

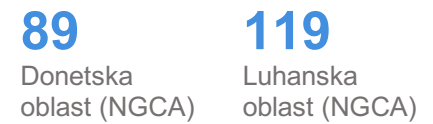
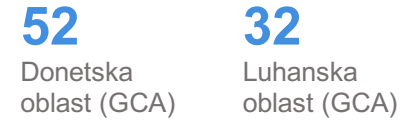


This report is a consolidation of UN informational products, prepared by the Office of the UN Resident Coordinator in Ukraine. The next report will be issued around 15 May 2020.

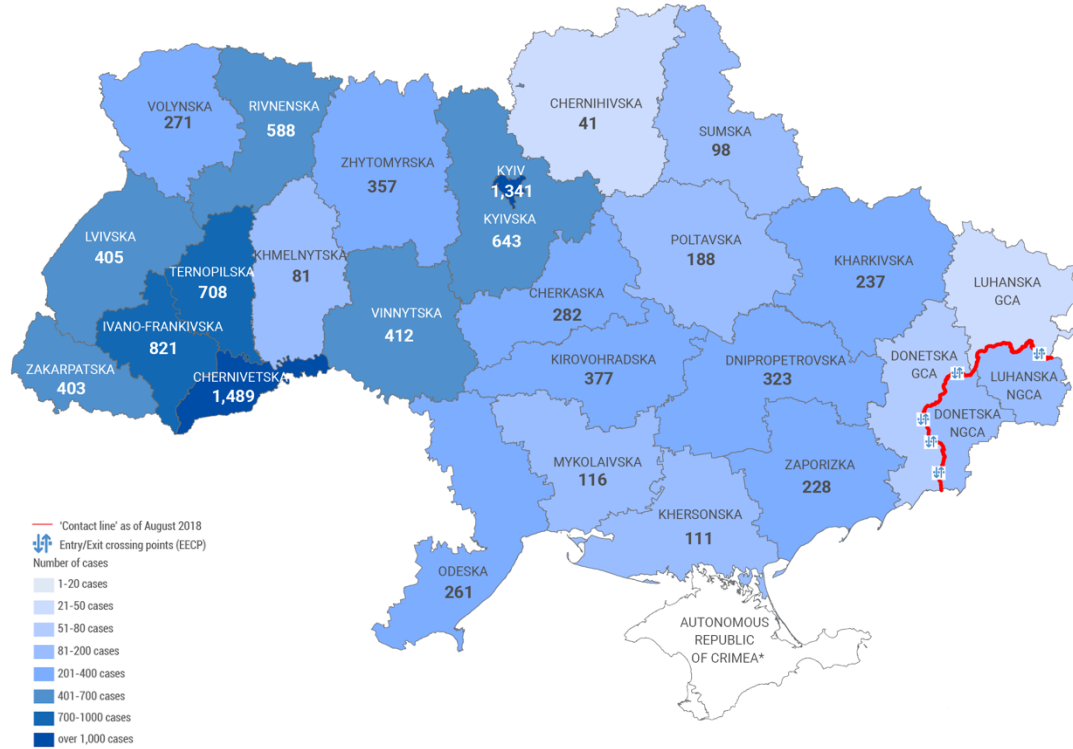
HIGHLIGHTS



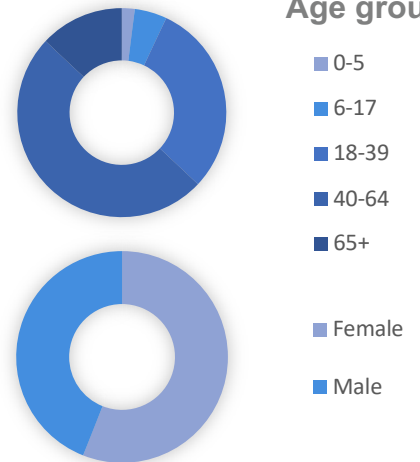
Eastern Ukraine COVID-19 confirmed cases



*This figure does not include the number of confirmed cases in the non-Government-controlled areas (NGCA). Data source: The Ministry of Health in Ukraine and entities in control of certain areas of Donetsk and Luhansk regions of Ukraine.



Age group



*The Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol, Ukraine, temporarily occupied by the Russian Federation, as per the United Nations General Assembly Resolution 74/168. The boundaries and names shown, and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

- The United Nations in Ukraine continues its cooperation with the Government, local authorities and civil society to ensure rapid recovery from the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The United Nations has launched a collaboration on COVID-19 with StarLightMedia, the biggest media holding in Ukraine, to provide valuable information and fight fake news. ICTV channel will keep posting and broadcasting information from United Nations agencies on a daily basis.
- The United Nations system is in regular contact with all the national stakeholders and national response mechanisms to ensure a consolidation of efforts.

