

A close-up photograph of two hands shaking. The hand on the left is wearing a blue sleeve, and the hand on the right is wearing a yellow sleeve. The background is split into a bright yellow section on the left and a white section on the right. In the top right corner, there are five small white dots.

# PROGRAMME OF INTEGRATED HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE IN THE CONTEXT OF WAR AND POST-WAR RECOVERY

SUPPORT OF COMMUNITY INITIATIVES



# SCLR: SUPPORTING COMMUNITY INITIATIVES THROUGH MINI-GRANTS

Up to £4000



**695** mini-grants have been provided  
more than **436 000** people accessed  
assistance



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Up to £4000

implementation period: May 2022-December 2023

**695** humanitarian projects were supported by the Alliance and partner NGOs in **22 regions of Ukraine**

**£2 million** total amount of mini-grants awarded

**more than 436 000 people** accessed assistance



# Main target groups of mini-grants beneficiaries



## Internally displaced persons (IDPs)

Most projects targeting the needs of IDPs include:

- providing accommodation to ensure safe and stable living conditions;
- offering psychological assistance to address mental health and trauma;
- creating comfortable living environments tailored to the specific needs of IDPs;
- implementing community integration programs for social cohesion and support.



## Local residents affected by war

Mini-grants address both infrastructural needs and educational/social support, significantly aiding war-affected communities through:

- repair and improvement of premises for safety and comfort.
- support for the educational process, training, and rehabilitation, mainly benefiting children.



## People with disabilities

Mini-grants aim to enhance the quality of life, independence, and inclusion of individuals with disabilities in various aspects of society. This includes:

- accessibility improvements in public and private spaces;
- providing specialized equipment and technology aids;
- training and educational programs tailored to specific needs;
- support services for social integration and employment opportunities.



**Support for community initiative groups in Bucha (Kyivska Oblast)**

Target group: IDPs

There was no air conditioning in the built modular town in Bucha. The modular structures, essentially repurposed containers, were equipped to temporarily accommodate IDPs and people who lost their homes due to hostilities. The containers are made of metal, and they get very hot at high temperatures, which makes it impossible to stay indoors.

Local community group received a mini-grant, which allowed to provide the residents of the modular town with mobile air conditioners, improving their living conditions and increasing comfort.



## Support for community initiative groups in Konotop (Sumyska Oblast)

Target group: IDPs

The "winter energy terror" of Russia resulted in constant interruptions of power supply, which sometimes lasted for more than 6 hours. Electricity was cut off every two hours in the IDP Support Centre of the Konotop community. An alternative power solution was urgently required.

A mini-grant allowed an initiative group to install a hybrid solar power plant with a capacity of 5 kW to meet the electricity needs of the IDP Support Centre. When preparing the project application, the group planned that the solar station would become a backup power source in case of interruptions. However, the station's power turned to be sufficient to fully meet the needs of the Centre in electricity (refrigerator, electric kettle, boiler, etc.)





## Support for community initiative groups in PISOCHYN (Kharkivska Oblast)

Target group: IDP children

Due to the war, many children have been forced to leave their homes and live in shelters and "safe places". They all instantly grew up and started a completely different life regardless of age. And all of them need psychological help.

As part of the project, based on the "PISOCHYN Lyceum "Mobil", where the "Safety Space" is currently created, psychological project training was held for teachers, trainers of children's groups, and animators, on the topic "Psychological first aid, support for children during the war". The topics relevant to working with children during martial law were raised during the classes.

Also, the participants reviewed the psychological first aid protocol, stress response scale, types and causes of stress, and the difference between the reactions of an adult and a child to a traumatic event.



## Support for community initiative groups in Malyutyanka (Kyivska Oblast)

Target group: local residents

According to the Ministry of Health, more than 1,200 medical facilities were destroyed and damaged in Ukraine. Because of this, difficulties arise with access to medical care, which is one of the critical tasks of medical reform.

As part of the implementation of the project, an application was received for assistance in the organization of uninterrupted power supply to ensure the heating of the outpatient clinic, the lighting of the premises, and the operation of elementary devices that require electricity in Malyutyanka (Kyivska Oblast).

Systematic shelling of the power system and regular blackouts have made it much more difficult to provide medical care, especially in the cold season. The dispensary's heating system runs on electricity. When the light is turned off, the room is not heated; when it is on, it does not have time to warm up to maintain a minimally comfortable temperature.

Thanks to the coordinated work of the project, it was possible to purchase the necessary equipment and ensure decent working conditions at the medical institution. Thanks to the new equipment, specialists received comfortable working conditions, and an uninterrupted power supply to the outpatient clinic stabilized the family doctor's appointment schedule.

The changes that have taken place have significantly impacted the quality of primary medical care provided to the village's residents, which has about 2,000 people.







