People in Ukraine face many risks throughout their lifetime, such as health, economic and political risks, as well as the risks from external factors such as the current armed conflict in the eastern part of the country. Switzerland supports Ukraine in mitigating such risks and creating new opportunities for its citizens by investing in five key areas: governance and peacebuilding, health, sustainable energy and urban development, economic development, and humanitarian response.

The conflict in eastern Ukraine continues to impact 4.4 million people including 1 million children. Switzerland has helped to secure access to drinking water for some 3.9 million people on both sides of the contact line.

In Ukraine, mortality has been steadily decreasing but remains at 7 out of 1000 children under one. Switzerland’s commitment to improving maternal and child health in Ukraine over the past 18 years has contributed to the halving of deaths of children under one.

The risk associated with pregnancy is 6 times higher in Ukraine than in Switzerland. Switzerland’s engagement to improving maternal and child health helped to prevent 1 out of 3 deaths of women in pregnancy and childbirth.

Citizens’ participation in the decision-making process is an essential element of democratic governance. The introduction of e-petitions has been an important step in establishing more effective dialogue between citizens and the government. Some 165,000 people have made their voices heard to date.

Nearly 9 out of 10 businesses say they face corruption when doing business in Ukraine. An effective, transparent and fair procurement system for some medicines has enabled savings of up to 60%.

Poor food hygiene and safety standards are a concern for Ukrainian consumers. Under a Swiss initiative, food safety regulations for milk have been stepped up, and the production of certified organic milk has increased twofold in three years.

The majority of Ukrainians were dissatisfied with local public services. Switzerland has long been supporting Ukraine’s decentralisation reform process. Today 1 out of 2 Ukrainians believe they have benefited from it.

1.8 million people have been forced to flee their homes due to the conflict. 15 Swiss experts play key roles in the OSCE to facilitate a diplomatic resolution to the conflict.

1 out of 3 Ukrainians between the ages of 30 and 70 will die from non-communicable diseases such as cancer or cardiovascular disease. Smoking is one of the three main risk factors. Switzerland assisted the government of Ukraine in implementing the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control.

Ukrainian households could slash their energy bills by investing in energy efficiency measures such as window replacements or roof insulation. Under a Swiss initiative, more than 250,000 households were offered loans to invest in more energy-efficient homes.

Ukraine is one of the most energy-inefficient countries in Europe, and 2 out of 3 Ukrainians cannot afford to pay their energy bills.