

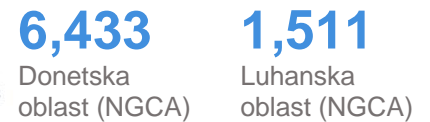


This report is a consolidation of United Nations informational products, drafted by the Office of the United Nations Resident Coordinator in Ukraine.

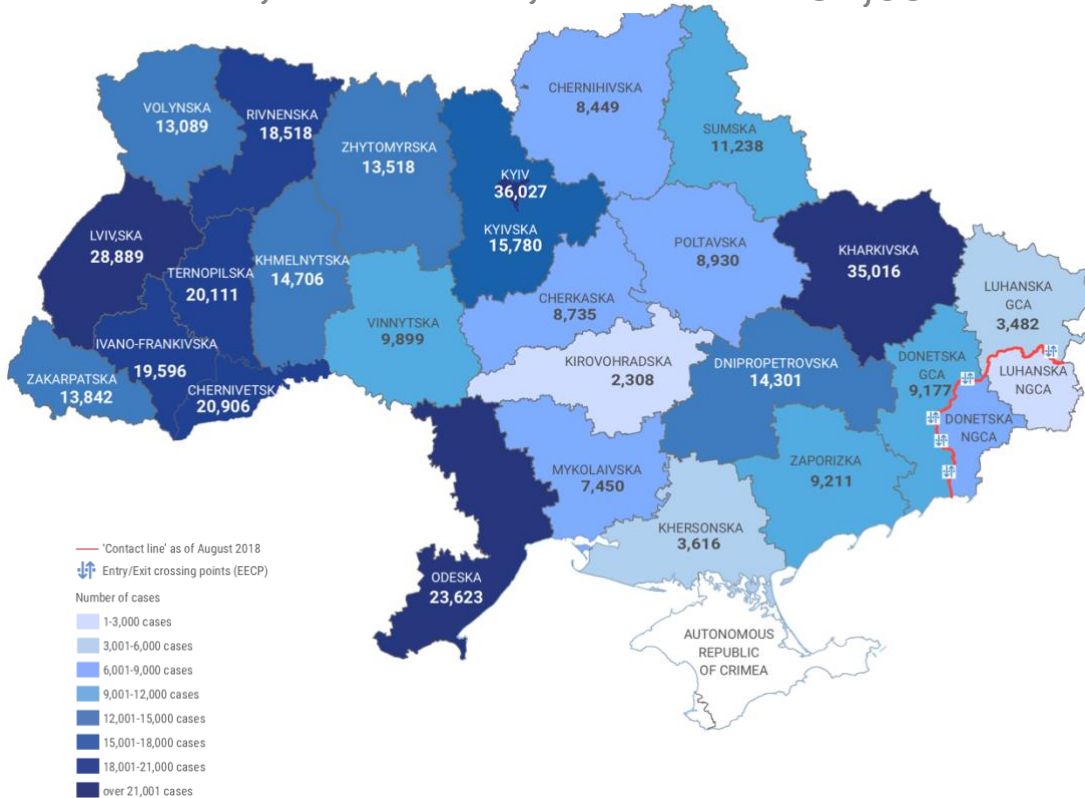
HIGHLIGHTS



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: Ministry of Health, Ukraine and entities in control of certain areas of Donetsk and Luhansk regions of Ukraine.



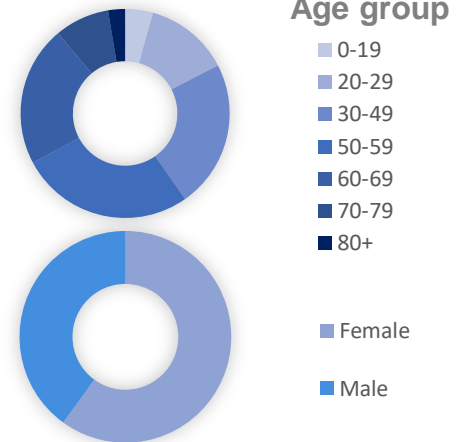
— 'Contact line' as of August 2018

🚧 Entry/Exit crossing points (EECP)

Number of cases

- 1-3,000 cases
- 3,001-6,000 cases
- 6,001-9,000 cases
- 9,001-12,000 cases
- 12,001-15,000 cases
- 15,001-18,000 cases
- 18,001-21,000 cases
- over 21,001 cases

The boundaries and names shown, and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.



