



ADRA UKRAINE

NEWSLETTER

November/2025



**SERHII GORKAVYI**
Project Manager

“Building Back Better.” How ADRA Ukraine Helps Communities in Mykolaiv Region Prepare for Winter

Today’s conversation is with Sergii Gorkavyi, Project Manager of EU-DCA WASH 2025 Project. He coordinates one of those initiatives that may be invisible at first glance but make a real difference in the lives of frontline communities. The full name of the project implemented by [ADRA Ukraine](#) in partnership with [ADRA Denmark](#) and [DanChurchAid \(DCA\)](#) is: *“Winterizing frontline communities and increasing resilience through community led initiatives, infrastructure reconstruction and green energy”*.

Behind these words lies genuine care for people who must face the cold season under challenging conditions.

— **Serhii, tell us a bit about yourself. What is your role in this project?**

— As a project manager, I coordinate all activities in Mykolaiv Region and the city of Mykolaiv — from planning to community engagement and contractor oversight. My main goal is to ensure that all activities are delivered with high quality, on time, and in line with European Commission requirements.

— **Could you explain in more detail what exactly the project includes?**

— Our key goal is to prepare frontline communities for winter and strengthen the resilience of critical infrastructure. The project covers several major areas:

- repairs and thermal modernization of boiler houses (replacement of windows and doors at 7 locations in Mykolaiv);
- replacement of Rozhnovsky water towers in five communities, including well rehabilitation, electronics upgrades, and installation of fencing;
- insulation of heating networks — replacement and installation of new thermal insulation for pipelines in several Mykolaiv residential areas.

All of this ensures that communities have stable heat and water supplies in winter and reduces the risk of infrastructure failures. The project is funded by the European Commission, while ADRA Ukraine is responsible for implementation on the ground. Our partners — ADRA Denmark and DCA — support coordination and implementation.

— **From the work already completed, what stands out to you as most significant?**

— Since April 2025, we've completed a substantial amount of work. In Mykolaiv Region, we are installing five new water towers with full modernization of wells and fencing at all project locations (Mykolaiv District: the urban-type settlement of Pervomaiske of Pervomaiska Community; the villages of Peresadivka and Kalynivka of Voskresenska Community; the village of Kandybyne of Kostiantynivka Community; Pervomaisk District: the village of Berizky of Kryvozerska Community). In Mykolaiv city, seven boiler houses have received new or replaced windows and doors. We have also begun and partially completed insulation of heating networks on Oceanivska, Kurortna, and Samoilovycha streets.

— **Why is it so important to carry out this work right now?**

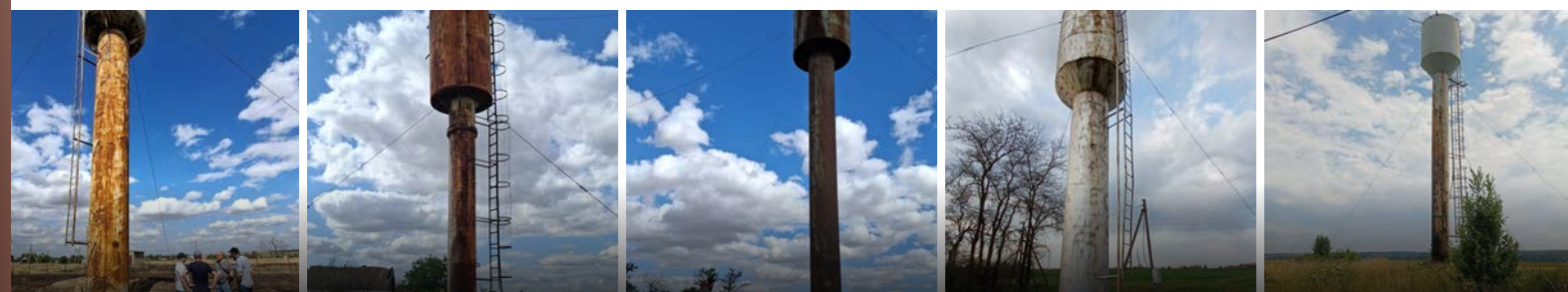
— Mykolaiv Region is a frontline area. Its infrastructure has suffered extensive damage from shelling, and community resources are limited. By restoring heating and water supply systems, we cover basic needs of residents — including displaced people — ensure functioning of medical and educational institutions, protect residential areas, and reduce the risk of emergencies. This is especially critical in winter.



