



ADRA UKRAINE WON SECOND PLACE AT THE «CHARITABLE UKRAINE 2025» COMPETITION FOR EFFECTIVE PARTNERSHIP WITH THE UN WFP



On June 9, the awarding ceremony of the winners of [the National Competition «Charitable Ukraine 2025: Charity in Defense of Ukraine»](#) took place in the city of Kyiv. According to the results of 2025, ADRA Ukraine took 2nd place in the nomination «Synergy of good: effective partnership».

In total, 1,698 applications were submitted to the competition organized by [the Association of Charities of Ukraine](#) this year. Three winners were determined in 28 nominations.



The determining factor in ADRA Ukraine's victory in this nomination was that the organization is currently the largest partner of [the UN WFP](#) in Ukraine in the field of food security (with the support of [ADRA Switzerland](#)).

ADRA Ukraine wins the National Competition «Charitable Ukraine» for the third time. Previously, the organization also won prizes:

- **2024**
[1st place in the nomination «People's Philanthropist»;](#)
- **2025**
[3rd place in the nomination «Charity in the Social Sphere».](#)

**OLEKSANDR DULHER**

financial director of ADRA Ukraine

MYTHS AND REALITY OF CHARITY: A CONVERSATION WITH THE FINANCIAL DIRECTOR OF ADRA UKRAINE

Transparency, accountability and trust — three components without which the activities of an international humanitarian organization are impossible. How ADRA Ukraine works with donors, why charity needs the support of Ukrainians and what challenges have to be overcome during the war, says Oleksandr Dulher, financial director of the organization.

— Tell us a little about your professional path. How did you come to the financial sphere and work at ADRA Ukraine?

— I joined the [ADRA Ukraine](https://adra.ua) team in the summer of 2023, in one of the most difficult periods of our organization's activity during the war in Ukraine. Before that, I worked for many years in various companies related to international business, in particular in the fields of international maritime transportation and international trade. For some time I worked in foreign companies abroad.

My main specialty is international maritime transport management - international logistics. In recent years, I have had to hold various management positions. In particular, I had experience working as a charitable foundation director. I would never have thought that I would need it in the future.

My work experience helps me a lot. If we are talking about a large modern charity, then being just a financier and counting funds well — is not enough. Because it's not a bank. Our activity is very specific. Many third-party related tasks must be done yourself. We cannot afford to have a large staff of narrowly specialized specialists in each field of activity, as is done in business structures with a large staff and sustainable processes.

The financial director of **ADRA Ukraine**, in addition to financial duties, must be able to read the terms of international contracts with donors and partners, understand their specifics and risks; must know the specifics of the movement of goods across the border (import) and international logistics; must implement IT developments for automation and technical measures for the security of the organization's digital data; must be able to negotiate with foreign partners and donors in order to defend the organization's financial interests when discussing contracts. This list goes on.



Effective humanitarian work involves negotiations and the conclusion of partnership agreements

— **Sometimes there are myths or misunderstandings about finances of charity in society. What do people most often misunderstand about this area?**

— In my experience, one of the most common myths is that charities have large amounts of free funds and can help anyone who applies.

Actually, it's not. The vast majority of funding received by both our organization and most other charitable foundations is targeted. This means that funds can be used exclusively in accordance with the conditions determined by the donor. I mean precisely charitable foundations that work with help in the form of grants, and not with donations to the Armed Forces of Ukraine.

It is the donor who determines the types of aid, the categories of the population that can receive it, the direction of the project, for example, infrastructure restoration, cash or food aid, as well as the geography of implementation. Most donors identify specific regions of Ukraine, such as Kharkiv or Kherson regions. Accordingly, we cannot use the funds of a certain project to provide assistance in other areas.

This applies to approximately 99% of the donor income received by the charity. Only a small part of the funds is formed thanks to donations from private individuals through the site or social networks. It is these funds that we can distribute more flexibly, responding to appeals from citizens or organizations and making decisions in accordance with current needs.



