

# 24 YEARS OF CARING, CHARITY, IMPARTIALITY, TOLERANCE



## BEGINNING. VISION. MISSION.

Charitable Organization «Medical Aid Committee in Zakarpattia» (now Charitable Organization «Charity Fund «Medical Aid Committee in Zakarpattia») as a separate legal entity was officially registered in March 2000. However, the beginning of the organization's activities was laid by the French humanitarian

organization «Medical Aid Committee», whose specialists came to Zakarpattia in 1996 and started to take care of the Vilshany Children's Orphanage, and also implemented a number



of projects in the medical, social, and sanitary spheres in the region (with the support of ECHO, MAE France, and others). Upon completion of the French mission, the Ukrainian staff of the office, including the current director of the CAMZ, Nataliya Kabatsiy, continued what they had started and established a charitable organization on March 21, 2000.

From the very beginning of its functioning, the Committee's focus has been on adapting effective international practices of civil society development, harmonizing the environment for representatives of vulnerable groups, and ensuring conditions for providing quality educational, medical, social and rehabilitation services.

Among the first projects implemented were the creation of the Child Guidance and Family Counselling Centre – the current «Malyatko» sanatorium (Uzhhorod district, Zakarpattia region); repair works for the development of the Regional Psychiatric Hospital (Berehove, Zakarpattia region); assistance to victims of floods in Zakarpattia; information campaigns on tuberculosis and AIDS and raising awareness of medical workers in Zakarpattia region; implementation of a program to combat tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS, promotion of the DOTS strategy in Zakarpattia; installation of a water supply system for the Temporary Detention Center for Foreigners, etc.



Successful implementation of these projects was facilitated by fruitful cooperation with foreign partners and donors, including ECHO, SAH, Comite Catholique contre la Faim et pour le Developpement (Catholic Committee against Hunger and for Development), Carpathian Foundation, SON (Netherlands), DEZA (Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation), La Voix de l'Enfant («Voice of the Child», France), EuropeAid (Takis IBPP), FCE (European Civic Forum, Switzerland), Swiss Association «Network Switzerland – Transcarpathia/Ukraine» (NeSTU), Association «Parasolka» (Switzerland), Association SAFE (France).



The key to promoting important initiatives was the establishment of stable contacts of the Medical Aid Committee in Zakarpattya with the governmental structures of European countries: French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, German Federal Foreign Office, the Embassy of the Netherlands, DEZA (Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation), and the International Organization for Migration.



Medical Aid Committee in Zakarpattia is a regional partner and initiator of important cultural, informational and educational activities, including holding a short film competition «Migration – an attempt to escape or the right to a better life?», participation in the organization of the Docudays UA International Human Rights Documentary Film Festival, creation of platforms for exchange of experience between domestic and foreign specialists in the field of education, health care, social protection, legal aid, media, etc.

The Committee's team is involved in an important process for the state – the deinstitutionalization reform, which is designed to qualitatively reorganize residential institutions and expand the range of services for children and young people with disabilities. Along with active communication through expert discussions and consultations, the organization has taken several successful institutional steps to test the goals of this reform. Thus, a network of workshops for the comprehensive development and employment of wards was introduced at the Vilshany Children's Orphanage, foreign specialists were engaged to help young people with disabilities and share their experience with Ukrainian colleagues, and work is constantly underway to create conditions for the provision of necessary social services at the institution, etc.



Another achievement of the Medical Aid Committee in Zakarpattya is the creation of the pilot center «Parasolka» for graduates of the Vilshany Children’s Orphanage, which has been operating since 2009 as a municipal institution «Social Abilitation and Rehabilitation Centre



«Parasolka» of the Transcarpathian Regional Council. The Committee has developed the infrastructure of the institution, formulated its vision and is implementing key tasks. As a result of the Committee’s and its partners’ efforts, «Parasolka» was recognized as one of the best social institutions in the country following the relevant inspection by the Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights.



In the context of human rights activities and psychosocial support, the Committee provides assistance to migrants, refugees and asylum seekers, internally displaced persons, persons with disabilities and other vulnerable groups. The educational component of the Medical Aid

Committee in Zakarpattya is embodied in fruitful cooperation with Uzhhorod National University, where, with the assistance and participation of our organization, training programs for specialists in providing high-quality social and therapeutic services aimed at socialization and improving the quality of life of people with disabilities have been updated; appropriate material and technical conditions for the introduction of dual education are being created; the areas of the trilateral agreement on partnership cooperation between CAMZ, UzhNU and the Association «Parasolka» (Switzerland) are being implemented.



Since the beginning of the military aggression of the Russian Federation on the territory of Ukraine in 2014, the Medical Aid Committee in Zakarpattya has been paying special attention to supporting internally displaced persons, the military, and informing the international community about the humanitarian and security situation in the country. After the full-scale invasion of Russian troops began on February 24, 2024, assistance to medical and social institutions, defense forces, rescuers, and the affected civilian population is one of the key priorities of the organization.



During the two years of the full-scale Russian-Ukrainian war, the Medical Aid Committee in Zakarpattya opened three shelters in the region, where 80 to 120 people live permanently and receive the necessary food, legal and psychosocial support.

Implementing the project «Improving the Protection of Children in Emergencies in Ukraine by Providing Safe Shelters, Food and Non-Food Items, and Psychosocial Support» with the support of the NGO «terre des hommes Deutschland e.V.» and funding from the German Federal Foreign Office, the Committee's volunteers have already provided humanitarian aid to



several thousand families from vulnerable groups in six regions of Ukraine, supported healthcare facilities with medicines and equipment, and are taking measures to develop the Vilshany Children's Orphanage.

As part of the humanitarian initiative «Emergency Aid to Zaporizhzhia Oblast» supported by the French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, Zaporizhzhia rescuers who work in extreme conditions during the war received the necessary equipment and gear.



In total, since February 2022, the Committee has provided assistance to more than 300 medical institutions throughout Ukraine, transferred nearly 1,400 generators and charging stations of various capacities, more than 9,000 heaters, and about 10,000 lighting devices to support the country's critical infrastructure, social, medical and educational institutions. The organization is actively involved in the arrangement of «points of invincibility» for civilians, stabilization points for the military, temporary accommodation for internally displaced persons, and humanitarian support locations with food and hygiene products for residents of frontline settlements. Among other things, with the support of international partners, about 60 vehicles were purchased to be used as

ambulances and evacuation vehicles. Two mobile field hospitals provided by the Committee to the frontline are also saving the lives and health of the Defenders of Ukraine.

Medical Aid Committee in Zakarpattya continues its systematic activities to implement humanitarian initiatives aimed at overcoming or minimizing the consequences of the war.

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The staff of the Medical Aid Committee in Zakarpattya has repeatedly received awards at the national, regional and international levels for its success in supporting socially important programs and democratic values. In particular, according to the decision of the Association «Circle of Friends of Cornelius Koch» (Switzerland), the Committee was awarded the International Human Rights Award «Open Borders», and the organization received the Prize of the Government of the French Republic for its contribution to the development of the Vilshany Children's Orphanage and assistance to children with disabilities.



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