

Ukraine:

Protection of civilians in armed conflict September 2025 update



An apartment building damaged as a result of a loitering munitions attack in Odesa on 7 September 2025.

10 October 2025

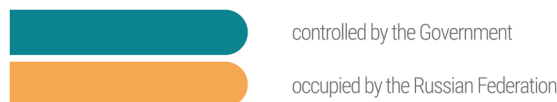
Summary

- In September 2025, at least **214 civilians were killed and 916 injured**, similar to August 2025.
- Most death and injuries (**69 per cent**) occurred **near the frontline**, with particularly high casualties reported in Donetsk and Kherson regions. Short-range drones, primarily those with First-Person-View capacity, continued as the leading cause of casualties near the frontline (54 killed; 272 injured). These attacks accounted for **29 per cent of all civilian casualties**.
- **Long-range strikes with missiles and loitering munitions** launched by Russian armed forces accounted for **30 per cent of all civilian casualties** (36 killed; 306 injured). These attacks continued to pose a serious threat to civilians, including in urban centres such as Kyiv, Zaporizhzhia, and Dnipro.
- As in the previous month, the vast majority of civilian casualties (**97 per cent**¹) occurred in areas controlled by the Government of Ukraine. Civilian casualties were recorded across **16 regions** of Ukraine and the city of Kyiv.
- September 2025 also saw a **15 per cent increase in attacks affecting energy infrastructure in Ukraine** compared with August 2025, with 31 attacks documented. In the **Chernihiv region** alone, at least 12 such attacks resulted in temporary power outages in several districts and the subsequent introduction of scheduled power cuts in October.
- Total civilian casualties from January to September 2025 remain **31 per cent higher** than the same period last year.

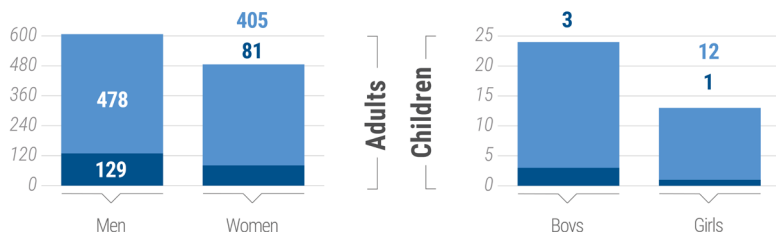
Civilian casualties September 2025²

Total civilian casualties **1,130** [**214** Killed **916** Injured]

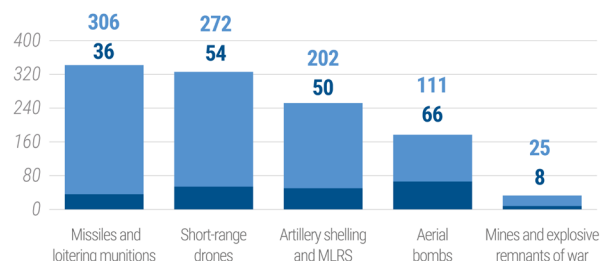
1. By territory where they occurred



2. By age and sex



3. By type of weapon/incident



Representative incidents

"We used to feel a sense of security at home, but not anymore. Drones are buzzing like bees, flying without a break. We can't sleep at night nor during the day. We are exhausted."

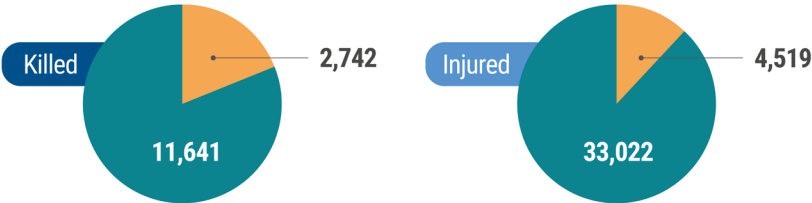
— a man evacuated from Kostiantynivka.

- » On 9 September, a Russian aerial glide bomb attack killed 25 civilians (16 women and 9 men) and injured at least 19 (13 women and 6 men) in Yarova, Donetsk region. Most of the victims were collecting their pensions from a postal service vehicle in the town centre when the bomb struck nearby: 21 of those killed and 13 of those injured were over age 60.
- » On 3 September, artillery shelling conducted by Russian armed forces in Kostiantynivka, Donetsk region, killed 8 civilians (4 men and 4 women) and injured 6 (4 women and 2 men).
- » On 7 September, a combined missile and loitering munitions attack in Kyiv city killed 5 civilians (3 women, 1 man, and 1 boy) and injured 18 (12 men and 6 women).
- » On 28 September, another combined long-range weapons attack struck several regions of Ukraine, killing at least 4 civilians (2 men, 1 woman, and 1 girl) and injuring 74 (35 women, 31 men, 6 boys, and 2 girls) in Kyiv city, Zaporizhzhia city, and Kyiv region.
- » On 20 September, a combined missile and loitering munitions attack in Dnipro city killed 2 men and injured 28 civilians (15 men and 13 women).
- » On 30 September, a loitering munitions attack in Dnipro city killed a man and injured 31 civilians (23 women, 5 men, 2 boys, and 1 girl).

