



This report is a consolidation of United Nations informational products, drafted by the Office of the United Nations Resident Coordinator in Ukraine. The next report will be issued around 29 July 2020.

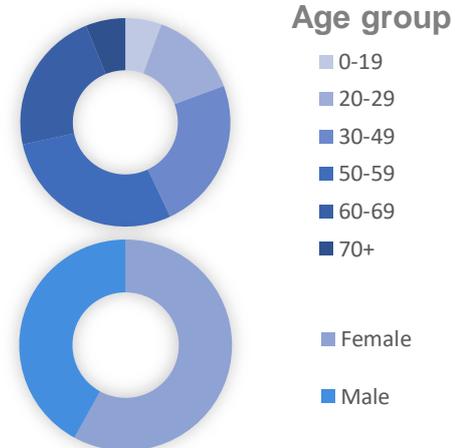
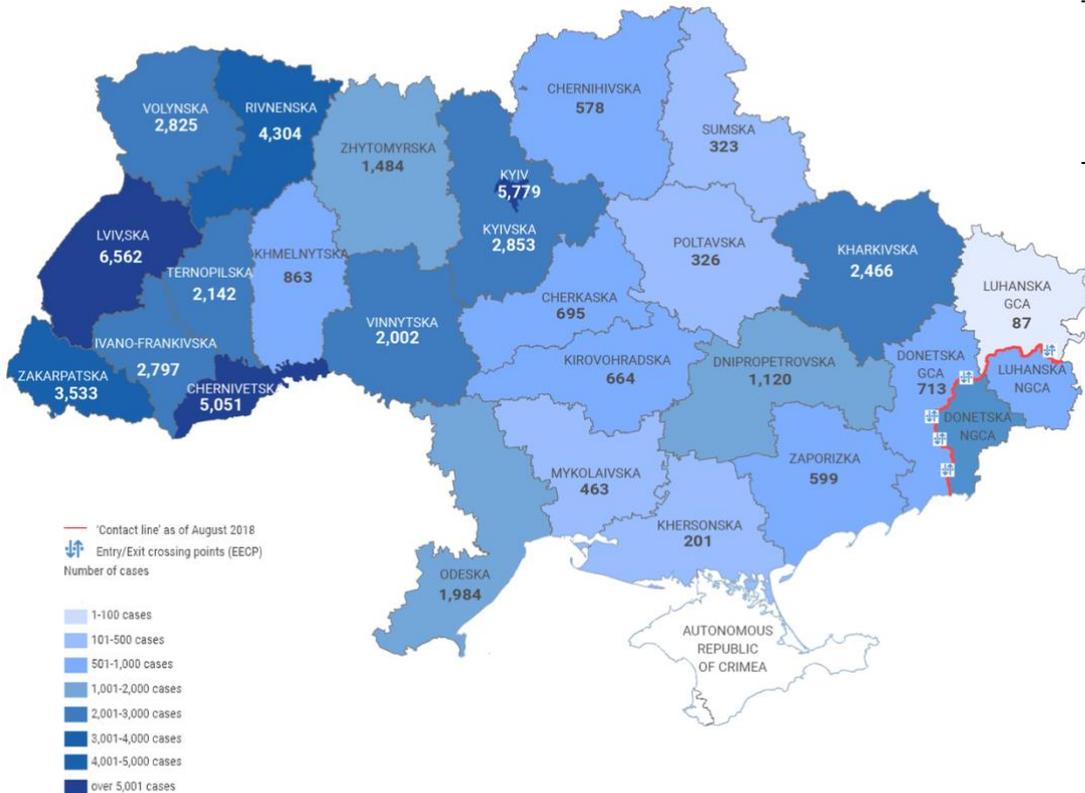
HIGHLIGHTS



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: 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.

- Due to the epidemiological situation in Ukraine, the adaptive quarantine has been prolonged until July 31. According to the Ministry of Health, currently, Kyiv and eight Oblasts are not ready for further relaxation of the quarantine.
- On Wednesday, 15 July, Ukraine will [present online](#) its first Voluntary National Review (VNR) at the [High-Level Political Forum \(HLPF\)](#). The VNR is an important tool for countries to reflect on their progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), as well as on challenges and opportunities. Over the previous several months, the United Nations has provided assistance to the Government of Ukraine in the preparation of the document. It is important that the VNR is used by the Government of Ukraine in elaboration of strategic documents and policies and the UN will keep supporting the country on its way to achieve the Agenda 2030.

