



**ADRA Ukraine**

# **NEWSLETTER**

**DECEMBER 2023**





## Interview

### «How does ADRA Ukraine care about the safety of employees and beneficiaries» - Mykhailo Semin, security manager at ADRA Ukraine, shares details.

— Mykhailo, as a security manager, could you tell us what risks the Adventist Development and Relief Agency in Ukraine's employees are facing now?

— The full-scale war has created new dangers and challenges for ADRA Ukraine employees. To the existing general risks (such as, for example, risks related to transportation and movement), completely new, more serious ones have been added. These mainly include missile strikes, artillery shellfire, UAV attacks, dangers related to landmines and unexploded ordnance. Many of our volunteers and staff have to work in high-risk areas daily exposed to the shellfire: Kupiansk district of Kharkiv Region, river-bank areas of Kherson region, including the city of Kherson, which is shelled dozens of times a day.

— What steps are being taken to manage these risks?

— In order to control the above-mentioned risks, we first revisited ADRA Ukraine's basic procedures. To start with, we focused the Safety and Security Plan, the basic document of any humanitarian organization concerning the safety of employees, the older version of which did not contain new types of hazards. We added threat response measures, preventive measures, revised the part about ADRA Ukraine's leadership response to potential emergencies, the incident reporting procedure, etc.

The increased risk of radiation contamination and total blackout we faced in 2022 has prompted us to develop additional, more extensive response procedures in the event of a nuclear attack or incident at a nuclear power plant, as well as in the event of power outages.

For our main offices, which were at the highest risk of a security threat in case of further deterioration of the situation at the frontline, evacuation, relocation and hibernation (temporary office shutdown) plans were prepared, and the roles of officers responsible for evacuation were defined.

— What is being done from a practical point of view to improve security?

— First and foremost, we provide our employees with personal protective equipment: bulletproof vests and protective helmets. Anyone working in a high-risk area must use this equipment to improve their personal safety. It is also mandatory to carry an individual first aid kit, which contains a set of medical products to stop bleeding, which is the most common type of injury in a war zone. A tourniquet is a mandatory component of these first aid kits.

— Do employees know how to use these products? Do they receive training?

— Of course. Every employee who constantly works in high-risk areas, especially volunteers and field officers, should receive the first aid training. For example, ADRA Ukraine's largest and most dangerous project in terms of the areas of operation is a project supported by [the World Food Program \(WFP\)](#), whose volunteers and coordinators in all sectors have received similar practical training from professional instructors. All the participants were trained on how to stop critical bleeding and do cardiopulmonary resuscitation.

— What else do your employees learn during the safety trainings?

— It all depends on the risks that certain employees may face. For example, we focus a lot of attention on landmine risk training. The scale of unexploded ordnance and mine contamination in Ukraine is currently the largest in the world. This is especially true for the de-occupied regions in the southeastern part of our country. That is why teams working in these areas regularly receive EORE (Explosive Ordnance Risk Education) training facilitated by our partners from other non-governmental organizations involved in humanitarian demining and public awareness campaigns. Today, we cooperate with the Halo Trust organization, which has high expertise in this field. When the risk of an accident at the Zaporizhzhya NPP increased, a series of training sessions were organized on nuclear safety and actions to be taken in the event of radiation contamination. Employees were familiarized with decontamination measures, i.e. removal of contaminating particles and contaminated clothing from the body; basic measures to prevent particles from getting on the skin surface and into the body; and the use of medicines that minimize the effects of exposure to radiation particles.





For project managers and core specialists traveling to high-risk regions, we provide advanced security training facilitated by professional training organizations. In particular, INSO (International NGO Safety Organization) is currently conducting a series of four-day offline personal safety training sessions, which some of our managers have already attended. The feedback from the participants is very positive, so we will continue this practice in the future.

— And what do you do in order to ensure office security?

— First, we try to choose premises that have at least the most basic shelters or those where the "two-walls" rule could be observed. For example, in Kyiv and Bucha, our offices have semi-basement rooms where employees can hide during the air raids. In Dnipro, the office is located right next to the public shelter.

In order to minimize the risk of injury caused by glass shards scattered by the blast wave, we have covered windows with special protective film. We also keep a stock of water in our offices in case of hibernation and have purchased the stock of ready-to-eat food with long shelf-life.

In order to ensure uninterrupted operation, we have equipped our offices with satellite Internet systems and alternative power sources (generators, power banks, batteries), and, for example, purchased a professional radiation dosimeter for the office in Dnipro due to its relatively closeness to the ZNPP.

