

Monitoring and Accountability Report

Data as at 15 July 2026 | Fund active

1. Background

In response to the damage caused by Storm Kristin, which severely affected the territory of the Diocese of Leiria-Fátima in January 2026, Cáritas Diocesana de Leiria-Fátima established the Social Emergency Fund (FES) — under its statutory mandate — as a mechanism for direct support to the affected families. The Fund is governed by Internal Rules approved on 2 February 2026, endorsed by His Excellency Bishop José Ornelas Carvalho, and is guided by the principles of solidarity, impartiality, transparency and segregation of duties (Art. 2). The Fund remains active and applications for support are still open.

The response was built in close cooperation with the municipalities within the geographical area of the Diocese — Leiria, Ourém, Marinha Grande, Pombal and Batalha — whose social and technical teams have been essential partners in identifying and referring affected families. This close collaboration has made it possible not only to receive applications from families, but also to open case files proactively whenever situations of vulnerability are identified.



Home damaged by Storm Kristin



Meeting of the Storm Kristin Fund Committee

This report sets out the activity carried out, presenting data on the case files processed, the social impact achieved, the financial position and the operating costs incurred, in line with the transparency and accountability obligations laid down in the Rules.

2. Fundraising Campaign

The fundraising campaign ran from 2 February 2026 to 28 February 2026, the period authorised by the Ministry of Internal Affairs (Art. 4 of the Rules). After that date, donations continued to be received on a voluntary basis. Donations received — from individuals, companies and public and private bodies, both national and international — are recorded under separate accounting headings and deposited in a dedicated bank account (CGD: PT50 0035 0393 00142459930 30), as set out in Art. 11. They are subject to external audit under Art. 13.

INDICATOR	AMOUNT
Largest single donation	€85,000.00
Total amount received (€)*	€2,493,936.89

* Figures audited up to 15 July 2026 (external audit under Art. 13 of the Rules).

2.1 Donations Received by Month

MONTH	AMOUNT
February	€1,837,784.54
March	€310,710.22
April	€131,591.17
May	€140,026.38
June	€70,273.81
July	€3,550.77
Grand total	€2,493,936.89

3. Case Files Processed

3.1 Overview

A total of 131 case files have been processed since the Fund opened, covering the municipalities of Leiria, Ourém, Marinha Grande, Pombal and Batalha — all within the geographical area of the Diocese of Leiria-Fátima. Processing each case includes a home visit, collection of socio-economic documentation, technical assessment and a decision by the Allocation Committee — made up of 7 members, all serving on a voluntary basis, with expertise in the social, financial, legal and community fields (Art. 5).

131 CASE FILES PROCESSED	49 APPROVED (SUPPORTED)	43 UNDER REVIEW	39 DECLINED	37.4% APPROVAL RATE
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3.2 Status of Case Files

STATUS	NO.	%	AMOUNT APPROVED
Approved (supported)	49	37.4%	€505,988.86
Under review	43	32.8%	—
Declined	39	29.8%	—
TOTAL	131	100.0%	€505,988.86

All situations involving applications to the CCDR are systematically coordinated with the municipal councils of the Diocese and with the Mission Structure for the Reconstruction of Central Portugal. This coordination makes it possible to verify, for each household, whether an application has been submitted, what stage it has reached and any amount already received — ensuring that Cáritas support is always complementary and never duplicated, and that no eligible family is left unassisted for reasons beyond its control.

Where case files have already been approved but the CCDR decision has yet to arrive, the Allocation Committee took a deliberate, well-founded decision: the extent and severity of the damage verified on site clearly exceeds the maximum support available under State programmes. For these households, Cáritas support will be necessary regardless of the amount eventually granted by the State.



Home visit by the technical team



Visit as part of case processing for the Fund, in Moita — Marinha Grande

Declined case files result, in most instances, from an inability to make contact or obtain documentation, from failure to meet the eligibility criteria (Art. 9 of the Rules: storm damage, socio-economic vulnerability and the absence of other adequate support), or from needs being fully covered by other means — insurance or State support.

3.3 Distribution by Municipality of the Diocese

All case files processed concern families living in municipalities of the Diocese of Leiria-Fátima, predominantly in the municipality of Leiria, which accounts for 71.8% of the case files and 52.0% of the amount approved.

MUNICIPALITY	TOTAL	APPROVED	UNDER REVIEW	DECLINED	AMOUNT APPROVED
Leiria	94	33	30	31	€262,882.60
Ourém	24	9	11	4	€123,941.75
Marinha Grande	6	5	1	0	€90,667.50
Pombal	4	2	0	2	€28,497.01
Batalha	1	0	1	0	€0.00
TOTAL*	129	49	43	37	€505,988.86

* 2 declined case files with no municipality assigned are not included in this table (grand total: 131 case files).