**Support for community initiative groups in Znamyanka (Kirovohradaska Oblast)**  
Target group: IDPs



In addition to the death and human suffering, the war dealt a massive blow to the economy and left millions out of work.

Considering the new circumstances, an initiative group from the city of Znamyanka (Kirovohradaska Oblast) decided to create an educational and production site, "Synergia", where everyone will have the opportunity to master the sewing business with the further prospect of employment or opening their own business.

As part of the project, training 48 people in sewing was possible. Also, all interested parties were able to familiarize themselves with the procedure for opening a Sole Proprietorship and conducting their own business.



## Support for community initiative groups in Mykhailo-Kotsyubynsk (Chernihivska Oblast)

Target group: local children

From the first days of the war, Mykhailo-Kotsyubynsk (Chernihivska Oblast) was under occupation. Russian soldiers drove into people's yards, broke fences, placed tanks and armored personnel carriers right in the gardens, and shot at the power grid. A lot of damage was also done to the local infrastructure: the village council, a local store, a cultural center, a water supply were looted, and two rockets were fired at a school.

After the liberation, the village begins to recover little by little. With the support of various charitable organizations, residents are trying to return to everyday life. Currently, 2,763 people live in the community, including 1,090 children under 14 who need a place to spend their leisure time.

With the funds received from the mini-grant, a children's playground for mobile games and "Workout" equipment for sports and active communication of the younger generation were installed. After the installation of sports equipment, various competitions and tournaments are constantly held on the playground territory.





## Support for community initiative groups in Vinnytska Oblast

Target group: wounded servicemen in medical facilities in Khmelnytskyi

Volunteers from Vinnytsia sew unique transformer clothes for wounded servicemen in medical facilities in Khmelnytskyi. It is comfortable and made of natural fabric, and it can be worn for any injury and wound, even on lying patients.

The idea of sewing unique clothes for the wounded came from a resident of Kozyatyn. After seeing that soldiers with severe injuries often lie without clothes, covered only by a sheet, he and other volunteers came up with T-shirts, pants, and briefs that are easy to fasten so that they can be worn in case of any injuries. Now, in winter, such clothes are very relevant.



## Support for community initiative groups in Kharkiv

Target group: local residents affected by war

Due to the active hostilities in the Kharkiv region, many people have been forced to leave their homes and live in bomb shelters and buildings that are not equipped with centralized heating and appliances for cooking.

With the approach of the winter season, the problem of the lack of a source of heat in such places became very acute. That is why the city's residents appealed to help them survive the winter.

Thanks to the coordinated work, it was possible to equip bomb shelters with stoves in 20 high-rise buildings in Kharkiv, thereby helping about 2,500 people, the vast majority of whom are IDPs. Also, thanks to this initiative, it was possible to make the stay of people in uninhabitable premises more comfortable and warmer, where they had the opportunity to prepare food and hot drinks and keep warm even during a blackout.



## Support for community initiative groups in Zaporizhzhia

Target group: local residents affected by war

With the beginning of a full-scale war, the urgent problem of Zaporizhzhia and the Zaporizhska Oblast became that due to numerous shelling of critical and civilian infrastructure, many residents were left without homes and found themselves in difficult life circumstances.

With the funds received from the mini-grant, based on checkpoints, the initiative group set up seven "Points of Invincibility", which became an island of safety, stability, warmth, and unity in the event of an extended emergency power outage. Equipped checkpoints operate 24 hours a day and are free for temporary stay.

This initiative has helped over a hundred people aged 5 to 67 years. These people left the occupation and did not have a home, and those who, due to the lack of light, electricity, and heating, did not have the conditions to spend the night at home.



Since the beginning of the full-scale invasion, Poltavaska Oblast has received thousands of internally displaced persons, mainly from Luhansk and Kharkiv regions. The lion's share are women, children, and older people.

As a result of military actions, women have received and continue to receive enormous psycho-emotional traumas caused by the experience of loss of home, work, familiar environment, and way of life. The strongest unite in mutual aid groups, support each other, and look for ways out of the most challenging situations.

Some women work remotely, some want to learn new skills and different types of creativity, and some want to share their knowledge and skills with other women.

Thanks to the grant funds, a universal, comfortable space for mutual support of women was equipped where you can gather, engage in creativity, conduct art therapy, and, if necessary, work remotely, during which volunteers, psychologists, and educators work with the children.



**Support for community initiative groups in Poltava**  
Target group: IDPs, people with disabilities





## Support for community initiative groups in Kryvyi Rih (Dnipropetrovska Oblast)

Target group: IDPs and women with children

The duration of the war causes a constant need for psychological help and support for people who have psychological trauma or are experiencing loss. This especially applies to internally displaced persons and women with children.

As part of the project "Supporting Community Initiatives in Ukraine", 112 residents of Kryvyi Rih received qualified psychological support and the opportunity to develop skills to stabilize their psycho-emotional state, self-regulation, and find sources of self-support and mutual support.

