

Ukraine: Protection of civilians in armed conflict February 2025 update



An administrative building in the centre of Iziom (Kharkiv region) impacted by a missile attack on 4 February 2025.

11 March 2025

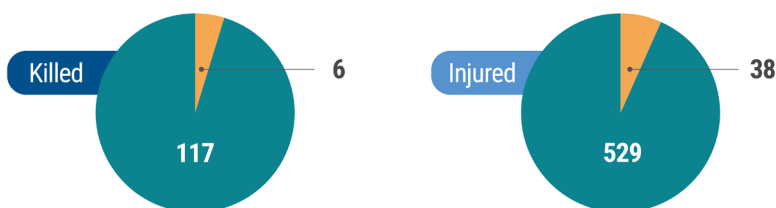
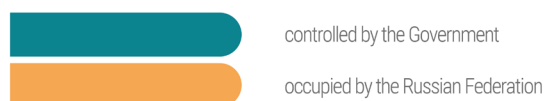
Summary

- **At least 123 civilians were killed and 567 injured in Ukraine in February 2025.** While the numbers constitute a 24 per cent decrease from January 2025 (148 killed; 761 injured), they are a 35 per cent increase compared with February 2024 (153 killed; 359 injured).
- The vast majority of civilian casualties (**94 per cent**)¹ and damage to educational and health facilities (**94 per cent**)² occurred **in territory controlled by Ukraine.**
- As in December 2024 and January 2025, **short-range drones, including First-Person-View drones,** caused the highest number of casualties,³ exceeding the impact of any other weapon. In government-controlled parts of **Kherson region,** this weapon accounted for 63 per cent of the casualties.
- The majority of casualties (77 per cent)⁴ occurred **near the frontline,** primarily in **Donetsk and Kherson regions.** Attacks killed at least 18 civilians and injured 45 in Kostiantynivka (Donetsk region) alone.
- Several missile attacks, including in Poltava City and Iziom (Kharkiv region), also caused high numbers of civilian casualties, contributing to the overall February figures.

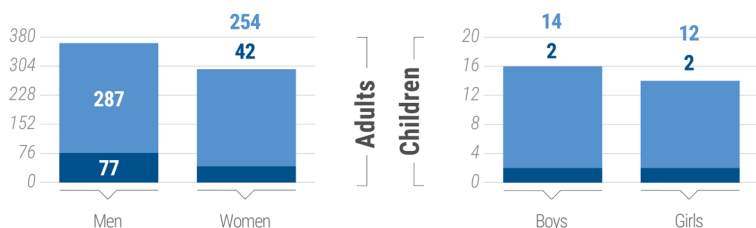
Civilian casualties February 2025⁵

Total civilian casualties **690** [**123** Killed **567** Injured]

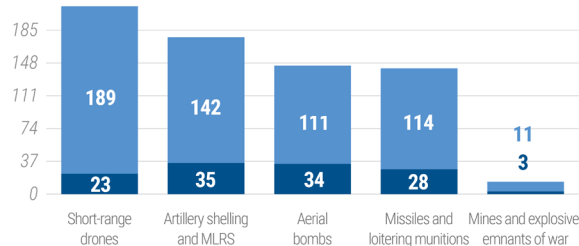
1. By territory where they occurred



2. By age and sex



3. By type of weapon/incident



Attacks damaging educational and health facilities February 2025



Representative incidents



HRMMU staff members collecting information about the situation in Levkivka village (Kharkiv region) in February 2025.

- » On 1 February, a missile attack significantly damaged a residential building in Poltava, killing 15 civilians (8 women, 4 men, 2 girls and 1 boy) and injuring 18 (9 women, 5 men, 3 boys and 1 girl), making it the attack with the highest number of casualties in the city since 24 February 2022.
- » On 1 February, a munition struck a boarding school in Sudzha (Kursk region), occupied by Ukrainian armed forces, reportedly killing at least 6 and injuring 4 civilians – mainly elderly people staying in the building. Verification of the casualties, as well as the circumstances of the attack, is pending.
- » On 4 February, a missile struck an administrative building in the centre of Iziurm (Kharkiv region), killing 6 civilians (4 men and 2 women) and injuring 55 (47 women, 5 men, 2 girls and 1 boy).
- » On 28 February, a loitering munitions attack damaged at least two medical facilities in Kharkiv city, resulting in the evacuation of at least 55 patients of the psychoneurological facility, including elderly people with low mobility.

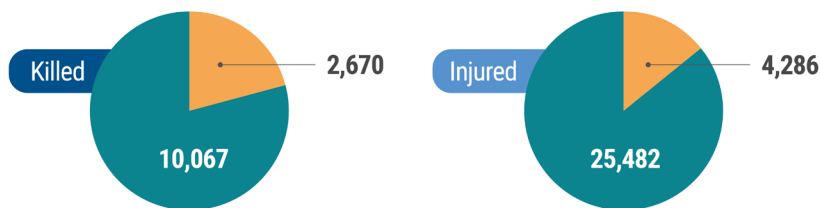
"If it weren't for the drones, it would be possible to live there."

- A man injured in one of the settlements in Kharkiv region regularly under attack by short-range drones.

