



**KOSTIANTYN HERASYMOV**

Shelter & WASH Coordinator at ADRA Ukraine

Water, Heat, Restored Schools and Shelters: How ADRA Ukraine Is Changing Communities' Lives

During wartime, infrastructure recovery becomes not only a matter of comfort but of survival. Water, heating, safe schools and hospitals with uninterrupted access to water supply are basic necessities without which communities cannot function. Kostiantyn Herasymov, Shelter & WASH Coordinator at [ADRA Ukraine](#), speaks about how recovery projects are implemented, the challenges engineers face, and what truly lies behind the term “humanitarian aid.”

— Kostiantyn, please tell us a bit about yourself and your professional journey. How did you come to work at ADRA Ukraine?

— I have a technical education in construction, as well as a degree in Management. I have been working in engineering and project management for over ten years. With the start of the full-scale war, I clearly understood that my knowledge should be applied where it can bring the greatest benefit to people.

ADRA Ukraine became a place where my profession aligns with a calling to help communities restore housing, infrastructure, and basic living conditions.

— What is your role in ADRA projects and what are your daily responsibilities?

— I work in the Shelter and WASH sectors, and my area of responsibility is the technical component of projects. My daily work includes several components. First of all, technical assessments of sites, especially during peak periods, for understanding the real conditions and needs on the ground. I hold meetings with project managers and engineers, coordinate engineering teams, because the speed and quality of our solutions depend on effective teamwork. I develop and adjust SOPs (Standard Operating Procedures).

In the process, I often need to develop tailored approaches for specific cases, especially when it comes to repair work under complex conditions. At the same time, I create work schedules for different project components to ensure everything progresses clearly and without delays.

An important part of the work is constant interaction with communities and local authorities, as without this it is impossible to fully understand people's needs and circumstances. I ensure that all solutions comply with both Ukrainian building regulations and international humanitarian standards.

I would also like to highlight our team of construction engineers. These are strong professionals and true like-minded individuals who work with full dedication. We share the same approach to quality, safety, and responsibility toward people. Thanks to teamwork, we are able to implement complex projects even under the most difficult conditions. When you are surrounded by such professionals, you realize that together you can move mountains.

In essence, our task is to ensure that assistance is not only fast, but also high-quality, timely, and sustainable.



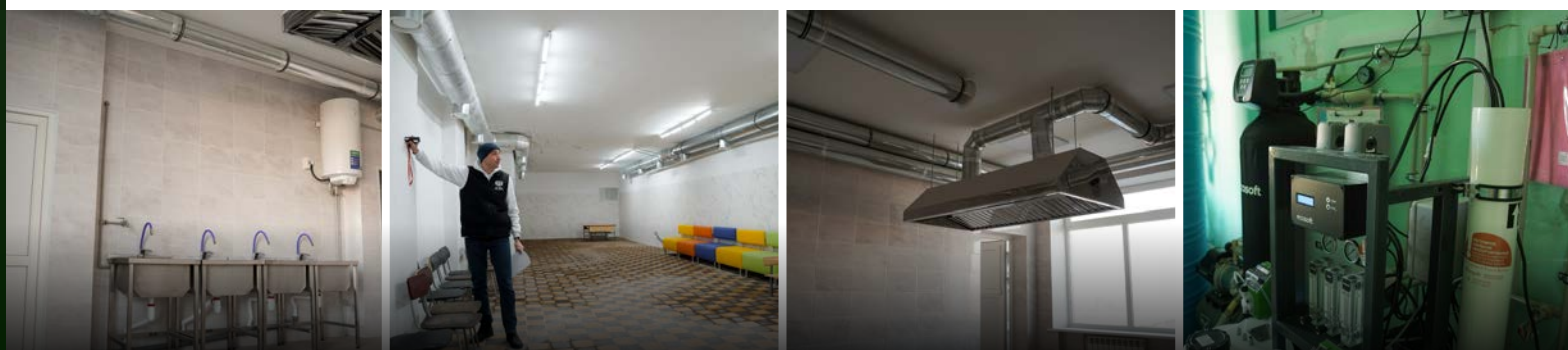
Well-coordinated teamwork allows to implement complex projects

— What types of facilities does ADRA Ukraine most often restore?

Starting from 2024, we have been actively working on restoring educational infrastructure in Mykolaiv region. This is an important element of early recovery alongside other critical sectors, as educational institutions play a key role in rebuilding communities and returning people to normal life.