**745,313**  
Tested for COVID-19

**21 M\***  
Affected people

**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 counties. 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

- In parallel with quarantine restrictions that are being gradually lifted in Ukraine, albeit with variations due to regional specifics, the number of reported COVID-19 cases has continued to grow over the reporting period. It is partially explained by greater numbers of personal tests being carried out every day, but it is notable that the number of reported COVID-19 cases has been growing among healthcare workers. The overall number of fatalities has generally not increased, however, and remains fairly constant.
- As per the recent extension, the nationwide quarantine with its adaptive modality will be in effect until 31 July. In the meantime, it will be determined by the Government of Ukraine whether it should be extended again. Regional Commissions on Technogenic and Environmental Safety and Emergencies will, therefore, be able to tighten measures depending on the epidemiological situation in their region, based upon the four public health criteria.
- [The COVID-19: Ukraine Compounded Vulnerability Index](#) has been developed by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). It analyses the impact of the coronavirus pandemic on each of the Oblasts in Ukraine, and has helped to identify the most affected regions in terms of different socio-economic vulnerabilities. The overall vulnerability is led by 4 Oblast in western Ukraine: Chernivtsi, Volyn, Chernihiv, and Zakarpattia. High Economic vulnerability is typical for the majority of the Ukrainian Oblasts, and the highest are mostly observed in Western Ukraine. As the Government gradually eases the restrictions, it has been able to mitigate economic hardship for some sectors in the economy affected by the quarantine measures.
- The socio-economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has deepened the challenges faced by small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). In Ukraine, SMEs dominate the economy in terms of the number of entities, employment and value added. According to the State Statistics Service of Ukraine, in 2018 the country had 446 large enterprises and 1,839,147 SMEs, which constituted over 90 per cent of all operating enterprises. 80 per cent of all SMEs were self-employed individuals (individual private entrepreneurs). In 2018, the SME sector in Ukraine accounted for almost 80 per cent of all employment and generated close to 20 per cent of the GDP.
- The measures necessary to contain the virus through the quarantine, including travel restrictions and lockdown of cities, have resulted in a significant reduction in demand and supply. Since the lockdown, the Ukrainian Chamber of Commerce and Industry estimated that 700,000 SMEs have closed. One-third of business owners (mainly micro-entrepreneurs) have claimed around 90 per cent drop in revenue since the quarantine and have laid off up to 50% of staff. Women in Ukraine are particularly vulnerable as they mainly work in, or run micro and small businesses in industries that have been affected by COVID-19 the most, such as beauty, hospitality, tourism and leisure industries.
- The "New Money" programme that was proposed by the Government, is expected to provide loans to the total of UAH 5 billion for micro, small and medium-sized businesses, at a 0% interest rate. To do this, the state guarantees 80% of the body of the loan to the bank. In June, the Parliament approved the bill that allows to redirect the unused money from the Stabilization Fund, earmarked for combatting the COVID-19 crisis, to road construction works. The measure is expected to create many jobs for Ukrainians: 12,600 in the road construction industry and more than 50,400 in allied industries.
- Among Ukrainians, issues related to paying back loans, utility bills or growing food prices remain to be a top concern. The major barrier for economic activities was the cancellation of the bus transportations – rural residents simply could not access their work places or sell their products. Now there is another issue – some

transport companies cannot find enough bus drivers, since many left or found another job. Those who had cars were more protected and secured. Those who do not have cars, sometimes had to walk many kilometres to reach the city. Therefore, it is not only cities that suffered; the impact on rural residents has also been serious.

