



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

HIGHLIGHTS



CONFIRMED
CASES

2,097,024



DEATHS

45,451



RECOVERED

1,711,709

Eastern Ukraine COVID-19
total confirmed cases

81,994

Donetska
oblast (GCA)

23,988

Luhanska
oblast (GCA)

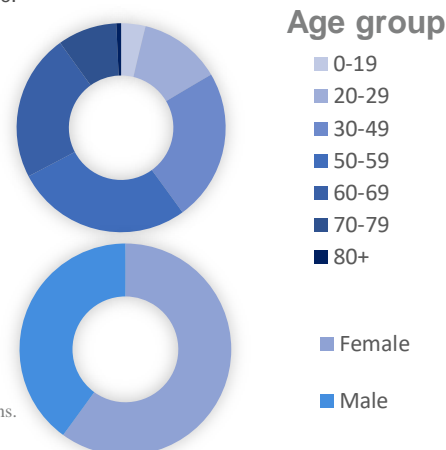
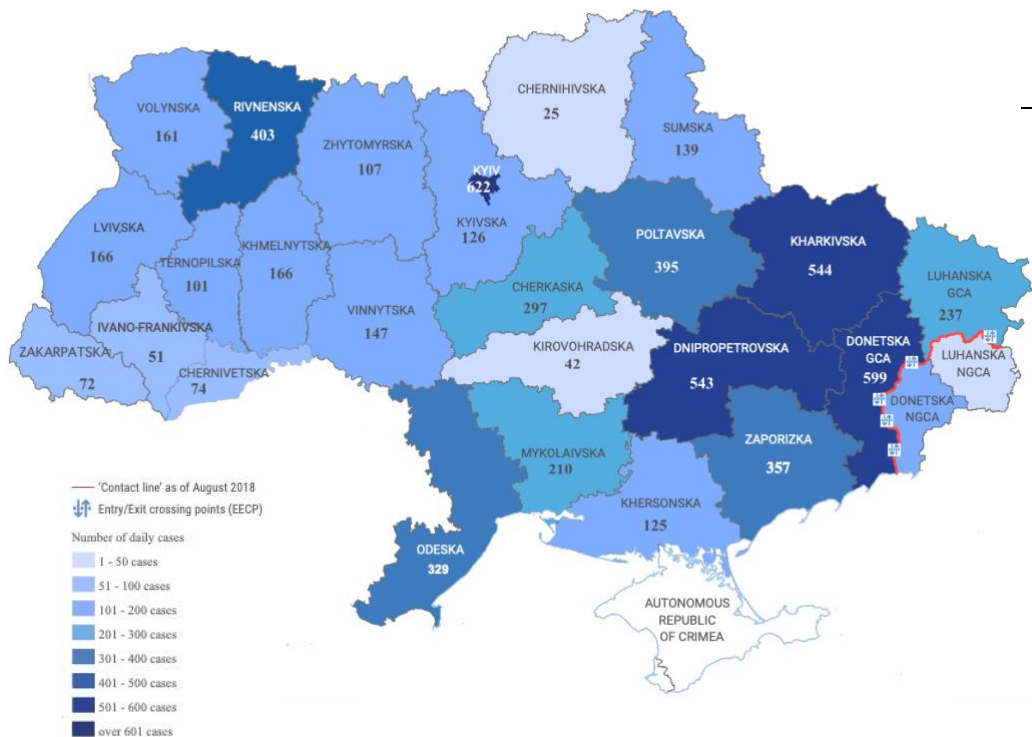
33,860

Donetska
oblast (NGCA)

4,347

Luhanska
oblast (NGCA)

*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.

- The current daily COVID-19 rate has subsided. On May 6, there were 6,038 new cases. Over the last 24 hours, the largest number of confirmed cases was registered in Donetska (599), Kharkivska (544), Dnipropetrovska (543) and Rivnenska (403) oblasts and the city of Kyiv (622). The daily number of recoveries continues to exceed the daily number of new cases.
- Adaptive quarantine remained in place and was extended until June 30, 2021. From the beginning of the COVID-19 vaccination campaign in Ukraine, 783,812 persons have received the first dose, and 416 were vaccinated with the second dose of a COVID-19 jab.