Most often, we work with schools and kindergartens, repairing buildings, equipping shelters, restoring heating and water supply, and improving sanitation conditions. All of this is aimed at enabling children to return to in-person learning in safe conditions, which is important not only for education but also for their psycho-emotional well-being.

We also work with social facilities, supporting basic community infrastructure. Often, we have to restore elements of water infrastructure, because access to water cannot be postponed. We also work with critical infrastructure, for example, repairing boiler houses on which entire settlements depend.



Renovation of educational institutions

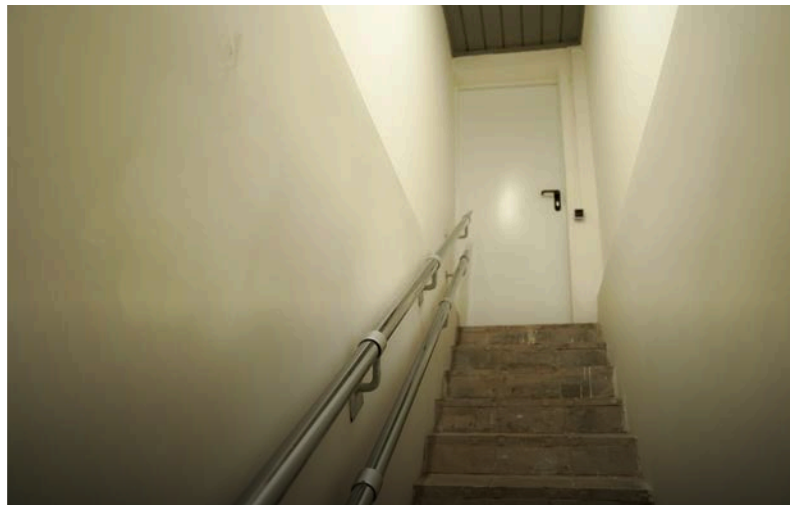
— What does the restoration of educational institutions include?

It is always a complex of works depending on the condition of a specific facility. Within the project on restoring social infrastructure in Mykolaiv region, we take a systematic approach.

First of all, we address basic elements: repairing roofs and replacing windows so that buildings are protected, energy-efficient, and suitable for use. At the same time, we restore heating and ventilation systems, as without them it is impossible to create proper learning conditions.

We also repair sanitation facilities and carry out electrical work to ensure safety and compliance with modern standards. A separate priority is the arrangement of shelters, as this is directly a matter of children's safety and the possibility of resuming offline education.

We also focus on architectural accessibility: installing ramps and other barrier-free elements. Our goal is not just to repair a facility, but to create a safe, comfortable, and accessible educational environment where children can learn, develop, socialize, and feel protected.



Renovation of educational institutions

— How do you control the quality of work?

— We approach this systematically, because quality determines both safety and durability. We regularly visit sites to personally monitor progress and ensure everything is done properly.

We conduct photo and video documentation to track the process and record key stages. Work is accepted in stages to verify correctness at every step.

We also monitor materials and the actual volume of completed work, which is important both technically and from a transparency standpoint. Of course, all processes must comply with Ukrainian building standards.



Installation of a water tower in the village of Pervomayske, Mykolaiv region

— What WASH projects is ADRA Ukraine currently implementing?

— We are working to restore access to water in communities affected by the war or with limited resources, particularly in Mykolaiv and Dnipropetrovsk regions.

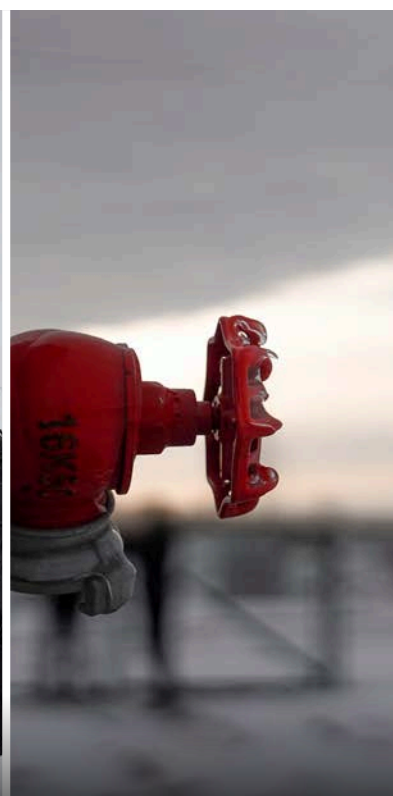
This is also a complex of works. In particular, we repair or install Rozhnovskiy water towers, which supply water to schools, hospitals, and to residents. Where necessary, we drill new wells and install pumping equipment to ensure constant access to water.

