

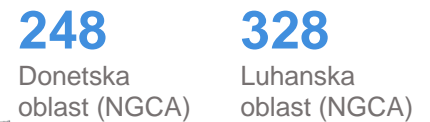
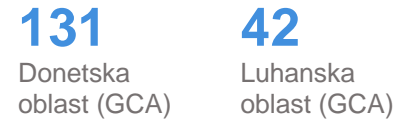


This report is a consolidation of UN informational products, drafted by the Office of the UN Resident Coordinator in Ukraine. The next report will be issued around 1 June 2020.

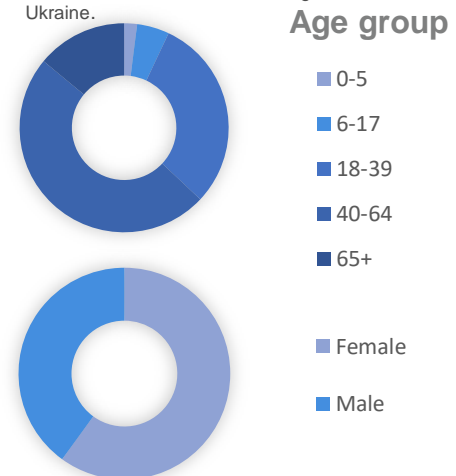
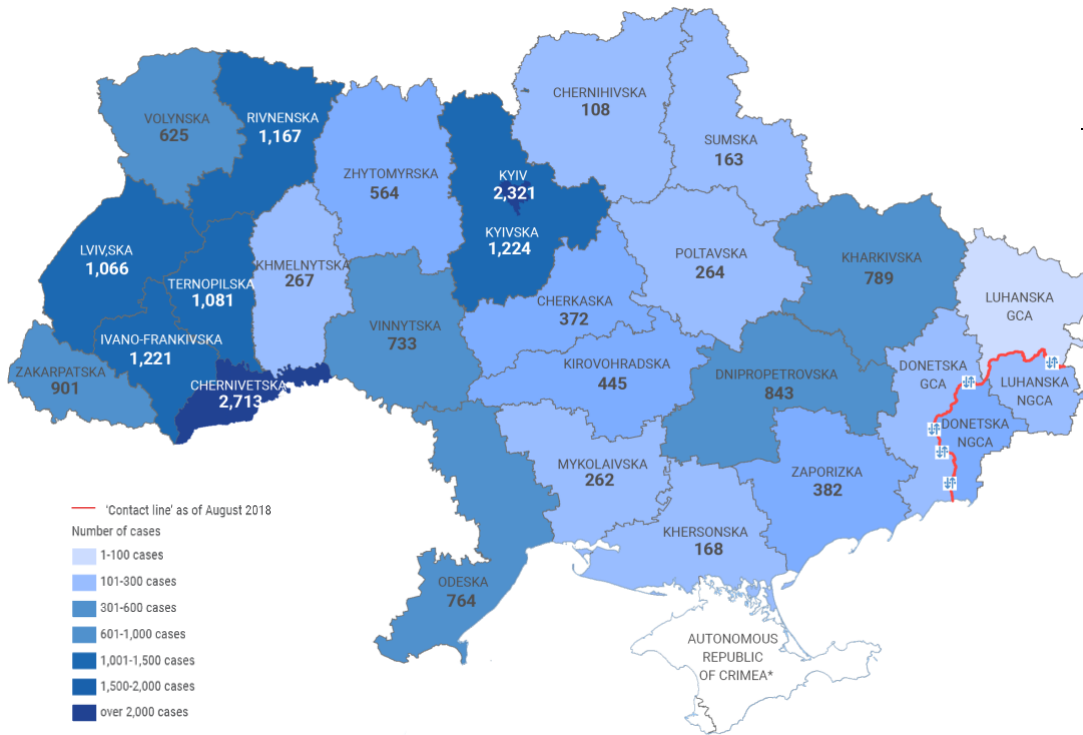
HIGHLIGHTS



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: The Ministry of Health in Ukraine and entities in control of certain areas of Donetsk and Luhansk regions of Ukraine.



