



ADRA Ukraine



ADRA Newsletter

September 2023



INTERVIEW

Country Director of ADRA Ukraine Leonid Rutkovskyi: “We have already started helping people to get ready for the cold season and potential blackouts”

Since the very beginning of the full-scale invasion, Adventists Development and Relief Agency in Ukraine (ADRA Ukraine) has supported vulnerable populations most affected by the hostilities. Country Director of ADRA Ukraine Leonid Rutkovskyi is now telling about what kind of assistance is offered and what needs are covered as part of the response.

— The Agency was created for the purpose of helping people affected by armed conflicts and disasters, internally displaced persons and their families, orphan children, children deprived of parental care, hospital patients, people living in combat zones, people with disabilities and elderly people. So what kind of assistance does the organization offer right now in Ukraine?

— This is primarily cash assistance for individuals struggling due to ongoing hostilities. In particular, this includes IDPs, who have lost their jobs or were forced to abandon their homes and now facing the need to rent an accommodation elsewhere, as well as people, whose dwellings were damaged during attacks and require repairs. These beneficiaries receive cash benefits by wire transfer to bank accounts. This process is quite fast, and sometimes the funds are remitted within only one day after the registration, so data processing and payment processing rate is pretty high. Currently, our organization is a leader in Ukraine in terms of the cash assistance for people in need. We offer the cash-for-rent option to those, who have no place to live because their housing was damaged and rendered unsuitable for living.

With the support of the UN World Food Programme, we also distribute food kits, in particular, in the Eastern and Northern parts of Ukraine. Our shelters located in various cities also offer the IDP support. Besides that, we offer evacuation for people in the areas located in the immediate vicinity to the frontline and social buses in the regions, where commercial carriers are not available. Our organization also provides support with repair and reconstruction of damaged housing, delivers psychological support, medical care and legal aid to beneficiaries. In addition to that, we have also launched a few dozens of Protection Centers, where people have access to comprehensive support options, including baby care rooms and even English language courses. If we talk about the Southern part of Ukraine shocked by the environmental disaster following Kakhovka HPP explosion, we also deliver bottled water to affected region residents. In the Eastern and Southern parts of the country, we implement a number of projects related to water supply. We do turnkey well-drilling projects and commission facilities designed to support the whole communities in order to ensure consistent water supply. Another activity is distribution of hygienic kits, and bed linen. Finally, we currently work on the large-scale winterization project, as part of which we support shelters for vulnerable populations, help with heat insulation of buildings, provide generators and solid fuel, since it is essential to start preparing for upcoming cold season and potential winter blackouts as soon as possible.

— **How many people have you already helped since the start of the full-scale invasion?**

— Right now, this figure has already exceeded 10,5 million people in Ukraine.

— **Do you help people to evacuate from dangerous and non-government-controlled territories?**

— Yes, we do help with evacuation from dangerous areas. By the way, we also have a program for returnees, where we support people with returning home after the security situation in certain town or city has improved. In addition, we operate a number of social bus routes in Donetsk and Kherson Region, where commercial transportation system is not available, but people still need to travel to nearby localities in order to take care of some business. Therefore, we develop social bus schedules and operate specially equipped buses.

— **You've mentioned that the organization also offers psychological support and legal aid. Do you have many beneficiaries using these services? What are some of the most common needs that want to address?**

— While preparing for this interview, I've looked through the list of the most common questions and issues addressed by our call center. This includes registration for cash assistance; food assistance; housing restoration assistance; evacuation; mental health support; legal consultations; shelter needs; medicine support; treatment and rehabilitation. I also had a chat with the leader of our mental health support team: we have around 30 practitioner daily receiving beneficiaries as part of our projects. From them, I've got a list of the most common mental health issues we are addressing, such as anxiety and depression disorders, eating disorders, psychosomatic symptoms, childhood trauma therapy, emotional burnout. Many issues are related to family conflicts, divorces and other family problems. Unfortunately, today many families get separated. So this is the scope of topics our psychologists normally work with.

— **You've also mentioned that you cooperate with the UN World Food Programme. What other international and Ukrainian organizations do you work with? What is the nature of your cooperation?**

— Our partners are mostly foreign governments: Germany, Denmark, Czech Republic. They contribute to the humanitarian response through ADRA offices in other country, since we are an international humanitarian network. For example, the German Government offers support through ADRA Germany, then they interact with us, and we jointly implement humanitarian projects in Ukraine. Here, in Ukraine, we have the donor office, the project implementation office, so there is a certain chain of interaction. We also receive a great deal of support from the Canadian Government. Some of our other donors are humanitarian organizations as part of the UN framework, several organizations in Europe, the European Commission. Finally, we also get support from private donors.



HIGHLIGHT

IDPs staying in the modular town in Bucha will have access to heat and power supply thanks to the generator provided by ADRA Ukraine

Last winter, the modular town in Bucha, Kyiv Region, which has become a shelter for around 200 internally displaced persons, was exposed to frequent power outages due to attacks against the critical infrastructures. Most residents here are mostly elderly people and people with disabilities, including bed-ridden individuals. In order to ensure consistent power supply and prevent interruptions with heat and electricity, ADRA Ukraine provided to the modular town in Bucha a powerful diesel generator with the capacity of 220 kW.

