



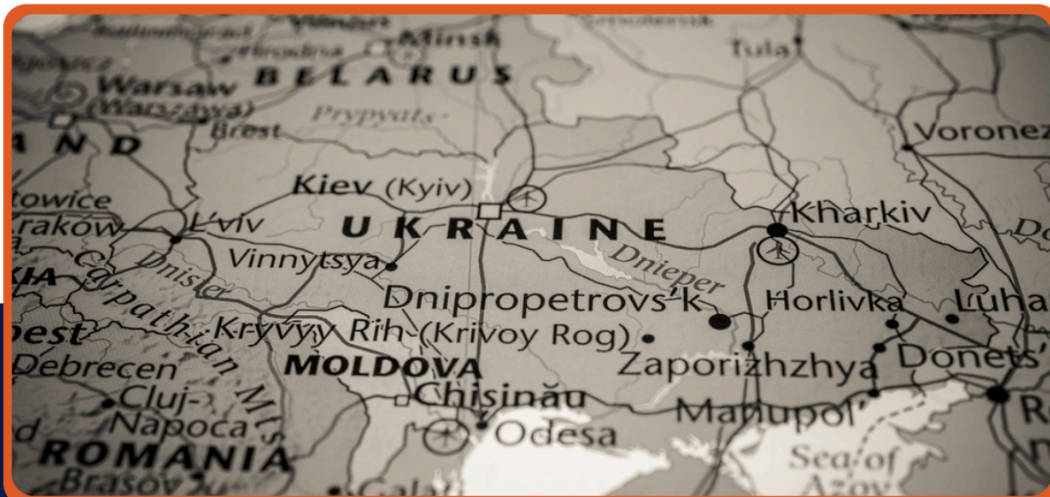
# UKRAINE

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## GEOPOLITICAL & SECURITY ANALYSIS

# WEEKLY REPORT

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Kyiv, Ukraine



RileyRisk.com



+1 (771) 210-2072

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# Executive Summary

The Ukraine-Russia conflict continues to evolve, with significant developments reshaping the geopolitical landscape and military dynamics:

**International Support and Diplomatic Engagement:** President Zelensky's European tour to promote his "victory plan" has garnered substantial support. Germany pledged €1.4 billion in aid, while Denmark committed \$618 million for Ukrainian defense production. The EU approved a €35 billion loan using frozen Russian assets as collateral. Zelensky met with leaders from Britain, France, Italy, Germany, and NATO officials, emphasizing Ukraine's aspirations for NATO membership. Ukraine also signed a 10-year security agreement with Croatia.

**Military Developments:** France plans to deliver fighter jets to Ukraine by 2025 and is establishing joint defense production facilities with Ukrainian partners. Slovakia is expanding its repair base for Ukrainian military equipment, while Norway's embassy in Kyiv has appointed a defense cooperation official to enhance collaboration in defense innovation and development. Concurrently, Russia has significantly escalated its aerial campaign, launching 900 glide bombs in a single week. There's a concerning focus on agricultural and port facilities, particularly in the Odesa region, threatening global food security. Reports also suggest potential North Korean troop deployment to support Russia, potentially broadening the conflict's scope.

**Strategic Adjustments:** The Ukrainian Parliament approved significant wartime tax increases to support the war effort. The World Bank established a new Financial Intermediary Fund for Ukraine, demonstrating continued international economic support. Lithuania approved a three-year roadmap for supporting Ukraine's reconstruction efforts.

**Humanitarian and Justice Initiatives:** The UK launched a new funding scheme for Ukrainian refugees and imposed sanctions on Russian troops for alleged use of chemical weapons in Ukraine.

**Operational Challenges:** Travel and logistics within Ukraine are increasingly complex due to security threats and fluctuating restrictions. Weather conditions and potential infrastructure disruptions necessitate adaptive planning to ensure effective operations in the conflict zone.

**Border Activity:** Varying wait times at border crossings affect travel and logistics, with some delays lasting several hours, impacting the movement of goods and personnel across borders.

The conflict remains dynamic, with these developments potentially shifting its trajectory. The coordinated approach to enhancing Ukraine's military capabilities, coupled with economic and humanitarian support, reflects a comprehensive strategy to address both immediate needs and long-term challenges. However, operational and logistical challenges continue to complicate efforts on the ground. International responses and adaptive strategies will be vital in shaping future outcomes as the situation evolves.

