

Winterization Support in Ukraine 2024/25

December 2024

Background

The humanitarian situation in Ukraine continues to deteriorate due to Russia's full-scale invasion. As of October 2024, the number of people in humanitarian need is estimated at around 14.6 million. Since winter 2022, targeted missile and drone attacks damaged more than half of the energy facilities in Ukraine. Following intensified attacks on energy infrastructure throughout 2024, this winter is particularly difficult for the Ukrainian population. The attacks are purposely aimed at disruptions of critical services such as energy, heating, but also drinking water, sewage and water treatment. Attacks on civilian infrastructure are a clear violation of International Humanitarian Law. Repairing these damages will take years.

In response to this, Switzerland is scaling up its measures to support the resilience of Ukraine's population and energy infrastructure for this winter and the years to come. The winterization support package is an integral part of Switzerland's international cooperation programme in Ukraine. Switzerland's efforts are aligned with the [United Nations Ukraine Winter Response Plan](#).



Support for the winter period 2024/2025

➤ Multilateral Organizations

The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) is increasing its contribution to the Ukraine Humanitarian Fund (UHF) in 2024 by CHF 3.2 Mio. to provide timely funds to local and international humanitarian organizations addressing winter specific needs. Additionally, SDC extends its contribution to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) by CHF 2 Mio. This supports the distribution of winterized household items, like thermal blankets, sleeping bags and cookware as well as the repairs and improvements of collective sites for internally displaced persons (IDPs). Early interventions are essential to ensure warm and safe living conditions for affected people. The State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO) has therefore increased its contribution to the Eastern Europe Energy Efficiency and Environment Partnership (E5P), managed by the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) by CHF 20.14 Mio. The fund provides grants for the modernization or restoration of municipal infrastructure with a focus on energy efficiency. With a planned CHF 8 Mio. contribution to the Ukraine Energy Support Fund, SECO is helping to procure acutely needed energy equipment this winter. Following a large SECO contribution to the World Bank-managed Ukraine Relief, Recovery, Reconstruction and Reform Trust Fund's (URTF) RePower project in the winter 2022/2023, the first power transformer and service vehicles were delivered to electricity provider Ukrenergo in 2024.

➤ Non-Governmental Organizations

Switzerland supports the winterization response of several NGOs in the provision of lifesaving protection to vulnerable populations. Local and international NGOs further help to secure heating and electricity supply for critical social infrastructure, such as hospitals, shelters, kindergartens and orphanages. This winter, SDC contributes CHF 2.5 Mio. to the Danish Refugee Council, providing fuel, insulation and shelter repairs for 15,000 people in need. Further, the Association of Energy Auditors, a Ukrainian NGO, has provided sustainable heating system and a generator to power and heat schools and hospitals in Pavlohrad city and Pokrovsk (Dnipropetrovsk & Donetsk oblast). SDC further supports existing

winter response efforts by partnering with seven strategically-placed organizations, including Terre des Hommes Switzerland, Habitat for Humanity, and Right to Protection, providing CHF 200,000 to each. These NGOs assist vulnerable populations in meeting winter needs through fuel distribution, cash assistance for utilities, and support for housing repairs and insulation to alleviate winter hardships.

➤ Direct/Bilateral Implementation

Switzerland carries out various projects thanks to its Swiss Humanitarian Aid Unit (SHA) deployed in Ukraine. In Odesa and other affected locations, Swiss and local specialists on Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) help rehabilitate, repair and upgrade water supply lines and pumping stations to enable and ensure the function of district heating systems even if blackouts occur. SDC also supports the State Emergency Service of Ukraine (SESU) with winter-resistant generators, water kiosks and water trucks. Many of SECO's projects integrate a winterization component. For example, the project Energy Efficiency in Municipalities, implemented by German Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) (CHF 4,3 Mio. in 2024) or the Municipal Energy Management Certification Ukraine (MEMCU) (CHF 100,000) support energy management and planning projects for small, medium and large municipalities. By using contingencies for financing, SECO is also directly supporting the rehabilitation of district heating networks and installing photovoltaic electricity generators. SECO is also strengthening its winterization and rehabilitation cooperation with Kharkiv City with CHF 2 Mio carried out by a Swiss company. Finally, they financed the delivery of solar panels to the hospital of Kalush (Ivano-Frankivsk oblast) and additional energy equipment to Mykolaiv, donated by a Swiss energy company. This equipment is essential for the upcoming winter.

Financial Overview

To help Ukraine deal with electricity shortages and the cold of Winter 2024/2025, Switzerland has contributed a total of CHF 44.58 Mio. in winterization support in Ukraine (SDC: CHF 9.96 Mio., SECO: CHF 34.62 Mio.).