

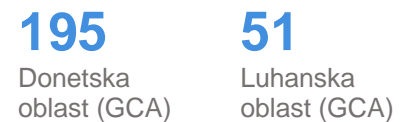


This report is a consolidation of United Nations informational products, drafted by the Office of the United Nations Resident Coordinator in Ukraine. The next report will be issued around 23 June 2020.

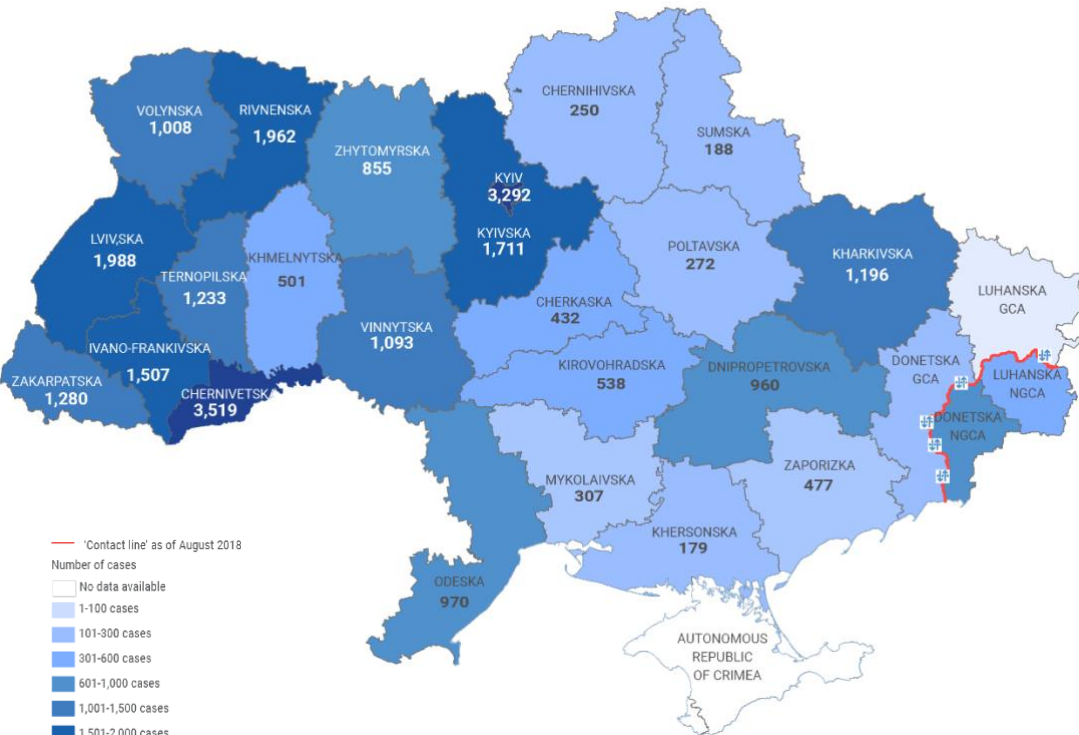
HIGHLIGHTS



Eastern Ukraine
COVID-19 confirmed cases



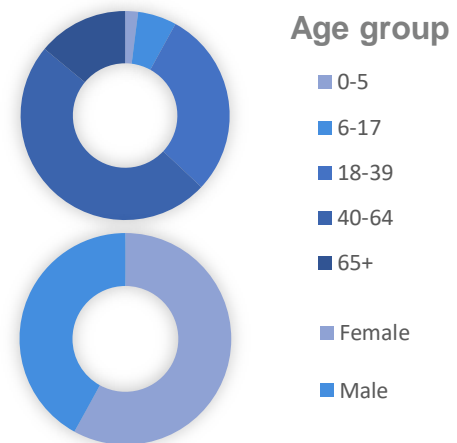
*This figure does not include the number of confirmed cases in the non-Government-controlled areas (NGCA).
Data source: Ministry of Health, Ukraine and entities in control of certain areas of Donetsk and Luhansk regions of Ukraine.



— 'Contact line' as of August 2018

Number of cases

- No data available
- 1-100 cases
- 101-300 cases
- 301-600 cases
- 601-1,000 cases
- 1,001-1,500 cases
- 1,501-2,000 cases
- over 2,000 cases



The boundaries and names shown, and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

- The United Nations provides global expertise and advice to the Government on medical and socio-economic prerequisites for easing quarantine measures and preparing the country's COVID-19 exit strategy.
- As of 1 June, Ukraine entered the third stage of the quarantine phase-out plan. As in the previous stage, the exit from quarantine remains adaptive. Only regions that meet the three criteria of the Ministry of Health will be able to begin restoring activity.
- The United Nations continues to advocate for evidence-based policy decisions regarding the quarantine measures with a specific focus on public health and protecting vulnerable groups.

