

Switzerland's engagement in Ukraine

August 2024



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
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Facts and Figures

14.6 million

People in need of humanitarian aid (~40% of the population)

3.3 million

Internally displaced persons (IDPs)

6.5 million

Refugees

441 million CHF

Allocated by Switzerland to international cooperation in Ukraine and in neighbouring countries.

1400 tons

of relief supplies delivered from Switzerland to Ukraine and neighboring countries.

Switzerland's priority areas

- Peace, Protection and Democratic Institutions
- Sustainable Cities
- SMEs and Competitiveness
- Health

Switzerland's approach

Switzerland provides support in three ways:

1) as a donor of financial contributions to partner organizations and through multilateral institutions

2) as an actor in the implementation of its own projects through the Swiss Humanitarian Aid (SHA)

3) as an advocate for compliance with international humanitarian law

International Cooperation in Ukraine since 24 February, 2022



Context

Switzerland's international cooperation (IC) in Ukraine dates back to the 1990s. Switzerland has been particularly committed to improving the standard of living, providing more efficient public services and promoting sustainable economic growth in Ukraine.

Since February 24, 2022, millions of civilians in Ukraine have suffered from the impact of Russia's full-scale invasion. Military attacks are repeatedly causing civilian casualties and damaging civilian infrastructure such as hospitals, schools, houses as well as energy and water supply facilities along the front line and throughout the country. Many people struggle to access food, water, medical care, education and a safe place to live. Equally, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) are heavily affected due to material destructions, displaced workforces, disrupted supply chains and significant decline in demand.

Due to the war, Switzerland has been enlarging its humanitarian and cooperation programs, while maintaining the four priority areas (see next page).

Switzerland also offers its Good Offices to both parties, which includes hosting talks and negotiations to promote the restoration of a comprehensive and just peace in Ukraine (e.g. Ukraine Recovery Conference 2022 in Lugano, 4th Meeting of National Security Advisors 2024 in Davos, or the high-level conference on peace in Ukraine at the Bürgenstock resort in June 2024).

Recent Activities

June 2024

Additional CHF 58.7 Mio to continue support for **digitalization and e-governance** in Ukraine over the next four years.

March 2024

Additional CHF 12 Mio for the **Mental Health for Ukraine** project to support the mental well-being of the population affected by the war.

January 2024

Additional CHF 10 Mio for the **Ukrainian rail road system** through providing rail fasteners from the Swiss company Schwhag AG (total: CHF 24 Mio).

Second funding for the **Certificate of Advanced Studies (CAS) Reconstruction Ukraine** at Berne University of Applied Sciences.

December 2023

Increase of **winterization aid** by CHF 11.8 Mio (CHF 10 Mio to Energy Community's Ukraine Energy Support Fund; CHF 1.8 Mio to Ukraine Humanitarian Fund).

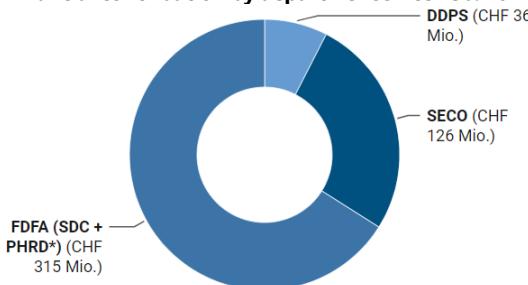
Donation of **three genetic analyzer machines** to the Ukrainian State Scientific Forensic Research Centre to enhance forensic identification of missing persons due to the war (total value: CHF 440'000).

Financing the delivery of **11 Bernmobil trams** to Lviv, incl. training of four employees.

November 2023

Donation of **two cold cells** that allow for the storage of bodies and mortal remains awaiting identification and repatriation to their relatives (total value: CHF 50'000).

Financial contribution by department since Feb. 2022:



*Peace and Human Rights Division

The four domains of the Swiss IC in Ukraine:

1. Peace, Protection and Democratic Institutions

The objective of this sector is to foster human rights and strengthen democratic institutions.