ADRA Ukraine along with the German Federal Foreign Office (GFFO), ADRA Germany and our partner Aktion Deutschland Hilft are doing their best in order to prepare the most vulnerable populations to the upcoming winter period.

Website post link:

<https://www.adra.ua/en/idps-staying-in-the-modular-town-in-bucha-will-have-access-to-heat-and-power-supply-thanks-to-the-generator-provided-by-adra-ukraine/>



HIGHLIGHT

ADRA Ukraine with the support of our German partner is helping five IDP shelters to prepare to the winter period

Three of these shelters have already received fuel briquettes from our organization. In particular, 32 tons of fuel were donated to the shelter in Kamianka, Cherkasy Region. In Dnipro, DUVP UTOS enterprise, which is currently used as a shelter for individuals with impaired vision, has received 12 tons, while 20 more tons of fuel briquettes were delivered to the Charitable Foundation "Promotion and Development". Soon, the assistance will be also provided to two shelters in Lviv Region. The shelter in Drohobych will receive 3 tons, and Barvinok Shelter in Novyi Rozdil will receive 30 tons of fuel.

This is done by ADRA Ukraine as part of the response to the winterization assistance requests received from the shelter, since based on the last winter experience, attacks against the energy infrastructure may leave the vulnerable populations without access to heat and power supply. Last year, the heating of the shelter in Kamianka was done using only electric heaters, which was a real challenge due to emergency blackouts in the area. Some people couldn't cope with the power outages and moved out of the shelter looking for a warmer place to stay. This situation continued up until the February this year, when the shelter was saved from the cold by the boiler system donated by ADRA Czech Republic. Now, the organization is working to supply fuel briquettes for this and other similar boilers.

Website post link:

<https://www.adra.ua/en/adra-ukraine-with-the-support-of-our-german-partner-is-helping-five-idp-shelters-to-prepare-to-the-winter-period/>



HIGHLIGHT

Residents of communities in Zaporizhzhia Region located in the immediate vicinity to the frontline can now use social bus services offered by ADRA Ukraine with the support of our German partners

ON August 23rd, in response to the request by Bilenkivska village council in Zaporizkyi District of Zaporizhzhia Region (a territorial community with the population of around 9 thousand individuals, which has received almost 1 500 IDPs), ADRA Ukraine has launched social buses as part of the GFFO project supported by the German Federal Foreign Office and ADRA Germany.

The purpose of this initiative is to support residents of communities in Zaporizhzhia Region located in the immediate vicinity to the frontline. For example, Chervonodniprovska village is situated only 15 km away from the line of contact. Due to frequent shellfire and unstable security situation, the village has almost no connection with the outer world: no power supply, no mobile or Internet network, which makes it impossible even to call an ambulance or emergency services in case of need.

Still, thanks to the implemented social bus programme, residents of communities located in the immediate vicinity to the frontline, once again have a chance to access all necessary administrative and healthcare services.

Website post link:

<https://www.adra.ua/en/residents-of-communities-in-zaporizhzhia-region-located-in-the-immediate-vicinity-to-the-frontline-can-now-use-social-bus-services-offered-by-adra-ukraine-with-the-support-of-our-german-partners/>



Success Story

Liudmyla Volodymyrivna is from Kherson, and namely from Hydropark District flooded after Kakhovka HPP explosion. The woman's house was totally covered by the water, so when the water level decreased, she couldn't even recognize her dwelling any longer. Everything was covered in sand, furniture was ruined, all belongings and household items were damaged. The bridge, which used to be her usual road home, was also destroyed, so now the only way to get to the house is to use a boat. Currently, Liudmyla Volodymyrivna stays at ADRA Ukraine's shelter. Here, the woman feels secure and comfortable.

Liudmyla is sincerely grateful to everyone, who has helped her during this time of great challenge, since being left without dwelling and without money, she was totally confused as for what to do and how to survive. However, now she knows for sure that there are volunteers and organizations willing to support her and provide her with everything necessary for a normal life.

**Kakhovka HPP
Liudmyla Turchyna
City of Kherson**



More News

ADRA Ukraine is repairing windows and doors of houses in Kyiv Region damaged during the hostilities

01/09/2023

Zaporizhzhia residents, who suffered from the missile strike, have received financial assistance from ADRA

04/09/2023

147 Ukrainian children affected by the war had a chance to rest in Austria thanks to ADRA Austria and ADRA Ukraine

05/09/2023

ADRA Ukraine has contributed to funding the construction of a training and rehabilitation center for children and youth with disabilities in Ternopil Region

06/09/2023

ADRA Ukraine's mobile outreach team offers legal, psychological and coordination assistance to people affected by the hostilities in Zhytomyr Region

07/09/2023

Kryvyi Rih residents affected by missile strike are receiving support from ADRA Ukraine

08/09/2023

Residents of liberated and frontline regions received over UAH 70 million in aid with support from the UHF

13/09/2023

Social dormitory in Dnipro has sheltered over 120 IDPs from Mariupol

20/09/2023

Thank you for supporting Ukraine!



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@adra_ukraine



@ADRA.Ukraine



www.adra.ua



info@adra.ua

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