Another area is the restoration of water supply networks, because even if a source of water exists, it does not always reach people. We also implement water purification systems to ensure it is safe for consumption.

Equally important is the repair of wastewater treatment systems, including septic systems, to ensure a full water cycle and reduce environmental impact. Our new direction is the installation of modern wastewater treatment systems such as “BIOTAL” and “BioSeptik” for educational institutions.

We also try to help communities install drinking water purification stations based on reverse osmosis in hospitals, schools, and kindergartens.

Within our work, we often apply a complex approach: well installation is complemented by water treatment systems, allowing educational and medical institutions to become more autonomous and fully meet their water supply needs.



— Why does the maintenance of Rozhnovskyi towers remain a relevant solution?

— In fact, it is a very effective and practical solution for many communities. Such towers stabilize pressure in the water supply system, which is especially important in unstable infrastructure conditions.

They also allow water storage, ensuring supply even during power outages. This is critical for villages where alternatives are often unavailable.

Moreover, these towers significantly increase the autonomy of both social institutions and entire communities: schools, hospitals, and households can function more reliably even under difficult conditions.

For many settlements, this is not just infrastructure, it is a basic condition for normal life.

— What challenges do you face?

— There are quite a few challenges, most of them related to working conditions. Often infrastructure is destroyed or severely outdated and must be rebuilt almost from scratch.

Unstable electricity supply complicates both the work process and further operation. In frontline regions, logistics is another issue: reaching settlements can be difficult and dangerous.

There is also a constant shortage of resources, so we must balance capabilities with real needs. At the same time, it is important to act quickly without compromising quality, because we are dealing with safety and basic living conditions.



The consequences of the war in the village of Pervomayske, Mykolaiv region

— How do you determine priorities?

— ADRA Ukraine is a permanent participant in national clusters: Shelter, WASH, Education, and others. At these meetings, information about community needs is shared. We also receive many direct requests from communities.

With this information, we visit locations, conduct technical assessments, and analyze data across several departments. We evaluate needs, risks, and ADRA's capacity, after which decisions are made.

We analyze:

1. Size of population;
2. Availability of alternative water sources;
3. Condition of infrastructure;
4. Risks for health;
5. Requests of communities.

Priority is given where the lack of water creates a critical humanitarian threat.



— Which project has been most memorable for you?

— The strongest emotions come from projects where you immediately see the result in people's eyes. For example, when children return to school after restoration and parents say they feel safe again, that reminds us why we work. Such projects strengthen community resilience during wartime.



Open lesson in the renovated school premise in the village of Pavlivka, Mykolaiv region

— When do you feel that your work really changes lives?

— Probably in those moments when you see real results. When a community receives stable water for the first time and it becomes a normal part of life. When heating appears in homes and people can finally breathe with relief.

It is especially meaningful when children return to safe, restored schools. Or when people say, “life has become easier” — this is the simplest and most accurate indicator.

Especially when people begin returning to their homes and communities. At such moments, you understand that this is not just about infrastructure. It is about dignity, a sense of home, and hope.

— What motivates you?

— I am motivated by the understanding that our work has a real impact. In essence, it is service to people.

Each project is not just a completed task. It is about safety, access to basic conditions for all participants in the educational process, and restoring normal daily life. It is also about supporting people in difficult times, when even the simplest things matter.

Another important factor is the team, people who work not formally, but with heart. This makes our work meaningful.

And of course, all our projects would not be possible without the support of our partners:

[Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark \(DANIDA\)](#)

[European Commission](#)

[Aktion Deutschland Hilft](#)

[ADRA Denmark](#)

[ADRA Germany](#)

[ADRA Czech Republic](#)

[DanChurchAid & Norwegian Church Aid in Ukraine](#)

[The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints](#)

We deeply appreciate their support and are grateful for the opportunity to work together for people.