4.4 M

Children still affected by closure of educational institutions

21 M*

Affected people

1.4 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 counties. 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

- As Ukraine enters the third month since the first quarantine measures were imposed, the economic and social situation has increasingly deteriorated, with the greatest impact on women, youth, low-wage workers and vulnerable groups who were already at risk, as well as on small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and the informal sector.
- According to a macroeconomic forecast by the Cabinet Ministers of Ukraine, 6.3 million people are expected to fall into poverty in 2020, of whom 1.4 million are children. This conservative estimate anticipates absolute poverty increasing from 27 to 44 per cent. The State Employment Service reported that as of 4 May, Ukraine has 456,800 registered unemployed citizens, an increase of 48 per cent over the previous year. Rapidly increasing child poverty requires immediate extraordinary social protection measures, including temporary universal payments for all households with children. Moreover, the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) estimates that an additional 1.4 million children will fall into poverty in 2020 due to COVID-19.
- Recent data show that one-third (33 per cent) of SMEs in Ukraine have reported a 50–75 per cent loss of revenue due to the nationwide COVID-19 lockdown, according to a survey conducted by the European Business Association (EBA); another 44 per cent of SMEs have lost up to 50 per cent of revenue, and only 14 per cent experienced no changes in daily operations. Furthermore, over 50 per cent of entrepreneurs believe that it will take at least 12–24 months for their business to recover from the economic impact of COVID-19, and only if they have the liquidity (i.e. customer demand and access to financial support) to maintain their businesses over this challenging period. “High-touch” businesses such as hairdressing and beauty salons, retail, tourism and hospitality have been the most impacted by the pandemic. Women are over-represented in these industries as entrepreneurs and employees.
- Negative gender stereotypes are exacerbating the crisis situation and need to be addressed proactively. The use of information and communication technologies has been underlined as a critical tool in terms of both response and longer-term changes in the ‘new normal’. The related issues include digital literacy and the new world of work, which will enable not only people but also the organizations that represent them to function effectively and work hand-in-hand with governments. The unequal distribution of women’s unpaid care work and the increasing burden on women, albeit recognized, need to be addressed immediately, as does moving women’s work out of the informal sector and into the formal sector. Disaggregated data and statistics, and people-centred approaches are critical for effective and efficient response/recovery. Regular risk assessments and investment in preparedness are needed to avoid a negative fallout of similar situations in the future.
- Patriarchal social norms and gender inequalities combined with social isolation measures caused by the COVID-19 pandemic have led to an exponential increase of gender-based violence in Ukraine as in many other countries. In the first month of the COVID-19 quarantine, the national hotline on domestic violence response registered a 93 per cent increase in the number of calls, 95 per cent of which from women and girls. With all of the attention focused on curbing a public health crisis, the problem of domestic violence risks may be often overlooked or deprioritized by the authorities. In the context of prolonged social infrastructure lockdown, the sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) situation can dramatically deteriorate, matching or even surpassing fatalities due to COVID-19. Hotline statistics demonstrated a notable increase in calls over the period of strict lockdown.