Psychoeducational workshops held for these people helped expand their mental state knowledge and instill stress management skills, increased self-awareness, and improved interpersonal relationships. Participants of psychological groups got the opportunity to share experiences and receive support from other participants, which increases the sense of belonging and improves social support. Also, participation in such events helps to enhance the quality of life and personal development.





Dobropillia is far from the front line, so a vast number of residents of Mariupol and Volnovakha moved here. Since the Center for Representatives of Key Population Groups has been operating on the city's territory for a long time, with the beginning of the war, people with social problems purposefully went here, realizing they would not be left on the street.

### **Support for community initiative groups in Dobropillia (Donetska Oblast)**

Target group: local residents, IDPs

The residents of the Center and former clients repaired several premises on their own, but more resources were needed for kitchen and dining room equipment. Having learned about the possibility of receiving funds to meet needs with the help of mini-grants, representatives of the Rehabilitation Center took part in the competitive selection.

As part of the project, metal-plastic windows, doors, and a refrigerator were purchased, a hood and a kitchen set were installed, and materials for cosmetic repairs were purchased. Residents and graduates of the center carried out all repair work.





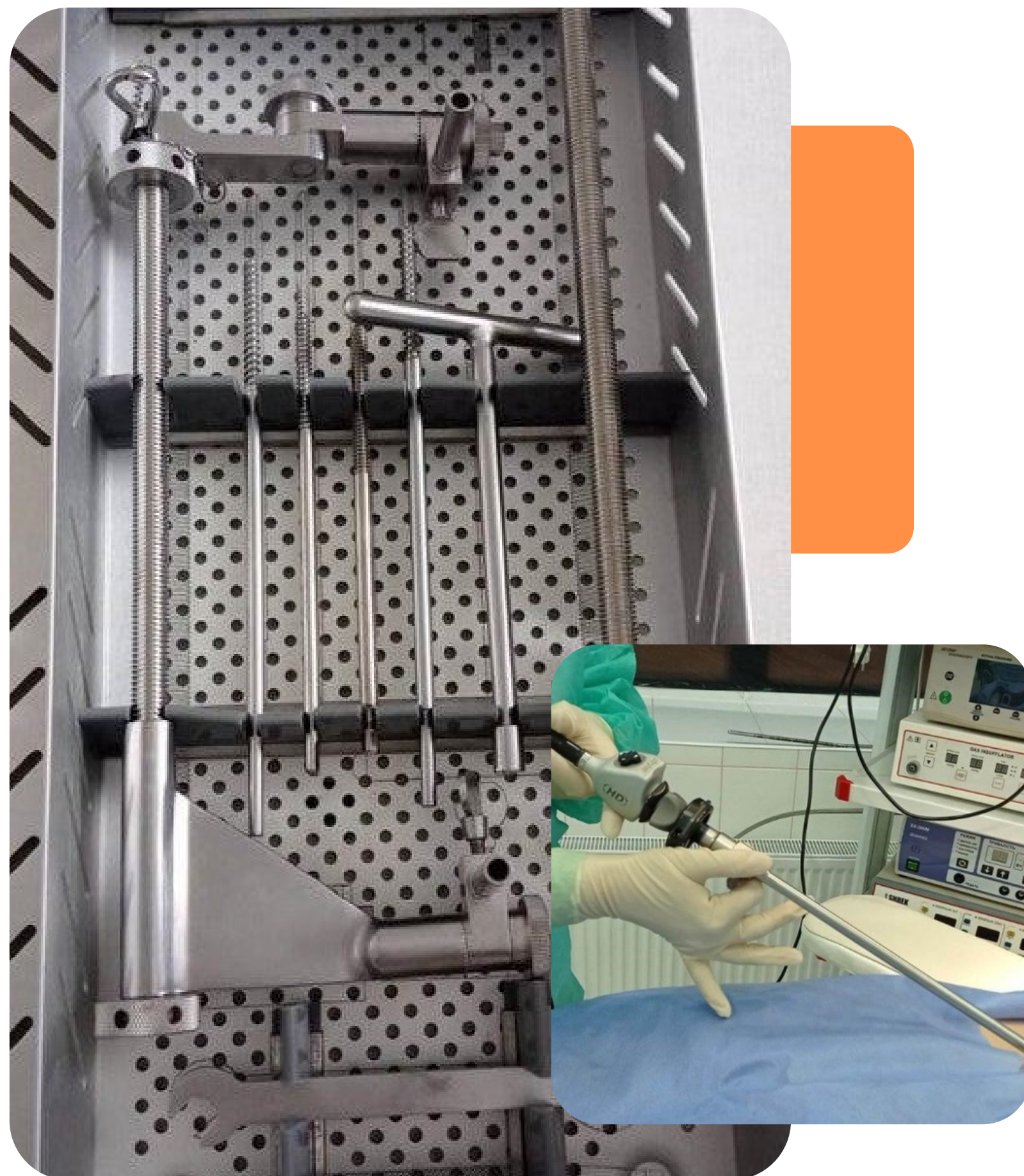
## Support for community initiative groups in Bar (Vinnytska Oblast)

Target group: local residents

The Bar City Hospital (Vinnytska Oblast) serves a territorial community of 68 settlements in which about 41,000 residents and more than 6,000 IDPs live.

