



Відповідальні
громадяни
Responsible citizens



Founded in 2014 in Donetsk

ANNUAL REPORT

2025



**Відповідальні
громадяни**

Responsible citizens

**RESILIENCE. SUSTAINABILITY.
DEVELOPMENT.**

NGO “RESPONSIBLE CITIZENS”

is an organisation with over 10 years of experience in implementation **of community support programmes in the east of Ukraine**, including in Donetsk, Kharkiv, Zaporizhzhia, Dnipropetrovsk, and Sumy oblasts. Our work focuses on supporting internally displaced persons (IDPs) and local residents, with a particular emphasis on community development and strengthening resilience to current challenges.



VISION

People from eastern Ukraine live with dignity and have equal opportunities to fulfil their potential in Ukraine and achieve self-sufficiency.



MISSION

To strengthen the resilience and sustainability of communities in the east of Ukraine.



KEY AREAS OF WORK:

- **Community Development:**
Supporting local initiatives that promote long-term development and IDP integration.
- **Psychosocial Support:**
Providing psychological, social, and legal assistance to families with children.
- **Education and Professional Development:**
Ensuring access to formal and non-formal education, addressing learning losses, and organising retraining and career guidance courses for IDPs and local residents.
- **Humanitarian Response:**
Providing emergency and basic assistance to people in need during crisis situations.

OLGA KOSSE:

Head of the Board, NGO “Responsible Citizens”

2025 was a year of systemic challenges for Ukrainian humanitarian organisations. We worked amid growing needs, limited resources, and ongoing security instability. The war has changed not only the scale of humanitarian crises - it has transformed the very logic of our work.

The humanitarian sector in 2025 faced the limits of short-term response models. It has become clear that emergency assistance can no longer exist separately from development, psychosocial support, and the strengthening of local systems. This required organisations to undergo deep transformation - managerial, programmatic, and ethical.

We had to maintain a rapid response and build sustainable solutions. Strengthening the role of local organisations, accountability to communities, investment in team capacity - all of this became a necessity. This is how, in 2025, we redefined our role and capabilities within the Ukrainian humanitarian civil society system.



ENRIQUE MENENDEZ

Director of Projects and Programs, NGO “Responsible Citizens”



We came to the conclusion that recovery is not a separate stage that follows humanitarian assistance. It is a process that must begin in parallel with the response. Ukrainian non-governmental organisations assume responsibility for combining emergency solutions with long-term community development.

Within our scope of responsibility are complex processes - from restoring social services and supporting families to developing local economic resilience. This requires new management approaches, clear partnership mechanisms with the state, and meaningful community participation in decision-making.

Our experience in 2025 confirmed: investments in local teams, cross-sectoral coordination, and transparent processes are the foundation of future recovery. Non-governmental organisations are becoming a bridge between humanitarian assistance, development, and the reconstruction of the country.

GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE



- NGO "Responsible Citizens" serves as co-chair of the Child Protection Coordination Group in Kharkiv Oblast, together with the NGO "Coordination Humanitarian Centre".

- Experts of NGO "Responsible Citizens" work as part of the Education in Emergencies (EIE) thematic working group under the Education Sector Working Group (ESWG) of the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine.

- Joined the National Education Cluster, coordinated by the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine.

- Members of the Ukrainian Network for Children's Rights.

- Member of the National Platform of Humanitarian NGOs of Ukraine.

DONETSK OBLAST

Donetsk Oblast is the core region of **NGO "Responsible Citizens"** - it was here that the organisation began its work in 2014, and it continues its work there to this day, despite constant security challenges. Throughout 2025, the region remained one of the key priorities of our work, as it is here that the most acute humanitarian needs are concentrated among families living in close proximity to the combat zone or who have experienced multiple relocations.



As part of the partnership with UNICEF in Ukraine, in 2025, the following operated in Donetsk region:

7 Child-friendly spaces (Dobropillia, Sloviansk, Novodonetske, Bilozerske, Druzhkivka, Kramatorsk, Kryvorizkyi).

8 Mobile psychosocial support teams comprising psychologists, speech therapists, art therapists, and social workers.

In 2025, Child-friendly spaces were attended by (individual and group activities): **1,596 children and adults**.

Services and support provided by mobile-team psychologists and social workers were accessed by: **4,331 children and adults**.

In 2025, a humanitarian response project was also implemented in partnership with **Mercy Corps**, with financial support from the **UK Government**. Affected households received multi-purpose cash assistance to cover basic needs, and the combination of psychosocial support and cash assistance **made it possible to respond comprehensively to the most pressing challenges of the region**.

