

5-2021

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Recommended Citation

Kuryliak, Valentyna (2021) "Activities of the Adventist Development and Relief Agency in Eastern Ukraine," *Occasional Papers on Religion in Eastern Europe*: Vol. 41 : Iss. 4 , Article 21.

Available at: <https://digitalcommons.georgefox.edu/ree/vol41/iss4/21>

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ACTIVITIES OF THE ADVENTIST DEVELOPMENT AND RELIEF AGENCY IN EASTERN UKRAINE

By Valentyna Kuryliak

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Abstract

The charitable organization of the Seventh-day Adventist Church has been active in the conditions of the military conflict in the East of Ukraine since 2013, particularly during the difficult events on Euromaidan in the center of the capital of Ukraine. Since 2014, ADRA Ukraine has implemented more than 150 humanitarian projects in the east and throughout Ukraine. Among the largest were "Eastern Angel," "Hands of Hope," and "Social Transport." Through food and non-food programs, ADRA Ukraine volunteers, together with other churches and international organizations, help people affected by the military conflict in the Luhansk and Donetsk regions. In addition, ADRA Ukraine in the east and mainland of Ukraine provides psychological and material assistance to the military and immigrants from the occupied territories of Ukraine, helping to treat psychological trauma, repair various types of damage from shelling, and establish water supply in the destroyed areas. The activities of ADRA Ukraine are actively covered by the media, though with limited reach: it is usually a Protestant mass media, which narrows the potential audience, so the majority of the population does not have the opportunity to hear about the charitable deeds of this organization. The Protestant religious minority of Ukraine did not stay away from the tragic events that befell Ukraine and destroyed the lives of civilians, but continued to support through charitable organizations, such as ADRA Ukraine, to restore and facilitate the better living conditions of war victims.

Keywords: Adventist Development and Relief Agency, Ukraine, charity, Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Introduction

Since the beginning of the Euromaidan events in Kyiv and the armed conflict in Donbas in 2014, the Adventist Development and Relief Agency in Ukraine (ADRA Ukraine) has provided assistance to more than 950,000 people in 15 regions of the country (as of 2016). Today this figure reaches more than a million people. Currently, the organization is active in the Donbas, as well as in helping the needy throughout Ukraine. The reaction of the religious minority itself (as of 2019, Ukrainian Adventists have 43,396 members), via ADRA Ukraine, to

the armed conflict in eastern Ukraine has become international, but may not be worth scientific discussion. The study of the contribution of this denomination in helping the victims of hostilities in the Donbas, however, warrants some clarification .

The Main Materials of the Study

Seventh-day Adventists, with their small numbers, have a special feature, namely a slender, highly centralized organization. This consolidates the resources of the denomination, sometimes even allowing it to carry out projects unattainable for the Protestant majority of Ukraine, the Baptists and Pentecostals. The latter groups outnumber Adventists but are dispersed in resources, ideology, and organization through their congregationalist structure. This means that each local community is considered a church, appoints a minister, forms doctrines, and decides whether to join any church unions, under what conditions, and for what purpose. Thus, the few but highly organized Adventists in such circumstances appear to be the third denomination of socially visible Protestantism. They engage with the public space of Ukrainian society, giving public sermons, including through their publications. Since 1993, the publishing house "Source of Life" has published print and online periodicals for all ages and interests. Adventists make programs for the Voice of Hope radio and the Nadiya satellite and cable TV channels.

Until the late 2000s, the main form of social work of the Adventist Church was confessional proselytism and the purchase of prayer rooms for communities. Education in the form of public lectures, concerts of Christian music, youth meetings, and summer camps worked for this purpose. As the effectiveness of direct evangelism began to decline in the 2000s, medical activities (e. g, lectures on medicine, healthy living, disease prevention, and herbal medicine), cooking classes with recipes for healthy eating became an additional incentive to attend church events. Until the establishment of educational institutions and health centers, such activities remained the business of local ascetics. But the ensuing military conflict has shown that charity, even without the expectation of a rapid missionary effect, will at least temporarily become the main business of the church, which is noticed by society.

On March 1, 2014, the President of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Ukraine, Viktor Alekseenko, as a member of the All-Ukrainian Council of Churches and Religious Organizations, signed the "Appeal of Ukrainian Churches and Religious Organizations on

Foreign Aggression."¹ Some pastors and activists of the church went to Euromaidan, where they provided medical and psychological assistance. Later, dozens of ministers and church communities provided psychological assistance, clothing, household goods, food, medicine, temporary settlement, and helped victims find work and obtain documents. Activities for veterans were primarily aimed at overcoming post-traumatic stress disorder,² in particular at the Adventist Medical and Health Center "Our House" in the Vinnytsia region, and the development of various forms of medical chaplaincy, and both individual (spontaneous and unauthorized by the church administration) and official military chaplaincy.³

The common action of the church departments of the Adventist Church was the charity project "Eastern Angel," which operated from September 2014 to February 2015. The Strong Generation Youth Movement, the Better Life All-Ukrainian Charitable Foundation, the Nadiya Contact Center, and ADRA Ukraine then announced a joint effort. The project partners are Hope TV channel and UNICEF, the UN Children's Fund in Ukraine. As part of this project, church members collected donations, clothing, and food and sent them to the war zone. Brigades of pastors and church activists went to cities controlled by the Ukrainian authorities and repaired the roofs of houses damaged by the shelling.

In the conflict zone, pastors, and church members aided evacuation efforts and provided psychological assistance to the population, hid people during shelling in the basements of prayer rooms, and supplied them with water, medicine, food, and clothing. The tasks of psychological and ideological assistance to the victims of the conflict were also performed by biblical educational programs, which, at that time, were carried out massively in the conflict zone and for the displaced in the frontline areas. The main response from the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Ukraine to this armed conflict, however, was in the local activities of ADRA Ukraine in terms of scale, resources, and strategy. Ivan Chernushka,⁴ a well-known researcher of the social

¹ "Звернення Українських Церков і релігійних організацій з приводу іноземної агресії." Релігійно-Інформаційна Служба України, March 7, 2014. https://risu.ua/zvernennya-ukrajinskih-cerkov-i-religiynih-organizacij-z-privodu-inozemnoji-agresiji_n67657. ["Appeal of Ukrainian Churches and Religious Organizations Concerning Foreign Aggression."]

