HIGHLIGHTS (18 Feb 2022)

- Humanitarian community launches a call to support 1.8 million conflict-affected people in 2022.

- While civilian casualties in Ukraine are at a record low, people continue to fall victim to conflict.

- After seven years of conflict in eastern Ukraine, water, sanitation and hygiene needs remain acute.

- While the "contact line" remains largely closed, residents of areas beyond Government control are forced to enter Government-controlled areas through Russia.

![Image: Nataliia holding her daughter in her house located right at the "contact line". Photo: OCHA/Yevhen Maloletka](https://reports.unocha.org/en/country/ukraine/)

KEY FIGURES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>People in need</th>
<th>2.9M</th>
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<td>People targeted</td>
<td>1.8M</td>
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<tr>
<td>Partners</td>
<td>119</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>People reached in January-September 2021</td>
<td>1.5M</td>
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COORDINATION (17 Feb 2022)

**Humanitarian community launches a call to support 1.8 million conflict-affected people in 2022**

On 30 November 2021, the humanitarian community in Ukraine launched the 2022 Humanitarian Response Plan outlining how it plans to respond to the needs of 1.8 million conflict-affected people in eastern Ukraine. The Plan seeks US$190 million to provide humanitarian aid and protection to those most vulnerable in 2022.

**Security situation in eastern Ukraine**

Since 2014, millions of people's lives in eastern Ukraine have been turned upside down by the ongoing armed conflict. Almost eight years of active fighting have had profound consequences on the well-being of millions of people in the conflict-affected Donetska and Luhanska oblasts. Recent tensions around Ukraine with indications of a possible escalation of conflict have made the situation both unpredictable and unstable.
Throughout 2021, the July 2020 ceasefire became increasingly shaky. By July 2021, the number of security incidents recorded each month had returned to pre-ceasefire levels. Moreover, in October and November 2021, the number of ceasefire violations and incidents affecting civilian infrastructure was on the rise. In December 2021, the worrying trend continued: the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission recorded about five times more ceasefire violations on average per day compared with the numbers recorded in December 2020. Notably, following the 22 December 2021 Trilateral Contact Group meeting during which parties renewed their commitment to adhere to the Measures to Strengthen the Ceasefire agreement of 22 July 2020, the number of security incidents decreased – the positive trend that will hopefully be sustained.

While the number of security incidents is going down and the civilian toll of the conflict in 2021 was the lowest for the whole conflict period, continued military clashes resulting in damage of civilian infrastructure, including schools and hospitals, and death and injury of civilians continue to affect the lives and well-being of conflict-weary people. Respecting and maintaining the ceasefire is critical to prevent loss of life and avoid further deterioration of the humanitarian situation.

COVID-19 and humanitarian needs

The effects of COVID-19 continue to create additional pressure on the struggling civilian population and ageing infrastructure – on top of the ongoing hostilities and protracted humanitarian crisis. As a result of COVID-19 restrictions, conflict-weary people have been dealing with severe obstacles to freedom of movement for almost two years. They have been unable to travel more freely across the 427-kilometre-long “contact line” that splits eastern Ukraine into Government- and non-Government-controlled areas (GCA and NGCA), as only two of the five official entry-exit crossing points (EECPs) have been partially operational since March 2020. The majority of current crossing restrictions are applied by the NGCA side.

As a result of the partial closure of the “contact line”, in 2021, there has been a 95 per cent reduction in the number of crossings observed compared with the year before the pandemic: from a monthly average of 1.15 million crossings recorded in 2019 (pre-COVID-19) to 59,000 in 2021.

Restrictions on movement have left hundreds of thousands of people, particularly the elderly living in NGCA, with limited access to social benefits and entitlements, essential services, as well as have torn them apart from their families and friends. As a consequence of their increased isolation and the abrupt loss of access to services and livelihoods, the severity of needs of those already vulnerable people has increased.

Humanitarian response in 2022

Considering the heightened severity of people’s needs due to the ongoing fighting, COVID-19 and movement restrictions, the humanitarian community estimates that 2.9 million people require humanitarian assistance and protection in 2022 – over half of whom reside in NGCA (1.6 million).

The 2022 Humanitarian Response Plan for Ukraine – a strictly prioritized and comprehensive plan of action – lays out how humanitarian actors aim to assist 1.8 million of the most vulnerable people in the conflict-affected areas. Almost 750,000 of the people targeted live in NGCA, while over 1 million are targeted in GCA, including 144,000 internally displaced persons.
(IDPs) in the GCA of Donetska, Luhanska and other oblasts. Among the most vulnerable are older persons, who represent 32 per cent of the people targeted for assistance in 2022, and the children of vulnerable families, who make up 14 per cent. The response efforts also aim to meet the critical needs of 225,000 persons with disabilities.

