



over

**PLN 1 billion**

in aid provided by Caritas  
in Poland

nearly

**PLN 49 million**

in aid provided by Caritas Poland  
abroad

more than

**900 thousand  
people**

received support from Caritas  
at home and abroad

# 2024 Report





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The photo on the cover was taken during the 2024 flood that hit southwestern Poland.



## Towards a Civilization of Love

***Let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth (1 John 3:18)***

Today, humanitarian needs are greater than ever, and the level of risk is rising with the increasing number of socio-political crises and unforeseen disasters. According to the UN, at the end of 2024, some 300 million people worldwide were in urgent need of humanitarian assistance, and according to UNICEF, nearly 240 million children showed signs of malnutrition. Caritas responds to these needs, saving people's lives with dignity through aid delivered in an efficient and effective way.

Caritas Poland, part of the Caritas Internationalis network of 174 national Caritas organizations united in mission and values, sets specific goals for each year. It continues its long-term support for various social groups and takes on new challenges, including those that require cooperation with partner organizations and state structures, as well as an appeal to social solidarity. In practice, it reaches out to those in need with aid provided at home and abroad. In Poland, aid is offered by more than 2,500 specialized facilities and centers run by diocesan Caritas branches which employ nearly 10,000 employees and bring together 73,500 volunteers. Foreign aid organized by Caritas Poland is based on humanitarian and development aid programs, requiring cooperation with local partners. Last year, such aid was provided in 27 countries around the world and reached 240,000 people.

As a public benefit organization, we are committed to full transparency; to this end, this Report presents a reliable overview of the activities of Caritas Poland and its diocesan branches carried out in 2024. The first part presents aggregate data on activities at home and abroad, and the combined value of aid provided by Caritas Poland in pursuing its mission. In the subsequent sections you will find details of aid provided, along with descriptions of all programs, and a section that presents a unique value for us as the Caritas network in Poland – a detailed discussion of the activities of diocesan Caritas branches. Below is a list of facilities and aid centers, the number of beneficiaries in various social groups receiving various forms of support, as well as a description of individual diocesan Caritas branches.

With the words of St. John quoted above as our guiding motto, we focus on specific action to improve the quality of life for the poor, the sick, the lonely, the homeless, those suffering from hunger or affected by armed conflicts. When observing the changes taking place in the modern world, we realize we cannot only follow established paths, but must keep adjusting our support mechanisms. We are implementing an ever-growing number of initiatives in the field of development assistance, which equips participants with the tools to take action themselves toward lasting improvement in their lives. We are also aware that poverty today consists not only in the lack of life essentials, but also in the lack of ability to discover one's own wealth and the wealth of the surrounding community. Therefore, the support we provide motivates them to use their own potential, while also teaching mutual assistance and rebuilding interpersonal relationships.

Believing that a civilization of love is not merely an idealized concept, we invite you to read the following *2024 Caritas Report*, presenting what we, as Caritas Poland, have achieved together in the past year.

*ks. Jęnni Mejda*

Caritas Poland CEO

# Caritas Poland. A Calendar of Events 2024

**01/01**

Caritas Poland continues two projects **in the Palestinian Authority** aimed at supporting people with disabilities in the Province of Hebron and the vocational activation of women and young people **in the Gaza Strip**. The projects are financed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland.

**03/08-09**

24th edition of the **"Yes. I'm Helping!"** program: 300 tons of food collected; 25 thousand volunteers; 2,000 participating stores; food distributed to 45,000 people.



**04/01**

Caritas branches all across Poland distribute 11,000 **"For Everyday Shopping"** cards to seniors in need; the annual value of the program carried out in cooperation with the Biedronka Foundation exceeded PLN 22 million.

**04/01**

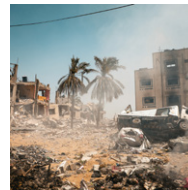
Launch of the 5th edition of the **"Package for Venezuela" campaign** – aid in the form of food packages and personal hygiene items for 3,320 people. The program also includes an entrepreneurship support module for 70 people with migration experience.

**05/06**

Finale of the most recent edition of the **Caritas Food Pantry** program; nearly 6,000 tons of food worth nearly PLN 80 million were distributed to 60,000 people in need.

**05/07**

A delegation of **Caritas Poland arrives in Jerusalem** to discuss options for increasing aid provided to Gaza Strip residents.



**06/01**

Another edition of the **Box of Happiness** campaign; 25,000 children receive Children's Day packages filled with healthy snacks, books and toys.

**06/01**

A **Caritas Poland Zone** is organized for the first time at the 28th Lednica 2000 Youth Meeting attended by 20,000 young people.



**January**

**February**

**March**

**April**

**May**

**June**

**01/25**

Finale of the 6th edition of the **"For Everyday Shopping"** program, under which 11,000 seniors received support in the form of prepaid cards for Biedronka stores and benefited from the assistance of 4,500 Caritas volunteers.



**02/21**

Caritas Poland launches food and in-kind aid for those affected by the **flood in Ecuador**, working together with a Polish missionary serving on the ground.

**02/24**

**2nd anniversary of support for Ukraine:** More than 1 million people have received aid, 28 Migrant and Refugee Assistance Centers have been established, assistance provided in 2023 amounted nearly to PLN 150 million.

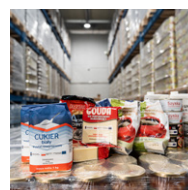
**04/13**

**Day of Good.** Caritas' patronal feast day; 400 events are held nationwide involving more than 66,000 volunteers of all ages.



**05/28**

A contract is signed for the distribution of food to nearly 262,000 people in need in Poland under the **European Funds for Food Aid** program.



**06/20**

**World Refugee Day** – Migrant and Refugee Assistance Centers throughout the country organize picnics and meetings, accompanied by a Drop of Good blood donation campaign for Polish hospitals.



**07/01**

An **aid project for residents of the Gaza Strip** is launched worth nearly PLN 1.5 million, co-financed under the Polish Aid program of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland.

**07/04**

The **Caritas Holiday Action** is launched to organize summer camps for 18,500 children and youth, including 3,000 children from Ukraine.



**08/01**

Caritas Poland launches the "Improving the quality of and access to **psychological care for children and their families** at Family Assistance Centres in Kharkiv, Odesa, Zhytomyr and Vinnytsia in Ukraine" project co-financed under Polish development cooperation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland.

**08/12**

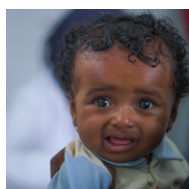
**"Generation W as in Wings"** – Caritas celebrates the 20th anniversary of providing support to children through its Wings and Two Talents scholarship programs.

**09/01**

Caritas Poland launches a **nutrition program for children** including renovation and construction of water and sanitation infrastructure for 34 schools in the Tigray Region in Ethiopia.

**09/01-14**

Caritas Poland **monitors the mission in Yemen** and compiles a report on the 10th anniversary of the events that led to the outbreak of civil war in Yemen.



**10/14**

Caritas collects **PLN 75 million to help flood victims** in a nationwide church collection and from individual and business donations; a long-term Caritas aid program is launched.

**10/15**

The establishment of **Caritas Hospice Council** supporting the development of Caritas long-term care and hospice facilities; the annual value of Caritas Poland's aid provided to such facilities is PLN 1.6 million.

**11/01**

Caritas Poland launches a program **in Afghanistan** to support an orthopedics and physiotherapy workshop and the production of prosthetic limbs.

**11/04**

A 4-day visit by Caritas Poland representatives to Cuba and participation in a meeting of Polish clergy in Cuba; the outcome is the launch of a **program to support children** in cooperation with the missionaries.

**12/06-07**

25th jubilee edition of the **"Yes I'm Helping!"** campaign: 300 tons of food collected and distributed to 50,000 people in need with the help of 24,000 volunteers and 2,000 participating stores.



**July**

**August**

**September**

**October**

**November**

**December**

**07/27**

A **Caritas Poland delegation** goes to **Colombia** to observe the migration situation on the Venezuelan-Colombian border.

**08/14**

16th finale of Caritas' nationwide **Schoolbag Full of Smiles** campaign, involving school starter kits distributed to 12,000 children in Poland and abroad.



**09/15**

Caritas launches an emergency response campaign to aid **flood victims** in southwestern Poland, providing immediate support worth PLN 3 million.

**09/27-28**

A **collection for flood victims** is held at nearly 500 Biedronka chain stores throughout Poland; 355 tons of products is collected, with 4,000 volunteers from 26 dioceses involved in the campaign.



**10/19**

25th jubilee ecumenical **Ubi Caritas Gala** to honour individuals who provide exceptional support to Caritas' charitable activities.

**10/29**

**Floods in Europe** cause massive destruction in a number of countries. Caritas Poland provides support to those affected in Spain and Bosnia and Herzegovina.

**11/16**

The 19th **Pilgrimage of the Homeless to Jasna Góra Sanctuary** is attended by 500 pilgrims; it is an annual event organized by Caritas of the Czeszochowa Archdiocese in cooperation with Caritas Poland.

**11/21**

**Christmas Aid Program for Children** receives the President of the Republic of Poland Award "For the Common Good"; the Program is Caritas' best-known and longest-running campaign in Poland.

**12/12**

As the conflict in **Syria** intensifies, Caritas Poland, in cooperation with its local partner Christian Hope Center, starts the distribution of emergency aid to migrants during the winter season.

**12/22-24**

90 cities in Poland host **Caritas Christmas Eve** dinners for the total of 25,000 people, with 35 dioceses and 1,950 volunteers involved in their organization.





# Caritas' Response to the Greatest Challenges of 2024

**In 2024, there was no shortage of challenges that required Caritas Poland and diocesan Caritas branches to provide fast and adequate response. At home, priority tasks included supporting those affected by floods. In operations abroad, it was particularly important to reach out with aid to places where armed conflicts were taking place and major humanitarian crises were ongoing.**

Caritas is the largest charitable organization in Poland, enjoying broad public trust. Its effectiveness is based on the cooperation of independent diocesan Caritas branches and Caritas Poland which acts as the headquarters. Among the greatest challenges the organization faced last year was helping those affected by the floods that hit the southwestern part of Poland. Excellent cooperation in the national Caritas network made it possible to quickly identify people in need and provide them with adequate support. The result of cooperation – both within the Caritas network and with external entities – was also evident in the distribution of food aid to several vulnerable groups in the country whose total value last year exceeded PLN 130 million.

Caritas' commitment to helping people regardless of their background or religion means that its mission also extends beyond national borders. Caritas Poland, as a member of the Caritas Internationalis confederation and Caritas Europa, implements many overseas programs in coordination with other Caritas organizations in the network. Last year, it carried out as many as 57 aid programs outside the country. The largest of those was the Family to Family program, which provided support to more than 18,000 people last year, and the assistance program implemented in Sub-Saharan Africa with aid provided to more than 51,000 people. Some of the overseas projects were made possible thanks to co-financing within the framework of Polish development cooperation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland.

A common element of many of Caritas' activities last year, mostly those conducted abroad, was building disaster resilience of the supported populations, a task of increasing importance in view of the changes awaiting the humanitarian sector worldwide. The experience gained in carrying out such tasks, the organization's capacity, resources, and structure were recognized through the inclusion of Caritas Poland, along with its partner entities, in the Civil Protection and Defence Act of December 5, 2024. This means that Caritas is a civil protection entity in our country, and in times of war or martial law it becomes a civil defence entity, performing tasks aimed at ensuring the safety of the population by protecting life and health in emergency situations.



## Aid in Poland

**700,000 people**

in Poland received aid  
from Caritas in 2024

Over  
**PLN 1 billion**  
is the value of aid provided  
by the Caritas network at home in 2024.



over  
**3 million meals**  
were distributed by **81 soup kitchens**  
run by Caritas



**110,000 children**  
received support at  
Caritas facilities and as part of its programs



over  
**73,500 volunteers**  
supported Caritas programs  
throughout Poland



nearly  
**30,000 people**  
benefited from Caritas support at hospices,  
long-term care facilities, social welfare homes,  
and home care

## Aid Abroad

nearly  
**240,000 people**  
abroad received aid  
from Caritas Poland in 2024

nearly  
**PLN 49 million**  
is the value of aid provided  
by Caritas Poland abroad in 2024



over  
**PLN 22,500,000**  
is the value  
of the Family to Family program



over  
**PLN 7,200,000**  
is the value of programs co-financed under Polish  
development cooperation of the Ministry of  
Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland



over  
**51,000 people**  
in Sub-Saharan Africa received aid  
through Caritas Poland



**57 programs**  
were carried out by Caritas Poland abroad  
with the support of longstanding local partners

# Support provided by Caritas Poland to institutions and organizations in Poland in 2024



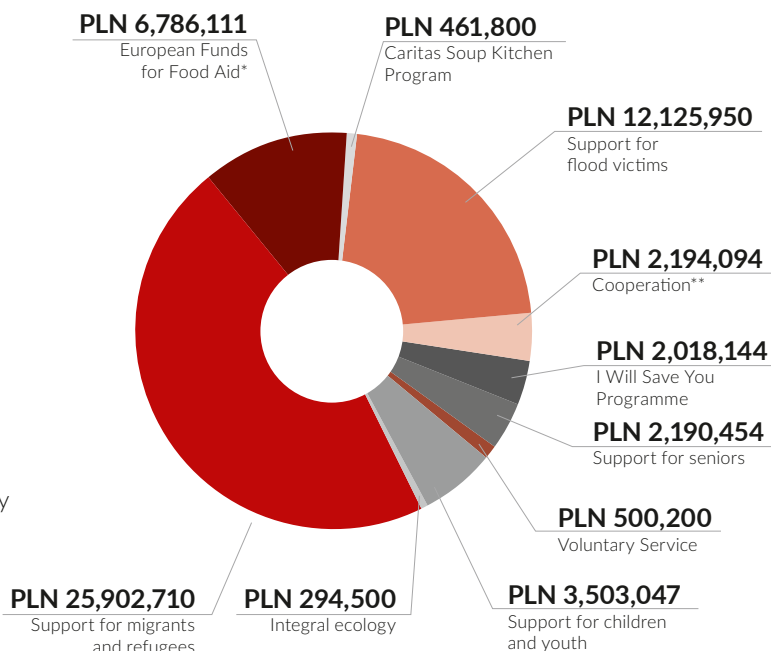
Each year Caritas Poland provides support to various entities in their relief work. It is received primarily by diocesan Caritas branches and religious congregations, but also by other types of charity partners. It includes financial, financial and in-kind, or in-kind support. A special type of support is the coordination of food aid provided by diocesan Caritas branches.