3.4 Case Files Awaiting a Decision from CCDR-Centro

The delay in decisions from CCDR-Centro is one of the main constraints on the progress of the Fund's case files. Of the 52 applications submitted to CCDR-Centro — all relating to case files under review or approved, that is, families meeting the Fund's eligibility criteria — 17 (equivalent to 18.5% of the 92 active case files) still have no known decision, which prevents Cáritas from calculating the complementary amount to be granted or from making the final payment for the works awarded.

52

Applications submitted to CCDR-Centro

17

Still awaiting a CCDR decision (18.5% of active case files)

It should be noted that in some cases — mostly involving older households — families submitted their application for State support on the wrong platforms or under programmes that did not match their circumstances. This error, often the result of unfamiliarity with the correct application routes and of the complexity of the support systems available, prevented access to CCDR-Centro support, worsening their vulnerability and increasing the burden on the Fund.

AGE GROUP	NO. OF PEOPLE	% OF TOTAL
Children (< 18 years)	34	27.9%
Adults (18–64 years)	62	50.8%
Older adults (≥ 65 years)	26	21.3%
TOTAL	122	100.0%

4. Social Impact

4.1 Profile of Beneficiaries

The 49 approved case files cover 49 families, a total of 122 people directly supported, with an average household size of 2.5 people. The age profile shows a significant presence of children and older adults — the population groups most vulnerable in housing emergencies.

The presence of 34 children (27.9%) and 26 older adults (21.3%) — together almost half of all beneficiaries (49.2%) — underlines the relevance of the Cáritas intervention: these groups have less capacity for independent economic resilience and face greater difficulty in navigating public support systems.

Among the 49 families supported there were cases of temporary displacement, with families staying with relatives or friends or in temporary housing while waiting for their homes to be repaired. The average household size of 2.5 people reflects the predominance of smaller families — many single-parent households or older people living alone — with less capacity to share rehousing costs.

4.2 Social Assessment and Referral

In addition to processing and monitoring the Fund's case files, the Cáritas technical team carries out an in-depth social assessment of each household. This work goes beyond the immediate support linked to Storm Kristin: in analysing each family's socio-economic circumstances, situations of hardship or of unclaimed entitlements are frequently identified — often because families are unaware of the social benefits available to them.



Visit to assess repairs already completed



Interview and case processing in Seíça — Ourém

In such cases the team makes referrals and actively supports families in applying for complementary benefits from Social Security and other competent bodies. The benefits most frequently flagged include the Social Inclusion Benefit (PSI), the Solidarity Supplement for the Elderly (CSI), the Social Integration Income (RSI) and other family or disability benefits to which beneficiaries were entitled but had never claimed.

This dimension of the work of Cáritas — invisible in the Fund's statistics but with a major impact on families' living conditions — reflects the integral approach that distinguishes close social intervention from the mere distribution of one-off support.

4.4 Before and After the Intervention

The following examples illustrate the direct impact of the repair and reconstruction works financed by the Fund.