72,373

Daily COVID-19 tests
conducted

783,812

People vaccinated

6,038

Daily COVID-19
confirmed cases

SITUATION OVERVIEW

The impact of the crisis on the socio-economic situation

- Following the surge in cases during the beginning of April, Ukrainian Health Minister Maksym Stepanov has said Ukraine passed the peak of the third wave of the coronavirus pandemic mid-month and has begun to emerge from it.
- As of May 6, the “yellow” zone includes Kyiv city, Vinnytsia, Dnipropetrovsk, Zakarpattia, Ivano-Frankivsk, Kyiv, Lviv, Mykolaiv, Odesa, Rivne, Kherson, Chernivtsi, Kharkiv, Khmelnytskyi, and Chernihiv. Other regions are in the “orange” zone. The State Commission on Technogenic and Environmental Safety and Emergencies withdrew two out of three regions currently in the “red” zone- Zaporizhzhia and Poltava. Currently, Sumy is the only region that remains in the “red” zone.
- In order to reduce COVID-19 risks in the country, the new law was recently signed by the Ukrainian President that will allow school children not to take part in the final state attestation. Students may voluntarily take part in the state final examination, particularly in the form of an independent external assessment.
- The COVID-19 pandemic was identified as one of the main obstacles in the effective implementation of the work of women human rights defenders (WHRDs) by a group of activists discussing COVID-19 related challenges. In particular, women human rights defenders from rural and remote areas often do not have access to the equipment needed to participate in online events and online communication with partners. In addition, due to the pandemic, some donors had switched to short-term projects and decreased financing of the usual projects implemented by women human rights defenders, which negatively impacted the financial sustainability of their organisations. The exclusion of Roma women organisations from the general groups and coalitions of WHRDs was mentioned as a challenge for ensuring participatory decision-making processes, including those on mitigating the negative consequences of the pandemic.
- Increased rates for communal services in 2020 and stricter rules for obtaining subsidies have resulted in deteriorated payment discipline for utility bills during the autumn-winter heating season. The Government is also taking steps to better target social assistance: according to the data of the Ministry of Social Policy, currently, some 20% of Ukrainian households receive housing and communal subsidies. Overall, the share of all types of social assistance in household incomes went up to 33.6% in 2020 from 31.8% in 2019, reflecting greater dependence of the population on the state during the crisis.
- Household incomes are recovering with real wages growth of 9.5% year-over-year (YoY) in March 2021. March inflation accelerated by 8.5% YoY, largely reflecting higher food prices, in turn, driven by higher external demand and prices for agricultural commodities. The April lockdown is likely to have slowed down economic recovery by affecting household incomes and passenger transportation. The latter remains suppressed and stands at two-thirds of the pre-pandemic levels.
- On April 19, the Government launched a one-time payment (UAH 8,000, approx. \$218) for individual entrepreneurs and employees who risk losing their income due to the COVID-19 related restrictions imposed in February-March 2021 in 'red zones'. As of April 23, more than 273,000 applicants submitted their requests for the one-time payment via the 'Diia' Governmental portal. Although on April 1, the High Council of Justice adopted "Recommendations for Courts Regarding Safe Work Under Quarantine Conditions", which provide effective guidelines for how courts can continue to ensure the right to a fair trial during the pandemic, concerns persist that funding for basic preventive measures (masks, hand sanitiser, disinfection of court premises) is lacking. The guidelines include the United Nations Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine (HRMMU) recommendations on the right to a public trial, including access of journalists to court hearings and broadcasting of hearings, and to a trial without undue delay.

