



OPORA Housing for life

Russia's military invasion has pained millions of Ukrainian families. Since the start of the war, tens of thousands of homes have been damaged or destroyed. The owners of these houses are now scattered all over the world. While de-occupation saw some families return, many experienced the destruction of their homes, leading to the question of: how do you restore housing for life?

Housing for life: A comprehensive solution for internally displaced persons

Through funding from the 'Support to Civil Society Organisation programme', the Kyiv Branch of the CSO 'Civil Network OPORA' launched the project to help people whose housing was damaged or destroyed to find answers related to reconstructing their property.

Within the scope of the grant activity, Civil Network OPORA "Housing for life: comprehensive solutions for internally displaced persons", was designed to provide solutions for vulnerable citizens to realise their right to housing.

The project covered 18 communities in 9 regions of Ukraine and worked on:

- Singing memorandums of cooperation with local government entities to establish mechanisms for responding to housing needs of people whose property was damaged or destroyed due to the war;
- Developing 6 monitoring reports and 3 analytical notes with packages of recommendations for improving normative framework regulating housing issues;
- Holding 5 regional presentations with participation of local authorities, regional CSOs as well as people whose property was damaged, exchanging best practices and building a regional network and partnership to promote effective solutions to housing problems;
- Disseminating 718 publications aimed at raising awareness of persons who lost their housing on their rights to housing.



The Gerasimenko family

Tetyana Gerasimenko and her family lived in the village of Kalynivka. In the spring of 2022, the village became the epicenter of fighting on the outskirts of Kyiv. On March 14, 2022, the Gerasimenkos' house was attacked and completely burned down. Fortunately, the family managed to leave, and everyone survived. After her return, Tetyana, together with her family, settled in a small shed near their burned house. Tetyana hoped that her house could be restored, but construction experts' conclusion was unequivocal – it would be impossible. This left the family with an urgent question - how do we rebuild our destroyed home?



The house of the Gerasimenko family in Kalynivka, the outskirts of Kyiv, was completely destroyed on March 14, 2022



As a result of these advocacy efforts, four normative acts have been amended, including the Law of Ukraine 'On compensation for damage and destruction of certain categories of real estate objects. In addition, OPORA trained thirty consultants on providing legal assistance to people who lost their homes as a result of Russian military aggression. The consultants conducted 4058 consultations, meaning that more than 4000 families received answers on how to solve housing problems.



The Gerasimenko family will be able to reconstruct their house through state recovery program (Є-ВІДНОВЛЕННЯ)

Together with other families, the Gerasimekos were waiting for the second stage of the state recovery programme that provides funds for reconstruction of destroyed housing. OPORA's successful advocacy efforts enabled them to receive monetary compensation to put towards reconstructing their home.



New house of the Gerasimenko family under construction



We need to rebuild our houses, so that everyone can return to their homes and live here on their own land.

Tetyana Gerasimenko