With the outbreak of Russia's military aggression, Switzerland's support for digitalization and democratic reforms (CHF 29.5 Mio invested since 2015) became even more relevant. It contributes to a better functioning of the government at all levels and provides fundamental online public services to citizens and the private sector. Switzerland has also been supporting equal access to education and the strengthening of local governance (CHF 13.7 Mio invested since 2020). In 2022, this project was expanded to building school shelters and distributing emergency supplies to IDPs in schools. Switzerland's contribution to the Livelihood Assistance Program for Eastern Ukraine has resulted in the distribution of 604 micro-business, 36 small agricultural and 507 VET grants since its start in 2017. The support to several international and local NGOs ensures, among other things, emergency cash and/or winterization assistance. Switzerland continues its pre-2022 support to Ukrainian NGOs who document and investigate violations of human rights and it supports Ukrainian authorities and the ICRC in the search and identification of missing persons.

The CHF 100 million package for humanitarian demining is used to identify and remove mines to protect civilians and re-enable agricultural activities.

2. Sustainable Cities

The objective of this field is to improve the quality of life for people in urban areas of Ukraine and accelerate low-carbon economic growth.

Switzerland supports the identification of so-called Global Eco-Industrial Parks in western Ukraine to resettle SMEs and restore industrial production after the war in an effort of building back better. Due to the heavily damaged energy infrastructure, several projects such as the renovation of the heating network and the installation of photovoltaic power generators have been scaled up. Additionally, Switzerland supports the World Bank (CHF 54 Mio) to help restore damages from Russia's targeted attacks in the winter 2022/23. SECO has also topped up their support to assist cities in managing the influx of IDPs and the resulting pressure on public utilities. Moreover, Switzerland is investing in the Ukrainian railroad system (CHF 24 Mio) through providing rail fasteners from Schwiag AG Switzerland. Together with the Zurich public transport company, Switzerland is planning to deliver a total of 67 decommissioned Tram2000s to Vinnytsia (28 already delivered), where they can be operated for another 12 to 15 years.

3. SMEs and Competitiveness

The objective of this area is to facilitate competitive and inclusive growth and to utilize the potential of SMEs with a focus on agriculture.

One example is the Agribusiness Blended Finance Initiative of the International Finance Corporation (IFC, CHF 9.5 Mio), which facilitates urgently needed capital for farmers and agricultural SMEs.

Moreover, Switzerland contributes to multilateral initiatives like the World Bank's PEACE Fund (CHF 30 Mio) which helps maintaining the basic non-military functions of the State, so that state employees continue to receive a salary. Through the Swiss Investment Fund for Emerging Markets (SIFEM), Switzerland additionally supports Ukrainian start-ups in the IT and export sector (CHF 15 Mio). The support to the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD, CHF 10 Mio) is intended to support the development of a war risk insurance to help revitalise Ukraine's financial and insurance industry. Switzerland's contribution to the World Bank's Rapid Damage and Needs Assessment (RDNA) helps prioritize and coordinate reconstruction efforts (CHF 3 Mio). Furthermore, Switzerland co-finances the CAS Rebuild Ukraine at Bern University of Applied Sciences. The module teaches Ukrainian women how to assess, help design and manage the reconstruction of buildings and infrastructure in Ukraine.

4. Health

The objective of this domain is for the Ukrainian population to enjoy better health, despite the war and its consequences. Switzerland prioritizes improving governance in the health care sector, quality and affordable primary health care services and health education.

In line with overall sector reforms, Switzerland's programs include a focus on mental health, an area that has been significantly scaled up since 2018 to respond to gender-specific war-related trauma, including with the help of humanitarian partners. Switzerland is also committed to supporting physical rehabilitation in Ukraine and continues to support the government in promoting healthier lifestyles and in addressing non-communicable diseases. In addition, Switzerland has delivered a total of 25 ambulances to the Ministry of Health and local NGOs in Ukraine, to ensure emergency care throughout the country, including in frontline areas. Swiss experts for Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) continuously support local water supply operators in restoring damaged water, wastewater, heating and power supply infrastructure. Their presence was particularly helpful after the destruction of the Kakhovka dam in June 2023, with the provision of short and medium-term solutions as well as urgently needed equipment.

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