Last year, thanks to the victory in the mini-grant competition, the hospital's operating room was equipped with a new mechano-hydraulic operating table and a functional lamp. After that, local patrons financed renovations in the department and some other changes in the hospital. The problem remained the need for modern tools for traumatological interventions. The hospital rented such instruments from medical firms for the period of operations, for which patients had to pay separately, and doctors had to adjust the schedule of operations to the possibility of renting instruments on a specific date.

After success in the previous competition, the initiative group also decided to participate in a new contest to solve this hospital problem. After winning the new mini-grant competition, one purchased new tools, enabling the hospital team to work more efficiently and several hundred patients to recover faster yearly.





As a result of the war, the number of displaced persons increased in Chernivtsi, and the situation of marginalized sections of the population changed for the worse. In this regard, local activists began to look for ways to improve the situation and purchased small equipment for the bakery.

At first, the baking volume was small: 50-70 loaves per day. To bake more bread, it was necessary to purchase more powerful equipment. That's when the idea came up to create your own mini-bakery, allowing you to bake more than 100 loaves daily.

With the funds received from the mini-grants, it was possible to purchase the necessary equipment and help equip the bakery.

So far, more than 300 people have been fed (people living in a home for the elderly, residents of an orphanage, people living with addictions, homeless women, single people, disabled people, IDPs, and the military).

## Support for community initiative groups in Chernivtsi

Target group: local residents affected by war

The number of children with special educational needs in the Vinnytska Oblast has reached 18,725 thousand. From the beginning of the war, there was an urgent need to provide them with psychological and correctional services. Still, this task took much work due to the large number of children and the need for more specialists in the relevant profession.

## Support for community initiative groups in Vinnytska Oblast

Target group: children with special educational needs

Thanks to people's indifference, a space was organized in March of last year where 120 children could use psychological and correctional services for free during the year. However, the number of requests increased daily, so the initiative group decided to participate in the mini-grant competition.

With the funds received, all necessary equipment and didactic material were purchased, thanks to which proper conditions were created for many free classes with children. In just three months, 40 group and 60 individual courses were held. In the future, the number of services provided will depend on the requests of parents of children with special educational needs, as their number is constantly changing due to the arrival of new IDP families in the region.





## Support for community initiative groups in Mykytichi (Volynska Oblast)

Target group: children affected by war

Child psychologists note that games create positive dynamics in children's mental development and improve their psycho-emotional state. To distract and, to a certain extent, protect children's mental health in war conditions, a room designed for children's and sports games was equipped in the school of Mykytichi (Volynska Oblast).

However, the room needed to be completed and required more inventory. This prompted the further arrangement of the premises and the participation of the initiative group in the mini-grant competition.

As part of the project, cosmetic repair work was carried out for the safe operation of the room, game, and development equipment was purchased, and a holiday was held for the village's children to integrate IDP children into the local community.

Currently, the room is equipped and welcomes children.