ENRIQUE MENENDEZ

Director of Projects and Programs, NGO "Responsible Citizens":

"Our experience in the region since 2014 enables us to quickly adapt assistance tools to the real context - from mobile psychosocial support formats to cash assistance."

Communities covered by NGO "Responsible Citizens" projects: Dobropilska, Mykolaivska, Lymanska, Kramatorska, Slovianska, Novodonetska, Bilozerska, Druzhkivska, Myrnohradka, Kryvorizka.



DNIPROPETROVSK OBLAST

In 2025, Dnipropetrovsk Oblast received one of the largest influxes of internally displaced persons. The region served as a transit and stabilisation hub for people fleeing active hostilities in eastern and southern Ukraine.

NGO “Responsible Citizens” implemented a comprehensive support model in the region. As part of the partnership with **UNICEF in Ukraine**, Child-Friendly Spaces and mobile psychosocial support teams operated, covering both urban and rural communities.

In Pavlohrad, the organisation's team provided multi-purpose cash assistance to people passing through the transit centre, helping them cover immediate needs at their most vulnerable moment. This project was implemented in partnership with **Mercy Corps** with financial support from the UK Government.



As part of the partnership with UNICEF in Ukraine, the following operated in Dnipropetrovsk Oblast in 2025:

21 Child-Friendly Spaces.

27 Mobile Psychosocial Support Teams, comprising psychologists, speech therapists, art therapists, and social workers.

In 2025, Child-friendly spaces were attended by (individual and group activities): **13,121 children and adults**.

Services and support provided by mobile-team psychologists and social workers were accessed by: **11,290 children and adults**.

Communities and settlements covered by NGO “Responsible Citizens” projects: Dnipro, Kryvyi Rih, Pavlohrad, Lozuvatka, Krynychanska, Kamianske, Lychkivska, Chernechchynska, Sofiivska, Piatykhatky, Zhovti Vody, Tsarychanska.

ZAPORIZHZHIA OBLAST

In 2025, Zaporizhzhia Oblast was one of the regions with the most dynamic and complex security environment, directly affecting the lives of communities and people's daily decisions.

In response to these challenges, NGO "Responsible Citizens" focused on creating long-term solutions. In Zaporizhzhia, a Resilience Centre was opened - a space that brought together the efforts of international partners, local authorities, and civil society sector to provide comprehensive support to residents and displaced persons.

Projects are being implemented in the oblast in partnership with **UNICEF Ukraine**, including through the work of mobile teams and the provision of psychosocial and social services to families with children. The combination of the Resilience Centre with programme activities made it possible to build a systemic model of assistance, focused not only on overcoming the consequences of the crisis, but also on restoring a sense of support, safety, and resilience within communities.

In parallel, long-term areas of work were developed in the oblast, including **Better Care** initiatives aimed at supporting family-based care and strengthening the capacity of local systems. This approach made it possible to combine emergency assistance with sustained support for families and communities.



As part of the partnership with UNICEF in Ukraine, the following operated in Zaporizhzhia Oblast in 2025:

5 Child-Friendly Spaces.

8 Mobile psychosocial support teams, comprising psychologists, speech therapists, art therapists, and social workers.

In 2025, Child-friendly spaces were attended by (individual and group activities): **3,076 children and adults**.

Services and support provided by mobile-team psychologists and social workers were accessed by: **4,836 children and adults**.

Communities covered by NGO "Responsible Citizens" projects in Zaporizhzhia Oblast: Zaporizka, Vilnianska, Kushuhumska.

KHARKIV OBLAST

In 2025, Kharkiv Oblast was the most challenging border and frontline region. The unstable security situation created a high level of community vulnerability and required the use of diverse support formats.

In the region, NGO “Responsible Citizens” applied a comprehensive assistance model. As part of the partnership with **UNICEF in Ukraine**, mobile psychosocial support teams and child-friendly spaces operated. In 2025, a new partnership with **Save the Children** was launched in the field of psychosocial support for families with children, supported by the American people through the US Government.

In partnership with **Mercy Corps**, support was provided at the transit centre in Lozova to people who were forced to leave their homes and required assistance at the moment of greatest uncertainty.

A distinct area of work was the registration for receiving multi-purpose cash assistance in frontline and hard-to-reach communities, where other forms of support are often limited. This assistance became possible through partnership with **Acted** and the **Ukraine Humanitarian Fund (UHF)**.