STATISTICS OF ASSISTANCE PROVIDED

March 2026

Direction of assistance	Count of assistance	Amount of assistance	Region of assistance	Name of Donor
Food Assistance	174 979 beneficiaries	81 858 food kits, 5 481 kits with canned food, 322 418 loaves of bread, 6 500 ATB vouchers, food products for 2 collective centers	Kharkiv, Mykolaiv, Kherson, Odesa, Lviv, Dnipropetrovsk, Kyiv, Chernivtsi, Cherkasy, Vinnytsia, Chernihiv, Donetsk regions	The UN World Food Programme & ADRA Switzerland, ADRA Germany & ADRA Czech Republic & Aktion Deutschland Hilft, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, ADRA France & ADRA Ukraine
Legal Assistance	60 beneficiaries	-	Chernihiv, Zhytomyr, Kyiv, Dnipropetrovsk regions	ADRA German & ADRA Czech Republic & Aktion Deutschland Hilft
MHPSS	2 883 beneficiaries: individual sessions - 1 553 people, group sessions - 548 people, trainings - 802 people	-	All Ukraine	ADRA Germany & ADRA Czech Republic & Aktion Deutschland Hilft, The Government of Canada & ADRA Canada, UNOCHA & Ukrainian Deminers Association, ADRA Japan & Japan Platform
Protection Centers	1 100 beneficiaries	6 protection centers	Chernihiv, Kharkiv, Dnipropetrovsk, Mykolaiv, Sumy regions	The Government of Canada & ADRA Canada
Humanitarian Transportation	2 618 beneficiaries	124 trips	Dnipropetrovsk, Zaporizhzhia, Donetsk, Kherson regions	ADRA Germany & ADRA Czech Republic & Aktion Deutschland Hilft
MPCA	159 beneficiaries (102 households)	39 172 \$ (1 717 200 €)	Vinnytsia, Kharkiv, Dnipropetrovsk, Zaporizhzhia, Donetsk regions	ADRA Japan & Japan Platform
Education	113 beneficiaries	Co-financing of studies in 3 educational institutions, creative clubs, career guidance program	Kyiv, Vinnytsia, Dnipropetrovsk, Kherson, Lviv, Chernivtsi, Zakarpattia regions	German School Schulzentrum Marienhöhe & ADRA Germany, ADRA Australia
Education: MHPSS	421 beneficiaries: individual sessions - 131 people, group sessions - 290 people	-	Kyiv, Vinnytsia, Dnipropetrovsk, Kherson, Lviv regions	ADRA Australia
Non-food Assistance: generators	-	8 generators	Kyiv, Odesa regions	ADRA Czech Republic
Protection: gifts for children	45 children	45 gifts	Chernihiv region	ADRA Ukraine (ADRA Kids)



IN THE TSARYCHANSKA COMMUNITY, ADRA UKRAINE HAS RENEWED THE WATER TOWER: STABLE WATER SUPPLY FOR RESIDENTS AND HOSPITALS

ADRA Ukraine continues to strengthen and modernize critical infrastructure in the communities of Dnipropetrovsk region, so that even in difficult times people have the most important things: water, access to medical services and a sense of stability in their community.