The UN WFP food assistance. The donor determines the types of aid and the categories of people eligible to receive it

Another common myth concerns not finance, but the format of activity. Most people expect that the main activity of a humanitarian organization is the distribution of cash aid, especially humanitarian aid: goods imported as aid from abroad. Accordingly, the average Ukrainian evaluates our activities according to whether we provided assistance in his community or settlement. If «packages» or «boxes» have not been distributed, then ADRA is either not known or its activity is evaluated negatively.

In fact, the distribution of cash aid to the population is only a small part of our activity, and we have hardly imported humanitarian aid during the last two years. **ADRA Ukraine** annually provides assistance in the amount of more than 10 million US dollars in the form of reconstruction of state and municipal facilities of critical and social infrastructure (water supply networks, shelters, hospitals, schools, kindergartens), supply of industrial generators for such facilities, repair of private and municipal buildings damaged by shelling, free psychological and legal assistance to the population, provision of fuel briquettes for the winter, as well as free evacuation and social transportation in communities where public transport is not operating because of danger. This list can be continued.



Help goes beyond distribution process — it includes repairs, renovations, and psychological support

— If ADRA has big donors like [The UN WFP](#), for example, why does it raise donations if the funds raised by itself are only a small percentage?

— This is another common myth that concerns the sources of funding for charitable organizations.

Many people believe that charitable organizations exist solely because of foreign donors or international organizations. In the current Ukrainian realities, this is really largely true, because many countries seek to support Ukraine during the war.

However, the situation is different in most countries of the world. The main source of funding for charitable organizations is donations from citizens and businesses of their own country. Society itself supports the activities of organizations that work for the benefit of people.

Therefore, as a Ukrainian charitable organization, we would like to emphasize: every citizen of Ukraine can make a significant contribution to supporting the charitable activities of **ADRA Ukraine**. It is important not only to hope for the help of international partners, but also to participate in the creation of a culture of charity in Ukraine.

— **ADRA Ukraine works with international donors and major humanitarian programs. How difficult is it now, during the war, to combine promptness of aid with financial requirements and reporting?**

— Both before the beginning of the full-scale war and especially now, during the war, it is quite difficult to combine the requirements of international donors with the realities of work in Ukraine.

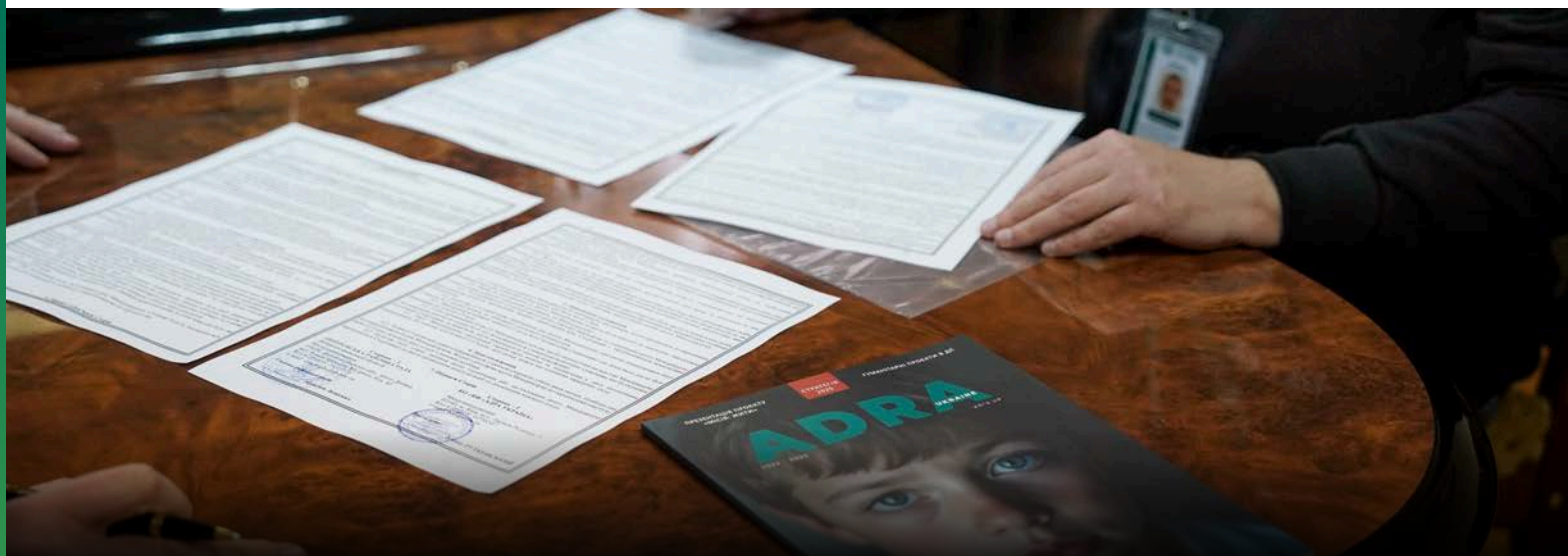
We are constantly faced with such challenges as the requirements of Ukrainian legislation, mobilization processes, blackouts, power outages, instability of the security situation, price fluctuations and many other factors. All this creates a significant additional burden on the ADRA Ukraine team.

