



Help Annual report 2025 Ukraine



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**Dear colleagues,
partners and friends,**

Humanitarian needs in Ukraine remain high. According to the United Nations, more than 12.7 million people will require assistance in 2025. Damaged infrastructure, limited access to energy resources, internal displacement and security risks continue to challenge the delivery of essential services. In line with the Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan for Ukraine, key priorities include multi-purpose cash assistance, medical and psychosocial support, protection, education, and winter preparedness to ensure access to basic services.

Help in Ukraine contributes to these priorities through a comprehensive programme approach. Our projects include multi-purpose cash assistance, supply of medical equipment and medicines to healthcare facilities, rehabilitation of damaged infrastructure such as the installation of water towers and pumping equipment, provision of fuel vouchers for critical infrastructure, livelihood kits to support household production and beekeeping, as well as psychosocial support for children and adults. We also promote local business development through grant schemes and training programmes aimed at strengthening the economic resilience of communities.

Our activities are coordinated through four offices — in Kyiv, Kharkiv, Mykolaiv and Uzhhorod, ensuring effective management of projects



in the eastern and southern regions and support for internally displaced families and host communities in western Ukraine.

In 2025, the active implementation of the Help Localisation Facility (HLF) Programme was launched in Ukraine with the financial support of the German Federal Foreign Office. The programme allocates € 10.8 million to local actors to enhance humanitarian response, strengthen the capacity of Ukrainian organisations and build a more resilient system of assistance. It will run until the end of 2026 and is implemented together with, for, and through local and international civil society actors and networks, local authorities as well as national humanitarian coordination networks.

We greatly value the support of our partners and donors and recognise the professionalism and commitment of the Help team. Guided by humanitarian principles, we ensure a targeted and effective response to current challenges while laying the groundwork for future recovery and sustainable development programmes.

Kind regards,

OLEKSANDR NOVYKOV
Country Director,
Help — Hilfe zur Selbsthilfe Ukraine



Hilfe zur Selbsthilfe



help-ukraine.org.ua/en

KYIV (MAIN OFFICE)

Address: St. Velyka Vasylkivska, 44, Kyiv, Ukraine, 01004

Email: info@help-ukraine.org.ua

MYKOLAIV

Address: Mykolaiv, Ukraine, 54029 16/7 Tsentralnyi Avenue

Email: vpanasenko@help-ukraine.org.ua

UZHGOROD

Address: St. Fedyntsia, 52, Uzhhorod, Ukraine, 88000

Email: infozahid@help-ukraine.org.ua

KHARKIV

Address: St. Kultury, 15, Kharkiv, Ukraine, 61058

Email: infokharkiv@help-ukraine.org.ua

About us

Help — Hilfe zur Selbsthilfe is an international humanitarian organisation that has been supporting people in crisis situations around the world for more than 40 years. Founded in 1981, it has grown into a global network with nearly 500 staff members operating in over 30 countries. What has remained unchanged since the very beginning is our core idea: helping people become stronger and capable of rebuilding their own lives.

Our mission is to support those in the most vulnerable situations, regardless of their origin, beliefs, or political views. We strive to create conditions that enable people to rebuild their homes, communities, and future independently.

Help has been operating in Ukraine since 2021. Initially, our work focused on supporting small businesses in Donetsk and Luhansk regions. After the start of the full-scale invasion, we expanded our presence across the country, directing efforts towards humanitarian assistance, housing and infrastructure recovery, health-care support, and psychosocial services.

WHAT WE DO

Help implements comprehensive support programmes, including:

- ▶ repair of housing damaged by shelling;
- ▶ distribution of essential household kits and solid fuel for the heating season;
- ▶ multi-purpose cash assistance to cover basic needs;
- ▶ psychosocial support for affected people;
- ▶ support for hospitals, farms, and critical infrastructure;
- ▶ restoration of heating, water, and electricity supply systems;
- ▶ business grants for small enterprises to recover or develop their activities.

The organisation cooperates with local partners, communities, and business associations, and participates in national and international coordination clusters. Help's aim is not only to respond to crises, but also to create conditions for people to live independently and with dignity, strengthening local initiatives and civil society.

OUR IMPACT SINCE 2021

- ▶ 4 offices operating in Ukraine, enabling rapid response to people's needs;
- ▶ more than 5,700,000 people have received assistance;
- ▶ over €23 million allocated for humanitarian and recovery programmes.

We are grateful to our donors and partners for their trust and support. Thanks to our joint efforts, thousands of people have been able to rebuild their homes, livelihoods, and confidence in a stable future.

PROJECTS ARE IMPLEMENTED WITH THE SUPPORT OF...



The Federal Foreign Office, abbreviated AA, is the foreign ministry of the Federal Republic of Germany, a federal agency responsible for both the country's foreign policy and its relationship with the European Union.



