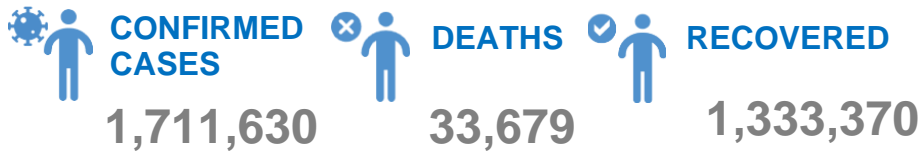


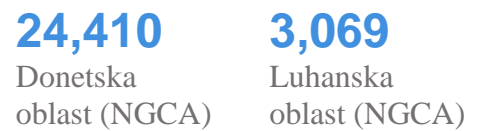
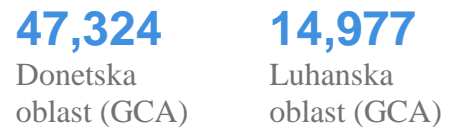


This report is a consolidation of United Nations informational products, drafted by the Office of the United Nations Resident Coordinator in Ukraine.

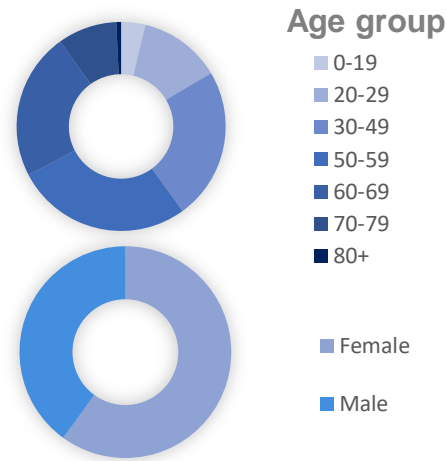
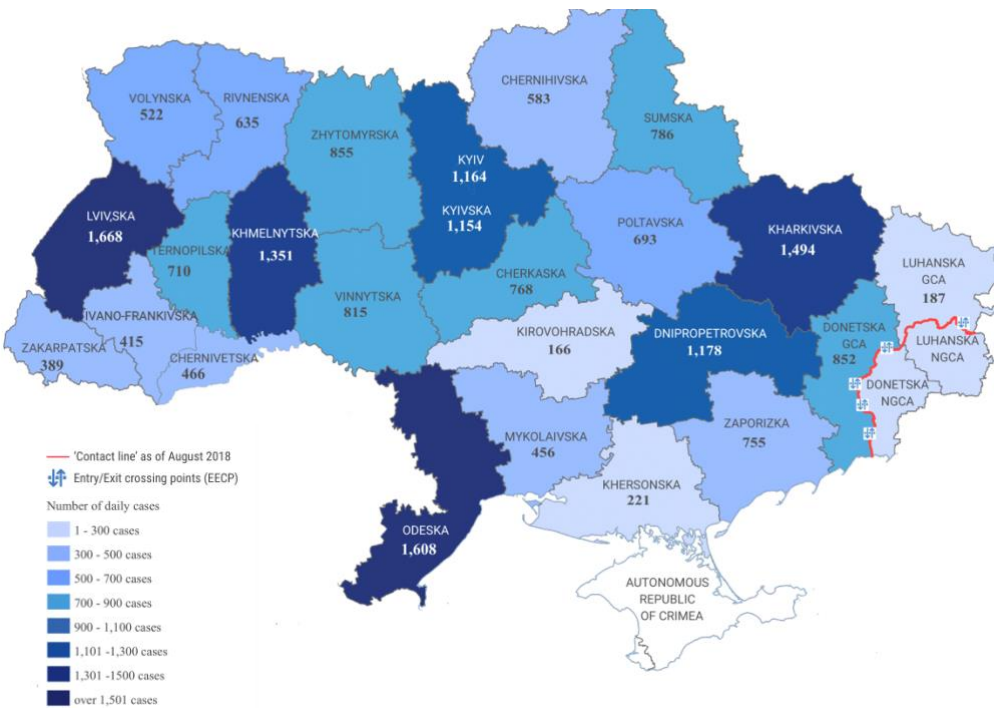
HIGHLIGHTS



Eastern Ukraine total 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.



