



Solidarity drive for Ukraine: aid that meets needs

The outpouring of generosity in support of the people of Ukraine is evident in towns and cantons throughout Switzerland. Nevertheless, a number of steps must be taken to ensure that the different types of aid provided to Ukraine respond to genuine needs. Please follow these brief steps to ensure that the aid reaches those in need.

The situation in Ukraine is stirring up strong emotions in Switzerland. Since the crisis began, large numbers of Swiss people have been expressing solidarity with the people of Ukraine by supporting individual or collective assistance initiatives. Campaigns to collect donations and material supplies are taking place in cantons and communes across the country.

The SDC welcomes all these initiatives, which testify to the generosity of the Swiss people and their commitment to humanitarian values. In order to ensure that this surge of solidarity can best meet the needs of the local population, the SDC wishes to raise awareness of the following points:

Donating supplies

The SDC cannot accept donations of supplies, nor arrange for their delivery or fund their transport. This would require extensive sorting and checking of goods, which would impact SDC relief operations.

If you are planning to send supplies to Ukraine or its neighbouring countries, make sure that you send items that are really needed. To find out what supplies are actually needed, you can contact local organisations like the national Red Cross societies. The best way to help Ukrainian refugees who are currently in one of the neighbouring countries is to make sure that the supplies are purchased in those countries. This benefits the local economy and significantly reduces the environmental impact of transporting supplies from Switzerland.

Hospitals and healthcare organisations wishing to donate medical equipment can contact the cantonal authorities, which coordinate the collection of medical supplies with the National Emergency Operations Centre.

Please also bear in mind that transporting supplies from Switzerland can pose logistical and security challenges. These operations also require careful prior clarification to ensure that the supplies are distributed fairly to people in need.

Cash donations

The SDC recommends making cash donations to humanitarian organisations working on the ground, including Swiss aid agencies, instead of donations of supplies. Swiss Solidarity has also launched a fundraising campaign (www.swiss-solidarity.org).

Thinking of volunteering as an aid worker?

The SDC deploys only specialists from the Swiss Humanitarian Aid Unit who are trained to work in crisis areas. Therefore, it cannot accommodate volunteers wishing to travel to Ukraine or neighbouring countries to be deployed as aid workers. Moreover, the FDFA strongly advises against travelling to Ukraine at present. See the [FDFA's travel advice page for Ukraine \(de, fr, it\)](#).

Hosting a Ukrainian family

If you are interested in providing private accommodation for Ukrainian refugees, you can find information on what you need to do on the website of the State Secretariat for Migration (www.sem.admin.ch).