21 M*
Affected People

\$165 M
Initial ERP requirement

1.4 M
Internally Displaced People

*Proposed by the Health Cluster as a plaining figure at this time. It is based on the early enforcement of preventive and mitigation measures implemented by the Government of Ukraine, which have been put in the place earlier than in other European countries. In Ukraine, it is estimated that up to 50% of the population could be impacted.

SITUATION OVERVIEW

The impact of the crisis on the socio-economic situation

- As a lower-middle income country, Ukraine is at higher risk of suffering from a broad-based decline in economic activity causing a loss of income, a spike in unemployment rates, and a decrease in the quality of life that especially effects the vulnerable and marginalized groups and communities.
- According to the Rapid Gender Assessment of COVID-19 implications in Ukraine conducted by UN Women (to be published soon), women are more affected than men during an economic crisis, caused by the restrictive measures. Due to the gender pay gap, women have fewer savings and, therefore, are at higher risk of running out of the resources, and have no opportunity to support themselves and their families. In Ukraine, due to the gender barriers to financial and economic resources, women's economic capital is limited and concentrated in the micro and small business sector. Thus, women are at a higher risk of suffering from a loss of income caused by fluctuations in the economy. Moreover, having no social safety net, they experience a greater impact on their consumer buying power. Women are also being exposed to the increased burden of unpaid domestic and care work and have less access to urgent services, including sexual and reproductive health. Women are faced with a higher chance of experiencing gender-based violence (GBV), given the state of emergency and the need for self-isolation. Vulnerable groups of women face multiple discrimination in access to economic resources, public services and decision-making. Women with disabilities also have limited access to basic services as well as limited opportunities to receive essential products during the quarantine.
- The International Labour Organization (ILO) estimates that, as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, almost 25 million jobs could be lost worldwide. In Ukraine, the gross domestic product (GDP) is expected to drop by 4 per cent, whereas if the quarantine measures were extended beyond the three-month period, it may drop by 9 per cent. (Dragon Capital). After having conducted a microsimulation of the consequences of the COVID-19 crisis, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) has projected that poverty is to increase significantly under two scenarios. Under the less severe scenario (based on recent macro projections of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine) absolute poverty is expected to rise from 27.2 per cent to 43.6 per cent, with an even greater impact on the child poverty where it will see an 18.4 per cent increase from 32.9 per cent. Under the more severe scenario, absolute poverty is expected to increase to 50.8 per cent and absolute child poverty to 58.5 per cent. In the case of the more severe scenario all improvements of poverty reduction achieved in Ukraine since the crisis of 2015, can be reversed by at least 3 years. It is estimated that 6.3 million people, 1.4 of whom children, will fall below the poverty line. The following four categories are likely to be most severely affected: households with three or more children; single parents with children; households with children under three; and single pensioners above 65 years of age.
- The recession will have a negative impact on the families and communities that rely heavily on the remittances sent by the migrants, consequently lowering demand and consumer spending, and creating economic challenges in communities of origin. Labour migrants make up a significant proportion of the population, and their contribution to the country's GDP accounts for over 10 per cent. The National Bank of Ukraine (NBU) predicted that by the end of 2020, the remittances sent to Ukraine will see a 9 per cent decrease. According to expert estimates, around one-quarter of Ukrainian migrants would have to return back, due to the reduction in employment. The majority of Ukrainians working abroad are employed in low-skilled positions, making them particularly vulnerable to the current economic downturn, with migrants that are informally unemployed at risk of exploitation. Based on previous patterns during crisis situations, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) foresees a potential increase in the number of cases of human trafficking.

- Alternative schooling arrangements during the quarantine have led to increase in reported cases of neglect and abuse faced by families and caregivers. Low-income families face difficulty concerning remote learning due to the limited possibilities to acquire the required equipment or use the free services that public schools usually provide. Since the introduction of the lockdown, more specifically, social distancing measures have prompted surge in domestic and gender-based violence cases, including against children and older people.

The humanitarian, socio-economic and human rights situation in the eastern conflict area of Ukraine