\*The Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol, Ukraine, temporarily occupied by the Russian Federation, as per the United Nations General Assembly Resolution 74/168. 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 of Ukraine regarding the requirements and conditions for lifting quarantine measures and preparing the country's exit strategy. It also facilitates the Government's efforts in consolidating and gathering the country's COVID-19 related needs and support already provided, aiming at building a transparent monitoring tool for the Government and international partners.
- On 11 May, the Government of Ukraine began to implement its five-stage quarantine phase-out plan with the loosening of some of the restrictions while extending certain quarantine measures until May 22.
- Recognizing the challenging task of concurrently balancing the imperative to protect the population and to reinvigorate and stimulate the economy through easing quarantine while minimizing the spread and impact of COVID-19, the United Nations continued to call on all stakeholders and the public to remain vigilant as the lockdown measures are relaxed according to the gradual plan.

**5.6 M**  
Children 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

- The COVID-19 virus pandemic, in particular the quarantine measures, have pressed for additional external resources to be mobilised and resulted in changes to the state budget. A significant slowdown of business activities and labour supply shocks have already had an economic impact, the magnitude of which will be influenced by how the COVID-19 crisis evolves in Ukraine and globally. Ukraine's export-oriented economy depends on international markets, and the lag in renewed production and consumption will depend on developments over which the Ukrainian authorities have limited control. Measures to slow the spread of COVID-19 and avoid overloading the health system have had a dramatic impact on small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). The Ukrainian Chamber of Commerce and Industry estimated that around 700,000 small-scale enterprises in the service sector as well as educational institutions, which employ 3.5 to 4 million people, have closed. The SMEs most impacted by the quarantine restrictions are those in hospitality, tourism, retail, entertainment, creative industries, as well as hairdressing and beauty salons. These industries all have a high proportion of women-led micro-enterprises and female employees.
- The UN Women Rapid Gender Assessment of COVID-19 implications was conducted between 21 March and 12 April 2020. It reveals that women are at the frontline of response to the COVID-19 pandemic, making up 83 per cent of health and social workers in Ukraine, and assume the primary responsibilities in the household. However, they are not represented sufficiently in crisis committees (less than 20 per cent) that are coordinating the prevention and protection measures during COVID-19 pandemic at all levels. The study provides evidence that the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic and the related restrictive measures expose women and men to higher risks of losing incomes and savings, but, in general, women are disproportionately affected.
- The situation is particularly acute for women from vulnerable groups, including: women with disabilities; Roma women; female military veterans; single mothers and carers; women living with HIV/AIDS; older women (65+), female entrepreneurs; female carers of family members with disabilities who are at higher risks of extreme poverty and food insecurity, and of being trapped in closed spaces with perpetrators of domestic violence, and with limited or no access to basic services and resources.
- The quarantine also exacerbates the problem of gender stereotypes and patriarchal social norms regarding women's and men's roles in the family, since the significant burden of unpaid domestic and care work during the quarantine rests on women. The lack of advanced forms of remote learning for schoolchildren during the quarantine causes an excessive continual burden on parents and, most of all, on mothers: 78.9 per cent of female respondents who have school-age children said that, during this period, they dramatically increased their level of their engagement in educating their children. Women and children are experiencing an increased level of domestic violence and face difficulties in accessing a referral mechanism due to the restriction measures. Gender-based violence (GBV)-related requests are continuing to grow during the quarantine. In April, the national hotline on GBV response, operated by La Strada and supported by the United Nations Population Fund (UNPFA), received 2,048 calls, i.e. a 56 per cent increase compared to March; 97 per cent of cases of violence addressed by UNPFA-supported services are attributed to domestic violence.
- In Ukraine, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the Ministry of Education and Science (MoES) conducted the U-Report poll on the access and quality of distance learning among school-aged children. The poll revealed that: more than half of U-reporters use online tools; 66 per cent reported an increased workload; 70 per cent successfully organized themselves for distant learning; and around 61 per cent did not like their current mode of distant learning.

