



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

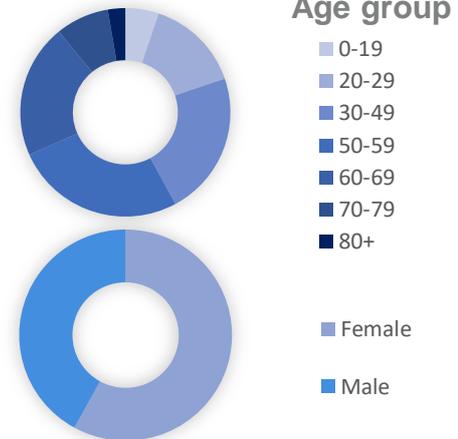
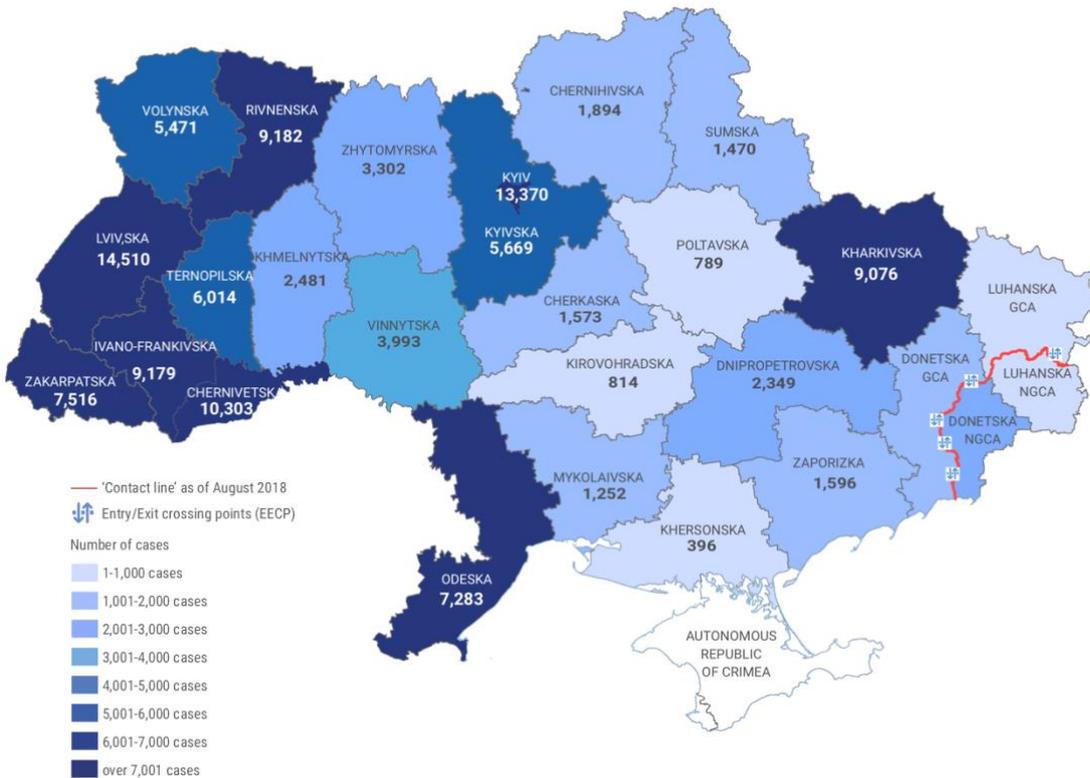
HIGHLIGHTS



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.



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 October 31 as the number of new COVID-19 cases continues to grow. To further curb the spread of the virus, the Government also closed the Ukrainian border for foreign nationals from 28 August to 28 September apart from persons falling under the [specific categories](#).
- While schools across the country remain closed for the summer break, the new school year is scheduled to start on the 1st of September in the usual mode. The closure of educational institutions would only be considered for the ‘red zones’, whilst are expected to operate in online mode.