- Access to personal protective equipment (PPE), including masks and antiseptics, remains limited on both sides of the ‘contact line’.
- The COVID-19 crisis has further disrupted the limited economic activity in Eastern Ukraine. Many businesses have been forced to close or partially shut down, and the production of coal in the non-Government-controlled areas (NGCA) has decreased by one-third since the start of 2020.
- COVID-19-related restrictions impact the food security of people close to the contact line. According to the preliminary findings of an ongoing rapid market assessment in the government-controlled area (GCA), conducted by ACCESS Consortium, Norwegian Refugee Council and Save the Children, over 80 per cent of respondents reported a notable price increase for basic goods since the deterioration of the epidemiological situation in the country and region.
- Quarantine measures have exacerbated domestic and gender-based violence in Eastern Ukraine. In the GCA, the number of calls for help due to domestic violence has recently increased sharply – by 40 and 60 per cent in Donetska and Luhanska oblasts, respectively, as reported by the local authorities.
- Alongside with closure of schools, around 42,000 children, including children with disabilities, were sent back home from the boarding schools, centers for social and psychological rehabilitation and other child-care institutions without prior verification of the family conditions. Due to limited access and lack of protective equipment, social workers and child welfare and protection professionals are not able to conduct a follow up assessment and monitoring of at-risk families and families in difficult economic conditions where children were returned or are living. This, coupled with high level of stress in families and limited coping and parenting skills, in particular in Eastern Ukraine, creates a high risk for child abuse cases and for child neglect. Thus, preventive measures are of utmost criticality at this stage. On-line consultations for psycho-social, GBV and overall violence against children as well as counselling are being provided by United Nations agencies, while a National toll-free helpline on violence for children is established.
- ‘High alert’ regimes in Donetska and Luhanska oblasts (NGCA), have prohibited all movement of civilians across the ‘contact line’, since 21 March, 2020. Luhanska oblast (NGCA) allows for exceptional crossings for humanitarian reasons. With the closure of the ‘contact line’, an estimated number of more than 300,000 pensioners residing in NGCA are no longer able to access their pensions in the GCA.
- Two United Nations-organized convoys have reached Donetsk (NGCA) since the beginning of the COVID-19 crisis in March, restricted to carrying medical, hygiene, food or COVID-related items. Due to restrictive measures imposed to control the spread of COVID-19, humanitarian convoys are not permitted to transit through Donetska oblast (NGCA) to Luhanska oblast (NGCA). No United Nations-organized convoy has been able to reach Luhanska oblast (NGCA) since before the COVID-19 crisis. United Nations agencies and humanitarian partners continue to advocate for unimpeded access to conflict-affected populations on both sides of the contact line.

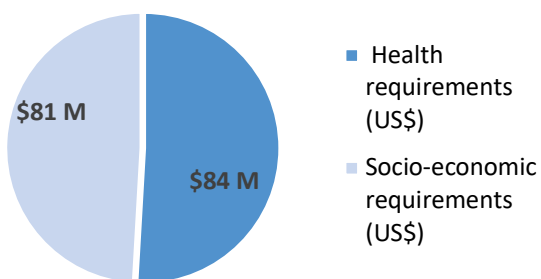
- Several organizations continue to provide temporary support such as the provision of food, essential items and temporary accommodation to people who are not able to cross the contact line. Transportation services have also been provided to people in conflict-affected areas in eastern Ukraine, particularly for those residing in isolated settlements where the already limited public transport services have been disrupted due to the COVID-19 restrictive measures.

For more information on the situation in the eastern conflict area, see the [OCHA Situation Report](#).

COVID-19 RELATED RESPONSE AND COORDINATION

- As a part of the COVID-19 Global Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP), the *United Nations in Ukraine*, has issued a [COVID-19 Emergency Response Plan \(ERP\)](#) for Ukraine that seeks to set out activities that will be undertaken by humanitarian actors in Ukraine over the course of 2020 to respond to the public health impact as well as the indirect, socio-economic impact of the epidemic. The response will cover the whole of Ukraine, including Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts that have been ravaged by armed conflict for the last six consecutive years. WHO and key partners have developed a National Strategic Preparedness and Response plan (SPRP), that is incorporated in the ERP and covers the health dimension of the crisis response and the 3 months planning period.

Financial requirements \$165 M



- In Ukraine, the overall coordination for nationwide COVID response is led by the United Nations Resident Coordinator/Humanitarian Coordinator and WHO. The United Nations Country Team oversees the United Nations nationwide response, and the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) has overall responsibility for the humanitarian response to COVID-19 in Eastern Ukraine.

- The World Bank has allocated \$35 million to fund the COVID-19 response in Ukraine, of which \$20 million will be allocated for the procurement of medical equipment and \$15 million for additional funding of medical facilities.

- The United Nations and the European Union (EU) as the two co-chairs of the ITA Group are ready to support a coordinated international effort to support national effort with regard to the multiple challenges posed by COVID. The ITA Group consists of the heads of cooperation of the development partners and international financial institutions. The Group is part of a new, three-tier ITA coordination mechanism: the United Nations and the EU together with the Vice Prime Minister will co-chair the Development Partnership Platform. The Platform will consist of Ministers, Heads of State agencies, Heads of Cooperation, the United Nations and representatives of international financial institutions, who will coordinate the international technical assistance with the strategic priorities of the Government of Ukraine.
- The United Nations' assistance in COVID-19 response provided to the Government of Ukraine is structured around four pillars: medical infrastructure procurement and related medical support; socio-economic recovery; awareness raising and communication; and crisis management policy advice.
- The United Nations agencies in Ukraine are working together to ensure the provision of medical equipment as well as personal protective equipment (PPE) for the prevention and mitigation of the COVID-19 pandemic. IOM has been procuring the essential equipment for preventing and containing the spread of

