

Ukraine: Protection of civilians in armed conflict

March 2025 update



A residential apartment building in Dobropillia (Donetsk region) impacted by a combined strike with multiple munitions on 7 March 2025.

9 April 2025

Summary

- **Civilian casualties in Ukraine continued to rise in March with at least 164 civilians killed and 910 injured.** The numbers constitute a **50 per cent increase from February 2025** (129 killed; 588 injured), and a **71 per cent increase compared with March 2024** (129 killed; 498 injured).
- The vast majority of civilian casualties (**95 per cent**)¹ and damage to educational and health facilities (**94 per cent**)² occurred **in territory controlled by Ukraine**.
- **Most casualties (31 per cent) were due to missile and loitering munitions attacks**, followed by attacks with rocket and projectile artillery near the frontline (28 per cent).
- The high number of casualties in March was exacerbated **by Russian Federation attacks** in Kryvyi Rih, Dnipro, Zaporizhzhia, Kharkiv, Kropyvnytskyi, and Sumy, as well as a combined strike with multiple munitions, including cluster munitions, on Dobropillia (Donetsk region).
- In at least three separate incidents, loitering munitions **struck functioning hospitals in territory controlled by Ukraine, in Kharkiv and Sumy regions**, resulting in damage to the facilities. In all three incidents multiple loitering munitions struck the same locations, raising the possibility that these hospitals were deliberately targeted.
- From 3 to 7 March, the Russian armed forces **attacked energy infrastructure in Odesa region for five consecutive days**, damaging facilities and causing temporary power outages for the civilian population.

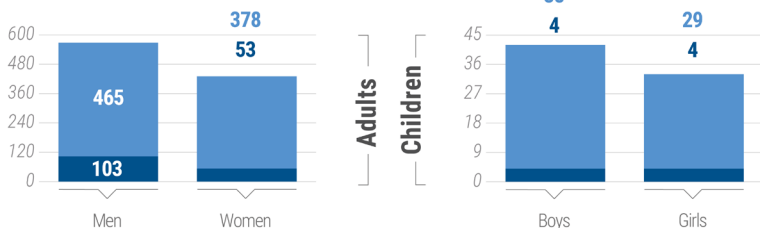
Civilian casualties March 2025³

Total civilian casualties **1074** [**164** Killed **910** Injured]

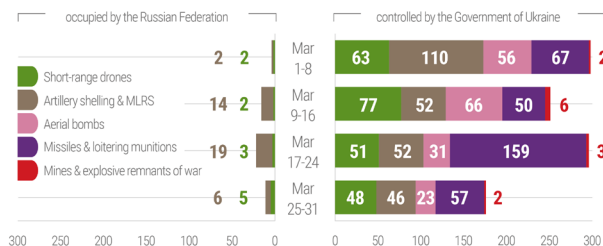
1. By territory where they occurred



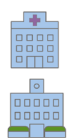
2. By age and sex



3. By type of weapon/incident (territory where they occurred)



Attacks damaging educational and health facilities March 2025



Medical facilities
Educational facilities

Destruction

2
6

Damage

29
50

Representative incidents

- » On 2 March, a short-range drone struck a public bus driving its regular route in Dniprovskiy district of Kherson, killing 2 civilian women and injuring 10 civilians (6 men and 4 women).
- » On 5, 12 and 14 March, missile attacks on Kryvyi Rih killed a total of 6 civilians (3 men and 3 women) and injured 60 civilians (32 men, 24 women, 3 boys and 1 girl). The attacks damaged and destroyed civilian infrastructure, including two hotels and a restaurant in the city.
- » On 7 March, an attack with multiple weapons, including cluster munitions, killed 11 civilians (7 men and 4 women) and injured 48 (21 men, 21 women, 3 boys, and 3 girls) in the center of Dobropillia (Donetsk region).
- » On 9 March, an artillery strike in occupied Velyki Kopani (Kherson region) killed 2 men, a woman and a 15-year-old boy, and injured three women.
- » On 21 March, a loitering munitions attack in Zaporizhzhia City killed a family of three (a man, a woman and a 17-year-old girl) and injured 16 civilians (11 men, 4 women and a boy).
- » On 24 March, an attack in a residential district of Sumy City killed a man and injured 91 civilians (54 women, 15 men, 11 boys and 11 girls).
- » On 24 March, an attack reportedly killed 6 civilians, including 3 media workers, and injured 2 in occupied Mykhailivka (Luhansk region). The circumstances of the attack and casualties are still pending verification.
- » On 28 March, a loitering munitions attack affected multiple locations in Dnipro City, killing 5 civilians (4 men and 1 woman), and injuring 18 (10 men and 8 women).

"My colleague was injured in both the first and second missile attacks. And he also [happens to be] an internally displaced person. Can you imagine?"

- a man in Kryvyi Rih about the 5 March 2025 and 20 October 2024 missile strikes.

