Communities across Ukraine improve medical care in their villages in cooperation with the EU

"Improvement of medical services is a real priority for our rayon – and we decided to do something about it. The joint efforts of the whole community were needed. We received the grant on condition of shared financing. In addition to the grant, we had contributions from the local budget, our community organisation and local business."

Mykhailo Zhoglo, Head of Lypovodolynska Rayon Council

**Context**

Large towns and oblast centres have staff and money to solve infrastructure problems and urgent community needs. The smaller the community, the smaller the local budget. The health post in Bayrak village had neither life-saving medical equipment nor indoor sanitation. It also had a leaking roof, and in wintertime, the indoor temperature was nearly the same as outside. Many medical facilities in other villages and small towns in Ukraine are in a similar situation. The Ministry of Health says that current medical services in rural areas of Ukraine are not of high standards.

**Objectives**

- Help villagers to create local community organisations and receive grants to meet urgent needs such as the improvement of medical facilities or water pipelines.
- To improve living conditions and social infrastructure.

**Impact**

- Residents of Bayrak village now have access to basic medical services.
- The local community learnt how to obtain and efficiently use money from various sources.
- Inspired by the successful implementation of the EU grant, the Lypovodolynska community, together with local authorities, are discussing further joint initiatives.

For more information: [www.cba.org.ua](http://www.cba.org.ua)
Kateryna Rogynska, director of the Bayrak rural health post, has been working at the centre since 1981. The centre provides healthcare to residents of Bayrak village and adjacent farms; in total 613 people, including 80 children.

“These days, I send patients to the regional hospital only if they require urgent treatment. Otherwise I can provide the necessary medical assistance and testing here in our local health centre,” says Kateryna. It is very important for people of Bayrak to be able to receive necessary medical services in their own village; this saves them money and time they would otherwise need to reach the regional hospital.

Kateryna is happy to show us the new emergency help bag in the Bayrak health centre. The bag, funded through an EU grant, contains a steam steriliser for instruments, diapers and ultrasound equipment.

The “Community-based approach to local development” programme enables villagers to create local community organisations and receive grants to meet urgent needs such as the improvement of medical facilities or water pipelines. Thanks to this EU-funded micro-project, the Bayrak community learnt how to manage social initiatives. It also inspired local inhabitants to join efforts and continue improving their lives.