Aktion Deutschland Hilft e. V. — Bündnis deutscher Hilfsorganisationen (ADH) (Campaign Germany helps association — alliance of German aid organisations) is a connection of German aid agencies for humanitarian aid, with the target of helping faster and more efficiently through coordination and combination of efforts in case of a disaster and to raise donations together. The association is headquartered in Bonn.



Established in 2019, the **Ukraine Humanitarian Fund** (UHF) is a strategic and vital tool available to donors to pool their contributions into single, unearmarked funds to enable humanitarian partners to deliver timely, coordinated and principled assistance within the framework of Humanitarian Response Plans (HRPs) and Flash Appeals, retaining the flexibility to allocate funds to unforeseen events or special requirements. The UHF is supported by OCHA's Humanitarian Financing Unit (HFU) at the country level.

... AND OTHER PRIVATE BENEFACATORS

Help Localisation Facility (HLF)



October 2025, Kyiv: The HLF Grants Committee, composed of committed experts from Ukrainian civil society and Help in Ukraine, makes its funding decisions

The Help Localisation Facility (HLF) is a global programme funded by the German Federal Foreign Office (GFFO) and coordinated by Help — Hilfe zur Selbsthilfe. It is implemented together with, for, and through local and international civil society actors and networks, with a focus on placing them in leadership and decision-making roles.

Programme Period:
November 2024 – December 2026
Donor: GFFO
Budget: 10 800 000 €
Region: Ukraine





As a locally led fund, the core objective of the HLF is to support partner leadership and enable partner organisations in Ukraine to directly implement humanitarian projects, while working with them as equal partners.

The HLF aligns with the German Federal Foreign Office's strategy for humanitarian assistance abroad and supports the core objective of Help's global strategic goals on Empowerment and Localisation.

Awarding of the first open grants has been completed, and 14 selected projects will receive support under the HLF to deliver strong humanitarian projects in their regions.

In total, **18 organisations** — including consortium partners — will be implementing these initiatives.

Over the course of the HLF Grant Committee sessions, all applications underwent a thorough anonymous review, after which the final decisions were approved.

THE RESULTS OF THE COMPETITION ARE AS FOLLOWS:

- ▶ **8 projects** received **€800,000** each;
- ▶ **6 projects** received **€250,000** each

All 14 organisations have begun implementing their projects in late 2025.

In November 2025, the HLF officially launched the second call for grants of **€100,000**, and the selection process is currently underway.

Both calls have played a key role in moving the HLF forward and in bringing together partners focused on bolstering community resilience and empowering organisations throughout Ukraine.

Key Milestones. Tracing the Journey of the HLF



April, 2025, Launch of the Localisation Program

The current HLF Process

FOR THE PILOT PHASE IN UKRAINE

APPLICATION AND SELECTION

HLF Registration and Due Diligence Phase:

- ▶ Open Call for Registration
- ▶ Q&A Sessions
- ▶ Due Diligence Process

HLF Dialogue Phase:

- ▶ Self-Assessment and Interview meeting
- ▶ Identification of Capacities

HLF Proposal Development Phase:

- ▶ Development of Project Proposal incl. Organisational Capacity Strengthening

HLF Project Selection Phase:

- ▶ HLF Grants Committee decides on Grants
- ▶ Partnership Agreement

Selection 2: HLF Organisational Alignment:

- ▶ Selection process conducted by HLF Team



PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION AND CLOSURE

HLF Project Implementation and Capacity Strengthening Phase:

- ▶ Project Implementation
- ▶ Capacity Strengthening
- ▶ Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning

HLF Project Closure Phase:

- ▶ Final Reporting
- ▶ Financial Auditing

HLF Feedback Phase:

- ▶ Lessons Learned
- ▶ Feedbacks

Our first HLF partners. **AVALIST**



Rapid Humanitarian Response

COMPREHENSIVE EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE IN DONETSK AND DNIPROPetroVSK REGIONS

The project funded by the HLF aimed at providing rapid, life-saving humanitarian assistance to communities severely affected by the war. Its main objectives were:

- ▶ Providing access to clean drinking water.
- ▶ Distributing hygiene kits to prevent diseases and support displaced families.
- ▶ Providing materials for rapid repairs of damaged homes and infrastructure to provide financial assistance to vulnerable elderly people.

These efforts were directed to internally displaced persons (IDPs), families with children, people with disabilities and the elderly, especially in frontline and hard-to-reach areas.

Duration: 01.11.2024 – 31.03.2025

The Project reached a total of 39,195 Project participants

Our first HLF partners. **SAFE SKY**



The project funded by the HLF aimed at providing life-saving support to utility workers operating in frontline and high-risk areas of Kharkiv Oblast. Its main objectives were:

- ▶ Providing specialised first aid training to reduce mortality and the severity of injuries.
- ▶ Providing mine safety awareness training to mitigate risks in hazardous environments.
- ▶ Distributing individual first aid kits to enable immediate response in case of injury.

