

## Annex 2 to the Interim Narrative Report

### Case studies.

#### **Dmytro, 6 years old, IDP**

Dmytro and his family (mother, brother and two grandmothers) moved to Berdychiv from Donetsk region. The boy's mother still works remotely as a teacher at her home school. She has to bear the burden of financial responsibility for the whole family. The family lives modestly, but they try to make the best of their everyday life. They rent an apartment in a remote residential area of the city. Mother dreams to move closer to the city centre and rent a private house to take her children to educational classes and clubs and to be able to grow her own vegetables in the garden.

Dmytro's acquaintance with Caritas began when his family attended an event at the Child Friendly Space. His mother brought Dmytro later for a speech examination, which revealed that his speech did not meet age-related standards. Therefore, Dmytro started attending corrective speech therapy sessions.

His mother is present in the speech therapy room at every session, as the boy is extremely attached to her, has difficulty making contact with strangers, and shows anxiety.

Over two months of corrective speech therapy, the team managed to establish a trusting relationship with the boy, teach basic articulation exercises, and improve his speech breathing.

The boy will need correctional classes for at least a year, as this is the key to successful schooling and mastering such skills as reading and writing. But Dmytro is making confident steps towards his goal.



#### **Bohdan, 5 years old, a child with special educational needs, IDP**

The boy's family (mother and older sister) is originally from Mykolaiv region. Due to active hostilities and frequent bombardments, they were forced to leave their home and move to Berdychiv. The family suffers from financial difficulties. Recently they became a victim of financial fraud, so they have to save on everything. But despite all the difficulties, Bohdan's mother is actively engaged in improving the health and development of the boy, who was diagnosed with mental retardation and general underdevelopment of speech.



Bohdan's family got acquainted with Caritas when they received humanitarian aid. They asked for a stroller, which Bohdan's mother still uses to take him to classes and doctors, because it is still difficult for the boy to cover long distances on foot, and it is expensive to travel by bus every day.

Bohdan's mother asked the CFS team to be present at every lesson so that she can practice new skills together with Bohdan at home. The boy joyfully completes all the tasks and does his best. In six months, provided the lessons are regular, we expect an improvement in the quality of his speech, which will certainly have a positive impact on the development of mental processes and preparation for studying in the school.

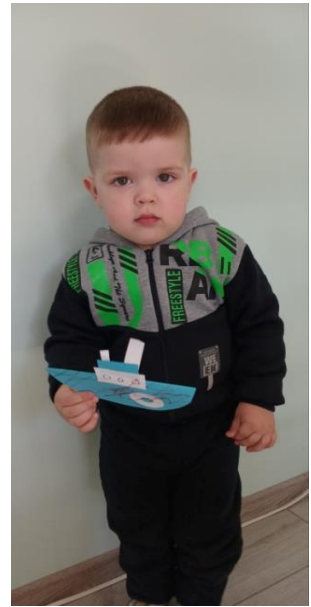
### **Hlib, 2 years old, IDP**

The boy came from Kostiantynivka with his mum, dad and older sister. He develops a little slower than his peers and has difficulty making contact with other children, is withdrawn.

For the first time, Hlib's family attended the Early Development with Mum class, where they met a psychologist.

Early development classes are structured in such a way that children interact with each other and learn to communicate through play. They also develop various areas of the child, namely memory, attention, thinking, and fine motor skills. Spatial imagination and sensorimotor development are formed.

After attending classes regularly, the boy began to actively interact with other children and engage in role-playing games. He can ask for a toy and share it with others. He also began to pronounce some words. The child performs tasks together with others and is actively involved in the classes.



### **Sofia, 8 years old, family of a military man**

The war in Ukraine has been a difficult experience for this girl from Berdychiv. Her father is a soldier and cannot stay together with family. Being separated from her father had a hard impact on the girl's psycho-emotional state. Sofia often cried, withdrew into herself and could not feel comfortable even among her friends.



The girl's mother noticed changes in Sofia's behavior and decided to seek help from a Caritas psychologist, as she did not have the necessary resources to help her daughter. The girl started attending individual counseling sessions and participated in group sessions where children going through similar situations could share their feelings and support each other.

At the first counseling session, Sofia was very shy and found it difficult to open up and talk about her feelings. However, the atmosphere of trust and safety in the Child Friendly Space works wonders. She was able to share her experiences, which is the first step towards healing.

We worked on teaching the girl to express her feelings and cope with anxiety. Sofia has learned relaxation techniques and breathing exercises so that she can calm down in moments of intense sadness. We also discussed ways to keep in touch with her dad, such as letters, video calls and creating small gifts that she could send him.

The group sessions proved to be particularly helpful for the girl. Sofia met other children going through

similar situations and realized that she was not alone in her pain. They did creative tasks together, shared stories and supported each other. This helped the girl feel more confident and understand that her feelings were normal.

The success story of Sofia shows how important support and professional help are in difficult moments of life. With the help of a psychologist and a support group, the girl learned to cope with separation and found the strength to move on, discovering new horizons and the joys of life despite her difficult experiences.