1.6 M
Tested for COVID-19

21 M*
Affected people

1.5 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 countries. 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, 15 regions do not meet the criteria that would allow easing off the quarantine measures. Those are Vinnytsia, Volyn, Zhytomyr, Zakarpattia, Ivano-Frankivsk, Lviv, Kyiv, Odesa, Rivne, Ternopil, Sumy, Kharkiv, Chernivtsi, Khmelnytskyi and Chernihiv Oblast.
- In Behavioural Insights survey presented by the World Health Organization, the key findings show low COVID-19 risk perception among majority of respondents, high knowledge of protection measures but misperceptions still exist. Level of trust in authorities is still generally low and Ukraine ranked amongst the lowest in the list of countries undergoing this study.
- Due to the current epidemiological situation in Ukraine, there continues to be a high level of uncertainty regarding its development and spread of COVID-19. Coupled with economic uncertainty, it is expected to further restrain consumer demand and willingness to invest, slowing down the economic recovery.
- Educational facilities plan to start the regular school year on 1 September, where children are expected to attend classes while taking the respective protection measures. Only educational facilities in the ‘red zone’ locations will remain closed but may resume classes when the epidemiological situation improves. If the region falls into the ‘red zone’ after the beginning of the school year, then a two-week quarantine will be introduced in schools, and children will be sent to study from home. Considering the mid-August coronavirus trend, UNICEF expects that over 95% of 5,000,000 children in 14,175 school will be go back to school and resume education
- Women remain to be disproportionately impacted by the crisis, facing double and triple workload, while situation is exacerbated by pre-existing gender inequalities. Women are frontline responders in healthcare, 82% of health workers are women, however, they represent less than 20% of members of COVID-19 coordination bodies at national and regional levels. Women receive lower wages, salaries and pensions, are more dependent on social assistance, therefore have fewer opportunities to make savings, which ultimately makes them more vulnerable in the context of the economic crisis caused by COVID-19.
- As of 26 August, 89 COVID-19 cases had been detected in penitentiary facilities with only 855 COVID tests carried out, while the total number of detainees in pre-trial detention centres and colonies exceeds 50,000. As such, the number of those infected may be higher than the number officially detected. While the situation is gradually improving, weak control over compliance with sanitary and preventive measures by those working in the penitentiary system remains of concern given the majority of those infected are penitentiary staff.
- The lack of access to rehabilitation, healthcare and education services due to the quarantine remains a concern for women, men, children with disabilities (PwD) and their families, notably where quarantine restrictions remained strict. While the return of public transport has allowed some PwD to return to work, access to work remains an issue in places with strict quarantine measures, and more generally, for those without a job prior to the pandemic. The closure of some social enterprises employing PwD due to quarantine restrictions and resulting loss of income has also led to reduced incomes for PwD. Social workers’ lack of access to personal protective equipment and lack of training on compliance with prevention measures is also an issue.
- It is concerning to note that to date, Roma communities suffer disproportionately from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. The continued lack of access to jobs (despite the lifting of quarantine restrictions), healthcare and other services continue to affect the rights of Roma women, men and children.

