



Dear Friends,

Humanitarian aid is often associated with visible forms of support, such as providing necessities, shelter, or immediate assistance in times of crisis. Less visible, but no less essential, are the conditions that allow this aid to actually reach people.

Humanitarian workers **must understand risks, make informed decisions**, and help create an environment in which people feel safe and dignified. Safety in humanitarian work goes hand in hand with humanitarian principles, especially neutrality and building trust within local communities. **Whether the situation involves a conflict, a natural disaster, or another crisis, safety is part of every step of delivering assistance.** It is not about restriction, but about responsibility and care for colleagues, partners, and the people we assist.

At Caritas, we see safety as a shared responsibility. It shapes everyday decision-making, from travel planning to communication and working in local conditions. **Our approach emphasises prevention.** And even though this work often remains in the background, it is an essential part of good and responsible humanitarian assistance.



**Kristýna Kvasničková**

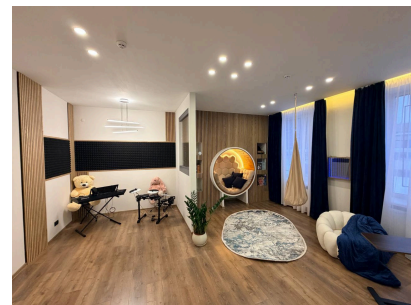
Country Programme Coordinator for Ukraine and the Middle East and Security Advisor

**CARITAS CZECH REPUBLIC**



In the Middle East, millions of people live in uncertainty, without basic necessities and often on the move. **Hundreds of thousands of people are fleeing, especially in Lebanon.** At the same time, **Syria continues to struggle with a deep humanitarian crisis**, and millions of its inhabitants still require assistance. The Caritas network operates worldwide and stands alongside those facing the most difficult life situations.

Everyday stress, uncertainty, and fear are challenges that Ukrainian children must cope with today. **In western Ukraine, the first emotional relief room for children has been established**, created through the cooperation of Caritas Czech Republic, local authorities, and the national programme 'How are you?'. **This safe space helps children calm down, talk about their emotions, and find support where they need it most.**



In Georgia, **we have helped improve facilities for children with special needs by establishing new centres and training early-childhood care professionals.** We also support kindergartens so they are better equipped to work with children who require individual support. **Thanks to this, Georgian children have a greater chance of accessing inclusive and high-quality education.**

In the village of Banka Kebele in southern Ethiopia, **9,000 people have gained access to safe water** through a new water supply system thanks to Caritas Czech Republic. As a result, **the health of local residents has improved, new livelihood opportunities have opened up**, and the community is now better prepared to cope with the impacts of climate change.



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