At the same time, in 2025, the foundation was laid in Kharkiv Oblast for more lasting solutions - through a group cash transfer project and mini-grants for local initiatives. This will allow communities to independently identify priorities and formulate responses to their own local challenges. This project is implemented in partnership with **JERU** - a joint initiative of the international organisations **Welthungerhilfe** and **Concern Worldwide** - with financial support from the **Ukraine Humanitarian Fund**.



As part of the partnership with UNICEF in Ukraine, the following operated in Kharkiv Oblast in 2025:

11 Child-Friendly Spaces.

9 Mobile Psychosocial Support Teams, comprising psychologists, speech therapists, art therapists, and social workers.

In 2025, Child-friendly spaces were attended by (individual and group activities): **5,470 children and adults**.

Services and support provided by mobile-team psychologists and social workers were accessed by: **3,404 children and adults**.

Communities covered by NGO “Responsible Citizens” projects: Kharkiv city, Barvinkivska, Lozivska, Berestynska, Zachepylivska, Malynivska, Pivdenomiska, Sakhnivshchynska, Solonytsiivska, Zolochivska, Shevchenkivska, Vilkhuvatska, Velykoburlutska.

SUMY OBLAST

2025 was a year of geographic expansion and growth of expertise for us.

Through partnership within the **JERU** consortium - a joint initiative of the international organisations **Welthungerhilfe** and **Concern Worldwide** - we began work in Sumy Oblast, a new region for the organisation which nevertheless has all the characteristics of frontline vulnerability.



**In 2025
in Sumy Oblast:**

1197 Households received multi-purpose cash assistance to cover basic needs.

1539 Children attended group psychological support sessions.

OKSANA IVATINA

Project Manager at NGO "Responsible Citizens" in Sumy Oblast:

"We brought to this region the experience we have gained since 2014: the combination of cash assistance, winterisation, and psychosocial support. In Sumy Oblast it became clear that systemic assistance is only possible when different tools work together.

That is how we built support for families - not as a one-time response to a crisis, but as a process of restoring the capacity to live under conditions of protracted war."



Communities and settlements covered by the project in Sumy Oblast: Sumy, Okhtyrka, Konotop, Bilopillia, Hlukhiv, Buryn, villages of Synivka, Hrebnykivka, Stare Selo, Vilshanska hromada, Popivska hromada, Hrunska hromada, Romny, Verkhniosyrovatska hromada.

PROJECTS

Project "Strengthening Community Capacity to Deliver Core Protection and Resilience Services in Kharkiv, Donetsk, Dnipropetrovsk, and Zaporizhzhia Oblasts" in partnership with UNICEF Ukraine

NGO "Responsible Citizens" is UNICEF's largest civil society partner among Ukrainian organisations in the east of Ukraine.



The project provided services to children and their families and strengthened interaction between local authorities, social protection structures, educational institutions, and humanitarian organisations.

The organisation coordinated the work of mobile teams and Child-Friendly Spaces, took an active part in training local specialists, developing educational programmes, and monitoring their effectiveness.

ALEVITYNA ZHEMBOVSKA

Projects Coordinator, NGO "Responsible Citizens", in partnership with UNICEF Ukraine:

"In partnership with UNICEF we work with families comprehensively - not separately with the child or the adults, but with the entire life situation in which they find themselves because of the war. Our teams - psychologists, social workers, and child development specialists - support families together in communities. We help people cope with stress, find stability, access necessary services, and gradually regain stability. This approach enables us not only to respond to difficult circumstances, but also to support families on the path to recovery - helping them believe in themselves again, make decisions, and feel in control of their own lives."



PROJECTS

Project "Strengthening Community Capacity to Deliver Core Protection and Resilience Services in Kharkiv, Donetsk, Dnipropetrovsk, and Zaporizhzhia Oblasts" in partnership with UNICEF Ukraine



Key Project Results for 2025

52

Mobile psychosocial support teams provided services to families with children in **37 communities** throughout the year.

48

Child-Friendly Spaces opened in the regions covered by the project (due to the escalation of the situation, Child-Friendly Spaces in Donetsk Oblast temporarily suspended offline operations and group activities for children, but mobile teams of specialists continue to ensure families have access to their services).

41 709

Children, parents, or caregivers received mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) services, including group and individual counselling.

3 582

Children received case management services aimed at addressing specific social and educational problems.

