

HUNDHUNDREDS OF FAMILIES REBUILD HOPE AS SHELTERS ARE REPAIRED IN CHUHUIV



Photo 1. Zoya at home in Chuhuiv, where newly installed windows have restored.

The LWF Ukraine has been supporting war-affected families in Chuhuiv through shelter assistance and psychosocial support. Chuhuiv is a small city in Kharkiv Oblast that continues to come under near-daily attack. Drones and missiles repeatedly damage infrastructure, cut off electricity, and destroy private homes. News of shelling in the city appears almost every day. Yet many people remain, despite the danger, because Chuhuiv is their home and they have nowhere else to go.

One of the most common consequences of the attacks is shattered windows. After nearly every strike, some residents are left with broken glass, cold rooms, and new repair costs they cannot afford.

With the support of ACT Alliance including Act CoS, LWF Ukraine has been leading this recovery effort as part of the broader Emergency and Resilience Response for War-Affected Communities in Kharkiv and Sumy Oblasts. The project combines shelter support, including windows replacement for local families, with MHPSS activities for beneficiaries who indicated that they needed emotional and psychological support.



Photo 2,3. Newly installed windows in Zoya's home in Chuhuiv bring back warmth, light, and a sense of normal life.

Zoya: Finding Strength at Home

The LWF Ukraine team visited beneficiaries in Chuhuiv to see whether the repaired windows had made a real difference in their lives and well-being.

Ms. Zoya lives with her elderly mother, whom she took in several years ago to care for her. Zoya has lived in Chuhuiv for most of her life and never wanted to leave, despite the danger.

“Our windows were blown out twice,” she says. “The first time, we replaced them ourselves. But when it happened again, we realized it was already too expensive for us, so we applied for assistance.”- Zoya

On the kitchen windowsill, green onions and flowers are growing. The kitchen feels warm and welcoming, with the smell of coffee in the air.

“I cannot imagine my life without taking care of a flower or some greenery on the windowsill in the morning,” Zoya says. “I used to have many more flowers, of different kinds, but after the explosion, they were damaged, and now I place them farther from the window. In fact, many things changed after the last blast. For example, I no longer stand by the window for long, and I no longer have breakfast there, because I am afraid. But at the same time, I am very happy these windows are here now, and they are wonderful. Thank you for replacing our three windows.”

Tetiana: A Lifetime of Resilience

In the neighboring building, the team met Ms. Tetiana, 90, who lives alone. Her relatives visit her regularly, but she continues to manage in her own home.

Mrs. Tetiana was not born in Chuhuiv, but in a nearby village. She moved to the city for work, bought her home here, and stayed to build her life in Chuhuiv.

“Because my window was replaced before winter, in November last year, I got through the winter much better than I otherwise would have,” she says.



Photo 4. Tetiana, 90, stands in her home in Chuhuiv, where newly installed windows helped her stay warm and safe through the winter.

Today, Chuhuiv remains in crisis, and many residents still need support to repair damaged shelters. With the support of ACT Alliance, LWF Ukraine has rehabilitated 221 damaged apartments across Kharkiv including Chuhuiv, directly benefiting 301 individuals, including older people and persons with disabilities.



Photo 5. LWF Ukraine Programme Coordinator Hari Awasthi visited a rehabilitated home in Chuhuiv to see the work and meet with beneficiaries

*The name of beneficiary was changed to protect privacy.

Author: LWF/Alice Zhuravel

Photos: LWF/Alice Zhuravel