These efforts were directed at utility workers involved in restoring critical infrastructure, clearing debris, and maintaining essential services under constant security threats in frontline and hard-to-reach areas.

Duration: 01.11.2024 – 31.03.2025

The Project reached a total of 560 Project participants

Our activities in 2025



Our work is grounded in the principles of the Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan (UN OCHA), which provides for multi-sectoral support in front-line areas, the organisation of evacuations, emergency assistance for people affected by shelling, and support for internally displaced persons and the most vulnerable population groups.

Our humanitarian response is highly coordinated and aligned with the real needs of people. Collecting and sharing reliable data, as well as synchronising the efforts of the state and international partners, are key to ensuring that assistance reaches those who need it most.

Considering emerging needs, we have focused our efforts on the regions of the country currently suffering the most from shelling and have increased the volume of multi-purpose cash assistance provided to affected populations.

Our projects are implemented in line with the 17 Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations. In particular, we take into account Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, and 16.





133 941
People reached directly
1 240 632
People reached indirectly



In 2025, our organisation continued to support people affected by the war, providing assistance to a wide range of communities in different regions of Ukraine. In total, more than 133,900 direct beneficiaries received support, and indirect assistance reached more than 1,240,000 people.

During the year, we implemented 122 business grants, and our specialists provided more than 10,626 psychological consultations for adults and children.

Seasonal support remained an important area of focus: we provided winter support to 4,453 families to help them prepare for the cold season and provided 13,064 cash assistance payments in various formats, from MPCA to support for utility bills. In addition, 2,850 gardening kits were distributed to rural households, helping to strengthen their food security.

All these results were made possible by the efforts of our team, partners, and the communities we support.

Data as of January 2026



Strengthening Communities and Enhancing Resilience for Vulnerable Groups Across Ukraine



April 2025, Zakarpattia Oblast, MPCA registration

Objective: The project focuses on a comprehensive approach to addressing the urgent needs of affected communities, strengthening cooperation with local authorities and humanitarian partners to ensure effective assistance delivery.

Duration: January 2025 – December 2025

Donor: Aktion Deutschland Hilft

Budget: € 4 059 937

Region: Kyiv city; Chernihiv, Kharkiv, Mykolaiv, Odesa, Lviv, Khmelnytskyi, Chernivtsi, Zaporizhzhia, Kherson, Ternopil, Volyn, Sumy, and Ivano-Frankivsk regions

SCOPE OF ASSISTANCE

The project provides a wide range of support, including:

- ▶ Multi-purpose cash assistance (MPCA)
- ▶ Cash for Rent
- ▶ Psychological counselling (individual and group sessions)
- ▶ Winterisation support
- ▶ Care services for persons with disabilities
- ▶ Business consulting and business grants for micro business development

Our team actively engages with communities through field work, providing direct support to those in need.

ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2025

- ▶ 429 households received multi-purpose cash assistance
- ▶ 122 microbusinesses received grant funding under the subproject «Targeted Financial Assistance for Microbusiness Development»
- ▶ 533 individual and group counselling sessions were conducted by project psychologists

ONGOING ACTIVITIES

The programme continues to provide financial support to IDPs and grant assistance to microbusinesses, while the team in Uzhhorod delivers counselling and psychological services to affected people. This comprehensive approach helps individuals who have experienced displacement and economic hardship receive the support necessary for long-term recovery and stability.





A Business Helping TO REBUILD THE FUTURE

After being forced to relocate from Siverskodonetsk to Uzhhorod at the beginning of the full-scale invasion, Oleh Nevenytsia was left without a home or a business. Yet instead of giving up, he chose to start a new chapter and rebuild his livelihood from scratch.

«I realised that I would be here for a long time and needed to start organising my life anew. Before the war, I co-owned a company producing windows and doors, so I decided to continue working in a field I knew well,» the entrepreneur says.

This is how the idea was born to launch his own production of SIP panels — a modern material for fast and energy-efficient construction. At the beginning, Oleh had only a minimal set of tools, which significantly limited his ability to grow. After learning about our small business support programme, he applied for a grant and received funding to purchase es-

sential equipment — a circular saw, a grinding machine, a compressor and installation tools. Thanks to this, he was able to expand production and substantially increase his workload.

«With the grant from Help, we were able to work much more efficiently. Our team has already built four houses, and we are now preparing for the fifth,» Oleh notes.

The entrepreneur is convinced that even in the most difficult times, the most important thing is not to lose faith in yourself and in your work.



Support in Difficult Times

THE STORY OF A FAMILY DISPLACED FROM IZIUM

Through our multi-purpose cash assistance programme, our organisation supports people affected by the war by providing financial aid of 10,800 UAH per adult family member to help cover their immediate needs.

