

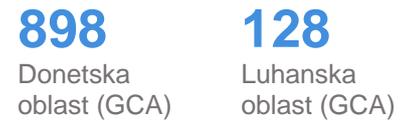


This report is a consolidation of United Nations informational products, drafted by the Office of the United Nations Resident Coordinator in Ukraine. The next report will be issued around 26 August 2020.

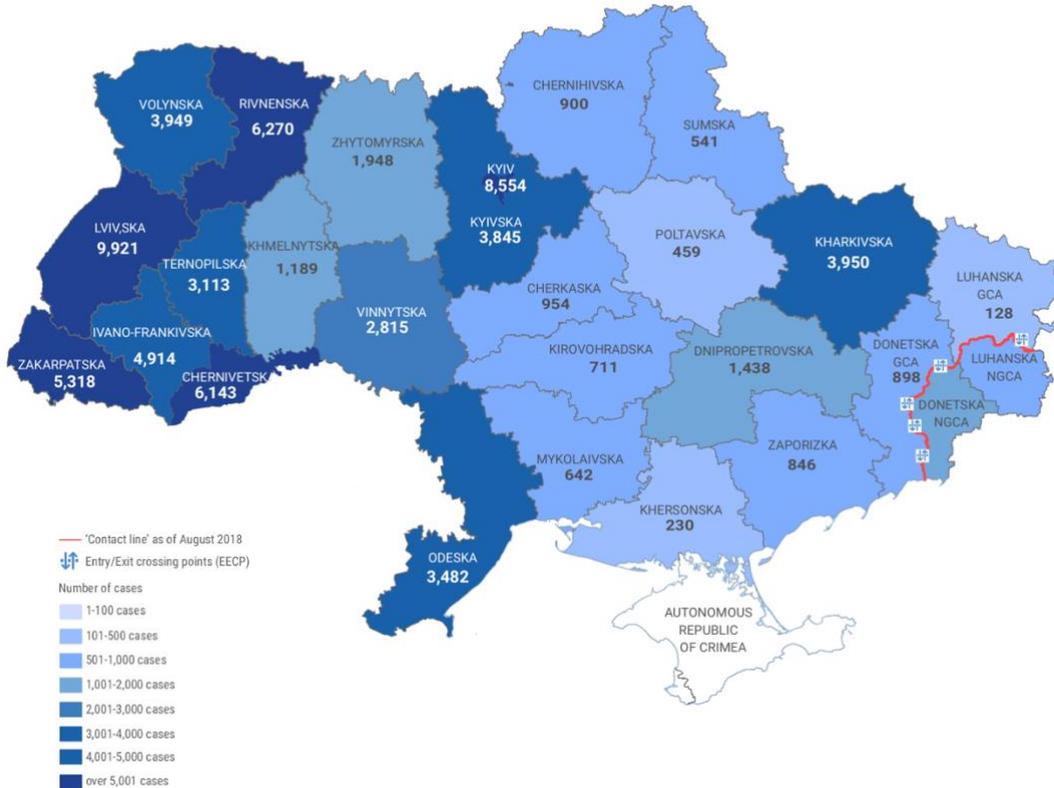
HIGHLIGHTS



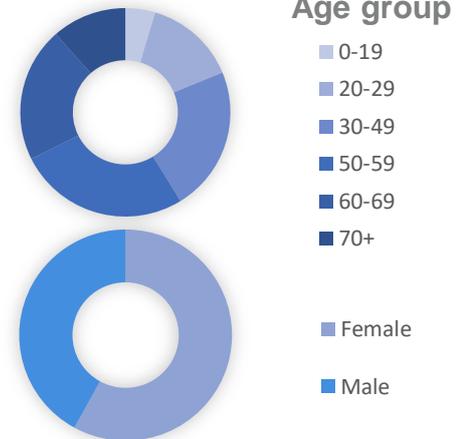
Eastern Ukraine COVID-19 confirmed cases



\*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.



