

Ukraine: protection of civilians in armed conflict

January 2024 update



Date: 7 February 2024

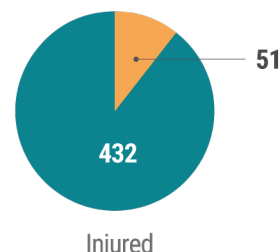
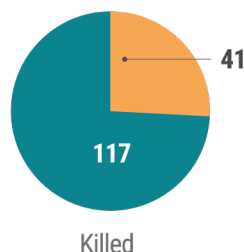
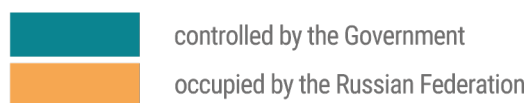
Summary

- HRMMU verified that at least **641 civilians were killed or injured** in Ukraine in January 2024, continuing a trend from December 2023 of increasing civilian casualties. Verified civilian casualties in January were **37 per cent higher** than in November 2023.
- The January increase in civilian casualties was mainly due to intensified attacks by Russian armed forces across the country with **missile and loitering munitions**. These attacks affecting areas far from the frontline also resulted in an increase in the number of **children killed and injured**. Families constitute a larger proportion of casualties far from the frontlines because many families with their children have evacuated frontline communities. OHCHR verified that 40 children were killed or injured in January, up from 18 in November.
- The number of civilian casualties also rose in **Russian-occupied territory**, in large part due to an attack in the occupied city of Donetsk on 21 January.
- Most civilian casualties (**71 per cent**) and damage to educational and health facilities (**76 per cent**) continued to occur in Government-controlled territory.

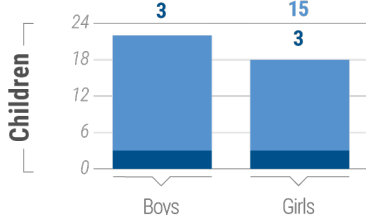
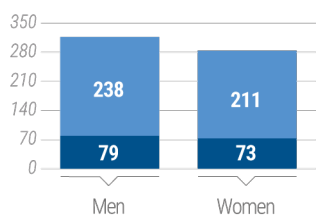
Civilian casualties January 2024¹

Total civilian casualties **641** [**158** Killed **483** Injured]

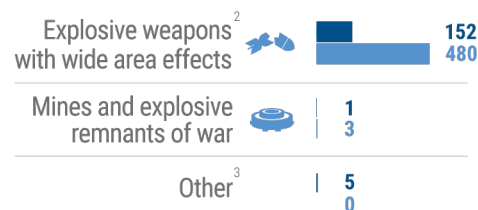
1. By territory where casualties occurred



2. By age and sex



3. By type of weapon/incident



Damage to educational and medical facilities January 2024



Significant incidents

- On 2, 8 and 23 January, missile and loitering munitions attacks struck Government-controlled cities and towns, including Kyiv and Kharkiv, killing at least 26 civilians (15 women, 10 men and 1 girl) and injuring 190 (95 women, 78 men, 9 boys and 8 girls).
- On 6 January, a missile strike in Government-controlled Pokrovsk and Rivne (Donetsk region) killed members of two families (4 women, 2 men, 2 boys and 1 girl) and injured another 10 civilians. Two boys are still considered missing.
- On 21 January, shelling hit two markets and a residential area in the occupied city of Donetsk, killing 24 civilians (15 women and 9 men) and injuring at least 11 civilians.

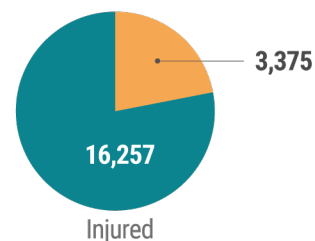
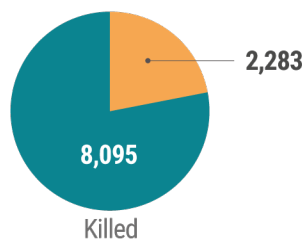
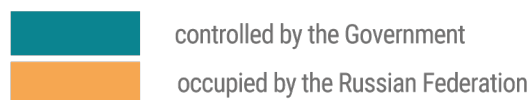
"My husband pulled me away from the window and we were thrown several meters back by the blast wave. I was lucky that I fell with my face in a box of my child's soft toys. My husband was all covered in blood due to the facial cuts. When we turned around, half of our house was gone."