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

- In eastern Ukraine (GCA), the COVID-19 cases double approximately every three and a half months in Donetsk oblast and every four months in Luhanska oblast. From the beginning of the COVID-19 vaccination campaign in Ukraine, 33,799 persons have received the first dose in Donetsk oblast (GCA) and 15,927 in Luhanska oblast (GCA). Both oblasts remained in the orange epidemiological zone during April.
- Educational institutions continued operating at a limited capacity in government-controlled eastern Ukraine. In April, in Donetsk oblast (GCA), 21 territorial hromadas have switched to online learning modality due to the spread of COVID-19. During the month, most schools in Luhanska oblast have returned to in-person classes, while some territorial hromadas had to be transferred to distance learning. Schools in the non-government-controlled areas (NGCA) resumed full-time education, using safety standards and space requirements in classrooms.
- To control the spread of COVID-19, the entry-exit crossing points (EECPs) along the contact line were closed on March 22 2020. Freedom of movement across the contact line in eastern Ukraine continued to be restricted.
- Novotroitske/Olenivka and Stanytsia Luhanska remained the only functional entry-exit crossing points (EECPs) available for civilians to cross the contact line. The planned opening of Shchastia and Zolote EECPs in the Luhansk region did not happen, and the other three EECPs in the Donetsk region also remained closed by the entities in control of certain areas of the Donetsk region of Ukraine. EECP Novotroitske operated only twice a week. The residence registration requirement for crossing EECPs imposed by the entities in control of certain areas of Donetsk and Luhansk regions of Ukraine, continued to limit the ability of civilians to visit their families, access social security guarantees, education, employment, and healthcare across the contact line.
- Although the Government-funded medical unit at Stanytsia Luhanska EECP continued to administer free-of-charge express tests, medical staff could only process up to 10 per cent of civilians crossing per day. The other 90 per cent of civilians, mostly older women, were obliged to pass tests in private laboratories, paying an average of UAH 1,250 (\$45) per test.
- According to the HRMMU, local authorities failed to provide transportation to the most isolated villages (Lopaskyne, Lobacheve, Syze, Bolotene, Krymske) in the Luhansk region after the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) suspended its free social transportation in December 2020.
- The absence of essential services, such as basic healthcare and ambulance services, remains a major concern that negatively affects the right to health of residents in at least seven contact-line communities in the Luhansk region and ten communities in the Donetsk region. Despite at least 28 out of the 100 residents in Hladosove and Travneve, contact line villages in the Donetsk region, showing symptoms of COVID-19 and two persons dying of COVID-19 (one man and one woman) in April, no local ambulance has visited the isolated villages because of the bad road conditions and lack of security guarantees.
- The unstable and unpredictable security situation persisted in the eastern conflict area of Ukraine during April. While last year saw the lowest level of civilian casualties and attacks on civilian infrastructure for the entire conflict period, the recent return to active fighting has already caused damages not only to the residential areas but to critical civilian infrastructure.

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 April, Ukraine received two batches of COVID-19 vaccines through the COVAX initiative. 117,000 doses of Pfizer and 367,200 doses of AstraZeneca vaccines were delivered on April 16 and 23, respectively. The supply of vaccines from various manufacturers under COVAX will continue, and it is expected that by the end of 2021, these supplies will allow to cover up to 20% of the population of Ukraine with vaccinations.
- Ten mobile rapid diagnostic cases have been delivered to six territorial communities in Kherson Oblast by United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). From now on, around 78,000 local residents will be able to monitor their health and receive medical service close to where they live, thereby reducing the risk of contracting COVID-19.
- The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) assessed the dry and cold chain capacity with regards to the COVID-19 vaccines at the national (UKRVACTSINA) and regional levels. The logistics gaps were identified, which formed the Cold Chain Equipment (CCE) application and deployment plan. UNICEF also organised a dedicated "COVID-19 vaccine supplies, logistics and cold chain" training for personnel responsible for logistics and physical receipt of vaccines in all regions within the framework of the "first wave" for a vaccination with the use of vaccines Pfizer/BioNTech and AstraZeneca. In addition, a "COVID-19 Vaccine Cold Chain (+2°C - 8°C): Supplies and Logistics" training was also conducted to ensure effective and safe teamwork of the staff responsible for the logistics of vaccines, and compliance with the requirements for supply, logistics and cold chain. Participants from all 24 Oblasts and the city of Kyiv were trained.
- UNICEF, jointly with WHO, conducted zoom webinars for health professionals on topics related to IPC, cold chain and overall effective communication for COVID vaccination, reaching on average 15,000 people.

