

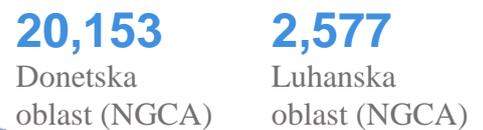
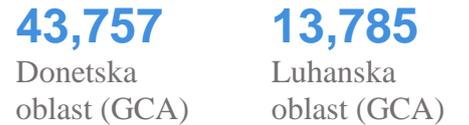


This report is a consolidation of United Nations informational products, drafted by the Office of the United Nations Resident Coordinator in Ukraine.

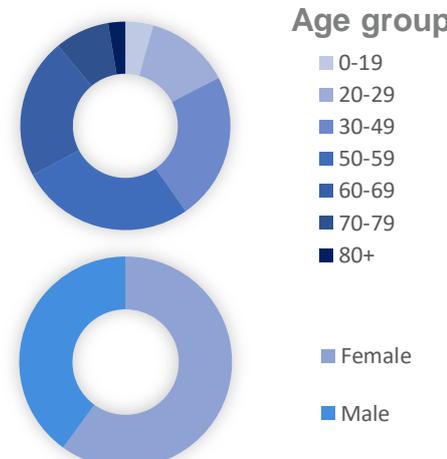
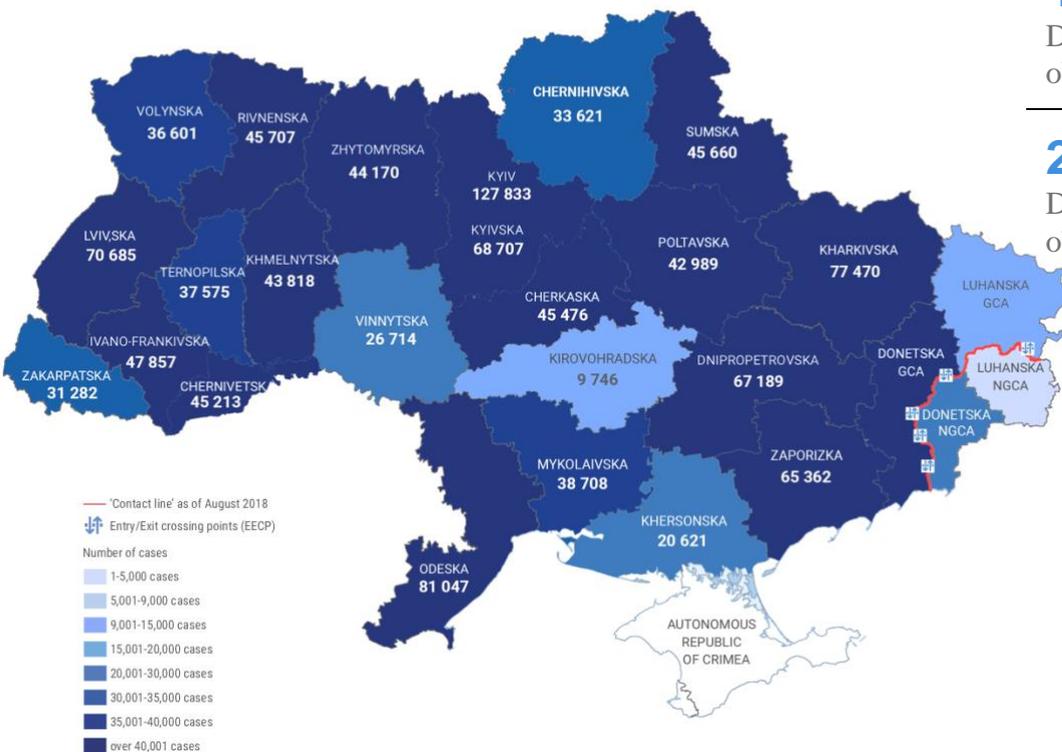
HIGHLIGHTS



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 number of new confirmed COVID-19 cases continues to slowly decline. On January 25, the Government of Ukraine has lifted the intensified quarantine measures, that were in place for over two weeks, returning to the restrictions of the "orange" quarantine zone and the measures previously introduced in December. Ukraine expects to get the first portion of the vaccine and begin the vaccination process in February.
- Over 1 million people have recovered from COVID-19. Over the past day, the largest numbers of new COVID-19 cases have been recorded in Lviv, Ivano-Frankivsk, Kyiv Oblast, Vinnytsia Oblasts and in the city of Kyiv.