## Report Hot Links:

- [Key Geopolitical Updates](#)
- [Conflict Zone Developments](#)
- [Conflict Zone Mapping](#)
- [Oblast Threat Reporting](#)
- [Weekly Conflict Analysis](#)
- [Operational Assessments](#)
- [Stabilization Factors & Indicators](#)

# 1. Introduction

As the Ukraine-Russia conflict enters its third year, its dynamics continue to evolve, presenting new challenges for global stakeholders. This report, generated by the Riley Risk Geopolitical and Security Analysis Team, provides a comprehensive overview of the current situation. Our analysis is informed by our Risk Advisory Services team in Ukraine, as well as both open and controlled source information.

The report covers key areas including:

- Recent geopolitical developments and their global implications
- Military strategies and technological advancements
- Humanitarian challenges and international aid efforts
- Economic impacts, including sanctions
- Nuclear safety concerns
- Operational considerations for organizations in the region

We aim to equip decision-makers and stakeholders with crucial insights to navigate this complex landscape. The report synthesizes the most recent and reliable information available, offering a snapshot of the current state of affairs in a highly fluid situation. By leveraging our on-the-ground presence in Ukraine and our extensive network of sources, we provide a unique perspective on the conflict's evolving dynamics. This report is designed to support informed decision-making, risk assessment, and strategic planning in an environment of rapid change and uncertainty.

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## 1.1 Report Objectives

This weekly report aims to:

- Analyze the current state of the Ukraine-Russia conflict, including recent geopolitical and military developments.
- Assess the humanitarian situation and international response efforts.
- Evaluate potential risks and opportunities for stakeholders operating in or affected by the conflict zone.
- Provide actionable intelligence to support informed decision-making and strategic planning.
- Offer insights into potential future trajectories of the conflict and their broader implications.

In closing, we seek to equip our clients with the critical information and analysis needed to navigate the complex and evolving landscape of this ongoing conflict.

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## 1.2 Report Details

Report Date: Oct 15, 2024

Lead Analyst: Marko Filijović

Contributors: Martin Lusty Oleksandr Ionin Leonid Konchits Valentyn Gunchenko

Dominic Stam Luke Kjeldsen

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## 1.3 Distribution

This report is distributed to authorized recipients and channels only. For ongoing access to our comprehensive analysis and risk advisory support: [Click Here for Access](#)

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## 1.3 Methodology

This report employs a comprehensive, multi-faceted approach to data collection and analysis:

**On-the-Ground Intelligence:** Our Risk Advisory Services team in Ukraine provides real-time, firsthand information and insights.

**Open-Source Intelligence (OSINT):** We continuously monitor and analyze publicly available information from credible news sources, government statements, and international organizations.

**Controlled Source Information:** We leverage confidential and verified sources to obtain critical information not available through public channels.

**Geospatial Analysis:** We utilize mapping technologies and satellite imagery to track and visualize conflict developments.

**Data Aggregation:** We compile data on air raid frequencies, border activities, and humanitarian responses from various official sources.

**Expert Analysis:** Our Geopolitical and Security Analysis Team synthesizes all gathered information, providing context and identifying key trends and implications.

**Cross-Verification:** We employ rigorous fact-checking and cross-referencing to ensure the accuracy and reliability of our reporting.

**Continuous Monitoring:** Our methodology includes ongoing surveillance of the situation, allowing for real-time updates and rapid response to emerging developments.

This multi-layered approach enables us to provide a comprehensive, nuanced, and timely analysis of the complex and dynamic situation in Ukraine.

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## 2. Current Situation Overview

### 2.1 Key Geopolitical Updates

#### → Ukrainian President met with EU and NATO officials to advocate for his "victory plan"

After U.S. President Joe Biden postponed his visit to Germany due to Hurricane Milton, affecting the upcoming Ramstein meeting, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky city-hopped across Europe to promote his "victory plan," which aims to create the conditions for a just end to the war against Russia. Zelensky detailed his proposals to European allies following the derailed summit with Biden. On October 10-11, he discussed the plan with leaders from Britain, France, Italy, and Germany, as well as the incoming head of NATO. His talks in London with British Prime Minister Keir Starmer and NATO Secretary-General Mark Rutte were quickly followed by a meeting in Paris with French President Emmanuel Macron, who had recently shown strong support for Ukraine by visiting Ukrainian troops being trained in France. The first step in Zelensky's victory plan is inviting Ukraine to join NATO. Following a meeting with Western defense partners, Defense Minister Rustem Umerov reported on October 13 that concrete results were achieved. Umerov met with counterparts from France, the U.K., Italy, and Germany as part of a delegation led by Zelensky, who confirmed that investments in Ukraine's industrial-defense complex will increase.

