

PROJECT OVERVIEW · PHASE 2

Active Rehabilitation in the Community

A comprehensive active-rehabilitation programme for people with spinal cord injury: systemic activation in communities, sustainable dialogue with local authorities, and advocacy for the legal recognition of the peer-to-peer service.

7

regions covered by the programme

2

active rehabilitation camps (Rivne, Ternopil)

30

camp participants (18 + 12)

20+

years of GAR experience in SCI rehabilitation

PROBLEM

After returning home, people with SCI fall outside systemic services and face barriers — physical (inaccessible housing, underdeveloped barrier-free environments), institutional (their needs are not reflected in local programmes), and informational. The peer-to-peer service still has no official definition in Ukraine, which hampers scaling and state funding. The war is increasing the share of veterans and civilians with SCI.

GOAL

To strengthen the capacity of people with SCI — both previously and newly identified — to participate fully in community life through local-level activation, sustainable dialogue with LSGs and service providers, and advancing the legal definition of the peer-to-peer service nationally.

OBJECTIVES

- systemic activation of beneficiaries across 7 regions through in-person and remote support and group work;
- identification of critical participation barriers and creation of regional “barrier maps”;
- establish a “service recipient — service provider” dialogue with LSGs and social and medical services through joint trainings, working meetings, and other activities;
- two active rehabilitation camps (Rivne, Ternopil) with veteran participation;
- advocacy for defining the peer-to-peer service and GAR’s organisational development.

BENEFICIARIES

Direct: people with SCI in the Dnipropetrovsk, Volyn, Vinnytsia, Ternopil, Rivne, Kyiv, and Lviv oblasts (including veterans and civilians injured during hostilities) and their families. Indirect: representatives of LSGs, social and medical services, rehabilitation specialists, students, employers, and the wider public across seven regions.

ACTIVITIES

- in-person and remote support for beneficiaries (new Remote Counselling Service, CRM);
- joint trainings and working meetings with LSGs; “barrier maps” and cooperation roadmaps;
- two active rehabilitation camps (Rivne — August; Ternopil — September 2026);
- housing adaptation, legal support, and advocacy for the peer-to-peer service;
- training of specialists and students; communication campaign (reach 400,000+).

PARTNERS

WHO office in Ukraine, the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Social Policy, the Presidential Commissioner for a Barrier-Free Environment, universities (Bohomoivets University, DSMU), Sunnaas Rehabilitation Hospital (Norway), business (Nestlé), and organisations of persons with disabilities.

IMPACT

The programme establishes a sustainable model of community-based active rehabilitation in which the needs of people with SCI are reflected in local accessibility policies, and the peer-to-peer service gains legal recognition and state funding — making support accessible and scalable across Ukraine.

Duration: 6 months**Budget:** USD 80,000

All projects online



Working with the client

Visualized roadmap for working with a client after spinal cord injury at the community level