One of the recipients is Roman Poltarashchenko from Uzhhorod, who, together with his family, was forced to leave his home in Izium in the Kharkiv region.

«For some time we stayed at home, hoping that the fighting would bypass our city... But the shelling was very intense,» Roman recalls.

After evacuating, he began rebuilding his life — finding a job and organising his household. However, everything changed when his mother suffered a severe stroke, leaving her paralysed. Roman has since become her full-time carer.

The financial assistance he received became an essential support: with the funds, Roman was able to purchase necessary medicines, care supplies, groceries and even a video baby monitor that allows him to keep an eye on his mother while briefly stepping away from home.

Today, Roman dreams of the war ending and Ukraine's recovery. His story is a reminder of how vital timely support is for people facing especially vulnerable life circumstances.

Bonn Hilft Cherson



September 2025, Kherson, medicines for Kherson hospital

The Bonn hilft Cherson project aims to strengthen the healthcare system in Kherson and provide the local population with high-quality medical care.

Start of implementation: March 2023 – ongoing

Donor: Help — Hilfe zur Selbsthilfe e. V.

Funding: determined annually

Location: Kherson

Who we help: residents affected by the consequences of war

Kherson and the German city of Bonn have entered into a partnership in 2023, and it is in this context that Help has joined in supporting the city. The organisation purchases medical equipment and supplies for hospitals that continue to operate under constant danger.

The project budget for 2025 is € 245,000. Measures implemented in 2025: a total of three medical facilities received assistance, and at least 400,000 patients benefited from improved quality of medical services.

- ▶ Medical equipment was delivered and put into operation for hospitals in the Kherson region, including a V5 ultrasound machine for the Kherson City Clinical Hospital named after Athanasius and Olga Tropin.
- ▶ A video bronchoscope and video gastroscope were purchased and delivered to the Kherson Regional Children's Clinical Hospital.
- ▶ Medicines and endovascular consumables were supplied to hospitals in the region.

ASSISTANCE PROVIDED IN 2025

- ▶ KNP «Kherson City Clinical Hospital named after E. E. Karabelesh»:
 - endovascular consumables;
 - medicines.
- ▶ Kherson Regional Children's Clinical Hospital:
 - Olympus EVIS EXERA II BF-1T180 video bronchoscope;
 - Olympus EVIS EXERA GIF-Q165 video gastroscope.
- ▶ Kherson City Clinical Hospital named after Athanasius and Olga Tropin:
 - Samsung Medison V5 ultrasound diagnostic scanner.

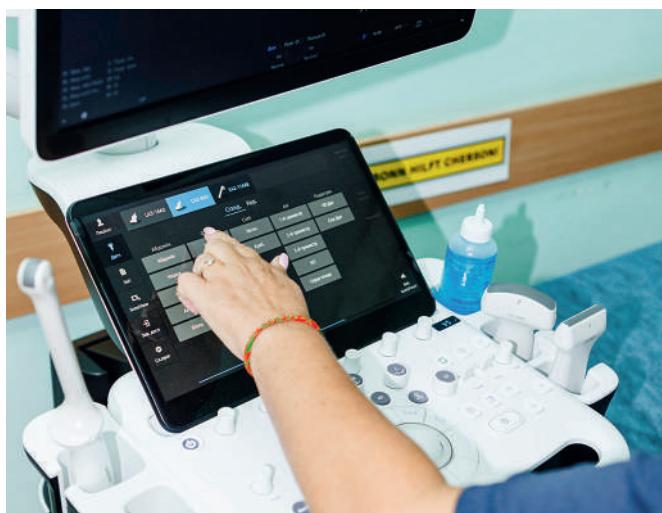
PLAN UNTIL THE END OF 2025

- ▶ Transfer at least 220 units of rehabilitation equipment for people with disabilities.
- ▶ Provide protective equipment to at least 3 social centers and municipal enterprises (over 4,400 people).
- ▶ Support 3 collective centers with household and electrical appliances (440 people).

In addition, the supply of medicines needed to treat the victims is ongoing. Regular shelling of the Ukrainian-controlled territories of Kherson region leads to a significant number of injuries, so support for the medical sector here remains critically important.

Since the initiative began in 2023, six hospitals in Kherson have received support.

We strive to provide medical institutions with everything they need — from equipment to medicines — so that doctors can provide timely and high-quality care to patients, and the community has access to medical services even in the difficult conditions of war.





Support for Young Patients

IN THE KHERSON REGION

As part of the Bon hilft Cherson project, we delivered modern medical equipment to the Kherson Regional Children's Hospital.

This hospital, currently the only facility in the region providing specialised care for children aged 0 to 18, receives young patients daily from Kherson and the recently de-occupied areas of the region. Despite the difficult conditions of the war, doctors continue to save children's lives.