Sources [1](#), [2](#), [3](#), [4](#), [5](#), [6](#), [7](#) and [8](#)

#### → Germany pledges €1.4 billion in aid to Ukraine

On October 11, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky met with German Chancellor Olaf Scholz in Berlin, where Scholz pledged €1.4 billion in aid for Ukraine by year-end. A new aid package, supported by Belgium, Denmark, and Norway, will include the IRIS-T and Skynex anti-aircraft artillery systems, Gepards, guided howitzers, self-propelled artillery, armored vehicles, combat drones, radars, and ammunition. Scholz also highlighted that Ukraine has already received a new package valued at €600 million, which includes the fifth IRIS-T SLM system, tanks, howitzers, ammunition, and drones. He emphasized that air defense assistance remains central to supporting Ukraine.

Sources [1](#), [2](#), [3](#) and [4](#)

#### → France is planning to send a military package to Ukraine

France plans to send fighter jets to Ukraine in the first half of 2025, according to Armed Forces Minister Sébastien Lecornu. This announcement follows the Netherlands' confirmation of its first delivery of Western-made jets to Ukraine. Lecornu stated that Mirage 2000s could be flying in Ukraine in the first half of 2025. Additionally, Ukraine is collaborating with France to establish new joint defense production facilities, as Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky mentioned in his evening address on October 12. This production agreement follows Zelensky's visit to Paris on October 10, where he met with French President Emmanuel Macron. While Zelensky did not provide specifics on the partnership, he highlighted the success of the Danish model in attracting investments in defense production.

Sources [1](#), [2](#) and [3](#)

### → Denmark to invest \$618 million in Ukrainian defense production

Denmark has increased its financial assistance for the purchase of Ukrainian defense equipment to 4.2 billion Danish kroner (\$618 million). These funds will support the acquisition of arms and ammunition for the Ukrainian Armed Forces and strengthen the country's domestic defense industry. The list of weapons included in the initiative has also been expanded to cover anti-tank guided missiles, military drones, and artillery systems. Of the total, 1.3 billion Danish kroner (\$191 million) will be sourced from the Danish state budget, while the remaining 2.9 billion Danish kroner (\$427 million) will come from profits generated by frozen Russian assets managed by Denmark on behalf of the EU. This initiative aims to assist the Ukrainian government in procuring local defense equipment, as the industry produces significantly more than the state can acquire.

[Source](#)

### → Ukraine has signed a security agreement with Croatia

On October 9, Ukraine and Croatia signed a long-term support and cooperation agreement, formalized by Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky and Croatian Prime Minister Andrej Plenković, as reported by the Office of the President. This agreement, like Ukraine's other security accords, will remain in effect for 10 years, reaffirming Croatia's commitment to support Ukraine until victory in the ongoing conflict. Key components of the agreement include collaboration between the defense industries of both nations, prospects for joint defense production, and project localization within Ukraine. The countries will also seek to enhance cooperation in digital resilience, cybersecurity, and intelligence sharing. Humanitarian demining is a significant focus of the pact, with Croatia allocating over €10 million to this initiative and pledging to continue providing equipment and expertise. Additionally, the agreement encompasses areas such as veteran care and the prosecution of serious crimes, drawing on Croatia's relevant wartime experience. Further provisions include support in humanitarian, energy, legal, and scientific fields. Croatia will also play a role in holding Russia accountable for damages caused by its aggression and will advocate for sanctions pressure. Furthermore, Croatia is committed to supporting Ukraine's aspirations for EU and NATO membership. The agreement was signed during the third Ukraine-South East Europe summit held in Dubrovnik, where Zelensky called on senior politicians from 12 southeastern European nations to invest in Ukrainian weapons production and urged participants to collaborate on rebuilding Ukraine. The previous summit took place earlier this year, on February 28, in Albania, where participants signed a joint declaration.

Sources [1](#), [2](#), [3](#), [4](#) and [5](#)

### → Lithuania has approved a three-year roadmap for supporting Ukraine

On October 9, the Lithuanian government approved a three-year roadmap for its involvement in Ukraine's reconstruction and recovery efforts. The plan outlines support for building schools and shelters, acquiring demining equipment, and assisting Ukraine's Euro-integration process. The guidelines for 2024–2027 aim to ensure consistent participation by Lithuanian institutions, businesses, and NGOs in Ukraine's recovery. Projects will be funded through the Lithuanian budget and partnerships with other countries and international organizations. Key initiatives include preparing technical designs for new schools, constructing shelters near educational



facilities, and a €15 million program to renovate rehabilitation centers in Lviv, Dnipro, and Zhytomyr. Additionally, the roadmap supports demining efforts and the "Create Ukraine" program, which seeks to attract young Ukrainian professionals abroad to integrate into the country's public sector.