The humanitarian community in Ukraine will continue to focus on saving lives, ensuring people’s access to basic services and strengthening the protection of those affected by the conflict and COVID-19. The Plan encompasses different sectors, including education, food, health, protection, shelter, water, sanitation and hygiene. Humanitarian operations will focus on delivering a series of sectoral responses aligned with three overarching Strategic Objectives:

1. Provide emergency and time-critical assistance and ensure access to basic essential services for 1.8 million people affected by the conflict.
2. Respond to the protection needs and strengthen protection of 1.4 million conflict-affected people, including IDPs.
3. Ensure implementation of an international humanitarian exit strategy in GCA from 2021 to 2023.

The 2022 response will be guided by a differentiated approach, taking into consideration peculiarities of operational contexts in GCA and NGCA in terms of access, level of Government ownership, humanitarian actors’ operational capacity and severity of humanitarian needs.

In GCA, recognizing strong existing capacities, including of the Government at all levels, humanitarian actors will continue to gradually transfer humanitarian service delivery to Government, development and civil society actors to ensure their sustainability. The approach of international humanitarian actors will remain purely humanitarian, including elements of early recovery but not longer-term recovery.

In NGCA, the fragile and volatile operational context continues to pose challenges to humanitarian operations, particularly in terms of access, operational capacity, and respect for the neutrality, impartiality and independence of humanitarian action. Efforts will be made to increase the reach of humanitarian response to address critical and unmet needs.

Support the Humanitarian Response

In November 2021, the Humanitarian Coordinator in Ukraine, Ms. Osnat Lubrani, appealed to donors to support the 2022 Humanitarian Response Plan. In her appeal, she noted that the Plan would complement the Government’s efforts, prioritizing the most critical humanitarian requirements for meeting the basic needs and preventing further deterioration of the situation.

“ Adequate funding will allow humanitarian organizations to save lives, help people get by and minimize the negative consequences of the continued armed conflict and the additional impact from COVID-19,” Ms. Lubrani said. “People deserve to live in dignity, safety and security. They also deserve an opportunity to rebuild their lives that have been turned upside down during the past seven years,” Ms. Lubrani concluded. You can also support the response by making a donation here: https://crisisrelief.un.org/ukraine-civilians-bear-the-brunt.

ANALYSIS (17 Feb 2022)

While civilian casualties in Ukraine are at a record low, people continue to fall victim to conflict

In July 2020, a package of additional measures to strengthen the ceasefire came into force, bringing marked reductions in the level of hostilities. Unfortunately, this downward trend reversed at the beginning of 2021, number of monthly civilian casualties reaching the pre-ceasefire level in September. Despite the increase, the additional measures to strengthen the ceasefire contributed to a decrease in the overall number of civilian casualties in 2021. According to the preliminary data
Vitalii uses crutches to walk around the house while training to use his prosthesis. Three years ago, he lost his leg when he hit a mine while driving. Photo: OCHA/Yevhen Maloletka

provided by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) [1], from 1 January to 31 December 2021, 110 civilian casualties (25 killed and 85 injured) were recorded, which is a 26 per cent decrease compared with 2020 (149: 26 killed and 123 injured) and the lowest annual level of civilian casualties for the entire conflict period.

According to the OHCHR report, the first six months following the ceasefire (1 August 2020 – 31 January 2021) saw the biggest drop in the level of civilian casualties of the entire conflict period (from 98 civilian casualties during the preceding six months (1 February to 31 July 2020) to 41 casualties). However, the following six months (1 February and 31 July 2021) witnessed a 51 per cent increase in civilian casualties compared with the preceding six months: 15 people were killed and 47 injured. In August-September 2021, the highest monthly levels of civilian casualties were recorded (15 in August and 13 in September), with the situation slightly improving by the end of the year.

Mines and explosive remnants of war (ERW) and active hostilities remained the main causes of conflict-related casualties in eastern Ukraine, accounting, respectively, for some 53 per cent and 40 per cent of all civilian casualties in 2021.

From 1 January to 31 December 2021, active hostilities (shelling, small arms and light weapons fire and explosive devices dropped from unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV)) caused 44 civilian casualties: seven people (six men and one woman) killed and 37 injured (25 men, nine women, two boys and one girl). This is 37 per cent lower compared with the previous year. Some 82 per cent of these casualties were recorded in non-Government-controlled areas (NGCA), while 18 per cent were reported in Government-controlled areas (GCA).