With our support, the hospital received new endoscopic equipment — a bronchoscope and a gastroscope — enabling the diagnosis and treatment of children with severe conditions.

«Our institution is the only paediatric medical centre in the region. Before the war, we helped more than 100,000 children each year. Today, we work under new circumstances — supporting children who have lived through occupation and shelling, including those with mine-blast injuries. The new equipment

will help us diagnose more quickly and save the lives of our young patients,» explained Inna Kholodniak, Director of the Kherson Regional Children's Hospital.

«We are sincerely grateful to the residents of the city of Bonn and to Help for this support. This is an investment in the health of our children and the future of the entire Kherson region. We dream of peaceful life — and we continue working for it,» Ms Inna added.



Strengthening Kherson's Healthcare System

A NEW ULTRASOUND SCANNER FOR THE CITY HOSPITAL

As part of the Bonn hilft Cherson project, our organisation has delivered a modern, expert-class ultrasound scanner to the Kherson City Hospital. This equipment enables doctors to carry out accurate diagnostics and save the lives of people affected by the war.

Dmytro Domanskyi, General Director of the Kherson City Hospital named after A. and O. Tropiny, says:

«The scanner we previously had was very old. Thanks to our partners, we have received a modern ultrasound scanner that allows us to make higher-quality diagnoses

and detect pathologies that were previously difficult to see. Our patients are pleased, but the happiest is the specialist who can now work at an appropriate professional level.»

Ultrasound specialist Olena Rudenko shares her experience:

«We admitted a patient with a shrapnel wound to the abdominal cavity. Thanks to the new equipment, we detected liver damage in time, and the surgeons were able to save his life. There were other cases too — for example, a staff member with a chest injury, where the ultrasound revealed a haematoma that was promptly operated on. This equipment truly safeguards lives.»

The Kherson region faces the challenges of war every day, and local medical staff work in extremely difficult conditions. That is why we support hospitals, helping them provide high-quality and timely care to all patients.

Emergency aid for the population, communities and institutions affected by the war in Ukraine



October 2025, Kyiv, MPCA registration

The project aims to improve the well-being of people affected by the war in the southern, eastern, and north-eastern regions of Ukraine. The support covers internally displaced persons as well as those who have remained in their communities or returned home. Particular attention is given to vulnerable groups — people affected by explosive ordnance, female-headed households, and veterans — to ensure their needs are addressed and assistance is more targeted.

Period: January 2024 – June 2026

Donor: German Federal Foreign Office

Budget: €14 293 350

Region: Southern and eastern regions of Ukraine

PROVISION OF EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE TO MEET BASIC NEEDS OF AFFECTED PEOPLE

4,897

people received multi-purpose cash assistance

1,026

households received solid fuel for the heating season

5,897

families gained access to gardening tools

20,000

litres of fuel were provided to the Kharkiv Regional Administration



PSYCHOLOGICAL SUPPORT

The project provides regular psychological support to people living close to the frontline to prevent or reduce the impact of potential long-term psychological trauma. Participants can also access individual sessions with a psychologist.

573 psychological counselling sessions were conducted, including both individual and group psychosocial support and psychological first aid

20,694 people attended lectures delivered by our local partner NGO «Divchata»

WINTERISATION SUPPORT

The project supports institutions by assessing their needs in preparation for winter, implementing renewable energy solutions and renovating facilities.

These include educational, medical, social and critical infrastructure sites, such as energy and water supply systems.



Support for Recovery

RESIDENTS OF ZAVODSKE RECEIVE GARDENING TOOLS

In the village of Zavodske (formerly Pervomaiske) in the Mykolaiv region, local residents received gardening tools as part of the humanitarian assistance provided by our organisation. Shovels, hoes, saws, buckets, gloves and other essential equipment are helping people restore their households and daily lives after the destruction caused by the war.

Ms Tamara Honcharenko, who was forced to leave her native Kherson with her family, shares her story:

«When we returned, there wasn't a single intact window on the veranda, the roof looked like a sieve, and in the garden there was a crater from a mine. But we wanted to come home so much, and we started to rebuild little by little. Now, thanks to Help, we have everything we need to work — a bucket, a hoe, a saw, a shovel, even gloves. All of this has been very useful. We are grateful for the support.»

The tools provided are helping residents cultivate their land again, plant seedlings and grow vegetables. People are gradually rebuilding their homes and smallholdings, returning to everyday life and holding onto their dream of peace.

«I want so much for all of this to end soon... So that we can set long tables all along the street and celebrate peace,» Ms Tamara adds.



Rebuilding the Outpatient Clinic

IN THE VILKHIVKA COMMUNITY

After being almost completely destroyed by a missile strike, the outpatient clinic in the Vilkhivka community of the Kharkiv region is being given a new lease of life. Thanks to our co-operation with the local authorities, the restoration of this vital medical infrastructure facility has begun.

