



IMPORTANCE OF THE SCLR APPROACH SUPPORT IN THE CONTEXT OF THE WAR IN UKRAINE

During the war, when it was necessary to respond quickly and flexibly to the needs of affected people, the Alliance of Public Health ICF became a pioneer in Ukraine in the successful implementation of the approach "support for community initiatives" (SCLR - Survivor and community-led crisis response) – providing micro-grants (up to USD5,000) for the implementation of mini-projects.

This approach involves the active involvement of initiative groups of affected communes and hromadas (communities) in solving their current problems that have arisen as a result of the war. We work with remote communities and marginalized target groups that get literally no assistance. We find activists and help them unite in initiative groups to implement an initiative that is an important priority for their community or commune at the moment. The Alliance accompanies these initiative groups, providing the necessary support at all stages of their activities: from the moment of their formation to the successful implementation of mini-projects.

During the period from May 2022 to June 2025, the Alliance, within the framework of various humanitarian projects, together with its partners – regional NGOs, supported **923** public initiatives in 22 regions of the country, providing mini-grants totaling **more than 2.5 million pounds sterling**. As a result of the implementation of mini-projects, these public initiatives have provided various types of assistance to **over 800,000** affected Ukrainians.

From the beginning of the full-scale invasion, the Lipetska territorial community (Kharkiv region) until mid-September 2022 was under occupation and became a place of active military operations. The destruction of critical infrastructure and residential buildings was catastrophic. This significantly complicated the provision of medical care to the population that needed diagnostics and treatment. Thanks to a mini-grant provided by the Alliance within the framework of the project "integrated humanitarian response in war and post-war recovery" with financial support from The Disasters Emergency Committee (Emergency Committee, UK) and technical support from the Christian Aid charity organization we managed to provide modern medical equipment to the local health care institution, which provides medical services to more than 17,000 residents of the Lipetska and Tsyркunivska territorial communities. The caring and timely support of international donors has helped people receive such important medical care, treatment and rehabilitation. This affected their lives because it allowed them to identify health problems faster, provide more effective and accurate treatment, as well as reduce the risk of complications and improve their overall health. At the same time, it also affected the level of health and well-being in the community where these people live, increasing the overall level of health care and providing a better life for the entire community. Given the fact that part of the Lipetska community is again under occupation, IDPs arrive here every day. They are the ones who manage to get out of the occupied area. These people are very much in need not only of medical care, but also of all possible support.



The diversity of communities/communes initiatives outlines the wide range of needs that communities/communes face in times of crisis and that go beyond the traditional areas where assistance from international humanitarian organizations is usually focused. Mini-migrants worth up to USD5,000, funded by donors funds, helped Ukrainians implement such initiatives as:

- reconstruction of the water tower;
- construction of municipal bomb shelters;
- repair of vehicles for evacuation;
- preparing nursing homes for winterization;
- installation of wood-burning stoves in nursing homes and schools;
- construction of children's playgrounds;
- creating a safe space for children;
- launch of vegetable growing greenhouses;
- allocation and arrangement of laundry facilities for IDPs;
- introduction of speech therapy services for IDPs children;
- ensuring that a new profession is obtained for IDPs;
- purchase of equipment for kitchens of shelters for displaced persons, schools and kindergartens, etc.



Thanks to donors assistance, it was possible to fully equip the children's Center Academy of wizards in the city of Odessa, which has become a safe space for more than 250 families (more than 680 people) of IDPs and vulnerable categories of the population and start systematic work with children. The center provides children with access to high - quality developmental activities, psychological support, adaptive and speech therapy assistance, as well as the opportunity for the parents to find a job or take a break from daily stress.

"When we joined the initiative group to receive a grant for the implementation of our ideas, we had no experience, did not know how to properly issue applications, documents or financial statements. It was thanks to the support of the Alliance that we received the necessary advice, assistance in preparing documents, budgeting, writing grant applications and reporting. This was the impetus for the creation of the charity organization Wizards of the big city CO CF in April 2023, and since then we have started successfully implementing projects for our community," the representatives of the organization said.



The Alliance's experience proves that even an initiative group with minimal resources, but with great faith and the right support can turn into a powerful organization that implements various projects that change people's lives. And your contribution is very important, because it is not only the provision of funds – it is an invaluable contribution to helping those people who need it most.

The SCLR approach focuses on the natural activism, creativity, and opportunities of communities/communes affected by any crisis to encourage and support them in identifying and implementing initiatives that improve their immediate well-being, help address the root causes of the crisis in a timely manner, strengthen long-term sustainability, and accelerate social cohesion and responsibility.

BENEFITS THAT COMMUNITIES RECEIVE BY PARTICIPATING IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF MINI-PROJECTS:

- development and implementation of an initiative that is truly important and will benefit community residents/improve their lives;
- by preparing and implementing their initiative with Alliance mentoring, communities and initiative groups gain knowledge, practical skills, and experience that they can then use to further raise funds and quickly solve problems together and take responsibility into their own hands;
- the improvement the living conditions of affected people, including IDPs;
- cohesion of community residents for a common goal, developing their initiative and responsibility;
- helps to establish cooperation with local authorities and other structures in the community, etc.

The Alliance implemented the SCLR approach through funding from DEC (Disasters Emergency Committee, UK) through the Christian Aid program, as well as the Elton John anti-AIDS Foundation (UK) and AIDS Fonds (the Netherlands). In Ukraine, this approach shows good results – more and more initiative groups participate in open competitions of the Alliance for obtaining micro-grants, and the beneficiaries of mini-projects are satisfied with their implementation and results for themselves. Thus, an assessment conducted by Christian Aid and Crest Point in 2024 showed that 93.6% of the surveyed beneficiaries consider the services they receive in the framework of regional mini-projects extremely relevant.

Given the military and socio-economic situation in Ukraine, there is a great need to implement various regional initiatives, especially for remote communities suffering from infrastructure destruction. The main problems that need to be solved in such communities are:

- preparation for winterization,
- bomb shelters and safe places,
- reconstruction and repair of housing and infrastructure facilities;
- social and psychological support, etc.

By becoming a sponsor of humanitarian initiatives, you will not only help hundreds of Ukrainians affected by the war, but also make an invaluable contribution to our common victory!

WHY IT IS IMPORTANT TO SUPPORT SUCH PROJECTS WITH FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS:

- this will quickly provide the affected people/communities with the necessary assistance to recover and establish a normal life;
- this will help IDPs overcome obstacles, for example, by providing financial support for training, obtaining a new profession, and integrating into a new environment;
- this is the restoration of the infrastructure and social sphere of separate communities;
- this is support for people affected by the war, a manifestation of solidarity and humanity;
- this is a significant contribution to the economic recovery of Ukraine and strengthening its position in the world;

Your support gives Ukrainians a real chance for a decent life, and Ukraine – for a bright future!