Over the same period, 58 civilian casualties were caused by mine-related incidents and handling of explosive remnants of war: 12 people were killed (seven men, one woman, three boys and one girl) and 46 injured (31 men, ten women, four boys and one girl). This is a 24 per cent decrease compared with 2020 when 76 casualties were recorded. One of the people who was killed due to an antipersonnel mine explosion during the reporting period (on 23 February 2021) was an 80-year-old man, whose 43-year-old daughter-in-law and 17-year-old granddaughter had been killed by mortar shelling three years ago, in October 2018.

While eastern Ukraine remains one of the most mine-contaminated regions of the world, ranked fourth globally as of 2020, some mine action activities, particularly explosive ordnance risk education, have been scaled down due to the COVID-19 pandemic and related movement restrictions.

Active hostilities in eastern Ukraine also continue to affect civilian housing and infrastructure, including electricity and water and sanitation facilities, gas supply systems, educational institutions and medical facilities. Such incidents endangered the lives of the civilian population and its access to basic services. For instance, the frontline settlement of Nevelske (Donetska oblast, GCA) came under heavy fire twice in November, which destroyed three and damaged over 20 houses and interrupted the power supply. After the second shelling, over 30 of the remaining 45 residents decided to leave their homes.

While the intensity of the conflict has recently quieted following a renewed commitment in December 2021 to strengthen ceasefire measures, the fighting on both sides of the “contact line” continues. People residing in the areas where hostilities are a daily reality live in constant fear, with few opportunities to lead a normal life. Failure to adhere
to the strengthened ceasefire or to reach agreement on the conduct of demining activities, will result in the armed conflict continuing to claim lives, causing both emotional and physical pain for thousands of people trapped in humanitarian crisis.

To date, the civilian death toll of the conflict from 14 April 2014 to 31 December 2021 is estimated to be at least 3,106 people [2] (1,852 men, 1,072 women, 102 boys, 50 girls, and 30 adults whose sex is unknown), while the number of injured civilians is estimated to exceed 7,000.

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[1] OHCHR documents civilian casualties by consulting a broad range of sources and types of information evaluated for credibility and reliability, which may mean that conclusions on civilian casualties may be revised as more information becomes available and numbers may change as new information emerges over time.

[2] Taking into account the 298 deaths on board Malaysia Airlines flight MH17 on 17 July 2014, the total conflict-related civilian deaths amounted to at least 3,400.

ANALYSIS  (17 Feb 2022)

After seven years of conflict in eastern Ukraine, water, sanitation and hygiene needs remain acute

After nearly eight years of conflict in Donetska and Luhanska oblasts, 2.5 million people, including residents of conflict-affected oblasts and internally displaced persons (IDPs) residing elsewhere in Ukraine, require water, sanitation, or hygiene-related (WASH) assistance. WASH needs are both large and small in scale, with emergency repairs to these two oblasts’ massive water and sewerage networks as necessary as the overhaul of household-level wells. [1]

In 2021, the overall need for assistance with water supply is very similar to 2019, when a previous comprehensive assessment of WASH needs was completed. In 2021, 1.65 million people (33 per cent of the estimated population) needed water-related assistance compared to 31 per cent two years earlier. Some people experienced water shortages, regular stoppages, or unreasonably spaced-out scheduling of their water supply. Others store water unhygienically or would like to treat their drinking water at home but cannot afford the necessary treatment materials, chemicals or filters. [2]

Water supply in eastern Ukraine and the interdependency of the split region

Historically, the water supply in eastern Ukraine relies on a single system managed by the state-run water company Voda Donbasu. The conflict that erupted in 2014 has divided the region into non-Government and Government-controlled areas (NGCA and GCA), creating complications for effective water management.

The primary source of drinking water, the Siverskyi Donets river, sits largely in GCA, while the central water control station is located in Donetsk, currently beyond the Government’s control. Many key water facilities are located in the so-called gray zone between GCA and NGCA, making both sides interdependent in terms of water supply. The location of several essential
facilities close to the "contact line", the conflict’s frontline, has frequently resulted in their damage and put at risk the lives of water workers. According to the WASH Cluster, 393 incidents have affected water infrastructure since 2017, killing nine Voda Donbasu workers and injuring another 26.

**Water needs**

According to a recent study conducted by the WASH cluster in GCA, one-third (33 per cent) of households in GCA need support with access to clean water. The situation is reported to be more severe in the areas closer to the "contact line" (20-kilometre zone). Moreover, the level of access to clean water is lower among households with people with disabilities (40 per cent) and low-income households (29 per cent).