- Social protection to ensure that people and groups in vulnerable situations enjoy an adequate standard of living remained lacking. However, on 17 June, the Cabinet of Ministers, through Resolution No. 491, amended Resolution No. 505 (of 1 October 2019) to extend, for the duration of the quarantine, the period, for which internally displaced people (IDPs) have access to financial support.
- The Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine (HRMMU) reports that homeless people's access to healthcare, including to COVID-19 testing/treatment and personal protective equipment (PPE)/sanitizers, has been further limited due to the pandemic. Because of the quarantine, homeless persons have lost whatever limited access they had to shelter, food, water, hygiene and sources of livelihood. Social services for homeless people are distributed across Ukraine unevenly, because they depend on funding by local authorities. Oblast and local authorities report a lack of funding to open shelters for homeless people, while some do not see the need to do so.
- With the introduction of quarantine measures, the human rights situation of Roma has deteriorated. They lacked access to adequate healthcare, water and sanitation, food and education even before the COVID-19 pandemic, and the response measures by the Government could make it difficult to contain future outbreaks in Roma settlements. Many Roma have also lost their income due to closures of their places of employment.
- The situation of senior citizens in institutions in Ukraine since late March remains a concern. Several facilities reported shortages of PPE and sanitizers and a lack of COVID-19 tests. The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) /HRMMU is also concerned about the lack of access to health care for senior citizens who have non-COVID-19 health issues, and the lack of public funding for food for staff who stay in the facilities for extended hours in order to decrease the residents' potential exposure to COVID-19. Public and private long-term facilities for senior citizens have not been provided with regulations to combat the pandemic.
- Persons with disabilities face increased barriers in accessing healthcare, food and education, and an insufficient supply of social services to meet their growing needs during the quarantine. OHCHR/HRMMU is also concerned that persons with mental disabilities who are currently held in psychiatric hospitals risk losing access to housing, food, healthcare and social care because of significant funding cuts planned for psychiatric facilities, and lack of alternative support, within the overall reform of the health system.
- The COVID-19 situation in places of detention remains concerning. Hence, on 17 June, the Cabinet of Ministers allocated UAH 23 million (approx. \$860 000) to the Ministry of Justice from the special 'COVID-19 fund' to purchase personal protective equipment and medical equipment for COVID-19 treatment, and to cover payments to medical personnel who treat COVID-19 patients in specialized detention facilities (Resolution No.493).

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

- Donetsk and Luhansk Oblasts have been significantly affected by the conflict in Eastern Ukraine. Before the introduction of the COVID-19 quarantine measures, the socio-economic situation and labour market in both areas had been heavily impacted by the conflict. Since the start of the quarantine period the State Employment Service (SES) data indicate a drastic increase in unemployment rates.
- At the end of April 2020, the number of unemployed registered with the SES in Donetsk and Luhansk Oblasts increased by 68 per cent and 34 per cent, respectively, compared to the end of April 2019. At the same time, the number of vacancies available in April 2020 in both Oblasts decreased by 64 per cent and 14 per cent, respectively, compared to the same period in 2019.
- The unemployment rates in the Donetsk and Luhansk Oblasts increased from 9 per cent and 8 per cent, respectively, in 2014 to 14 per cent and 15 per cent in 2019. Compared to the other Oblasts, these rates were the highest, which testifies to the higher vulnerability of these conflict-affected regions to unemployment.
- The International Organization for Migration (IOM) express survey of micro-enterprises in eastern Ukraine, conducted in May, showed that nearly a half of the respondents reported that their business was no longer functioning, which is nearly a double rise compared to the previous survey, conducted in late March. They asserted that the most common reasons for their business closing were the quarantine restrictions imposed by the authorities (89%).
- According to Ukraine Humanitarian Fund January 2020 Needs Assessment Analysis almost all older women and men rely on their pensions as the main source of livelihood. The elderly population in Donetsk and Luhansk GCAs spend the larger part of their income on medicines (62.13%) and food (19.31%), and the quarantine measures have impacted their ability to obtain the required supplies and forced more older people into debt.
- The overall humanitarian situation in Eastern Ukraine remains similar to previous weeks, with a tense security situation and relative de-escalation of the situation reported. Civilians and social infrastructure continued to be impacted by the constant violation of the ceasefire, with three incidents recorded on June 19 at a waste treatment facility alone.
- The crossing points between the government and non-government-controlled areas have gradually reopened starting on 10 June, after the Ukrainian government announced the opening of two entry/exit crossing points (EECPs) on 2 June. However, the freedom of movement remains restricted with specific criteria to be met by people in order to cross, in addition to observing two-week long isolation. Luhansk Oblast (NGCA) allowed people to cross who have residency in Luhansk Oblast (NGCA) and those with humanitarian reasons on a regular basis: currently, about 800 people cross the 'contact line' daily by pre-approved lists from NGCA. The opening of the EECPs is expected to allow hundreds of young people from NGCA to take university entrance exams, and allow pensioners and other persons to claim their social benefits.
- The United Nations has continued to move humanitarian assistance across the contact line throughout the quarantine period, but restrictions on trucks transiting Donetsk Oblast (NGCA) to Luhansk Oblast (NGCA) has meant that all humanitarian assistance to Luhansk Oblast (NGCA) must be hand-carried across the pedestrian crossing at Stanytsia Luhanska. While the easing of restrictions has allowed UN staff to cross the line of contact into NGCA since early June, UN staff must undergo 14 days of self-isolation upon arrival and entry/exit must be coordinated and approved days in advance.