² Сергей Гаврюк. "Волонтерская помощь." Интернет-газета "Путь," December 15, 2015. <http://www.asd.in.ua/archives/1188333953>. [Sergey Gavryuk, "Volunteer help." Internet newspaper "Put,"]

³ "Бог и война глазами верующего парамедика." Интернет-газета "Путь," November 5, 2017. <http://www.asd.in.ua/archives/1188338103>. ["God and war through the eyes of a believing paramedic." Internet newspaper "Put."]

⁴ І. Чернушка, *Сучасний стан та основні тенденції розвитку адвентизму в Україні.*, Дис. канд.філос.н. 09.00.11 — релігієзнавство. (Рівне: Рівненський державний гуманітарний університет, 2016). [I. Chernushka,

doctrine of Adventism, agrees with this statement. He emphasizes that the activity of ADRA Ukraine and the chaplaincy and mission "Eastern Angel" is of special importance for the development of Ukrainian Adventism in post-Maidan Ukraine.

The military conflict in eastern Ukraine has set new challenges. Most post-Soviet Adventists joined the denomination in the post-perestroika period. The armed conflict in eastern Ukraine is the first serious challenge since the events of World War II, as most Ukrainian Adventists were not yet born in the 1940s, or at least did not belong to this denomination. Religious freedom and the military situation in eastern Ukraine have caused an unusual dissonance among Adventists, primarily due to the fact that, according to religious beliefs, Adventists do not take up arms and do not take part in hostilities.

The unusualness of the situation prompted the head of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Ukraine, V. Alekseenko, to sign a collective statement in the All-Ukrainian Council of Churches and Religious Organizations "condemning Russia's foreign aggression," despite the fact that Adventists are apolitical. The statement was more concerned with protecting the interests of civilians in Donbas and the just condemnation by Ukrainian churches of unjustified aggression against civilians, rather than with adopting a political stance.

Since 2013 and the events on Independence Square, the pastor of the Seventh-day Adventist Church and ordinary members of the church have participated in relief efforts as volunteers. Such an example is the activity of Pastor S. Gavryuk, who later published the book "Volunteer Help." This is a guide to volunteering and chaplaincy in the event of hostilities, forced relocation, and post-traumatic stress disorder. He writes:

In late 2013 and early 2014, when the tragic events began on Independence Square in Kyiv, the state's leadership has asked churches to help rehabilitate people who have lived in conditions of stress and emotional strain for a long time, the author of the manual writes about the history of its appearance. At the time, Adventists had no experience helping victims of such conflicts. We were given a small room in the Ukrainian House, and we started with the simplest: provided an anti-stress massage, listened, prayed with people, gained experience, and taught others. And immediately the idea arose to prepare a manual for volunteers.⁵

"The current state and main trends in the development of Adventism in Ukraine." Ph.D. dissertation 09.00.11 in religious studies].

⁵ Сергей Гаврюк. "Волонтерская помощь." Интернет-газета "Путь," December 15, 2015.

<http://www.asd.in.ua/archives/1188333953>. [Gavryuk, Sergey. "Volunteer help." Internet newspaper "Put."]

In publishing the book, S. Gavryuk was helped not only by his personal experience of volunteering but also, according to him, study at the school of social work of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy, work experience on the hotline, and work as a social pedagogue at Holoziivsky Center for Social Services for Families, Children, and Youth of Kyiv.⁶

One of the activities of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Ukraine was the rehabilitation of veterans of anti-terrorist operations in eastern Ukraine/Joint Forces Operation. In particular, the boarding house "Our House," located in the Vinnytsia region (the village of Novi Obihody) supported this. The chaplaincy department of the church, formed in Ukraine in the early 2000s, is actively working under the leadership of Serhiy Lutsky.⁷ As S. Lutsky notes: "In the Adventist Church, chaplains are full-time employees only in Adventist schools. Medical and prison chaplains serve as volunteers."⁸ For church chaplains, pastors and stakeholders, an International Conference, seminars on pastoral meetings to overcome post-traumatic stress disorder, training and other activities were held. The Church plans to conduct academic training according to the chaplaincy program. Said S. Lutsky:

In the spring of 2020, the Committee of the Ukrainian Union decided to entrust the teachers of the Ukrainian Humanities Institute in Bucha to develop such a curriculum for chaplaincy. We have taken all the requirements proposed by the Ministry of Health for the training of chaplains and in accordance with all their requirements have developed a program that provides specialization for the state to recognize and legitimize it... We plan to have two or three people from each conference so that they can take a full four-week class and one hundred hours of practice in medical institutions. These courses are designed for pastors so that they can serve in a qualified way in hospitals.⁹

In addition, the church has made individual attempts at military chaplaincy, as exemplified by the activities of S. Babay. Adventists also work with internally displaced persons; they provide them with psychological assistance, temporary settlement, job placement, and clothing, footwear, food, and medicine. Psychological and social assistance for migrants in the east and mainland Ukraine is provided by the Seventh-day Adventist Church, and, in the context

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ "Сергій Луцький: 'У нас хороші відносини з капеланами різних конфесій, є розуміння в роботі.'" Церква адвентистів сьомого дня в Україні, October 13, 2020. <https://adventist.ua/news/interview/u-nas-xoroshi-vidnosini-z-kapelanami-riznix-konfesij-e-rozuminnya-v-roboti/>. [Serhiy Lutsky: 'We have good relations with chaplains of different denominations, there is understanding in our work.' Seventh-day Adventist Church in Ukraine].