- The Cabinet of Ministers approved a decision to re-open preschools from 25 May. Preschools will start opening-up with one or two groups of students to test the new safety rules, introducing the practice of social distancing and temperature measurement, among others. Each city or rayon administration has the right to make a final decision on the opening date, considering the epidemiologic situation in its area and the readiness of preschools to comply with safety protocols. The chief sanitary doctor issued the rules and guidance on ensuring anti-epidemiological measures in preschools. Around 6.5 million children including preschoolers are affected by the closure of educational institutions, following a Ministry of Education and Science decision on March 12 due to COVID-19. The remaining education facilities (primary and secondary, including professional) across the country remain closed. Out of the 5,559,450 school-aged children, 4,360,889 are still affected by the closure of schools.
- The United Nations Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner (OHCHR)/United Nations Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine (HRMMU) carried out 30 interviews with representatives of Roma civil society organizations supporting Roma communities, which revealed that Roma communities are disproportionately affected by the COVID-19 crisis due to the endemic discrimination and social exclusion they face in Ukraine. Their human rights situation has deteriorated with the introduction of quarantine measures. Already lacking access to adequate healthcare, water and sanitation, food security and education prior to the pandemic, COVID-19 could make it difficult to contain outbreaks in Roma settlements. Many Roma have also lost their income due to closures of their places of employment.
- HRMMU's monitoring of the human rights situation of homeless people indicates that their access to healthcare is further limited due to the pandemic, including to COVID-19 testing/treatment, personal protection equipment (PPE) and sanitizer. Due to the quarantine, homeless persons have lost their already limited access to shelter, food, water, hygiene and sources of income. Social services for homeless people are unevenly spread across Ukraine because they depend on funding from the local authorities.
- Since late March, OHCHR/HRMMU has been monitoring the situation of older persons in institutions in Ukraine. It is of concern that several facilities reported shortages of PPE and sanitizer, and a lack of COVID-19 tests. OHCHR/HRMMU is also concerned about the lack of access to medical care for older persons with non-COVID-19 health issues, as well as the lack of public funding for food for staff who stay in the facilities for extended hours in order to decrease the residents' potential exposure to COVID-19. The situation with older people during the pandemic has proven very serious. Older people in general are badly affected by the pandemic. They are at an increased risk of severe illness from COVID-19; indeed, around 95 per cent of deaths are among people aged 60 and older. As a result, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Ukraine now prioritizes the protection of older people in responses to COVID-19, especially those living in government centres for older persons.

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

- Quarantine measures are slowly being phased-out in accordance with the Government's five-stage quarantine exit strategy. According to the Ministry of Health Government-controlled areas (GCA) of Donetsk oblast has moved to the second stage of the exit strategy, despite not meeting the nationwide COVID-19 testing requirement for easing quarantine restrictions.
- The re-opening of the contact line from the GCA side was announced on 2 June by the General Commander of the Military Forces of Ukraine to open after 10 June. Humanitarian partners have developed recommendations that have been shared with the Ministry for Reintegration on the safe re-opening and functioning of entry-exit checkpoints (EECPs) to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission. It is not clear what measures have been put in place to ensure the safe operation of the EECPs, or whether the EECPs will open after 10 June.
- The humanitarian community has called for urgent action to systematize vetting and approval of exceptions for civilians to cross the contact line, which are currently being implemented unevenly.
- As humanitarian cargo is not permitted to transit through Donetska oblast (NGCA) to Luhanska oblast (NGCA), the United Nations organized a delivery of assistance through the only EECP to NGCA in Luhanska oblast, 'Stanytsia Luhanska', on 28 May. As trucks are unable to transit this EECP, the 9.3 tons of PPE, hygiene supplies, and other COVID-19-related humanitarian assistance from WHO, Médicos del Mundo (MDM) and People in Need (PIN) were hand-carried across the EECP for further distribution among social institutions.
- The economic repercussions of COVID-19-related measures are expected to impact the conflict-affected areas of eastern Ukraine worse than the rest of Ukraine.
 - Most households along the contact line in eastern Ukraine have been affected by the COVID-19- related restrictions in economic terms. From 80 to 90 per cent of families residing close to the contact line were impacted by higher prices of food and hygiene items.
 - According to the International Organization for Migration (IOM), almost one-third of businesses in eastern Ukraine (GCA) have not been able to re-open since the easing of COVID-19-related restrictions at the national level in mid-May. In addition, each enterprise had to dismiss one of three people they had employed before the quarantine, and at least 55 per cent of respondents stated that they needed financial assistance to keep their businesses afloat.
 - Unemployment in eastern Ukraine is likely worse than the rest of the country, as the official pre-quarantine unemployment rate in Luhanska and Donetska oblasts (GCA) was already twice the national average – 15 per cent. In Donetska oblast, 15,000 newly unemployed people were registered as of 17 April, which is 42 per cent higher than in the same period in 2019.
- Health workers represent around 30 per cent of all confirmed COVID-19 cases registered in Donetska oblast (NGCA). Hospitals lack sufficient personal protective equipment (PPE) to treat COVID-19 patients and are dealing with shortages of various COVID-19 medical supplies. Although case-based reporting in Luhanska oblast (NGCA) is not available, there has reportedly been an increase in the number of healthcare workers that have contracted COVID-19, with at least two mortalities.

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 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.