Boiler rooms in the Mykolaiv region have been repeatedly hit by “suicide bombers.” Windows and doors in the buildings were knocked out and other structures were damaged. The project provides for the replacement of all destroyed windows and doors, as well as the restoration of slopes and other elements.

— **Do you already see a visible impact from the completed work?**

— Yes, and it's noticeable. Renovated boiler houses reduce heat losses and ensure stable heating throughout winter. The newly insulated pipelines help minimize the risk of freezing or ruptures in low temperatures. The new water towers will soon become operational, providing stable water supply to hundreds of households and social facilities across Mykolaiv Region. All these efforts strengthen energy efficiency, durability, and resilience of infrastructure — following the “build back better” approach.



Water towers in several communities in the Mykolaiv region have either been damaged by hostilities or have not been functioning for many years. Their reconstruction involves the complete replacement of structures: new foundations, wells, fences, electronics, etc.

— **Working in frontline areas always brings challenges. What obstacles does your team face?**

— The work is indeed difficult. Constant threats of shelling of critical sites, tight deadlines related to winter preparation requiring quick decisions, and the need to coordinate bureaucratic processes between contractors and local authorities. We closely collaborate with communities and military administrations, adjust schedules, and conduct regular safety assessments. Some activities must be performed with limited public visibility, and the team is continuously evaluating risks.



Several boiler rooms in the Mykolaiv region were damaged by direct hits and explosions. All damaged structures will be replaced as part of the project. Bottom right: thermal insulation in Mykolaiv, which is also planned to be replaced.

— **Were there any unexpected results or discoveries during the project?**

— Yes, a few positive surprises. Communities are actively involved and eager to cooperate. Replacing water towers will bring a much greater effect than expected — in some villages, residents will have reliable water supply for the first time in many years. We also realized that successful winterization requires not only repairs but constant communication among all stakeholders and project participants.



Thermal insulation in Mykolaiv: some areas already have new insulation, others are planned for replacement.

— **Finally, what are the next steps?**

— In the near term, we plan to finalize work on all boiler houses and sign off completed acceptance of works; monitor the final installation and connection of water towers; and complete heating network insulation. We are doing everything possible to ensure that Mykolaiv communities are well-prepared for winter and can safely make it through the heating season.

STATISTICS ON ASSISTANCE PROVIDED

November 2025

Direction of assistance	Number of beneficiaries	Amount of assistance	Region of assistance	Name of Donor
Food Security	157 811 beneficiaries	54 612 food kits, 4 814 canned food kits, 259 571 loaves of bread, 9 000 ATB-vouchers, food products for 2 shelters	Kharkiv, Mykolaiv, Kherson, Odesa, Lviv, Dnipropetrovsk, Kyiv, Chernivtsi, Cherkasy, Vinnytsia regions	The UN World Food Programme & ADRA Switzerland, Advent-Wohlfahrtswerk (AWW), The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, ADRA France & ADRA Ukraine
Legal Assistance	721 beneficiaries	Legal aid	Kharkiv, Mykolaiv, Sumy, Dnipropetrovsk, Lviv, Zaporizhia, Kyiv regions	ADRA Czech Republic & Aktion Deutschland Hilft, Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA)
MHPSS	3 330 beneficiaries	Individual sessions, group sessions, trainings	All of Ukraine	ADRA Czech Republic & Aktion Deutschland Hilft, (GAC) IHA Canada & ADRA Canada, Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA), OCHA & Ukrainian Deminers Association, ADRA Japan & Japan Platform
Protection Centres	1 391 beneficiaries	10 protection centres	Zhytomyr, Poltava, Dnipropetrovsk, Kyiv, Khmelnyskyi, Chernihiv, Sumy, Mykolaiv, Kharkiv regions	Radiohjälpen & ADRA Sweden, (GAC) IHA Canada & ADRA Canada
Social Transportation	2 340 beneficiaries	108 trips	Dnipropetrovsk, Zaporizhia, Donetsk, Kherson regions	ADRA Czech Republic & Aktion Deutschland Hilft
CASH Assistance	29 beneficiaries (15 households)	7 404 \$ (313 200 ₴)	Kharkiv, Dnipropetrovsk regions	ADRA Japan & Japan Platform, Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA)
Health	-	91 wheelchairs	Cherkasy, Poltava, Mykolaiv, Kirovohrad, Chernivtsi regions	The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saint & Wheelchair Foundation
Winterization: solid fuel	1 002 beneficiaries (17 protect. centres)	121 tons of solid fuel	Dnipropetrovsk region	ADRA Czech Republic & Aktion Deutschland Hilft
Winterization: cash for solid fuel	39 beneficiaries (13 households)	5 995 \$ (252 200 ₴)	Chernihiv region	(GAC) IHA Canada & ADRA Canada