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ Ibid.

of evangelism for this audience, Adventists conducted evangelistic programs, meetings for families in the format of "a cup of tea," and sports clubs. In addition to the above-mentioned types of assistance, Adventists participated in the evacuation of civilians, assisted in transportation, and were involved in the reconstruction of housing in the controlled areas in eastern Ukraine.

As a result of hostilities in eastern Ukraine, the role of ADRA Ukraine is changing. In fact, it is becoming almost a basic unit of public representation of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Ukraine, ahead of even the Nadiya media group. From a fairly marginal church, ADRA Ukraine has fast become one of the most visible. According to Artem Dikhtyaruk, Program Director of ADRA Ukraine, the permeability of this organization in the east of our country is greater than even in the special monitoring mission of the OSCE in Ukraine.

The purpose of ADRA Ukraine is "to initiate positive changes in society by timely detection of natural, social, of a technogenic nature and to provide support to the needy and suffering people, to help them overcome difficult life circumstances and to spread the ideas of Christian love and charity for others."¹⁰ As of 2016, ADRA Ukraine has implemented more than 150 different projects since its inception in 1993. In 2015, the public charity ADRA Ukraine changed the form and direction of its activities. It has been transformed into the Adventist Relief and Development Agency of Ukraine Charitable Foundation to expand its capacity to help those in need.¹¹

The principles that guide ADRA Ukraine in its activities are equality, mercy, timeliness, priority, and partnership. Regarding the latter principle, ADRA Ukraine implements projects together with the governments of the USA, Canada, Germany, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, the Netherlands, and Switzerland, and charitable organizations such as the European Commission on Humanitarian Aid, the Red Cross, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the World Food Program and the United Nations Children's Fund and other branches of the network

¹⁰ "Адвентистське агентство допомоги та розвитку в Україні." Вікіпедія. Accessed October 15, 2020. https://uk.wikipedia.org/wiki/%D0%90%D0%B4%D0%B2%D0%B5%D0%BD%D1%82%D0%B8%D1%81%D1%82%D1%81%D1%8C%D0%BA%D0%B5_%D0%B0%D0%B3%D0%B5%D0%BD%D1%82%D1%81%D1%82%D0%B2%D0%BE_%D0%B4%D0%BE%D0%BF%D0%BE%D0%BC%D0%BE%D0%B3%D0%B8_%D1%82%D0%B0_%D1%80%D0%BE%D0%B7%D0%B2%D0%B8%D1%82%D0%BA%D1%83_%D0%B2_%D0%A3%D0%BA%D1%80%D0%B0%D1%97%D0%BD%D1%96. ["Adventist Relief and Development Agency in Ukraine." Wikipedia.]

¹¹ Ibid.

such as ADRA Germany, ADRA Canada, ADRA Czech Republic, ADRA Slovakia.¹² ADRA Ukraine actively covers its activities. The organization holds press conferences, has its own website (<http://www.adra.ua/>), a group on Facebook, and provides its videos and other materials to the Nadiya TV channel.

After the start of hostilities in the Ukrainian East, ADRA Ukraine concentrated its activities in the Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts. The organization's website states:

Here we help with housing reconstruction, provide coal and boilers for insulation of homes and social institutions in the cold season, provide psychosocial assistance, deliver clean drinking water, work on the reconstruction and improvement of schools, kindergartens, and hospitals, we provide transport for residents of hard-to-reach regions along the demarcation line. We have already managed to help more than a million people who find themselves in difficult life circumstances or have been forced to leave their homes. ¹³

We studied ten specific ADRA Ukraine projects aimed at helping the population affected by the crisis in eastern Ukraine.

Between August 5 and November 10, 2014, ADRA Ukraine carried out works in 15 settlements in the East of Ukraine. The main objectives of these projects were to provide water to the population affected by the fighting, as well as hygiene and school kits. A total of 80,000 people received assistance. The project cost \$30,000, to be provided by UNICEF.

Since 2014, work has been carried out in the uncontrolled territories of the Donetsk and Luhansk regions within the framework of the Eastern Angel charity program. The task of this project was to help the victims with food, basic necessities, and repair of houses. How many people were helped in this project is unknown due to their large number. The program's budget was \$20,769, sponsored by ADRA Ukraine, Hope channel, and the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

From April 1 to September 31, 2015, ADRA Ukraine carried out a project in the Luhansk and Donetsk regions, the task of which was to repair houses damaged as a result of hostilities in eastern Ukraine. The project managed to help 1,600 people. \$425,823.90 was spent on this. The program was sponsored by UNHCR, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

¹² Ibid.

¹³ “Про нас.” АДРА Україна. Accessed November 23, 2020. <http://www.adra.ua/>. ["About us." ADRA Ukraine.]

During April 20 and November 30, 2015, ADRA Ukraine carried out works in the uncontrolled territories of the Donetsk and Luhansk regions. The objectives of the project at that time were to distribute hygienic kits and water, and to provide psychosocial support to people affected by the conflict in Donbas. In total, 2,000 people received assistance. \$330,950 allocated by the German government was spent on these tasks.

From November 15, 2015 to March 15, 2016, ADRA Ukraine implemented a project in the Donetsk and Luhansk regions. Among its tasks were the repair of water networks; the installation of 80 water tanks; the distribution of 10,000 bottles of water, as well as of hygienic vouchers and kits, and hygiene products between institutions; and the dissemination messages about the need to maintain hygiene among adults and children. A total of 541,000 people received assistance. The project budget was \$316,042.95, sponsored by UNICEF.

During April 1, 2016 to January 31, 2017, ADRA Ukraine implemented a project in the controlled territory of the Donetsk and Luhansk regions, namely in such settlements as Maryinka, Verkhnotoretske, Karachivka, Shchastya, Novoaidar, and Stary Aidar. Thanks to the efforts of the organization's employees, 3,960 people received assistance. Among the tasks of the project were to financially assist with the repair of 400 houses damaged during the military conflict in eastern Ukraine, provide psychosocial support to 3,000 people, and to finance the civilian population (for 485 people). The budget for this project was \$771,084.34, provided by the Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade, and Development, International Humanitarian Aid of Canada.