## Support for community initiative groups in Mykolaiv

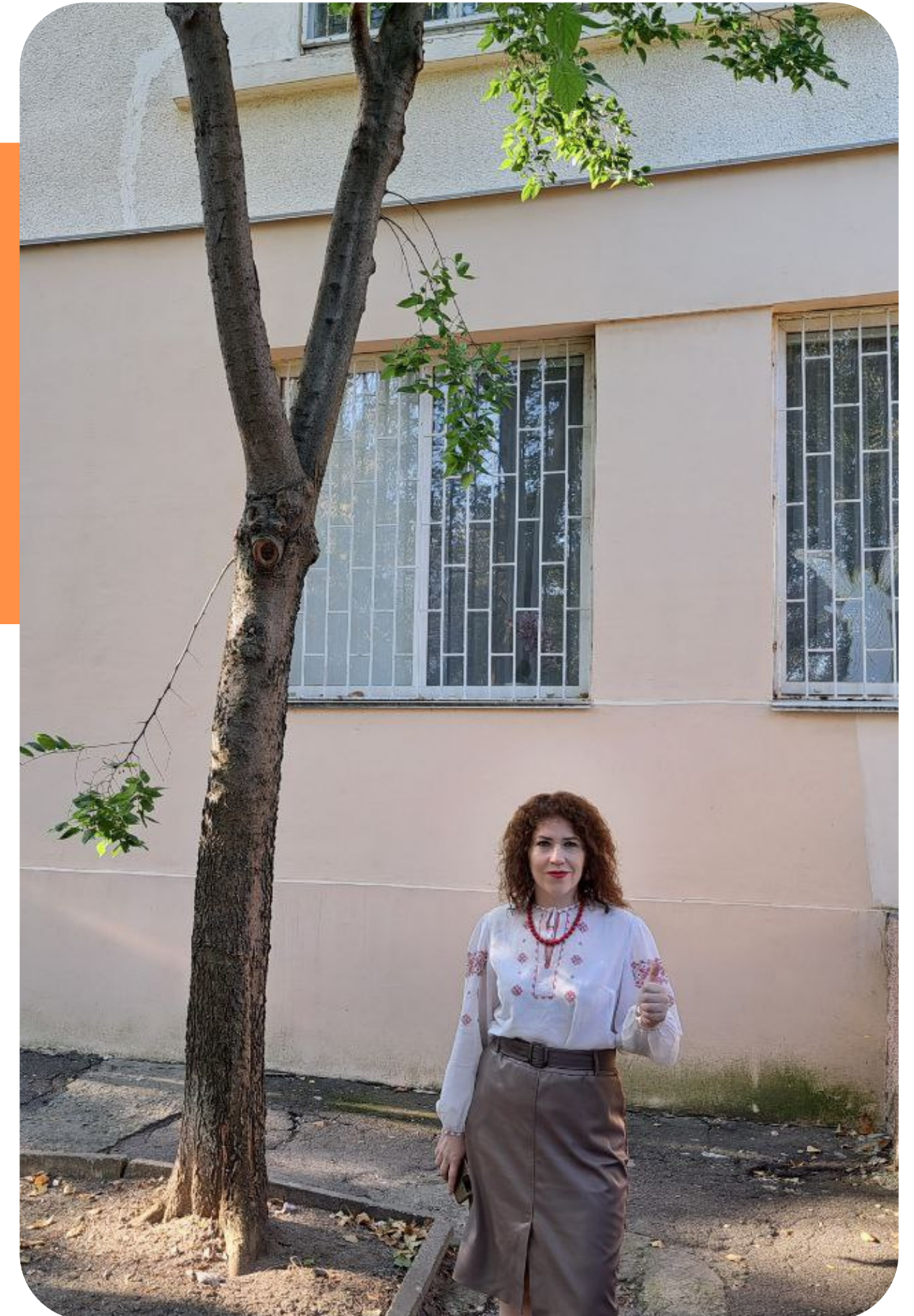
Target group: people with hearing impairments, IDPs

Since the beginning of the war, the workload on sign language interpreters has increased in the Mykolaiv region due to the rapid increase of people with hearing impairments, including IDPs, who need help in social, legal, and household spheres.

A significant problem that hindered the provision of services to the full extent was the lack of heating in the Mykolaiv cultural center of the Ukrainian Society of the Deaf, where people with hearing disabilities should receive cultural services. For three years, due to the high cost of gas supply for heating the building and the lack of funds to install autonomous heating, no events were held for people due to the risk of freezing and getting sick.

Insulation work was carried out on the facade of the cultural center as part of the project to solve this problem. This will make it possible to keep the heat in the building in the winter and slow the rise in the summer.

Assistance from the implementation of the project covered about 500 people with hearing impairments in Mykolaiv and Mykolaivska Oblast. Also, improving conditions has positively affected the daily work of the institution's employees and the organization's activists, who often come for amateur performances or cultural mass events rehearsals.





## Support for community initiative groups in Odesa

Target group: IDP children

In November 2022, an initiative group from Odesa created a children's center for orthopedic and speech therapy to solve daily children's needs, where IDP children have the opportunity to prepare for school, receive psychological and social support for adaptation in a new place, thereby giving families free time for the employment process.

However, specialized children's furniture is needed to create comfortable conditions in the Center. The lack of such equipment causes specific difficulties in work and affects the well-being of children, their mood, and even their health. After all, children who use furniture designed not for their specific age may suffer from such diseases in the future as scoliosis, impaired vision, and problems with the respiratory and nervous systems.

Thanks to grant funds, it was possible to purchase the necessary equipment, solve the problem of power outages due to constant shelling, and thereby help more than 150 people, these are children and their parents and grandparents, from among the IDPs who moved from Kherson, Luhansk, and Donetsk regions.