People have the most difficulty with accessing improved water sources, uninterrupted water access and materials for water purification. Additional issues that households experience include immediate access to trucked-in water and bottled water in kiosks and shops. Of particular concern is the unhygienic storage of water, such as in bath taps and containers without lids, which create additional health concerns.

**Sanitation needs**

In terms of sanitation, it is estimated that almost one-third (29 per cent) of households need support with improving sanitation conditions. The percentage is higher in the 20-kilometre zone from the "contact line", where almost half of families surveyed (47 per cent) require assistance. The situation is the most critical in rural areas, where 65 per cent of households indicated that they would benefit from improved sanitation conditions. The lack of access to improved sanitation, pumping out of individual septic tanks or pit latrines, and waste management due to the absence of systematic removal are reported to be among the primary concerns.

**Hygiene needs**

Most people residing in eastern Ukraine have a very good level of personal hygiene. However, the majority of hygiene-specific problems are related to rising prices of hygiene products and the lack of livelihood opportunities, as well as conflict-related trauma and bereavement combined with the effects of COVID-19.

Every eighth household (13 per cent) in GCA requires support with maintaining an appropriate level of hygiene. More specifically, every 14th family (7 per cent) indicated that they require assistance with storing water, and 6 per cent (9 per cent in households with women aged 13 to 59) with access to menstrual hygiene products.

While the needs outlined above are comparatively low compared with international standards, the prices of hygiene items have spiked by 20 per cent, putting at disadvantage households with lower income and with people from the most vulnerable groups (i.e., people with disabilities, young children, female-headed households).

As COVID-19 continues to have a firm grip, people report having limited knowledge about effective infection prevention and control measures and their application. An estimated 40 per cent of households could benefit from a better understanding of hygiene-related measures to protect themselves and their close ones from COVID-19. One-fourth of households did not readily mention the need to wash hands, and 22 per cent do not understand how this could protect them. In addition, the majority of focus group participants indicated that they primarily require support with face masks to reduce the expenditures otherwise incurred, with more than half (57 per cent) of households noting that they reuse disposable masks, and every tenth household (11 per cent) mentioning that they use single-use masks for over one week.

**WASH needs and humanitarian response in 2022**
Around 2.5 million people are estimated to require WASH assistance this year. If COVID-19 needs are excluded from the picture (as those needs are not entirely conflict-related), 53 per cent of all households in GCA would need WASH-related humanitarian assistance, and the situation may be exacerbated by decrepit nature of 70-years old infrastructure and by the expected uptick in COVID-19 cases. Moreover, the percentage of such households in the 20 km area is raised to 68 per cent and in rural areas to 80 per cent.

Overall, the level of WASH needs is very similar in NGCA as compared to GCA. However, needs are spread rather unequally between the two NGCAs. NGCA of Luhanska oblast has greater WASH needs than NGCA of Donetska oblast: 55 per cent of households in Luhanska oblast (NGCA) need water-related assistance compared to only 23 per cent in Donetska oblast (NGCA).

In 2022, humanitarian actors plan to support 1.5 million most vulnerable. $29.8 million is required to provide WASH-related support to as many vulnerable people as possible this year. A detailed account of how humanitarian actors plan to support conflict-weary people in 2022 can be accessed here.

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[2] Ibid.

ANALYSIS (22 Oct 2021)

While the “contact line” remains largely closed, residents of areas beyond Government control are forced to enter Government-controlled areas through Russia

The crossing through the “contact line” – a stretch of land that separates conflict-affected people residing in Government (GCA) and non-Government-controlled areas (NGCA) of eastern Ukraine – has been severely limited for over 18 months now. Temporary restrictions put in place by the Government of Ukraine and entities in control of NGCAs in March 2020 to contain the spread of COVID-19 have prevented hundreds of thousands of people from travelling across the “contact line” to access essential services and maintain social connections with the other side. Due to these restrictions, thousands of people have been forced to take longer, more expensive and legally challenging routes through the territory of the Russian Federation (Russia) to reach GCA.

While the movement restrictions have eased somewhat over time, the crossing of the “contact line” remains particularly challenging in Donetska oblast. People seeking to cross must obtain permission from the entities in control of Donetska oblast, but this permission is only granted in exceptional humanitarian circumstances and has led to a drastic drop in crossings within the oblast. In August 2021, the level of crossings through the only officially operational entry/exit crossing point (EECP) in the oblast, “Novotroitske”, represented 6 per cent (5,812 individual crossings) of the total number of crossings of the “contact line” during the month (90,751, with the majority of crossings in Luhanska oblast). In
August 2019, before the COVID-19 pandemic, the level of crossings through four operational EECPs in Donetska oblast represented 75 per cent of the total number of crossings. Overall, the number of crossings of the "contact line" in August 2021 was only 7 per cent of the August 2019 figure, when 1.3 million civilian crossings had been recorded.