— What security challenges do the organization's employees face in the field? How do you manage to solve them?

— For volunteers and field coordinators, the most common problem is finding humanitarian aid distribution points that have shelters in or near them. This is especially true in small towns or villages where such shelters simply do not exist, or the cost of renting a suitable space is unacceptable based on the budgets allocated by donors. If no such premises can be found, we make sure to install signs at each distribution point with the address of the nearest bomb shelter.

Another problem is that, unfortunately, during this war, the norms of international humanitarian law are very often violated and often the targets of attacks are employees of NGOs or premises used by humanitarian organizations as warehouses or offices. Our employees have also faced such precedents, having been repeatedly attacked in the course of their humanitarian missions, including by FPV drones. To prevent such incidents from happening, we try to increase the visibility of our employees' affiliation with the charitable organization by using neutral-colored vests with ADRA inscriptions, humanitarian organization markings on cars, etc.

Also, the wide territorial coverage of our projects sometimes becomes a challenge for conducting offline trainings, as not all training organizations are ready to travel to remote regions of the country. However, we overcome this situation, including with the help of other non-governmental organizations (such as KoLeSo, Red Cross, UK-Med, etc.) and thus cover this need.







## HIGHLIGHT

### In Krivyi Rih, children with autism attended a festive program and received gifts from ADRA Ukraine

In Krivyi Rih city of Dnepropetrovsk region, on December 1, a holiday program for children with autism was held, which was attended by 40 children with their parents. Little visitors played, watched clown tricks and took part in various competitions. They received gifts purchased thanks to the support of [ADRA Norway](#). Also, 28 children have limited mobility and were unable to come to this event, but each of them received their own gift delivered to their home. In addition, all children received postcards from their peers in Norway.

Volunteers from the Krivyi Rih office of ADRA Ukraine, in collaboration with the “There is a Way Out” Center, organized this program after receiving a request from the public organization “Take Care of the Soul.” The parents and children who came to the event and received gifts were very pleased; all the children had smiles on their faces, and joy shone in their eyes!

06/12/2023

Новина на сайті:

<https://www.adra.ua/en/in-krivyi-rih-children-with-autism-attended-a-festive-program-and-received-gifts-from-adra-ukraine>





## HIGHLIGHT

### **Dariivka community in Kherson Region has received a mobile water treatment plant with support of ADRA International**

On December 15th, ADRA Ukraine transferred a mobile water treatment plant into the ownership of Dariivka Community in Kherson Region. This station, which is capable of producing 200 liters of purified water per hour, will supply drinking water to the population of the villages of Dariivka, Poniativka, and Tokarivka. The assistance was provided as part of the Network project supported by [ADRA International](#).

People in Dariivka community, especially the villages of Dariivka, Tokarivka and Poniativka, suffer from water supply interruptions, as water pipes in several villages were destroyed by the shellfire. In addition, after the Kakhovka hydroelectric power plant was blown up, dirty water started to flow out of the Dnipro River. The community had to resume operation of old wells, but the water required extra treatment. The mobile station, donated by ADRA Ukraine, is intended to solve this problem. Thanks to the new water treatment equipment, the local administration plans to supply drinking water to the settlements according to the schedule.

In addition, in December, three stationary water treatment plants were installed as part of the ADRA Network project with the support of ADRA International - at the dormitory of the State Construction Academy in Dnipro, in Kotliarevo village, Mykolaiv region, and Novokaira village, Kherson region.

ADRA Ukraine, with the support of [ADRA Czech Republic](#), also installed two treatment plants for a lyceum in the village of Fedorivka, Odesa region, and a lyceum in the village of Novolativka, Dnipro region, drilled two wells in the village of Sofiyivka, Dnipro region, and distributed 3,456 bottles of water.

The charitable organization, with the support of [The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints](#) in Ukraine, distributed 10,368 bottles of water in the eastern and southern regions of Ukraine, drilled one well and repaired one water tower.

20/12/2023

See on the website:

<https://www.adra.ua/en/dariivka-community-in-kherson-region-has-received-a-mobile-water-treatment-plant-with-support-of-adra-international>





## HIGHLIGHT

### **ADRA Ukraine again evacuated a person with limited mobility from Kherson to a safer city**

The evacuation took place on December 26 as part of the LEAP project with the support of the Government of Canada. A man with limited mobility accompanied by his wife was evacuated by specialized transport from the city of Kherson, which is subject to frequent shelling, to the city of Rivne.

