



KAPITAC УКРАЇНИ CARITAS UKRAINE

Escalation of Violence in Kharkiv Region Demands Urgent Humanitarian Response

Over the past week, the events unfolding in the Kharkiv region from April 29th to May 9th have underscored the intensity of military actions and posed a significant threat to civilian populations. The situation on the ground highlights several concerning developments:

- 1. Attacks on Civilian Population:** Numerous incidents of shelling and bombardment have been [documented](#), resulting in the destruction of private homes, agricultural structures, and essential infrastructure. These attacks have inflicted considerable harm on innocent civilians, exacerbating their already precarious situation.
- 2. Intensity and Geography of Attacks:** The attacks have spanned various districts and communities across the Kharkiv region, indicating a broad scale of military operations and escalating tensions along the border areas and the front line. The widespread nature of these attacks underscores the urgency of the situation and the need for immediate action to protect civilian lives.
- 3. Humanitarian Assistance Needs:** A significant number of affected individuals require assistance in temporary shelter and restoring essential services. Humanitarian aid is urgently needed to address the growing humanitarian crisis in the region. The events unfolding in the Kharkiv region underscore the need for swift intervention and concerted efforts to provide humanitarian assistance to the affected civilian population.



Moreover, based on the analysis of the situation over the past weeks, an increase in requests for assistance from communities residing in border areas and those located closer to the war line is anticipated. According to reports from local authorities, grocery stores and pharmacies in northern and southeastern districts of the Kharkiv region, including border communities and those nearer to the war zone, are already suspending their operations.

According to Tamaz Gambarashvili, the head of the Vovchansk Municipal Administration, the enemy is intensifying its strikes with multiple rocket launch systems (RSZV) and artillery fire, prompting mass evacuations from the Vovchansk community.

The majority of residents are fleeing in their own vehicles, but efforts are underway to evacuate those without transportation. Working in collaboration with the humanitarian center, volunteers, and law enforcement, evacuation operations are being coordinated to ensure the safety of all residents. We are actively facilitating the evacuation of individuals from Vovchansk and neighboring areas to safer locations, prioritizing the protection of vulnerable populations amidst the escalating war.

In light of these developments, we emphasize the critical importance of swift and decisive action to ensure the safety and well-being of civilians in the Kharkiv region. In the face of such tragedies, Caritas Ukraine calls upon the international community to stand with us in support of the people of Ukraine. With your assistance and prayers, we can continue to provide emergency aid to those in need. We urge you once again not to forget Ukraine in its time of need and to join us in condemning the ruthless attacks perpetrated by the Russian aggressor.

Photos (press):

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1bxC8V-3rqphCQHIRs8VOZycgnBD-nifx?usp=sharing>

Humanitarian intervention in the Kharkiv region

In the Kharkiv region, Caritas Ukraine's humanitarian intervention is implemented through a comprehensive approach aimed at addressing the urgent needs of the affected populations. Firstly, the intervention focuses on the distribution of essential relief supplies, such as food, water, shelter materials, and hygiene kits, to displaced families and vulnerable individuals. Distribution points are established to ensure the efficient delivery and equitable access to aid, reaching those most in need across the regions.

Moreover, Caritas Ukraine collaborates closely with local authorities, community leaders, and partner organizations to conduct thorough needs assessments and identify the most vulnerable groups requiring immediate assistance. Special attention is given to ensuring the protection and well-being of specific demographics, including children, the elderly, persons with disabilities, and women-headed households. Targeted interventions designed to meet their specific needs, ensuring that aid reaches those who are most vulnerable and marginalized within the affected communities.

Additionally, the humanitarian intervention integrates psychosocial support and counseling services to address the emotional trauma and psychological distress

experienced by displaced individuals in the Kharkiv region. Trained professionals provide counseling sessions aimed at promoting resilience, coping mechanisms, and community solidarity, thereby fostering a sense of hope and well-being amidst challenging circumstances. Through these multifaceted approaches, Caritas Ukraine seeks to provide comprehensive assistance to those affected by the crisis in Kharkiv region, ensuring their basic needs are met and their emotional well-being supported during these difficult times.

