Country Factsheet

Ukraine

October 2022

NB: Due to the ongoing war in Ukraine, the below information may change rapidly and is highly time-sensitive.

Country – capital	Ukraine - Kyiv (Kiev)[1]
Population	Ukrainian 77.8%, Russian 17.3%, Belarusian 0.6%, Moldovan 0.5%, Crimean Tatar 0.5%, and other small groups (2001 est.) [2] Total population 43.5 million (Jan. 2022). [3]
Geography	Eastern Europe, bordering the Black Sea, between Poland, Romania, and Moldova in the west and Russia in the east. [4]
Languages	Ukrainian (official) 67.5%, Russian (regional language) 29.6%, other 2.9% (2001 est.)[5]
Writing system	Cyrillic [6]
Education and literacy	99.8 % is literate – women and men alike (2015).[7] In 2014, net enrolment rate in primary education was 96.2%.[8] Education is compulsory from age 6 to age 15. The first 4 years are at primary (elementary) school. Lower secondary *osnowna serednia shkola* middle school is for students aged 10 to 15, following which they may qualify for their lower secondary school leaving certificates. The curriculum includes the Ukrainian language and literature, a foreign language, algebra, biology, chemistry, geography, geometry, history, physics, music, art and physical education. Thereafter 3 years may be spent at *starsha serednia shkola* or upper secondary school. Or they may opt to a 4 year study further at own expense at a vocational secondary school.[9]
Religions	Overwhelmingly Christian; about two thirds are Orthodox, but many do not specify a particular branch; Muslim and Jewish < 1% of total population.[10]
Conflict history and overview	Ukraine became last independent from Russia on 24 August 1991. [11] In 2014 Russia annexed the autonomous region of Crimea and non-state armed groups seized parts of the eastern regions of Donetsk and Luhansk, declaring independence. This prompted a military response from the Government of Ukraine, and the ensuing fighting triggered a high number of internal displacements, particularly in 2014, 2015 and 2016. Russia began to amass troops near its border with Ukraine in the second half of 2021. It launched a full-scale invasion in February 2022, plunging the country into the world's largest and fastest evolving internal displacement crisis.[12] The invasion and continuing war has received massive international condemnation. [13] It has unleashed the gravest human rights and refugee crisis in Europe since WWII.[14]
Humanitarian situation	Life expectancy at birth: 73.5 yrs (male 69, female 78- est.2022). Population below poverty line: 1.1 % (2019 est). [15]
Human rights situation	Before the Russian invasion, it was the armed conflict in the Donbas region of eastern Ukraine that posed the worst threat to civilian safety, of which many human rights violations were reported.[16] When the war enfolded, horrific reports on Russian cruelties against civilians were documented; numerous sites of destruction, mass graves, places of detention and torture were found after the Russians withdrew from reconquered places. UN found that Russian forces committed war crimes like torture, brutal executions, sexual violence and targeting hospitals, schools and houses. [17] Nearly 15,600 civilian deaths have been reported, as of 9 October 2022. [18]
Situation of women FGM – early marriages	Maternal mortality rate: 19 per 100,000 live births (est. 2017).[19] Early marriage is rare, about 11% of girls (2012). While no reliable statistics exist, rates of child marriage are thought to be much higher among the Roma population.[20]
Situation of LGBTI	Same-sex activities decriminalised in 1991; in 2012, 2019 and 2020 attempts to prohibit LBGTI "propaganda". 2015 Labour law forbids employment discrimination on base of sexual orientation. No recognition of same-sex unions and adoption. [21] Many incidents of violence and hate crimes against LGBT people reported (2021).[22]
Asylum / migration / internally displaced persons (IDPs)	13.74 million people had fled Ukraine (while unknown numbers returning), and 6.24 million are IDPs within their country (Oct.2022). [23] Over 7.7 million Ukrainians have been registered as refugees across Europe.[24] In 2022 Malta granted asylum to 1355 refugees (Aug. 2022).[25]

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[1] https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/countries/ukraine
[2] https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/countries/ukraine
[3] https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/countries/ukraine https://countrymeters.info/en/Ukraine
[4] https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/countries/ukraine
[5] https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/countries/ukraine
[6] https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/countries/ukraine
[7] https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/countries/ukraine
[8] https://knoema.com/atlas/Ukraine/topics/Education/Primary-Education/Net-enrolment-rate-in-primary-education
[9] https://www.scholaro.com/db/Countries/Ukraine/Education-System
[10] https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/countries/ukraine
[11] https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/countries/ukraine
[12] https://www.internal-displacement.org/countries/ukraine
[13] https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/countries/ukraine
[14] https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2022/03/latest-news-on-russias-war-on-ukraine/
[15] https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/countries/ukraine
[16] https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2022/country-chapters/ukraine
[17] https://news.un.org/en/story/2022/09/1127691 ; https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2022/03/latest-news-on-russias-war-on-ukraine/
[18] https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/countries/ukraine
[19] https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/countries/ukraine
[20] https://eeca.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/unfpa%20ukraine%20summary.pdf.
[21] https://ilga.org/state-sponsored-homophobia-report
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[23] https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/countries/ukraine
[24] https://data.unhcr.org/en/situations/ukraine
[25] https://tvmnews.mt/en/news/85-ukrainians-granted-asylum-in-malta-during-august/

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