During February 1, 2016, to October 31, 2017, ADRA Ukraine carried out works in the controlled territory of the Donetsk and Luhansk regions. During that time, 53,071 people received assistance. The objectives of the project were to improve living conditions for 1,120 households, to improve mental and physical health by conducting physiotherapy (individual and group classes), to help the population in preparation for winter (deliver the required amount of coal, winterize institutions), and provide residents with drinking water. EUR1,999,650 was allocated for the project implementation. The sponsor was the German Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The next project lasted from October 1, 2017 to July 31, 2018. Then ADRA Ukraine carried out works in such settlements as Avdiivka, Krasnohorivka, Maryinka, Peremoha, Yantarne, Kalchyk, Chernenko, Lebedynske, Orlovski, and Pavlopol, a checkpoint of the village

of Pyshevyk, Donetsk region. Among the objectives of the project were to provide people with drinking water in settlements that are located near the line of contact, install barrels of drinking water in places that are accessible to local residents, to deliver drinking water, provide the population with equal access to water, and to control and monitor the success of these efforts. 27,814 people received assistance under the project. \$82,817 was used for its implementation, sponsored by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

During November 16, 2017 to October 30, 2019, ADRA Ukraine employees performed work on the demarcation line of the controlled territory of the Donetsk and Luhansk regions, as well as in the cities of Kramatorsk and Severodonetsk. At that time, 104,800 people were assisted. Among the tasks of the project were to provide the most vulnerable groups with permanent housing and assist in preparation for the winter; improve the mental and physical health of the local population, in particular through physiotherapy massages, individual and group psychosocial counseling; ensure proper sanitation and constant access to quality drinking water; and to organize full and non-discriminatory access of ADRA Ukraine to quality basic services for people living in hard-to-reach places along the line of contact. The project budget was 3,000,000 euros. The sponsor was the German Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

From April 1, 2018 to April 1, 2019, ADRA Ukraine carried out works in the Volnovakha, Nikolsky, Mariinsky, and Mangush districts of the Donetsk region. The main objectives of these projects were to improve water distribution in the decentralized water supply system in the Donetsk region, and to increase the safety of the water supply and sanitation conditions in places with a decentralized water supply system and in social institutions (schools, kindergartens, and medical institutions). The project managed to reach 105,000 people. The program budget amounted to UAH 31,913,316, sponsored by UNICEF.

In addition to the above projects, we separately examined nine food programs implemented by ADRA Ukraine in eastern Ukraine in the period between December 21, 2014 and July 3, 2015. During November 13-24, 2014, ADRA Ukraine conducted a program in Donbas, the task of which was food aid. It was received by 4,335 people. The project budget was \$4,335; the sponsor was the World Food Program. Among the tasks of this project were to distribute food parcels to people in need and vouchers for the purchase of necessary goods in the supermarket "Brusnychka" to those who needed it most. 20,000 people received such assistance. The project was sponsored by the World Food Program, which allocated \$950,000 for its

implementation. During January 1 to March 1, 2015, ADRA Ukraine carried out another project in the controlled territory of the Donetsk and Luhansk regions. It provided food aid and baby food. 230 people received such assistance. The Slovak embassy, the project sponsor, allocated \$12,313 for the program.

We also analyzed five non-food aid projects in Donbas and other territories of Ukraine. From August 22 to December 25, 2014, ADRA Ukraine conducted the project in the cities of Luhansk, Donetsk, Zaporizhia, Dnipropetrovsk, Kyiv, and Poltava. The goal of the program was to provide food, hygiene, and non-food items to those who need them most. 2,064 people received such assistance. The project budget was \$65,630.72, provided by ADRA International.

In addition, we studied 18 other ADRA Ukraine programs held in eastern Ukraine. From July 1 to December 31, 2018, ADRA Ukraine implemented the program in the controlled territory of the Donetsk region in such settlements as Mariupol, Volnovakha, Kurakhove, Selidove, Svitlodarsk, Toretsk, Novotroitskoe, and Avdiivka. Among the tasks of the project was to restore sanitation and provide equipment, to conduct training for medical staff, and to provide materials (sheets, couches, mattresses) for 10 medical institutions to improve patient comfort. The project also provided equipment (bactericidal lamps) to 10 medical institutions to improve sanitation, and conducted training seminars for medical staff (topics "Respiratory diseases, diagnosis, treatment, prevention," "Effective communication with the patient," and "Emotional burnout of medical staff"). Assistance was provided to 10 hospitals. The project budget amounted to UAH 5,134,516. It was sponsored by ADRA International and the ADRA Czech Republic.

Among the characteristics of ADRA Ukraine's activities during the conflict in Donbas were the following: from the beginning of 2018, for two months, ADRA Ukraine and ADRA Deutschland, with the financial support of the German Ministry of Foreign Affairs, delivered solid fuel to 1,300 households; 1.5 tons of coal were allocated for each house. Solid fuel was delivered to such settlements as Zaitsevo, Mayorsk, Netaylove, Pervomaisk, Uman, Muratovo, Kapitonovo, Toshkivka, Krymske, Nyzhne, Popasna, and Troitske.¹⁴

In 2019, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints provided 5.5 million hryvnias to finance a humanitarian project to provide coal to socially vulnerable groups affected by the

¹⁴ "1300 домогосподарств вздовж лінії розмежування отримали вугілля." ADRA Ukraine, March 21, 2018. <http://www.adra.ua/1300-domogospodarstv-otrimali-vugillya/>. ["1,300 households along the demarcation line received coal."]

conflict in eastern Ukraine. ADRA Ukraine became a partner of this project, which distributed 1,300 tons of coal among 650 households along the demarcation line. The project covered such settlements in the Donetsk region along the demarcation line as Granitne, Orlovske, Starognativka, Novohryhorivka, Taramchuk, Chernenko, Gnutovo, Verkhnotoretske, and Berdyanske. In these settlements, coal is a source of heating in the winter.¹⁵

