



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

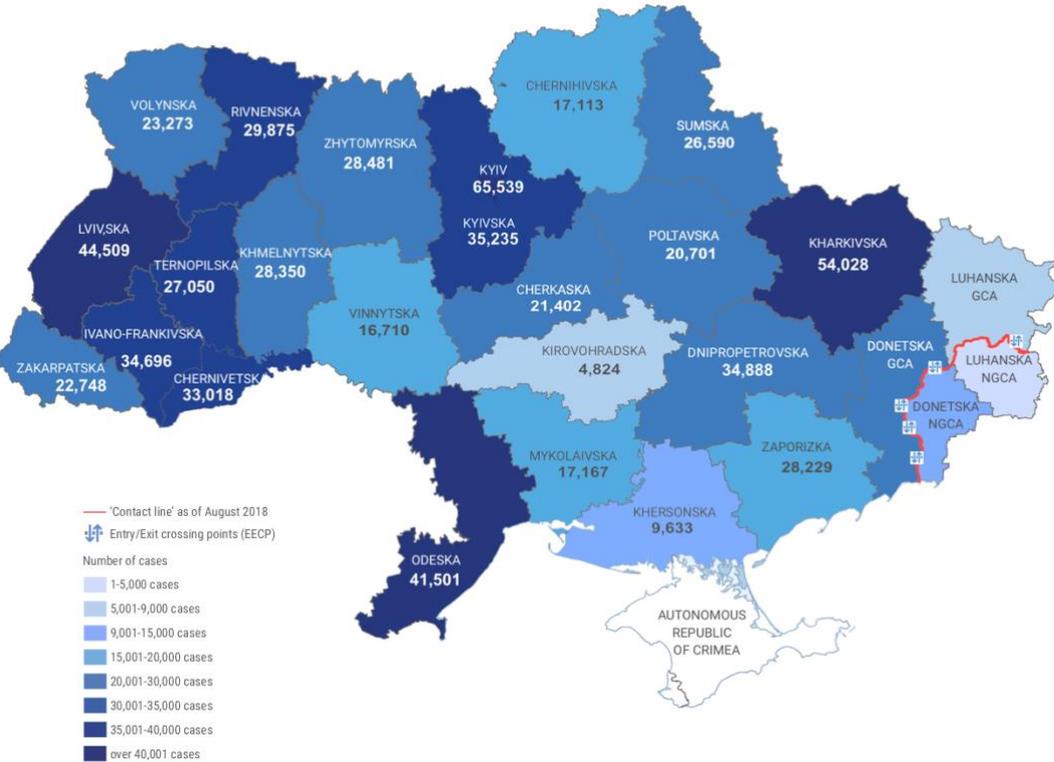
### HIGHLIGHTS



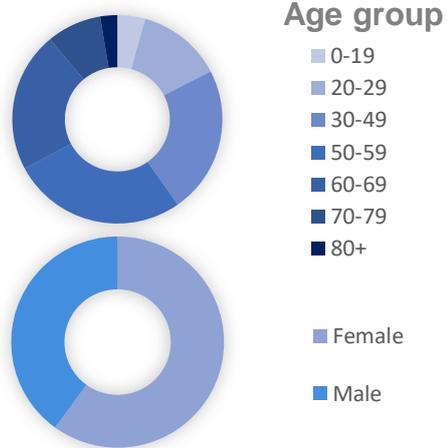
#### Eastern Ukraine COVID-19 confirmed cases



\*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.



- As the number of new confirmed COVID-19 cases continues to grow, the Government of Ukraine has approved a nationwide “weekend quarantine”, replacing the established adaptive quarantine and forcing all non-essential businesses to close during the weekend, until the end of November.
- The Humanitarian Coordinator in Ukraine Ms. Osnat Lubrani, together with the Ministry for Reintegration of the Temporarily Occupied Territories, [launched the 2021 Humanitarian Response Plan](#) in a bid to meet the needs of 1.9 million conflict-affected people in eastern Ukraine.

