



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

HIGHLIGHTS



CONFIRMED  
CASES

1,374,849



DEATHS

25,982



RECOVERED

1,170,023

Eastern Ukraine  
COVID-19 confirmed cases

47,324

Donetska  
oblast (GCA)

14,977

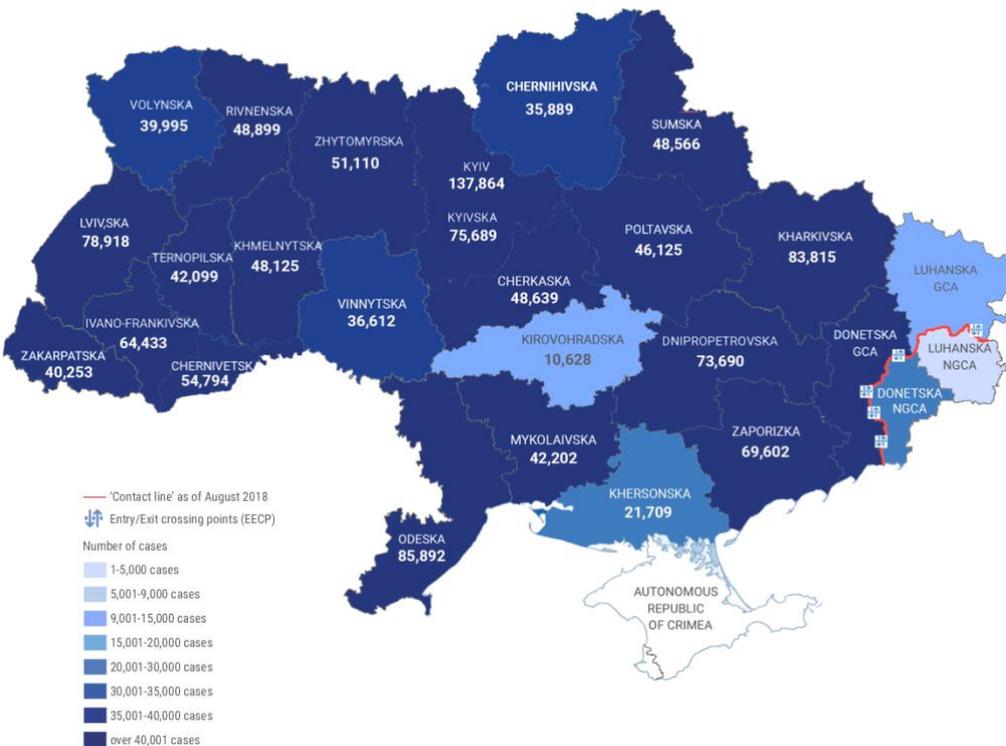
Luhanska  
oblast (GCA)

24,410

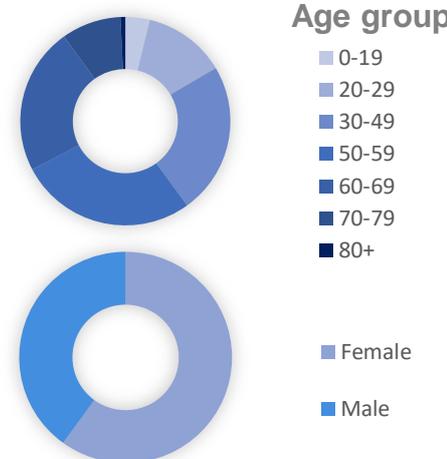
Donetska  
oblast (NGCA)

3,069

Luhanska  
oblast (NGCA)



\*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.

- Ukraine returned to adaptive quarantine with a division of regions according to their distinct epidemiological situation. Once again, the country will be divided into four epidemiological zones (green, yellow, orange, and red).
- On February 23, the first batch of Oxford/AstraZeneca (Covishield) vaccine arrived in Ukraine. The COVID-19 vaccination campaign has started on February 24, prioritizing health care workers, based on the risk of exposure.