In accordance with the requirements of international donors, we keep records, prepare supporting documentation and report in accordance with international standards. At the same time, standards may differ depending on the donor country.

At the same time, we are obliged to keep Ukrainian accounting, personnel and financial documentation in accordance with the current legislation of Ukraine. That is, in fact, we work in two systems of requirements and standards at once.

Moreover, sometimes these requirements can contradict each other. For example, individual requirements of the donor may not be fully consistent with Ukrainian legislation, or vice versa. This is one of the biggest difficulties of our daily work.

In general, it is worth noting that Ukrainian legislation is historically insufficiently adapted to the specifics of the activities of charitable organizations, especially when it comes to quick response in conditions of martial law. Most of the regulations were created primarily for the commercial sector, not for humanitarian organizations.



This problem existed even before the war, but today it especially affects the efficiency of the implementation of humanitarian programs and the speed of providing assistance to people.

I will give an example. Donors provide funds in installments for a certain period of activity from three to six months. We spend these funds not immediately, but gradually. That is, at the same time we have quite significant balances of funds in bank accounts. We could place these funds in deposit accounts and receive interest from the bank every month. These are quite large amounts. These percentages, according to the terms of the donors, should be used as additional funds for charitable activities. However, we do not do this.

The fact is that there are no by-laws in Ukraine that would regulate under what conditions non-profit charitable organizations can do this. Therefore, such interest (income from deposits) can be interpreted by the State Tax Service of Ukraine as receiving income by a non-profit organization, which is strictly prohibited and may lead to fines, suspension of activities, etc.

This sounds absurd, but there are many such inconsistencies in the legislation.



— What principles or approaches help ADRA Ukraine maintain the trust of donors and partners in the long term?

— The basic principles that donors want to see in a reliable partner are openness, accountability and predictability. If an organization adheres to these principles, it gains trust.

International partners especially appreciate openness. They take a positive view of situations where the organization speaks honestly about its difficulties, mistakes or challenges and proposes to jointly look for ways to solve them.

Unfortunately, due to historical circumstances, it is often not easy for us to follow this approach. In our society, a habit has long been developing of hiding problems and sometimes even viewing partners with a certain degree of suspicion. However, for ADRA Ukraine, the principles of openness and honesty are fundamental. We are an organization founded by the Christian Church and build our activities on moral Christian values.

— What values are most important to you in the work of the team?

— I am a believer, so for me personally the most important values are honesty, openness and dedication to the cause.

At the same time, based on many years of experience in both the business and non-profit sectors, I can say that the greatest value of any team is readiness for cooperation.

It is about the ability to be flexible, to maintain a common strategy and decisions made by the team, rather than insisting solely on one's own position and creating confrontation. It is in such conditions that the team can work effectively and achieve its goals.

— What helps you stay calm and focused during periods of heavy workload?

— Certainly, many years of experience in business have formed a certain stress resistance and endurance to high loads in me. But this in itself is not enough.

The main source of peace and inner concentration for me is prayer and God's support. I am convinced that God gives me peace when I turn to Him, and also gives me wisdom to make decisions and do my job. I am sure that God gives me peace and wisdom in my daily work.