PROJECTS

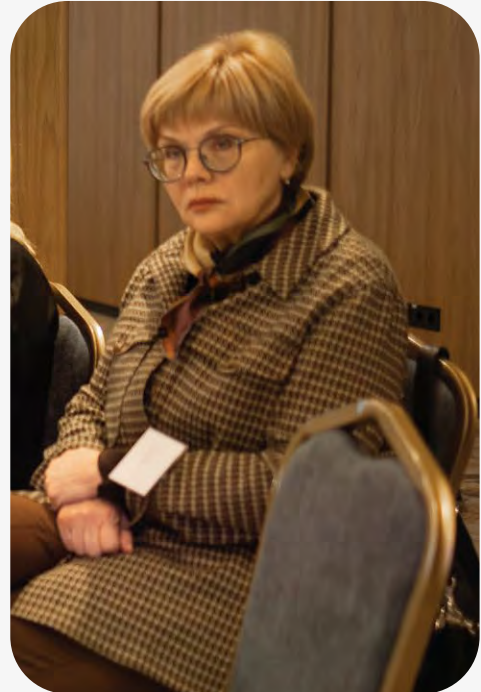
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OLENA KHVATYNETS

**Regional Projects Coordinator
in Kharkiv Oblast:**

"The consistent presence of mobile teams in communities enables the timely identification of families' needs and response to them before situations become critical. We work not only with the consequences, but with the root causes of vulnerability - which is precisely why we simultaneously invest in the capacity of local specialists. Social workers, educators, and psychologists undergo training on child rights protection and psycho-emotional relief, which directly affects the quality of support in communities. A special focus is on children from de-occupied territories, who - through educational initiatives - were able to return to formal or non-formal learning. This is a key step towards restoring their stability and sense of the future."



PROJECTS

Project "Strengthening Community Capacity to Deliver Core Protection and Resilience Services in Kharkiv, Donetsk, Dnipropetrovsk, and Zaporizhzhia Oblasts" in partnership with UNICEF Ukraine



Opening of the Resilience Centre in Zaporizhzhia

This is a safe, barrier-free space where every resident can receive support in difficult times.

Centre specialists provide social services to everyone who seeks support and deliver psychosocial assistance, legal consultations, humanitarian support for vulnerable groups, and group activities for children and adolescents.



Residents - mothers with children, elderly people, adolescents, etc. - are already actively using the Centre's services. Visitors receive counselling and consultations and also join the activities offered by the Centre.

In 2025, 3,247 people accessed the Resilience Centre.

The Resilience Centre was established by NGO "Responsible Citizens" with financial support from the German Government through the **state development bank KfW and the UNICEF Representative Office in Ukraine**. Resilience Centres are an initiative of the Ministry of Social Policy under the All-Ukrainian mental health programme "How Are You?" of First Lady Olena Zelenska.



Address of the Resilience Centre: 3 Mala Street, Zaporizhzhia.

ALLA MASLAKHOVA:

**Regional Projects Coordinator
in Dnipropetrovsk and Zaporizhzhia Oblasts**

"Resilience Centres have become anchor points for communities - places where assistance is combined with the restoration of trust and a sense of safety. In regions receiving large numbers of internally displaced persons, it is important not to limit oneself to individual services, but to build a holistic support system. It is non-governmental organisation (NGO) that take on the role of coordinators of this work - they combine psychosocial, social, legal, and humanitarian assistance, and work in close collaboration with communities and local authorities. This comprehensive approach allows people fleeing war not only to receive help here and now, but to gradually restore stability and a sense of belonging to their new community."



PROJECTS

Project "Strengthening Community Capacity to Deliver Core Protection and Resilience Services in Kharkiv, Donetsk, Dnipropetrovsk, and Zaporizhzhia Oblasts" in partnership with UNICEF Ukraine

Our efforts are focused on:



Assisting the return of children without parental care

who were evacuated due to the war into foster families in Ukraine, as well as facilitating the placement of children from residential care institutions into family-based care.



Supporting family-based care:

46 families raising **164 children** received psychosocial assistance, individual support, and material support for the children in their care.



Building the capacity of local specialists and parents:

over **153 social sector specialists** completed training on supporting and adapting children in foster families; **78 foster parents and family caregivers** systematically receive supervisory and educational support; and **74 guardianship and adoption candidates** completed their training.

Better care

Joined the Civil Sector Interaction Platform in the Interests of the Child - a space for collaboration among international, national, and local organisations created to implement the Strategy for Ensuring Every Child's Right in Ukraine to Grow Up in a Family Environment (2024–2028). The Platform is implemented by the Coordinating Centre for the Development of Family Upbringing and Child Care together with **UNICEF in Ukraine (within the SPIRIT project, with financial support from the British Embassy Kyiv and the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office).**



PROJECTS

Project "Strengthening Community Capacity to Deliver Core Protection and Resilience Services in Kharkiv, Donetsk, Dnipropetrovsk, and Zaporizhzhia Oblasts" in partnership with UNICEF Ukraine

339 specialists completed training

Social workers, educators, and psychologists attended training sessions designed to enhance knowledge in the field of child rights protection and provide psycho-emotional relief.