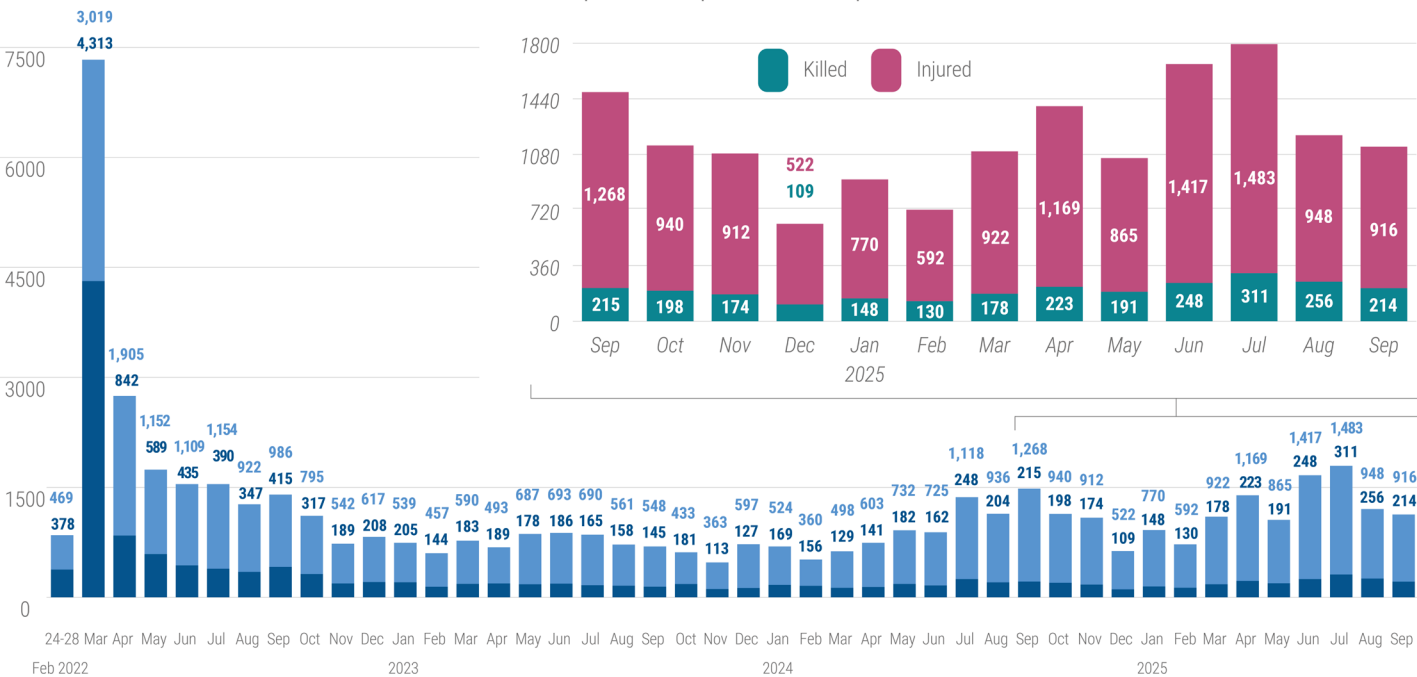
Civilian casualties since 24 February 2022³

Total civilian casualties **51,924** [**14,383** Killed **37,541** Injured]

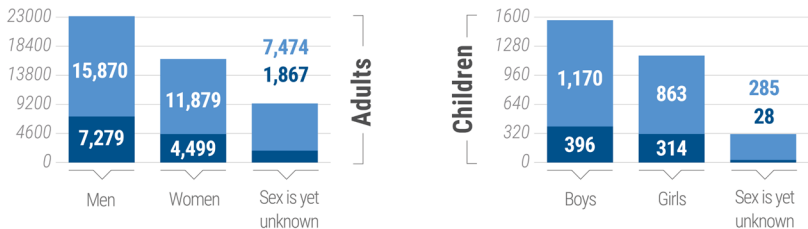
1. By territory where they occurred



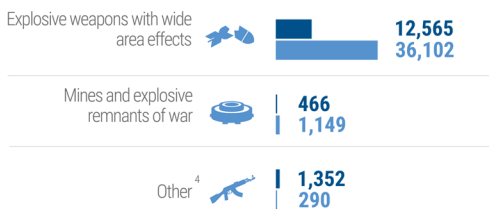
2. By month



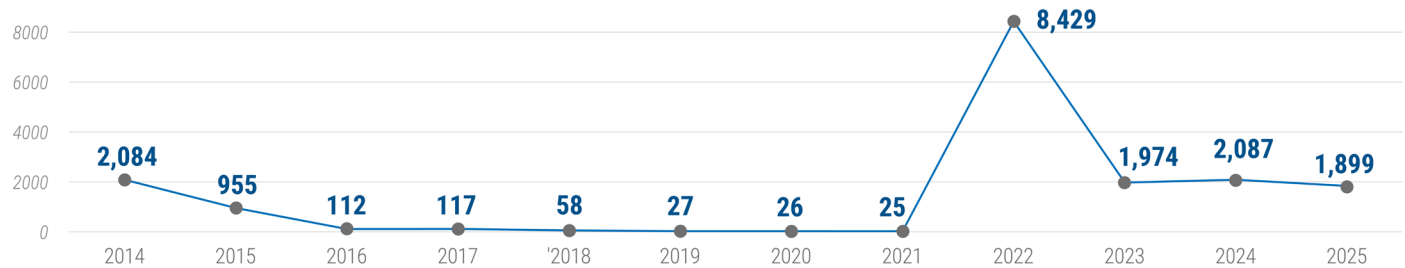
3. By age and sex



4. By type of weapon/incident



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 1,095 civilian casualties in territory controlled by Ukraine and 35 in territory occupied by the Russian Federation.

² The actual number might be higher as some reports are still pending confirmation.

³ In comparison with the previous update, an increase in total figures in this update is not only due to casualties that occurred in the reporting period, but also to the corroboration by OHCHR of cases that occurred before the reporting period.

⁴ 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.