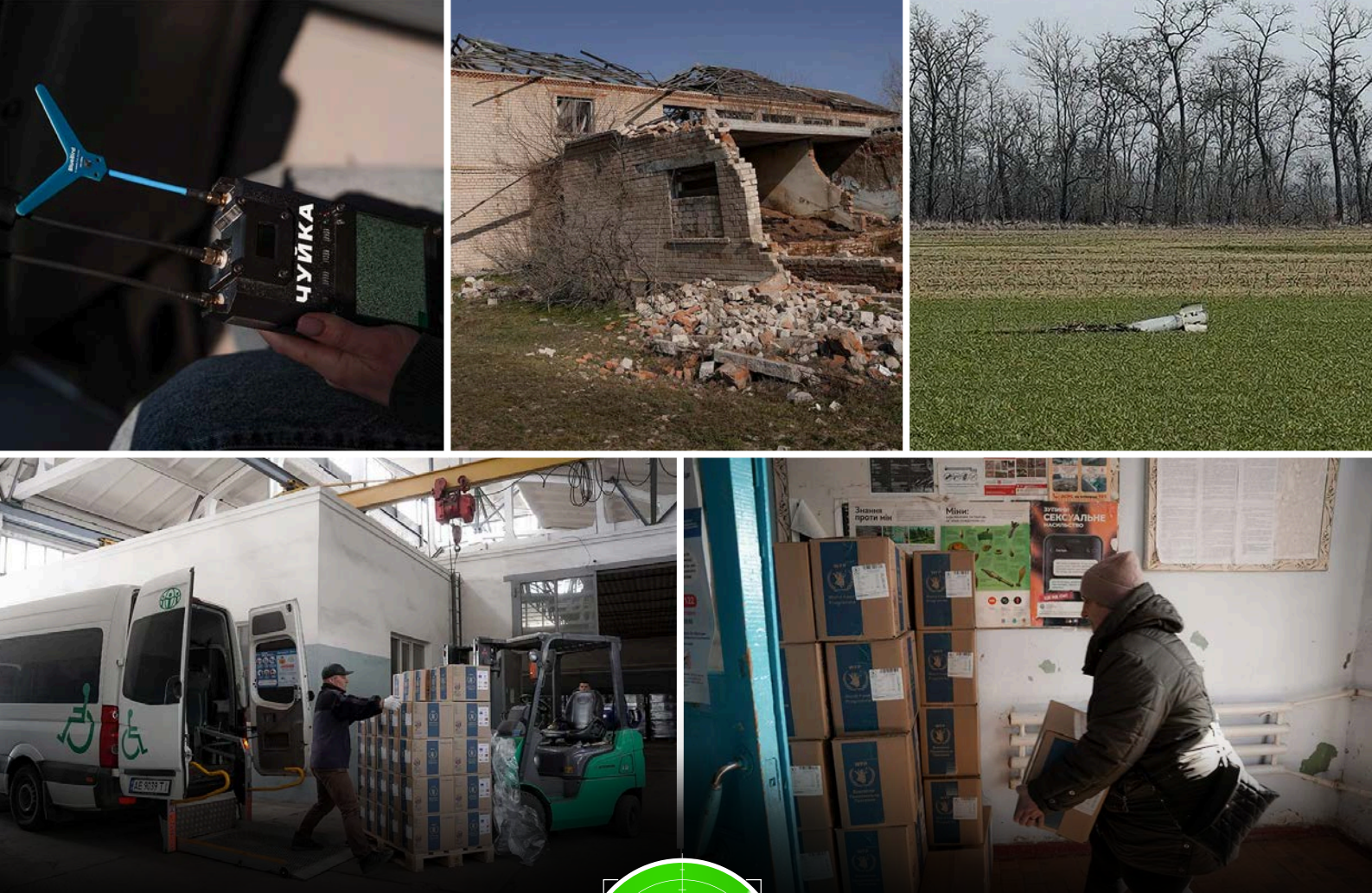
In the village of Tsarychanka of the Tsarychanska community of the Dnipro district in March 2026, the complete replacement of the old unsuitable water tower with a new, modern and reliable structure, which will ensure stable pressure in the water network and uninterrupted water supply for local residents, was completed.

Renewal of this facility is of great importance not only for households but also for important social institutions in the community. Thanks to the new water tower, [«Tsarychanska Center of Primary Health Care»](#) of the Tsarychanka Settlement Council and [«Tsarychanka Central Hospital»](#) of the Tsarychanka Settlement Council will receive stable water supply. In the current environment, this is not just an infrastructural improvement, but a contribution to the safety, health and daily sustainability of the community.

The implementation of this initiative became possible thanks to the support of international partners: [Aktion Deutschland Hilft](#), [ADRA Czech Republic](#) and [ADRA Germany](#) within the framework of the WMTW Ukraine «Safe Water, Mental Peace, Social Transport and Winterization for Ukrainians Affected by the Conflict».

Clean water and reliable infrastructure are the basic needs on which people's comfort, health and decent lives depend. That is why ADRA Ukraine continues to support Ukrainian communities, helping to restore critical infrastructure and strengthen their resilience where it is most needed.

Published On: 27.03.2026



HIGHLIGHT

DESPITE THE THREAT OF UAV ATTACK, 56 FOOD KITS FROM THE UN WFP WERE DISTRIBUTED IN A COMMUNITY OF THE KHERSON REGION

On March 17, a mobile team of ADRA Ukraine staff, within the project of [the UN World Food Programme \(WFP in Ukraine\)](#), carried out a visit to a village in the Novooleksandrivska community of the Kherson region. Due to the deduplication process, some residents who had been receiving cash assistance were not eligible for WFP food kits distribution, so only 56 people were able to receive assistance. This assistance is provided with the support of [ADRA Switzerland](#).