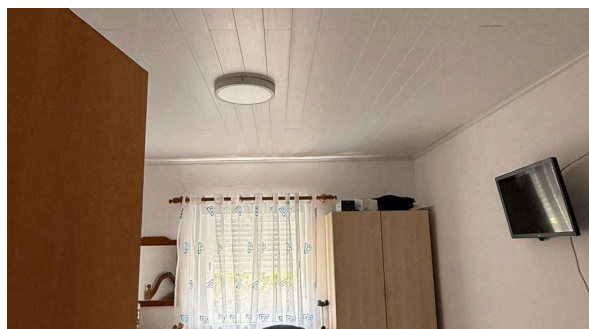
Before the intervention



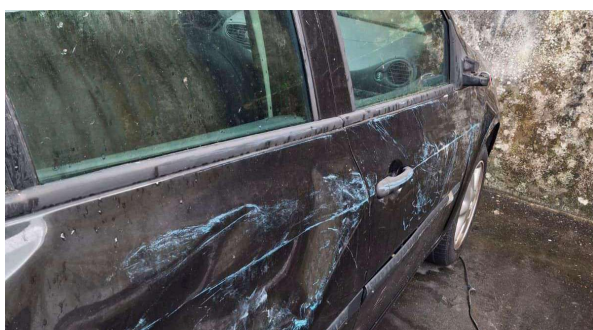
After the intervention



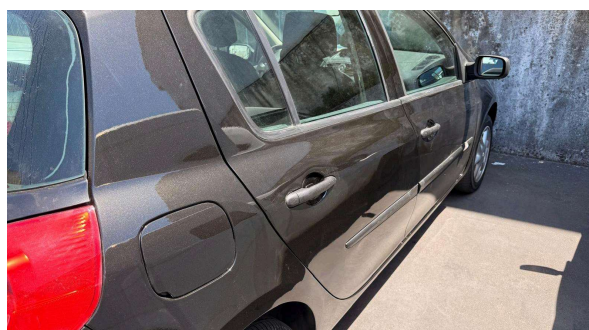
Before the intervention



After the intervention



Before the intervention



After the intervention

4.3 Categories of Support

The vast majority of support is for housing repair and reconstruction (93.2% of the amount approved), reflecting the nature of the damage caused by Storm Kristin, concentrated in roofs, structures and building services of the supported families' permanent homes.

CATEGORY OF SUPPORT	NO. OF CASES	AMOUNT APPROVED	% OF TOTAL
Housing repair and reconstruction	47	€471,570.30	93.2%
Rent / rehousing	11	€19,483.61	3.9%
Utilities (water, electricity, telecommunications)	2	€224.05	0.0%
Essential goods (household appliances)	9	€3,576.66	0.7%
Other support	11	€11,134.24	2.2%
TOTAL	80	€505,988.86	100.0%

Note. Approved case files only. The number of supports per category exceeds the number of families supported because a single case may involve more than one category of support.

5. Financial Position

5.1 Financial Summary of Support

€1,464,861.74 Total of quotations (approved cases)	€505,988.86 Total approved by the Committee	€103,703.03 Total actually paid	€402,285.83 Approved by the Committee, not yet paid
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FINANCIAL INDICATOR	AMOUNT
Total of quotations (approved cases)	€1,464,861.74
Total support already granted by the CCDR	€149,793.00
Total pending a CCDR decision	€110,353.50
Total insurance compensation received	€357,831.31
Total already approved by the Allocation Committee	€505,988.86
Total actually paid (to suppliers)	€103,703.03
Approved by the Committee, not yet paid	€402,285.83
% of the approved amount already paid	20.5%
Average amount approved per family supported	€10,326.30

Note. The figures above relate solely to the 49 approved case files. Cases are still under review by the municipalities and by CCDR-Centro, so the "Total support already granted by the CCDR" is likely to rise as those decisions become known. The "Total already approved by the Allocation Committee" is the net support actually granted to each family — after deducting insurance compensation and CCDR-Centro support — and capped at €30,000 per case. Quoted amounts falling outside the Rules, such as outbuildings, are excluded. The "Total already approved by the Committee" may increase depending on the amount still pending a CCDR decision.

5.2 Decision on the Support Ceiling per Household

In the course of its work the Allocation Committee decided to raise the maximum support per household to €30,000, from the initial ceiling of €15,000. Two factors were decisive: on the one hand, the volume of donations received — higher than initially expected — created room for a more robust response; on the other, direct contact with affected families on the ground made clear that €15,000 as a complement to CCDR-Centro support and, in some cases, insurance compensation was plainly insufficient to meet the real extent of the damage.

The insurance policies of many of the families supported — often old, with cover long out of date relative to the real value of their homes — resulted in compensation far below the actual losses. Adding State support to insufficient insurance compensation, a significant shortfall remained in many cases, making reconstruction unfeasible without more substantial complementary support. The Committee's decision to raise the ceiling to €30,000 therefore reflects a rigorous reading of reality and a commitment to an effective response — ensuring that the support granted is genuinely transformative for families rather than merely symbolic.

5.3 Payment Methodology

Under Art. 10 of the Rules, payments are made preferably directly to the supplier — never to the beneficiary — ensuring that the approved support is applied in full to the purpose for which it was granted. The segregation of duties between decision, execution and control, set out in Art. 11, reinforces this internal control.

Payment is phased: a deposit is paid to the supplier when the works are awarded, and the balance is settled only after the works are finished, subject to verification of completion. This methodology explains the gap between the amount approved (€505,988.86) and the amount paid (€103,703.03): the amount approved but not yet paid (€402,285.83) corresponds to works in progress whose final payment awaits completion, and to cases whose suppliers are waiting for the CCDR-Centro decision before starting work.

Phasing between deposit and post-completion balance protects donors and safeguards the integrity of the use of funds (Art. 11 of the Rules).