Capacity-building related to with the easing of quarantine measures

- WHO has provided support to the Government of Ukraine in reviewing public health measures and public health advice on lockdown exit strategy. A high-level dialogue between WHO-Ministry of Health was held on public health measures, epidemiological reproduction rate, and the adaptation of public health strategies, including testing and contact tracing. WHO briefed the Prime Minister's office on WHO recommendations in regard to the softening of public health measures.
- UNICEF has been providing technical support to the Ministry of Education and Science and the Ministry of Health of Ukraine on the development of recommendations for the re-opening of preschools. WHO guidance on the reopening of schools and the Framework for Reopening Schools developed together with the World Bank, UNESCO and WFP was translated to Ukrainian and shared with the Ministry of Education and Science.
- Recommendations on how to protect the rights of homeless people in the context of COVID-19 were shared with city and regional administrations via 12 advocacy letters from OHCHR to Kyiv city and Luhansk region authorities, as well as the city and regional authorities in Volyn, Vinnytsia, Ternopil, Zakarpattia and Zaporizhzhia regions.
- On 22 May 2020, UNHCR shared with the central office of the State Migration Services (SMS) its recommendations on the reception procedures of regional SMS departments as they re-open after the end of quarantine restrictions.

Medical procurement

- On 13 May 2020, UNHCR jointly with its non-governmental organization (NGO) partner Right to Protection (R2P) delivered sanitizing hygiene products to five homeless persons' shelters in eastern Ukraine, which accommodate approximately 100 homeless persons daily. The Centres for Safety and Security and the local fire brigades in Donetsk, Luhansk and Zaporizhzhia oblasts received 48 backpack sprayers and 12 moto-sprayers for disinfection from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).
- UNICEF's e-voucher programme for hygiene supplies for health facilities in eastern Ukraine started with 66 healthcare institutions redeeming their vouchers, and 12,720 water bottles (5l) were delivered to eight hospitals in eastern Ukraine. Overall, 5,647 medical staff and patients benefitted from improved access to drinking water.

Communication and awareness-raising activities

- To address the secondary impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, including stigma and discrimination of affected people, a national solidarity campaign was launched, reaching 6.9 million people and engaging over 300,000 people online. Designed to show the human face of the pandemic, the campaign commenced with an extensive outdoor advertisement in all regions of Ukraine. In the framework of the Just Like You initiative, UNDP launched a series of short animated videos on how to address specific human rights issues and how everyone

can contribute to combating inequalities and tackling human rights violations. Each video provides five tips on how representatives of various social groups – women and girls, survivors of domestic violence, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer and intersex (LGBTQI) people, parents of children with disabilities, patients who receive palliative care, homeless people – can receive support during the pandemic.

- UNICEF continued its support to the national project School Online. To date, 1,705,194 primary school children watched lessons on TV and 205,000 on the Ministry of Education's YouTube channel. Out of the 532 produced lessons, 283 were translated into sign language. UNICEF is currently negotiating with partners over adding additional functionality (voice-over) to make lessons accessible for children with visual impairments.

GBV prevention

- On 26 May 2020, two crisis rooms for gender-based violence (GBV) survivors were opened in Kyiv by the Kyiv City State Administration with the support of UNFPA and funding from the British Embassy in Kyiv. Of all modalities of safe space solutions for GBV survivors, crisis rooms offer the most flexibility in terms of admission and highest protection from the spread of COVID-19, with the least number of people being in contact, and hence risking infection. Crisis rooms will be a life-saving option for women and girls seeking refuge from abusers during and after quarantine measures. With UNFPA support, the Kherson shelter for GBV survivors increased its capacity from six to 12 places. The new premises are more inclusive and equipped with safety solutions. During the quarantine period, the shelter continues to provide support to those at risk and to admit new GBV survivors.
- Over 420 copies of a set of five manuals on GBV response in Ukraine were delivered to the municipalities in Donetsk, Luhansk, Kharkiv, Dnipro, Zaporizhzhia, Poltava, Kherson, Mykolaiv, Odesa, Vinnytsia, Lviv and Kyiv regions. They will help local authorities, duty bearers, service providers and representatives of civil society organizations to strengthen municipal GBV response mechanisms and service provision as part of COVID-19 response. GBV mobile teams in eastern Ukraine provided 205 online consultations (out of which 87 calls were from children) by telephone and Skype to the population living along the contact line (GCAs).