The NGO "Responsible Citizens" team developed **a special programme to equip specialists with practical tools for conflict resolution, maintaining psychological resilience, and effective interaction with families experiencing crisis situations.**

We would like to particularly highlight the training in Pokrovska hromada, which brought together representatives of social services, the education sector, and child welfare services. This was a comprehensive request from the entire community - they sought to improve teamwork skills and acquire effective mechanisms for resolving social conflicts.

It was a fundamentally different format - working with real cases that arise in daily practice. We focused on operational assistance in resolving conflicts that occur in the social sector. Special emphasis was placed on supporting child welfare services. The training helped specialists better understand the behavioural patterns of children in crisis, and to establish effective dialogue with parents who are welcoming children into their families.



PROJECTS




Project "Local, Inclusive, and Multifaceted Emergency Assistance to War-Affected Populations in Ukraine"

From 1 April 2025, NGO "Responsible Citizens", in partnership with **Mercy Corps** and with financial support from the UK Government, has been implementing a humanitarian response project in Donetsk and Zaporizhzhia oblasts.

The project is designed to help the most affected population groups in need of support. Its aim is to meet the primary needs of diverse population groups through the provision of regular or rapid multi-purpose cash assistance.

From April to July 2025, assistance was provided to:



-  **3 724** individuals from **1 849** households;
-  among them **511** children and **2 178** women;
-  **19,4%** of recipients were internally displaced persons (IDPs).

Assistance was provided to communities in Donetsk Oblast, including Dobropilska, Mykolaivska, Lymanska, Kryvorizka, Druzhkivska, and Kramatorska.

PROJECTS

Project "Local, Inclusive, and Multifaceted Emergency Assistance to War-Affected Populations in Ukraine"

Under the partnership with **Mercy Corps**, work continues at transit centres in Pavlohrad (Dnipropetrovsk Oblast) and Lozova (Kharkiv Oblast), which receive people fleeing the war.

Results:

109 868 400 million UAH in assistance received by people who sought our help during the project period.

4 628 people through the transit centre in Pavlohrad.

5 545 people through the transit centre in Lozova.



OLHA BIELIAIEVA

Cash Officer, NGO "Responsible Citizens"






"Direct cash assistance today has ceased to be merely a rapid response tool - it has become a test of the humanitarian system's capacity to operate under conditions of limited access, growing risks, and complex security environments. This means the need to invest not only in payment mechanisms, but also in risk management, data protection, financial inclusion, and sustainable partnerships with local actors. Further development lies in the combination of flexibility and localisation - when decisions are made closer to people, and humanitarian assistance does not create dependency, but instead becomes communities' capacity to adapt and recover."



PROJECTS

Project "Support for Vulnerable Households and Conflict-Affected Communities to Meet Basic Needs in Sumy Oblast". Implemented with support from the Joint Emergency Response in Ukraine (JERU) consortium of non-profit organisations.

Key Project Results:

-  **1197** households received multi-purpose cash assistance to cover basic needs.
-  **773** households received resources to ensure heating during the cold season.
-  **44** group information sessions on mental health awareness were conducted, covering topics of psychological health and psychosocial support, protection, and available services in this field, for **637** adult participants.
-  Group psychological support sessions were held for **1,539** children and **479** adults.
-  **279** individual psychological counselling sessions were conducted for adults and children.



NGO "Responsible Citizens" implements this project within the partnership with JERU - a joint initiative of the international organisations **Weithungerhilfe** and **Concern Worldwide**. The project is funded by the Federal Foreign Office of Germany.

OKSANA IVATINA

Project Coordinator in Sumy Oblast

"Systemic assistance in frontline communities is impossible without sustainable partnerships and accumulated expertise. It was precisely through cooperation within the JERU consortium that in 2025 we were able to expand our presence and begin work in Sumy Oblast. Our experience of providing assistance in crisis conditions since 2014 became the foundation for building a comprehensive support model: a combination of cash assistance, winterisation, and psychosocial support. Psychological assistance in this context is not an additional component, but a necessary condition for recovery - it helps families stabilise and gradually restore the capacity to make further decisions under conditions of protracted war."



