

Ukraine: protection of civilians in armed conflict

November 2023 update



Date: 11 December 2023

Summary

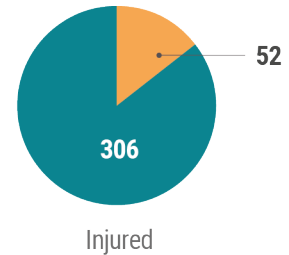
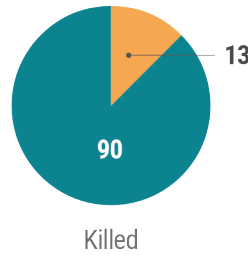
- The number of civilian casualties remained high in November with at least **461** civilians killed or injured. The number of civilian casualties in November was **24 per cent lower** than in October 2023, and **37 per cent lower** than in November 2022, continuing a trend of gradual decline in 2023.
- Most civilian casualties (**86 per cent**) and damage to educational and medical facilities (**76 per cent**) continued to occur in Government-controlled territory.
- While the majority of civilian casualties continued to occur in areas near the frontline by shelling and multiple-launch rocket systems (MLRS), there were frequent attempts in November to attack targets in populated areas in government-controlled territory **across the country**, particularly with loitering munitions. Most of these attacks did not cause significant civilian casualties or damage because they were intercepted. However, continued attacks in populated areas, including with other types of weapons, could lead to increased civilian harm.

Civilian casualties November 2023¹

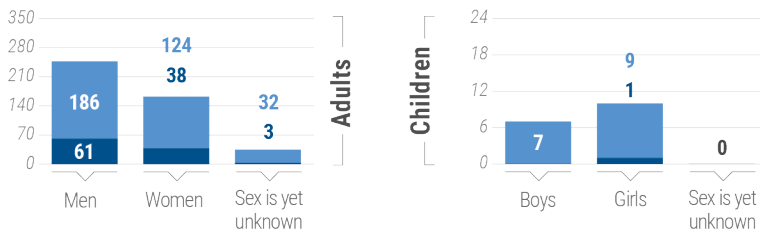
Total civilian casualties **461** [**103** Killed **358** Injured]

1. By territory where casualties occurred

█ controlled by the Government
█ occupied by the Russian Federation



2. By age and sex



3. By type of weapon/incident



Damage to educational and medical facilities November 2023

█ Medical facilities
█ Educational facilities

Destroyed: **1** Medical, **3** Educational
 Damaged: **3** Medical, **14** Educational



Significant incidents

- On 7 November, an MLRS attack struck an administrative building in the occupied city of Donetsk, killing three women and one man, and injuring two women and one man.
- On 13 November, an MLRS attack hit residential areas of Government-controlled Kherson city, including the territory of Kherson Regional Clinical Hospital, killing two women and one man, a female medical worker among them, and injuring nine civilians.
- On 15 November, a missile hit a residential building in Government-controlled Selydove, Donetsk oblast, killing four civilians, including a family that had been displaced earlier in the war, a 59-year-old man and an 85-year-old woman, and injuring three civilians.

"Looking at the destruction of my mother's house, I think sometimes I'd rather be killed than rebuild it all."

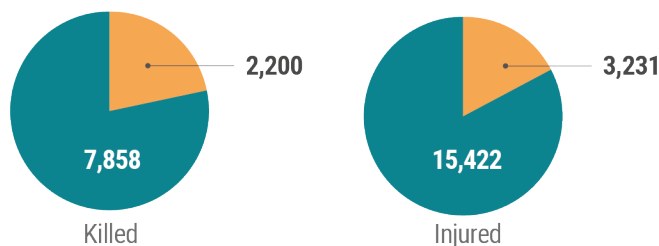
- Son of an older woman whose house was almost destroyed by a missile strike in November.