- The Government of Ukraine has extended the adaptive quarantine measures until August 31 and, starting August 1, the country will be divided into four epidemiological zones (green, yellow, orange, and red). Each zone will refer to a different epidemiological situation and trigger a distinct set of quarantine measures.
- The distribution of cases by gender and age has remained virtually unchanged. While women are leading in the number of confirmed COVID-19 cases, the rates of mortality caused by the virus are higher for men. Individuals in the 50 to 59 age group continue to be most affected by the disease regardless of gender, accounting for 26 per cent of all confirmed cases. The highest mortality is seen in the 60 to 69 age group.

**1.1 M**  
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

- The number of new confirmed cases of COVID-19 continues to increase, as well as the number of registered deaths. Currently, 9 regions do not meet the criteria that would allow easing off the quarantine measures. Those are Vinnytsia, Volyn, Zhytomyr, Zakarpattia, Ivano-Frankivsk, Lviv, Rivne, Ternopil and Chernivtsi Oblasts, located in the central and western parts of the country and being among the most vulnerable ones, according to the [UNDP Ukraine Compounded Vulnerability Index](#). Those areas have pockets of extreme poverty and high levels of unemployment and economic informality that primarily affect women and the youth; they are also characterised by a higher proportion of the country's seasonal and temporary labour out-migration. The areas are highly dependent on remittances as a livelihood basis.
- Because of the lockdown measures and travel restrictions enacted not only in Ukraine but also in the host countries, Ukrainian migrants who were able to send about USD 12 billion<sup>1</sup> (7.8% of GDP) back home in 2019 will not be able to fare as well in 2020. The imposed movement restrictions are expected to result in a substantial decline in remittances compared to previous years, aggravated by increasing welfare expenses. The National Bank of Ukraine forecasts they will be able to send at least a fifth less than the amount sent the previous year. These areas are also among those that experienced the highest numbers of workers being laid off because of the lockdown measures and the contraction in demand.
- [IOM estimates](#) the total number of migrant workers who returned to Ukraine following the announcement of quarantine to be 350,000 to 400,000 persons. Many of those employed in non-seasonal sectors, such as construction, hospitality industry, production and services, had to come back citing direct and known impact of COVID-19 as the primary push factor for this unseasonal return. Ukrainian seasonal migrant workers were also severely impacted by the introduction of quarantine measures, as the agricultural season abroad usually begins around mid-April marks.
- Labour migration can relieve pressure on unemployment in countries of origin, thus the inability of Ukrainian migrants to take up their traditional jobs places an additional burden on the already affected domestic labour market. The number of unemployed persons registered with the State Employment Centre as of 4 May increased by 47 per cent compared to the same period in 2019, and currently amounts to more than 456,750 persons. Aside from the more tangible economic insecurities that the migrants will face from losing employment opportunities and corresponding vulnerabilities, there is a risk of the returnees being stigmatised by local communities.
- The combination of a high level of informality, widespread unemployment, low savings rates and strong reliance on remittances highlights the vulnerability of large segments of the society to a prolonged lockdown and therefore, to the ensuing economic downturn. For this reason, it is important for the regions that need to maintain or reinstate strict lockdown measures to develop an appropriate policy response to mitigate the repercussions of such measures on their socioeconomic contexts. Key determinants of the response appropriateness would be the prior gender and vulnerability analysis and the participation of representatives of vulnerable groups, including women and youth, in policy formulation and implementation monitoring.
- Schools remain closed for the school holidays. Most preschool education facilities remain operational; however, their attendance rates are reported to be very low, not exceeding 30 percent. The situation of older persons and persons with disabilities living in long-term care facilities continues to be a concern during the COVID-19 pandemic, notably due to the facilities failing to comply with the quarantine measures. There are also reports of inhuman living conditions of inhabitants in private care facilities.