Socio-economic recovery

- Four more communities in the east (Kurakhove, Mariupol in Donetsk Oblast, Novoaidar and Hirske in Luhansk Oblast) with a total population of around 540,000 now have better access to administrative services with the mobile ASCs transferred by UNDP in April 2021. Now the network of mobile ASCs in eastern Ukraine includes 10 vehicles allowing to provide more than 70 types of services to the population in remote locations.
- UNICEF-supported National toll-free Child Helpline is providing online consultations to children, caregivers and youth. During the reporting period, 20 032 beneficiaries (15097 children and 4935 adults) received consultations, out of which, 81 % are girls/women, including 700 with disabilities. Out of all calls, 45% were related to violence against children, including bullying cases; 35% are related to mental health and psychosocial wellbeing of children, including a few cases of self-harm and suicidal attempts; 15% are related to relationships in the family; 0,02% are related to COVID-19 vaccination. The number of reported cases of physical and sexual violence increased by 10%. Among all calls, more than 14,000 were referred to other service providers, namely to Social Protection Centers for family, children and youth, Police and/or Free Legal Aid.
- In January-March, UNICEF and youth organisation "Teenergizer" supported 1,442 adolescents with peer emotional support through an online platform. To provide these counselling sessions, UNICEF trained 19 psychology students on the first psychological aid and supporting adolescents in the time of the pandemic.

Awareness raising and crisis communication

- A series of webinars on vaccination-related issues have been launched by UNDP under the Strengthening the Community Resilience in Kherson Oblast project. More than 400 people have joined e-sessions on vaccination through two webinars conducted as of May 6 2021. Additionally, more than 79,950 people were reached through a digital information campaign dedicated to "vaccine advocacy".
- As part of its broader programme designed to address the escalating infodemic, UNICEF launched a national campaign to increase public awareness about the problem of rumours and misinformation about COVID-19 and vaccination.
- To build trust in COVID-19 vaccines and address various misinformation, rumours and fakes in this regard, UNICEF also launched a localised social media activation to identify, curate and promote stories and testimonies of people receiving their first vaccination shots in Ukraine and abroad by merging the global #vaccinated campaign and country-specific #ялікарявакцинуюсь hashtags.
- WHO, together with the Ministry of Health of Ukraine (MOH), the National Health Service of Ukraine and the Center for Public Health, is conducting a series of webinars on updating regulatory documentation on the use of rapid tests for coronavirus antigen SARS-CoV-2.

Crisis Management Support and Capacity Building

- UNICEF, in partnership with the Center for Sustainable Peace and Democratic Development (SeeD), the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine (MoES) and its affiliates and with the involvement of UNICEF RO, developed and rolled out an interactive Guide "Schools in Covid-19 Conditions: Preparedness for Adversities". This interactive digital solution does not only allow to assess of the needs of educational institutions for further assistance but also provides school Principals and faculty staff with practical advice on school operations with particular regard to the most vulnerable children.
- The day centre for psycho-social assistance to survivors of violence in the Vuhledar territorial community (Donetsk Oblast) and a 24/7 shelter in Popasna (Luhansk Oblast) have been opened to protect persons who have experienced domestic and gender-based violence. The newly opened centres carry out daily preventive work with people facing challenging life conditions due to gender-based or domestic violence and provide comprehensive support to beneficiaries, including correctional and rehabilitation services and psychological assistance to GBV survivors.

PUBLICATIONS/DEVELOPMENTS

On April 6, HRMMU launched its **Briefing Note** on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on healthcare workers in Ukraine.

UNDP supported the Ombudsperson's Office in Ukraine in developing the **special report on human rights observance during the COVID-19 pandemic** in places where people are deprived of their liberty.

Roundtable discussion: **Women Economic Empowerment as a Pathway to Gender Equality and Resilience to Crisis**

Study: Understanding of masculinity and gender equality in the security sector of Ukraine in **English** and **Ukrainian**.

Ukraine Common Country Analysis was published in **English**. Ukraine's 2021 Common Country Analysis (CCA) has been designed to reflect the United Nations integrated, forward-looking and evidence-based joint analysis of the context for sustainable development in the country and its progress towards achieving the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The report “The Changing Nature of Work” is the result of a broad horizon scanning by six UNDP Accelerator Labs across Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States, including Ukraine. They reveal 30 signals that shape the “where, who, how, and why” of the changing nature of work. From the impact of COVID-19 on the workforce to new work models and entrepreneurial ecosystems, the authors explore opportunities and threats, as well as solutions from local contexts that can be scaled up into positive answers to the challenges people around the world are facing.

On April 6, UNDP released a report **Women and Men in Leadership Positions in Ukraine: 2017-2020**

UN in Ukraine launched a **Policy Paper on Social Protection in Ukraine** in **English** and **Ukrainian**.

Interfax-Ukraine: **Ensuring fairness for all in the justice system through free legal aid**

Denmark, Ukraine and UNDP: Close friends and partners

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*A list of used sources is available upon request.