In December, ADRA Ukraine evacuated 333 people from the Kherson Region. In total, for the entire period after the de-occupation of Kherson (since November 2022), as of December 26 this year, the number of evacuees is 4,476 people under the LEAP project with the support of [the Government of Canada](#). The number of people evacuated throughout the whole territory of Ukraine in December has reached 491 beneficiaries, including 15 individuals evacuated in specialized vehicles.

ADRA Ukraine continues to provide free transportation assistance to people with limited mobility using specialized vehicles. The evacuation covers six regions: Kherson, Zaporizhzhia, Donetsk, Kharkiv, Dnipro and Mykolaiv regions. Assistance is provided to people who do not need medical support. An accompanying person is also required for evacuation.

27/12/2023

See on the website:

<https://www.adra.ua/en/adra-ukraine-evacuated-a-person-with-limited-mobility-from-kherson-to-a-safer-city>



## Success Story

Yurii and his family moved to Kryvyi Rih from Kherson Region. Before the war, they used to have a good, stable life. He worked as an administrator in a plumbing store and made some plans for the future. However, constant shelling and danger destroyed everything. The family fled their home and had to start all over again. In their minds, they dreamed that soon all this horror and danger would end and they would return home. However, after the Kakhovka hydroelectric power station was blown up, they were told that their house was completely flooded. Now Yurii's family has nowhere to go back to. Of course, it is very difficult to find a job in a new city to provide for the whole family. Therefore, the family is facing financial challenges. After hearing from his friends about ADRA Ukraine and its projects, Yurii immediately contacted the organization and filled out an application. A little later, the man received a response, and then the help itself in the form of funds. This money, provided with the support of [ADRA Nederland](#), has come in handy as never before.

Now the family can buy warm clothes, as they have nothing left and the weather is getting colder. Part of the money will also be used to pay for rent and other basic needs of the family. Yurii is sincerely grateful for this essential support.

**Yurii Testin**  
from Hola Prystan, Kherson Region  
currently lives in Kryvyi Rih





## Success Story

Liudmyla is originally from Berdiansk. Since the very beginning of the fullscale invasion, this area has been extremely dangerous, so eventually she was forced to leave her hometown. Liudmyla is a mother of three daughters. She and her husband had worked hard to make sure that their children would live a normal life. However, now the family is struggling. It is difficult to quickly find a job with high wage in a new city. Currently, only her husband is employed. The children are all of different ages, the eldest daughter is already studying at the college, the middle daughter is a school student, and the youngest is in kindergarten. The family learned about the ADRA Ukraine online. Today they have received a winter kit, which includes a warm blanket, a power bank and a heater.

The family is very grateful for this assistance provided under the project supported by [the German Federal Foreign Office \(GFFO\)](#) and [Aktion Deutschland Hilft](#), as it is extremely helpful during this cold period.

**Liudmyla Proskurina**  
from Berdiansk, Zaporizhzhia Region  
currently lives in Kyiv



## Success Story

Liudmyla Mykhailivna now lives in the village of Stepne. She was forced to move here because it was too dangerous to stay in her hometown. She took almost none of her belongings with her because she had to leave quickly. In Stepne, they were sheltered and provided with housing. However, Liudmyla's financial situation is difficult. Finding a job is not an easy task, but providing herself with everything she needs is even more challenging. Therefore, when she learned about the food kits distributed by ADRA Ukraine and [the UN World Food Programme](#), she immediately applied for the assistance.

Now Liudmyla Mykhailivna regularly receives food kits, which she sincerely appreciates. Thanks to these kits, she has enough to eat for a month.

**Liudmyla Bohuslavets**  
from Stepne, Zaporizhzhia Region





## More news

**260 people affected by the war received cash assistance from ADRA Ukraine and Japanese partners**  
06/12/2023

**IDPs in Mukachevo received humanitarian kits from ADRA Ukraine and our German partners**  
12/12/2023

**Before the onset of cold weather, residents of four Regions of Ukraine have received the cash assistance from ADRA Ukraine**  
13/12/2023

**ADRA Ukraine continues to deliver food kits to the affected villages in Kherson Region with the support of the UN World Food Programme**  
15/12/2023

**IDPs at the shelter in Dnipropetrovsk Region have received household items and materials needed to survive the winter**  
28/12/2023

**Seriously ill children in Kharkiv have received gifts for the winter holidays from ADRA Ukraine**  
29/12/2023

**A person with limited mobility was evacuated from Zaporizhzhia thanks to ADRA Ukraine and the support of our Canadian partners**  
29/12/2023

**134 children at the Private School "Academy of Wisdom" in Bucha received Christmas gifts from ADRA Ukraine**  
30/12/2023



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