<sup>1</sup> NBU: Remittances in 2019

- OHCHR/HRMMU is concerned about reports it has received that despite the government partially lifting the quarantine restrictions in May 2020, many courts continued to employ a strict ban on courtroom observers, which may violate fair trial guarantees. The situation of people living in homelessness remains a concern, notably the lack of homeless shelters in various regions of Ukraine or their reduced availability during the quarantine. Roma communities continue to suffer disproportionately from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Lack of access to jobs persists, despite the lifting of quarantine restrictions; healthcare and other services continue to affect the rights of Roma women, men and children. The lack of dialogue with local/regional authorities with regards to COVID-19 prevention measures and long-term programmes for the Roma minority remains of concern.

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

- Despite the recent de-escalation of hostilities following the entry into force of a set of additional measures to strengthen the ceasefire agreed upon by the Trilateral Contact Group (TCG) on 22 July, there are very few localized and low-intensity deteriorations, mostly of provocative nature. Overall, ceasefire violations dropped significantly while the security situation remained mostly calm after the additional measures to strengthen the ceasefire came into force on 27 July 2020.
- After a period of being closed, the entry-exit checkpoints (EECPs) partially re-opened in June, sporadically allowing people to cross the boundary between the government and non-government-controlled areas, with priority given to people whose reasons for crossing fall under humanitarian exemptions and students planning to enter a university. Minors are now allowed to cross the ‘contact line’, but must be accompanied by adults to and from the checkpoints. Donetsk Oblast has two EECPs that are only partially operational, on the selected dates and by lists preapproved by the entities in control of certain areas of Donetsk and Luhansk regions of Ukraine. In Luhansk Oblast, the only checkpoint that allows civilian crossings on a regular basis is Stanytsia Luhanska.
- The EECPs re-opened on the 13<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> of July, occasionally allowing people to cross the boundary between the government (GCA) and non-government-controlled areas (NGCA). The uncoordinated opening of the contact line prevented over 80 per cent of graduates from NGCA to sit for the final examination in GCA. Meanwhile, on 3 July 2020, the Parliament adopted amendments to the effective legislation that provide more options for school graduates from NGCA to continue higher education outside of those areas.
- The continued restrictions on crossings at EECPs across the ‘contact line’ in Eastern Ukraine negatively impact a range of rights, namely freedom of movement, right to health, to an adequate standard of living, and to family life. During the reporting period, civilians and social infrastructure continued to be impacted by the ceasefire violations with multiple incidents involving civilians.
- More than 1,000 families in Luhansk Oblast caught in the July forest fires have been left without electricity and gas. Most of the residents have no access to drinking water. Amid hot and windy conditions, a wall of fire consumed coniferous forests and reached houses in several villages in Luhansk Oblast. At least five people died because of the fires, and the total number of victims is not yet known. Twenty-five people were hospitalized with burns, 16 of whom are children.
- While the ability of humanitarian organizations to organize humanitarian aid convoys across the contact line to the NGCA remains limited, the fourth humanitarian convoy between Donetsk Oblast (GCA) and NGCA reached Donetsk city with humanitarian and medical aid cargo after the partial closure of the EECPs on 22 March 2020. A UN convoy also successfully delivered long-awaited immunization information materials and diapers for children in Donetsk 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