In January 2020, ADRA Ukraine, together with the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, brought coal to the residents of the village of Granitne, Donetsk region. In the same month, residents of the villages of Berdyanske and Orlovske received 152 tons of coal. In February 2020, representatives of ADRA Ukraine, together with the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, delivered 106 tons of solid fuel to the residents of Pavlopil, Gnutovo, and Chernenko villages, which are on the demarcation line. This event was part of the project "Facilitation of wintering for the 2019-2020 season for people affected by the conflict in eastern Ukraine," which is implemented by ADRA Ukraine with the financial support of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.¹⁶ A resident of the village of Umanske, who received coal in 2019 within the framework of this project, shared her response to the delivery of solid fuel: "As coal was given, the house became warm. And before that the temperature in the rooms was minus. It is very expensive to buy fuel, so we went to plantings, collected bushes, and it will burn out in 15 minutes and all, it is gone. And coal burns for a long time. I'm thrifty, so I still have a little left. It's good to live when you're warm." Such support helped people living in the settlements on the demarcation line to survive the cold season.

¹⁵ "Мормони надали 16 млн гривень для забезпечення вугіллям постраждалих на сході України." Релігія в Україні, 2020. <https://www.religion.in.ua/news/vazhlyvo/45595-mormoni-nadali-16-mln-griven-dlya-zabezpechennya-vugillyam-postrazhdalix-na-sxodi-ukrayini.html>. ["Mormons have provided 16 million hryvnias to provide coal to victims in eastern Ukraine." Religion in Ukraine.]

¹⁶ "Мешканці селищ розташованих на лінії розмежування отримали 106 тон твердого палива." ADRA Ukraine, February 25, 2020. <http://www.adra.ua/meshkantsi-selishh-roztashovanih-na-liniyi-rozmezhuвання-otrimali-106-ton-tverdogo-paliva/>. ["Residents of the settlements located on the demarcation line received 106 tons of solid fuel."]; "АДРА Україна разом з Церквою Ісуса Христа Святих Останніх Днів допомагає людям, які постраждали внаслідок конфлікту." ADRA Ukraine, January 22, 2020. <http://www.adra.ua/adra-ukrayina-razom-z-tserkvoyu-isusa-hrista-svyatih-ostannih-dniv-dopomagaye-lyudyam-yaki-postrazhdali-vnaslidok-konfliktu/>. ["ADRA Ukraine, together with the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, is helping people affected by the conflict."]; "АДРА Україна разом з Церквою Ісуса Христа Святих Останніх Днів продовжують допомагати людям уздовж лінії розмежування." ADRA Ukraine, January 9, 2020. <http://www.adra.ua/adra-ukrayina-razom-z-tserkvoyu-isusa-hrista-svyatih-ostannih-dniv-prodovzhuyut-dopomagati-lyudyam-uzdovzh-liniyi-rozmezhuвання/>. ["ADRA Ukraine together with the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints continue to help people along the line of demarcation."]; "Представники Церкви Ісуса Христа Святих Останніх Днів відвідали Мар'їнку." ADRA Ukraine, June 1, 2019. <http://www.adra.ua/2270-2/>. ["Representatives of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints visited Marinka."]

In 2015-2016, ADRA Ukraine, in partnership with the World Food Program at the United Nations, provided food to more than 100,000 people in the Donbass-controlled territory for a total of more than \$8,000,000. Socially vulnerable groups received assistance: large families, single parents with children, as well as children with disabilities, pregnant women, the chronically ill, and the lonely elderly.¹⁷ During November and December 2015, ADRA Ukraine provided food aid to almost 60 hospitals in the Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts, which should have been enough for three winter months. The aid contained about 20,000 food kits, each weighing 16.3 kg. It was intended for medical institutions of such settlements as Starobilsk, Svatove, Troitskoe, Bilokurakine, Markovka, Novopskov, Belovodsk, Milove, Severodonetsk, Popasna, Gorskoye, Rubizhne, Kreminna, Nova Astrakhan, Svyatogorsk, Chervonyi Lyman, Slovyansk, Kramatorsk, Druzhkivka, Kostiantynivka, Mariupol, Dimitrov, Dzerzhinsk (now Toretsk), Volodarskoye, and Artemivsk (now Bakhmut).¹⁸

At the end of the charity project "Reconstruction of housing and providing the necessary assistance to people affected by the conflict in eastern Ukraine" in late 2019, ADRA Ukraine submitted a report on the work performed under the project. It states:

- 1) 1,000 people were assisted in the reconstruction of category I housing - roofing, replacement of windows.
- 2) 1,325 people were assisted in the restoration of category II housing - roofing, replacement of windows, restoration of damaged walls.
- 3) 63 people were assisted in the restoration of the housing of the third category - roofing, replacement of windows, restoration of houses without walls or with damaged walls.
- 4) 250 people were assisted in warming their homes.
- 5) 2,990 people received solid fuel (coal).

The following areas of assistance were implemented within the framework of this project:

¹⁷ "АДРА Украина совместно с ООН в этом году обеспечило продовольствием более 100 тыс. людей на Донбассе на сумму свыше 8 млн долл." Церковь адвентистов седьмого дня - Восточно-Днепровская конференция, January 29, 2016. <http://logosinfo.org/2016/01/29/adra-ukraina-sovmestno-s-oon-v-etom-godu-obespechilo-prodovolstviem-bolee-100-tys-lyudej-na-donbasse-na-summu-svyshe-8-mln-doll/>. ["ADRA Ukraine, together with the UN, this year provided more than 100 thousand people in Donbas with food for over \$ 8 million." Seventh-day Adventist Church - East Dnieper Conference.]

¹⁸ "АДРА спешит на помощь Донбассу." Церковь адвентистов седьмого дня - Восточно-Днепровская конференция, December 5, 2015. <http://logosinfo.org/2015/12/05/adra-speshit-na-pomoshh-donbassu/>. ["ADRA is in a hurry to help Donbass." Seventh-day Adventist Church - East Dnieper Conference.]