## Financial Aid

Financial aid is provided for specific nationwide social programs in Poland. These include food programs such as the European Funds for Food Aid Program and the Caritas Food Pantry, both coordinated by Caritas Poland, or the "For Everyday Shopping" program supporting seniors, run together with the Biedronka Foundation. As shown in the chart opposite, in the past year Caritas Poland allocated a major part of its resources to the implementation of activities for migrants and refugees, carried out mainly by the Migrant and Refugee Assistance Centers, which was largely due to the number of refugees arriving from Ukraine in 2022. Another emergency situation – the flooding that hit the southwestern part of the country – also required securing and transferring significant resources. At the same time, in addition to the financial support provided to help those affected by emergencies, the partners also received a relatively large amount of funds for the implementation of the European Funds for Food Aid Program, as well as for activities addressed to children and youth and to senior citizens.

\*Support for program operation and ongoing training.

\*\*Without aid provided to flood victims.



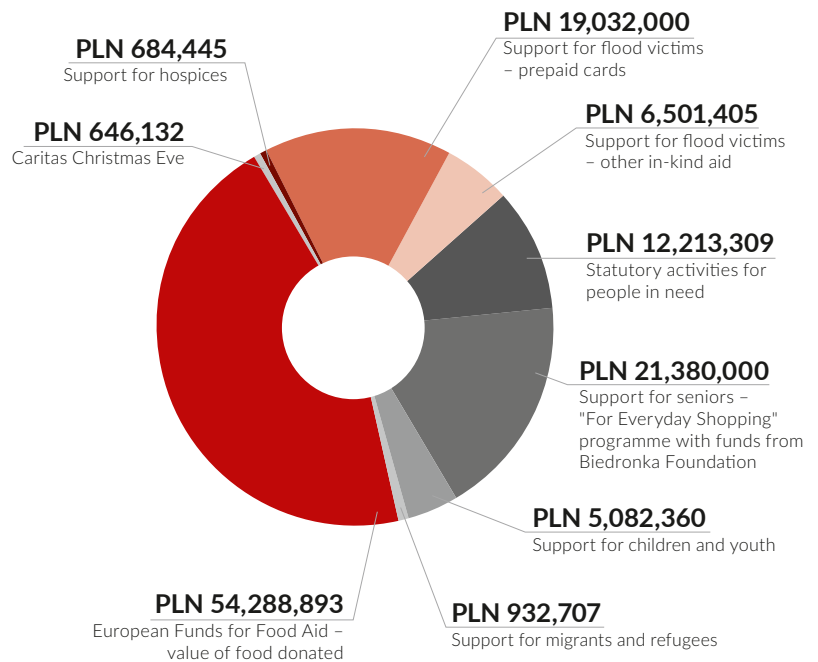
**PLN 55,977,010**  
is the total value of financial support



## Financial and In-Kind Support and In-Kind Aid

### provided through diocesan Caritas branches

Financial and in-kind support and in-kind aid is provided to participants through diocesan Caritas branches. This aid is provided through nationwide programs (European Funds for Food Aid Program, "For Everyday Shopping"), disaster relief (aid to flood victims), campaigns (for children or seniors), and special projects involving equipment and renovation of aid facilities (for example those supporting people at risk of exclusion). Such assistance also includes food distributed as part of Caritas Christmas Eve dinners organized by diocesan Caritas branches. Last year, financial and in-kind support was provided in the form of prepaid Biedronka store chain cards for seniors (as part of the "For Everyday Shopping" program) and prepaid cards for those affected by last year's flood.



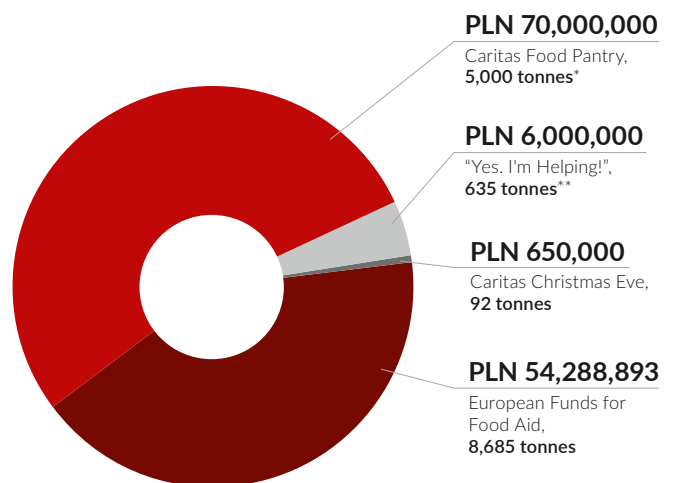
**PLN 120,161,851**

is the total value of financial and in-kind support and in-kind aid

## Food Aid

### distributed by diocesan Caritas branches and coordinated by Caritas Poland

Food aid programs, implemented for years by diocesan Caritas branches and coordinated by Caritas Poland at the national level, are an important element of in-kind support for the poorest. They seek to achieve a number of goals. The primary goal is social, counteracting food poverty. The second goal, related to ecology, is to prevent food waste. Thirdly food programs develop attitudes of social solidarity, which is fostered by the "Yes. I'm Helping!" or Caritas Christmas Eve campaigns carried out with the help of volunteers.



**PLN 130,938,893**

is the value of food distributed as part of nationwide Caritas programs implemented by diocesan Caritas branches and coordinated by Caritas Poland

\*The amount representing the value of food donated by stores under the Caritas Food Pantry program is not formally reflected in Caritas Poland's budget, as the food is received and distributed by diocesan Caritas branches.

\*\*The amount representing the value of food provided by individual donors under the "Yes. I'm Helping!" program is not formally reflected in Caritas Poland's budget, as the food is received and distributed by diocesan Caritas branches.

# Caritas Aid in Poland



Last year, Caritas carried out a variety of tasks at home, responding to the changing needs of various social groups. The aid it provided – both financial and in-kind – reached 700,000 people, and its value totalled more than PLN 1 billion. In addition, Caritas Poland and diocesan Caritas branches continued their efforts to strengthen their organizational capacity, streamline cooperation and mutual support within the Caritas network.

According to research\*, more than 2.5 million people in Poland live in extreme poverty, and the number of those in need has been gradually increasing since 2015. In order to respond to this challenge, Caritas conducts a variety of programs and campaigns targeting people in need and those experiencing a crisis. It also maintains a state of readiness to mobilize resources and provide urgent humanitarian relief in the event of an emergency.

## Solidarity in Action

Last year, a particular challenge for Caritas was to organize effective assistance to those affected by the floods. Its ability to coordinate emergency operations and provide relief efficiently proved to be of crucial importance. Although the scale of damage and the number of people affected by the disaster were enormous, joint action within the Caritas network made it possible to provide immediate aid – both in cities and in the country. Thanks to the commitment of volunteers, relief was also provided to houses in distant locations, which was especially important for the elderly and sick. Efficient emergency management and the ability to deliver rapid humanitarian assistance in an emergency situation are the result of Caritas's many years of experience, which has influenced its comprehensive development and ability to cooperate, both within and outside the Caritas network.

## The Important Role of Caritas Facilities

In addition to immediate relief aid, Caritas carries out regular programs and actions throughout the year and runs more than 2,500 facilities and centers providing support to those in need. These activities require experience, specialized staff and considerable financial outlays, which is why diocesan Caritas branches rely on the support provided by Caritas Poland.

An example of such activities is the operation of hospice, palliative care and long-term care facilities. To carry out this work, Caritas Poland supports diocesan Caritas branches on many levels – not only with financial and in-kind aid, but also educational assistance, involving the training of volunteers and staff. Regular study



visits, the sharing of knowledge and good practices, as well as the work of the Hospice Council, established in 2024 and composed of experienced experts, provide a space for sharing know-how and help to implement high standards across all Caritas hospices. The value of financial support provided last year to diocesan Caritas branches for the operation of hospices and long-term care facilities amounted to nearly PLN 1 million.

Last year, special support was also provided to the staff of facilities helping people experiencing homelessness. At a seminar held to address their needs, they discussed tools to take care of the mental well-being of their staff, as well as the dignity of those receiving help. The seminar was inspired by Caritas Poland's 2024 publication entitled *Homelessness in Poland\*\**, which draws attention to the problem of social exclusion and presents the spectrum of assistance Caritas provides to people experiencing homelessness.

## Food Aid Still Needed

Food aid programs run by Caritas, whose recipients include virtually all social groups, have for years remained a top priority in terms of the budget and the number of beneficiaries. Among the largest programs is the long-term European Funds for Food Aid Program co-financed by the European Union. Last year alone, its value exceeded PLN 61 million.

Another long-term food aid program is the Caritas Food Pantry. This is an innovative program against poverty and food waste. In 2024 alone, the Caritas Food Pantry raised food products worth PLN 70 million.

This regular food aid program is supplemented by the "Yes. I'm Helping!" nationwide food collection organized twice a year. The 25th anniversary edition of the campaign, which raised 300 tons of food, was held in December 2024. In 13 years, across all editions, more than 8,500

tons of food have been collected and donated to people in need.

## Commitment to Different Social Groups

The elderly are a social group which Caritas attends to with particular care. To meet their needs, diocesan Caritas branches run social welfare homes, senior citizens' clubs or community centers, supporting beneficiaries to relieve loneliness and exclusion in their daily lives. They also provide food and social assistance, and run a number of programs targeting specific problems. The largest of these, "For Everyday Shopping," carried out in cooperation with the Biedronka Foundation, provided support to more than 11,000 seniors last year.

A social group which Caritas has always paid special attention to is children. With children in mind, Caritas runs the Wings and Two Talents scholarship programs, among other initiatives. The participants are elementary and secondary school students, and the goal is to provide equal educational opportunities and support the development of their talents and passions. Since the launch of the programs, Caritas Poland has donated nearly PLN 22 million for scholarships.

The program that benefits the most children is the Caritas Holiday Action. Each year, it offers children from low-income families the chance to enjoy an organized summer vacation. In 2024, 18,500 children took part in the Caritas Holiday Action. Each year, funds are raised for this project from the distribution of Caritas candles as part of the Christmas Aid Program for Children, as well as other sources. This is one of Caritas' most long-standing campaigns, running since 1994. It is held annually during the Advent season across entire country.

In the past year, one of Caritas' most important initiatives was to help migrants and refugees. Projects



implemented in this area included integration and psychosocial activities, assistance to children in foster care evacuated from Ukraine, and assistance to elderly and disabled Ukrainian refugees.

Effective aid delivery was made possible by diversifying programs and the resources used to implement them. By combining EU funds, international grants, emergency collections from individual donors, and support from business, Caritas provided help in a wise and well-targeted manner. Furthermore, the assistance mechanisms and standards of operation developed over the years and Caritas' experienced staff are a guarantee of quality for public institutions, organizations and business partners.

\*Stowarzyszenie Wiosna, Raport o biedzie 2024. Biedańsk (2024 Poverty Report. Povertyville).

\*\*Caritas Poland, *Bezdomność w Polsce (Homelessness in Poland)*, Warsaw 2024, also available online: [caritas.pl/bezdomni](https://caritas.pl/bezdomni).

# Programs Conducted in Poland in 2024

## Food and In-Kind Aid

Program	Sector	Program Value	Number of Beneficiaries	Description
European Funds for Food Aid Program	Food Security	PLN 61,889,338	222,652	A multi-year program implemented by Caritas Poland and diocesan Caritas branches. From June to December 2024, 751,169 packages and 372,051 meals were distributed to people in need under the 2021-2027 European Funds for Food Aid Program co-financed by the European Social Fund Plus. More than 8,684 tons of food products worth PLN 54,285,923 were donated to people in need under the 2023 Subprogram, benefitting 222,652 people. This assistance was accessible at more than 776 food distribution points. In addition, the 2023 Subprogram distributed donated products, supplementing the European Funds for Food Aid Program food packages with products from the Caritas Food Pantry program, among other sources. The Subprogram also included workshops and training sessions for 29,264 participants from all provinces across Poland.
Caritas Soup Kitchen	Capacity Building	PLN 461,800	-	Soup kitchens run by Caritas in Poland serve several million hot meals each year free of charge. They benefit the financially disadvantaged, the sick, the unemployed, the helpless, people experiencing homelessness, as well as senior citizens. Caritas Poland and Lidl Poland have jointly been implementing the Caritas Soup Kitchen project since 2018. So far, Lidl has donated a total of nearly PLN 2 million to the project. The funds were used, among other things, for renovations, kitchen equipment, canteen facilities and insulated soup containers, with 33 soup kitchens receiving support in 2024.
In-kind aid (all actions and crises)	Basic Assistance	PLN 11,027,294	10,000	This is a fundraising project carried out as a Caritas Poland statutory activity, addressed to those in need under the care of Caritas Poland and diocesan Caritas branches. The aid provided (including cleaning supplies, clothing, food) significantly contributes to meeting the needs of the most vulnerable (senior citizens, migrants, people experiencing homelessness, children).
Caritas Food Pantry	Food Security	PLN 70,000,000	60,000	This is a nationwide program to collect and distribute surplus food products. They are mainly refrigerated products with a short shelf life, including meat, fish and dairy products, baked goods, and fruits and vegetables. The food is distributed to people in need in the form of packages or meals at food distribution points. The program is implemented by diocesan Caritas branches and non-profit organizations, with about 1,350 partner stores and retail warehouses. The program addresses poverty and minimizes food waste.
"Yes. I'm Helping!"	Food Security	PLN 6,000,000	50,000	This is a nationwide food collection conducted by Caritas Poland since 2011. It is organized twice a year – before Easter and Christmas. The collections held in 2024 marked the 24th and 25th editions of the program. Caritas volunteers were stationed at 2,000 stores, collecting long shelf life food products. In both collections combined, a total of 635 tons of products were donated to nearly 50,000 people.
Caritas Christmas Eve	Food Security; MHPSS	PLN 650,750	25,000	This is a nationwide action held every year on December 24th or the day before. Participating diocesan Caritas branches invite the people, who are poor, lonely, or experiencing homelessness, to share a table. The idea of the event originated in Poznań, where for the past 18 years people have gathered for a Christmas Eve dinner at the Poznań International Fairground. Since 2017, other cities have joined in as well. In 2024, Caritas Christmas Eve dinners were organized in 90 cities across Poland, with about 2,000 participating volunteers from 35 dioceses. Since the beginning, the campaign has been supported by Selgros company.