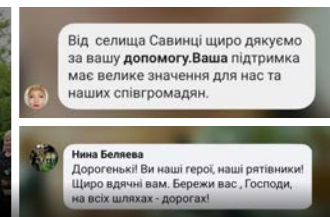
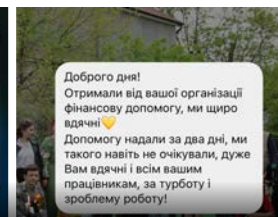
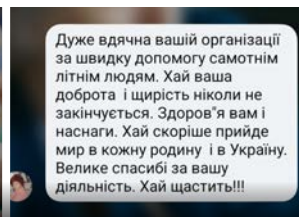
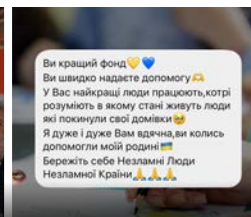
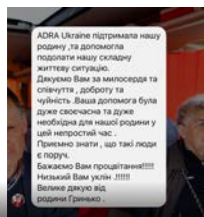
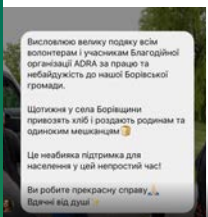
Project staff on the ground see the results of the aid and always have stories to share

— Is there a moment or story that is particularly memorable?

— During my time at **ADRA Ukraine**, I received a lot of touching feedback and words of thanks from the beneficiaries and organizations we help.

It is difficult for me to single out one story, because each of them is important and special. Behind each are specific human destinies, needs and experiences.

Perhaps, if we talk about the most emotional stories, it is worth contacting our colleagues who work directly on the ground. It is the field workers who communicate with people every day, see the results of the aid and can share many personal stories.



Feedback from those who received assistance through ADRA Ukraine

— What motivates you to remain part of the ADRA team for so many years?

— My main motivation is that I am part of a team that does good, helps people and our country.

It is a very difficult, responsible and often tedious job. But the realization that our activities help change people's lives for the better gives strength to continue working further.

This goal — to serve people and be useful to society — remains my main source of inspiration.



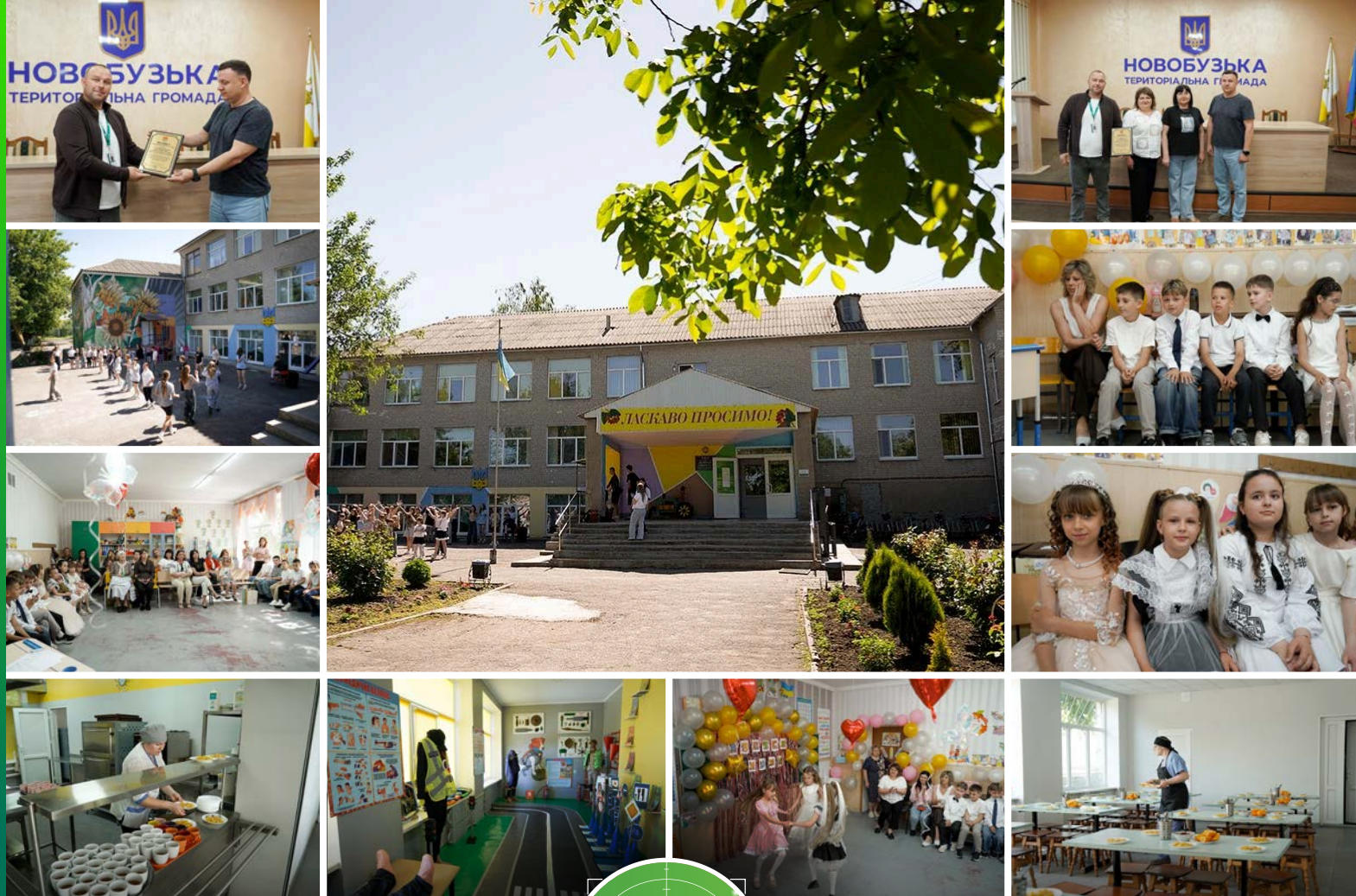
The team that does good and helps to people in need