## Support for community initiative groups in Slovyansk (Donetska Oblast)

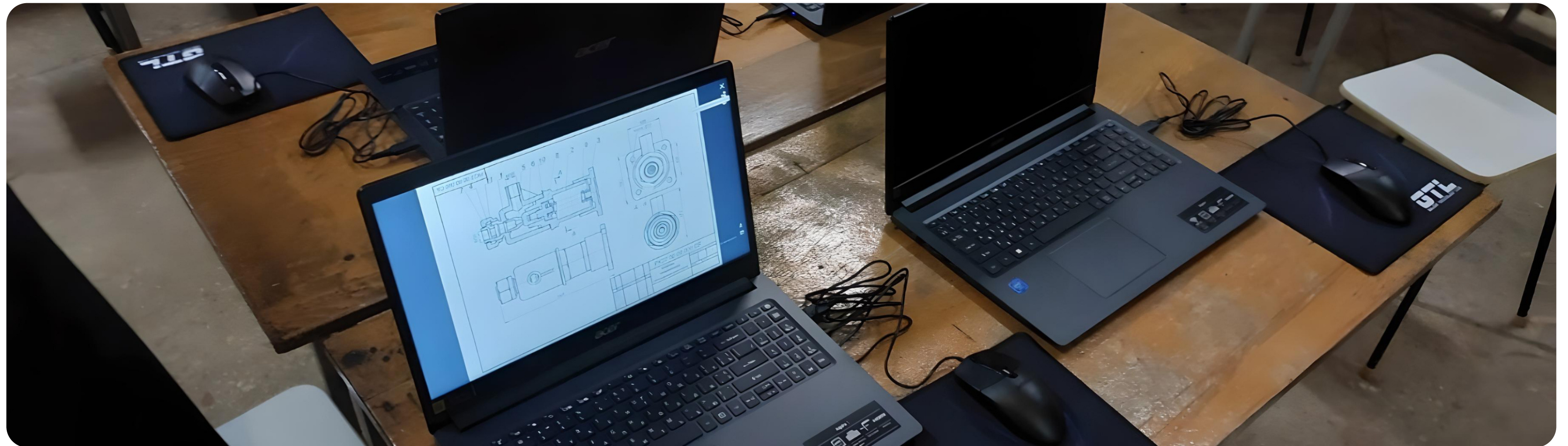
Target group: children, youth, and college students affected by war

At the beginning of the war, the Slovyansk Professional College of Industry and Pharmacy was transferred to Dnipro. Still, many students and teachers could not move from Slovyansk, so there was a need to create a safe environment for children, youth, and college students to study despite air alarms and periodic blackouts.

Since the college works on a distance form of education, the problem with computer equipment and the possibility of accessing the Internet has become acute.

With the funds received from the victory in the mini-grant competition, 12 laptops for learning with a headset and a charger were purchased for the router's continuous operation in the event of a power outage.

The college provided the shelter with electricity, lighting, emergency lighting, the Internet, network equipment, and furniture. No similar safe, educational institution in the city currently allows schoolchildren or students to work with computer equipment.





## Support for community initiative groups in Zdolbuniv (Rivnenska Oblast)

Target group: children with special educational needs, children from large families, and IDP children



More than 465 children with special educational needs, including children from large families and 27 children of IDPs, are currently being supported by the inclusive resource center in Zdolbuniv, Rivne region.

To improve the conditions of stay in the center's territory, the initiative group applied for a mini-grant competition to receive funding to arrange a children's inclusive playground.

With the funds received, it was possible to exalt the territory adjacent to the center and equip a playground that pleases and helps children and their parents. Also, the institution provides psychological and pedagogical assistance to residents of neighboring communities.