COVID-19 across borders and along the Entry/Exit Check Points at the contact line. Vulnerable groups are being supported with the provision of kits and protective supplies. WHO, UNICEF and United Nations for Refugees (UNHCR) are supplying hospitals and other health facilities with the necessary equipment and kits in Eastern Ukraine. Procurement of PPE and sanitary kits by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) for the Departments of Patrol Police and the main departments of the National Police in Donetsk (GCA), Luhansk (GCA) and Zaporizhzhia oblasts is in progress.

- In Ukraine, the assessment of medical needs is led by WHO and UNDP. Rapid needs assessment of the level of preparedness and the impact of quarantine measures were conducted by UNHCR jointly with non-governmental organizations (NGO) partners in 119 isolated and conflict-affected settlements along the contact line. The availability of water treatment chemicals in water treatment facilities is being monitored by UNICEF.
- In terms of socio-economic recovery, United Nations agencies are conducting assessment and analysis of COVID-19 impact, closely following how the pandemic is affecting MSMEs and providing practical support to those effected during the pandemic. As a part of the United Nations Recovery and Peacebuilding Programme, implemented by UNDP, the business grants contest was launched, which aimed to provide income-generating opportunities to local residents and IDPs who lost their jobs due to pandemic. IOM is providing support to micro-enterprises run by former victims of trafficking.
- Many United Nations agencies in Ukraine are involved in communication activities, both for the general public and as a part of informational support to the Government. UNICEF, WHO and UNDP are leading informational campaigns on protective measures against the virus and ways to prevent a potential spread. Global OHCHR is launching a communication campaign to promote human rights in the context of the pandemic. UN Women is targeting its campaigns to promote a rapid gender analysis of the needs of women and men from vulnerable groups and to provide solutions to girls and women affected by the crisis. In its campaigns, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) addresses the needs of protection of pregnant women and mothers. In addition to campaigns focused on the well-being of children during the pandemic, UNICEF launched a digital awareness-raising campaign on COVID-19 for populations residing in the NGCAs. Many United Nations agencies (WHO, IOM, UNHCR and UNDP) are distributing informational, educational and communication materials in Eastern Ukraine on COVID-19.
- Constant monitoring of the human rights impact of the pandemic and relevant restrictive measures on both sides of the contact line and in Crimea, and well as well as of monitoring of the compliance of COVID-19-related legislation with international human rights standards are being conducted by United Nations agencies (OHCHR, UNHCR, UNDP).

EXTERNAL PUBLICATIONS/ DEVELOPMENTS

How to protect yourself from COVID-19 in the workplace.

<https://fakty.com.ua/ua/ukraine/20200413-yak-vberegtytsya-vid-koronavirusu-na-roboti/>

How to talk to children about the coronavirus and organize your day during quarantine.

<https://fakty.com.ua/ua/ukraine/20200413-yak-govoryty-z-ditmy-pro-koronavirus-ta-organizuvaty-den-na-karantyni/>

How to deal with stress during the pandemic.

<https://fakty.com.ua/ua/lifestyle/zdorove/20200415-yak-spravlyatys-zi-stresom-pid-chas-pandemiyi-koronavirusu/>

Healthcare workers are at the frontline of the response – Osnat Lubrani

<https://nv.ua/ukr/ukraine/events/oon-u-zv-yazku-z-poshirennyam-koronavirusu-napisala-list-dlya-ukrajinciv-novini-ukrajini-50079622.html>

The importance of staying home during religious holidays.

<https://life.pravda.com.ua/columns/2020/04/17/240644/>

WHO Representative on the need to scale up testing and protecting doctors.

<https://www.kyivpost.com/ukraine-politics/who-envoy-to-ukraine-scale-up-testing-distance-adjust-to-new-normal.html>

WHO and UNICEF call to continue planned vaccinations despite the COVID-19 crisis.

<https://www.facebook.com/UNICEFUkraine/videos/2991849927603320/>

How to operate your business during quarantine (video blog)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z2aj39ZS9d4>

7 million unplanned pregnancies due to COVID-19 pandemic – forecast by UNFPA

<https://fakty.com.ua/ua/lifestyle/zdorove/20200428-7-mln-nezaplanyh-vagitnostej-cherez-covid-19-nevtishnyj-prognoz-fondu-oon/>

How COVID-19 will impact agricultural situation in the world:

<https://fakty.com.ua/ua/svit/20200424-yak-covid-19-vplyne-na-prodovolstvo-i-silke-gospodarstvo-u-sviti/>

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*List of used sources is available on request