At the beginning of kits unloading process, the head of the community and the village elder arrived at the place with a request to urgently leave the open area due to a UAV threat. The team promptly unloaded the supplies, moved the vehicles to a safer location, and quickly organized the distribution of aid indoors.

As a result, all 56 food kits from the WFP were successfully distributed, after which the team promptly left the settlement. The security situation in the community remains tense and is even deteriorating; however, humanitarian assistance continues to be provided to the population on a regular monthly basis.

Published On: 18.03.2026



HIGHLIGHT

CHILDREN FROM FAMILIES OF IDPS AND EX-COMBATANTS IN CHERNIHIV REGION ATTENDED THE ADRA KIDS EVENT AND RECEIVED GIFTS

On March 8, in the village of Avdiivka, Chernihiv region (Ponornytska community), the ADRA Ukraine team, within the framework of [the ADRA Kids project](#), held an event to support 45 children from families of internally displaced persons and children of ex-combatants. For their parents, a team of psychologists held a lecture and a master class, revealing the topic of raising children in conditions of a war. The children received gifts purchased thanks to the financial support of [ADRA Latvia](#), and in general the program took place thanks to donations collected through the ADRA Ukraine website.

Due to frequent air alarms, the event had to be held in the shelter of [the Avdiivka Lyceum](#). However, even in such conditions, it was possible to create an atmosphere of joy, care and support. The children enthusiastically participated in activities, communicated, laughed and sincerely rejoiced at the opportunity to spend time together.

A special moment of the holiday was the presentation of gifts. Joy in the eyes of children, their smiles and sincere emotions became the best thanks for the project team. While the children participated in the program, a team of psychologists held a lecture for parents on the topic of raising children in today's difficult conditions, and also organized a creative master-class. Adults have gained support, new knowledge and some time for inspiration.

The ADRA Ukraine team sincerely thanks ADRA Latvia, as well as all concerned people with open hearts who participate in fundraising for the ADRA Kids project. It is thanks to your support we can give children care, joy and the feeling that they are not left alone with difficulties.

The charitable organization plans to conduct similar programs for children in settlements close to the frontline zone in the future. You can join the fundraising for the ADRA Kids project [at the link](#).

Published On: 11.03.2026



The story of Tetiana Tarasova from city of Kupiansk, Kharkiv region

“We escaped from hell. If it weren’t for you, it would have been very hard for us to survive.”

Tetiana and her family were forced to leave their home in the city of Kupiansk of the Kharkiv region. They had invested so much effort into building their own place. But 2022 changed their lives forever. Their once peaceful daily life suddenly turned into a struggle for survival, and each day became filled with fear and danger.

“We escaped from hell. Our house was destroyed — a shell hit to it,” Tetiana recalls those terrifying moments when they had to grab their bags and flee, despite the danger all around them.

At first, they moved to a nearby village not far from their home, where it seemed they could finally rest. But it only seemed that way. Soon, explosions, sirens, and shell fragments once again reminded them that safety was only temporary.

“There was a strike on our house. My husband was wounded, I was wounded. Shrapnel was everywhere. We grabbed everything again and started running,” the woman remembers. They went through hell twice — moments too painful even to imagine.

Now they live in a shelter in the city of Kharkiv. Starting life in a new place was difficult: ***“Our pensions are small.”*** All their money goes toward food, and they cannot always afford even basic clothing. That is why any support, even the smallest, becomes a real lifeline.

[Japan Platform](#) and [ADRA Japan](#), together with [ADRA Ukraine](#), were able to provide assistance to displaced people. Tetiana and others received financial support to purchase essential items for daily life.

“We are very grateful to ADRA. We have received help from you before — you have always supported us so much,” Tetiana says. ***“If it weren’t for you, it would have been very hard for us to survive.”***

Thanks to this support, she and her family were able to feel a bit of peace and hope even in the most difficult times.

МНWP
ПРОЄКТ ДОПОМОГИ
ЗА ПІДТРИМКИ УРЯДУ КАНАДИ

ПОКРАЩЕННЯ ПСИХІЧНОГО ЗДОРОВ'Я
ДОПОМОГА З ПІДГОТОВКОЮ ДО ЗИМИ
ЗАХИСТ ВРАЗЛИВОГО НАСЕЛЕННЯ

In partnership with
Canada

ADRA

The story of Valentyna Dudkina from the city of Kryvyi Rih, Dnipropetrovsk region



“Here, I get a psychological refresh... from the war, from the sadness.”