Андрій Бабенцов
новий керівник ADRA Ukraine

HIGHLIGHT

THE NEW HEAD OF ADRA UKRAINE SHARES HIS VISION:

«We strive not only to close urgent needs, but also to change people's lives»

In November, there was a change of leadership in ADRA Ukraine. The organization was headed by Andrii Babentsov, who worked in the team for a long time and knows well the internal processes and challenges of humanitarian work. ADRA Ukraine expresses its gratitude to the previous manager Leonid Rutkovsky, who completed his work in the organization in connection with the transition to a new stage of professional activity. For almost three years, he carried out management and implementation of complex projects, which contributed to the development of the organization. Both leaders — new and previous — shared their vision, experience and appeals to the team.

Andrii Babentsov, who recently assumed the position, addressed the employees and partners with the following words:

«Dear colleagues, partners and friends of ADRA Ukraine! It is a great honor for me to address you as the head of our organization. I see myself as part of a strong, dedicated team that serves people experiencing the most difficult circumstances of their lives every day. In the context of ongoing war, humanitarian challenges and large-scale losses, our work together is gaining even deeper meaning.

* Full text of the publication on the website, [click here](#)

Published On: 01.12.2025



HIGHLIGHT

VOLUNTEER SUPPORTING ADRA UKRAINE SEVERELY WOUNDED IN KHERSON REGION

In the village of Urozhayne, Beryslav district of Kherson region, a local volunteer who assisted ADRA Ukraine in distributing bread provided by [the UN World Food Programme \(WFP\)](#) with the support of [ADRA Switzerland](#) was severely wounded. The incident occurred on December 1 at around 11:15 a.m., when volunteer Ihor Ilnytskiy (born in 1964), was driving back after completing the distribution. He was attacked by an FPV drone. Ihor is now in the hospital in critical condition, and his leg has been amputated.

The drone hit the front right passenger seat of the vehicle. Local residents and military personnel noticed the incident, but due to the presence of another drone that was “hunting” nearby, it was initially impossible to safely extract the victim. Only once the situation became less threatening were locals able to evacuate Ihor and transport him to a hospital in Velyka Oleksandrivka. According to his relatives, he lost a significant amount of blood and remains in a critical state. Residents also reported that following the initial strike on the vehicle, three additional drone drops occurred, completely destroying the car. At the time of the attack, the vehicle was not carrying humanitarian cargo.

Ihor Ilnytskiy and his family have been cooperating with the ADRA Ukraine team since the very beginning of the WFP project, helping to organize distributions in some of the most dangerous areas of Kherson region.

ADRA Ukraine colleagues have launched a fundraising campaign to support the severely injured volunteer and his family.

Earlier, in an interview about the dangers and constant risks faced by ADRA Ukraine volunteers and staff working in the Beryslav district, Ihor's daughter — Maryna Ilnytska — [spoke](#) about these challenges.

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HIGHLIGHT

AROUND ONE THOUSAND DISPLACED PEOPLE WILL RECEIVE WINTER ASSISTANCE WITHIN THE ADRA UKRAINE PROJECT

The team of the project *“Safe water, mental peace, social transport and winterization for Ukrainians affected by conflict”* (WMTW Ukraine), implemented with the support of donors [Aktion Deutschland Hilft](#) (Germany) and [ADRA Czech Republic](#), has launched activities aimed at helping vulnerable families prepare for the winter season.

One of the key components of the winter support is the delivery of 121 tons of fuel briquettes to 17 collective centers in Dnipropetrovsk region. Providing alternative solid fuel is crucial for meeting basic heating needs, especially for people living in collective centers who are unable to prepare for the cold season on their own.

In total, the initiative aims to support 1,002 internally displaced persons residing in collective centers in the Dnipro, Samarivskyi, and Synelnykivskyi districts. Supplying fuel briquettes will ensure stable heating throughout the winter months and improve the safety, comfort, and well-being of people affected by the conflict.