47,811

Daily COVID-19 tests  
conducted

3.4 M

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

5,833

Daily COVID-19  
confirmed cases

## SITUATION OVERVIEW

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

- Almost a year into the pandemic, the Ukrainian health care system is still grappling with the unprecedented strain of the COVID-19. As the first batch of Covishield vaccines arrived last week, Ukraine has immediately begun the vaccination process. According to the announcement of the Minister of Health, Maksym Stepanov, all willing to vaccinate will be able to do so by the end of the year 2021.
- The UN Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine (HRMMU) continued to monitor healthcare workers' right to social security. Out of the more than 60,000 cases of health care workers infected by COVID-19 by February 2021, only a small percentage have been recognised by the authorities as work-related. This has negatively affected healthcare workers' right to compensation in case of sickness, disability or death. As of 31 December 2020, the State Labour Service was notified of 35,040 cases of COVID-19 infections of healthcare workers, of the 735,500 workers employed in the healthcare sector as of November 2020, according to the State Statistics Service. The data showed a huge regional discrepancy in recognition of healthcare workers' COVID-19 infections as work-related: four per cent in Poltava region; six per cent in Sumy region; eight per cent in Luhansk region; 66 per cent in Kharkiv; and 80 per cent in Ivano-Frankivsk region. The overall recognition rate remained low – 28 per cent. Delays in the payment of compensation persisted, and in 74 per cent of cases, investigations to establish the work-related nature of the infection were still pending.
- February saw the lowest temperatures of winter, creating an even greater struggle for the vulnerable populations of Ukraine. The severe cold weather continued to pose a threat to people in situation of homelessness.
- The COVID-19 pandemic and the forced prolonged stay in the same space with the perpetrators have led to an increase in the number of domestic incidents. According to a United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) survey, a quarter of respondents (24%) personally experienced some form of domestic violence, of whom 81% were women. One in five women in Ukraine has experienced at least one form of violence from their partner.
- Between 29 January and 28 February, 163 new cases were detected, raising the number of detected COVID-19 cases in penitentiary facilities to 1,426 (affecting 1,135 penitentiary staff, 156 medical personnel, 84 prisoners, and 51 detainees). Since the start of the pandemic, six individuals have died (three members of penitentiary staff, one member of medical personnel, one detainee and one prisoner).
- Fair trial rights continue to be impacted by COVID-19, notably in relation to violations of the rights to a trial without undue delay, to a public hearing, to legal counsel and access to justice.
- It remains a concern that local authorities in the settlements that included 18 newly-created amalgamated communities (created under the decentralisation process), where the local elections did not take place in October 2020, do not have access to the local budget accounts. As a result, health, education and social services employees from these 18 communities had not been paid; some settlements had not been able to secure heating and electricity for public facilities, and so had to limit healthcare services, which may impact their ability to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond.
- In 2020, the State Migration Service (SMS) reported a decrease of 42 per cent in the number of new applications for asylum (597 persons compared to 1,036 in 2019). This is linked to the COVID-related travel restrictions and interruptions in the work of the regional asylum authorities and courts. At the same time, 123 persons were granted international protection (39 were recognised as refugees, and 84 were granted with a complementary protection status), which represents an increase to 24 per cent in the recognition rate (compared to 21 per cent in 2019).

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

- The pandemic has significantly added to the challenges that many medical and social institutions in Ukraine’s conflict-affected regions have had to deal with. Set against a backdrop of an aging population, a general lack of funding and often outdated equipment and infrastructure, institutions have often struggled to meet the needs of their communities. [Assessments](#) have shown that this gap between capacities and needs has become wider than ever, especially with heightened disinfection standards and the need for personal protective gear that budgets could not stretch to.
- Restrictions on crossing the contact line in the context of COVID-19 remained in place, impacting civilians’ right to freedom of movement and access to many rights including to healthcare, social services, banks, food supplies, jobs and sources of income, as well as contact with family members on both sides of the contact line.
- In February, over 38,000 crossings in both directions were registered through two operational entry-exit crossing points (EECPs) in eastern Ukraine - in Stanytsia Luhanska (operating daily) and Novotroitske (operating on Mondays and Fridays only). This represents a 32 per cent increase compared to January, as crossing points functioned more regularly following disruptions caused by harsh winter conditions. Yet, five other crossing points, including newly opened EECPs in Zolote and Shchastia, remained non-operational.
- The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) teams, which regularly monitor the situation at the EECPs, observed that COVID-19 free testing was not yet available at the Stanytsia Luhanska crossing point, while in Novotroitske over 400 people were able to take a test and upon receiving a negative result were exempted from the requirement to self-isolate when they crossed to government controlled areas (GCA). While being a positive development, the introduction of free COVID-19 testing does not solve the issues of those who cannot install the mobile phone application “Diia” (Act at Home). Results of the test should be received on the app and persons who are not able to download it must go to designated observation facilities.
- Many civilians, especially those registered in Donetsk non-government controlled areas (NGCA), continue opting to cross to GCA and back through the territory of the Russian Federation, at significant cost, and risk of fines from the Government of Ukraine.
- The UNHCR-led Protection Cluster reported that restrictions in freedom of movement across the ‘contact line’ severely impacted the provision of legal assistance and individual protection counselling by protection partners in 2020. The number of assisted persons for both activities decreased by 35 per cent and 51 per cent respectively, compared to 2019. Despite the restricted crossing, partners provided protection assistance to 77,500 persons directly at the EECPs. This included dissemination of information, transportation assistance, explosive ordnance risk education, protection counselling and legal assistance. The analysis also showed that the COVID-19 pandemic and the lack of funding led to a five-fold decrease in the number of elderly people and persons with disabilities accessing community spaces which leads to the increase of their vulnerability and isolation.