Civilian casualties since 24 February 2022⁴

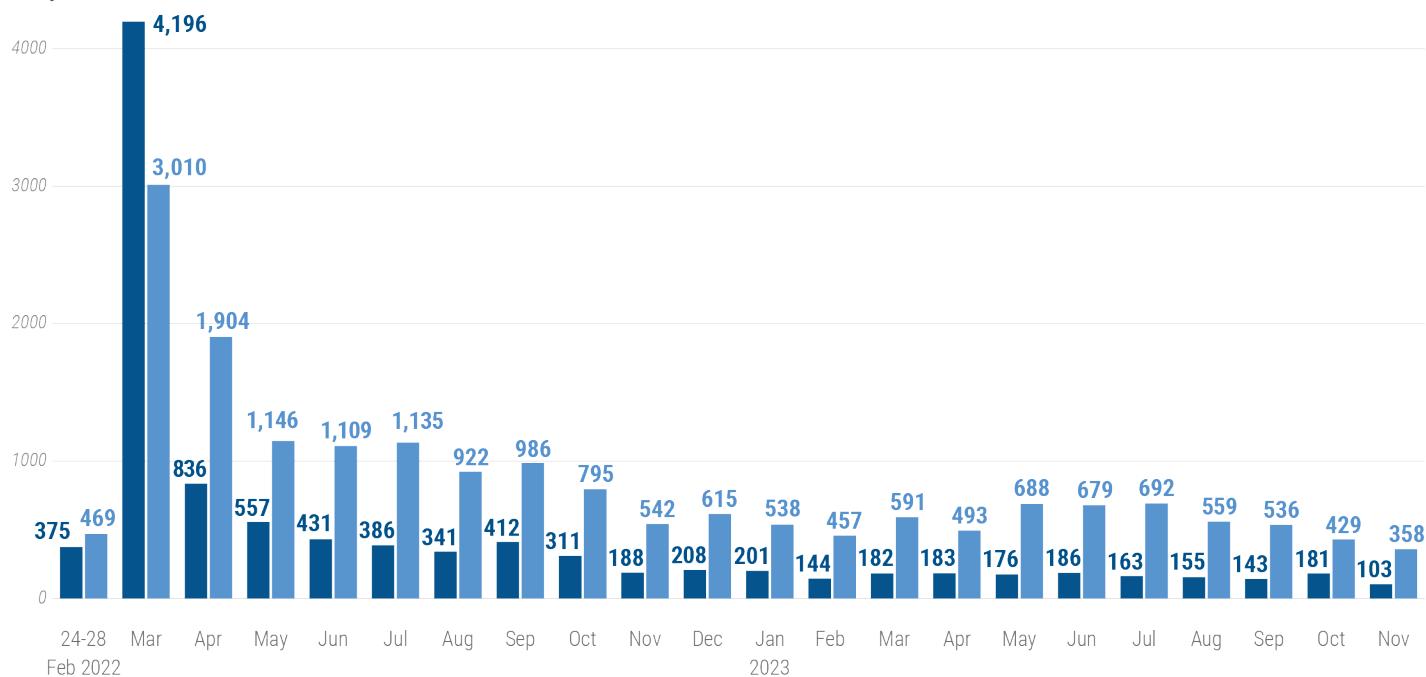
Total civilian casualties **28,711** { **10,058** Killed **18,653** Injured

1. By territory where casualties occurred

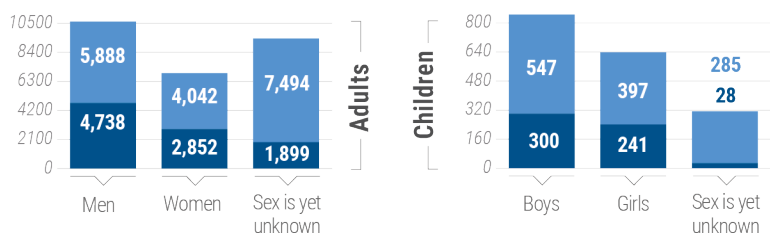
■ controlled by the Government
■ occupied by the Russian Federation