6.2 M
COVID-19 PCR tests conducted

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

5,181
Daily COVID-19 confirmed cases

SITUATION OVERVIEW

The impact of the crisis on the socio-economic situation

- According to the Ministry of Health, vaccination against the COVID-19 is due to start in mid-February. Ukraine expects to receive Pfizer vaccine within the global initiative COVAX. Reportedly, the Government of Ukraine is also negotiating vaccine supplies with four other manufacturers.
- According to preliminary estimates of the National Bank of Ukraine, the fall of gross domestic product (GDP) in 2020 was 4.4%, counter to higher earlier predictions. The positive dynamic is attributed to the faster economic recovery in the last two quarters of the year.
- The impact of infection risk mitigation measures on the economy of small communities has been disastrous, with terrible consequences on people's wellbeing and mental health, hugely affecting the most fragile community members struggling to make ends meet and provide for their families. According to [IOM data](#), as many as 70 per cent of female-headed displaced households with children reported having just enough money for food, or that the decreased family income compelled them to save on meals. Women are disproportionately affected all over the country. They take on additional care roles within the family, which has been exacerbated by the closure of schools and social institutions.
- The rise in reports of domestic and gender-based violence since the beginning of the pandemic remains a concern. The victims of domestic violence are mostly women. The gender pay gap is widening and women continue to receive lower wages than men.
- The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and its NGO partner NEEKA continue monitoring the situation at Roma camps in Zakarpattia oblast after the COVID-19 outbreak was reported in one of these establishments in Mukacheve. Since December, over a hundred cases were registered among the residents of the Roma camp established by a local church. UNHCR's NGO partner, The Tenth of April, also reported the increase of new cases among Roma population in Odesa oblast. In both instances, Roma residents were reluctant to seek medical assistance as the level of awareness about the pandemic remains low.
- The UN Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine (HRMMU) is concerned that Roma people have become even more vulnerable than at the beginning of the pandemic, with the gradual deterioration of their human rights situation following the enforcement of COVID-19 prevention and mitigation measures. Major concerns remain, such as a lack of access to healthcare services due to social exclusion and lack of identification documents (ID), and inability to register their residency, mainly stemming from a lack of IDs. These points also are confirmed by the Ombudsperson's Office in its report "[Impact of COVID-19 on Roma](#)" released on 23 January.
- Vulnerable groups continue to face difficulties in relation to COVID-19. Recent restrictions have restrained access to the social services during the harshest weather conditions in January. The severe cold weather posed a serious threat to persons experiencing homelessness. LGBTI persons continued to be disproportionately affected by job losses and suffered evictions from rented accommodation. Older persons also continued to suffer disproportionately from the pandemic due to reduced mobility and lack of financial resources, which exacerbated their vulnerabilities.
- HRMMU has observed the selective application of laws restricting mass gatherings (e.g. concerts and sport events) during the COVID-19 pandemic. While several assemblies in Kyiv were held without hindrance, others were stopped or prevented by law enforcement agencies.
- As of 28 January, 1260 COVID-19 cases had been detected in penitentiary facilities (affecting 1029 penitentiary staff, 142 medical personnel, 52 prisoners, and 37 detainees), an increase of 178 new cases since 28 December, with the majority of those infected among penitentiary staff.