- In June, UNHCR's NGO partners provided social support to 559 individuals (11,2 per cent of them were persons with disabilities) who needed assistance with obtaining personal documentation, accessing administrative and other essential services and receiving authorization to cross checkpoints. That number represents a 45 per cent increase compared with the previous month as the key focus of that activity was placed on assisting persons who were stranded at the EECPs on both sides of the 'contact line'. The assistance included the provision of food, water, essential items, as well as support in installation of the observation tracking mobile application.
- The e-vouchers programme for households located along the 'contact line' was completed and it was meant to meet hygiene needs of institutions and households for a period of three months. Hygiene products were also distributed to 911 most vulnerable families with children with disabilities and families with children returned from the residential care institutions in selected municipalities of Donetsk and Luhansk Oblasts (GCA). Moreover, some of the hygiene products were redirected to assist up to 60 individuals affected by wildfires in the residential area of Luhansk (GCA). UNHCR procured over 3,000 pieces of PPE items to be distributed to primary health care providers along the 'contact line' in Donetsk Oblast, providing assistance to the total of 18 healthcare facilities. On 16 July, UNHCR completed the distribution of non-food item kits (NFIs) to front-line primary healthcare stations in Luhansk GCA. Thirteen facilities received basic non-medical equipment, such as medical couches, soap, sanitizers. Family hygiene kits were distributed to vulnerable individuals in eastern Ukraine.
- UNHCR, jointly with its NGO partner R2P, distributed food and hygiene items to students who were stranded in their dormitories on the GCA side since they could not return home to NGCA due to restrictions at the EECPs. Similar assistance was also delivered to 26 households of stateless persons in Donetsk and Luhansk Oblasts. On 6 July, UNHCR installed benches near the Oschadbank office in the waiting areas at the EECF in Stanytsia Luhanska to improve conditions of people waiting at the bank and ensure observance of the social distancing.
- UNICEF and private sector partners donated infection prevention supplies, re-distributed to MOES for organizing school end of term exams. The Nova Poshta delivery provided services pro-bono and delivered supplies to the 24 regions of Ukraine. Over 350,000 boys and girls sat exams in 1,625 safe testing centers that received the supplies and information on safe behavioral practices.
- UNICEF delivered 30 oxygen concentrators to the western region of Ukraine. The total of 9 hospitals were supported with life-saving devices and accessories (filters, tubes, cannulas) sufficient for 3 months of regular service. To support PPE distribution to social workers, an education leaflet about correct use and practices with PPE and visiting most vulnerable families was developed and provided to social workers within Child Protection partners. 867 people living in Roma settlements in Western Ukraine received family hygiene kits, distributed by the UNICEF.
- With the in-kind donation from IDS Borjomi, UNICEF delivered drinking water to 9 hospitals in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts meeting the monthly drinking water needs of 1,814 medical staff and patients. An additional

delivery of 6,600 litres of drinking water was organized for 18 kindergartens in Toretsk and neighbouring settlements (Donetsk GCA).

- On 9 July, jointly with OCHA Ukraine, UNHCR Ukraine facilitated a fourth humanitarian convoy from government-controlled areas (GCA) of eastern Ukraine into non-government-controlled areas (NGCA) in Donetsk Oblast. In total, over 35 tonnes of COVID-19 relief and other aid belonging to UNICEF, Polish Humanitarian Action, WHO and UNHCR, were delivered. UNHCR's part of the cargo included 271 NFI's to be used primarily to support persons crossing from GCA into NGCA Donetsk and who have to observe a mandatory quarantine in a designated hospital.

### Communication and awareness-raising activities

- Within the framework of REIMAGINE, UNICEF launched a digital campaign to support over 340,000 school students graduating from the school. Together with Ministry of Education, UNICEF engaged Ukrainian celebrities, athletes and opinion leaders to develop a [series of inspirational videos for Class 2020](#) to support and encourage Ukrainian youth facing the uncertain future.
- UNICEF organized a [press conference](#) with Ministry of Social Policy to announce the launch of the pilot project to enhance social protection of children who returned from boarding institutions to their families because of the COVID-19 restrictions.
- The national solidarity campaign, designed to fight stigma and discrimination of people affected by COVID-19 – continued unfolding on social media through live portraits of the faces of the pandemic, including elderly people, and frontline workers. With the popular national news programme at 1+1 TV Channel, UNICEF produced and aired a series of video stories from the 'red zones' of infection hospitals dealing with COVID-19. Healthcare workers and patients shared their stories to address misconceptions about COVID-19 and risks it posed.
- The first telephone volunteering system continued to be rolled out in response to the growing loneliness and isolation caused by the pandemic. As part of the project, over 1,000 young people were mobilized to provide telephone support and useful information on COVID-19 prevention to people who feel lonely, including older adults, children and adults with disabilities, and other most vulnerable groups.
- U-Report Ukraine team supported the development opinion polls about perceptions and experiences of young people in the region around the impact of COVID-19. They gathered their views on how to 'build back better' in the post-COVID scenario. More than half of the respondents feel that their anxiety level has increased with many describing their current emotional state as 'sad'. Responding to possible priorities for the governments after COVID-19, U-reporters mostly indicated: 'Quality healthcare' and 'Employment for youth'.