For a long time, medical staff were forced to receive patients in the local cultural centre, where there was a lack of heating, lighting and adequate space for work.

«The building was heavily damaged during the shelling, but together with the local authorities

we are gradually restoring it. We are providing the necessary construction materials and helping to install water supply and sewerage systems. It is important for us that people can once again receive medical care in dignified conditions,» says Help's Project Manager, Kostiantyn Skinder.

A community representative, Ms Tetiana, emphasises how meaningful this restoration is for local residents:

«For us, this outpatient clinic is not just a building but a place where people receive care and support. We are truly grateful for this work and hope that very soon we will be able to open the doors for patients again.»

We continue to support Ukrainian communities by helping to restore medical facilities, housing and other essential infrastructure necessary for people to return to normal life.



Support When Home Is Destroyed

ASSISTANCE FOR FAMILIES AFTER THE SHELLING

Following the missile strike on Kyiv in the early morning of 31 July 2025, our organisation provided multi-purpose cash assistance to residents of the destroyed building and nearby homes. This support aims to cover the immediate needs of those affected — from repairing their homes to purchasing essential items.

Among those who received assistance is Artur Pogosov, a resident of the destroyed block. He shares his story: «My name is Artur Pogosov, and I lived in the damaged block on the eighth floor. At 4:40 in the morning there was an explosion — a direct missile hit between the fifth and sixth floors. We opened the door and saw that the entrance was gone. We heard screams, smoke, flames... It was hell.»

After the explosion, Artur and his wife were left without a home, as were dozens of other residents.

«When we heard that Help was supporting those affected, it was an enormous relief. I am sincerely grateful — with-

out this assistance we wouldn't have known how to cope,» Artur says.

He adds: «The first thing I want to say to people who have families: hug your loved ones every day, tell them you love them. Never lose connection with them, because sometimes it breaks forever, through no fault of our own.»

The purpose of the assistance is to help affected families overcome daily challenges and create an opportunity for them to gradually rebuild their lives after the tragedy.



When Football is More Than a Game

SUPPORTING THE KINGS CHILDREN'S CLUB

In Kharkiv, our organisation continues to support the children's football club Kings — a place where sport helps children regain a sense of normal childhood.

The Kings football school was founded by coach Anton Pluzhnikov in 2019 in Northern Saltivka. After the start of the full-scale war, training had to be suspended, but by the summer of 2022 the team returned to the pitch — at the request of parents who saw how much their children were missing activities and social interaction. At the end of 2023, the club began its cooperation with our organisation,

and this support has made it possible to provide free training and equip the team with everything necessary.

Today, nearly 50 children — boys and girls of different ages and levels of preparedness — train at the club. Kings is already well known in the city, and the team continues to grow and develop. Sport has become an important space of stability for children. During training, they fully immerse themselves in the game, distract themselves from the war and have the opportunity to move forward together as a team.

The school participates in the Kharkiv city and regional championships. The children show strong results, win prize places, and demonstrate their motivation both on the training ground and on the pitch.

Children's sports initiatives help young people develop, be part of a community, and have space for dreams — even during war.

Winter Resilience: Strengthening Affected Communities and Local Population in Kharkiv, Donetsk, and Mykolaiv Regions



March 2025, Snihurivka, solid fuel for local residents

The project is aimed at reducing the risk of energy poverty during winter and improving living conditions for people with disabilities, single parents, large families and older persons.

Period: September 2024 – February 2025

Supported by: Ukraine Humanitarian Fund (UHF)

Budget: \$ 2 496 066

Region: Kharkiv, Donetsk and Mykolaiv regions

The project is designed to support vulnerable communities in the Kharkiv, Donetsk and Mykolaiv regions by ensuring access to essential winter energy resources and providing financial assistance to cover utility costs.

THE PROJECT INCLUDED TWO KEY AREAS OF ACTIVITY:

- ▶ Winter energy support — delivery of solid fuel to more than 2,626 households in 2024 and 2025 to ensure heating during the cold season.
- ▶ Winter utility assistance — provision of cash assistance to 2,123 households to cover expenses for electricity, gas or central heating.

The implementation of some project activities involved the local NGO Avalist, which supported the organisation of registration for cash assistance at community level. Funds for utility payments were provided through local authorities, while solid fuel assistance was delivered directly to households, reducing costs and ensuring rapid access to resources.





Warmth for Winter

ASSISTANCE FOR RESIDENTS OF PRYVILNE

With the arrival of cold weather, the issue of heating becomes especially urgent, particularly for older people with limited income. This winter, residents of the village of Pryvilne received fuel briquettes as part of the humanitarian programme we are implementing with the support of the Ukraine Humanitarian Fund (UHF).

For many, this assistance has become a real lifeline.

