

# Ukraine: Protection of civilians in armed conflict

## January 2025 update



HRMMU staff visited the heavily damaged village of Blahodane (Mykolaiv region) on 23 January.

11 February 2025

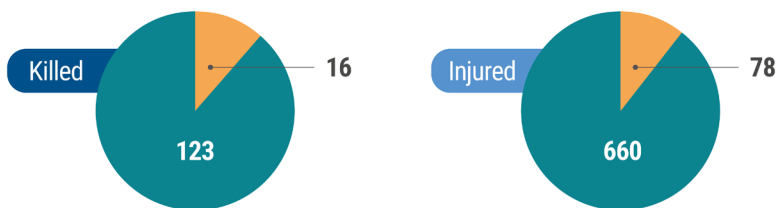
## Summary

- **At least 139 civilians were killed and 738 injured in Ukraine in January 2025**, a 39 per cent increase from December 2024, and 27 per cent higher than casualties in January 2024 (169 killed; 524 injured).
- The vast majority of civilian casualties (**89 per cent**)<sup>1</sup> and damage to educational and health facilities (**93 per cent**)<sup>2</sup> occurred **in territory controlled by Ukraine**.
- **Short-range drones, including First-Person-View drones**, caused the highest number of casualties in January,<sup>3</sup> exceeding the impact of any other weapon. In government-controlled parts of **Kherson region**, this weapon accounted for 70 per cent of the casualties.
- Several attacks **in Zaporizhzhia City on 8, 18, and 23 January** caused a high number of civilian casualties (17 killed; 176 injured), contributing to the overall January increase.
- The majority of casualties (81 per cent)<sup>4</sup> occurred **near the frontline**, primarily in **Kherson, Zaporizhzhia and Donetsk regions**.
- Russian armed forces conducted a **large-scale, coordinated attack on Ukraine's energy infrastructure** on 15 January, damaging at least four gas production, transportation and storage facilities in three regions. The attacks resulted in emergency power outages in seven regions of the country.

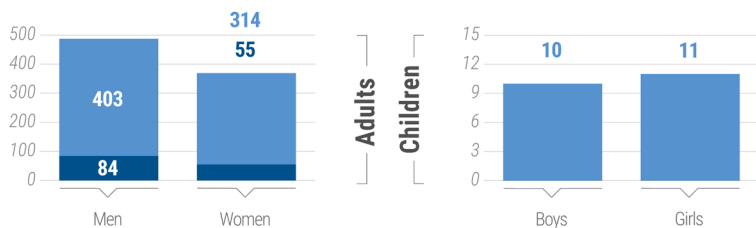
# Civilian casualties January 2024<sup>5</sup>

Total civilian casualties **877** [ **139** Killed **738** Injured ]

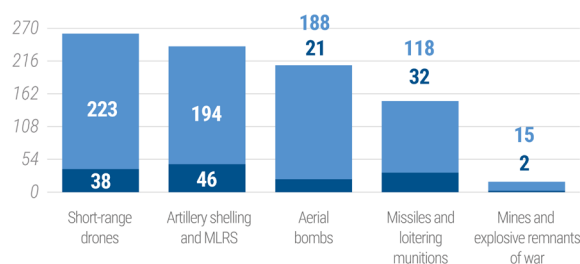
## 1. By territory where they occurred



## 2. By age and sex



## 3. By type of weapon/incident



## Attacks damaging educational and health facilities January 2024



## Representative incidents

- On 8 January, two aerial bombs struck an industrial facility in Zaporizhzhia city, killing 14 civilians (9 men and 5 women) and injuring 115 (59 men, 55 women and a girl), making it one of the attacks with the highest number of casualties since 24 February 2022.
- On 17 January, two missiles struck a college building and a residential area within a short interval in Kryvyi Rih (Dnipropetrovsk region), killing 4 women and a man and injuring at least 7 civilians (3 women, 3 men and a girl).
- On 15 January, another large-scale, coordinated attack on energy infrastructure damaged four gas production, transportation and storage facilities in three regions of Ukraine. The attack also resulted in emergency power outages in seven regions, and damage to housing and property.
- On 20 January, reportedly 3 people were killed and 24 injured in the occupied village of Bekhtery (Kherson region) as a result of an MLRS strike. HRMMU has verified 7 of these casualties, while the others, as well as the circumstances of the attack, are pending verification.
- On 23 January, a missile attack in Zaporizhzhia city killed a man and injured 49 civilians (28 women, 20 men and a boy).
- On 30 January, a loitering munitions attack significantly damaged a residential building in Sumy city, killing 11 civilians (6 men and 5 women) and injuring at least 4 (2 men, a woman and a girl). The attack caused the deaths of three family couples, all of whom were over 60 years old.