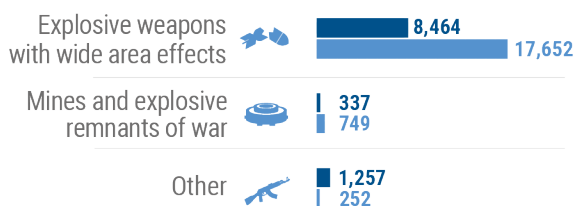
2. By month



3. By age and sex



4. By type of weapon/incident

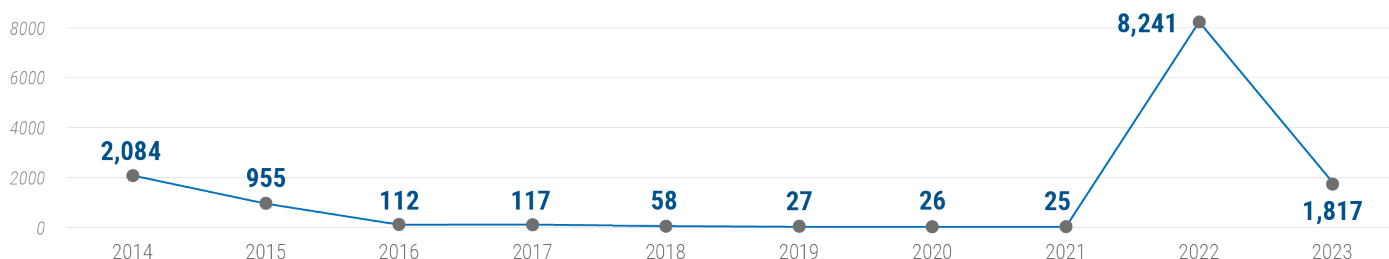


Damage to educational and medical facilities since 24 February 2022

■ Medical facilities
■ Educational facilities

Destroyed: **53** Medical, **213** Educational
 Damaged: **371** Medical, **715** Educational

Civilian casualties (killed) since 2014





The UN Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine

OHCHR has documented civilian casualties in Ukraine since 2014. The numbers are based on information that the UN Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine (HRMMU) has collected through interviews with victims and their relatives; witnesses; analysis of corroborating material confidentially shared with HRMMU; official records; open-source documents, photo and video materials; forensic records and reports; criminal investigation materials; court documents; reports by international and national non-governmental organisations; public reports by law enforcement and military actors; data from medical facilities

and local authorities. All sources and information are assessed for their relevance and credibility and cross-checked against other information. In some instances, corroboration may take time. As a result, civilian casualty figures may be revised as more information becomes available. Statistics presented in the current update are based on individual civilian casualty records where the “reasonable grounds to believe” standard of proof was met, namely where, based on a body of verified information, an ordinarily prudent observer would have reasonable grounds to believe that the casualty took place as described.

¹ The actual number might be higher as some reports are still pending confirmation.

² Incidents in which civilians were killed or injured by shelling from artillery, tanks and multiple launch rocket systems (MLRS), by cruise and ballistic missiles (air, sea and land-based), and by air strikes, including loitering munitions and other unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs).

³ Incidents in which civilians were killed or injured by fire from small arms and light weapons, including as a result of crossfire, sniper fire, escalation of force incidents (cases in which military opened fire on civilians whom they perceived as a threat), and wilful killings, as well as road accidents involving either military vehicles or civilian vehicles driven by military in the area of hostilities.

⁴ OHCHR believes that the actual figures are considerably higher, as many reports, particularly from certain locations and from the immediate period after 24 February 2022, are still pending corroboration. This concerns, for example, Mariupol (Donetsk region), Lysychansk, Popasna, and Sievierodonetsk (Luhansk region), where there were allegations of high civilian casualties and damage to civilian infrastructure. An increase in total figures in this update compared with the previous update is not only due to casualties and damage to civilian infrastructure that occurred in the reporting period as OHCHR also continues to corroborate cases that occurred before the reporting period.