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

- The overall humanitarian situation in eastern Ukraine remains similar to previous weeks, characterized by an improved security situation that was marked by the de-escalation of the armed tension since July 27 when the additional measures to strengthen the ceasefire came into force, agreed upon by the Trilateral Contact Group.
- In July, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)'s Special Monitoring Mission (SMM) recorded 13,745 ceasefire violations in eastern Ukraine, representing a 12 per cent decrease as compared to the previous month. Since 27 July, the number of hostilities decreased to the lower level recorded by the OSCE's SMM since the start of the conflict.
- Three out of four entry-exit checkpoints (EECPs) in Donetska oblast remained closed while the checkpoint Novotroitske-Olenivka functioned with restrictions, permitting occasional passage, on pre-approved lists and days. Some crossing points between the government (GCA) and non-government-controlled areas (NGCA) continued to remain operational, with only one EECP functioning at full capacity in Luhansk NGCA. The freedom of movement remains restricted with specific criteria to be fulfilled for crossing the 'contact line' in addition to the two weeks of self-isolation. Even as more people are now able to cross the 'contact line', it remains limited, prioritizing people whose reasons fall under humanitarian exemptions.
- UN Human Rights (OHCHR)/the Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine (HRMMU) continues to be concerned about the ongoing restrictions on crossings at entry-exit checkpoints (EECPs) across the contact line in eastern Ukraine. This is negatively impacting a plethora of rights, namely freedom of movement, right to health, to an adequate standard of living, and to family life. All parties to the conflict should take the steps necessary to allow for the full resumption of crossings.
- During the period of 1-13 August, 14,880 persons crossed the 'contact line' from NGCA to GCA and 11,443 persons – from GCA to NGCA through Stanytsia Luhanska EECP. COVID-19 testing became available at the EECP in Stanytsia Luhanska. Starting on 10 August, Luhansk oblast authorities installed a mobile point near the EECP in Stanytsia Luhanska where persons who cross the 'contact line' can undergo a COVID-19 test.
- While the ability of humanitarian organizations to organize humanitarian aid convoys across the contact line to the NGCA remains limited, the UN has been able to move goods and people across the contact line since 15 June. While the easing of restrictions allowed UN staff to cross the line of contact, there are uncertainty on UN's movement in and out of the area, and UN is still expected to submit an advance special request to allow exit/entry for each movement. The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) operations continue to experience slowdown, in particular in Luhansk NGCA with the so-called 'registration of the programmes and offices' still on hold by the entities in control of certain areas of Luhansk region of Ukraine.
- UNHCR's NGO partner the Right to Protection (R2P) released results of a survey that analyzes the impact of COVID-19 crisis on internally displaced and conflict-affected persons in Ukraine. In total, 2,435 individuals participated in the phone survey and highlighted the inability to cross the 'contact line' as one of the major challenges during the COVID-19 pandemic. As noted by responders, restricted transportation and crossing of the 'contact line' has led to an essential limitation of freedom of movement that consequently affected the access to all services and resources. The most considerable impact of quarantine measures was observed in remote settlements along the 'contact line' that depend on transport links with bigger towns.
- The new school year in Ukraine is scheduled to start on the 1 September both in GCA and in 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 August, critical PPEs have been distributed by UNHCR to the frontline medical facilities along the ‘contact line’ in Luhanska oblast (GCA). In total, 4,320 medical masks and gloves, 33 glasses, 1,080 medical gowns have been provided to health care institutions in the conflict-affected locations.
- WHO Provided PPE kits for Rapid Response Teams in selected districts of Luhansk and Donetsk GCA. The allocation was done based on the current epidemiology where 11 districts with high number of cases were identified. Furthermore, PPE was distributed to three EECPs, Stanytsia Luhansk, Novotroiske and Hnutove, following the request made by the joint EECPs assessment that was done back in June. The kit includes FFP2/N95 respirator masks, medical masks, 75 face shields and wall disinfectors;
- On 6 August, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) facilitated the delivery of UNHCR’s humanitarian convoy to Donetsk NGCA bringing six tons of humanitarian assistance for conflict-affected persons and/or social workers. Jointly with the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), UNHCR also facilitated two convoys to the non-government controlled areas in Luhansk across the pedestrian-only EECP in Stanytsia Luhanska. On 7 August, the convoy delivered 123 electric bicycles and 2,050 medical gowns that will be distributed to health care providers and social workers who assist persons with specific needs, such as the elderly. On 13 August, the second convoy delivered 21 tons of construction materials and PPEs belonging to the NGO People in Need.
- In close cooperation with UNICEF, UNHCR’s NGO partner NEEKA distributed hygiene kits in Roma camps in Zakarpattia oblast to support its residents during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Technical support

- On 10 August, UNHCR jointly with its NGO partner Proliska installed three Wi-Fi hotspots at the Stanytsia Luhanska EECP to provide free access to the internet for those crossing the ‘contact line’. This assistance will enable persons who cross to install the “Diy Vdoma” mobile application submit or check the validity of an electronic pass, access public online services, such as registering in an electronic queue on the website of the State Migration Service or access to the electronic office of the Pension Fund.
- On August 10th, WHO in Ukraine with the support of the European Union’s Directorate-General for Neighborhood and Enlargement Negotiations and the EU Delegation in Ukraine has started the delivery of IT equipment to 25 epidemiological departments of oblast laboratory centers all over Ukraine. The delivery included 322 units of IT equipment, namely laptops, personal computers, power supply units and multifunctional devices. It will help set up additional workstations and engage more surveillance specialists for data collection and management which is crucial especially for those regions of Ukraine that have high COVID-19 cases load;
- To improve the conditions at the partly-functioning EECPs, UNHCR jointly with its NGO partners installed benches near the Oschadbank office in the waiting areas at the Stanytsia Luhanska checkpoint and also handed-over sanitisers to the State Border Guard Service (SBGS).