## Aid to Children and Families

Program	Sector	Program Value	Number of Beneficiaries	Description
Respite stays	MHPSS	PLN 1,274,250	575	This campaign was organized in response to the needs of Ukrainian children living in war zones. The respite stays are 14 days of relaxation, rest and a break from the sad reality witnessed by children.
Wings and Two Talents	Education, Basic Assistance	PLN 1,123,288	669	These are scholarship programs for elementary and secondary school students who need assistance due to poor family financial situation. The programs provided support to Polish and Ukrainian children. The aim of the programs is to provide equal educational opportunities and enable children and young people to develop their interests and passions.
Happy Box	Basic Assistance	PLN 300,000	25,000	The aim of the campaign is to support children from vulnerable families by building healthy eating habits and providing in-kind assistance. In 2024, on Children's Day, 25,000 packages with healthy snacks, books and toys were provided to children by diocesan Caritas branches.
Schoolbag Full of Smiles	Basic Assistance, Education	PLN 229,800	1,534	This campaign, held each year at the end of the summer vacation, consists of donating backpacks with a complete set of school supplies for children. The campaign aims to provide the youngest with equal opportunities in access to education. Support was provided to children from families at risk of social exclusion due to poverty.
Good Start	MHPSS	PLN 70,078	130	This project targets mothers residing in single mothers centers, developed based on a focus group needs survey. Caritas provides training to mothers aimed at breaking free from harmful patterns, including: strengthening self-esteem; building a relationship with the child by learning other leisure activities; counteracting exclusion in the labour market.

## Support for People with Illnesses and Disabilities

Program	Sector	Program Value	Number of Beneficiaries	Description
A pilot program involving social welfare homes run by Caritas and religious congregations	Capacity Building	PLN 478,484	5,380	The program aimed, among other things, to analyze the number and needs of social welfare homes run by diocesan Caritas branches and religious congregations, and to provide support in the form of equipment for selected facilities. The funds came from the 1.5% personal income tax donation scheme.
Uratujecie.pl	Health	PLN 1,518,278	80	The goal of the program is to improve the health and living situation of people affected by disease, disability or life difficulties. It included fundraising for the purchase of medicines, therapy and rehabilitation, among other things. The assistance was aimed at people with diseases and disabilities whose treatment was not financed by the National Health Service. Collections were conducted at <a href="http://www.uratujecie.pl">www.uratujecie.pl</a> .



## Support for Seniors

Program	Sector	Program Value	Number of Beneficiaries	Description
Caritas Hospices	Capacity Building	PLN 1,000,000	5,000	This program provides financial support for hospice facilities run by diocesan Caritas branches and selected long-term care facilities, as well as networking cooperation between diocesan Caritas branches and Caritas Poland in the field of long-term care. In 2024, funds were provided to support 40 facilities run by 14 diocesan Caritas branches. Six training sessions and about 20 study visits were also carried out.
"For Everyday Shopping"	Basic Assistance	PLN 22,866,000	11,000	Under this program, Caritas provided assistance to 11,000 senior citizens in difficult living situations, in the form of prepaid cards to the Biedronka store chain, recharged at PLN 200 every month for 10 months a year. 4,000 volunteers participated in the project following a series of targeted training sessions. The program includes a variety of activities aimed at counteracting loneliness among seniors and understanding their situation and needs. The program is implemented with funds donated by the Biedronka Foundation.
Meals for Seniors	Health and Nutrition	PLN 228,000	50	This program supported seniors by providing them with a two-course lunch twice a week. In 2024, Caritas Poland provided meals to approx. 50 seniors from 3 parishes in Warsaw. For six months, the program was implemented in cooperation with Caritas of the Warsaw Archdiocese.
Supporting religious hospices and long-term care facilities	Capacity Building	PLN 600,000	5,000	This program provided financial support to 35 religious hospices and long-term care facilities. Two Memory Gym workshops were also provided for 70 occupational therapists. The workshops were organized in cooperation with the Stocznia Foundation.
"Senior Caritas Est"	MHPSS	PLN 55,000	100	This program works to improve the quality of life of Warsaw's seniors through social, cultural, mental, spiritual and physical activation and by creating bonds and friendships, including intergenerational ones. Another aspect of the program is material support for vulnerable seniors through the preparation of packages for Easter, World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly, and Christmas.



## Assistance to Migrants and Refugees

Program	Sector	Program Value	Number of Beneficiaries	Description
Migrants and Refugee Assistance Center in Warsaw – relief for refugees from Ukraine implemented outside the projects	Basic Assistance	PLN 831,114	4,620	In addition to the projects described below, Caritas Poland's Migrants and Refugee Assistance Center in Warsaw also provided specific assistance to refugees depending on their needs and the organization's capabilities. This included in-kind assistance and other forms of support not covered by other projects.
Migrants and Refugee Assistance Center in Warsaw – support for foreigners other than refugees from Ukraine	Basic Assistance	PLN 112,325	823	Caritas also provided support for vulnerable foreigners, refugees and migrants other than those from Ukraine in the form of medical assistance, purchase of medicines, reimbursement/subsidies (e.g., housing rental), purchase of necessities for children, food assistance, distribution of packages with hygiene products, clothing, bedding and other daily necessities.
Caritas Poland for those affected by the conflict in Ukraine – 2nd edition (Emergency Appeal 29/2023)	Multisectoral	PLN 15,307,490	48,049	Caritas provided comprehensive support for Ukrainian refugees in Poland and Ukrainian residents. The support was provided at 28 Migrant and Refugee Assistance Centers in the form of cash aid, psychological and psychosocial support, as well as protection, life essentials, education and integration. In 2024, 7,808 people attended lessons in Polish language, and 6,893 people received career counselling. The project was funded through the Caritas Internationalis network.
Comprehensive support for children evacuated from Ukrainian institutions and their caregivers	Multisectoral	PLN 1,735,780	132	Caritas provided comprehensive support for children and their caregivers evacuated from institutions in Ukraine to ensure their safety, stability, education and health while separated from their parents or legal guardians and while in diocesan Caritas facilities. This project is funded by UNICEF.
Regional Cooperation Platform	Capacity Building	PLN 151,639	-	Caritas built a regional platform for learning and cooperation among the Caritas organizations in countries receiving the most refugees from Ukraine. The platform developed common good practices and shared their conclusions at the forum of European institutions and organizations in Brussels. As part of the project, Caritas Poland organized two meetings (national platform coordinators in Gdańsk and thematic group officers in Satu Mare) and developed a plan for action and sharing good practices. The project was funded by Catholic Relief Services and Cáritas Española.
Social initiative for integration support in Poland for refugees affected by conflict	Multisectoral	PLN 13,172,557	18,144	This project supports Ukrainian refugees living in Poland by providing protection and integration services. Caritas Poland and 11 diocesan Caritas branches provide services for Ukrainian refugees. Additional activities were implemented to reach out to the excluded and provide specialized services. This project is funded by UNHCR.
In-kind aid	Basic Assistance	PLN 998,200	5,156	Caritas provides in-kind support for refugees and Polish citizens (in the form of bedding sets, folding beds, mattresses, partitions, pillows, hygiene packages) provided by UNHCR. The support was distributed by diocesan Caritas branches and religious orders.
Support for refugees from Afghanistan (Day of Solidarity with Afghans)	Basic Assistance	PLN 63,082	70	Afghan refugees received subsidies and refunds, mainly for renting flats or houses, as well as backpacks and school supplies for their children. All participants were provided with welfare assistance in the form of packages that included hygiene products, food products, and bedding. Caritas also organized Polish language lessons at A1 and A2 levels that included elements of Polish traditions and culture. Funds came from church collections.
Support for foreigners in detention centers	Education	PLN 106,737	480	Caritas organized educational and activation classes in two Detention Centres for Foreigners – in Lesznowola (children, families, women) and Biała Podlaska (men). In total, 4 trainers delivered more than 600 hours of classes and workshops for several hundred people at two Detention Centers. The support was financed by a specific fundraising event held on November 21, 2020.
Emergency financial assistance and information services to protect those affected by the conflict in Ukraine and residing in Poland	Basic Assistance	PLN 3,764,980	4,682	This project supported the elderly, those with disabilities or serious illnesses during their stay in Poland with financial assistance to buy food, medicine or hygiene items. In addition, assistance was provided by the staff of the Migrant and Refugee Assistance Center to people in particularly difficult situations. The project also involved expanding access to information for Ukrainian refugees at the Migrants and Refugee Assistance Center in Warsaw, a project funded by Caritas Norway.



## Assistance to the Excluded

Program	Sector	Program Value	Number of Beneficiaries	Description
"We Will Make It!"	MHPSS	PLN 55,400	6	A Caritas Poland program aimed at supporting young people emerging from homelessness, addiction and life crises, to help build their life skills and make good use of their own potential.
"Help Wisely and Avoid Burn-out" Conference	Capacity Building	PLN 20,736	55	A conference for diocesan Caritas workers supporting people experiencing homelessness. During the two-day event, participants (directors, managers, psychologists, social workers, addiction therapists and others) listened to experts – practitioners in their respective fields – and exchanged experiences and solutions. During the conference, the <i>Homelessness in Poland</i> report compiled by Caritas Poland was presented, describing the work of diocesan Caritas branches and the comprehensive assistance provided in different types of establishments.
National Pilgrimage of People Experiencing Homelessness to Jasna Góra Sanctuary	MHPSS	PLN 45,500	600	Caritas organized the annual pilgrimage of people experiencing homelessness as a form of spiritual, psychological and material support for the excluded in their efforts to transform their lives. This project also supports the integration of diocesan aid communities and staff with the people they serve who experience homelessness. The 19th edition of the event took place in 2024.
"A Bit of Warmth For a Homeless Person"	Basic Assistance	PLN 52,640	250	Caritas organized food and in-kind assistance to people experiencing homelessness and living in places unsuitable for habitation, during the fall and winter season. Warm meals, clothing, blankets and other in-kind donations were provided as part of the campaign.
Street Medical Patrol	Basic Assistance	PLN 2,630	500	This project provided emergency rescue and medical assistance for people experiencing homelessness. The support involves medical patrols providing advice and basic medical assistance such as dressing wounds, as well as rescue services in life-threatening situations.

## Integral Ecology

Program	Sector	Program Value	Number of Beneficiaries	Description
Caritas Laudato Si – Pro-active education of Caritas communities to counter overconsumption	Education	PLN 1,512,663	2,773	This project implemented green social services as tools for social integration or reintegration of local communities operating at the level of parishes, volunteer centers, homeless shelters, etc. The direct result of the 2024 project was the creation of Communities in Action whose goal is to build a relationship with oneself, with God, with others, and with the natural environment that sustains human life.



## Crises and Disasters – Support for Flood Victims

Program	Sector	Program Value	Number of Beneficiaries	Description
Comprehensive support for households affected by the September 2024 floods – financial aid component	Basic Assistance	PLN 19,032,000	7,698	Caritas distributed cash assistance to households affected by the flood. More than 3,000 prepaid cards, worth PLN 6,000 each, were distributed according to relief criteria (priority was given to seniors, families with many children, single parents and people with disabilities).
Comprehensive support for households affected by the September 2024 floods – diocesan Caritas branch capacity building component	Capacity Building	PLN 810,000	-	This project built the organizational capacity of diocesan Caritas branches in post-crisis support by mobilizing personnel resources in the areas of administration, communication, and project management and distribution of in-kind donations.
In-kind aid – flood	Basic Assistance	PLN 6,501,406	20,000	In-kind aid was donated to flood victims in southwestern Poland in 2024.
Caritas Christmas Eve edition for those affected by the September 2024 floods.	Food Security, MHPSS	PLN 191,600	1,916	Caritas organized Christmas Eve dinners aimed at providing food aid and psychosocial support to people in flood-affected areas. The event included the presence of a pastor or invited guest, joint prayer, sharing of the wafer, carolling, a visit by Santa Claus and gifts for children. Additional in-kind and food aid was also available.

## Volunteers

Program	Sector	Program Value	Number of Beneficiaries	Description
Day of Good and grants for Caritas School Clubs	Capacity Building	PLN 500,200	5,021	Caritas organized the distribution of grants for the implementation of activation and formation activities carried out by Caritas School Clubs.
Overcoming barriers to the development of Caritas long-term volunteering in Poland	Capacity Building	PLN 131,000	73,507	Caritas conducted a capacity building program of its volunteer structure by mapping good practices, implementing facilitation activities, conducting research and creating Caritas volunteer strategies. This program was financed by the National Freedom Institute – Centre for Civil Society Development (NIW-CRSO).
Conventions of volunteer coordinators	Capacity Building	PLN 20,000	60	Caritas conducted capacity building for volunteer coordinators and supported their work with Caritas volunteers. During the meetings, coordinators exchanged experiences, built their competencies, and participated in trainings (including design thinking and youth engagement based on a diagnosis of their needs).

SELECTED PROGRAMS CONDUCTED IN POLAND

# The 2024 Flood



**PLN 75,000,000**

was raised by Caritas to help flood victims



over **1600 tons**

of humanitarian aid distributed by Caritas in the first weeks of the floods



**PLN 19,032,000**

is the total value of 3,172 prepaid cards distributed to flood victims

Faced with the catastrophic flooding that hit the southwestern part of Poland in 2024, Caritas Poland activated the procedures it had developed, convened a crisis response team and held a meeting with diocesan Caritas branch directors. The organization's structure made it possible to provide a coordinated and immediate response. The first stage was humanitarian aid providing essential supplies such as food, water, hygiene products, dehumidifiers, generators and tools. Caritas volunteers joined in to help. More than 4,000 people participated in sorting donations during in-kind collections, packing and transporting packages. Some 100 volunteers from various Caritas branches across Poland also worked directly in the flooded areas, clearing houses, removing mud from basements, cleaning up neighbourhoods, or scraping off plaster. These activities were performed in Łądek Zdrój, Kłodzko, Stronie Śląskie, Ołdrzychowice Kozkie, Trzebieszowice, Nysa, Głucholazy, as well as other affected places.