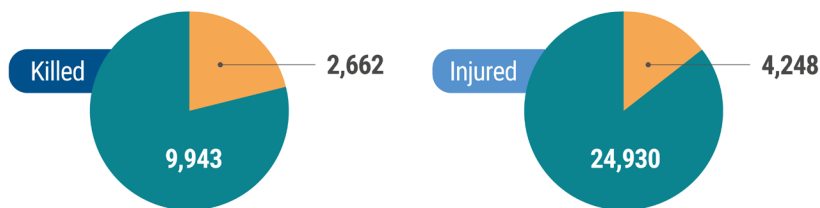
*"I barely remember the explosion. I was deafened, my legs shattered by shrapnel. Bleeding out, I tried to tie a tourniquet myself, but it was nearly impossible. Ambulances don't come here anymore-drones hunt them. I survived only because a vehicle happened to pass by and assist me."*

- A male victim of a short-range drone attack in Kherson region

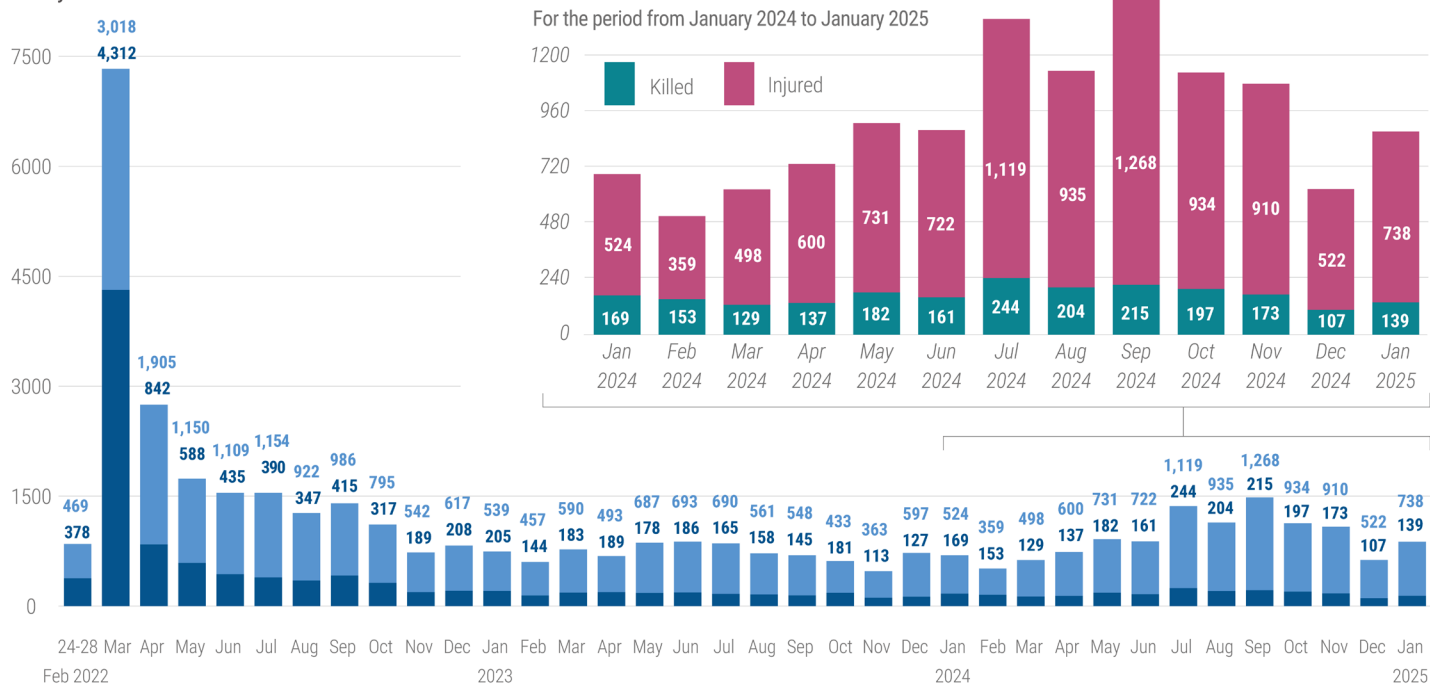
# Civilian casualties since 24 February 2022<sup>6</sup>