PROJECTS

Project "Provision of Group Cash Transfers, Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance, and Psychosocial Support to Conflict-Affected Populations and Displaced Persons in the Kupyansk and Bohodukhiv Districts of Kharkiv Oblast"

Key Project Objectives:

- Provide multi-purpose cash assistance (MPCA) to the most vulnerable people to cover primary needs. In December 2025, **1,672** people had already received assistance.
- Support community initiatives through group cash transfers (GCT) to address pressing local challenges. Non-governmental organisation (NGO) and initiative groups will be eligible to receive grants to implement small, locally-defined projects. Implementation of these projects will begin in 2026.



NGO "Responsible Citizens" implements this project within the partnership with JERU - a joint initiative of the international organisations **Welthungerhilfe** and **Concern Worldwide**. The project is funded by the Federal Foreign Office of Germany.

OKSANA OSTAPCHUK

Project Coordinator:

"Working with local initiatives in frontline communities is the next level of interaction between communities and civil society organisations, which has formed under conditions of protracted war. In a situation where classic development projects often do not correspond to the realities of constant danger, local solutions become the most viable. Group cash transfers allow communities, together with the civil society sector, to formulate responses to their own challenges - quickly, flexibly, and with consideration of context. For us, this is the result of many years of work in systemic crises, where assistance must build partnership, not unilateral intervention. This approach creates space for shared responsibility and meaningful community participation in determining their own path even in the most difficult conditions."



PROJECTS

Project "Comprehensive Multi-Sectoral Assistance for Vulnerable Families in Kharkiv Oblast"

NGO "Responsible Citizens" joined forces with the Unity for the Future Charitable Foundation with financial support from the Ukraine Humanitarian Fund.

Within the project, NGO "Responsible Citizens" works with families using a case management approach; the **Unity for the Future Charitable Foundation** provides multi-purpose cash assistance; and the charitable organisation "**Charitable Foundation 'Development and Social Justice of Ukraine'**" provides art rehabilitation activities for children and conducts psychological first aid training for parents.

The project is being implemented in **Rohanska, Balakliiska, Savynska, Kolomatska, and Zmiivska hromadas of Kharkiv Oblast.**

One of the key components is case management - an individualised approach to working with a family that takes into account its needs. A mobile team, together with the family, identifies primary requests, forms a support plan, coordinates referrals to specialists, and accompanies the family at every stage.

Over the course of project implementation, **62 families** received case management services.

For them, comprehensive support became an important step towards restoring stability and a sense of support. The combination of financial, psychosocial, legal, and remedial assistance together with social accompaniment **makes it possible to respond to families' needs comprehensively and in a timely manner.**



PROJECTS

Project "Ukraine Protection Consortium - Protecting Lives Through Comprehensive Multi-Sectoral Assistance"

Work will be carried out both at Child-Friendly Spaces and through mobile psychosocial support teams.

Our case managers, facilitators, and speech therapists will work with families whose children need to catch up on speech skills.

The project is being implemented in **Kharkiv Oblast** in partnership with **Save the Children**, thanks to the generous support of the American people, provided by the United States Government.



OLENA BIELOLIPTSEVA

Project Coordinator:

"In working with families with children in communities of Kharkiv Oblast, it is fundamentally important for us to combine stable support formats with flexible ones. Child-Friendly Spaces create a safe environment for development and recovery, while mobile teams make it possible to reach families who are unable to regularly attend such spaces. Case managers, facilitators, and speech therapists work with families comprehensively - taking into account the emotional state of children, learning losses, and needs for restoring speech skills. In partnership with Save the Children, we are building support that helps children gradually return to learning, communication, and a sense of safety even in the challenging frontline context."



PROJECTS

Project "Multi-Sectoral Humanitarian Response and Support for Access to Basic Services for Populations of Frontline and Hard-to-Reach Communities in Kharkiv Oblast"

In November 2025, NGO "Responsible Citizens" launched the project in partnership with Acted and the Ukraine Humanitarian Fund.

Within this project, multi-purpose cash assistance will be available to residents of **Izumska and Balakliiska hromadas in Kharkiv Oblast.**

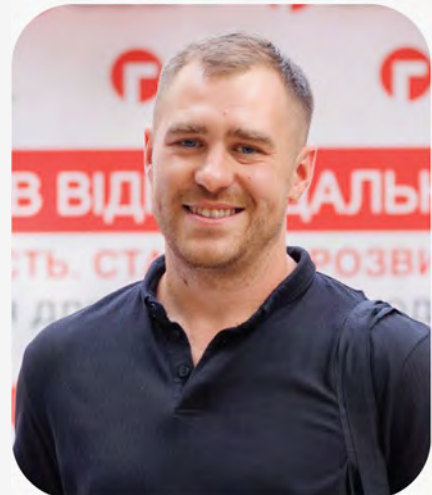
In particular: **elderly people, households with children, persons with disabilities, single parents, families that have suffered losses or housing destruction, internally displaced persons living in frontline and hard-to-reach settlements.**