As part of its urgent financial support in the first days after the disaster, Caritas Poland donated PLN 400,000 to help those affected by the flood. The funds went to diocesan Caritas

branches so that they could meet the most urgent needs of their community. Caritas Poland also launched a fundraiser on the caritas.pl website. In addition, a nationwide collection in churches was launched on September 22, called for by the Chairman of the Polish Bishops' Conference, Archbishop Tadeusz Wojda SAC. The funds were distributed to the victims through Caritas Poland. Furthermore, Caritas Poland provided in-kind assistance, organizing the "Parcel for Flood Victims" campaign, a collection of the most necessary items from business donors, and a collection of food and hygiene products at Biedronka stores. Through collections held in churches and contributions from individual and business donors, Caritas raised PLN 75 million to help flood victims, and launched a long-term aid program which included the distribution of 3,000 prepaid cards worth PLN 6,000 each. People who benefitted from the aid – the elderly, large families, people with disabilities, and single parents – were able to decide how to use the funds at their own discretion. The cards were provided by pre-trained committees operating in each of the six diocesan Caritas branches in the flood-affected areas: the dioceses of Świdnica, Opole, Legnica, Bielsko-Żywiec, Wrocław and Zielona Góra-Gorzów.



*This help is very much needed – I need to buy a window frame, a door, hire an electrician, plaster the walls.... Some of the money on the card will go for clothes, since I have nothing left.*

A retiree



*I will use the money for renovations, as we need new doors, heating, windows, floors. My husband and I want to sincerely thank Caritas for taking care of this, I have no idea how we would have managed otherwise.*

A retiree



*We will use this money to buy a new furnace for heating, carry out repairs to the house. I'm fighting back tears now, but I would like to thank you from the bottom of my heart for your help.*

A resident of Głucholazy



SELECTED PROGRAMS CONDUCTED IN POLAND

# For Everyday Shopping



**11,000 seniors** benefited from financial aid in the form of prepaid cards in the 7th edition of the program



**PLN 22,000,000** is the value of support received by the beneficiaries of the 7th edition of the program



**4,000 volunteers** supported the beneficiaries of the program

Due to increasing life expectancy, the proportion of seniors in need of support is also growing in our country. These demographic changes pose new challenges for the society, to which Caritas Poland responds by engaging in a wide range of activities aimed at the elderly.

“For Everyday Shopping” is an annual program carried out by Caritas Poland in cooperation with the Biedronka Foundation and diocesan Caritas branches. It aims to provide meaningful help to seniors – those who are lonely, in need of material support, affected by social and societal exclusion. In total, 43 diocesan Caritas branches were involved in the 7th edition of the program organized in 2024. Regular financial support of PLN 200 per month on a prepaid card was provided to 11,000 seniors for 10 months. The card, provided to eligible seniors, is used to pay for purchases at the Biedronka store chain. Seniors themselves decide which products they want to purchase.

Diocesan Caritas branches admit seniors to the program based on eligibility criteria. To participate in the program, one must be at least 60 years old and have a monthly income of less than PLN 1,700 net for single

seniors, who make up as much as 70% of all participants.

According to a survey of card users, 75% experience problems related to loneliness and lack of support. As a result, an important part of the “For Everyday Shopping” program is the engagement of 4,000 volunteers. Volunteers not only help seniors with shopping, but accompany them, talk to them, and spend time with them which contributes to relationship building. This has a positive impact on the mental well-being of the elderly, who are particularly vulnerable to mood drops and depression. In order to improve volunteers’ competencies related to providing care and activating seniors, training courses for volunteers and volunteer leaders are organized at selected diocesan Caritas branches.

Participants in the program say that the card allows them to expand their diets by purchasing products that they previously had to deny themselves, and to adjust their diets according to their health. With the extra money, participants can afford small pleasures like fruits or sweets. The card also allows users to rearrange the use of funds in their household budget and allocate a larger amount to buy medicines, for example.

An important aspect of the program, in terms of the dignity of participants, is the form of assistance – the card offers freedom of choice and does not stigmatize. Seniors can pay at the store like any other customer.



*For someone else, PLN 200 may not be much, but for me – it saves my life.*

Karol, a beneficiary of the program



**77% of seniors** who benefit from the program have incomes below PLN 1,500

**63% of card beneficiaries** cannot count on financial assistance from their family

**10% of beneficiaries** have no family at all

**73% of the program's beneficiaries** are women

SELECTED PROGRAMS CONDUCTED IN POLAND

# Wings and Two Talents



**669 children** received support under scholarship programs in the 2024/2025 school year



over **PLN 1,120,000** was donated to Caritas for scholarships in the 2024/2025 school year



nearly **PLN 22,000,000** has been donated to Caritas for scholarships for children since the program was launched 20 years ago

The next edition of the Wings and Two Talents scholarship programs, which support elementary and high school students, started in the 2024/2025 school year.

The Wings program was created for students who need support due to their family's financial situation. Among the scholarship recipients are children with disabilities, children from families in which a parent is ill or has a disability, or one of the parents has died. The assistance, depending on need, consists in providing school meals, clothing, school supplies, and subsidizing school trips and excursions. It also includes paid compensatory and extra-curricular activities or remedial classes. The scholarship provides children not only with access to school materials and additional classes, but also with financial support that helps them rebuild a sense of stability and security. The scholarship amount is PLN 1,500.

The Two Talents scholarship program supports successful students, for example those excelling in sports, music, or acting. Thanks to the scholarship, children can participate in activities that help develop their passions (e.g. sports practices, interest groups), take part in trips and

competitions, and buy items needed to pursue their passions (e.g. musical instruments or sports equipment). The scholarship programs are not only emergency aid, but also an investment in the future of the youngest, enabling children to develop their passions and talents. By providing young people with the opportunity to grow in their chosen field, Caritas strengthens their belief that it is worthwhile to pursue goals. The scholarship amount is PLN 2,000.

Participants are admitted to the programs by diocesan Caritas branches. Eligible criteria include the family's income and social situation, as well as that of the child's interests, skills and past achievements. Students are nominated by school educators and parishes.

In the 2024/2025 school year, 431 scholarships were awarded under the Wings program for a total of PLN 646,500, and 238 scholarships under the Two Talents program for a total of PLN 476,000. Since 2022, support under the scholarship programs has also been provided to children and youth from Ukraine who are continuing their education in Polish schools.



*I have always wanted to play football, but the cost of trips and equipment was too high for my family. Thanks to the scholarship I can now develop and compete for a place on the team!*

Jakub, a recipient of the Two Talents program scholarship



*Rowing has taught me perseverance and teamwork. Thanks to the scholarship, I can participate in additional practices and compete at the highest level. My dream is to represent Poland at international competitions one day.*

A recipient of the Two Talents program scholarship



*My parents could not afford additional English lessons, but thanks to the scholarship I now have the opportunity to attend a course in English. I hope to go to study abroad someday!*

Ola, a recipient of the Wings program scholarship



*Thanks to the support, I can take additional math classes. I hope it will help me fulfil my dream of studying at a polytechnic university.*

Kamil, a recipient of the Wings program scholarship

SELECTED PROGRAMS CONDUCTED IN POLAND

# Caritas Laudato Si



over **60** Laudato Si Green Embassy workshops were held in 2024



**2,700** people participated in the events



**16** Caritas Laudato Si Communities in Action engaged in local initiatives

Caritas Laudato Si is a nationwide educational and community project implemented by Caritas Poland from 2019 to 2025, which responds to the call of Pope Francis in the encyclical “Laudato si”. Its goal is the practical implementation of integral ecology, an approach to caring for the created world that combines environmental, social, spiritual and economic issues. The project serves to awaken awareness, strengthen communities and promote concrete actions to protect people and nature – especially in local Catholic communities.

It is based on the belief that the environmental crisis and the social crisis are intertwined, and that concern for the environment must go hand in hand with concern for human beings, especially the poor and excluded. The project includes a wide range of activities, divided into four main areas: education, spiritual formation, practical activities, and community engagement.

Education is provided through workshops, publications, meetings and information campaigns. In 2024, more than 60 Caritas Laudato Si Green Embassy workshops and two events – Laudato Si Week and St. Francis Sunday – were attended by more than 2,700 people. The events

focused on lifestyle change, circular economy, responsible consumption, biodiversity, and climate justice. A special place was given to hands-on workshops – for example, gardening, sewing (including community sewing rooms where excluded people can also integrate with local communities), cooking, beekeeping and upcycling – that teach sustainable living through concrete actions.

In the area of spiritual formation, scripts for services, retreats and catechetical materials were produced, as well as publications combining Christian spirituality and ecology. The project included a total of 35 educational and facilitation materials for Caritas Laudato Si facilitators to use. A special role was played by praying for ecological conversion and reflecting together on the Gospel of creation.

Practical activities included, among others, the establishment of parish and community gardens, the installation of rainwater harvesting tanks, the creation of compost bins and swap points. The most important activity, however, is the building of Caritas Laudato Si Communities in Action (16 have been established so far), places where local communities can not only integrate among

themselves but also create spaces for the excluded.

The activation of local communities is an important feature of the project – the idea is that Caritas should not only help but become the heart of local change. The project involves parishes, schools, housewives' clubs, youth and senior communities, as well as migrants. This creates networks of relationships in which ecological action becomes a place of integration, solidarity and faith practiced in everyday life.



**45% of Poles** admit to throwing away food

**at least 1 billion meals** per day were wasted in households around the world in 2024

**all people affected by hunger** would receive **1.3 meals** per day from wasted food





# The Activities of Diocesan Caritas Branches

Caritas in Poland is a network of independent diocesan Caritas branches cooperating with Caritas Poland and with each other, both within the framework of the nationwide programs coordinated by Caritas Poland and the exchange of experience, program councils, and network co-responsibility in emergency situations, such as last year's flood.

One of the most important advantages of the network interaction is the ability to reach people in need throughout the country, including in small towns. This goal is achieved through a number of facilities and aid centers and a variety of programs. To ensure that aid is provided continuously and professionally, Caritas in Poland employs nearly 10,000 workers. They are supported by volunteers who engage in campaigns and volunteer services to help people in need.

## An Overview of Diocesan Caritas Branches

Individual diocesan Caritas branches differ significantly in structure, activities, local conditions, and the specific group of people they serve. Although all the activities are part of the ministry of mercy and are aimed at providing support to various groups of aid recipients, the organizational and institutional capacities differ from region to region, as does the experience of individual Caritas branches in a given area of assistance. The table opposite – which shows the number of employees, volunteers and people served, as well as the value of programs and the use of public funds – shows that the individual numbers are not correlated with the size of the diocese, but are largely driven by the work Caritas has been able to do. For example, the expanded capacity of dioceses in eastern Poland is a result of the escalation of the war in Ukraine and the wave of migration that followed; the size of some support in the dioceses of southwestern Poland is largely due to the emergency response to the floods.

The data on diocesan Caritas branch activities in 2024 presented on the following pages come from a questionnaire completed by 42 diocesan branches.

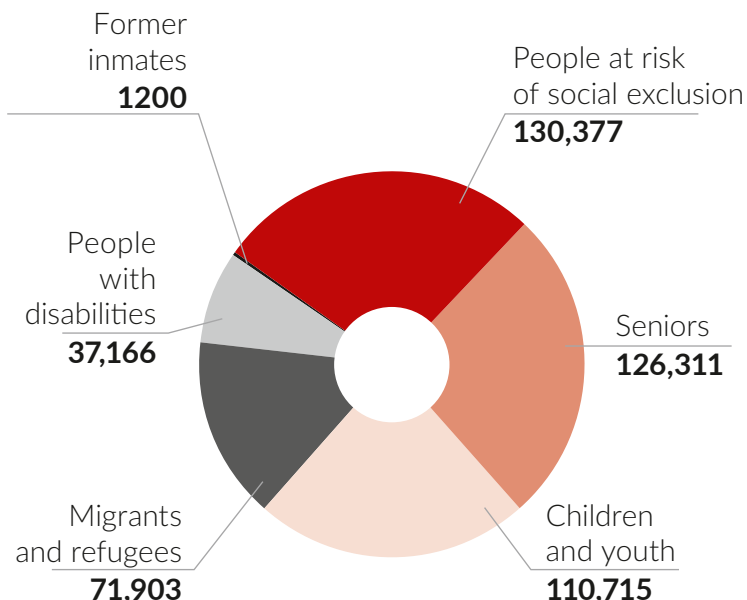
Caritas of the Diocese/ /Archdiocese	Number of employees working for diocesan Caritas branches	Number of volunteers active in 2024	Value of programs (PLN)	Value of aid from public funds (in PLN)	Estimated number of aid recipients
Kielce	1,257	2,570	125,404,000	115,071,000	39,000
Katowice	484	1,531	82,319,746	49,348,276	51,441
Przemyśl	739	2,500	79,893,805	70,425,405	18,725
Opole	509	3,500	73,500,000	49,500,000	56,000
Kraków	610	1,740	52,000,000	23,631,803	62,488
Warsaw	270	881	45,996,580	32,019,257	21,000
Rzeszów	305	8,000	45,058,195	22,044,137	10,000
Gdańsk	580	2,500	44,000,000	36,000,000	20,000
Elk	350	2,383	44,000,000	5,827,060	17,842
Gliwice	261	935	37,935,811	12,557,565	33,128
Tarnów	318	3,200	36,643,916	22,800,940	5,955
Warmia	236	1,500	34,000,000	24,000,000	14,000
Sandomierz	308	2,905	32,370,422	15,935,434	17,654
Warsaw-Praga	350	2,135	29,411,115	23,994,191	11,401
Płock	320	1,320	26,120,966	24,296,443	4,426
Siedlce	201	4,182	20,190,802	15,120,566	7,634
Łomża	77	3,000	18,138,001	14,622,019	12,500
Radom	140	3,131	16,970,260	8,800,669	19,750
Częstochowa	50	152	16,719,575	6,358,760	7,100
Koszalin-Kołobrzeg	100	781	16,582,715	13,283,884	7,575
Szczecin-Kamienna	150	740	16,450,000	8,320,000	25,000
Białystok	136	840	15,769,370	10,490,265	4,500
Gniezno	94	1,100	14,437,847	11,255,109	18,500
Kalisz	125	120	13,782,998	7,714,630	8,254
Drohiczyn	50	900	13,079,630	12,795,630	15,000
Poznań	316	2,820	11,589,313	8,029,427	6,248
Łódź	85	3,071	11,200,000	5,780,250	6,700
Lublin	67	104	10,045,198	6,509,687	7,000
Włocławek	79	350	8,623,503	7,549,000	22,100
Sosnowiec	85	2,500	8,500,000	8,207,930	6,397
Bydgoszcz	84	779	7,850,217	3,223,071	22,126
Świdnica	52	152	7,033,442	5,513,572	19,520
Zamość-Lubaczów	38	2,000	6,895,412	792,760	6,546
Bielsko-Żywiec	33	900	6,151,428	1,450,000	11,800
Pelplin	25	1,560	5,739,500	3,869,000	15,000
Zielona Góra-Gorzów	26	3,000	4,852,267	4,196,571	20,000
Łowicz	53	330	4,380,319	3,603,845	1,632
Legnica	238	960	1,878,690	176,500	8,800
Elbląg	3	400	1,568,000	206,970	3,100
Field Ordinariate of the Polish Army	1	20	1,000,000	-	3,000
Przemyśl-Warsaw	-	15	80,000	-	400
Wrocław*	430	2,000			30,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,635</b>	<b>73,507</b>	<b>1,048,163,043</b>	<b>695,321,626</b>	<b>699,242</b>

\*Caritas of the Archdiocese of Wrocław did not provide some of the data by the time of the publication of the 2024 Caritas Report.