STATISTICS ON ASSISTANCE PROVIDED

MAY
2026

Direction of assistance	Count of beneficiaries	Amount of assistance	Region of assistance	Name of Donor
Food Security	192 330 beneficiaries	136 232 food kits, 5 882 canned food kits, 350 339 loaves of bread, 6 500 ATB-vouchers, food items for 2 collective centers	Kharkiv, Mykolaiv, Kherson, Odesa, Lviv, Dnipropetrovsk, Kyiv, Chernivtsi, Cherkasy, Vinnytsia, Chernihiv, Donetsk regions	The UN WFP & ADRA Switzerland, ADRA Germany & ADRA Czech Republic & Aktion Deutschland Hilft & Advent- Wohlfahrtswerk (AWW), The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter- day Saints, ADRA France & ADRA Ukraine
Legal Assistance	216 beneficiaries	-	Zhytomyr, Kyiv, Dnipropetrovsk, Kharkiv, Sumy regions	The UN Ukrainian Humanitarian Fund (UHF), Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA), ADRA Japan & Japan Platform
MHPSS	2 619 beneficiaries: individual sessions - 1 495 people, group sessions - 570 people, trainings - 554 people	-	All Ukraine	Ukrainian Humanitarian Fund (UHF), The Government of Canada & ADRA Canada, ADRA Japan & Japan Platform, Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA)
Protection Centers	968 beneficiaries	6 protection centers	Chernihiv, Kharkiv, Dnipropetrovsk, Mykolaiv, Sumy regions	The Government of Canada & ADRA Canada
Humanitarian Transport	1 919 beneficiaries	94 trips	Dnipropetrovsk, Zaporizhzhia, Donetsk, Kherson regions	ADRA Germany & ADRA Czech Republic & Aktion Deutschland Hilft
Education	197 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	559 beneficiaries: individual sessions - 194 people, group sessions - 365 people	-	Kyiv, Vinnytsia, Dnipropetrovsk, Kherson, Khmelnyskyi, Lviv regions	ADRA Australia
NFI \ Energy	2 381 beneficiaries covered	Hybrid inverter with battery packs: 3 pcs	Kyiv region	Radiohjälpen (RadioAid) & ADRA Sweden
MPCA	290 beneficiaries (114 households)	51 288 \$ 2 269 800 €	Dnipropetrovsk, Kyiv, Kharkiv, Ivano-Frankivsk, Cherkasy, Vinnytsia, Kirovohrad, Poltava, Sumy, Kherson region	Polish Humanitarian Action (PAH), ADRA Japan & Japan Platform
WASH	229 beneficiaries covered	1 borehole	Dnipropetrovsk region	ADRA Germany & ADRA Czech Republic & Aktion Deutschland Hilft