KYRYLO MASLAKHOV

MPCA Projects Coordinator:

"Ensuring access to multi-purpose cash assistance in frontline and hard-to-reach communities is one of the main challenges for humanitarian organisations in 2025. The difficult security situation and disrupted logistics chains require complex, adaptive operational decisions. Under such conditions, MPCA demands enhanced risk management, clear targeting, and safe payment mechanisms so that assistance remains accessible to the most vulnerable groups. In partnership with Acted and with the support of the Ukraine Humanitarian Fund, we are working to ensure that cash assistance complies with humanitarian principles, maintains flexibility, and at the same time ensures accountability and protection of recipients in a complex environment."



ADVOCACY



October 2025

Olena Bieloliptseva, Education Projects Coordinator at NGO "Responsible Citizens", took part in the founding meeting of the Coordinating Centre for the Development of Family Upbringing and Child Care.

The meeting was held within the framework of the Operational Plan for 2024–2026 for implementing the **Strategy for Ensuring Every Child's Right in Ukraine to Grow Up in a Family Environment** (2024–2028). Its aim was to adapt prospective parent preparation programmes to current challenges faced by children without parental care, as well as to update approaches to determining the necessary competencies for those who take on responsibility for family-based care.

The event was the first step in the process of reviewing the training curriculum for candidates to become foster parents, family caregivers, guardians, trustees, adoptive parents, and patronage caregivers.

June 2025

The event "**Kharkiv Region: The Power of Law in the Fight for Freedom**" was held with the support of the project "**Human Rights for Ukraine, Phase II**", implemented by UNDP in Ukraine and funded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark.

Olena Khvatynets, Regional Projects Coordinator at NGO "Responsible Citizens" in Kharkiv Oblast, participated in the forum. The forum discussed ways to strengthen social protection, IDP assistance, and the implementation of comprehensive support programmes in the region.

Representatives of authorities, humanitarian organisations, and the human rights community agreed: the right to a dignified life must remain a priority even in the most difficult times, and for this mission to be fulfilled, the efforts of civil society organisations, communities, and authorities must be united.



ADVOCACY

May 2025

Olha Bieliaieva, Project Manager and Data Analyst at NGO "Responsible Citizens", became a laureate of the international "Cultural Diplomacy" award. This award is presented for a significant contribution to strengthening diplomatic ties between Ukraine and the international community. Within our organisation, Olha works on implementing cash and voucher assistance (CVA) programmes, combining an analytical approach with a deep understanding of community needs. Her work is an example of effective civic engagement whose impact extends far beyond the country's borders.



January 2025

A meeting of experts was held in Kharkiv to discuss and plan the Strategy for Ensuring Every Child's Right to Grow Up in a Family Environment for 2025–2028. **Olena Khvatynets**, Projects Coordinator at NGO "Responsible Citizens" in Kharkiv Oblast, joined the expert discussion, along with **Iryna Tuliakova**, Head of the Coordinating Centre for the Development of Family Upbringing and Child Care; **Jinan Ramadan**, Head of the UNICEF Ukraine office; representatives of the Kharkiv Oblast Military Administration; over 20 Ukrainian civil society organisations; and public-sector specialists.



September 2025

The Partnership and Engagement Forum "Voices of Donetsk Region" served as an important platform for discussing these challenges, presenting the network's Road Map, and developing joint solutions. **Oksana Ivatina**, Regional Coordinator of NGO "Responsible Citizens" in Donetsk Oblast, participated in the forum's work, presenting the organisation's practical experience in supporting families with children in the context of relocation.



ADVOCACY

October 2025



Enrique Menendez, Director of Projects and Programs at NGO "Responsible Citizens", participated in the forum "**Why Economic Recovery Initiatives Matter**", held in Kyiv.

The event was organised within the **JERU (Joint Emergency Response in Ukraine) project, implemented by Welthungerhilfe and Concern Worldwide with support from the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).**

How to rebuild the country's economy after the war so that everyone has the opportunity to return to a dignified life, what role young people play in the post-war transformation of communities, and why inclusion issues need to be addressed today - these issues were discussed by specialists at the meeting, and formats for further cooperation were identified.