Volodymyr Serdiuk, 71, shares his story:

«I moved to my summer house — it's nice here. I keep goats and rabbits, and I grow strawberries and raspberries. My pension is small — just over three thousand hryvnias — so I cannot afford to buy firewood; usually, I collect deadwood in the forest. I received 3.5 tonnes of fuel briquettes from Help, and this is a huge help. They produce good heat, burn for a long time, and will last me through the whole winter.»

Help's Project Manager, Kostiantyn Skinder, notes that such support is especially important for vulnerable groups: **«We receive a lot of feedback and understand how much people need warmth in their homes. We hope to continue providing assistance to improve the living conditions of those who need it.»**

Mr Volodymyr adds: **«If this support continues every year, we won't freeze. And most of all, I want my son, son-in-law and nephew to come back alive from the war. And all our boys too.»**



Warmth for Life

THE STORY OF MS VALENTYNA

Winter is always a challenge for older people, especially when they must choose between warmth, food and medicine. Ms Valentyna Sereda is 93 years old, and her story shows how vital timely support is for those in particularly vulnerable situations.

«In winter I have to save on everything — on food, on medicine — just to have enough for fuel. And now a tonne of coal costs 21,000 hryvnias. That's more than four of my pensions...» Ms Valentyna shares.

After the occupation, life in the village became a real test: there is no

gas, many homes were destroyed, and fuel prices remain unaffordable for most elderly residents.

Thanks to the humanitarian assistance provided by our organisation, Ms Valentyna and more than 260 other families received 3.5 tonnes of fuel briquettes to help them get through the cold season.

«This fuel is very convenient — it lights quickly, no firewood needed. Just ignite it — and the house starts to warm up,» she says.

Warm homes are not only about comfort but also about safety, especially for older people.

«If this kind of support came every year, I could afford extra medicines...» Ms Valentyna adds.

Multi-Sectoral Humanitarian Assistance for Vulnerable People in Kharkiv and Donetsk Regions



July 2025, Stary Saltiv, registration for medium and small repairs

The aim of this project is to provide targeted humanitarian assistance to communities affected by the war, ensure equal access to essential services, and improve living conditions.

Period: June 2025 – May 2026

Supported by: Ukraine Humanitarian Fund (UHF)

Budget: € 2 498 971

Region: Kharkiv and Donetsk regions

Key activities contributing to this goal:

HOUSING

Light and medium repairs for 150 households in the Kharkiv region. The repair works carried out by Help focus on replacing windows and doors, repairing roofs, and addressing minor structural damage.

RECONSTRUCTION

Six collective centres in the Kharkiv region (implemented by a partner organisation) are being rehabilitated to improve living conditions for 1,476 internally displaced persons. Upgrades include repairs to water supply and sewerage systems in shower areas, as well as replacement of ceilings and floors. At these sites, affected people also receive information about psychological support, legal assistance, and individual protection services.

MULTI-PURPOSE CASH ASSISTANCE

Emergency assistance was implemented by our organisation in the Kharkiv region following the recommendations of the HEPR (Health Emergency Preparedness and Response), addressing urgent needs arising from recent shelling. In total, more than 1,700 people will receive 10,800 UAH per person to cover basic needs. Priority is given to older persons, people with disabilities, and families with children.

PROTECTION

In the Donetsk region, 3,500 affected people receive psychological support from mobile teams to help them cope with trauma. In addition, 300 dignity kits will be distributed to people who have experienced gender-based violence (GBV), and 500 individuals will receive legal assistance related to civil documentation, verification of personal facts, IDP registration, access to assistance, and social services. Cash assistance for

individual protection is planned for 300 people belonging to vulnerable groups, including older persons, single parents, large families, IDPs, and people with chronic illnesses.

EDUCATION

A total of 2,200 school kits were distributed to school-aged children in the Kharkiv region to provide them with essential materials for continuing their education, including those studying at home.

Through this project, multi-sectoral assistance is provided in the Kharkiv and Donetsk regions, ensuring that affected people have equitable access to humanitarian support.

The project will run for 12 months starting 1 June 2025, drawing on the operational experience of Help and its implementing partners. Overall, the initiative will reach more than 6,900 people, meeting their immediate needs and contributing to the long-term resilience of communities in regions affected by the war.





Rebuilding Homes in the Kharkiv Region

SUPPORT FROM HELP

In the Kharkiv region, we continue implementing a programme of light and medium repairs for homes in affected communities. The main focus is on replacing windows and doors, repairing roofs and addressing minor structural damage.

This work is especially valuable for residents of frontline villages who have lived for long periods among destroyed buildings and without basic living conditions. One such person is Hanna Mykolaivna Sapalenko, who has lived in Tsyrkuny her entire life. She was 70 years old when the full-scale invasion began.

She recalls the first days of the war as a complete shock: «On 24 February, the electricity suddenly went out, and explosions began. We didn't realise immediately that it was war. We hid in cellars and basements. The windows were blown out, the floors collapsed, and the ceilings fell in.»