Restoration of houses: roofing, replacement of windows; restoration of damaged walls; restoration of houses without walls or with damaged walls.

The popularization of hygiene: formation of hygiene skills through children's holidays; distribution of hygienic kits; providing access to clean drinking water.

Preparation for winter: distribution of solid fuel in private homes and social institutions; installation of new heating systems in schools and hospitals.

Psychosocial assistance: group and individual counseling for people living along the line of demarcation; training for psychologists and social workers living along the line of demarcation; physiotherapy.

Overall, assistance was provided to the following categories of the population: low-income and large families, single parents, families with destroyed or damaged homes as the result of the conflict, elderly people without guardians, people with cancer, people with disabilities, people who lost a family member due to conflict, and people who have experienced gender-based violence.¹⁹

ADRA Ukraine: Psychological Help

As a result of the armed conflict in Donbas, civilians on the line of demarcation are suffering from stressful situations. ADRA Ukraine psychologists help them to cope with this, for example, by distracting them from daily stress. Adults have the opportunity to tell professionals about stressful situations in a calm, friendly atmosphere, and are advised on how to protect themselves from stress and panic attacks. Children were offered moving games, drawing, and communication with peers. Thus, children learned to develop social and communication skills and work in a group. For children, the psychologist becomes a friend who helps to get to know themselves, open up, and believe in their own strength. Drawings made by children reflect their dreams, fears, worries. For the elderly, ADRA Ukraine psychologists conducted classes on the restoration of external and internal resources, showed how to protect themselves from stress and

¹⁹ “2638 людям надано допомогу у відновленні житла.” ADRA Ukraine, November 29, 2019. <http://www.adra.ua/2638-lyudyam-nadano-dopomogu-u-vidnovlenni-zhitla/>. [“2,638 people have been helped to rebuild their homes.”]; “ADRA Ukraine допомагає людям вздовж лінії розмежування.” ADRA Ukraine, February 18, 2019. <http://www.adra.ua/adra-ukraine-dopomagaye-lyudyam-vzdovzh-liniyi-rozmezhuвання/>. [“ADRA Ukraine helps people along the line.”]

find harmony in life.²⁰ In 2018, a special training seminar "Skills for correction and prevention of professional emotional burnout" was held for school psychologists and social educators in Svyatogorsk, Donetsk region. The purpose of this training was "the formation of skills and abilities to maintain and strengthen the mental health of psychologists and social workers through their mastery of ways of mental self-regulation and activation of personal resources, teaching express methods, providing psychological assistance in post-traumatic stress disorder."²¹

Mobile teams of psychologists went every week to the most remote settlements of the Donetsk and Luhansk regions, where such assistance is absent or insufficient. Special attention was paid to schools, kindergartens, social institutions, and rehabilitation centers. In 2019, 7,694 people received individual and group psychosocial support; 4,601 people received psychosocial support, including physiotherapy classes in public centers ADRA Ukraine; 67 psychologists and social workers attended training to improve their skills.²²

In 2020, during the coronavirus pandemic and the quarantine measures announced in Ukraine, ADRA Ukraine psychologists continued their activities. Psychological help went online. Preference was given to residents of settlements along the demarcation line.²³ During this period, ADRA Ukraine psychologists also cared for the most vulnerable age group during the COVID-19 pandemic, people over the age of 50. One of the psychologists of ADRA Ukraine Olena conducted a group online consultation with five women, residents of Myronivske village,

²⁰ "Психологи АДРА Україна завітали до села Зайцеве, Донецької області." ADRA Ukraine, 2019. <http://www.adra.ua/psihologi-adra-ukrayina-zavitali-do-sela-zajtseve-donetskoyi-oblasti/>. ["ADRA Ukraine psychologists visited the village of Zaitsevo, Donetsk region."]; "Психологи АДРА Україна дарують гарний настрій діткам у Торецьку." ADRA Ukraine, 2019. <http://www.adra.ua/psihologi-adra-ukrayina-daruyut-garnij-nastrij-ditkam-u-toretsku/>. ["ADRA Ukraine psychologists give a good mood to children in Toretsk."]; "Психологи АДРА Україна провели заняття присвячені відновленню ресурсів для літніх людей." ADRA Ukraine, 2019. <http://www.adra.ua/psihologi-adra-ukrayina-proveli-zanyattya-prisvyacheni-vidnovlennyu-resursiv-dlya-litnih-lyudej/>. ["ADRA Ukraine psychologists conducted classes on resource recovery for the elderly."]; "Психологи АДРА Україна консультують дорослих та дітей у режимі он-лайн." ADRA Ukraine, 2020. <http://www.adra.ua/psihologi-adra-ukrayina-konsultuyut-doroslih-ta-ditej-u-rezhimi-on-lajn/>. ["ADRA Ukraine psychologists consult adults and children online."]

²¹ "У Святогірську пройшов тренінг для психологів." ADRA Ukraine, 2018. <http://www.adra.ua/u-svyatogirsku-projshov-trening-dlya-psihologiv/>. ["Training for psychologists took place in Svyatogorsk."]

²² "АДРА Україна покращує психічне та фізичне здоров'я мешканців Донбасу." ADRA Ukraine, 2019. <http://www.adra.ua/adra-ukrayina-pokrashhuye-psihichne-ta-fizichne-zdorov-ya-meshkantsiv-donbasu/>. ["ADRA Ukraine improves the mental and physical health of Donbass residents."]