Urgent Needs

The diverse range of assistance provided, including food and hygiene kits, safe water distribution, hot meals, psychosocial support, disability assistance, emergency shelter repair kits, and shelter, collectively complement each other by addressing various aspects of the humanitarian crisis comprehensively. This multifaceted approach ensures that affected individuals and families' immediate and long-term needs are met effectively, covering aspects such as basic necessities, health and hygiene, emotional well-being, accessibility, and shelter stability. By offering a combination of services tailored to different demographics and circumstances, these interventions aim to provide holistic support to those impacted by the crisis, promoting resilience and recovery within the affected communities.

This response focuses on two target groups:

1. Assistance to people who remain in border areas and refuse evacuation. For them, the following is provided:

Food and Hygiene Kits: Providing food and hygiene kits ensures that basic nutritional and sanitation needs are met, helping to prevent illness and maintain health among affected populations.

Distribution of safe water: By distributing safe water, we address a fundamental need for survival, particularly in areas where water sources are compromised due to the war.

Emergency Shelter Repair Kits: Emergency shelter repair kits enable quick and efficient repairs to damaged housing, ensuring that displaced individuals have safe and adequate shelter. This helps to restore a sense of normalcy and security for affected families.

Provision of generators for households: In situations where there is a lack of electricity due to constant shelling, generators can provide households with the ability to cook food, operate essential appliances, and provide hot water. This helps to mitigate the impact of power outages and enhances the resilience of affected communities amidst ongoing war.

2. Assistance to people evacuating includes:

Hot Meals: Providing hot meals ensures that individuals have access to immediate nourishment and comfort during the evacuation process. This is particularly important in situations where access to cooking facilities or food supplies is limited or impossible.

Hot meals offer essential nutrition and contribute to the overall well-being of evacuees, providing them with the strength and energy needed during transit and relocation.

Child Support and Psychosocial Counseling: Supporting children and providing psychosocial counseling are critical components of humanitarian assistance during evacuations. Children are especially vulnerable during crises and may experience trauma and stress. Psychosocial support helps them cope with these challenges and provides them with the emotional support they need for recovery. Additionally, offering shelter ensures that children have a safe and secure environment where they can receive care and protection.

Shelter: Accommodating evacuees in collective centers supported by Caritas ensures that they have a safe and dignified place to stay during the evacuation process. Collective centers provide basic amenities, shelter, and protection from the elements, offering evacuees a temporary home until they can return to their communities or find more permanent housing solutions.

Crisis Support for People with Disabilities: Providing crisis support for people with disabilities is important for ensuring their safety and well-being during emergencies. This support includes access to essential services, such as medical care and mobility aids, as well as specialized care tailored to their specific needs. By addressing the unique challenges faced by people with disabilities during evacuations, Caritas ensures their inclusion and protection within the humanitarian response efforts.

To continue and expand these critical interventions, we urgently need your support. Your contribution will enable us to sustain and enhance our efforts in providing essential aid and support to those most in need.

Our goal is to raise funds to facilitate comprehensive and complementary assistance. This funding will enable us to continue addressing the diverse and urgent needs of individuals and communities affected by the humanitarian crisis in the Kharkiv and also in Sumy regions. With your generous support, we can ensure that vital resources reach those most in need, providing essential aid and support during this challenging time.

For further details and options on how you can support our mission, please contact Olha Sydii: osydii@caritas.ua.

Together, we can make a meaningful difference in the lives of those affected by the crisis. We look forward to working closely with you to provide the assistance and relief our fellow Ukrainians urgently require.

Please note that a detailed budget will be provided after our initial communication, ensuring transparency and accountability in our fundraising efforts.

Thank you for your consideration and support.