Since the start of the pandemic, a gradual increase in crossings to/from GCA by NGCA residents was observed through the two crossing points located at the Russian-Ukrainian border: "Milove" in Luhanska oblast and "Hoptivka" in Kharkivska oblast. Between June and August 2021, an average of 206,181 individual crossings per month were observed through the crossing points at the Russian-Ukrainian border, with NGCA residents reportedly responsible for at least 30 to 40 per cent of crossings at "Milove" crossing point, compared with 89,870 crossings across the "contact line". While there is no clear picture on the number of NGCA residents crossing to/from GCA through "Hoptivka" crossing point, it is considered to be at a similar level. Since the movement restrictions across the "contact line" are less severe within Luhanska oblast, the majority of crossings through the two border crossing points have reportedly been made by the residents of Donetska oblast, NGCA.

NGCA residents, primarily those residing in Donetska oblast, NGCA, have to travel almost 500 km to cross through "Milove", the distance between Warsaw and Vilnius and two times the distance between Vienna and Budapest. They have to travel over 900 km to cross through "Hoptivka", the distance between Rome and Bern and five times the distance between Brussels and Amsterdam. In comparison, the currently only operational EECP "Novo troitske" in Donetska oblast is located just some 40 km away from Donetsk, Donetska oblast, NGCA.

The cost of travel through crossing points on the Russian-Ukrainian border is also significantly higher compared with crossing the "contact line", which ranged from UAH50 (US$2) to UAH600 ($23) before the introduction of COVID-19 restrictions. On average, NGCA residents spend UAH2,500-3,000 ($94 to $113) in transport costs and an additional UAH650-950 ($25-38) for a COVID-19 test to cancel mandatory self-quarantine for unvaccinated people or those who have been vaccinated with vaccines not approved by WHO for emergency use, which includes Sputnik V. The amount that the people have to spend for taking this detour is particularly challenging for NGCA pensioners, who have been receiving the so-called monthly social payments in NGCA amounting to some RUB8,900-10,000 ($117-135) for over a year and a half. Nevertheless, these people still choose to spend their savings to travel to GCA to withdraw their hard-earned pensions they rely on, especially during the upcoming winter months.

The situation was particularly dire during the application of administrative fines by Ukraine for entering GCA after crossing the uncontrolled part of the Russian-Ukrainian border. NGCA residents taking this detour had to pay between UAH1,700-5,100 ($64-192) for the first violation of crossing procedures and up to UAH8,500 ($320) for any repeated violation within a year. The situation was reported to be more severe at the "Milove" crossing point, where people had to spend up to 24 hours in a queue to be able to cross to GCA. Following the adoption of law No. 5478 on 29 July 2021, Ukrainians could be released from an obligation to pay a fine for the violation of crossing rules while the "contact line" remains largely closed if the crossing need corresponds with one of the humanitarian reasons listed in this law. This development has led to a significant decrease in the processing time, with no queues observed in the GCA direction since August, and a drop in a number of fines issued by the Ukrainian side, reportedly not exceeding a few per day. Disturbingly, lines of up to 28 hours have now been reportedly observed in the opposite direction (towards Russia).

Meanwhile, unlike "Hoptivka", the "Milove" crossing point has not been designed to process large numbers of people and does not have adequate facilities to accommodate people waiting to cross. Originally intended as a regular border crossing point to serve local residents, today, "Milove" is used by trucks, civilian vehicles and pedestrians, yet, there is only one lane in each direction. Moreover, there is just one small room available where people can take shelter from bad weather. It has also been reported that the number of medical cases at the "Milove" usually ranges from three to five daily, with no medical assistance available directly at the crossing point.
Considering the increase in the number of people crossing “Milove” due to the limited operations of the “contact line”, the UN Refugee Agency and the Norwegian Refugee Council plan to start the reconstruction of the crossing point on 1 October to help increase its processing capacity as well as build additional facilities, including those that are currently unavailable (i.e., first aid point). The reconstruction is expected to take up to two months, while the crossing point will remain operational.