**4.4 M**  
COVID-19 PCR tests conducted

**3.4 M**  
People are projected to be in need of humanitarian assistance in 2021

**1.5 M**  
Internally displaced people

## SITUATION OVERVIEW

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### The impact of the crisis on the socio-economic situation

- Ukrainian economy showed signs of recovery during the third quarter of 2020 with positive trends observed both in household incomes and industrial output. The launch of the weekend lockdown, however, makes the short-term outlook pessimistic. The restrictions will likely impede business activity, especially, of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in retail and hospitality industry. The government also mentioned the possibility of a more comprehensive lockdown over Christmas holidays if COVID-19 spread accelerates. According to the advisor to the Head of the Presidential Administration, Ukraine's economy is now much better prepared for the lockdown. To address concerns from businesses, the government announced additional support to soften the effect on the economy. The scale of such support is likely to be limited, however, given a looming large budget deficit, which the government has to address without the International Monetary Fund (IMF) support.
- It is of concern that the national commitment to contribute no less than five per cent of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) to the healthcare sector, which could be considered as a minimum core obligation for the right to health, is not being met, including in the draft State Budget Law for 2021, and that only 21.7 per cent of the special fund to fight COVID-19 was spent on healthcare.
- Healthcare trade unions stated they were not effectively consulted about the Government's COVID-19 response measures in healthcare at the national and local levels, nor about the ongoing healthcare reform process. Dangerous work conditions, inadequate wages and social security, including for work-related illness or disability, led to healthcare workers leaving their jobs, with an estimated 50,000 leaving in 2020. Given that Ukraine faced a shortage of healthcare workers before the pandemic, the exit of healthcare staff is likely to have a negative effect on the right to health of the population, including access to and quality of essential services.
- The lack of healthy and safe working conditions for frontline medical workers involved in the COVID-19 response remains a concern, in particular due to shortages of personal protective equipment (PPE) and lack of mental health and psychosocial support services. Healthcare workers, of whom 83 per cent are women, also raised concerns about fair remuneration for their jobs, as average salaries in the health sector were significantly below average salaries for less qualified work. They further complained about the inconsistent approach and discrimination in payment of COVID-19-related and other temporary bonuses introduced by the Government for healthcare staff. Only a small percentage of COVID-19 infections among healthcare workers were recognised as work-related, which negatively affected the right to compensation.
- Groups in vulnerable situations continue to suffer disproportionately from the pandemic. People living in homelessness continue facing problems in accessing COVID-19 testing and medical treatment. In addition, in some regions of Ukraine shelters and centres (both municipal and private) are still absent, which is especially urgent in the winter season. The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) continues to collect information on the effect of COVID-19 and respective restricting quarantine measures on Roma communities in Ukraine. The most urgent needs that became evident during the quarantine are financial means, food, and hygiene items. Limited access to medical services for Roma in Ukraine also remains a concern. Moreover, the lack of personal documents and birth certificates creates another barrier to signing a contract with family doctors, which are the first instance to contact for further proceedings and medical checks when experiencing COVID-19 symptoms.
- As of 27 November, 675 COVID-19 cases had been detected in penitentiary facilities (affecting 552 penitentiary staff, 100 medical personnel, 16 prisoners, and 7 detainees), an increase by 398 new cases since 28 October, with the majority of those infected among penitentiary staff.