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

- On 2 April, there were 19,893 new cases of COVID-19, marking the highest number of cases since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. From 31 March to 2 April, Ukraine had three daily records of COVID-19-related deaths in a row (407, 421 and 433, respectively). From the beginning of the COVID-19 vaccination campaign in Ukraine, 267,833 persons have received the first dose.
- Beginning 20 March, the capital of Ukraine, Kyiv, is under lockdown. The quarantine will be strengthened further, from 5 April until 16 April, closing down all schools and kindergartens, as well as public transport, including the subway with the exception of employees of critical infrastructure sectors.

128,727
Daily COVID-19 tests conducted

267,833
People vaccinated

19,893
Daily COVID-19 confirmed cases

SITUATION OVERVIEW

The impact of the crisis on the socio-economic situation

- More than a year has passed since the first quarantine measures were introduced in Ukraine. The current daily COVID-19 rate is at a record high since the start of the pandemic. The previous one was recorded on 26 March and amounted to 18,132 new cases. The largest numbers of new cases have been recorded in Lviv oblast, Odesa oblast, Kharkiv oblast, Khmelnytskyi oblast and Dnipropetrovsk oblast.
- On March 22, the second stage of vaccination has started in Ukraine, which primarily covers people with a higher risk of infection, beginning with family doctors. In addition to the mobile teams, vaccination points were deployed. According to the Ministry of Health, three million people are to be vaccinated during the first and second stage of the vaccination campaign. Increased levels of COVID-19 infection amongst healthcare workers remain concern and may affect access for patients to non-COVID-19 related medical care.
- **Research** on disinformation narratives related to COVID-19 in Ukrainian online media and social networks has been conducted for the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). The study found that false narratives decrease people's willingness to comply with public health guidance (wearing masks, maintaining social distancing, etc.) and make them less likely to recommend vaccination to vulnerable people in their social circle. Moreover, an uncontrolled infodemic has the potential to increase exposure to the COVID-19 disease significantly.
- Economic developments over January-March are mostly negative, reflecting a high base of comparison (the economy did well in early 2020 before the pandemic), quarantine restrictions and unstable external demand for Ukraine's exports. Yet, the overall pandemic's effect on macroeconomic stability may end up much milder than expected. Ukraine's economy contracted by 4.0% in 2020, which was less than forecasted by the government and other organisations. The World Bank has also revised its 2021 GDP growth outlook upwards from 3.0% to 3.8%, which implies a rapid V-type recovery.
- There were also positive developments on the labour market in 2020. The real wage growth was relatively high (7.4%), driven, in part, by the government's decision to raise the minimum wage. The gender pay gap also narrowed from 21.9% to 18.6%. At the same time, regional disparities in the unemployment rate increased, reflecting heavy job losses in western oblasts as well as in Luhansk and Donetsk oblasts, which continue reporting the highest unemployment rates. The national unemployment rate went up from 8.2% to 9.5% (9.8% for men).
- As of 2 April 2021, 1,957 COVID-19 cases had been detected in penitentiary facilities (affecting 1,423 penitentiary staff, 195 medical personnel, 120 prisoners and 219 detainees). Since the start of the pandemic, eight individuals had died (three members of penitentiary staff, one member of medical personnel, three detainees and one prisoner). Between 2 March- 2 April, 503 new cases were detected, which constitutes a more than twofold increase in comparison with the previous month.

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

- To control the spread of COVID-19, the entry/exit crossing points (EECPs) along the contact line were closed on 22 March 2020. During the year since there has been a **97 per cent reduction** in civilian crossings compared to the previous 12 months. As 95 per cent of crossings were in Luhanska oblast, the closure has been most severe on Donetska oblast. The closure has severed connectivity between people on either side of the contact line who regularly crossed to visit relatives, recover pensions and access administrative and health services. Medical needs are currently among the top-three reasons making people cross the contact line.