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

- During the holiday season, both Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts non-government-controlled areas (NGCA) lifted the curfew and eased some restrictions on entertainment facilities' operation. Moreover, both NGCA oblasts permitted festivities for children without parents' participation and subject to the implementation of COVID-19 preventive measures. From 31 December 2020 to 8 January 2021, schools were closed for a winter break and resumed studies using mixed learning modalities (regular and online classes) from 10 January.
- The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)-supported GBV teams that are providing online and offline consultations in Eastern Ukraine, reported that around 52 % of all cases (adults and children) are related to violence, 10 % - to COVID-19.
- Freedom of movement through the contact line in eastern Ukraine continued to be restricted. This is affecting a number of rights, including the right to social security, namely pensions. Individuals registered in NGCA with Ukrainian ID cards continue to face problems while crossing from government-controlled areas (GCA) to NGCA via Stanytsia Luhanska entry-exit crossing point (EECP). There was no progress in the simultaneous opening of the new EECPs in Luhansk region at Zolote and Shchastia, initially scheduled for 10 November.
- In January, only two of the five official crossing points are functioning on both sides of the contact line, allowing people to cross. "Stanytsia Luhanska" in Luhanska oblast daily and "Novotroitske"/ "Olenivka" in Donetsk oblast twice a week. To a large extent, crossings have been limited to those people who have been granted humanitarian exemptions negotiated by the humanitarian community. In addition, people have been allowed to cross based on the pre-approved lists issued in NGCA. The numbers of civilians crossing through this EECP remains very low. As of 29 January, 24,443 crossings were recorded at the Stanytsia Luhanska EECP, representing a two-fold decrease, as compared to December. This was primarily linked to the harsh winter conditions in eastern Ukraine which also affected the functioning of the crossing point. Due to low temperatures, on several days, UNHCR and its NGO partners had to stop operating of two electric cars which transport people at this checkpoint. At the Novotroitske EECP, 989 crossings in both directions were recorded.
- On 5 January, the Government adopted a new Resolution amending regulation for crossing the contact line in eastern Ukraine and the administrative border line with the Autonomous Republic of Crimea during the COVID-19 pandemic. Residents in the non-government controlled areas (NGCA) and Crimea are now allowed to terminate their self-isolation or observation in government-controlled areas (GCA) upon presenting negative results of express testing on antibodies. Since 15 January, this free testing was gradually introduced at the operational Entry-Exit Crossing Points (EECPs). During monitoring visits to the EECPs in eastern Ukraine, UNHCR noted that no such testing was available at the Stanytsia Luhanska crossing point, while at the Novotroitske EECP limited volumes (up to 100 testing systems) were available. Based on UNHCR's observations, express testing did not exempt people from the requirement to self-isolate. The testing results have to be uploaded to the mobile phone application "Act at Home", therefore, those who are unable to install it still have to undergo self-isolation at the observation facilities.

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

- UNICEF jointly with implementing partner UCRN continued distribution of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and hygiene supplies to social workers and child protection specialists in five regions of Ukraine. 1,195 frontline workers benefitted from the provision of PPE in Dnipro, Mykolaiv, Poltava, Volyn and Kharkiv regions. UNICEF jointly with Triangle Generation Humanitaire completed distribution of e-vouchers for hygiene supplies for the households and institutions.
- UNICEF jointly with implementing partner Donbas Development Centre (DDC) provided 2,000 family hygiene kits and 300 hygiene kits for people with special needs for 5,300 vulnerable residents of non-government-controlled area. UNICEF also delivered hygiene supplies, contactless thermometers and informational materials on safe behavioural practices to 128 schools in Donetska NGCA to support them in implementation of safe school operation guidelines. Over 30,800 children enrolled to these schools (15,700 boys and 15,100 girls) benefitted from this intervention.
- UNICEF provided 100 Oblast Centers (OCs) with necessary accessories for 3 months of operating for 5 eastern oblasts of Ukraine benefiting 25 COVID designated hospitals. 100 kits of medical equipment for front-line medical workers in Donetsk GCA were delivered to improve essential medical services for 6000 children under 5 during 1 year. In addition, 38 medical facilities in Donetsk NGCA received more than 300 000 items of PPE and disinfectants.
- In Zakarpattya oblast UNICEF jointly with implementing partner NEEKA completed rehabilitation works in 5 healthcare facilities in Uzhgorod, Beregove and Mukachevo improving access to water and sanitation for 27,500 patients.
- The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) procured protective coveralls and chemical protection suits for the State Emergency Service of Ukraine (SES) personnel to conduct disinfection activities and 5 ventilators for the healthcare facilities in eastern Ukraine.