Total civilian casualties **41,783** [ **12,605** Killed **29,178** Injured ]

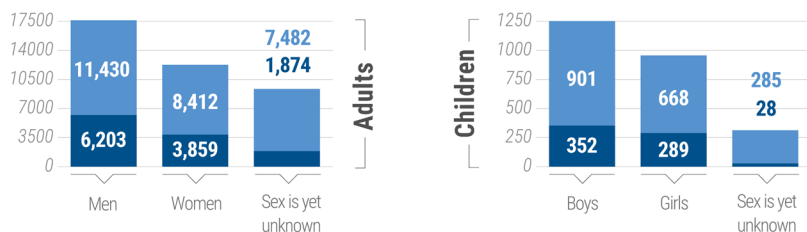
## 1. By territory where they occurred



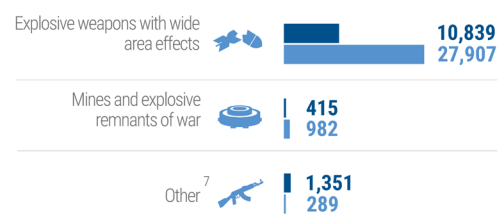
## 2. By month



## 3. By age and sex



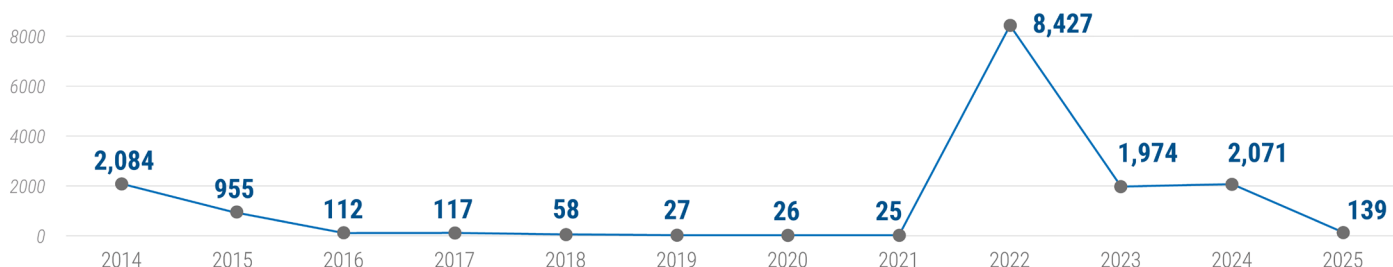
## 4. By type of weapon/incident



## Attacks damaging educational and health facilities since 24 February 2022



## Civilians killed since 2014







## The UN Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine

HRMMU collects information about civilian harm from conflict-related violence from a wide range of sources, including through interviews with victims, their relatives, and witnesses; open-source information, including photo and video material; 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 takes time. This means that as more information becomes available, conclusions on civilian casualties may be revised and numbers may change.

Statistics presented in the current update are based on individual records of civilian harm 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 harm took place as described. HRMMU refers to information that meets this criterion as “verified.” When HRMMU has not yet verified a casualty or reported an individual case of death or injury, it does not necessarily mean that HRMMU has established the individual as an active member of an armed group or as someone who directly participated in hostilities. In many cases, the non-designation of an individual as a civilian reflects a lack of information, rather than a confirmation the individual’s status as a combatant.

The actual extent of civilian harm – both casualties and infrastructure damage – is likely considerably higher as many reports of civilian harm, particularly from the period immediately after the full-scale armed attack of 24 February 2022, have not been possible to verify due to the large number of reports and the lack of access to relevant areas. The number of civilian casualties is likely particularly undercounted in cities such as Mariupol (Donetsk region), Lysychansk, Popasna, and Sievierodonetsk (Luhansk region), where there was protracted intensive fighting at the start of the armed attack in 2022.

<sup>1</sup> 783 civilian casualties in territory controlled by Ukraine and 94 in territory occupied by the Russian Federation.

<sup>2</sup> 50 in territory controlled by Ukraine and 4 in territory occupied by the Russian Federation.

<sup>3</sup> 38 killed and 223 injured.

<sup>4</sup> 105 killed and 605 injured.

<sup>5</sup> The actual number might be higher as some reports are still pending confirmation.

<sup>6</sup> 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.

<sup>7</sup> 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.