- As the number of new confirmed COVID-19 cases continues to grow, the Government of Ukraine has extended quarantine restrictions in the country until 31 December 2020 and made changes to the criteria for adaptive quarantine. The decision limits the opening hours of restaurants and other catering establishments, and also toughens the restriction on holding mass events.
- The division of the country into the quarantine zones was reviewed and subsequent regulations were introduced. The "red" zone will now include the following regional (oblast) centers: Zhytomyr, Uzhhorod, Ivano-Frankivsk, Mykolayiv, Poltava, Sumy, Rivne, Kharkiv, Khmelnytsky, Chernihiv and Chernivtsi. According to data provided by the Ministry of Health of Ukraine, currently, all regions in Ukraine are not ready to ease quarantine measures.

**19%**  
Adult hospitalization rate  
for COVID-19

**3.2 M**  
COVID-19 PCR tests  
conducted

**1.5 M**  
Internally displaced  
people

## SITUATION OVERVIEW

### The impact of the crisis on the socio-economic situation

- In face of the tightening quarantine measures felt across the country due to the increased number of COVID-19 cases, Ukrainian economy is still undergoing a recovery process. According to the Ministry for Development of Economy, Trade and Agriculture amidst the continued adaptation to quarantine measures, almost all economic activities showed a slowdown in decline, while some industries have even shown growth.
- The reduced coverage of social security payments for single parents, following the Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers, is already having a negative impact, according to United Nations Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine (HRMMU) monitoring. This is most strongly being felt by persons who are already in a vulnerable situation, notably Roma and internally displaced persons, in many cases, women. This situation is greatly worsened by the economic impact of the pandemic, which has led to the reduction of economic activity and job losses, notably amongst these groups. LGBTI persons also faced increased unemployment due to the economic impact on the service sector in which they were employed.
- Groups in vulnerable situations continue to suffer disproportionately from the pandemic. In May 2020, the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine (MESU) decided to reduce the number of children residing in boarding institutions by sending ‘home’ those who have at least one parent without checking whether their parents were still residing at their homes and without prior assessment of their living conditions, with estimates that at least 2,200 children may have been affected by this measure. In August, MESU issued a new decree, which allows for the return of children to boarding institutions. Furthermore, disruption in the functioning of courts in June-August 2020 had a negative impact on orphans, whose adoption processes were delayed.
- Only schools in red zone remain subject to closure. Schools in all other regions of Ukraine were encouraged to take an earlier holiday break, beginning October 15. The ratio of the confirmed COVID-19 cases in children is around 6% from overall rate, while the ratio of hospitalization of confirmed COVID cases among children is around 10%, opposed to 19% among adults.
- The right to health of women and girls continues to be disproportionately affected by COVID-19. For example, women represent the majority of health care workers, who are disproportionately affected by COVID-19 (representing 6.5 per cent of all reported COVID-19 cases in Ukraine as of 28 October 2020).
- 277 COVID-19 cases had been detected in penitentiary facilities, an increase of 143 cases since last month, with the majority of those infected among penitentiary staff. One prisoner, one detainee, and one member of penitentiary staff have died. Even though the number of tests carried out remains small, the daily amount of cases has increased in comparison with the previous reporting period. Data on COVID-19 cases provided by the State is not disaggregated by sex, age, or disability, preventing the response from being linked to the specific needs of individuals in detention in the context of COVID-19.
- The administration of justice continues to be affected by the pandemic. During the week of 19-25 September, two local courts in Khmelnytskyi and Volyn regions temporarily suspended operations because some of the employees tested positive for COVID-19. Dnipropetrovskyi District Administrative Court also introduced severe quarantine restrictions as two employees tested positive. It has also been reported that access to court hearings for journalists continues to be restricted, with courts citing quarantine restrictions as the reason.
- In Kyiv, concerns remain about the insufficient capacity of municipal shelters for homeless persons, lack of access to basic services and violence, including by police, against homeless people. HRMMU also documented the killing of two homeless persons during the reporting period.