Support to socio-economic recovery

- [UNICEF Ukraine's press release on the economic impact of COVID-19 on families with children](#) was mentioned by 670 media outlets (over 77 million people reached) and a large number of local stakeholders, including the President of Ukraine during his annual press conference. Additionally, UNICEF's analytical materials on increasing children poverty reached over 3.6 million people on Facebook.
- The socio-economic impact assessment, conducted jointly by UNDP, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and UN Women, is ongoing; over 500 households and 500 micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) were interviewed over the phone to better understand how Ukrainian families and businesses have been affected by the pandemic and the quarantine restrictions. In addition, a series of in-depth interviews is being conducted in parallel.

EXTERNAL PUBLICATIONS/DEVELOPMENTS

EECA Regional Director's Alanna Armitage op-ed about COVID impact to older people in the region – <https://nv.ua/ukr/opinion/koronavirus-statistika-chomu-pomerlo-tak-bagato-litnih-lyudey-ostanni-novini-50088058.html>

www.kyivpost.com/article/opinion/op-ed/alanna-armitage-older-peoples-rights-and-dignity-must-be-protected-amid-covid-19-pandemic.html

Quarantine has strengthened gender stereotypes and patriarchal social norms – www.prostir.ua/?news=karantyn-posylyv-henderni-stereotypy-ta-patriarhalni-sotsialni-normy

Women on low wages and pensions are more vulnerable during a coronavirus pandemic – <https://ua.112.ua/suspilstvo/zhinky-z-malenkymy-zarplatamy-i-pensiiamy-ie-bilsh-uzvyvymy-pid-chas-pandemii-koronavirusa-oon-536821.html>

Women entrepreneurs during pandemics – www.wonderzine.com.ua/wonderzine/life/podcast/649-mi-vsi-ambasadori-sindromu-samozvantsya-lera-borodina-pro-krizu-motivatsiyu-y-rolovi-modeli

Remote work and coping strategies – www.wonderzine.com.ua/wonderzine/life/podcast/553-mi-shozhi-na-astronavtiv-inna-makoterska-pro-te-yak-pratsyuvati-distantsiyno

Series on:

Women health workers – www.wonderzine.com.ua/wonderzine/life/equality/329-chomu-zhinki-mediki-opinilisya-pid-udarom-cherez-koronavirus

Gender-based violence – www.wonderzine.com.ua/wonderzine/life/equality/217-yak-pandemiya-pidvischue-riven-domashnogo-nasilstva

Anxiety level, single mothers, mothers of children with disabilities – www.wonderzine.com.ua/wonderzine/life/equality/415-riven-trivogi-yak-odinokim-materyam-i-zhinkam-yaki-mayut-ditey-z-invalidnistyu-vizhiti-v-krizu

Otherwise, we are all at risks. How to protect human rights during a pandemic – <https://nv.ua/opinion/koronavirus-i-oslablenie-karantina-kak-zashchitit-lyudey-novosti-ukrainy-50090715.html>

In frontline villages of the Donetsk oblast nurses and postmen will get electric bicycles – https://dnl.com.ua/news/v-prifrontovykh-selakh-donetchiny-sanitarkam-i-pochtalonom-vydadut-elektrovelosipedy_136632

East Ukraine: Between a pandemic and a war zone – www.atlanticcouncil.org/blogs/ukrainealert/east-ukraine-between-a-pandemic-and-a-war-zone/

ILO: Workers need protection, both now and upon the entry from the isolation – <https://pon.org.ua/novyny/7863-mop-pracvnikam-potrben-zahist-zaraz-pslyya-vihodu-z-zolyacyi.html>

National Academy of Medical Sciences in Ukraine. Simple things save lives –
<http://amnu.gov.ua/prosti-rechi-ryatuyut-zhyttya>

‘LearnAtHome’ campaign together with the Ministry of Education and the First Lady of Ukraine –
<https://znaj.ua/politics/303575-vchimosya-vdoma-olena-zelenska-predstavila-vseukrajinsku-onlayn-shkolu>
<https://vseosvita.ua/news/vchymosiavdoma-olena-zelenska-spilno-z-mon-initsiiuvala-proiekt-dlia-batkiv-iaki-vykhovuiut-doshkilnykiv-14297.html>

Contact for media requests:

Olena Laba

Public Information Officer

Office of the United Nations Resident Coordinator

Office: +38 044 253 93 63 (ext.140)

Mobile: +38 063 405 85 20

olena.laba@un.org

*A list of used sources is available upon request.