HIGHLIGHT

ADRA UKRAINE SUPPORTS THE RESTORATION OF SCHOOL INFRASTRUCTURE IN THE MYKOLAIV REGION

On May 26, the ADRA Ukraine team visited the Novobuzk community of the Mykolaiv region, where one of the educational institutions was restored as part of the “Reconstruction of social infrastructure in Mykolaiv through strong civil society” project.

ADRA Ukraine visited gymnasium №4 in the city of Novyi Buh, where a complex of repair works aimed at creating safer and more comfortable conditions for children’s education has been completed.

As part of the project, the shelter, food block and dining room were repaired in the institution, the necessary equipment for the food block and safety class was provided. Thanks to these changes, children can learn offline in safer and more comfortable conditions.

On the same day, the gymnasium hosted the graduation of students of the 4th grade, an important event for children, parents and teachers, which became a special part of the visit of the team of the charity organization.

During the visit, representatives of local authorities also expressed their gratitude to ADRA Ukraine for its community support and contribution to the restoration of educational infrastructure.

The project is implemented by ADRA Ukraine in partnership with [ADRA Denmark](#) with funding from [the Danish International Development Agency \(DANIDA\)](#), as well as with the support of [DanChurchAid and Norwegian Church Aid in Ukraine](#).



HIGHLIGHT

RESIDENTS OF CHERKASKE COMMUNITY IN DONETSK REGION RECEIVED MORE THAN 3,800 FOOD KITS FROM THE UN WFP

The ADRA Ukraine team, with the assistance of [ADRA Switzerland](#), distributed humanitarian aid from [the UN World Food Programme](#).

Since the aid was distributed immediately in two months (May and June), the residents of three villages received double kits:

- Oleksandrivka village (May 7): 499 people received 998 kits
- Novoselivka village (May 7): 261 people received 522 kits
- Cherkaske settlement (May 7–8): 1,159 people received 2,318 kits

In total, over 3,800 food kits were handed over to community residents during these days.



**Denys Kryvolunko,
Sheboltasivka village, Chernihiv region**

«Dream that painted the sky»

At the age of 12, Denys Kryvolunko experienced so much that it would be enough for several lives. At first, the war forced his family to leave their native border village of Hremiach in Chernihiv region, and later his parents passed away one after another.

Now Denys lives in Sheboltasivka with his older sister under the care of his grandparents. The boy admits that the war and the loss of his closest people became the most difficult events that forever divided his world into «before» and «after». However, he still has the warmest memories of a time when the sky above the house blossomed not from explosions, but from festive lights.

«The most difficult were three events: when the war started, the death of the mother and the death of the father... And before the war, we built houses on a tree, played ball with friends, walked», — recalls Denys.

A special talisman for Denys remains the memory of his seventh birthday. Then he dreamed of a real firework, and dad and his neighbor secretly arranged a miracle for the boy exactly at midnight. Blue, yellow, orange lights were forever etched in the memory as a symbol of parental love and carefree childhood.

«Dad says, "Go outside". And there the neighbor launched a firework: blue, yellow, orange, red, white. I loved it so much! I remembered this gift forever», — shares the boy.

Today, the comfort for the boy is the cat Kuzia, whom they took from their native home as a tiny child. He grew up big and pampered, but it is he who gives the boy a reason to smile every day.

Supporting such children is the main task of the [ADRA Kids](#) project from the charitable organization [ADRA Ukraine](#). This initiative helps children who find themselves in difficult circumstances due to the war to cope with heavy losses, find psychological support and recover step by step.