The damaged roof became the most acute problem. For three years, it was covered only with a tarpaulin. With a modest pension and no possibility to hire workers, she could not begin repairs on her own.

«Every downpour was a disaster. Everything inside would get wet and rot. We asked for help — and we received it».

The project aims to ensure that people who lived through occupation and daily shelling can restore their homes and return to a sense of normal life.



When Assistance Becomes Support

FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

Many families in the Kharkiv and Donetsk regions are living in difficult conditions today. Proximity to the frontline, constant alarms and shelling force people to adapt to a new reality. Despite everything, children continue to study, dream and believe in the future.

To support families for whom preparing a child for school has become a real challenge, our humanitarian organisation provided school supply kits to children in the Kharkiv and Donetsk regions.

«I have two children — twins. They are special children and have

disabilities, so there are certain difficulties. But thanks to the help of kind people, it is easier for us to go through these challenges,» says Oleksii Ivakin, the father of two boys from the village of Dokuchaevske in the Kharkiv region.

His family lives almost on the frontline. Shelling is heard constantly, yet the children continue their studies online.

«We received support from Help — school kits for the children. We are very grateful because getting a child ready for school is expensive now. This support is really important for us. Our dream is for peace to come soon so the children can go to school safely,» Mr Oleksii says.

Together with our local partners, our team continues to support Ukrainian families and remind people that they are not alone in their struggle for the future.

Winter Resilience: Strengthening Affected Communities and Local Population in Kharkiv Region



October 2025, Tsyrkuny, solid fuel for local residents

Objective: To ensure safe and dignified passage through the winter period for vulnerable households in the Kharkiv region who have been affected by the war and cannot independently cover heating costs. The project aims to reduce cold-related risks, support basic needs, and strengthen community resilience amid ongoing hostilities.

Period: October 2025 – March 2026

Supported by: Ukraine Humanitarian Fund (UHF)

Budget: \$ 2 453 232

Region: Kharkiv region

KEY ACTIVITIES

Provision of winter heating support across three districts of the Kharkiv region: Bohodukhiv, Chuhiiv and Kharkiv districts.

Support is tailored to the household's heating type:

- ▶ Cash assistance for utility payments (one-off 19,400 UAH) — for households using gas heating.
- ▶ Cash assistance for the purchase of solid fuel (one-off 19,400 UAH) — for households heating with firewood.
- ▶ In-kind provision of solid fuel — for households with no access to the market, transport, or who, due to distance or health conditions, cannot secure fuel on their own.

PEOPLE WE SUPPORT

Older persons (60+), people with disabilities (Groups I—III), single parents and large families.

Selection is carried out jointly with local authorities, based on community-verified data to ensure transparency and avoid duplication.

In Staryi Saltiv, all operational work is carried out by the NGO Dobri Dii, which will support 600 households (cash assistance for utility payments or self-purchase of solid fuel, as well as in-kind provision of solid fuel).

Help implements activities in the Bohodukhiv and Kharkiv districts, covering 3,144 households.

TOTAL REACH

3,744 households (approximately 8,439 people) will receive support.





Warmth That Brings Peace

A STORY OF SUPPORT IN THE TSYRKUNY COMMUNITY

When the war reached the village of Tsyrkuny in February 2022, the lives of its residents changed within hours. Seventy-two-year-old Hanna Vovk remembers the first months of the full-scale invasion all too well. She and her husband lived in their cellar, unsure whether their home would survive. The house remained standing, but all the windows were blown out, and life after de-occupation was still difficult: food was scarce, and there was no money for repairs or preparing for winter. A significant part of her pension also goes towards treatment — Hanna is battling cancer.

When the community announced the opportunity to apply for support from our organisation, the family did not hesitate. They received 19,400 UAH to prepare for the heating season and were able to buy firewood for their two stoves.

«This is a very big help for us,» Hanna shares. «If they reconnect the gas, we'll even have some firewood left for

next year. If not — this will get us through the season. And we are very grateful to Help for this support.»

For older people living on a modest pension, such assistance is not just fuel. It is the reassurance that their home will remain warm in winter.

Thanks to this support, people enter the cold season feeling more protected — and with hope for the future.

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LEGAL NOTICE

REPRESENTATIVE OFFICE OF HELP – HILFE ZUR SELBSTHILFE IN UKRAINE

44 Velyka Vasylkivska St., 01024, Kyiv
+38 067 176 99 07
media@help-ukraine.org.ua
<https://help-ukraine.org.ua>

EDITORIAL TEAM

Olga Neshta, Kateryna
Nimchuk, Anna Lukianenko,
Kostiantyn Kovshevatskyi,
Valentyna Dubyska, Alina Shcherbak

PHOTO

Olga Hurenko, Yevhenii Zhulai

DESIGN

Yuriy Ferendovych

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