOTAL VALUE OF CONTRIBUTIONS FROM DIOCESAN CARITAS	27,661,024.58

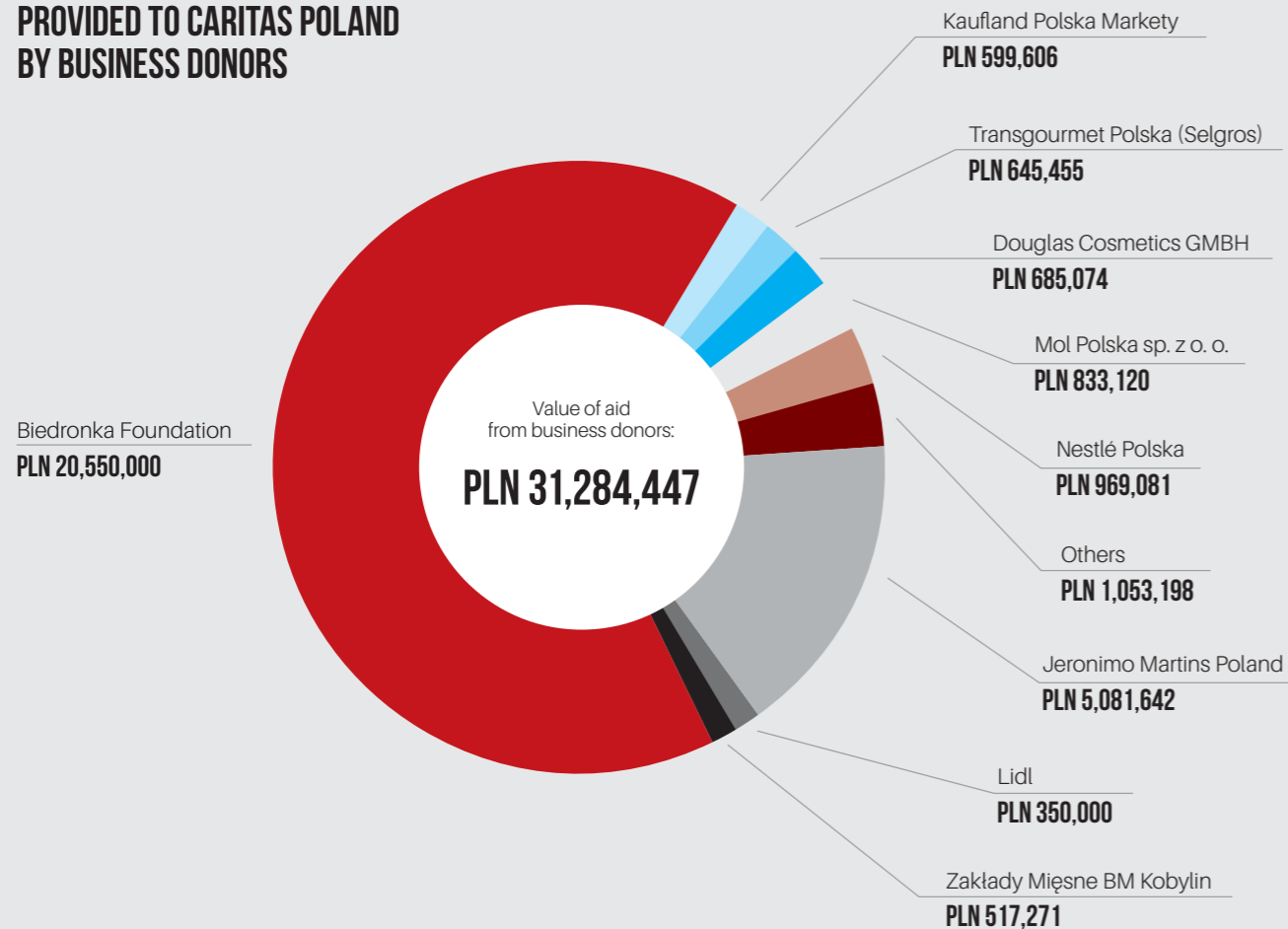


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Key business donors



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



Significant business donors



VALUE OF PROJECTS FINANCED FROM PUBLIC FUNDS

Project name	Source	Amount in 2023
DWR/PPR2022/033/3/2023 - Integral aid for persons with disabilities in the Hebron Province of the Palestinian Authority and professional activation of women and young people entering the labor market in the Gaza Strip (Module 2)	Ministry of Foreign Affairs	PLN 1,949,875
DWR/PPR2021/046/3/2023 - Integral aid for persons with disabilities in the West Bank of the Palestinian Authority / Bethlehem (Module 3)	Ministry of Foreign Affairs	PLN 1,490,880
DWR/PPR2023/029/3/2023 - Integral aid for persons with disabilities in remote locations in the West Bank of the Palestinian Authority 2023-2025	Ministry of Foreign Affairs	PLN 971,000
DWR/PPR2021/096/3/2023 - Support and promotion of local entrepreneurship and quality cheese production in the municipality of Akhmeta, Kakheti region, Georgia (Module 3)	Ministry of Foreign Affairs	PLN 248,750
DWR/PH2023/018/2/2023 - Meeting the basic needs of Jordanians and the poorest refugees in preparing for winter and providing shelter in urban areas (Module 1)	Ministry of Foreign Affairs	PLN 955,500
Fund for European Aid to the Most Deprived (FEAD)	Ministry of Finance	PLN 1,521,661
Fund for European Aid to the Most Deprived (FEAD)	National Support Center for Agriculture	PLN 4,545,052
Budget subsidy 1102/DWPP/2 - "Polish Diaspora Family"	Prime Minister's Chancellery	PLN 30,000
Overcoming barriers to the development of long-term volunteering of Caritas in Poland	National Freedom Institute	PLN 199,000
Total		PLN 11,911,719



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When preparing this report, we had in mind the well-being of the natural environment, which is why we chose wood-free paper from a manufacturer holding green certificates including EMAS (European Eco-Management and Audit Scheme), FSC (Forest Stewardship Council), PEFC (Program for the Endorsement of Forest Certification).



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