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.

### Needs Assessment

- The WHO rapid health facility capacity assessment in Donetsk and Luhansk GCAs to respond to COVID-19 is in progress.
- The United Nations International Children's Fund (UNICEF) has completed the Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) Assessment in 9 selected healthcare facilities of Donetsk and Luhansk GCAs. In addition, individual sessions with health professionals were conducted to train 112 doctors and nurses in basic rules of PPE safe use and personal protection.
- The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) NGO partner Right to Protection released findings of a survey conducted to analyse challenges in accessing health care for stateless persons, as well as socio-economic impact of quarantine restrictions on their livelihoods. In total, 189 stateless persons (or at risk of statelessness) in 13 Oblasts of Ukraine participated in the survey conducted from 24 April to 6 May.
- UNHCR, jointly with its NGO partner R2P, completed a monitoring survey of the situation at 52 collective centres for IDPs in Dnipropetrovsk, Donetsk, Kharkiv and Zaporizhzhia Oblasts. The analysis included information about preventive measures in place, assistance programmes, movement restrictions between GCA and NGCA, current employment situation and difficulties with access to services. The results of the monitoring will be presented by R2P. The monitoring was conducted as a follow-up to distribution of hygiene items to these collective centres by UNHCR.

### Medical procurement

- UNDP experts worked with the Parliament of Ukraine (the Verkhovna Rada) on amendments to the Law of Ukraine “On Environmental Impact Assessment”, to adapt it to the COVID-19 restrictions. In particular, the draft law introduced interim amendments to the procedures for public hearings of EIA cases, which can now be held online. UNDP experts worked on aligning the draft law with the best practices and legislation of the EU.
- UNHCR has supported Temporary Accommodation Centres (TACs) by providing hygiene items. Together with its NGO partners, UNHCR distributed in-kind assistance (food packages and hygiene items) to students from NGCA stranded in GCA after the closure of the ‘contact line’, and strengthened the overall capacities of critical healthcare infrastructure along the ‘contact line’. UNHCR also supported another ten health facilities along the ‘contact line’ by providing respirators, face masks, protective gloves, contact-free thermometers, liquid soap, and other sanitizing products. This assistance is provided to increase the preparedness of health responders during the COVID-19 outbreak in areas where medical infrastructure has been weakened by the conflict. UNHCR completed the distribution of water tanks to social institutions in Luhansk NGCA. In total, nine schools for children with specific needs and seven geriatric homes received this assistance.
- On 6 July, the European Union (EU) and the WHO delivered supplies to 27 laboratories around Ukraine to build up their testing capacities, as part of the COVID-19 response in Ukraine. The supplies include nearly 10,000 packs of consumables, over 200,000 reagents for various stages of the PCR process and nearly 1,900 laboratory equipment items.