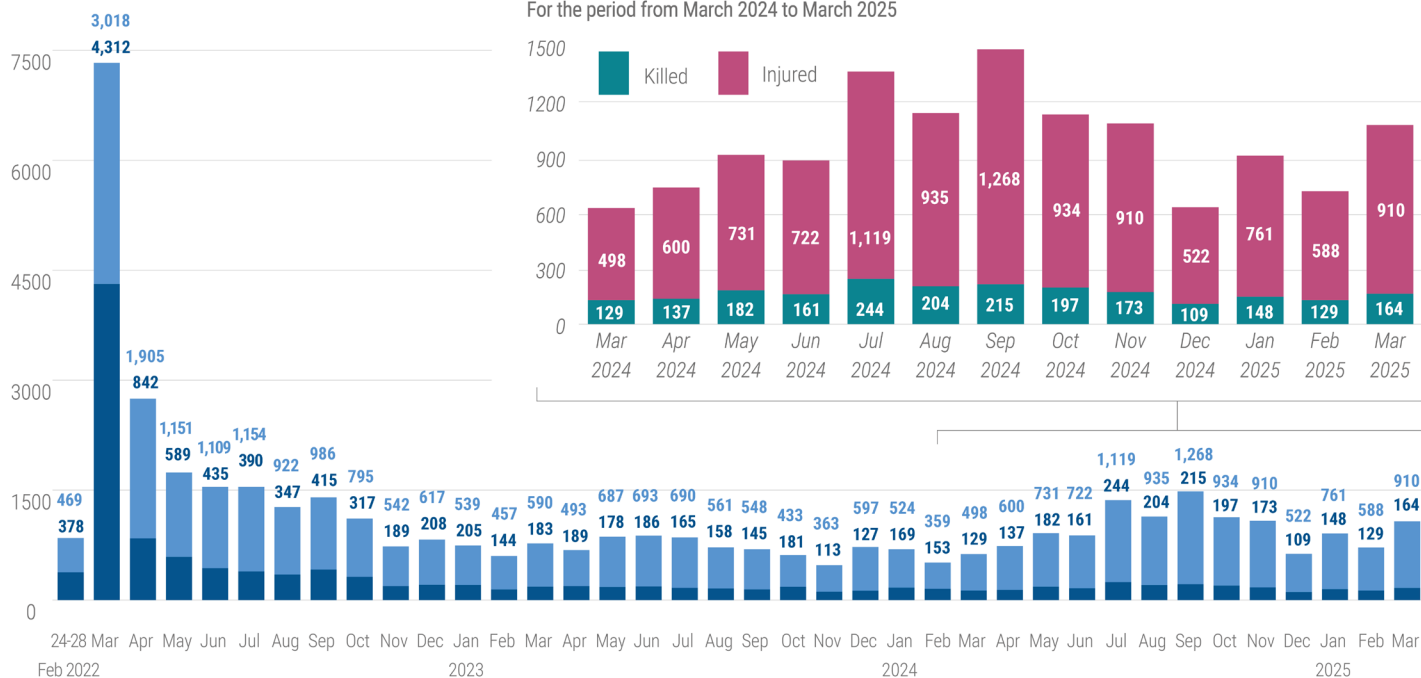
Civilian casualties since 24 February 2022⁴

Total civilian casualties **43,610** [**12,910** Killed **30,700** Injured]

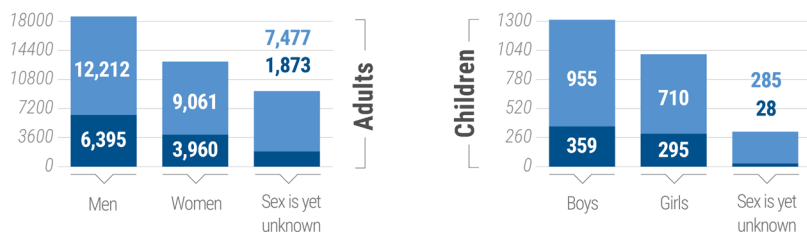
1. By territory where they occurred



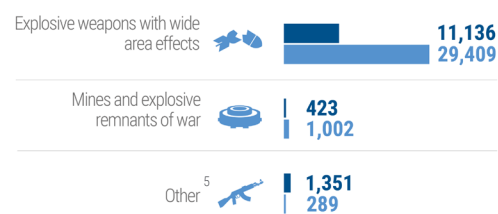
2. By month



3. By age and sex



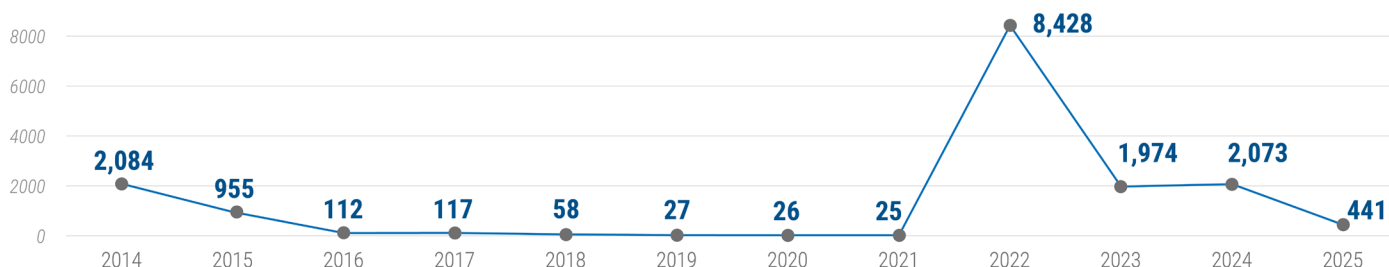
4. By type of weapon/incident



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 1,021 civilian casualties in territory controlled by Ukraine and 53 in territory occupied by the Russian Federation.

² 82 in territory controlled by Ukraine and 5 in territory occupied by the Russian Federation.

³ The actual number might be higher as some reports are still pending confirmation.

⁴ 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.

⁵ 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.