²³ "АДРА Україна продовжує надавати психосоціальну підтримку людям, які постраждали внаслідок конфлікту на Сході України." ADRA Ukraine, 2020. <http://www.adra.ua/adra-ukrayina-prodovzhuye-nadavati-psihosotsialnu-pidtrimku-lyudyam-yaki-postrazhdali-vnaslidok-konfliktu-na-shodi-ukrayini/>. ["ADRA Ukraine continues to provide psychosocial support to people affected by the conflict in eastern Ukraine."]

aged 59-64. "During the group work, the women got to know each other and talked about their fears and concerns about the new virus," the organization's website said. The psychologist listened carefully to each of the women and shared with them verified information about COVID-19: what is the virus, who is at risk, and why it is important to maintain hygiene and stay at home. Olena also discussed with the women their techniques to reduce the level of psychological stress, learning how the patients think about themselves and how they calm down.²⁴

Social Transport

The ADRA Ukraine social bus was not exempted from regular inspections, but it helped the pupils of the Popasna District Rehabilitation Center "Leleka" to visit the salt mines of Soledar. The children had the opportunity to see the workings of the mine, which was transformed into amazing temples with sculptures, paintings, chapels, and grottoes from the depths of salt. In addition to the impressive beauty, the old mine has healing properties.²⁵ As of the end of 2019, 2,700 people used social transport services from ADRA Ukraine and gained access to social and administrative institutions, such as schools, hospitals, city councils, etc. Also, thanks to the cooperation of ADRA Ukraine representatives with the Popasna District Center for Comprehensive Rehabilitation, "Leleka," a free bus, took children to athletics and swimming classes every Sunday.

At an extraordinary meeting of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine on March 16, 2020, a number of restrictive measures were adopted in connection with the spread of coronavirus infection COVID-19. The restrictions also affected regular and irregular passenger traffic. For this reason, in compliance with the resolution, ADRA Ukraine temporarily suspended the operation of social transport in the Donetsk and Luhansk regions.²⁶

²⁴ "Надаємо психологічну підтримку літнім людям." ADRA Ukraine, 2020. <http://www.adra.ua/nadayemo-psiologichnu-pidtrimku-litnim-lyudyam/>. ["We provide psychological support to the elderly."]

²⁵ "Соціальний автобус АДРА Україна допоміг вихованцям Попаснянського районного центру комплексної реабілітації 'Лелека' відвідати соляні шахти Соледару." ADRA Ukraine, 2019. <http://www.adra.ua/sotsialnij-avtobus-adra-ukrayina-dopomig-vihovantsyam-popasnyanskogo-rajonного-tsentru-kompleksnoyi-reabilitatsiyi-leleka-vidvidati-solyani-shahti-soledaru/>. ["The ADRA Ukraine social bus helped the pupils of the Popasnyansky District Center for Comprehensive Rehabilitation 'Stork' to visit the Soledar salt mines."]

²⁶ "АДРА Україна тимчасово припиняє роботу соціального транспорту у Донецькій та Луганській областях." ADRA Ukraine, 2020. <http://www.adra.ua/adra-ukrayina-timchasovo-pripinyaye-robotu-sotsialного-transportu-u-donetskij-ta-luganskij-oblastyah/>. ["ADRA Ukraine is temporarily suspending social transport in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts."]

In the second half of April 2020, however, ADRA Ukraine resumed the operation of social transport in the Donetsk and Luhansk regions. This was made possible with the support of the German Ministry of Foreign Affairs and local authorities in the Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts. At the same time, sanitary rules for passenger transportation were developed. The bus can accommodate no more than 8 people at a time, including the driver. In the cabin of the bus, passengers must wear masks and gloves. ADRA Ukraine employees provided carriers with a sufficient number of masks, gloves, and antiseptics. Each passenger receives two masks and one pair of travel gloves free of charge. If a person has symptoms of respiratory disease, then he will not be able to use social transport services.²⁷

Charitable Project "Eastern Angel"

ADRA Ukraine became one of the organizers of the charity project "Eastern Angel." In addition to ADRA Ukraine, the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Ukraine and the Hope media group are involved in the project. The decision to create a new project came about at a meeting of heads of departments and administrators of the Ukrainian Union Conference of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, which took place on October 6-8, 2014, and the creation of the Eastern Angel project was approved.²⁸

The peculiarity of this project is that the funds to help the population from the armed conflict (clothing and produce) do not come from international organizations but are collected mostly by members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Ukraine. Although philanthropists from other countries are also involved in this case, Adventists formed teams of volunteer builders who went to the war-torn settlements of Donbas to rebuild the destroyed housing. ADRA Ukraine, in turn, acted as an intermediary, paying travel expenses for the delivery of humanitarian goods and assisting in the distribution of them to those in need.²⁹

²⁷ "АДРА Україна відновлює роботу соціального транспорту в Донецькій та Луганській областях." ADRA Ukraine, 2020. <http://www.adra.ua/adra-ukrayina-vidnovlyuye-robotu-sotsialnogo-transportu-v-donetskij-ta-luganskij-oblastyah/>. ["ADRA Ukraine resumes work on social transport in Donetsk and Luhansk regions."]

²⁸ "Адвентисти сьомого дня за нових умов відкривають нові горизонти для служіння в Україні." Релігія в Україні, 2014. https://www.religion.in.ua/news/ukrainian_news/27215-adventisti-somogo-dnya-v-ukrayini-vidkrivayut-novi-gorizonti-dlya-yevangelskogo-sluzhinnya.html. ["Seventh-day Adventists are opening up new horizons for service in Ukraine under new conditions." Religion in Ukraine].

²⁹ "Адвентистское агентство помощи и развития в Украине: служение людям, которых коснулась война." Релігія в Україні, 2015. https://www.religion.in.ua/zmi/ukrainian_zmi/29044-adventistskoe-agentstvo-pomoshhi-i-razvitiya-v-ukraine-sluzhenie-lyudyam-kotoryx-kosnulas-vojna.html. ["Adventist Agency for Aid and Development in Ukraine: Serving People Touched by War." Religion in Ukraine].

The project "Eastern Angel" was implemented in four areas: 1) food collection; 2) collection of essential goods; 3) financial support for the purchase of construction materials; and 4) organization of volunteer groups for restoration works of damaged houses. At the beginning of November 2014, in the city of Slovyansk, Donetsk region, a team of builders from "Eastern Angel" repaired two houses on Sovkhozna Street and Uralska Street which had been damaged by artillery shelling.³⁰ Information support of the project was provided by the program "Pray For Me" on the Hope channel.