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

- The overall humanitarian situation in eastern Ukraine is characterized by a relatively calm conflict-related pattern. Following the introduction of the agreement on the additional measures to strengthen the ceasefire on 27 July, the number of ceasefire violations remained comparatively low. Most of the armed attacks continued being of a provocative nature, nevertheless few of them resulted in military casualties. In September, the UNHCR-led Shelter/NFI Cluster reported that 15 civilian houses had been damaged or destroyed as a result of the conflict. These were the first damages recorded by the Cluster since the renewed commitment to the ceasefire came into effect in July.
- In mid-October, as part of measures to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 in NGCA, the entities in control of certain areas of Donetsk and Luhansk region of Ukraine extended autumn school holidays until 25 October. All higher education institutions have been instructed to fully switch to a distance learning modality until further notice. For the duration of school holidays, Luhanska oblast (NGCA) also shut down cinemas, clubs, and other entertainment facilities.
- On 5 October, the entities in control of certain areas of Luhansk region of Ukraine signed a decree which envisages additional restrictions for persons arriving from countries with an “unfavourable COVID-19 situation” to Luhansk (NGCA). These travelers will be placed in observation facilities for 14 days, except for those with a negative PCR test. In Donetsk (NGCA), since the start of October, the entity responsible for authorising residents of NGCA to cross the “contact line” introduced remote working modalities. Therefore, all applications are now submitted electronically. Following the new requirements, the UNHCR teams that regularly monitor crossings at the Novotroitske/Olenivka EECF observed a decrease in the number of persons crossing in both directions. Presumably, this trend is linked to the decrease in crossing by the elderly population that is having difficulty with the online application process, caused by their low digital literacy or no access to electronic devices.
- Oshchadbank extended further the validity of its banking cards until 1 January 2021. This is the third such extension since March, when the COVID-19 restrictions severely impacted freedom of movement across the ‘contact line’ preventing thousands of pensioners in NGCA from travelling to GCA side in order to access their pensions.
- Only two of the five official crossing points allow people to cross the ‘contact line’ (‘Stanytsia Luhanska’ in Luhanska oblast and ‘Novotroitske’ in Donetska oblast). On 13 October, the Joint Forces Operation (JFO) Command announced that they would temporarily close the ‘Stanytsia Luhanska’ entry/exit crossing point between 15 and 31 October due to the increase in prevalence of COVID-19 in Luhanska oblast. Luhanska oblast (NGCA) made the similar announcement on 16 October. To a large extent, crossings have been limited to those who have been granted humanitarian exemptions negotiated by the humanitarian community. In addition, people have been allowed to cross based on the pre-approved lists issued in NGCA.
- Since 19 October, the entire Luhanska oblast (GCA) is placed in the “red zone”. The full occupancy of hospital beds for patients diagnosed with COVID-19 remains the key concern in this area. Newly introduced restrictions are mainly linked to the opening hours of cafes and restaurants, which are now required to close at 10 pm. Transportation and movement within the region remain largely unaffected. In Donetska oblast, several locations in Sloviansk raion have been also designated as “red”, while the biggest towns of Sloviansk and Kramatorsk, remain in the “orange zone”. As reported by the Donetsk Oblast administration, 90 per cent of hospital beds for COVID-19 patients have been already filled in the region.

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

## THE UNITED NATIONS IN UKRAINE – COVID-19-RELATED RESPONSE AND COORDINATION

In Ukraine, the overall coordination for nationwide COVID-19 response is led by the United Nations Resident Coordinator/Humanitarian Coordinator and the World Health Organization (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.

### Medical procurement and related support

- During September, WHO delivered oxygen concentrators to Ukraine that will enable more than 44 frontline hospitals to help patients recover from COVID-19 under the “Solidarity for Health initiative”. WHO is supporting additional oblast laboratory centres (OLCs) in strengthening COVID-19 surveillance. To ensure uninterrupted and timely COVID-19 cases and contacts data entry, IT equipment has been procured to assist the OLCs.
- UNICEF has distributed electronic vouchers for hygiene supplies to 167 health facilities in Donetsk and Luhansk GCA, ranging from rural ambulatories to urban (rayon and city) hospitals, received e-vouchers to cover three months' worth of hygiene supplies. Early October, UNICEF launched the distribution of e-vouchers for social institutions, covering 107 social institutions (including 46 small group homes). UNHCR distributed 123 bicycles to social workers who provide care to persons with specific needs in Luhansk NGCA.
- UNICEF continued the distribution of hygiene supplies to the Roma population of Zakarpattya and installed 75 handwashing stations in Roma settlements and schools given their limited access to water complementing the provision of hygiene kits and hygiene promotion activities. In addition, UNICEF provided institutional hygiene kits to central hospitals covering the needs of an estimated 400 patients and medical staff. UNICEF continued C4D interventions on raising awareness on hygiene practices among Roma's children living in Zakarpattya region.
- In partnership with the private sector (Unilever), UNICEF has completed the distribution of floor and surface disinfectant among 30 communities participating in the Child Friendly City initiative. It is estimated that over 100,000 children enrolled in 600 schools will benefit from this intervention.