- UNICEF has provided water bottles to 5 hospitals in Donetsk oblast (GCA), covering the monthly need in water of 670 medical staff and patients. Hand sanitizers were distributed by UNICEF to 19 hospitals in Donetsk, Luhansk, Kharkiv, Mykolaiv and Chernihiv Oblasts, while 2 blood gas analysers with consumables and training component were provided to Donetsk (GCA). Hand sanitizers were also delivered to social services in 12 amalgamated territorial communities in Donetsk and Luhansk Oblasts (GCA), benefiting 2130 people, including community-based social professionals and vulnerable families. This was inclusive of 53 families with 61 children who returned from institutions back to their biological families due to the COVID lockdown. 91 juveniles and 15 mothers with young children in penitentiary institutions, as well as 60 staff members of those facilities, received PPE. In addition, UNICEF distributed disinfectants and thermometers to those institutions. 30 Juvenile Police Officers from 10 regions also received PPE.
- As per MOE request, UNICEF procured IPC supplies to support final examinations for 350,000 school graduates in over 1,600 testing centres across the country this year.
- On 9 July, UNHCR, jointly with the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), facilitated the delivery of the fourth humanitarian convoy to Donetsk Oblast NGCA since the outbreak of the COVID-19. The convoy provided the Donetsk city with humanitarian and healthcare assistance from the WHO, Polish Humanitarian Action, UNICEF, and UNHCR. Aided by UNDP, the Centres for Safety and Security and the local fire brigades in Donetsk, Luhansk and Zaporizhzhia Oblasts have received 80 kg of disinfectant.

### Communication and awareness-raising activities

- While quarantine measures are gradually lifted, UNICEF, jointly with Ministry of Education (MOE) and renowned children psychologists, developed a set of Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials on re-opening of kindergartens, which contain guidance for educators on suggested measures to ensure child wellbeing and development, as well as useful tips for parents on how to prepare a child to the re-opening.
- To address stigma and discrimination, UNICEF continued to unfold a nation-wide solidarity campaign with a photo exhibition featuring the faces of the pandemic. UNICEF also supported the Ministry of Social Policy in generating public support for vulnerable families by producing a video for online and TV distribution that calls upon the communities to provide tangible support to those facing hardships due to the socio-economic crisis caused by COVID-19.
- National toll-free Child Helpline continues to provide online consultations to children, caregivers and youth. UNICEF supported 12 mobile GBV teams in Eastern Ukraine that provided 1,036 online consultations to the people living along the contact line in Donetsk and Luhansk (GCA).
- UNICEF, jointly with HALO Trust, started dissemination of IEC materials on COVID-19 preventive behaviour along the contact-line in the East Ukraine, covering 95 cities and villages.

### Support to socio-economic recovery

- UNDP Recovery and Peacebuilding Programme (RPP), in cooperation with the Donetsk Chamber of Commerce and the Zaporizhzhia Chamber of Commerce, conducted a series of webinars and online consultations for MSMEs on registering force majeure clauses, taxation during the quarantine, conducting service provision audits and managing export-import operations during the crisis, as well as on staying engaged with the audience/customers during the quarantine, using telephone and in-person negotiations to increase the sales, and aligning public communication with the challenges caused by the pandemic.

- UNICEF Ukraine continued its successful advocacy campaign to raise awareness about secondary impacts of COVID-19 on families with children. Following its release, UNICEF report on initial impact of the pandemic on poverty in Ukraine received an extensive coverage in local media.