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

- WHO provided equipment for 100 hand hygiene stations and equipment for environmental cleaning for 6 departments of the hospital in Mariupol. IOM delivered 1000 hygiene kits to 111 medical and social facilities and 582 bedridden kits to 35 medical and social institutions in Donetsk and Luhansk oblast GCA.
- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) procured 14 specialised showers for disinfection and 19 flexible pumps for the Main Departments of the State Emergency Service of Ukraine in Donetsk, Luhansk and Zaporizhzhia oblasts.
- Another batch with 25 contactless thermometers as well as 5 digital tonometer's, 5 defibrillators and 25 ambu-bags were provided to the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine (SBGS) for use in EECs in Donetsk and Luhansk oblast, by IOM.
- IOM procured and distributed Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) and medical equipment (91,650 pairs of surgical gloves, 1017 protective aprons, 41200 examination gloves, 2280 face shields, 5900 respirators, 24200 medical masks, 14400 protective gowns, 270 protective goggles, 150 infrared thermometers, 10 pulse oximeters, 3 patient monitors, 2 oxygen concentrators, a lung ventilator, 1700 bio hazard disposal bags, 2 biochemical analysers, 2 electrocardiographs, a sterilization unit, a microscope, an infusion pump, and a Holter monitor) to 5 hospitals in Donetsk and Luhansk oblast GCA.
- On 18 February, UNHCR jointly with OCHA facilitated the delivery of the first in 2021 humanitarian convoy to NGCA. In total, 11 trucks transported to Luhansk over 80 tons of assistance. It included construction materials for UNHCR's shelter programme and in-kind assistance which will be distributed to conflict-affected persons with specific needs. On behalf of WHO, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the NGO Medicos del Mundo, the convoy transferred medical supplies, hygiene items and PPE.

### Crisis Management Support and Capacity Building

- During February, WHO provided support to strengthen the IPC programme at COVID-19 designated hospital in Mariupol. In collaboration with UNICEF, WHO conducted three webinars on IPC in primary health care and in COVID-19 health care facilities. WHO also conducted an online assessment of IPC needs in three COVID-19 designated hospitals and developed a training schedule and SOPs for the hospitals following a multimodal approach of IPC programme strengthening.
- WHO conducted webinars for health workers on clinical management of patients with COVID-19 and on infection prevention control (IPC) as well as COVID-19 surveillance in health care settings and COVID-19 prevention, covering 47 healthcare facilities in Donetsk and Luhansk NGCA.
- WHO assessed the needs of healthcare facilities in the eastern conflict area to develop a comprehensive plan of strengthening capacities of the local health services. In addition, it completed assessments of four hospitals in Donetsk oblast.