Valerii
Myrnohrad city, Donetsk region

“War Brought Me Back to the City of My Youth, but Took Away My Home”

Valerii, 65 years old, from the city of Myrnohrad in Donetsk region, shares the story of his forced displacement. “My wife and I left Myrnohrad in 2024, when the shelling became absolutely unbearable. The destruction kept getting worse, and it was simply no longer safe to stay there, so we moved to the city of Dnipro. Strangely enough, the war brought us back to the city of our youth. It was here in Dnipro that I once studied at the Mining Institute more than 36 years ago. My wife and I spent over thirty years living in Myrnohrad. Our whole life was there: our apartment, summer house, garage. Our son was born there, and we were happy. Now nothing is left of it. Our son is currently serving in the military. Our home was hit directly, apparently by a Shahed drone. Almost everything in the city has been destroyed.

After the Siverskyi Donets–Donbas canal was damaged, serious water supply problems began. Drinking water had to be delivered by trucks, while technical water was pumped from the mines. There were constant power and heating outages. The city became almost uninhabitable. Now we live in a rented apartment in Dnipro. We managed to take only the essentials with us — some clothes, a few household items, and some equipment. At this point, we practically have nothing left — everything was destroyed. Of course, we want to believe that one day we will return home, but the reality is that the destruction is enormous. And perhaps this is what weighs on us the most. Starting life over at this age is incredibly difficult.

With age and constant stress come additional health problems. We need medical tests, doctors, examinations. It is also very difficult to find a job. At best, I could look for work as a security guard. But because of my age and the current job situation in the country, even that is not easy. At the moment, we receive some support from the state as internally displaced persons. Humanitarian organizations also help with food packages, free medical tests, and doctors' consultations. Recently, my wife learned about psychological training sessions that help people cope with stress and the consequences of traumatic experiences.

Today was our first time attending a training session like this, organized by [ADRA Ukraine](#) with support from [the Government of Canada](#) and [ADRA Canada](#). And honestly, it was very much needed. I really appreciated both the specialists who conducted the session and the atmosphere itself, as well as the topics they discussed. They explained how not to become completely consumed by grief, how not to get stuck in painful thoughts, and what people can do to gradually return themselves to normal life.

During the meeting, they talked about simple steps and practical things that help people avoid remaining in constant stress and emotional exhaustion. For me personally, it was very important to hear how it is possible to refocus and find new sources of support within oneself. After this training, I realized that even small actions can help prevent worsening mental health and gradually move forward. I am very grateful for this kind of support, because people truly need it.”

Tamara Churilova, Kharkiv region

Leaving her native Kharkiv, where the whole house shuddered due to constant shelling and windows flew out, Tamara Churilova, together with her husband and mother-in-law, was forced to look for a safer shelter in one of the villages of the Kharkiv region.

The family has been living here for the fifth year in the status of internally displaced persons. Despite the difficult life circumstances, Tamara is trying to arrange a new life. To provide themselves with food, the family cultivates the garden and greenhouse with their own hands, growing potatoes, onions, carrots, zucchini, eggplants, peppers and tomatoes. However, working on the land is becoming more and more difficult every year due to health problems.

«I have a mother-in-law, a husband and I, the three of us live. We have children... two children died, we buried, no more, so we are single. Somehow we live. The man had a stroke and a hernia, and I am a cancer patient, so financially it is very expensive now», Tamara shares.

Monthly food kits have become an important support for the family. Treatment of a man after a stroke and Tamara's fight against cancer require significant funds and efforts. Because of this, it is increasingly difficult to buy seedlings, poultry feed and take care of the farm. In such circumstances, food aid helps the family to direct limited resources to the essentials.

To these difficulties is added the constant danger. The daily alarm only intensified after an incident when the family miraculously avoided tragedy while encountering an enemy drone on the highway. Despite their experiences, they continue to support each other and not to lose faith in the future.

«I am very grateful for everything. If it weren't for this help, I just don't know how we would live now», — says Tamara.

Food aid from [the UN World Food Programme \(WFP\)](#) is provided by the charitable organization [ADRA Ukraine](#) with support from [ADRA Switzerland](#).





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