

Winterization Support in Ukraine 2022-24

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Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
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Winter repairs by NGO Right to Protection © SDC

Background

Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine continues to negatively impact the humanitarian situation of civilians. As of September 2023, the number of people in humanitarian need is estimated at around 17.6 million or almost half of the Ukrainian population. In winter 2022, missile and drone attacks destroyed 61% of Ukraine's electricity generation capacity and damaged 43% of the country's energy grid. This coming winter, the energy infrastructure is under high risk of renewed targeted attacks. This will likely cause disruptions of critical services such as heating, telecommunication or drinking water. Attacks on civil infrastructure are a clear violation of International Humanitarian Law.

Switzerland supports a range of measures for the resilience of Ukraine's energy infrastructure and population. This winterization support package is an integral part of Switzerland's international cooperation programme for Ukraine. Furthermore, it is aligned with the United Nations Ukraine Winter Response Plan.

Support for Winter since 24th February 2022

➤ Multilateral Organizations

The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) supports the Ukraine Humanitarian Fund (UHF) with CHF 4 Mio. This provides for winter heating, winter clothing, rental support and the insulation of houses. SDC's contribution of CHF 3 Mio to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) supports the distribution of winterized household items, like thermal blankets, sleeping bags and cookware. Early interventions are essential to ensure warm and safe living conditions for affected people. SDC and the State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO) have therefore contributed CHF 44 Mio and CHF 10 Mio respectively to the World Bank's Ukraine Relief, Recovery, Reconstruction and Reform Trust Fund (URTF) at the end of 2022. SECO additionally finances the Energy Community's Ukraine Energy Support Fund with CHF 10 Mio. These contributions secure electricity and heating services, and aim at providing dignified living conditions over several winters.

➤ Non-Governmental Organizations

Switzerland supports the winterization response of several NGOs in the provision of lifesaving protection to vulnerable populations. Local and international NGOs are able to secure heating and electricity supply for critical social infrastructure, such as hospitals, shelters, kindergartens or orphanages. Switzerland has enabled repairs of almost 1000 apartments and houses damaged by hostilities, and started projects such as "cash for repair" and repair hubs. Thus, affected people can rent construction tools and get technical guidance to prepare their homes for the winter season. Additionally, heating items like fuel briquettes are distributed to 1300 households. Furthermore, cash transfers help the population pay for utilities, fuel and wood. Partner NGOs are, among others, the Swiss Red Cross, the Ukrainian Red Cross Society, Caritas, Right to Protection, Helvetas,

WeWorld and the Association of Energy Auditors of Ukraine.

➤ Direct Implementation

Switzerland carries out various projects thanks to its team of humanitarian aid experts deployed in Ukraine. For example, Swiss and local experts on Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) help rehabilitate and repair water supply lines and pumping stations to enable district heating systems. SDC supports the State Emergency Service of Ukraine (SESU) with winter-resistant generators, water kiosks and water trucks. Winter constraints are taken into account in all of Switzerland's WASH projects in Ukraine. Additionally, SECO has been involved in energy efficiency, municipal energy management, rehabilitation of district heating and sustainable energy for years. For instance, SECO has expanded its support by using contingencies for financing the rehabilitation of district heating networks and installing photovoltaic electricity generators.

➤ Material Deliveries

Switzerland has delivered over 90 tons of equipment donated by the Federal Department of Defence, Civil Protection and Sport (DDPS), including winter boots and sleeping bags to the SESU. This allows rescuers to work in emergency situations despite the harsh winter conditions.

Financial Overview

Switzerland has contributed a total of CHF 82.7 Mio in winterization support in Ukraine (SDC: CHF 58 Mio, SECO: CHF 20 Mio, DDPS: CHF 4.7 Mio as per own indication).

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