Communication and awareness-raising activities

- In response to a potential decrease in adherence to the basic preventive behaviours during the holiday period, UNICEF Ukraine tailored its national behavioural campaign Rules of New Etiquette – Safe holidays. In partnership with the Ministry of Culture and Information Policy and Ministry of Health, UNICEF produced and disseminated thematic billboards, city lights, audio and video spots and digital content, reaching over 5,000,000 people.
- In response to an increasing demand for more information on effective remote learning techniques, a series of webinars on “School and COVID-19” were organised. The online sessions were hosted on Facebook pages of UNICEF, Ministry of Education as well as local NGO “Osvitoria”. The themes covered during the webinars included evaluation of students’ results online, managing formal documentation from home, etc. Local winners of Ukraine’ Global Teacher’s Prize award were among the speakers, which resulted in a high interest in the sessions among the professional audience.

- Employers’ organizations and businesses, workers’ organizations, labour inspectors have been provided with information on Occupational Safety and health (OSH) in times of COVID-19 pandemic, through the dissemination of the following materials, translated into Ukrainian:
 - [27 sector and profession-specific technical fact sheets](#) on the prevention of COVID-19 at workplaces, developed by the French Ministry of Labour;
 - materials (including reports, check-list and videos) regarding the “[World Day for Safety and Health at Work 2020 Stop the pandemic: Safety and health at work can save lives](#)”;
 - [practical tools](#), including “[Safe return to work: Guide for employers on COVID-19 prevention](#)”.

Crisis Management Support and Capacity Building

- UNDP provided comprehensive support to Kherson Oblast State Administration to ensure business continuity and provision of public services during the COVID-19 pandemic in the region. Two assessments, namely, social and economic needs assessment and assessment on distant work challenges and needs in Kherson Oblast State Administration were conducted. UNDP Ukraine and the UK’s Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) have partnered in the *Strengthening the Community Resilience in Kherson Oblast Project* to bolster the resilience of communities in Kherson Oblast, helping them to face multi-factor crisis and enhance trust between the citizens and government institutions. It aims to build community resilience and trust in government by improving access to quality public services for the most vulnerable groups, particularly the elderly, children, the disabled, and women.
- WHO initiated monitoring of enforcement of the Public Health Social Measures (PHSM EM) over all the regions of Ukraine from 15 to 24 January 2021 during the national lockdown period. The report is expected by 20 February 2021 and the results are to contribute to analysis of the interrelations between the policies on public health response measures, their enforcement and epidemiological situation.
- To address critical gaps in access to digital learning solutions among children and teachers UNICEF supported 20 schools in eastern Ukraine (GCA) with the dedicated IT equipment (laptops, printers and tablets). It is expected that schools will start borrowing tablets to the most in need children who are learning from home and do not have access to alternative digital learning solutions. An estimated 800 children have benefited from this intervention.
- Responding to the request of the Government, UNICEF supported the All-Ukrainian School-online 2.0 project. Co-lead by the Ministry of Digital Transformation and Ministry of Education and Science the project aims to develop a fully functioning learning platform. To improve accessibility of platform’s educational content for broad range of users including children with special educational needs, UNICEF co-facilitated trainings for content developers and provided on-going expert support on inclusiveness.

EXTERNAL PUBLICATIONS/DEVELOPMENTS

Youth for Change: How Young Refugees and Asylum-Seekers Help Communities in [English](#) and [Ukrainian](#)

UN Policy paper on Universal Health Coverage in [English](#) and [Ukrainian](#)

UNICEF Child and Youth Friendly Municipality Initiative [Annual Report 2020](#)

Panel discussion: the gender component in online violence – (VIDEO)

The life of refugees during the pandemic – (VIDEO)

Domestic violence during a lockdown: Where to turn for help in Donbas –
<https://dn.depo.ua/ukr/dn/simeyne-nasilstvo-pid-chas-lokdaunu-kudi-zvertatisya-na-donbasi-202101121269901>

The EU-ILO Project Towards safe, healthy and declared work in Ukraine

COVID-19 action checklist for the construction industry –

ENG https://www.ilo.org/global/topics/safety-and-health-at-work/resources-library/publications/WCMS_765692/lang--en/index.htm

UKR https://www.ilo.org/global/topics/safety-and-health-at-work/resources-library/publications/WCMS_765692/lang--en/index.htm

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*A list of used sources is available upon request.