Published On: 17.11.2025

MARIA BARANOVA
is originally from Kherson,
but she now lives in Mykolaiv.

She clearly remembers the morning when her life split into “before” and “after.”

The first explosion sounded outside her window, and a wave of fear rolled in — not even for herself, but for her children and the baby she was still carrying. *“I was pregnant with my third child,”* Maria recalls. The pregnancy was difficult, and each new day in a city under constant shelling felt like another test of strength. During the first weeks, the family hid in the basement, trying to protect the children from danger. But eventually, their food and medicine ran out, and it became clear that staying any longer was impossible.

They couldn’t leave right away, but after some time the family managed to reach Mykolaiv — a safer place. Maria still remembers every moment of that journey, filled with fear and uncertainty: *“It was terrifying to leave. We kept hoping everything would end soon.”*

Her children struggled through this period as well: constant stress and anxiety took a toll on their health. Maria tries to be their source of strength, but at times she, too, needs support to keep going after everything they lived through. *“We lost everything. We lost our life,”* she says.

One day she came across information online about psychological workshops and support activities organized by [ADRA Ukraine](#), [ADRA Canada](#), and the [Government of Canada](#) in her city. That was the moment when a little bit of light finally returned to her life.

“These workshops help me unload emotionally. There are people who understand me and support me,” she shares. For Maria, these meetings became more than just a chance to talk — they became a safe space where she feels heard, accepted, and where she is gradually regaining her sense of calm and inner balance.

Thanks to psychological support and a community of women who have faced similar challenges, Maria now feels that she is not alone — and that gives her the strength to move forward.





VALENTYNA YESINA
 lives in the village of Zolochiv in the Kharkiv region

She lives alone in a house that was partially damaged by shelling.

Some of the walls and the roof need repairs, but she cannot restore them. Her pension is small, and it barely covers her daily expenses, forcing her to save on almost everything.

There are grocery stores in the village, but due to the high prices she has to make difficult choices about what she can afford to buy.

Valentyna has been receiving support from ADRA Ukraine since 2023, and this assistance has helped her endure the hardest periods. The food kits have become an essential part of her daily life — basic products that bring a sense of stability and allow her not to worry about whether she will have something to cook.

“I don’t buy oil or grains. The box has buckwheat, cereals, and sugar,” she says. Residents in the area receive this assistance through [the United Nations World Food Programme](#), supported by [ADRA Switzerland](#) and [ADRA Ukraine](#). People in the community note that the help arrives exactly when it is needed most, giving them strength to carry on despite all the challenges.

“Thank you sincerely. You are doing a great deed!” she adds.





VALENTYNA
lives in the village of Liubymivka, Kherson region



The village of Liubymivka has become a refuge for people who lost everything because of the war.

Internally displaced families now live here alongside local residents whose homes were damaged by shelling. For many of them, this is the only place they were able to return or where they were relocated after evacuation. Life here is made even more difficult by the complete lack of direct transport routes. The buses that used to go to the village no longer operate. Carriers and drivers refuse to travel so close to the frontline.

“They say the village is too close to the frontline, so they don’t want to come here,” residents explain. As a result, people are forced to travel to neighboring villages, where social transport still runs toward the city of Kryvyi Rih (Dnipropetrovsk region). For the elderly, people with disabilities, and women living alone, this becomes a real ordeal — long distances, difficult transfers, and constant danger on the roads.

Valentyna is one of those who experienced not only the loss of her home, but also a forced return to a frontline region. She was evacuated and lived in Kryvyi Rih for two years, but later was relocated to Liubymivka, where she lives now.

She still remembers the day she lost everything: ***“The house burned down. A shell hit it directly twice, and the car nearby burned. Nothing was left,”*** she recalls. Today, her greatest struggle is the journey to the hospital and access to essential services:

“We desperately need this transport — we have to get to the hospital,” Valentyna says.

Her words are a heartfelt plea for help: ***“Please, hear us. We really need this transport. It is our lifebuoy.”***

For the residents of Liubymivka, transportation is not about convenience — it is a matter of survival. Today, the support of [Aktion Deutschland Hilft](#), [ADRA Czech Republic](#) and [ADRA Ukraine](#) has become the bridge that restores access to basic life necessities and helps people endure despite constant danger and isolation.





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