Communication and awareness-raising activities

- UNDP- supported CSO partner, Stabilization Supported Services, has developed a specialized online training course, [educational materials and instructions](#) on provision of social and administrative services during quarantine, thus improving the quality of such services for people in need. The course has improved the capacity of 590 representatives of subnational authorities and representatives of social services.
- UNDP supported the development of the draft Multi-sectoral COVID-19 response strategy, which incorporates gender-responsive recommendations. Based on the draft of the Multi-sectoral COVID-19 response strategy, UNDP supported the Ukrainian government through the crisis coordination and management units in development of 3 drafts of sectoral strategies in humanitarian, socio-economic and health spheres. Six Emergency plans for the Ministry of Economic Development, Trade and Agriculture, Ministry of Youth and Sports, Ministry of Social Policy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Infrastructure and Ministry of Development of Communities and Territories. Four drafts of Emergency Plans will be developed till the end of August 2020.

Crisis Management Support

- On 30 July, UNHCR addressed a letter to the Ministry of Digital Transformation with regards to the functioning of the mobile application for tracking the self-isolation “Diy vdoma”. The issues related to the inability to install the app by some persons who cross the ‘contact line’ have been described in the letter which also presented suggestions on how to improve the application based on UNHCR’s and its NGO partners’ observations.
- On 7 August, a collapse of the “Diy vdoma” mobile phone application, required to be installed by Ukrainian authorities, in order to cross the ‘contact line’ was observed by UNHCR and its NGO partners. Reportedly, the app “crashed” because it was being upgraded. This resulted in over 1,000 people being unable to be processed to enter GCA. Both UNHCR and its NGO partner the Right to Protection (R2P) were present at the EECPs in Stanytsia Luhanska and Novotroitske and made screenshots of the phones to exemplify the problems that the app was experiencing, collected the data and reported the issue to the Ministry of Digital Transformation and the Ministry for Reintegration of Temporarily Occupied Territories.

EXTERNAL PUBLICATIONS/DEVELOPMENTS

Interview with Pablo Mateu, UNHCR’s Representative in Ukraine –
<https://www.facebook.com/UNHCRKyiv/videos/210107896919055/>

There will be a baby boom in the world due to the coronavirus pandemic –
https://gazeta.ua/articles/world-life/_cerez-koronavirus-bude-bebibum-u-sviti/980321

“How did coronavirus change daily routine and habits of people in Donbas? –

ENG <https://www.unhcr.org/ua/en/23869-how-the-habits-of-people-who-were-helped-by-the-humanitarian-mission-proliska-and-unhcr-have-changed-due-to-the-coronavirus-pandemic.html>

UKR <https://www.unhcr.org/ua/23951-як-у-зв'язку-з-пандемією-коронавірусу-3.html>

Ukraine: Covid-19 Rules Blocked Access to Pensions –

<https://www.hrw.org/news/2020/08/03/ukraine-covid-19-rules-blocked-access-pensions>

Story of a humanitarian worker at the frontline of the conflict in eastern Ukraine –

ENG <https://www.unhcr.org/ua/en/24583-seven-years-at-the-frontline-of-the-conflict-in-eastern-ukraine-story-of-a-humanitarian-worker.html>

UKR <https://www.unhcr.org/ua/24719-сім-років-на-передовій-конфлікті-на-сх.html>

Interview with the Head of OCHA in Ukraine, Mr. Ignacio Leon Garcia on World Humanitarian Day –

<https://nv.ua/ukraine/events/donbass-pomoshch-zhitelyam-gumanitarnye-missii-i-zhizni-v-usloviyah-pandemii-novosti-ukrainy-50106929.html>

OHCHR/HRMMU continues to issue [Facebook](#) posts promoting an infographic in [English](#), [Ukrainian](#) and [Russian](#), illustrating recommendations issued by UN human rights mechanisms relevant to the COVID-19 response.

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*A list of used sources is available upon request.