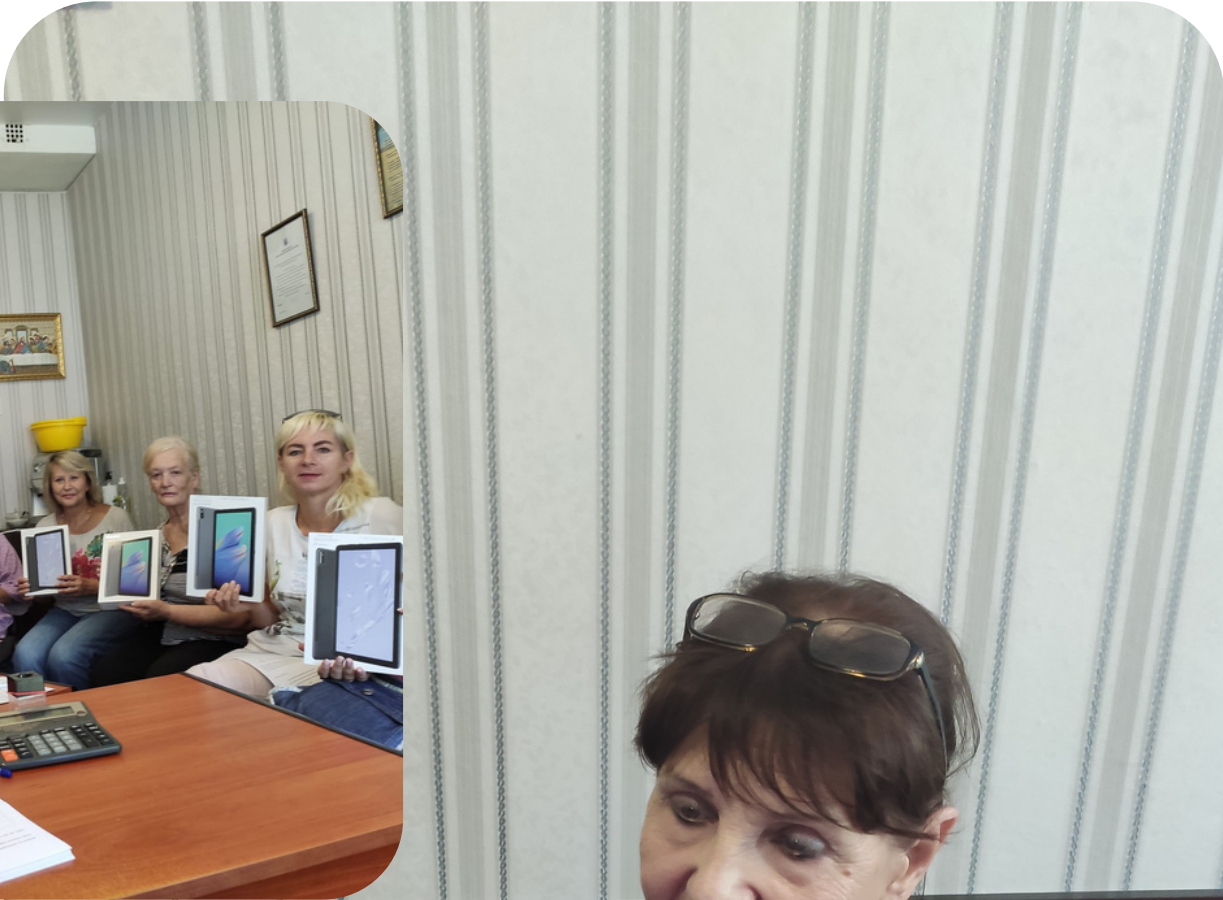
## Support for community initiative groups in Dnipro

Target group: IDPs with hearing impairments

In the Dnipropetrovska Oblast, more than 2,400 people have hearing impairments. At the same time, only one sign language interpreter works in each city with a territorial organization of the Ukrainian Society of the Deaf. It is challenging for people with hearing impairments to get the necessary help.

An insufficient number of sign language interpreters, long distances from the place of assistance, lack of time for interpreters to arrive at the location of aid, and during the war and the impossibility of getting to the site of service - all these factors do not make it possible to wholly and entirely help people with hearing impairments.

To solve this problem, as part of the project, it was possible to purchase tablets with a remote translator. In the presence of this translator, it is possible to voice remotely in Ukrainian what a person shows in sign language.





# Support for community initiative groups in Kolomatsk (Poltavska Oblast)

Target group: children, women, and IDPs

A public organization, "Time of the Free", is an association of youth from the Donetsk region to support children, women, and IDPs. With the beginning of the war, due to constant shelling, the organizers of this initiative moved to Poltavaska Oblast. Still, they kept their favorite work and created a space for children in the Kolomatska community territory.

The main goal of their activity is to attract IDP children and instill in them musical and literary preferences. Currently, the founders organize literary online meetings and lyric Zoom conferences since most young people spend much time on the Internet. They also gather local and IDP children offline in a club, where they record music videos with them.

With the grant funds, it was possible to purchase the necessary musical and computer equipment and new costumes for creating the images of the participants, which helped to significantly expand the capabilities of the "singing organization" and popularize the Ukrainian language and culture among IDPs and residents of Poltava region.