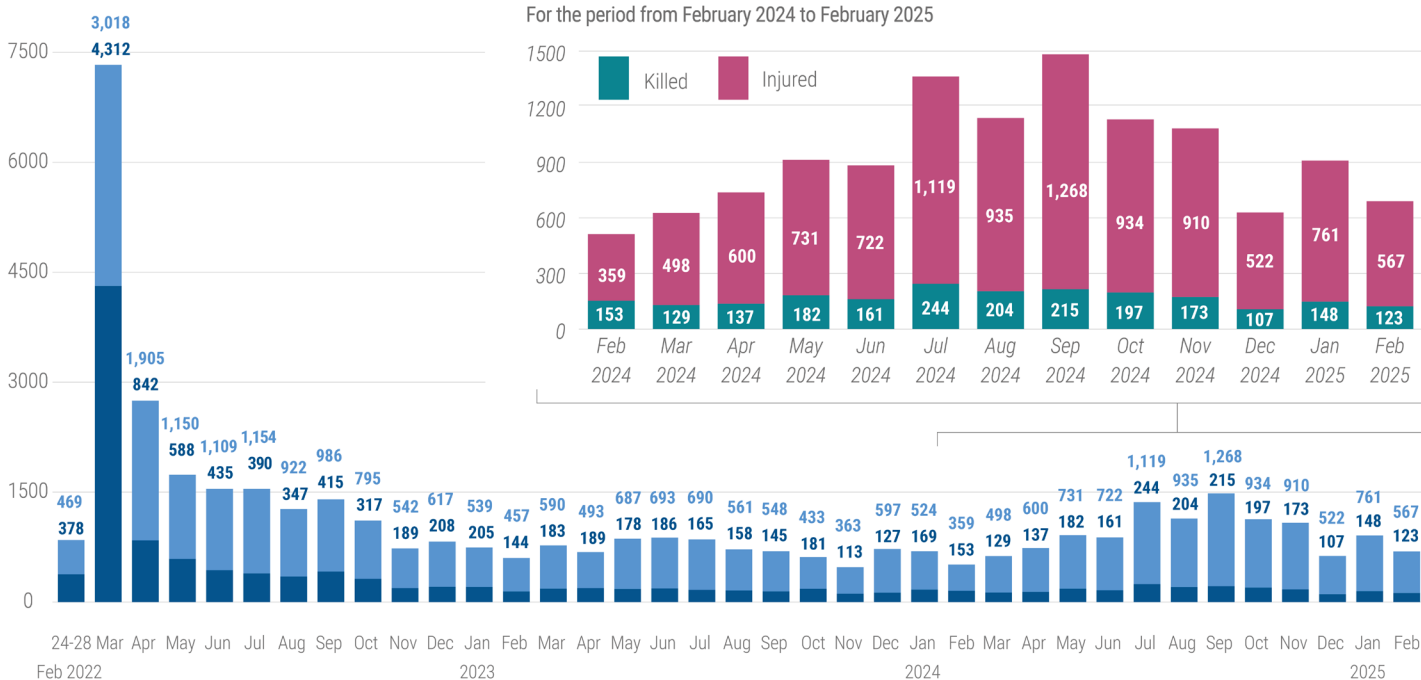
Civilian casualties since 24 February 2022⁶

Total civilian casualties **42,505** [**12,737** Killed **29,768** Injured]

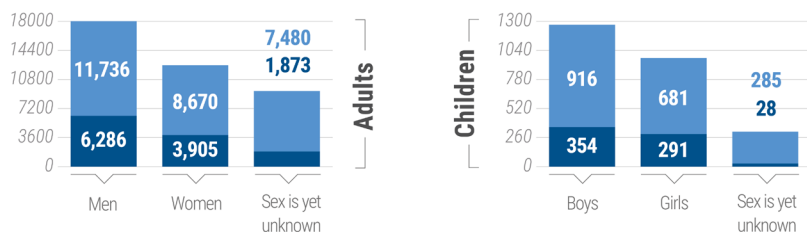
1. By territory where they occurred



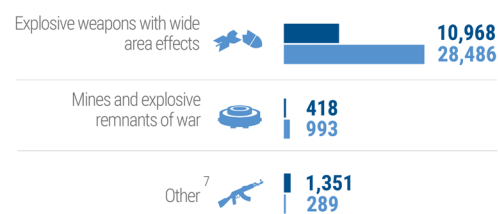
2. By month



3. By age and sex



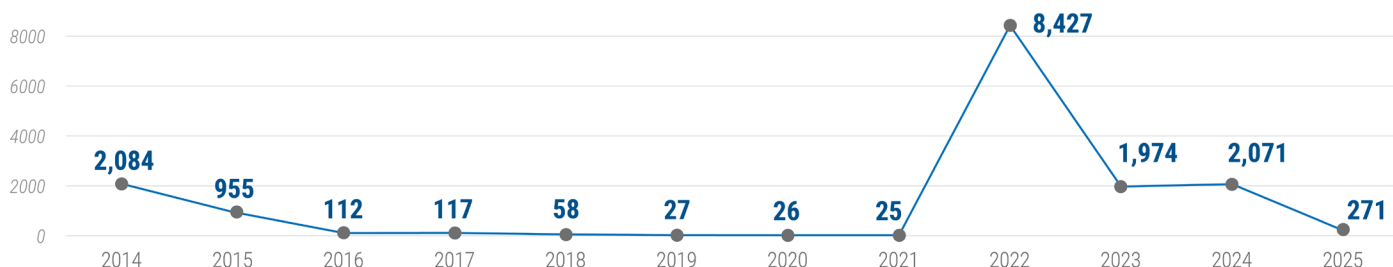
4. By type of weapon/incident



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.

¹ 646 civilian casualties in territory controlled by Ukraine and 44 in territory occupied by the Russian Federation.

² 63 in territory controlled by Ukraine and 4 in territory occupied by the Russian Federation.

³ 23 killed and 189 injured.

⁴ 92 killed and 442 injured.

⁵ The actual number might be higher as some reports are still pending confirmation.

⁶ 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.

⁷ 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.