## Caritas Beneficiaries in Poland

Children and families, seniors, the sick and disabled, people experiencing homelessness, and migrants and refugees are the most important groups of recipients of Caritas assistance in Poland. Although diocesan Caritas branches provide support to all those in need, the scope and intensity of support varies from one Caritas branch to another for specific groups. As shown in the summary, in 2024 the largest group of recipients of assistance were those at risk of social exclusion. Exclusion can affect the poor, people with disabilities or the elderly, but it is primarily a problem for people experiencing homelessness. The second largest group supported was seniors. This is a result of the intensification and variety of assistance offered resulting from demographic changes in the country. Currently, seniors in Poland account for almost 26 percent of the population, with the percentage of the elderly steadily increasing. A slightly smaller group of aid recipients were children and youth to whom diocesan Caritas provides various types of support.

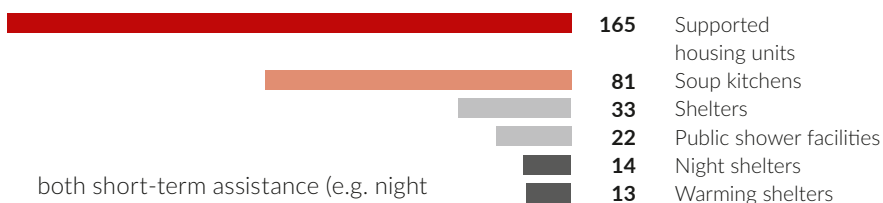
Size of Caritas beneficiary groups in Poland



## Assistance to People Experiencing Homelessness

Caritas provides people without a place to stay with multidimensional support. Such assistance is difficult and complex, requiring not only the provision of shelter, but also various specialized services. This is necessary because only comprehensive action can guide a person experiencing a crisis towards independence and fully reintegrate them with the society. This unique work is carried out by diocesan Caritas branches which offer

both short-term assistance (e.g. night shelters, public shower facilities, soup kitchens) and long-term assistance by providing a place to stay in various types of shelters, as well as therapy, activation or employment readiness programs.



**165**

the number of supported housing units for people experiencing homelessness, the elderly and people with disabilities



**163**

the number of other facilities and support centers for people experiencing homelessness run by diocesan Caritas branches across Poland

Download the pdf version of the *Homelessness in Poland* report



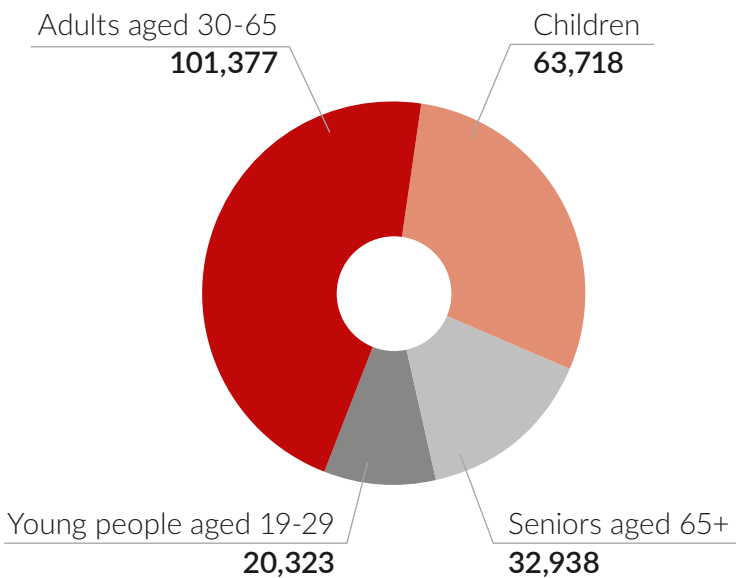


# Food Security

Food aid is a form of support that benefits almost every group of people served by Caritas. It is provided to nearly half a million people, which is why diocesan Caritas branches raise funds from a variety of sources: public (EU and national) funds, business partners under the Caritas Food Pantry program, as well as regular actions and fundraising such as the Easter and Christmas "Yes. I'm Helping!" campaigns.

Logistical facilities, qualified staff, volunteer support and, above all, experience in helping the poorest and most vulnerable people ensure that the actions taken are effective and benefit people who need them the most.

**The number of beneficiaries of European Funds for Food Aid at Caritas by age**



over

**3 million**

hot meals served by 81\* Caritas soup kitchens

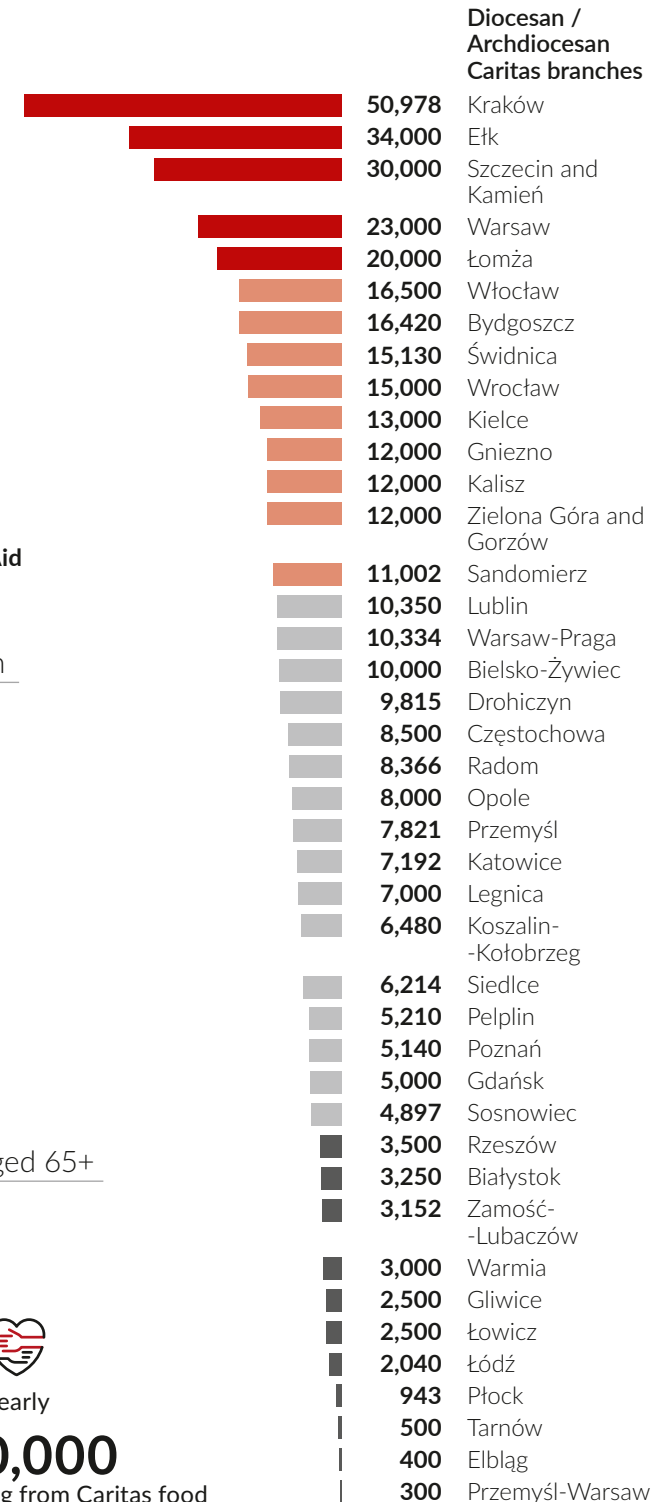


nearly

**500,000**

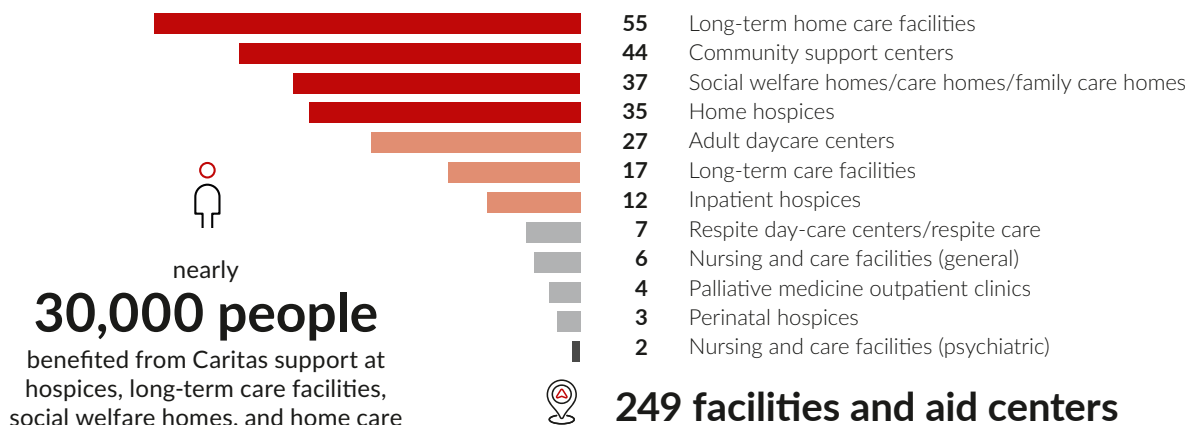
people benefiting from Caritas food aid in Poland under all programs

**The number of food aid recipients at individual diocesan Caritas branches**



\*The number of soup kitchens is provided based on a separate June 2024 survey by Caritas Poland.

## Long-Term and Hospice Care

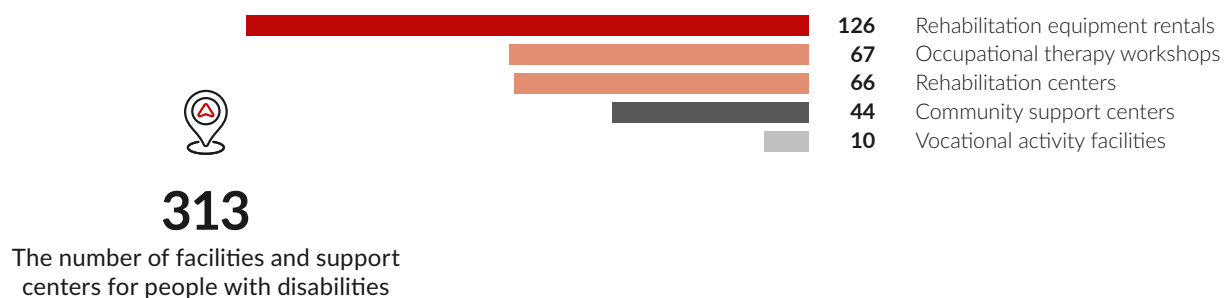


Due to current demographic processes, helping the elderly, disabled, dependent and people in need of care plays an increasingly important role in Caritas' work and mission. Caritas-run facilities providing assistance to the elderly and sick have different profiles to meet the different needs of the

people they serve. Long-term care facilities provide 24/7 support for people who are chronically ill or have health-related limitations in independent living, but do not require hospitalization. Social welfare homes, on the other hand, are designed for people who need help with daily living but do not require medical

supervision. Hospice facilities provide support and hope to people who require quality care and medical support due to serious illness.