A woman in her 40s describes an attack in Kharkiv city on 23 January 2024

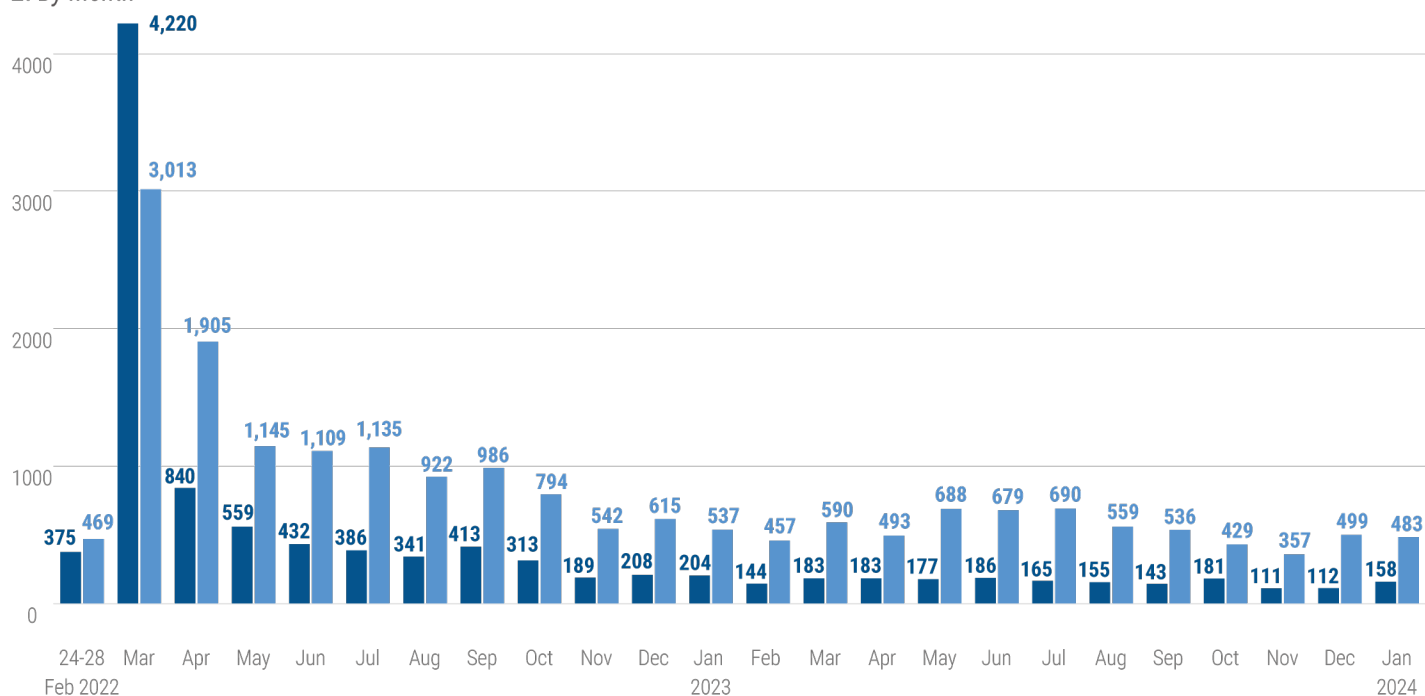
Civilian casualties since 24 February 2022⁴

Total civilian casualties **30,010** [**10,378** Killed **19,632** Injured]

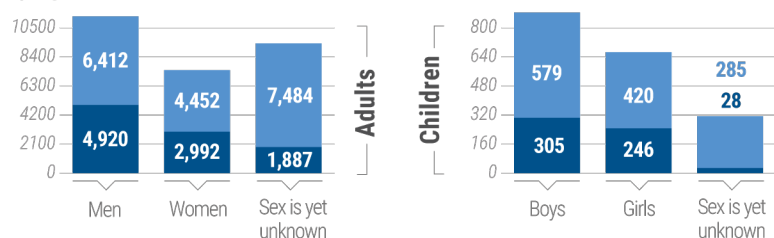
1. By territory where casualties occurred