6. Operating Costs

Under Art. 12 of the Rules, management costs charged to the Fund are capped at 10% of the total raised. The costs itemised below are fully documented and fall within the eligible categories set out in the Rules.

ITEM	AMOUNT (€)
Gross salaries (2 social workers)	€10,619.65
Social Security — employer contribution (22.3%)	€2,368.16
Meal allowances	€900.00
Subtotal — Human resources	€13,887.81
IT equipment (laptop)	€1,207.43
Office supplies and consumables	€31.80
Travel (2,320.6 km × €0.40/km)	€928.24
TOTAL OPERATING COSTS	€16,055.28

6.1 Travel — Home Visits and Meetings with Municipalities

The Cáritas team travelled 2,320.6 km in connection with the Fund, comprising home visits to damaged houses across the municipalities of the Diocese, meetings with the social teams of the municipal councils of Leiria, Ourém, Marinha Grande and Pombal, and coordination with suppliers and contractors.

2,320.6 km Total kilometres travelled	€0.40/km Mileage rate applied	€928.24 Total travel cost
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7. Cooperation with the Municipalities of the Diocese

The effectiveness of the response by Cáritas Diocesana de Leiria-Fátima owed much to systematic cooperation with the affected municipalities within the geographical area of the Diocese: Leiria, Ourém, Marinha Grande, Pombal and Batalha.

This collaboration operates at several levels: identifying vulnerable families who might otherwise not learn about the Fund; helping to compile the documentation needed to process cases; coordinating the follow-up of displaced families; and liaising with municipal social services to avoid duplication of support.

As a result of this cooperation, Cáritas did not simply respond to spontaneous requests: in several cases the municipal teams themselves flagged vulnerable families, and Cáritas opened case files on its own initiative. This proactive approach explains part of the geographical reach of the intervention and the number of kilometres travelled by the team across the municipalities of the Diocese.

Cooperation with the Mission Structure for the Reconstruction of Central Portugal complemented this work, helping to ensure that Fund support and public support through CCDR-Centro were complementary, and enabling an integrated approach to supporting affected families.

8. Current Status and Challenges for the Winter

At the date of this report the Social Emergency Fund is active and applications for support continue to be accepted. The funds may be used until February 2028, a deadline that may be extended by decision of the Committee (Art. 4 of the Rules).

AREA	STATUS
Receipt of new applications for support	Open
Processing of ongoing case files	Active
Monitoring of works under way	In progress
Case files awaiting a CCDR-Centro decision	17 case files pending a State decision
Audit of donations received	Total raised: €2,493,936.89

8.1 Labour Shortage: a Real Risk for the Winter

The region faces a shortage of skilled construction labour that has constrained the pace at which approved works are carried out. With so many projects running at once, there is no guarantee that all works will be completed before autumn and winter weather worsens, putting at risk the habitability of some of the supported families' homes.

9. Conclusion

Cáritas Diocesana de Leiria-Fátima undertakes to update this report as further case files are completed, the audit of donations is finalised and CCDR-Centro decisions become known. Under Art. 13 of the Rules, a final implementation report will be produced, subject to independent external audit by Forvis Mazars, with full transparency in the management of the funds received.

Caring for people is, and will always be, the central focus of everything Cáritas Diocesana de Leiria-Fátima does. That principle guides every decision taken under this Fund — because behind every case file there is a real family, with a story of loss and a hope of starting again. To each of those families, Cáritas Diocesana renews its commitment: we will not rest until conditions of dignity and safety are restored to every home affected by Storm Kristin.

Through the direct work of our technical teams on the ground and systematic cooperation with the municipalities of the Diocese, we continue to identify new situations of vulnerability. We know, however, that there will always be more affected families than those we manage to reach. The Social Emergency Fund remains open and continues to receive and process new applications for support. To every family affected by Storm Kristin that has not yet applied, Cáritas Diocesana de Leiria-Fátima repeats the invitation: come to us. We are here, as we have always been, and no family should face the consequences of this storm alone.

To everyone — individuals, companies and institutions — who responded generously to the appeal of Cáritas Diocesana de Leiria-Fátima, our deepest thanks. Every donation entrusted to us, whatever its size, deserves the same rigour and the same responsibility, and that is why the independent external audit by Forvis Mazars was, from day one, a requirement of the team itself rather than an external imposition. It is that commitment to technical rigour, alongside human care for each family, that sustains the trust placed in this Fund.

Your solidarity has made, makes and will continue to make a difference. Thank you.

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