## Support for People with Disabilities

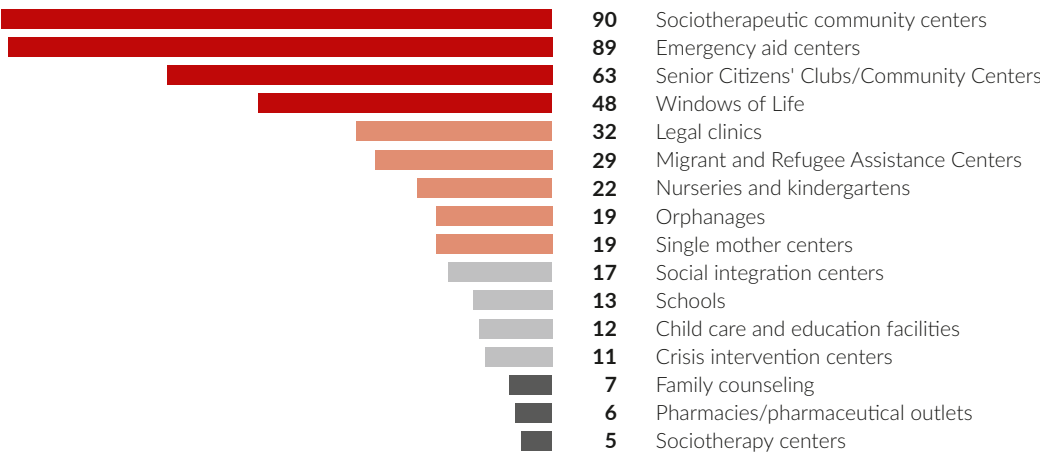


Diocesan Caritas branches operate a number of support facilities for people with disabilities, offering various forms of assistance. Occupational therapy workshops are day-care facilities for people with disabilities, providing occupational therapy for social and vocational rehabilitation. Community support centers are day-care facilities for people with multiple disabilities,

intellectual disabilities and mental disorders. Vocational activity facilities employ people with disabilities, enabling them to acquire and improve vocational skills. Social welfare homes are 24/7 care and treatment facilities designed for people with more severe disabilities or elderly persons who require constant care. Rehabilitation and educational centers combine

educational and therapeutic functions. Their participants are children and youth with intellectual and physical disabilities.

# Aid to Children and Families and Other Social Groups



 **384 facilities and aid centers**

Assistance to children and families provided by Caritas involves a range of activities aimed at protecting and educating children and youth. It is addressed especially to those who have a difficult financial or family situation.

Diocesan Caritas branches have been involved in helping children and youth for many years. Year-round forms of assistance include the operation of a number of facilities, such as schools, kindergartens, socio-therapeutic and educational centers and community centers, supporting beneficiaries in their development and education. A special form of assistance are Windows of Life that give the youngest children a chance to find a safe home, as well as single mother's centers. The latter form of support can be utilized by mothers (or fathers) with young children who find themselves in a desperate family situation or without a place to live. In Caritas-run centers, they find safe shelter, psychological support that teaches them how to build good relations with the child, support in getting an education, finding a job and becoming independent.

Diocesan Caritas branches also engage in a number of programs and campaigns targeting children. Among the largest and most recognizable is the annual Caritas Holiday Action, an initiative designed for children and youth from families that, for financial reasons, cannot provide summer vacation options. An equally important form of assistance are scholarship programs for especially-talented children and young people coming from families in difficult living or material situations.

Many Caritas initiatives aimed at the youngest receive funding through the annual Christmas Aid Program for Children (WDPD) campaign. This is the longest-running Caritas campaign which has been in existence since 1994 and whose most recognizable symbol are the Caritas candles distributed throughout Poland (mainly in parishes) during Advent. In 2024, the 21st edition of the campaign was held in Poland. The funds raised were used by diocesan Caritas branches and participating parishes to support children by providing them with summer vacation, free meals, scholarships, rehabilitation and medical treatment, and to support missionary works targeting children.



Last year, 41 diocesan Caritas branches joined the campaign (the number is based on a questionnaire filled out by diocesan Caritas branches). Each diocesan Caritas branch independently decides how to use funds raised from the distribution of candles. This ensures that aid is tailored to the needs of children in each diocese. Nearly 50 million candles have been distributed since the campaign began.



# Caritas Facilities and Aid Centers

Type of facility	Number
European Funds for Food Aid Program distribution points	776
Caritas Food Pantry Points	455
Supported housing units	165
Rehabilitation equipment rentals	126
Sociotherapeutic community centers	90
Emergency aid centers	89
Soup kitchens*	81
Occupational therapy workshops	67
Rehabilitation centers	66
Senior Citizens' Clubs/Community Centers	63
Long-term home care facilities	55
Windows of Life	48
Community support centers	44
Social welfare homes/care homes/family care homes	37
Home hospices	35
Shelters	33
Legal clinics	32
Migrant and Refugee Assistance Centers	29
Adult daycare centers	27
Nurseries and kindergartens	22
Public shower facilities	22
Orphanages	19
Single mother centers	19
Social integration centers	17
Long-term care facilities	17
Night shelters	14
Schools	13
Warming shelters	13
Child care and education facilities	12
Home hospices	12
Crisis intervention centers	11
Vocational activity facilities	10
Family clinics	7
Respite day-care centers/respite care	7
Pharmacies/pharmaceutical outlets	6
Nursing and care facilities (general)	6
Sociotherapy centers	5
Palliative medicine outpatient clinics	4
Perinatal hospices	3
Nursing and care facilities (psychiatric)	2

\*The number of soup kitchens is provided based on a separate June 2025 survey by Caritas Poland.



**1,231**

European Funds for Food Aid Program and Caritas Food Pantry distribution points

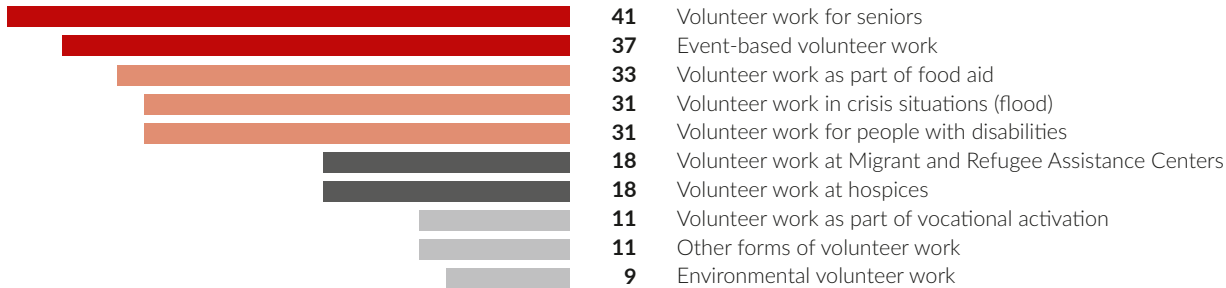


**1,328**

other facilities and aid centers

# Caritas Volunteer Program

The number of diocesan Caritas branches whose activities are supported by particular forms of volunteer work



Caritas Poland and diocesan Caritas branches form a community – of not just employees but also volunteers – who want to serve people in need. Volunteers range from schoolchildren and students to senior citizens who are committed to helping others, proving that there is more good in the world. Volunteers are assigned to aid facilities and regular programs (e.g. hospice volunteers or senior volunteers engaged in the “For Everyday Shopping” program), as well as event volunteers, joining forces during various actions (e.g., the “Yes. I’m Helping” food collection) and crises. Caritas volunteers have demonstrated their strength and great potential on more than one occasion – including after the outbreak of a full-scale war in Ukraine in 2022 and during the floods that hit southwestern Poland in 2024. Thanks to their support, it was possible not only to collect in-kind donations for victims, but also to deliver assistance efficiently. For example, a strong flood volunteer effort was organized, among others, by the Caritas branch of the Diocese of Opole where the floods caused massive damage. Over time, some of the volunteers helping on an ad hoc basis joined the Caritas staff team.

## CARITAS VOLUNTEER STRUCTURE

-  **4,124**  
Parish Caritas Teams
-  **2,977**  
School Caritas Clubs
-  **36**  
Pre-School Caritas Clubs
-  **29**  
Caritas Volunteer Centers
-  **7** Academic Caritas Teams

 **73,507**  
the number of Caritas volunteers in 2024







# Caritas Aid Abroad

In 2024, in the area of humanitarian and development aid provided abroad, Caritas Poland maintained its leadership position among Polish humanitarian organizations, focusing its efforts on supporting the most vulnerable, those affected by brutal wars, socio-economic crises, or sudden natural disasters. While assuming the role of an expert and leader in humanitarian action, Caritas has sought to maximize the effectiveness and speed of its relief interventions. As a result, last year it reached 240,000 people in 27 countries around the world, implementing 57 projects worth a total of nearly PLN 49 million.

Last year, the main geographic directions of Caritas Poland's involvement were countries in the Middle East and Eastern Europe. In addition, Caritas continued its programs in Latin America and Central Asia and, through cooperation with several national Caritas organizations, strengthened its involvement in Sub-Saharan Africa. It has specifically targeted regions affected by major ongoing humanitarian crises, including forgotten regions that do not get attention from the media or public.

In carrying out these tasks, Caritas Poland emphasized the importance of helping in a way that develops the potential and strengthens the independence of participants, teaching people to fish, rather than just giving a fish, as the proverb says. This approach was implemented by incorporating elements of education, psychosocial support and providing grants for the development of family businesses that provide a minimum of self-sufficiency in communities affected by permanent crises.

In carrying out its activities, Caritas Poland relied on the active role of partners within the Caritas Internationalis network, in line with humanitarian principles, implementing programs together with local partners who best know the needs of local communities.

## Gaza Strip. Urgent and Challenging Assistance

The Middle East is a region racked by armed conflicts affecting people's lives. The people of Gaza live in dire conditions, and delivering aid is a huge challenge. By 2023, the situation in this small, isolated region became dramatic – there was no food or water, people were living under rubble without access to medical aid, and nearly half a million people, mostly children, were on the brink of starvation and death.

Caritas Poland faced the difficult challenge of organizing effective aid to Gaza residents on a wider scale. In 2024, Caritas supported the Emergency Appeal with funds and provided financial support to families. In addition, Caritas implemented



an immediate relief project including medical, psychosocial, and cash assistance. Caritas has also continued its Family to Family program, enabling people most in need to purchase essential items, mainly food, although access to it is severely limited. The value of last year's support for the Gaza Strip exceeded PLN 3 million.

## Family to Family – Proven Solutions

Assistance under the Family to Family program was also provided to the most vulnerable families in Syria and Lebanon. In Syria, which has been mired in civil war for 14 years, 90 percent of the population lives in poverty and more than two-thirds require immediate humanitarian assistance. The situation is no better in Lebanon, where the so-called Third Lebanon War has been ongoing since 2024. Aid provided under the Family to Family program consists of monthly cash assistance that allow families to meet their most urgent needs. Particularly noteworthy is the program's component aimed at those wishing to open small family businesses, which provides an opportunity for participants to become self-reliant and independent of outside assistance.

Caritas Poland is increasingly involved in relief provided in the Livelihood sector, offering participants the tools and skills to survive a crisis situation. A similar goal is pursued by Caritas Poland through programs supporting mental health, which benefited nearly 13,000 people in 2024.

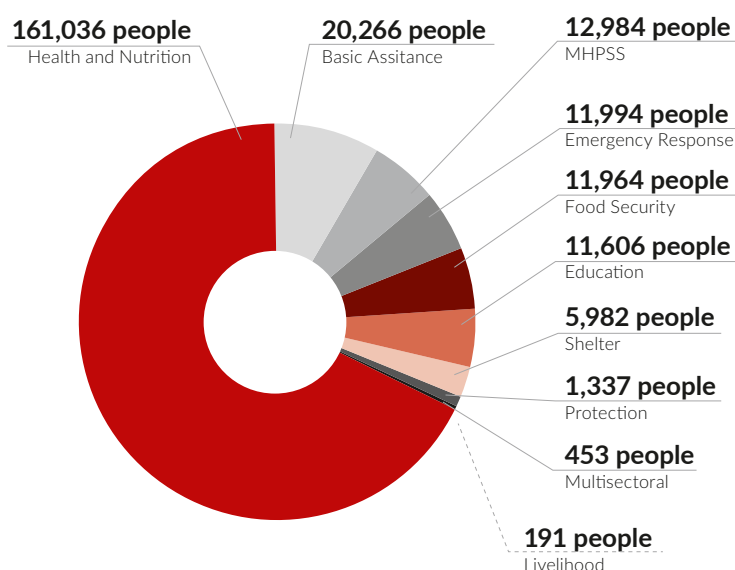
## Ukraine. Assistance that Gives Hope For the Future

Programs conducted in the mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) sector are implemented where war-related experiences have left a painful mark on people's mental

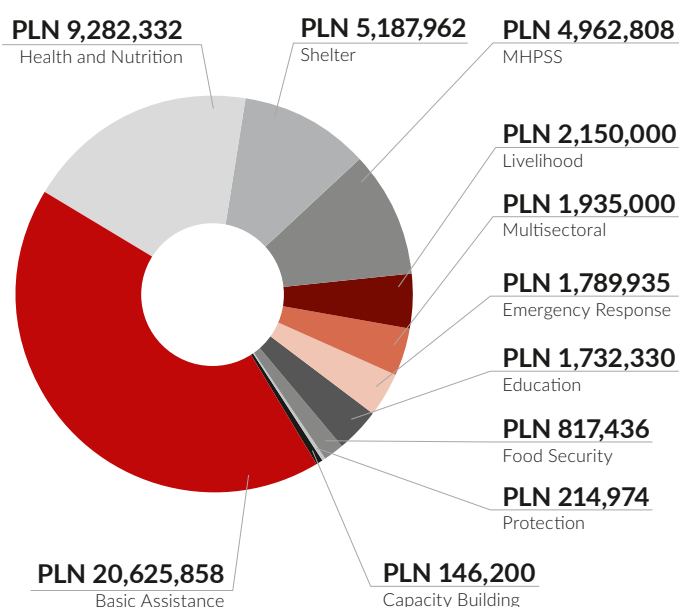
health. In 2024, such measures were required for residents of Ukraine, among whom one in four suffer from poor mental health and have symptoms indicating the onset of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). In August 2024, in cooperation with Caritas-Spes Ukraine, Caritas Poland launched a nearly two-year program to improve the mental well-being of Ukrainian residents through the opening of Family Assistance Centers

in Zhytomyr, Vinnytsia, Kharkiv and Odesa. In addition, Caritas Poland organizes summer vacations and respite trips for Ukrainian children suffering from the effects of war, and supports the operation of day-care centers for people with disabilities. This is a unique investment in the future of the country which will need citizens capable of rebuilding the country and their own lives after the war ends.