### Communication and awareness-raising activities

- WHO continues to lead the UN System in updating the Country Preparedness and Response Plan (CPRP) based on the evolving situation, needs and supports Ukraine in being represented on the COVID-19 Partners Platform.
- Since August, WHO has been conducting an awareness campaign based on key findings of its COVID-19 Behavioural Insights study. The campaign is the part of WHO ongoing support to Ministry of Health (MoH) and the Center for Public Health of the MoH (UPHC). Throughout the campaign, information materials to inform the public about appropriate behaviour during COVID-19 were placed in the most COVID-19 affected areas of Ukraine.
- UNICEF produced and launched the second wave of its COVID-19 behavioural campaign, based on the survey insights. The campaign visuals are displayed across Ukraine, through billboards, city lights, and advertising platforms. UNICEF continued producing informational and educational content and materials to raise awareness about COVID-19 among different groups, including caregivers, healthcare professionals, healthcare managers and youth.

- UNICEF together with Ministry of Education continued Back to School Campaign on promoting safe practices in schools and adapted learning practices. UNICEF Ukraine intensified online outreach to healthcare workers and general public by conducting a series of online webinars and media interviews with UNICEF health experts and various NGOs, professional medical associations.
- The roll-out of the first telephone volunteering system in Ukraine continued in response to the growing loneliness and isolation caused by the pandemic. 800 more young people joined the project to provide telephone support to people who feel lonely, including older adults, children and adults with disabilities, etc.
- To promote the inclusion of human rights into journalism curriculum and to raise awareness among future journalists about the impact of COVID-19 on vulnerable groups and on how the pandemic has changed people's perception of human rights, UNDP conducted the Human Rights Media Festival for journalism students. Students and professors of journalism from 21 Universities joined this initiative and participated in a 10 days event.

### **Crisis Management Support and Capacity Building**

- To ensure maintenance of key services related to non-communicable diseases during COVID-19 and continued, WHO continues providing support to MoH and Parliamentary Health Committee. WHO also continued its support to the Government in establishing an operational nationwide contact tracing strategy. Actions included a desk review of existing national normative documents, guides and regulations on contact tracing in Ukraine and developing guides and regulatory documents as well as providing an SOP on contact tracing.
- Eight remote expert visits with Odesa, Kharkiv, Volyn, Chernigiv, Mykolaiv, Zaporizhaya, Kherson and Poltava AIDS Centers and ART-sites were conducted. WHO supported development of profiles for each of the regions to assess impact of COVID-19 to HIV services. WHO provided detailed recommendations on maintaining of HIV services during COVID-19 pandemic.
- During September WHO carried out assessment of immunology and cytology units of forensic laboratories in Luhansk (GCA). Based on the assessment, the list of critical supplies for procurement was prepared. Additionally, WHO conducted the regular mentoring visits to Luhansk (NGCA) laboratories and a mission in Donetsk region to assess health problems and the current situation of COVID-19 response in the area.
- WHO conducted laboratory and online training for healthcare workers from 30 hospitals took part in each session that covered the following topics: WHO also performed in September a needs assessment of intensive care, along with assessment visits to laboratories and one on-site workshop on operational procedures for medical.
- A series of briefings for the MoH and national focal points on COVID-19 vaccination response were conducted. In tandem, country preparation for the COVID-19 vaccination response has been initiated. According to the latest technical review on immunization coverage conducted by WHO covering until 1 September 2020, Ukraine has maintained 2019 vaccine coverage rates for most antigens provided to children during the first year of life.



## EXTERNAL PUBLICATIONS/DEVELOPMENTS

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UNHCR supports pensioners on both sides of the contact line in Ukraine (in [English](#) and [Ukrainian](#))

How to deal with stress during the coronavirus pandemic: Five Steps to Psychological Self-Help (in [English](#) and [Ukrainian](#))

Women veterans in Ukraine strengthen their movement amid the COVID-19 pandemic –

<https://eca.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2020/10/women-veterans-in-ukraine-strengthen-their-movement-amid-the-covid19-pandemic>

Digital campaign challenges Ukrainians to rethink gender-based violence during a pandemic –

<https://eca.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2020/9/digital-campaign-challenges-ukrainians-to-rethink-gender-based-violence>

UNHCR's representatives were shown the construction of the EECF in Zolote and Shchastia –  
<https://dnews.dn.ua/news/756189>

Slowing the spread of COVID-19 could break the chain of its transmission –

<https://coronavirus.rbc.ua/rus/comment/zamedlit-rasprostranenie-covid-19-razryv-1601979373.html>

WHO explained how to slow down the spread of coronavirus in Ukraine –

<https://news.rbc.ua/rus/society/voz-obyasnili-zamedlit-rasprostranenie-koronavirusa-1601970787.html>

Ukraine may receive a vaccine against coronavirus in the second half of 2021, WHO –

<https://news.rbc.ua/rus/politics/ukraina-poluchit-vaktsinu-koronavirusa-vtoroy-1601969653.html>

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\*A list of used sources is available upon request.