### **Crisis Management Support**

- Between 1 and 5 June 2020, joint UN-NGO advocacy took place on measures to put in place to ensure safety and security when crossing the contact line, after the quarantine measures are lifted. Advocacy letters with recommendations on provision of the people in the situation of homelessness with shelter, water/sanitation and access to health care were sent to Oblasts and/or municipal authorities in 10 Oblasts.
- Webinars, organized by UNICEF, for healthcare professional conducted an update on the overall COVID situation, practices of healthcare facilities during COVID-19, quarantine relaxation and patients' experiences in the times of COVID-19, vaccination, and managerial decisions in healthcare.
- UNICEF Ukraine initiated two live Q&A sessions with a renowned paediatrician, Dr. Komarovskiy, to fill an existing information gap about COVID-19 pandemic with trustworthy information in Russian, as well as evidence-based tips for parents about safe behaviours.
- Supporting local authorities with digital Protection Monitoring map: on 4 June, UNHCR presented a digital map of isolated localities along the 'contact line' to the representatives of Donetsk Oblast Administration. UNHCR developed that map to highlight the results of its Protection Monitoring, which analysed the impact of the COVID-19 related restrictions on the access to basic services, such as food, transportation, water, banking services and health care.
- UNDP supported young innovators in Ternopil to launch a Volunteer's Portal, which facilitates the recruitment and communication with all those who want to help during the times of pandemic and beyond. In addition, with UNDP's support, Ukrainian Volunteer Services launched social deliveries of food to older persons and people with disabilities in Melitopol. Over 700 young women and men signed up to help the most vulnerable citizens.

## EXTERNAL PUBLICATIONS/DEVELOPMENTS

Anh Nguyen: Condensed milk and ingredients of hope on World Refugee Day –  
<https://www.kyivpost.com/article/opinion/op-ed/anh-nguyen-condensed-milk-and-ingredients-of-hope-on-world-refugee-day.html>

Due to the quarantine, small businesses in the Donbass had to dismiss every third employee –  
<https://dnews.dn.ua/news/749544>

Advocacy messages on COVID-19 impact on human mobility:  
[http://ukraine.iom.int/sites/default/files/iom\\_ukraine\\_covid-19\\_migration\\_messages\\_eng.pdf](http://ukraine.iom.int/sites/default/files/iom_ukraine_covid-19_migration_messages_eng.pdf)

Analytical brief on COVID-19 and labour migration:  
[http://ukraine.iom.int/sites/default/files/iom\\_ukraine\\_labour\\_migration\\_position\\_paper\\_eng.pdf](http://ukraine.iom.int/sites/default/files/iom_ukraine_labour_migration_position_paper_eng.pdf)

"It's like a roulette." Maryna Baturynets about how quarantine changed her business and forced to go online –  
<https://www.wonderzine.com.ua/wonderzine/life/podcast/781-marina-baturinets-pro-te-yak-karantin-zminiv-biznes>

"This is not the first crisis, but the worst." Olena Borysova about the restaurant business and the new rules of life –  
<https://www.wonderzine.com.ua/wonderzine/life/podcast/829-ya-zminyuyu-biznes-borisova>

"A woman in the rap industry is okay." Alyona Alyona on the prejudice against female rappers and self-acceptance –  
<https://www.wonderzine.com.ua/wonderzine/life/podcast/933-alyona-alyona-women-in-arts>

"Not a woman's work?" Yulia Sinkevych about gender inequality in the film industry and strength of character –  
<https://www.wonderzine.com.ua/wonderzine/life/podcast/1013-yuliya-sinkevich-women-in-arts>

Two UNHCR anniversaries were celebrated in Sievierodonetsk –  
[http://loga.gov.ua/oda/press/news/odrazu\\_dvi\\_richnici\\_uvkb\\_oon\\_vidznachili\\_u\\_sievierodonecku](http://loga.gov.ua/oda/press/news/odrazu_dvi_richnici_uvkb_oon_vidznachili_u_sievierodonecku)

Pulse oximeters and protective equipment against coronavirus were delivered to hospitals in Kurakhove, Mariinka, and Krasnohorivka –  
[http://kumar.dn.ua/news/v\\_bolnicy\\_kurakhovo\\_marinki\\_i\\_krasnogorovki\\_dostavili\\_pulsoksimetry\\_i\\_sredstva\\_zashhity\\_ot\\_koronavirusa/2020-06-06-11280](http://kumar.dn.ua/news/v_bolnicy_kurakhovo_marinki_i_krasnogorovki_dostavili_pulsoksimetry_i_sredstva_zashhity_ot_koronavirusa/2020-06-06-11280)

World Refugee Day: UN Helps Displaced in Ukraine Cope with COVID-19 –  
<https://medium.com/una-nca-snapshots/world-refugee-day-un-helps-displaced-in-ukraine-cope-with-covid-19-e477e8ea4c3a>

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