The number of foreign aid beneficiaries by support sector



The value of support provided by Caritas Poland by foreign aid sector



## Sub-Saharan Africa. New Program Opening

One of Caritas Poland's new engagements last year was Sub-Saharan Africa, where the majority of people are experiencing hunger, lack clean water, and where ongoing conflicts are resulting in mass migrations and high epidemic risk. The difficult social and economic-political situation in this part of the world is also compounded by the threats posed by climate change. To meet the new challenges, Caritas Poland has introduced assistance programs within the health and nutrition sector – the largest in terms of the number of people benefitting and the second largest in terms of the amount of support (see pie charts on page 31). In September 2024, Caritas Poland launched an aid program in the Tigray Region of Ethiopia suffering from a catastrophic level of malnutrition and high epidemic risk due to the recent civil war and the destruction of sanitation infrastructure. Together with Caritas Ethiopia, Caritas Poland has implemented a nutrition program for nearly 7,300 children in 34 elementary schools. In addition, Caritas has renovated and built new water and sanitation infrastructure in schools, which is particularly important for girls.

## Crises We Must Not Forget

Even major humanitarian crises lose the world's attention if they last long. The UN's list of the world's most forgotten crises includes Venezuela, among other countries. As a result of the economic collapse, life in the country has become extremely difficult and has forced people to emigrate. Nearby Colombia, which itself faces many problems, has already received 3 million Venezuelans. In 2024, Caritas Poland continued its food and livelihood assistance projects to Venezuelan refugees residing in Colombia with support from its proven partner, Caritas Colombia. The program is also supported by Jerónimo Martins. Thanks to cooperation within the Caritas network, more than 4,000 people in dire life situations received the necessary support.

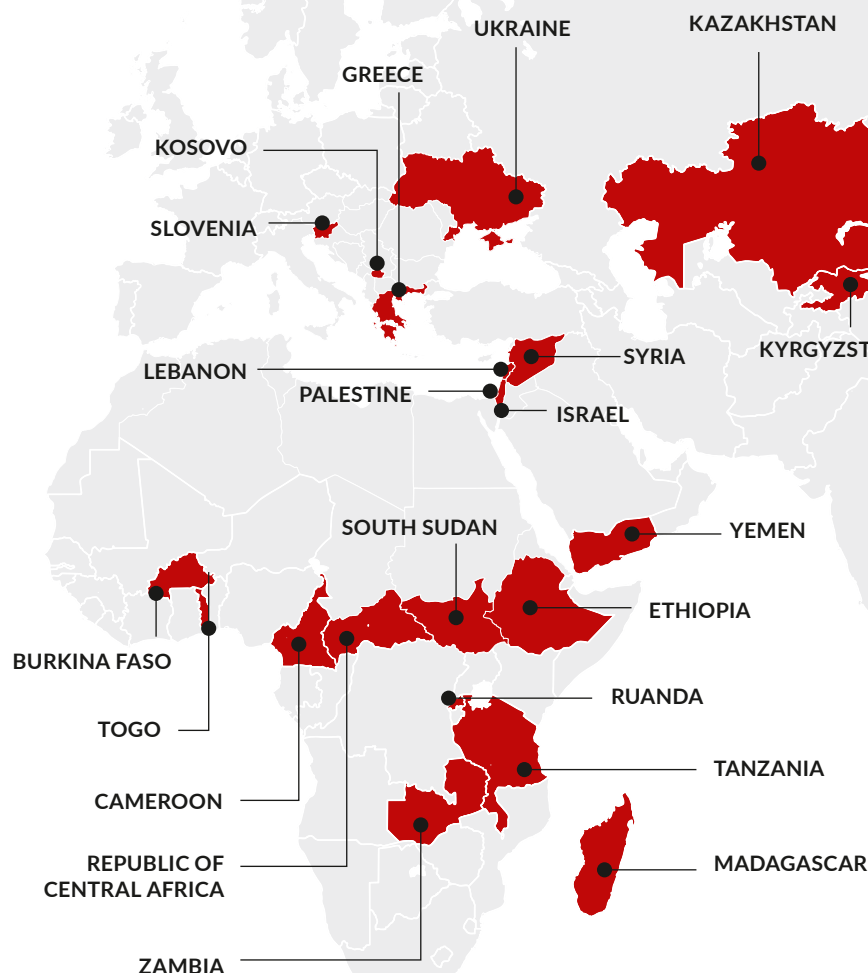
Yemen, the poorest country in the Middle East, is also facing problems. The civil war that has been ongoing since 2014 has had a devastating impact on people's lives – which is why Caritas Poland, together with partner organizations, has been implementing humanitarian projects in Yemen since 2018. Caritas Poland established a stand-alone mission in 2022 and 2024, supported five medical facilities in Aden Province, mainly in maternal and child healthcare.

Nepal has also needed help for many years. The country is still feeling the effects of the dramatic earthquake 10 years ago. Residents urgently need mechanisms to deal with natural disasters, which are extremely common in this part of the world. Caritas Poland continued programs to support medical facilities, improve living conditions and implement disaster management in 2024, jointly benefiting nearly 45,000 people.



**The main sectors of aid activities:**

- Basic Assistance
- Health and Nutrition
- Shelter
- MHPSS
- Livelihood
- Multisectoral
- Emergency Response
- Education
- Food Security
- Protection
- Capacity Building



## Europe

📊 PLN 22,569,889

## Asia

📊 PLN 355,295

## Middle East

📊 PLN 24,042,351

## Africa

📊 PLN 1,095,524



# Programs Conducted Abroad in 2024

## Africa

Country	Sector	Project	Implementing partner	Number of beneficiaries	Value of support
Burkina Faso	Food Security	Food support and distribution of hygiene items to the most vulnerable groups, displaced people and refugees in the Diocese of Ouagadougou.	Caritas Burkina Faso	1,687	PLN 258,000
Burkina Faso	Health and Nutrition	Clinical nutrition for malnourished children under the age of 2, as well as food support and distribution of hygiene items to their families in the Diocese of Ouagadougou.	Caritas Burkina Faso	596	PLN 113,666
Ethiopia	Education	Child nutrition programs, renovation and construction of water and sanitation infrastructure in 34 elementary school in the Tigray Region.	Caritas Ethiopia	7,388	PLN 253,781
Cameroon	Education	Increasing the capacity of an elementary school by expanding and finishing the second floor.	Congregation of the Missionary Sisters of the Catholic Apostolate	400	PLN 86,000
Cameroon	Health and Nutrition	Finishing and adapting a medical center emergency room.	Congregation of the Sisters of the Most Holy Soul of Christ the Lord	32874	PLN 80,427
Cameroon	Education	Adding capacity to the photovoltaic installation for a community of sisters implementing aid activities (running a hospital, kindergarten and school).	Congregation of the Sisters of the Angels	370	PLN 18,060
Madagascar	Education	Equipment of a dormitory for children.	Diocese of Mananjara	756	PLN 19,350
Republic of Central Africa	Health and Nutrition	Purchase of equipment for a healthcare center.	Blessed John Beyzym Health Center	5,930	PLN 55,027
Ruanda	Education	Construction of a canteen with a kitchen for pre-school and elementary school children.	Congregation of the Sisters of the Angels based in Nyakinama	81	PLN 43,000
South Sudan	Education	School meal programs for female students living in a boarding school in Manguo.	Visitation Sisters of Don Bosco	100	PLN 60,000
South Sudan	Basic Assistance	Support for teachers' salaries in the form of food packages.	Holy Cross Parish	547	PLN 31,784
Tanzania	Education	Purchase of equipment for a multipurpose school (including sewing machines and supplies, cooking equipment).	Mwandoya Parish	15-25	PLN 24,420
Togo	Food Security	Purchase of food and cleaning supplies for Peuls nomads and refugees from Benin.	St. John the Baptist Parish	559	PLN 43,000
Zambia	Health and Nutrition	School meals program for students of a vocational carpentry school in Kazembe.	Salesian Carpentry Vocational School	30	PLN 9,009

## Latin America

Country	Sector	Project	Implementing partner	Number of beneficiaries	Value of support
Argentina	Basic Assistance	Purchase of a generator for a nursing home for seniors.	Congregation of Albertine Sisters	44	PLN 60,000
Argentina	Shelter	Installation of an electrical network in a house in Tres Islates used as a community center.	Congregation of the Daughters of Divine Love	76	PLN 48,181
Argentina	Food Security	The "Cup of Milk" program and free meals for the poorest in Rancul, La Pampa Province.	St. Joseph Parish based in Rancul	50	PLN 43,000
Argentina	Food Security	The "Cup of Milk" program and food aid for poor families and Guarani Indians.	Parish of the Sacred Heart of Jesus	1,211	PLN 36,000
Bolivia	Education	Educational support and free meals for children at the My Future Center.	Congregation of the Sisters of St. Thérèse of the Child Jesus	273	PLN 60,000
Bolivia	Education	Supporting the Copernicus education and training center in Santa Cruz in providing educational activities and free meals for children.	Congregation of the Sisters of St. Elizabeth, based in Santa Cruz de la Sierra	139	PLN 12,000
Ecuador	Emergency Response	In-kind assistance to those affected by floods caused by El Niño in the town of Chone.	Caritas at St. Cajetan Parish in Chone	2,997	PLN 134,200
Colombia	Food Security	"Together in Solidarity" – 5th edition of food aid and health promotion program for the poorest and displaced Colombian families and families fleeing Venezuela.	Caritas Colombia	4,303	PLN 388,395

## Asia

Country	Sector	Project	Implementing partner	Number of beneficiaries	Value of support
Kazakhstan	Basic Assistance	Social, livelihood and in-kind assistance to people in need in the cities of Aktau and Zanauzen.	Parish of the Sacred Heart of Jesus	350	PLN 20,000
Kyrgyzstan	Education	Purchase of school supplies as part of the Schoolbag Full of Smiles project.	St. Teresa of Calcutta Parish based in Jalal-Abad	78	PLN 10,750
Nepal	Health and Nutrition	Support for medical facilities, health promotion campaign, improvement of living conditions and crisis management.	Caritas Nepal	44,954	PLN 324,545

# Middle East

Country	Sector	Project	Implementing partner	Number of beneficiaries	Value of support
Israel	Shelter	Supporting a day-care center for migrant and refugee children.	Saint Rachel Vicariate for Migrants and Asylum Seekers (VMAS)	20	PLN 40,000
Yemen	Health and Nutrition	Maintaining, supplying and subsidizing the operation of 6 mother and child health centers.	Caritas Poland mission	76,233	PLN 5,556,258
Lebanon	Basic Assistance	Family to Family Program – Lebanon.	Caritas Lebanon	607	PLN 2,089,890
Lebanon	Multisectoral	Providing temporary shelters, food, medicine and hygiene supplies to those affected by warfare.	Caritas Lebanon	142	PLN 430,000
Lebanon	Education	Donation of educational supplies to children in Lebanon.	Caritas of the Field Ordinariate	1,000	PLN 300,009
Lebanon	Basic Assistance	Providing warm clothing and footwear to persons internally displaced due to war.	Congregation of the Sisters of Jesus and Mary	1,033	PLN 150,400
Lebanon	Education	Creating a safe space for Lebanese and Syrian children in a community center offering educational and arts activities and psychological support.	Congregation of the Sisters of Jesus and Mary	71	PLN 130,492
Lebanon	Capacity Building	Implementation of the Caritas MONA regional coordinating structure development plan.	Caritas MONA	–	PLN 64,500
Palestine	Health and Nutrition	Comprehensive support for people with disabilities in the Palestinian Authority's Hebron Province and vocational activation for women and young people in the Gaza Strip.	Caritas Jerusalem	30	PLN 1,807,900
Palestine	Basic Assistance	Family to Family Program – Gaza Strip.	Caritas Jerusalem	1,290	PLN 1,600,000
Palestine	Emergency Response	Medical, psychosocial, and cash assistance for those in need in the Gaza Strip.	Caritas Jerusalem	8,290	PLN 1,439,500
Palestine	Health and Nutrition	"Comprehensive support for people with disabilities in remote settlements in the West Bank of the Palestinian Authority (Module 2)"	Caritas Jerusalem	389	PLN 1,335,500
Palestine	Emergency Response	Emergency Appeal 01/2024 Gaza Strip – financial aid to families.	Caritas Jerusalem	707	PLN 216,235
Syria	Basic Assistance	Family to Family Program – Syria.	Christian Hope Center	10,942	PLN 3,996,972
Syria	Multisectoral	Support for people opening small family businesses.	Caritas Switzerland	311	PLN 1,505,000
Syria	Livelihood	Support program for small enterprises – people who want to open small family businesses in Syria (Module 1/2024).	Christian Hope Center	84	PLN 1,075,000
Syria	Livelihood	Support program for small enterprises – people who want to open small family businesses in Syria (Module 2/2024).	Christian Hope Center	107	PLN 1,075,000
Syria	Shelter	Emergency response to provide safe shelter for those forced to leave their homes due to the military coup.	Christian Hope Center	4,000	PLN 626,725



Country	Sector	Project	Implementing partner	Number of beneficiaries	Value of support
Syria	Education	Children University's educational project aimed at children from poor families who have limited access to classes and workshops.	Christian Hope Center	168	PLN 198,307
Syria	Education	School to School Program – installation of photovoltaic panels in schools.	Christian Hope Center	560	PLN 101,633
Syria	Education	School to School Program – renovation of a school in Suqaylabiyah damaged by the conflict and the earthquake.	Christian Hope Center	120	PLN 99,917
Syria	Education	School to School program – training for teachers.	Christian Hope Center	87	PLN 54,675

## Europe

Country	Sector	Project	Implementing partner	Number of beneficiaries	Value of support
Greece	Protection	The Movement Academy Lesvos project to educate and socially integrate residents of the CCAC Lesvos refugee camp.	Movement of the Common Ground	1,337	PLN 214,974
Kosovo	Education	Educational supplies for children in Kosovo and Bosnia.	Caritas of the Field Ordinariate	1,500	PLN 111,498
Slovenia	Shelter	Support in rebuilding homes and psychological assistance for flood victims.	Caritas Slovenia	1,906	PLN 4,450,029
Slovenia	Shelter	Support for coordination of the program for flood victims.	Caritas Slovenia	200	PLN 23,026
Ukraine	Basic Assistance	Family to Family Program – Ukraine.	Caritas-Spes Ukraine	5,453	PLN 12,676,813
Ukraine	MHPSS	"Improving the quality of and access to psychological care for children and their families in Family Assistance Centres," a project co-financed under Polish development cooperation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland.	Caritas-Spes Ukraine	679	PLN 2,267,105
Ukraine	MHPSS	Psychosocial support for children and youth in Ukraine.	Caritas-Spes Ukraine	11,626	PLN 1,404,032
Ukraine	MHPSS	Supporting people with disabilities and their families affected by the war in Ukraine.	Caritas Ukraine	679	PLN 1,291,671
Ukraine	Food Security	Subsidized lunches at the St. Joseph Bilczewski kitchen for refugees and people in need.	Caritas-Spes of the Archdiocese of Lviv	4,000	PLN 38,980
Ukraine	Food Security	Social and medical assistance to the poor and war-affected residents of Zhytomyr.	Divine Mercy Parish	154	PLN 10,061

SELECTED PROGRAMS CONDUCTED ABROAD

## Sub-Saharan Africa



over **51,000 people** in Sub-Saharan Africa received support in 2024



over **9,670 people** in Sub-Saharan Africa received food aid



over **PLN 1,095,500** is the value of support for all activities in Sub-Saharan Africa in 2024

Conflict, disease, progressing climate change and the resulting natural disasters – the countries of Sub-Saharan Africa face many problems. One of the most serious ones is malnutrition, experienced by 300 million people. Caritas Poland has provided support to Burkina Faso and Ethiopia, some of the countries most at risk of famine.