### Crisis Management Support

- Two Crisis Coordination Management Units supported by UNDP have become instrumental for strategic decision-making in the crisis response to COVID-19, working in line with the action plans adopted by the Government. With their support, a concept note for countering disinformation campaign has now been developed and agreed with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and a multi-sectoral COVID-19 response strategy has been drafted.
- UNICEF and the Ministry of Education and Science Institute (MOES) of Educational Analytics (IEA) completed a National survey on School preparedness targeting both pre-primary and secondary schools and aimed at surveying readiness of schools, communities, and the general education system to resume education in the conditions of a global pandemic. Currently, education analysts from UNICEF and IEA are working on

cumulative recommendations for programmatic and communication support based on received data. In partnership with IEA, UNICEF, and their IP SEED have put together a task force to develop an interactive electronic checklist to help schools better organize and monitor their preparedness to resume education.

- Together with SEED, UNICEF recently released a specialized add-on report based on data collected through SCORE study. The report featured the analysis of life skills essential to children and youth as they deal with challenges related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Following a presentation by the Seed-Cyprus team, the report was praised as instrumental for UNICEF in planning future LSE-related programmes, as well as useful for educators, youth workers, and policymakers alike. Based on the discussions, UNICEF and SEED plan to develop a web-based self-assessment tool for adolescents seeking to improve their life skills.
- UNICEF continues to support MOES in improving the quality of education for children with special educational needs. Selected schools will be provided with textbooks and other printed and digital materials designed for children with learning disorders related to dyslexia.

## EXTERNAL PUBLICATIONS/DEVELOPMENTS

Interview with Osnat Lubrani, United Nations resident coordinator in Ukraine –

<https://www.kyivpost.com/business/interview-with-osnat-lubrani-un-resident-coordinator-in-ukraine.html?cn-reloaded=1>

The Great Disruptor: How COVID-19 is nudging Ukraine towards rapid digital transformation –

<https://www.ua.undp.org/content/ukraine/en/home/blog/2020/how-COVID-19-is-nudging-Ukraine-towards-digital-transformation.html>

Building back better and greener with the private sector –

<https://www.ua.undp.org/content/ukraine/en/home/blog/2020/building-back-better-and-greener-with-the-private-sector.html>

Putting people first in the fight against COVID-19 –

<https://www.ua.undp.org/content/ukraine/en/home/blog/2020/putting-people-first-in-the-fight-against-covid-19.html>

7 July - WHO-FAO-ILO webinar "COVID-19 in Ukraine: implications for food sector"

UKR Video record at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pmRm5--SjYY>

RUS <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ru0dc9BLiak&t=290s>

ENG [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7bIaqxr4KKg&list=UUhg8ybfa\\_6liuk6\\_3D85CsQ&index=1](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7bIaqxr4KKg&list=UUhg8ybfa_6liuk6_3D85CsQ&index=1)

HRMMU briefing note on Roma in [English](#) and [Ukrainian](#)

HRMMU briefing note on the Impact of COVID-19 and its Prevention Measures on Homeless People in Ukraine in [English](#) and [Ukrainian](#) and accompanying infographic in [English](#) and [Ukrainian](#).

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