- Freedom of movement across the contact line in eastern Ukraine continued to be restricted. At the Stanytsia Luhansk entry-exit crossing point (EECP), HRMMU observed the work of the first free COVID-19 express testing facility, which can process up to 50 tests a day, below the demand at the EECP where up to 1,000 civilians cross to/from the non-government controlled areas (NGCA) on a daily basis. In the Donetsk region, the Novotroitske/Olenivka EECP is only open twice a week due to the restrictions in place; medical personnel there informed HRMMU that everyone arriving from NGCA could voluntarily take a free express COVID-19 test.
- To curb the spread of the virus, in early October, both Luhanska and Donetska oblasts (NGCA) introduced remote learning modalities in higher educational facilities. Later, mixed learning modalities (regular and online classes) were extended to primary and secondary schools. Donetska oblast (NGCA) also extended e-learning modalities to vocational and professional training schools. Schools in NGCA were closed for a spring break until 29 March, which Luhanska oblast (NGCA) later extended until 3 April due to the increase in COVID-19 cases. Following the break, schools are to resume full-time education, using safety standards and space requirements in classrooms.

On 1 March, UNHCR and OCHA delivered the first humanitarian convoy through the EECP Shchastia (in Luhanska oblast), which opened in November 2020 but remains non-operational for civilian crossing. The convoy transferred 133 tons of shelter materials and other relief items belonging to UNHCR and UNICEF to Luhansk NGCA.

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

- WHO continues supporting installation, calibration and launching of equipment for high-throughput RT-PCR in five laboratories designated as diagnostic hubs. Supporting the building of sequencing capacity in Ukraine, the Odesa Oblast Laboratory Center and Mechnikov Research Anti-Plague Institute of the Ministry of Health of Ukraine were visited during March to assess the capacity of the laboratories to conduct Next Generation Sequencing.
- Four cartridges for the GEM3500 haematology analyser were donated to the three healthcare facilities, representing 600 tests each. WHO also supported the installation and calibration of the high-throughput equipment at the Kyiv City Laboratory Center. The laboratory staff was consulted on how to optimise workflow using the installed equipment. The equipment, purchased through a loan from the World Bank to the Ministry of Health, is intended to automate and significantly increase the throughput of COVID-19 testing PCR laboratories. Within the project, it is planned to equip the five largest laboratory hubs in the country.
- During March, International Organization for Migration (IOM) delivered an additional batch of PPEs to the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine (SBGS) in both Luhansk and Donetsk regions: 40,000 masks and 30,000 respirators of two types were delivered to the SBGS detachments to be distributed among 5 EECPs in the ECA.

- IOM procured and distributed 50 hygiene kits to 11 social institutions and further 250 hygiene kits to the 26 medical facilities that provide health care services for people with COVID-19 (Donetska oblast, NGCA). Additionally, 71 hygiene kits and 418 bedridden kits were distributed to medical and social institutions in Donetska and Luhanska oblast GCA.

Socio-economic recovery

- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) procured devices and Wi-Fi routers and provided broadband Internet coverage for communities and local schools to enable children from low-income families living in remote settlements in Kherson oblast to have better access to online education. The project also organised a series of training sessions for children and parents on the use of devices and software for online education. Meanwhile, teachers and local authorities took part in a learning session to strengthen their knowledge in order to ensure the provision of online education services. As a result, their awareness of online education methods and tools was assessed to have increased by more than 50 per cent.
- Comprehensive nationwide [research](#) on the impact of COVID-19 on young women and men in the areas of education, employment, healthy environment, participation and inclusion, peace, security and social cohesion was conducted by UNDP at the request of the Ministry of Youth and Sports of Ukraine. Around 46% of respondents confirmed that they felt anxiety, stress and apathy during the quarantine.

Awareness raising and crisis communication

- WHO assisted the Ministry of Health to prepare leaflets for healthcare workers about the AstraZeneca/Oxford COVID-19 and Pfizer/BioNTech vaccines by printing and disseminating leaflets about the former for more than 500,000 people.
- On 19 March, in light of the vulnerabilities faced by homeless people during the pandemic, HRMMU held a webinar to introduce international experience in assessing the needs of homeless persons and provide a platform for dialogue, bringing together over 130 participants from State, regional and local authorities, civil society organisations and research institutes. The event focused on the importance of having good data for policymaking and service design, definitions of homelessness and key approaches to measuring homelessness in Europe, with the aim of developing policies and services to improve the human rights of homeless people.
- A series of webinars on vaccination-related issues has been launched by UNDP under the Strengthening the Community Resilience in Kherson oblast project.