In Burkina Faso, problems typical of Africa, such as prolonged droughts of up to nine months with temperatures reaching 49 degrees Celsius, are compounded by mass migrations due to violent terrorist attacks. People who have been forced from their homes have limited access to sanitation, clean water and health care, making diseases that are harmless elsewhere often fatal here. However, the most serious problem is malnutrition. More than 3 million people in Burkina Faso are in phase 3, and 261,000 in phase 4 of food security. In response, Caritas Poland has extended its clinical nutrition program to 680 children between the ages of 6 and 36 months. Internally displaced people and those at risk of famine also received assistance through 3-month food parcel distribution cycles. Caritas Poland has also begun distributing hygiene kits and mosquito nets to minimize

the risk of malaria infection. Child nutrition and WASH\* projects are implemented in cooperation with Caritas Burkina Faso.

Located at the opposite end of Africa, Ethiopia faces similar problems. Here, a brutal civil war has led to mass displacement, malnutrition, and the destruction of water and sanitation infrastructure, resulting in the spread of dangerous diseases. Ethiopia currently has the highest risk of malaria and cholera among African countries. The situation is further exacerbated by climate change, manifested by catastrophic droughts. Tigray, a region embroiled in rebel fighting, is in a particularly difficult situation, which has prompted Caritas Poland to launch aid programs here. As part of its food support, it provides a packed lunch (high-calorie snacks) to 7,500 children in 34 schools. As a result, the number of students absent from lessons has been reduced tenfold. In addition, toilets will be built in the supported schools. In Ethiopia, nearly 40% of educational facilities have no toilets, and most have no access to water. If toilets are there, they are often out of order or are shared, so many girls opt out of attending school. The program implemented by Caritas Poland aims not only to minimize the risk of

disease, but also to increase school attendance. The devastating conflict has taken away many children's homes and their sense of stability, which is why the role of educational institutions is so important. With support from Caritas Poland, schools become places providing security and opportunities for growth.



**300 million people in Africa** experience hunger

**88% of schools in Ethiopia** have been destroyed by war

**more than 6 million people in Burkina Faso** need humanitarian aid

\*WASH stands for Water, Sanitation and Hygiene.

## SELECTED PROGRAMS CONDUCTED ABROAD

# Family to Family



over **18,400 people** received financial support in 2024



over **PLN 22,500,000** is the value of financial support provided in 2024



over **PLN 111,000,000** is the value of financial support since the program was launched

Family to Family is the largest humanitarian aid program implemented by Caritas Poland abroad. It was developed in 2016 as a response to the plight of families affected by the war in Syria. Today, it also covers those in need in Lebanon, Gaza, and Ukraine.

The goal of the program is to provide cash assistance to cover the most urgent expenses. *Multipurpose cash grants* are a global trend in humanitarian aid. Allowing beneficiaries to use the funds at their own discretion ensures that the most urgent individual needs are effectively met. The program provides monthly support to eligible families in particularly difficult situations – mainly those with many children or with elderly or sick family members – either in cash or through bank transfers. Given the diversity of needs, each family decides independently how to use the funds they receive – for instance to pay rent, buy food, medicines, or pay for electricity bills.

The changing socio-economic context has led to the introduction of a small family business support component to the program. It provides those who are able to develop a small business with a one-time grant for

the purchase of machinery, tools, materials, or rental of premises. This helps participants set up and develop tailoring workshops, auto repair shops, or locksmith shops, for example. Owning their own business allows participants to support their families and become independent of external assistance. This is a wise and effective way to improve their lives, as the family businesses that have been established with Caritas' support are doing very well – of the 138 businesses established in 2022, 131, or 95%, are still operating today. The effort to improve one's lot also has an important psychosocial aspect, as it allows people to regain hope and a sense of agency.

Funds for assistance under the Family to Family program come from donations made by parishes, religious congregations, private companies, and hundreds of individual donors. Caritas Poland's long-standing partners are responsible for admitting families to the program and implementing it on the ground, including the Christian Hope Center in Syria; Caritas Lebanon; Caritas Jerusalem in Gaza; and Caritas-Spes Ukraine. These partners work with local parishes that are directly in touch with families in need.

In 2024, Archbishop Tadeusz Wojda SAC, on behalf of the Polish Bishops' Conference, assumed honorary patronage of the Family to Family program.



**97% of water resources** in the Gaza Strip is non-potable water

**70% of Syrians need** humanitarian aid

**PLN 50 is the minimum wage** in Lebanon and is among the lowest in the world

**nearly 230 hospitals** have been completely destroyed in Ukraine, and nearly 200 hospitals and medical facilities have been damaged

**2% of Christians** live in the Holy Land today, compared to 20% just a few decades ago



SELECTED PROGRAMS CONDUCTED ABROAD

# The Mission in Yemen



**76,233 people**

in Yemen received support in 2024



**PLN 5,556,258** is the value of support  
Caritas Poland provided in 2024



**PLN 7,500,000** is the value of support  
Caritas Poland has provided since 2019

In 2024, the widespread chaos, destruction, famine, and poverty reminded the people of Yemen of the sad 10th anniversary of the war. Yemen – the poorest country in the Middle East – continues to face one of the world's most serious humanitarian crises. Meanwhile, other tragic reports from around the world absorb the media's attention and consign the country to oblivion, which results in fewer humanitarian efforts by aid organizations.

Because Yemenis absolutely need help, Caritas Poland is prioritizing its mission in the country, continuing to support health centers, and especially mothers and children. The reason behind Caritas' choice of this aid sector since the very beginning of its involvement in Yemen is the dire state of Yemen's health service. It has been in a steep decline for many years, with virtually no support from the government. There is a shortage of clinics and hospitals. Most people don't have the money either to pay for a doctor's visit, for medicines, or even to get to a remote health

center. Scarcity, forced migration, hunger, and malnutrition contribute to the spread of diseases such as malaria and dengue fever. Vulnerable social groups are most at risk. Every two hours, a woman dies during pregnancy or childbirth, and many tragedies could be prevented with access to medical services.

Caritas Poland has been involved in helping the people of Yemen since 2019. In early 2022, it opened its own office in Aden. This office enabled Caritas to transition from donor and aid coordinator to a member of the community. This has made it much easier to conduct relief efforts in such a difficult place. In 2024, Caritas Poland supported five health centers in Aden Province, mainly for maternal and child health care. This involved the purchase of medicines and medical equipment, including incubators for newborns (which allowed the establishment of a premature baby ward and delivery rooms). Thanks to this assistance, 1,560 healthy babies have been delivered. In 2024, Caritas Poland also

supported Taizz Hospital by donating PLN 800,000 for the purchase of life-saving equipment and installing solar panels generating additional 95 kW of energy needed during peak hours.



**19.3 million people in Yemen**  
need help

**4.5 million people** have been forced  
to leave their homes

**over 40% health centers** are  
currently not functioning

**most schools are closed** due to  
damage and lack of salaries  
for teachers

SELECTED PROGRAMS CONDUCTED ABROAD

# Support for Missionary Projects



over **44,000 people** received support under missionary projects in 2024



over **PLN 770,000** is the value of support for missionary projects in 2024



nearly **PLN 3,000,000** is the value of Caritas Poland's support for missionary projects in the years 2022-2024

For many years, Caritas Poland has supported Polish missionaries who — often in the most remote and forgotten parts of the world — carry out works of mercy in the spirit of the Gospel. It is they who, acting with dedication and without publicity, become not only a symbol of Christian witness, but above all real support for those most in need. Missionary projects supported by Caritas Poland focus on three basic areas: education, health, and food security.\*

In Africa, missionary projects are focused on developing health infrastructure and providing systematic support for education and child nutrition, among other things. In countries such as Cameroon, Rwanda, Zambia, or South Sudan missionaries provide access to medical care where state health services are non-existent, decentralized or critically underfunded. Building health centers, equipping hospitals, and providing food and medication are concrete

responses to the dramatic shortages in this part of the world.

Missionary projects in South America focus mostly on nutrition and education, particularly in Argentina and Bolivia. The missionaries support children and families living in poverty by providing meals, school supplies, and remedial and educational classes. In addition to practical assistance, a spiritual mission is also pursued — time spent together in prayer and catechesis is sometimes the only chance for many children to regain a sense of stability in their lives and grow.

In Central Asia, missionaries reach out to people living in isolation, often without access to institutional support. In Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan, missionaries undertake relief efforts ranging from support for education and free meals for children to helping people experiencing homelessness and the elderly. Particularly important are initiatives aimed at giving children a good start of the school year and providing a

minimum welfare for families on the margins of society.



**approx. 70% of children in Tanzania** discontinue their education between the ages of 13 and 15; fewer girls benefit from education due to unplanned pregnancy, domestic responsibilities and forced early marriage

**90,000 people in Madagascar** were affected by the 2024 cyclone

**2 million residents of Madagascar** need humanitarian aid

**1.6 million children in South Sudan** are at risk of severe malnutrition

**9 million people in South Sudan** need humanitarian aid

\*Caritas Poland does not support evangelization efforts.





# Donors Who Supported the Works of Caritas Poland in 2024

## Acknowledgement

Caritas Poland is a charitable institution of the Catholic Church and has had the status of a public benefit organization since 2004. Every day, Caritas delivers aid both in Poland and around the world. It coordinates nationwide programs and supports diocesan Caritas branches, which are fully autonomous entities, in their daily activities. Caritas delivers regular aid programs as well as emergency response, always operating in compliance with internal policies and procedures that guarantee the highest standards.

Caritas' daily commitment to people in need would not be possible without the help of people of goodwill. We want to express our gratitude to individual donors for responding to fundraising appeals and generously supporting collections, especially those for flood victims and for people in countries experiencing wars and humanitarian crises. We extend a thank you to entrepreneurs and business owners who understand the important role of socially responsible business and good cooperation today. We would also like to thank institutional donors who have recognized Caritas as a partner with the potential, tools, and broad public trust to carry out the most difficult work at home and abroad.

The data contained in this report, especially the amounts of support used for the works of mercy, reflect the power of the joint action of Caritas Poland and generous donors who are the pillar of all charitable activities.

## Key Business Donors

### Financial Donations:

- "Mlekpól" Dairy Cooperative in Grajewo
- Fundacja Świętego Mikołaja
- Torpol S.A.
- G5 Nieruchomości Sp. z o.o.
- Clematis Źródło Dobrych Pnaczy Sp. z o.o. Sp. k.
- SCM Sp. z o.o.

### Financial and In-Kind Donations:

- Biedronka Foundation
- Amway Polska Sp. z o.o.
- Reckitt Benckiser (Poland) S.A.
- Jerónimo Martins S.A.
- Duracell Poland Sp. z o.o.
- Lidl Sp. z o.o. Sp. k.
- Selgros – Transgourmet Polska Sp. z o.o.
- Aflofarm Farmacja Polska Sp. z o.o.
- Procter and Gamble Operations Polska Sp. z o.o.
- Douglas Polska Sp. z o.o.
- Mercator Medical S.A.
- Sarantis Polska S.A.



## Institutional Donors

**PLN 15,094,960**

is the value  
of publicly funded projects

Source of Funding	Amount Donated in 2024	Project Name
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland	<b>PLN 1,992,625</b>	"Comprehensive support for people with disabilities in the Palestinian Authority's Hebron Province and vocational activation for women and young people in the Gaza Strip" – Module 3
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland	<b>PLN 1,454,500</b>	"Comprehensive support for people with disabilities in remote settlements in the West Bank of the Palestinian Authority" – Module 2
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland	<b>PLN 1,500,000</b>	"Medical, psychosocial and cash support for those in need in the Gaza Strip"
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland	<b>PLN 2,269,185</b>	Improving the quality of and access to psychological care for children and their families in Family Assistance Centres in Kharkiv, Odesa, Zhytomyr and Vinnytsia in Ukraine – Module 1
Ministry of Finance	<b>PLN 6,696,527</b>	European Funds for Food Aid
National Center for Agricultural Support	<b>PLN 744,059</b>	European Funds for Food Aid
National Freedom Institute – Centre for Civil Society Development	<b>PLN 131,000</b>	"Overcoming barriers to the development of long-term Caritas volunteering in Poland"
National Fund for Environmental Protection and Water Management – reimbursement of expenses	<b>PLN 307,064</b>	"Caritas Laudato Si: Pro-active education of Caritas communities to counter overconsumption in pursuit of a circular economy"

## Individual Donors – Church Collections

**PLN 45,632,241**

is the value of collections held  
in churches in 2024

### Help for Flood Victims

The funds were distributed to help those affected by the 2024 floods that hit the south western part of Poland.



collection date  
**22.09.2024**



**PLN 42,609,317**  
amount collected

### Support for Ukraine

The funds were used to provide relief aid in the parts of Ukraine most affected by the war, and to help Ukraine's most vulnerable refugees.



collection date  
**14.02.2024**



**PLN 3,022,924**  
amount collected



*dobra  
jest  
więcej*

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