Worryingly, there have been reports that other crossing points at the Ukrainian-Russian border (i.e., “Yunakivka” crossing point in Sumska oblast) are encountering an increase in the number of NGCA residents crossing to GCA. Without the gradual easing of restrictions on crossing the “contact line”, which is currently unlikely due to the uptick in the COVID-19 incidence rate on both sides, it is anticipated that the number of NGCA residents entering GCA through crossing points at the Russian-Ukrainian border will continue increasing. At the same time, the most vulnerable categories of people in NGCA, who do not have enough savings to take this detour, will have to continue relying on meagre payments that they receive, which are hardly enough to cover the very basics. While taking this detour represents a temporary solution for some, without a reopening of the “contact line”, conflict-affected people's vulnerabilities are expected to further deteriorate, and the already fragile ties between the once united community will likely continue to weaken.

**TRENDS** (17 Feb 2022)

**COVID-19 update (Government-controlled areas)**

You can access the latest information on the COVID-19 situation in Ukraine (in English and Ukrainian), including the GCA of Donetska and Luhanska oblasts, here: [covid19.rnbo.gov.ua](https://covid19.rnbo.gov.ua).

You can access the latest information on the COVID-19 vaccination in Ukraine (Ukrainian only) here: [health-security.rnbo.gov.ua/vaccination](https://health-security.rnbo.gov.ua/vaccination).

- The first COVID-19 case in Ukraine (GCA) was recorded on 29 February 2020. As of 17 February, Ukraine recorded over 4 million cases (4,637,260), and the number of COVID-19 deaths exceeded 100,000 (103,824).
- Most of the restrictions on entering Ukraine have been lifted. Currently, to cross the border into Ukraine, foreigners and stateless persons are required to provide proof of medical insurance that is valid in Ukraine for the duration of the stay that will provide coverage of costs associated with the treatment of COVID-19 as well as any necessary observation period. Furthermore, foreign nationals must provide a negative PCR or antigen test taken within 72 hours before the arrival or a confirmation of a partial or complete vaccination with WHO-listed vaccines. From 20 September 2021, foreign nationals transiting through Ukraine, who can confirm that they will leave Ukraine within 48 hours, are exempt from self-isolation and testing requirements. Testing and vaccination confirmation are also not required for children under 12 years old. You can find more information on entry to Ukraine [here](https://covid19.rnbo.gov.ua/entry).
- On 29 December 2021, the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine cancelled the mandatory installation of the “Dii Vdoma” tracking app and self-quarantine for Ukrainian nationals crossing the “contact line” or administrative border with Crimea. It is not mandatory to undergo testing directly at the crossing points, as testing can be done later in GCA. Yet, people coming to GCA must follow COVID-19 restrictions effective in GCA — to provide proof of vaccination or a negative COVID-19 rest result when accessing public services or using public

https://reports.unocha.org/en/country/ukraine/
transport. Thus, the only requirement remaining on the GCA side for crossing the “contact line” is to be registered in the register of e-permits for internally displaced persons for crossing the “contact line” in Donetska and Luhanska oblasts. [1]

- **Yet, the requirements to install a tracking mobile app Dii Vdoma and undergo a 10-day self-quarantine, which can be terminated based on a negative result of a PCR or antigen test, remain valid for international border crossings**, including through the Russian-Ukrainian border used as an alternative option by the residents of Donetska oblast (NGCA) who transit to GCA through the Russian Federation while the “contact line” remains mostly closed on the NGCA side. People who can confirm receiving at least one dose of WHO-listed vaccines are exempt from the above requirements applicable at the international border.

- **Containment measures**: The Government of Ukraine **extended an adaptive quarantine until 31 March 2021**. According to the rules, which came into force in September 2020, the entire territory of the country may be in the “green” or “yellow” COVID-19 risk zones with “orange” or “red” levels to be declared in specific locations, depending on the epidemiological situation.

- **The COVID-19 growth rate has been on the rise in Ukraine since late January**. On 4 February, Ukraine reported a record-high number of new daily COVID-19 cases since the start of the pandemic (43,778), and the figures are starting to decline. As of 17 February [2], **most territory of Ukraine is in the “orange” zone**, which requires wearing face masks in public places and transportation, keeping the physical distance of 1.5 metres, and not exceeding 50 per cent occupancy rate at public events (no more than one person per 4 square metres). Five oblasts are in the “red” zone, and three are in the “yellow” zone.

- **From September, two types of internal COVID-19 vaccination certificates are valid in Ukraine**: “yellow” ones issued to people vaccinated with one dose of WHO-approved COVID-19 vaccines and “green” certificates issued to fully vaccinated people. In the “yellow” zone, education facilities may continue regular classes if at least 80 per cent of teachers have COVID-19 certificates, while in the “red zones”, 100 per cent vaccination of education personnel is required to continue in-person learning. Furthermore, “yellow-zone” restrictions will not apply, and entertainment and sports facilities, malls, cafes, etc., may choose to continue working if 80 per cent of visitors and staff hold “green” national certificates. In “red-zone” locations, 100 per cent of both personnel and visitors have to be vaccinated for businesses to continue operations.