- As countries around the world introduced travel restrictions and closed the borders to prevent the spread of COVID-19, many Ukrainian nationals remained stranded abroad. In March, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) of Ukraine launched the Zakhyst (Protection) Programme to assist Ukrainians abroad through the efforts of embassies and consulates: almost 16,000 Ukrainians have registered in the Programme and needs are increasing daily.
- The International Organization for Migration (IOM) conducted express surveys, which revealed that 81 per cent of surveyed beneficiaries of IOM Ukraine livelihood programmes from nine regions reported a significant impact of quarantine measures on their business operations; almost one-half reported a full shutdown and 34 per cent reported a partial shutdown.
- The United Nations Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner (OHCHR)/United Nations Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine (HRMMU) began collecting data on the deterioration of the human rights situation of the Roma in Ukraine, following the enforcement of anti-pandemic measures, with the support of UNHCR and UN Women. Preliminary findings indicate that this vulnerable group lacks equal access to health care, information on COVID-19 and social security, and is experiencing a loss of income and an insufficient access to water. In addition, they have recently been the target of hate speech.
- Persons with disabilities face increased barriers in accessing health care, food and education, and there is an insufficient supply of social services to meet their growing needs during the quarantine. OHCHR/HRMMU is concerned that persons with mental disabilities who are currently residing in psychiatric hospitals risk losing access to housing, food, health care and social care due to significant cuts planned in funding to psychiatric facilities and the lack of alternative support within the overall reform of the health system.
- Since late March, OHCHR/HRMMU has been monitoring the situation of older persons in institutions in Ukraine. Several facilities reported shortages of personal protection equipment (PPE) and sanitizers, and a lack of COVID-19 tests. The Mission has observed a lack of access to medical care for older persons with health issues not related to COVID-19, and 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.
- OHCHR/HRMMU observed that persons in the situation of homelessness faced problems accessing health care, shelter, water and sanitary facilities, food and livelihood opportunities, both due to the pandemic and to the Government's prevention and response measures.
- The COVID-19 response is put at risk by the inadequate integration of water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services for infection, prevention and control (IPC) measures of health-care facilities. A significant scaling up of WASH services at health-care facilities is necessary to support prevention and control measures, and to avoid a disruption in the provision of health services.
- Although at lower rates comparatively, new cases of COVID-19 are still being confirmed daily in Ukraine. An unconstrained and spontaneous disregard of quarantine measures by the population remains a major challenge in containing the epidemic in the absence of wide-scale testing and proper epidemiological surveillance. While the Government of Ukraine has transitioned into an 'adaptive quarantine', it is ready to enforce stricter quarantine measures at the local level if outbreaks of the disease are registered.

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

- Reportedly, most health facilities in the Government-controlled area (GCA) of eastern Ukraine lack the capacity to collect samples for COVID-19 testing. The REACH COVID-19 Preparedness: Rapid Health Facility Assessment revealed that, while at least 76 per cent of secondary and tertiary facilities reported being able to perform rapid diagnostic tests (RDTs), 68 per cent of the facilities, particularly in rural areas, had none of the required resources for collecting samples that need to be transported to a laboratory. According to the same study, in addition, five out of 18 designated hospitals reportedly did not have the capacity or equipment required to collect samples.
- Unemployment and vulnerability are increasing across Ukraine as quarantine measures remain in place. The current unemployment rate in the conflict-affected areas could be much higher than in the rest of Ukraine considering that the official pre-quarantine unemployment rate in Luhanska and Donetska oblasts (GCA) was already two times higher than the average across the country, at 15 per cent. In Donetska oblast, 15,000 newly unemployed people were registered as of 17 April, which is 42 per cent higher than that over the same period in 2019. An estimate for certain areas of Donetsk and Luhansk regions (CADLR) is difficult to assess.
- According to the Protection Cluster, 60 per cent of children cannot pursue distance learning due to a lack of access to the Internet, and most teachers in small towns and villages in eastern Ukraine require IT training to be able to conduct classes remotely. Families require external support to be able to engage in distance learning and other remote educational activities. Due to restrictions imposed by the Ukrainian Government and entities in control of certain areas of Donetsk and Luhansk regions of Ukraine, a few small and remote communities in the conflict area are cut off from main services and supplies. Children living in these communities experience challenges in accessing education and health services.
- People residing close to the ‘contact line’ continue to face significant obstacles with respect to access to public transport. According to UNHCR, at least 130,000 people face challenges in accessing basic services, including shops, pharmacies and ATMs. In some settlements along the contact line in the GCA, people are running out of cash because there are no working ATMs or the mobile units of Oshadbank are no longer operational.
- While the ‘contact line’ remains closed, a few people have been permitted to cross it for humanitarian reasons. In April, 143 people were permitted to do so under humanitarian exemptions: 80 people crossed into the NGCA and 63 into the GCA. In Luhanska oblast, 86 people crossed over the line in both directions, compared to 57 in Donetska oblast. However, according to Ukraine’s Ombudsperson, at least 200 people who needed to cross the ‘contact line’ and who fall under humanitarian exemptions were left stranded in eastern Ukraine. Before the introduction of the quarantine measures, 900,000 individual crossings were registered monthly.
- Due to the restrictive measures imposed to control the spread of COVID-19 and the consequent closure of Entry/Exit Crossing Points (EECPs), as well as internal access restrictions in the NGCA, the ability of humanitarian organizations to organize humanitarian aid convoys through the contact line to the NGCA remains limited, particularly in transporting medical and laboratory equipment to Luhanska oblast (NGCA). The Government of Ukraine and entities in Luhanska oblast (NGCA) have recently approved the delivery of humanitarian aid to Luhanska oblast (NGCA) through the EECP ‘Stanytsia Luhanska’, which lacks the capacity for trucks and requires goods to be transferred manually.