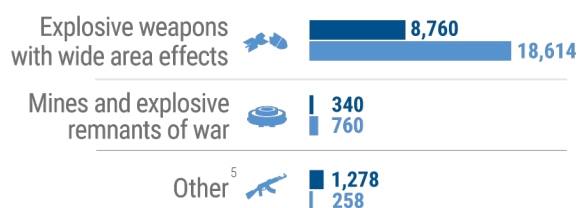
2. By month



3. By age and sex



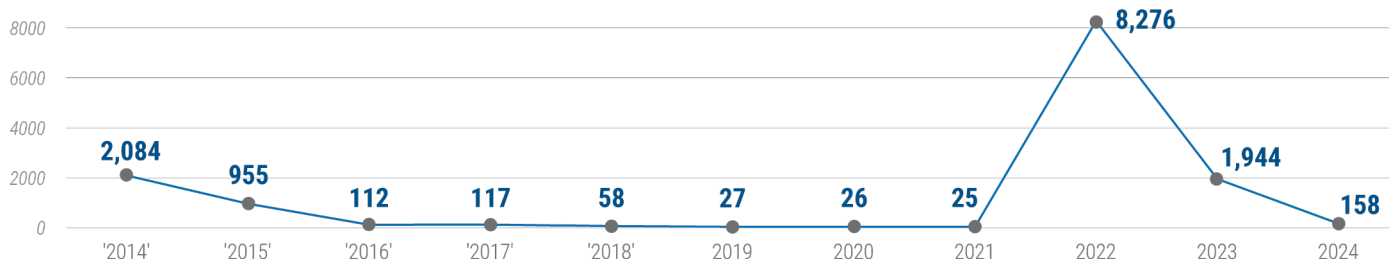
4. By type of weapon/incident



Damage to educational and medical facilities since 24 February 2022



Civilian casualties (killed) since 2014





The UN Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine

OHCHR has documented civilian casualties in Ukraine since 2014. The numbers are based on information that the UN Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine (HRMMU) has collected through interviews with victims and their relatives; witnesses; analysis of corroborating material confidentially shared with HRMMU; official records; open-source documents, photo and video materials; forensic records and reports; criminal investigation materials; court documents; reports by international and national non-governmental organisations; public reports by law enforcement and military actors; data from medical facilities

and local authorities. All sources and information are assessed for their relevance and credibility and cross-checked against other information. In some instances, corroboration may take time. As a result, civilian casualty figures may be revised as more information becomes available. Statistics presented in the current update are based on individual civilian casualty records where the “reasonable grounds to believe” standard of proof was met, namely where, based on a body of verified information, an ordinarily prudent observer would have reasonable grounds to believe that the casualty took place as described.

¹ The actual number might be higher as some reports are still pending confirmation.

² Incidents in which civilians were killed or injured by shelling from artillery, tanks and multiple launch rocket systems (MLRS), by cruise and ballistic missiles (air, sea and land-based), and by air strikes, including loitering munitions and other unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs).

³ Incidents in which civilians were killed or injured by fire from small arms and light weapons, including as a result of crossfire, sniper fire, escalation of force incidents (cases in which military opened fire on civilians whom they perceived as a threat), and wilful killings, as well as road accidents involving either military vehicles or civilian vehicles driven by military in the area of hostilities.

⁴ OHCHR believes that the actual figures are considerably higher, as many reports, particularly from certain locations and from the immediate period after 24 February 2022, are still pending corroboration. This concerns, for example, Mariupol (Donetsk region), Lysychansk, Popasna, and Sievierodonetsk (Luhansk region), where there were allegations of high civilian casualties and damage to civilian infrastructure. An increase in total figures in this update compared with the previous update is not only due to casualties and damage to civilian infrastructure that occurred in the reporting period as OHCHR also continues to corroborate cases that occurred before the reporting period.