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

- The overall humanitarian situation in eastern Ukraine remains relatively calm. The number of ceasefire violations remains markedly low, nevertheless few of them resulted in military casualties. Comparing to the previous period the number of ceasefire violations has insignificantly increased.
- During the reporting period, in non-government-controlled area (NGCA), the entities in control of certain areas of Luhansk region of Ukraine suspended preventive medical examinations for local residents to reduce the pressure on medical staff and prevent the spread of COVID-19. It was reported that medical centres record up to 1,400 cases of pneumonia per week in the territory. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) office in Donetsk and Luhansk also reported that in comparison with the previous weeks, medical supplies to fight the flu and acute respiratory diseases were more widely available for residents in NGCA.
- Freedom of movement continues to be restricted at the entry-exit crossing points (EECPs) across the contact line in eastern Ukraine. Out of seven EECPs in eastern Ukraine (including newly opened in Zolote and Shchastia) only two of them function, at a limited capacity - Stanytsia Luhanska and Novotroitske. The Novotroitske/Olenivka EECP is partially open, remaining the only crossing point to allow a limited number of civilians to cross into/from Donetska NGCA, through the so-called “humanitarian corridors” twice per week - on Mondays and Fridays. After having been closed between 15 October and 10 November, Stanytsia Luhanska EECP remains the only fully operational EECP, though civilians still have to meet certain requirements established by both parties to the conflict. Currently, the EECP applies reduced operational hours.
- The full opening of two additional crossing points - Zolote and Shchastia - in Luhanska oblast, scheduled for 10 November, was delayed. Both EECPs remain non-operational, while their functioning procedures continue to be at the centre of the discussions within the Trilateral Contact Group (TCG) negotiations with no agreement reached so far.
- As a positive development, a warming point from FarmBioTest has been installed at the EECP Stanytsia Luhanska which will serve as a waiting area for those who are queuing for COVID-19 testing. On 4 November, an ambulance from the International Medical Care started the provision of services at the EECP Stanytsia Luhanska. It is expected that these services will be extended to Zolote and Shchastia EECPs as well.
- On November 25, the Government amended its Resolution on crossing the contact line in eastern Ukraine and Resolution on crossing the administrative border with the Autonomous Republic of Crimea. Both legislative documents introduce humanitarian grounds allowing exceptional crossings through respective EECPs if their functioning is limited. These grounds include family reunion; serious illness or death of a family member; need to access medications not available in NGCA/Crimea; inheritance; availability of documents confirming permanent residence in another country; need to apply for documents (including for minors who apply for the first time); return to a permanent place of residence (however, this would be allowed only one way until the restrictions are lifted). Other grounds, if identified, will be considered by the Joint Forces Operation Command. This represents a positive development as people who intend to cross the contact line will now have access to official and publicly available information defining humanitarian grounds.
- As of 20th of November, United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) estimates that at least 40,000 or 11% children stayed homebound due to COVID-19 related school closures in non-government controlled areas. Reportedly, schools in Luhanska NGCA have partially resumed its operation, while in Donetska NGCA all schools have fully restored in person learning, since November 2.

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 November, in partnership with private sector, oxygen concentrators were distributed to 35 hospitals from 12 oblasts and NGOs for ambulatory care of COVID patients. UNICEF continued the distribution of hygiene supplies to the Roma population of Zakarpattia with 4,759 people (including 3,406 children) benefiting from the provision of family hygiene kits. In addition, UNICEF provided institutional hygiene kits to the central rayon and neurology hospitals covering the needs of 400 patients and medical staff.
- In Donetsk NGCA, 400 front-line social workers were provided with PPE and hygiene products. UNICEF provided hygiene kits as well as trolleys, dispensers and disinfectants to 18 health care facilities in Donetsk NGCA, improving access to hygiene supplies for approximately 5,100 patients. Furthermore, 27 other health facilities supported by other international humanitarian actors with hygiene kits received hygiene carts, sanitizers and dispensers.
- On November 5, UNHCR facilitated a convoy with items belonging to UNICEF, WHO, and the NGOs “People in Need” and MDM to Luhansk NGCA. In total, 3,721 tons of humanitarian assistance were delivered, for further distribution.
- On November 25 and 26, UNHCR facilitated two convoys transferring humanitarian cargo to Donetsk NGCA. The delivered aid included 34 metric tons of construction materials, furniture, sports inventories, stationary and electric appliances which will be used for UNHCR-led projects. The convoy on 26 November delivered 30 metric tons of hygiene items belonging to the NGO Polish Humanitarian Aid.

### Socio-economic recovery

- On November 20, the final results of a [grant competition](#) aimed at supporting challenge-driven partnerships to counter and alleviate the impact of COVID-19, was announced. The competition was organized under the [Empowered Partnership for Sustainable Development project](#) funded by the government of Sweden and implemented by UNDP. In total 9 initiatives will be supported. They are aimed at responding to the social and economic needs of the region as well as providing innovative solutions in the field of socio-economic development, education, employment, healthcare, urban design and community engagement that contribute to the maintenance, development or diversification of business initiatives during and after the COVID-19 crisis. The initiatives represent 9 regions of Ukraine, Poltava, Vinnytsia, Cherkasy, Ternopil, Mykolaiv, Dnipro, Lviv, Khmelnytsky, Zhytomyr.
- On November 13, the Working Group chaired by the Deputy Head of Kherson State Administration approved the Action Plan to overcome the negative impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the socio-economic development of the Kherson region. This Plan was developed by UNDP Local Socioeconomic Recovery Project in partnership with Kherson Oblast State Administration. The Plan specifically outlines key activities and measures to counteract COVID-19 negative impact and serves as an important tool and information source for the 2021-2023 Action Plan implementation of the Kherson Oblast Development Strategy for 2021-2027. In addition, this analytical and comprehensive document also serves as a key source for developing regional programs in relevant areas of socio-economic development in Kherson.