- **On 19 January 2022, the Government of Ukraine reduced the validity of COVID-19 vaccination certificates from 365 to 270 days**. On 6 January, Ukraine also **allowed the administration of a booster dose against COVID-19 for all vaccinated people aged 18 or older**, with the recommended booster injection period from 180 to 270 days after receiving the main vaccination. The digital confirmation of a booster dose is also available in the “Diia” mobile app.

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[1] After the latest changes, e-permits are valid for an unlimited period of time, and the majority of people crossing the “contact line” have already obtained them since the introduction of the e-registry.


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**TRENDS (17 Feb 2022)**

**COVID-19 update (non-Government-controlled areas)**

https://reports.unocha.org/en/country/ukraine/
Local sources reportedly confirm 139,915 COVID-19 cases as of 17 February 2022.

- **Total cases**: 139,915 (28,273 active cases and 12,882 deaths).
- **Luhanska oblast (NGCA)**: 26,849 (3,406 active cases and 3,243) as of 17 February 2022. First case: 31 March 2020.
- **Donetska oblast (NGCA)**: 113,066 (24,867 active cases and 9,639 deaths) as of 17 February 2022. First case: 29 March 2020.

**Overview of containment measures**: Due to some improvement in the epidemiological situation, on 27 December, the entities in control in the NGCA of Donetska oblast lifted some COVID-19 restrictive measures on visiting public places, including the cancellation of the ban on holding sports events and visiting public service bodies in person. Furthermore, children under 14 years may now attend public places unaccompanied by parents or caretakers, and organized groups of children may travel outside NGCA.

At the same time, according to the new restrictions, which will come into force on 10 February, the residents of Donetska oblast (NGCA) may visit entertainment and sports facilities (cinemas, theatres, museums, concert halls, etc.) as well as restaurants and cafes only provided that not more than 50 per cent of the seats are occupied and upon the presentation of a related COVID-19 document (vaccination, recovery certificates, COVID-19 test results).

Furthermore, schools, hospitals, utilities, and similar institutions that receive support from the entities in control have to ensure that at least 90 per cent of their personnel is vaccinated by 20 February except for people who recovered from COVID-19 within less than six months and people for whom vaccination is contraindicated. At the same time, the self-quarantine period for COVID-19 contact persons has been reduced from 14 to seven days.

- **In Luhanska oblast (NGCA)**, attending public places and holding public events is still restricted.
- **The requirements of wearing face masks and keeping physical distance in public places are still valid and reportedly are monitored in both NGCAs**.

- **Elementary school** (2 to 4th grades), **middle school** (5 to 9th grades) and **high school** (10th and 11th grades) in the NGCA of Donetska oblast will switch to online learning from 3 to 16 February 2022. In the meantime, first-graders will have an extended school break from 3 to 16 February. From 10 February, remote learning modalities were also introduced for higher education and vocational facilities from 11 to 20 February.

- **In the meantime, restrictions on movement across the “contact line” also remain in place**. So far, only two of the five official crossing points allow people to cross the “contact line” (“Stanytsia Luhanska” in Luhanska oblast daily and “Novotroitske”/ “Olenivka” in Donetska oblast on Mondays and Fridays).

- **In the NGCA of Donetska oblast, to enter/leave NGCA people also must be included in pre-approved lists on the basis of one of a limited number of humanitarian exemptions to cross”. Upon entering NGCA from GCA, in Donetska oblast, people may take a free-of-charge express COVID-19 test which, if negative, allows them to self-quarantine at their place of residence instead of undergoing a two-week observation in a designated facility.

- **In the NGCA of Luhanska oblast, people with a registered place of permanent residence in the NGCA of Luhanska oblast, may cross the “contact line” once per month** but have to obtain special permission on the basis of humanitarian exemptions if they need to cross into GCA more frequently. People without a permanent place of residence in the NGCA of Luhanska oblast may leave NGCA but for entering the territory, they should be included in a list pre-approved in NGCA on the basis of humanitarian exemptions. A two-week self-quarantine at a place of residence remains mandatory in Luhanska oblast (NGCA), which can be cancelled with a negative PCR test taken in
GCA not later than 72 hours before the crossing. In June 2021, the entities in control in the NGCAs of Donetska and Luhanska oblasts lifted the ban on travelling between the two NGCAs and removed the so-called customs control points between the two NGCAs from 1 October 2021.