October 2025

Enrique Menendez, Director of Projects and Programs at NGO "Responsible Citizens", participated in the event "**United for Recovery: A Resilient Civil Society - A Strong Ukraine**" in Lviv, organised by our partners at Mercy Corps.

The event brought together representatives of the civil society sector, responsible business, authorities, and international partners.

The meeting served above all as a powerful impetus for finding joint solutions for further action.



ADVOCACY

November 2025



Olga Kosse, Head of the Board of NGO “Responsible Citizens”, participated in the conference **“Generation of Hope: The Future That Is Already Growing”**, dedicated to the launch of the Gen. Hope centre of excellence in the field of children's and adolescents' psychological health. Participation in such professional platforms is a space for reflection and co-creation of solutions. Interaction between humanitarian organisations, research institutions, and mental health specialists makes it possible to build more precise, contextualised, and effective support programmes.

May 2025

Alla Maslakhova, Regional Coordinator at NGO “Responsible Citizens”, joined an important event organised by **UNICEF**, which brought together educators, representatives of education departments, schools, social educators, principals, parents, children, and UNICEF partners.

Participants noted the open and equitable atmosphere.

Following the discussions, UNICEF prepared a recommendations document that will serve as a practical guide for new educational initiatives.



ADVOCACY

December 2025



In early December, **Olga Kosse**, Chairperson of the Board of NGO "Responsible Citizens", participated in the **Women & Peace** conference held at the Peace Palace in The Hague.

The event brought together representatives of international organisations, the humanitarian sector, and the academic community working on the study of social processes as well as issues of peace and security.

The conference provided a platform for discussing approaches to post-war recovery, exchanging experiences, and developing possible joint actions, with the support of the international community, aimed at Ukraine's reconstruction.

December 2025

NGO "Responsible Citizens" won in the category **"Light of Knowledge: Philanthropy in the Name of the Future"** at the **"Donetsk Region 2025: A Look into the Future"** forum organised by the Donetsk Oblast Military Administration.

The award for NGO "Responsible Citizens" is a recognition of the organisation's many years of systemic work in the fields of education, social protection, humanitarian assistance, and community development, as well as its contribution to preserving the human potential of the region.



ADVOCACY



November 2025

Olena Bieloliptseva, Education Projects Coordinator at NGO “Responsible Citizens”, participated in the III Annual Strategic Forum on Addressing Learning Losses, organised by the **NGO “Teach for Ukraine”** with support from the Ministry of Education and Science. For three years, our organisation has been developing educational programmes for children and adults, focusing on overcoming learning gaps caused by the war.

This is why partnership with state institutions, communities, and non-governmental organisation (**NGO**) is key to creating sustainable solutions in the field of education. This year’s Forum was dedicated to the issues of addressing learning losses, supporting adolescents in emergency situations, strengthening mental health, and developing professional support for educators. Particular attention was paid to the search for effective models of cooperation between the state, communities, and the civil sector.

In 2025, NGO “Responsible Citizens” published two of its own professional publications: the Practical Guide “Tools of Non-Formal Education” and “Smart Tools for an Educator”. These publications were the result of the practical efforts of an educators’ working group established by NGO “Responsible Citizens” to provide professional support to specialists.

December 2025

Oksana Ivatina, Regional Coordinator at NGO “Responsible Citizens”, participated in the **Bridge 2.0 forum**, dedicated to improving the evacuation system, crisis response, and increasing the effectiveness of humanitarian processes. Participants examined practical solutions for a better distribution of roles during evacuation, approaches to collecting and analysing people’s needs, and opportunities for strengthening the local sector through new funding mechanisms. Separately, tools of the BRIDGE 2.0 digital platform were presented, which promote transparency and coordination of humanitarian assistance.



TEAM DEVELOPMENT

Throughout the year, the NGO “Responsible Citizens” team systematically invested in the development of professional competencies required for the quality implementation of humanitarian programmes. Training activities covered key areas of protection, psychosocial support, project management, finance, and organisational capacity.

The NGO “Responsible Citizens” team participated in **107 events**, of which **105 were training and learning activities (online and offline)**, aimed at strengthening professional competencies in the fields of protection, MHPSS, project management, finance, organisational capacity, and communications.

Strategic Development

In May and August 2025, two strategic sessions were held with the participation of the senior and management team. As a result of this work, an **Operational Plan for 2026–2027** was developed, and an Action Plan was prepared defining the organisation's priorities, key steps, and development indicators.



FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

In 2025, NGO “Responsible Citizens”, with the support of its partners, implemented projects totalling UAH 144,859,924.79.



60%



7%



15%



5%



10%



3%



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