The resources of the Eastern Angel project came from several sponsors. Some of the project's funds were donated by viewers of the Hope channel. Products and building materials were also donated, as a result of volunteer activities. Charity drives for such materials were held by volunteers near shops and malls. Manpower is another resource donated; volunteers are organized into relief groups and assembled into construction crews. The collection of goods such as clothing, food, and basic necessities is bolstered by the efforts of spiritual centers in various cities of Ukraine. The collected material was to be sorted and sent to Donbas.³¹

For example, in the fall of 2014, 20 tons of potatoes, carrots, onions, red beets, and fruits from western Ukraine were brought to the liberated and frontline settlements of the Donetsk and Luhansk regions. In addition were donated more than 1,000 boxes of food kits for 150 hryvnias each, containing supplies such as cereals, flour, canned food, stew, sunflower oil, 500 six-liter bottles of water, school supplies, and hygiene products. They also brought tons of packages with warm clothes and shoes, both new and used. After that, another 13 tons of various cargo were delivered: one and a half thousand sets of products, building materials, and two tons of clothes from Kovel, Rivne, Zakarpattia, Volyn, and Kryvyi Rih. The cargo was distributed to Slovyansk, Kramatorsk, Lysychansk, Severodonetsk, Rubizhne, and Kreminna, and humanitarian aid was even brought to the occupied territories, to Donetsk and Luhansk.

More than three tons of food came from Adventists in the Mykolayiv, Odesa, and Kherson regions: flour, various cereals, sunflower oil, canned food, and pasta. One Kherson

³⁰ "“Східний янгол’ допомагає відбудувати житло слов’янням.” Слов’янська міська рада, 2014. <http://www.slavrada.gov.ua/?view=news&newsID=8527>. [“The 'Eastern Angel' helps the Slavs rebuild their homes.” Slavic City Council.]

³¹ "“Восточный ангел’ помогает людям Украины.” Церковь адвентистов седьмого дня - Восточно-Днепровская конференция, 2014. <http://logosinfo.org/2014/09/07/vostochnyj-angel-pomogaet-lyudyam-ukrainy/>. [“The 'Eastern Angel' helps the people of Ukraine.” Seventh-day Adventist Church - East Dnieper Conference.]

enterprise donated 2 tons of flour. 700 kg of clothes were also collected. The collected aid was sent to Mariupol.³²

In addition to this, the Hands of Hope project was conducted several times in Ukraine by ADRA Ukraine. The aim of the project was to provide psychological, educational, and material assistance to the families of internally displaced persons in the Donetsk and Luhansk regions, and large and low-income families of the Darnytskyi district of Kyiv. These efforts were carried out in the following periods: 1) November 2, 2015 - March 31, 2016 (assistance to 180 persons); 2) 1 November 4, 2016 - September 15, 2017 (assistance to 209 persons); 3) December 1, 2017 - May 31, 2018 (assistance to 30 families); 4) October 1, 2018 - February 28, 2019 (assistance to 30 families).

The project provided psychological assistance and assistance (food, vitamins, and clothing) assistance to families. There were classes in English language clubs, tennis games, computer work, beadwork, handicrafts, drawing, guitar playing, and the Friends Club. Thus, this project consisted not only of providing for the basic needs of life, but also developed social, communication, and creative skills. The sponsors of this project were: ADRA Canada (\$37,186), ADRA Germany (Euro 19,600), ADRA Ukraine (Euro 4,001); ADRA Germany, ADRA Switzerland, ADRA Ukraine (EUR 25,000); and ADRA Switzerland, ADRA Ukraine (\$ 16,994.67).

Conclusion

The Seventh-day Adventist Church has long performed important social functions, putting into practice various effective programs aimed at improving the physical and material condition of those in need. The contribution of Adventists to the socio-economic development of Ukraine is significant, and Protestant entrepreneurs who faithfully fulfill their duty to the state play an important role in this process. Since the actions of Adventists are subject to Christian ethics, their charitable efforts are aimed precisely at each person and her/his needs. Protestants see charity as the highest direction of morality, so they try to express themselves in it as much as possible, helping people who suffer from hunger, war, conflict, and so on. This assistance is

³² “Адвентисты юга Украины собрали более 10 тонн груза в рамках проекта ‘Восточный ангел.’” Южная конференция Церкви Адвентистов седьмого дня, 2014. <http://advent-ug.org/1146-adventisty-yuga-ukrainy-sobrali-bolee-10-tonn-gruza-v-ramkah-proekta-vostochnyy-angel.html>. [“Adventists in southern Ukraine have collected more than 10 tons of cargo as part of the ‘Eastern Angel ’project.” South Conference of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.]

provided by ADRA Ukraine. This organization implements various projects aimed at helping the needy. Especially recently, their activities are actively manifested in Donbas. ADRA Ukraine provides both psychological and material assistance, which makes it possible to repair various types of damage. Given the reports presented by ADRA Ukraine for review, we can see how they implement food, non-food and other programs in eastern Ukraine and in other regions of our country.

The activities of ADRA Ukraine are actively covered by the media. It is usually a Protestant mass media, which narrows its reach, as most of the population are not part of this religious minority and so do not have the opportunity to hear about the charitable deeds of this organization. The mass media usually reports on various actions, and entertainment activities aimed at orphans and children from families in difficult life circumstances. Particular emphasis is placed on helping people with disabilities, providing them with wheelchairs, and other necessary things. In addition, attention is paid to the improvement of water distribution in the local population in Donbas, the provision of coal, and the facilitation of social transport to socially vulnerable groups affected by the conflict in eastern Ukraine. This organization also deals with crisis situations in other regions of Ukraine, which is also covered in the media. Meetings, courses, programs, and training are often reported in the mass media, which have a positive effect on a person's emotional state and help her/him to realize her/his plans.

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