[1] People who have a permanent place of residence registered in GCA may leave NGCA without obtaining such a permission but to return, will have to be included in a pre-approved list in NGCA.

**VISUAL** (18 Jan 2022)

Humanitarian Snapshot (December 2021)

**VISUAL** (18 Jan 2022)

Crossing Points Snapshot (December 2021)
UKRAINE
Situation Report
Last updated: 17 Feb 2022

UKRAINE CROSSING POINTS - Snapshot: December 2021

A 20 per cent increase in civilian crossings of the "contact line" was reported through the entry-exit crossing points (EECPs) in December compared with November. A slight increase was also observed at the crossing point "Mikheiv" (Luhansk oblast) and "Hoptivka" (Kharkivska oblast) located on the Russian-Ukrainian border, with many of those crossing likely being residents of non-Government-controlled areas (NGCAs) of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts transiting the Russian Federation to reach Government-controlled areas (GOCA). Recent reports indicated cases, particularly at the "Mikheiv" crossing point, in which Ukrainian ID holders were asked on the Russian Federation (RF) side of the CP to provide additional identity documents as proof of their place of residence in NGCA. This could be connected to the fact that entrance to the RF to transit to GOCA and back is exceptionally permitted for residents of NGCA who have special grounds, e.g., visiting relatives, returning to the place of residence, medical visits, etc.

OPERATIONAL UPDATES

On 29 December, Ukraine’s Cabinet of Ministers announced the lifting of mandatory COVID-19-related requirements for entering GOCA via the EECPs on the "contact line". The decision came into force on 30 December. Furthermore, the cabinet removed the obligation for people to install the mobile phone application "Vodafone" and self-certify when entering GOCA. The development is a positive step towards removing obstacles hindering free of movement. At the same time, several major administrative challenges remain, which include: (i) the requirement to have a permanent residence registration in Luhansk oblast (NGCA) as a prerequisite for receiving Luhansk oblast ID (NGCA) via the EECP "Stanitsia Luhanska", (ii) the requirement to be present in the electronic control of Donetsk oblast (NGCA) to cross the "contact line" (which is issued only based on humanitarian grounds), and (iii) the necessity to acquire a permit issued by the Security Service of Ukraine for entering GOCA.

In December, four people crossing from NGCA to GOCA via the EECP "Stanitsia Luhanska" were reported to be temporarily detained in the "grey zone" due to possible technical glitches in the e-permit system. People became stranded as they could not turn back to NGCA due to the lack of residence registration in Luhansk oblast (NGCA). While three of them were allowed to cross into GOCA in the same day, one person had to spend the night in the "grey zone" in the harsh Ukrainian winter conditions.

Three UNHCR-organized humanitarian convoys delivered 170 MT of relief items to NGCA. In 2021, there were 22 UNHCR-organized humanitarian convoys to NGCA, with over 2,000 MT of relief items delivered (90% of which went to Luhansk oblast, NGCA) compared with 1,111 MT in 2020. The increase in the amount of assistance delivered is attributed to part in part to the opening of the EECP "Surova" for the transportation of humanitarian cargo directly to Luhansk oblast (NGCA) in March 2021. Previously, humanitarian convoys to Luhansk oblast (NGCA) had to either transit through Donetsk oblast (NGCA) via the EECP "Novotroitske" or to be hand-carried over the pedestrian crossing bridge at the EECP "Stanitsia Luhanska".

CIVILIAN CROSSINGS AT CPs WITH RUSSIAN EECPs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of crossings in 2020</th>
<th>Number of crossings in 2021</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kievsko-Svetlovodsk</td>
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<tr>
<td>Zolote</td>
<td>76,183</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>146,982</td>
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</table>

CIVILIAN CROSSINGS AT EECPs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of crossings in 2020</th>
<th>Number of crossings in 2021</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Staraya Luha</td>
<td>1,925</td>
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<tr>
<td>Novotroitske</td>
<td>1,114</td>
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<tr>
<td>Donbas</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>3,062</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The data and figures above and the information contained in this report do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

MEDIA (18 Jan 2022)

View this Video: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fF0g3vH-bal](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fF0g3vH-bal)

The short film, “Grey Zone”, tells you the story of a 21-year-old man living with his family on the “contact line” dividing eastern Ukraine into areas under and beyond Government control where violence is a daily reality. The movie is based on the true stories of people affected by the conflict in eastern Ukraine.


For more information, visit:

[https://www.unocha.org/ukraine](https://www.unocha.org/ukraine)
[https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/operations/ukraine](https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/operations/ukraine)
[https://reliefweb.int/country/ukr](https://reliefweb.int/country/ukr)