For more information on the situation in the eastern conflict area, see the [OCHA Situation Report](#).

## UN IN UKRAINE- COVID-19 RELATED RESPONSE AND COORDINATION

- As a part of the COVID-19 Global Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP), the *United Nations in Ukraine*, has issued a [COVID-19 Emergency Response Plan \(ERP\)](#) for Ukraine that seeks to set out activities that will be undertaken by humanitarian actors in Ukraine over the course of 2020 to respond to the public health impact as well as the indirect, socio-economic impact of the epidemic.
- In Ukraine, the overall coordination for nationwide COVID response is led by the United Nations Resident Coordinator/Humanitarian Coordinator and 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.
- In early April, a joint WHO-International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) flight provided by the Government of Ukraine with a humanitarian cargo arrived to Kyiv from Geneva. WHO donated 65,126 essential PPE items to the Ministry of Health to support frontline health-care workers in the pandemic response. UNICEF distributed 4,500 sets of PPE for medical staff and 650 pulse oximeters for 22 hospitals in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts. In addition, UNHCR procured 20,000 face masks and distributed them to the people most at risk, such as the elderly and residents of hard-to-reach villages in conflict-affected localities along the contact line that have been cut off from transportation links during the quarantine. IOM provided additional PPEs to the State Border Guards Service (SBGS) in May and similar equipment was handed over to the State Migration Service (SMS) for the protection of their staff and the migrants accommodated at its Migrant Accommodation Centres in Chernihiv, Mykolayiv and Volyn.
- Hygiene kits are being procured for collective centres where internally displaced persons (IDPs) reside: UNHCR, together with its NGO partners, distributed 132 hygiene kits with disinfectants, paper towels and cleaning products to IDPs in 43 collective centres in five regions of Ukraine – Zaporizhia, Dnipropetrovsk, Kharkivska, Donetska and Luhanska oblasts.
- WHO together with the United Nations Resident Coordinator raised awareness among national decision makers on policy considerations regarding the strengthening and adjustment of public health measures throughout the COVID-19 transitioning phases, and on WHO interim guidance on adjusting public health and social measures. UNFPA Ukraine together with the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine and the National Police distributed 100,000 posters outlining an action plan in case of domestic violence in the time of quarantine. Moreover, over five million people received life-saving information for domestic violence survivors and witnesses.
- UNDP supported the initiative of the National Union of Journalists of Ukraine to raise awareness among the local media on how to cover the issues related to COVID-19, how the local media can become mediators in their communities, and how they can adjust to the new working conditions.
- UNICEF launched a solidarity campaign addressing stigma and social inclusion for first-line responders and affected families, with social media content and outdoor displays throughout Ukraine. In addition, UNICEF is scaling up its education campaign on COVID-19 in the NGCA by promoting tailored social media materials on preventive behaviours. Together with partners, UNICEF facilitated the dissemination of informational materials on mine safety rules and basic hygiene tailored to COVID-19 prevention measures in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts along the 0–20 km zone.
- UNHCR procured 35 electric bicycles to expand the reach of social, community and medical workers who provide home-based care to elderly persons living in conflict-affected and isolated localities along the contact line. This assistance aimed at increasing their mobility, helping them reach conflict-affected



communities in isolated villages where transportation was limited or suspended during the COVID.19 quarantine, leaving them without access to health-care services.