- WHO continued working on establishment of its E-Learning platform to contribute to capacity building of national healthcare professionals. The first presentations for the courses on COVID-19 surveillance, COVID-19 epidemiology, IPC within COVID-19 outbreak and the application of Electronic Integrated Disease Surveillance System (EIDSS) for COVID-19 data management were prepared.
- A comprehensive analysis was conducted based on the November and December reports provided by regional consultants in Ternopil, Kharkiv, Odesa, Lviv and Chernivtsi oblasts with analyses shared with the directors of the respective oblast laboratory centres (OLCs) to enable them to track trends in key epidemiological parameters for prompt information and response.
- WHO experts conducted 11 sessions of online training “Mental Health and Psychosocial Support during COVID-19 Preparedness, Outbreak, and Response” forming the basis of discussion with managers of healthcare facilities on how they can improve mental health aspects of their operations.
- Training of the national validation team for healthcare associated infections point prevalence survey during COVID-19 were conducted. In order to improve the current response to the pandemic and management of COVID-19 cases in designated hospitals, WHO developed a clinical management training series aimed to be conducted in the first half of 2021. The first two trainings were conducted in January.
- WHO continued supporting Ukraine in preparation for the COVID-19 vaccination response. Operational Plan for the ‘first wave’ of vaccination response to protect medical professionals who are delivering services to COVID-19 patients, was developed and presented to the Ministry of Health, other partners and the Vaccine Preventable Disease (VPD) Task Force (TF).
- Laboratory-based trainings on real-time PCR were conducted by WHO to strengthen qualifications of staff. Theoretical and practical exercises were provided on the best molecular diagnostics practices for COVID-19 testing, different methods of RNA extraction, state-of-the-art reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR), analysis of results, troubleshooting and quality control. An online workshop on risk assessment procedures for sample collection was conducted for the Donetsk Oblast Centre of prophylaxis and fight against AIDS in Sloviansk.
- WHO continued to reach out to the general public through sharing of digital information packages. Educational posters about correct usage of medical masks were delivered to HIV/TB focal points across the country to the Ministry of Health at the regional level to avoid an increase in risk of transmission associated with incorrect use of masks.
- On 12 February, HRMMU established a group of international actors, including the Council of Europe, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) and Special Monitoring Mission (SMM), European Union Advisory Mission Ukraine (EUAM) and various embassies to coordinate joint efforts to address the human rights situation of Roma in Ukraine. The group will serve to enhance dialogue and co-operation among its members and discuss joint action, including for the prevention of serious human rights violations and advocacy.
- In March 2020 – February 2021, the IOM-supported National Counter-Trafficking and Migrant Advice Hotline received 6,828 COVID-related calls from potential migrants, Ukrainians abroad and their relatives in Ukraine in need of comprehensive information on mobility advice, travel restrictions, health referrals, etc.

## PUBLICATIONS/DEVELOPMENTS

### 2020 SDG monitoring report (UNICEF)

Launch of the WHO publication **“Towards a healthier Ukraine. Progress on the health-related Sustainable Development Goals 2020”**

UN Policy Paper on In-Out Migration in **English** and **Ukrainian**

**“Winterization program of UNHCR in Ukraine helps 450 families survive cold winter temperatures”** in **English** and **Ukrainian**

**“Funding from the People of Japan brings warmth to homes nearby the contact line in eastern Ukraine”** in **English** and **Ukrainian**

**Responsible business conduct accelerates social and economic development –**

<https://en.interfax.com.ua/news/blog/722337.html>

**With the support of the Government of Japan, the International Organization for Migration, transferred medical equipment to hospitals in Donbass –** <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=470271500654902>

The results of **a study on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on air quality in Ukraine and Moldova** was presented at a top-level meeting of officials from UNDP, Ukraine, Moldova and the European Space Agency on 12 February 2021. Using Earth Observation (EO) data to complement traditional monitoring systems, the study sheds new light on the impact of COVID-19 on air quality and emissions due to transport and industry, allowing for a new level of insight for policy makers and practitioners.

**Gender based violence and related service provision in communities in Luhansk and Donetsk oblasts.**

The study has been conducted to identify the gaps and challenges related to Ukraine's gender-based violence (GBV) service access and provision and the impact of COVID-19 on GBV prevalence. This research will support the promotion of community resilience to GBV and completion of a large-scale Hromada Capacity and Vulnerability assessment aiming to help local authorities and development actors with evidence-based regional planning. For the purpose of the study, IMPACT Initiatives (IMPACT) has conducted 252 facility key informant interviews (FKIs) with GBV service providers' representatives working in various sectors, such as healthcare, social, and administrative services, including 114 COVID-19 specific follow-up interviews. This method has strived to capture, on the one hand, the capacities of service providers to assist survivors of GBV, and on the other hand, the demand for GBV-specific service and care. In parallel, IMPACT conducted focus group discussions (FGDs) in 23 different settlements, consulting 152 women.

UNDP released the report entitled **“Women’s political participation and representation at the subnational level: background, challenges and needs”**. The publication is a part of the 'Enhancing Women’s Political Participation campaign at the Subnational level' project, and aims to enhance public awareness about the need for full, equal, free and democratic participation of women on equal terms with men in political and public life. The impact of COVID-19 on socio-economic status of women was also addressed.

An illustrated guide **“Doing what matters’ in times of stress”** was released in Ukrainian language. The publication is a guide on stress management. The purpose of the manual is to introduce people to simple practical skills that will help coping with stress. The manual can be used both separately and in together with audio exercises, dubbed in Ukrainian language.

Upcoming Events:

On 11 March at 11 am, **OHCHR will launch its Report on the human rights situation in Ukraine covering the period 1 August 2020 – 31 January 2021.** The launch will be live streamed from the Ukraine Crisis Media Center and can be watched live at their [website](#).

**Virtual International Conference on Sustainable Development, 23-25 April 2021 –**  
<https://sdlconference.org/>

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