Valentyna devoted her entire life to others. She was the kind of teacher children were drawn to, not only for knowledge, but for warmth. She taught physics, yet she had a gift for explaining complex things in a simple, clear, and human way. Students listened to her, trusted her, and came to her for support. But today, it is she who needs support.

Life in the city of Kryvyi Rih has changed. Constant shelling, air raid sirens, and a tension that never let's go neither day nor night. Fear for one's life has become an ordinary feeling, and thoughts have grown heavy and anxious. In such a reality, it is difficult to remain yourself. That is why, when Valentyna learned about psychological training sessions, she felt something she had almost forgotten — hope. **“Zlatochka holds different sessions for us... Today we were sculpting with clay,”** she says with a gentle smile. It may seem like a simple activity. But in these moments, there is peace. After the sessions, Valentyna feels her strength returning. She regains the desire to live, to do things, to go forward, to communicate with others.

“Here, I get a psychological refresh... from the war, from the sadness,” she shares. These meetings have become more than just training sessions for her. It is a place where she is heard. Where people around understand her. Where, even if only for a few hours, she can let go of fear. Such meetings with a psychologist were made possible by the support of [the Government of Canada](#) and [ADRA Canada](#) (the MNWP project). By implementing this project, the [ADRA Ukraine](#) team was able to support people who are going through difficult times.

Thanks to psychologists and group therapy, Valentyna is once again able to feel joy within herself. She wants to go for walks, see her loved ones, and make plans, even if they are small. **“Many thanks for your care!”** the woman says warmly. For her, these are not just training sessions, they are an opportunity to feel like herself again: a person with dreams, plans for the future, and happiness within.

The story of Tetiana Hashytska from the village of Petropavlivka, Kherson region

“At night, we hardly sleep.”

Tetiana from the village of Petropavlivka of the Kherson region, together with her husband and children, lived through long months in conditions of complete uncertainty. Without electricity, water and proper living conditions, every day was a challenge for the whole family. **“We lived for 8 months without electricity, without water. Without anything at all,”** Tetiana recalls those difficult times, when even the simplest things seemed out of reach. The nights passed without sleep: every sound made them tense and afraid.

“At night, we hardly sleep because we can clearly hear every sound,” she adds. Now they can distinguish the sound of different types of shelling, whether it is far away or close. It is frightening, but this has become the reality for people living in Ukraine.

When life gradually began to recover, shops reopened, internet, water, and electricity returned — the feeling of danger did not disappear.

“Recently, it seemed to get a bit easier and calmer, but the tension is rising again,” Tetiana says. People are exhausted and cannot truly relax. Even good news does not bring much joy, because it is always accompanied by alarming reports that bring fear and despair.

Before, the family kept livestock, but now they are uncertain about the future. **“Now you don’t even know if it makes sense to keep livestock, because it’s dangerous and there is no stability,”** Tetiana explains.

Thanks to the project of [the UN World Food Programme](#) and the support of [ADRA Switzerland](#), Tetiana and her family receive food kits that are brought and distributed by the [ADRA Ukraine](#) team. The kits contain canned food, cereals, oil, sugar and other food products. These kits help families in the frontline areas to survive difficult times and ensure a life free of hunger. **“This is great help, it is very important for us,”** Tetiana shares, feeling the hope and support that gives her family the strength to move forward.





MORE NEWS

[«Plasticine harmony»: an art therapy class was held in Kryvyi Rih for the elderly](#)

Published On: 05.03.2026

[When leadership means being right here: ADRA Ukraine women about working during the war](#)

Published On: 08.03.2026

[ADRA Ukraine provided psychological and legal support to the residents of the Dmytrivska community](#)

Published On: 25.03.2026

[Residents of the Sviatohirska community received food kits from the UN WFP](#)

Published On: 25.03.2026

CONTACTS



[@adra_ukraine](https://www.instagram.com/adra_ukraine)



[@ADRA.Ukraine](https://www.facebook.com/ADRA.Ukraine)



www.adra.ua

Join us in making a difference
— support ADRA Ukraine's projects!



DONATE



Help restore childhood
for Ukraine's children.
Support ADRA Kids.



DONATE