- Together with partners, UNFPA Ukraine enabled ‘silent solutions’ for GBV survivors and people at risk – counselling via social media, Skype and messages. From 1 April to 5 May 2020, 17 per cent of all psychosocial support was provided online and 73 per cent through phone consultations. GBV mobile teams in eastern Ukraine provided 1,172 online consultations (of which 104 calls were from children) by telephone and Skype to the populations living along the contact line in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts.
- UNICEF began to support the national toll-free child helpline by providing online consultations to children, caregivers and youth. Moreover, the helpline is now linked to the Hotline for Online Legal Aid provided by the Free Legal Aid Office for the further referral of cases that require the legal protection of children subjected to violence. Both helplines are available nationwide.
- WHO continued its work with the health authorities to ensure the continuum of health services during the COVID-19 outbreak through budget monitoring and constant dialogue on mental health, tuberculosis (TB) and HIV services. WHO supported the Ministry of Health in developing recommendations on promoting the mental well-being of health-care workers during the COVID-19 pandemic and in organizing a task force to develop guidance on COVID-19 for long-term mental health facilities.
- UNHCR re-allocated and started fundraising activities to support the COVID-19-related medical expenses of refugees and asylum-seekers. As of 8 May, UNHCR has provided an additional one-time emergency cash assistance to 454 families of refugees and asylum-seekers representing vulnerable households, including persons who lost their primary source of income due to the quarantine and other related measures, those with serious medical conditions, and persons at heightened risk of homelessness.
- Webinars and online coaching (including tax advisory services) were conducted and an e-learning platform was launched for micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) on adjusting to the COVID-19 situation and staying afloat. This included support to moving all operations online and opening fully functioning online stores in eastern Ukraine. UNDP Recovery and Peacebuilding Programme (RPP) and the Donetsk Chamber of Commerce conducted two webinars for MSMEs on registering force majeure clauses and staying engaged with clients and customers during the quarantine. The first online stores were developed (a total of six) for the UNDP RPP-supported entrepreneurs.
- With UNDP’s support, the State Employment Centres in Kramatorsk, Sievierodonetsk and Zaporizhzhia as well as the Donetsk and Zaporizhzhia Chambers of Commerce and Industry received a one-year Zoom licence to support their work during the quarantine. Additionally, the State Employment Centres in Kramatorsk and Sievierodonetsk were supplied with graphic design software to help them organize online conferences and design media content related to the COVID-19 response.

## EXTERNAL PUBLICATIONS/ DEVELOPMENTS

Vaccination during a coronavirus pandemic: advice from the UNICEF expert

<https://fakty.com.ua/ru/lifestyle/zdorove/20200512-vaktsynatsiya-pid-chas-pandemiyi-koronavirusu-porady-eksperta-yunisef/>

Pandemic and the elderly. Was their death inevitable?

<https://nv.ua/ukr/opinion/koronavirus-statistika-chomu-pomerlo-tak-bagato-litnih-lyudey-ostanni-novini-50088058.html>

Violence, finances and home-schooling: what problems do women face during the quarantine

<https://fakty.com.ua/ua/ukraine/20200515-nasylyya-finansy-ta-uroky-z-ditmy-yaki-problemy-vynykayut-u-zhinok-na-karantyni/>

Nowhere to take children and not enough masks: how do female doctors work in quarantine

<https://fakty.com.ua/ua/ukraine/20200515-nemaye-kudy-podity-ditej-i-ne-vystachaye-masok-yak-pratsyuyut-zhinky-medyky-na-karantyni/>

The UN representative told what challenges await Ukraine because of COVID-19

<https://suspilne.media/33996-v-oon-rozprovili-aki-vikliki-cekaut-na-ukrainu-cerez-covid-19/>

Domestic violence: causes and where to turn

<https://fakty.com.ua/ru/ukraine/20200506-domashnye-nasylstvo-prychyny-i-kudy-zvertatysya/>

Under Quarantine: marathon. UA:Pershyi news broadcasting

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LBNhGDvZ0Gw&feature=youtu.be&t=3087>

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\*List of used sources is available on request