Crisis Management Support and Capacity Building

- During March, WHO conducted a technical support visit to the COVID-19 designated hospital in Kyiv and Cherkassy infectious disease hospital. WHO provided a set of infection prevention control (IPC) SOPs, conducted trainings on cleaning, hand hygiene, provided recommendations on IPC programme strengthening and provided equipment and supplies for IPC programme strengthening.
- The Health Cluster in partnership with WHO, Première Urgence Internationale (PUI), Médecins du Monde (MdM), UNICEF and Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) completed data collection as part of the Rapid Hospital Readiness and Capacity Assessment in twelve COVID-19 designated hospitals and health facilities in Donetsk (GCA).
- UNDP continues providing online courses on SDGs learning for informing the communities about the challenges that have a worldwide impact (COVID-19 pandemic, global geostrategic tensions, climate change, the crisis of confidence in the international arena, the negative effects of digital technology), and the ways to minimise them by following sustainable development path and achieving SDGs. Almost 9,000 users (61%

women) successfully completed the course and obtained a certificate. In addition, the ELearning4SD project conducted 19 webinars on sustainable development where COVID-19 pandemic issues were among the top topics. More than 1,206 participants from 19 regions of Ukraine attended the webinars.

- UNDP and United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), together with national and international partners, opened a day centre for social and psychological assistance to survivors of violence in Kreminna, Luhansk oblast, to protect people who have experienced domestic and gender-based violence and whose life or health are under threat.
- During March, WHO conducted a series of webinars on acute kidney failure and acute rheumatic fever in patients with COVID-19 and renal replacement therapy for healthcare workers in Donetsk and Luhansk NGCA. A webinar on PPE rationale and use during the COVID-19 pandemic for hospitals in Luhansk and Donetsk NGCA were conducted.
- From 16-17 March, thirteen specialists of the Public Health Center of Ukraine participated in the workshop “Use of RT-PCR Single Nucleotide Polymorphism (SNP) assays to detect SARS-CoV-2 variants” organised by the WHO Regional Office for Europe with support of the Country Office. Fifteen PCR SNP kits were also donated to the UPHC by WHO.
- WHO also conducted an assessment and mentoring in laboratory quality management and biosafety at the private PCR laboratory in Mariupol.
- During March, WHO, with the UPHC and USG PEPFAR CDC, convened a monthly site-level online meeting with HIV service providers, for the Poltava and Kyiv Region, where COVID-19 impact and mitigation data were collected and presented.
- WHO, in close collaboration with the Ministry of Health and its Public Health Center and other national stakeholders and international partners, conducted the first coordination and microplanning workshop for regional coordinators on COVID-19 vaccination response. Subsequently, four three-day trainings, including a one-day online session and two-day offline sessions for mobile and outreach teams, were organised and delivered. As the key outcome of the training series, each region and Kyiv City have been equipped with two fully trained mobile and outreach teams.
- From 25 February to 4 March WHO, by request and in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and its Public Health Center and State Experts' Center, and the National Health Service of Ukraine, organised and delivered three 3-day trainings for regional trainers on COVID-19 vaccination that further support to regions in scaling-up vaccination services including mobile and outreach teams and fixed vaccination points.

PUBLICATIONS/DEVELOPMENTS

COVID-19: Occupational health and safety for health workers in **English** and **Ukrainian**.

Phoenix rising: Supporting a Ukrainian Green Deal in a post-pandemic world to build forward better in **English** and **Ukrainian**.

On 11 March, OHCHR's **31st report on the human rights situation in Ukraine** was published, covering the period 1 August 2020 to 31 January 2021. The report covers key human rights developments, including the impact of COVID-19 on the human rights situation and economic and social rights of groups in vulnerable situations. The report also made recommendations to relevant stakeholders.

Events:

On 6 April, HRMMU launches its Briefing Note on the Impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on healthcare workers in Ukraine. The launch will be live-streamed on [HRMMU's Facebook page](#).

On 6 April, UNDP to present the study "Women and Men in Leadership Positions in Ukraine."
<https://www.ua.undp.org/content/ukraine/uk/home/get-involved/undp-to-present-the-study-women-and-men-in-leadership-positions-.html>

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*A list of used sources is available upon request.