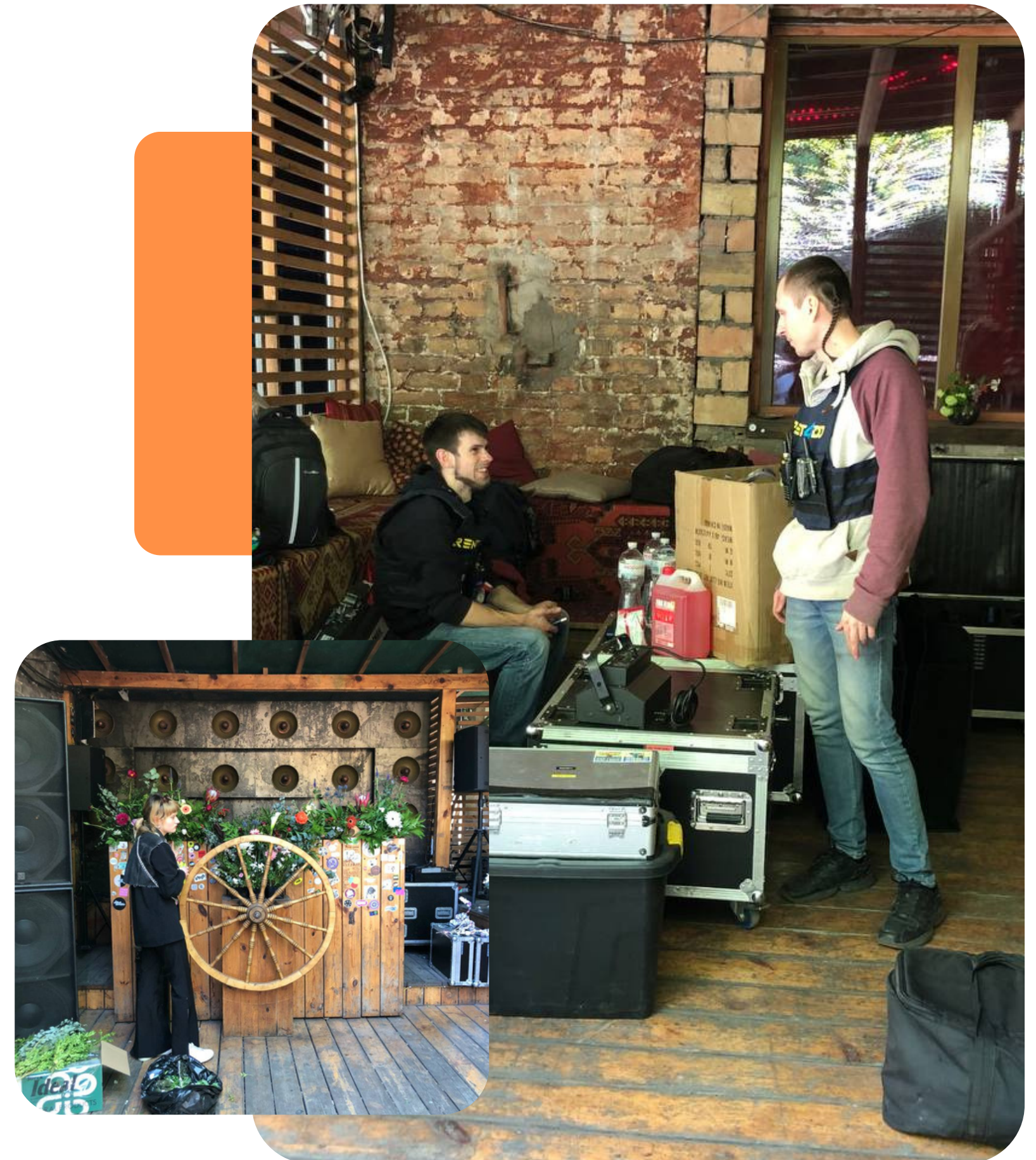
## Support for community initiative groups in Kyiv

Target group: LGBTQI+ community

Social work with the LGBTQI+ audience requires a deep understanding of their needs and desires. This involves considering the community's diversity and its members and understanding their challenges to provide adequate support. Social workers can provide adequate support and resources by building relationships with the community, tailoring interventions to their needs and desires, and creating a safe and inclusive environment. Within the framework of such activity, the "Path" was created – a series of underground parties for the LGBTQI+ community in Kyiv.

The project has several development vectors: creation of a strong, open, tolerant community; promoting the development, providing opportunities and producing young LGBTQI+ artists in various fields in the Ukrainian and international arena; providing project work to people from the community in the cultural sphere that suffered greatly during the war.

More than 1,050 people have already attended these parties. As part of these events, they were provided with the services of a lawyer, medical support if necessary, and complimentary services (condoms, lubricants, and STD tests). In addition, the project team managed to collect UAH 52,621. For the partner NGO "LGBT military for equal rights".





## Support for community initiative groups in Poltavaska Oblast

Target group: HIV-positive women

A significant problem faced by HIV-positive pregnant women is the need to take drugs based on cabergoline after childbirth. These drugs are necessary for the suppression of lactation in HIV-positive mothers on the first day after delivery.

In the conditions of war and humanitarian crisis in Ukraine, providing HIV-positive pregnant women who go into labor with this drug will reduce the risk of cases of breastfeeding, which can lead to HIV transmission during breastfeeding to children born to HIV-positive mothers, especially in women with low ART adherence.

Within the framework of the project, 89 HIV-positive women were reached, who received humanitarian kits and consultations with a social worker and a psychologist.

In addition, 714 packages of milk mixtures were purchased. The drug to suppress lactation was given to 20 pregnant women. 65 HIV+ women received "Silpo" product certificates.

# WE HAVE OVERCOME A SIGNIFICANT STRETCH OF THE DIFFICULT PATH!

WE ARE READY FOR NEW ACHIEVEMENTS  
TOGETHER WITH YOU, WE WILL DO MORE!