## Communication and awareness-raising activities

- UNICEF continued the implementation of the second wave of its COVID-19 behavioural campaign jointly with the Ministry of Health. The national campaign, called Rules of New Etiquette, became an attention-grabbing reminder about the key preventive measures amidst the pandemic and appealed to the audience otherwise becoming less responsive to the official communication about quarantine rules. UNICEF also continued producing informational content and materials to raise awareness about COVID-19. A new series of posters were designed based on the informational kit and provided audience with basic tips and algorithms to follow in case they contract COVID-19 or get into contact with somebody who did. Developed in response to the increasing number of cases and demand for such information, the posters will be distributed both online through UNICEF social media and as hard copies in eastern Ukraine.
- Following Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine (HRMMU)-facilitated discussions between Kyiv City State Administration and civil society, the two actors agreed to establish a coordination council dedicated to addressing issues faced by homeless persons, and to fund services provided by civil society to homeless persons. HRMMU briefed the government, representatives of Ombudsperson's Office, organizations of persons with disabilities and others on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on persons with disabilities and reiterated related recommendations, during the online public launch of its [Briefing Note](#) on this issue.
- UNICEF together with The HALO TRUST continued dissemination of informational materials on COVID-19 along the contact line in the Eastern Ukraine, focusing on the most remote villages and facilities of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts. Around 53,000 people have been reached during reported period and 275,000 people overall since May.
- UNICEF together with the Ministry of Education launched campaign on quality preschool education focused on learning and development of children in preschools and at home. UNICEF continued to apply a tailored edutainment approach in developing and producing informational and educational content and materials to raise awareness about COVID-19 among different groups. Edutainment content for teenagers on COVID-19 prevention was developed and being actively promoted and disseminated through teens platform and channels.
- WHO conducted a series of webinar on Cardiopulmonary and cerebral resuscitation in patients with COVID 19. Webinar on collection of samples for COVID-19 PCR testing, safety and security packaging, transportation, and storage of the samples was delivered by WHO experts for the rapid response teams (RRTs) of NGCA on November 11. More than 60 RRT specialists from 32 entities took part in the webinar.

## Crisis Management Support and Capacity Building

- WHO continues supporting the Government of Ukraine in the areas of epidemiological surveillance and data management. In the beginning of November, WHO conducted a first round of rapid assessment of additional hospitals designated for COVID-19 response in Luhanska oblast GCA. The purpose of the assessment is to provide recommendations for interventions to fill the existing gaps, and to present the key findings to the government and donors calling to allocate financial and other resources.
- WHO conducted technical support visit on Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) program strengthening to health facilities in Lviv, Kyiv, Oleksandrivska and Odesa, which are COVID-19 designated hospitals. WHO provided fit-for-purpose recommendations on prevention of COVID-19 nosocomial transmission and provided SOPs on key IPC related processes.
- UNICEF intensified online outreach to healthcare workers and general public by conducting a series of online webinars and media interviews with UNICEF health experts and various NGOs, professional medical associations.

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## EXTERNAL PUBLICATIONS/DEVELOPMENTS

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Overcoming COVID-19 together: A New Life for an IDP Community ([English](#) and [Ukrainian](#))

UNHCR and the EU ensure mobility for social workers along the contact line in Ukraine ([English](#) and [Ukrainian](#))

UNHCR opens art-installation “Invisible Children: Under the Risk of Statelessness” ([English](#) and [Ukrainian](#))

During a pandemic, women are more likely to suffer from extra workload, declining incomes and domestic violence – research – <https://ua.interfax.com.ua/news/general/702917.html>

Due to the pandemic, more than 10% of small and medium enterprises in Ukraine are on the verge of bankruptcy and will soon go out of business – UNDP – <https://ua.interfax.com.ua/news/general/706303.html>

The Government, with the support of development partners, should intensify its efforts to strengthen the sustainability of the health care system - UNDP Resident Representative in Ukraine Dafina Gercheva – <https://ua.interfax.com.ua/news/interview/706348.html>

To save patients during the shelling and pandemic of the coronavirus: the story of Olga Martynenko in the project "Women - the key to peace" – <https://tsn.ua/ukrayina/ryatuvati-hvorih-pid-chas-obstriliv-ta-pandemiyi-koronavirusu-istoriya-olgi-martinenko-u-proyektu-zhinki-klyuch-do-miru-1674469.html>

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