#### [Source](#)

#### → **The EU has approved a €35 billion loan for Ukraine from Russia's frozen assets**

EU member states have authorized an unprecedented €35 billion loan to bolster Ukraine's war-damaged economy, utilizing immobilized assets of Russia's Central Bank as collateral. The repayment of this loan will be funded through the windfall profits generated from these frozen assets. This initiative is part of a broader G7 effort to provide €45 billion (\$50 billion) to Kyiv in response to a renewed Russian offensive that has significantly impacted the country's power infrastructure and depleted its military resources. The €35 billion loan will be "undesigned" and "untargeted," granting the Ukrainian government maximum flexibility in allocating the funds. Brussels anticipates beginning the disbursement process in early 2025. The agreement, finalized by ambassadors on October 9, follows Hungary's announcement that it would block a critical amendment to the EU sanctions regime until after the U.S. presidential election on November 5. This proposed amendment seeks to extend the renewal period for restrictions on frozen assets—valued at approximately €210 billion across the EU—from six months to 36 months. While the amendment requires unanimous consent, the loan was approved by a qualified majority. This extended renewal period aims to enhance the predictability of the groundbreaking project and address concerns raised by G7 allies, particularly the U.S., regarding the potential for individual EU member states to unilaterally disrupt the sanctions regime.

Sources [1](#), [2](#) and [3](#)

#### → **Norwegian embassy in Kyiv has appointed defense cooperation official**

The Norwegian Defense Ministry has created a position for military cooperation at the military attaché office in the embassy in Kyiv. According to Norwegian Prime Minister Bjørn Arild Gram, the new official will facilitate collaboration between Norwegian and Ukrainian scientists and industries in the areas of defense innovation and industrial development. Additionally, the Norwegian government announced on October 11 that Norway will allocate 967 million Norwegian kroner (about \$90 million) for projects aimed at increasing Norway's defense capacity, including the production of defense materiel for Ukraine.

Sources [1](#) and [2](#)

#### → **World Bank approved new fund for Ukraine**

The World Bank's executive board approved the establishment of a Financial Intermediary Fund (FIF) on October 10 to provide financial support for Ukraine, with contributions anticipated from the United States, Canada, and Japan. Managed by the World Bank, this fund is designed to help fulfill the G7's commitment to deliver up to \$50 billion in additional aid to Ukraine by the year's end. While the exact contributions from the U.S., Japan, and Canada are still being finalized, the fund will be backed by interest generated from frozen Russian sovereign assets.

Sources [1](#) and [2](#)

### → Slovakia plans to expand its repair base for Ukrainian military equipment

On October 11, Slovakia's Foreign Minister Juraj Blanár announced plans to expand a repair base for Ukrainian military equipment in Michalovce. Germany will fund the repairs, while Slovakia will provide the necessary facilities.

Sources [1](#) and [2](#)

### → The UK has imposed sanctions on Russian troops for their use of chemical weapons in Ukraine

The UK has sanctioned Russian soldiers for allegedly using chemical weapons on the battlefield in Ukraine. These sanctions target Russia's Radiological, Chemical, and Biological Defense troops, along with their commander, Lt Gen Igor Kirillov, who will face asset freezes and travel bans. Additionally, two scientific laboratories within the Russian defense ministry have been designated for sanctions. Previously, the US has accused Russian forces of employing hazardous chemicals in Ukraine, including "riot control agents" like tear gas and the toxic choking agent chloropicrin, which was first used in battle during World War One. Both Britain and the United States have condemned Russia for using chloropicrin against Ukrainian troops, asserting that such actions violate the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC). Additionally, on October 10, the UK launched the Office of Trade Sanctions Implementation (OTSI), a new unit tasked with enforcing trade restrictions on services exported to Russia. The OTSI will have the authority to penalize companies that violate sanctions and is empowered to publicly name firms that breach the rules, effectively "naming and shaming" them. Its primary focus will be on enforcing sanctions related to professional and business services. Furthermore, the OTSI will have the ability to investigate UK nationals who violate sanctions while operating in third countries, thereby expanding the UK's trade sanction enforcement regime.

Source [1](#), [2](#), [3](#), [4](#) and [5](#)

### → The Ukrainian Parliament approved wartime tax increases

The Ukrainian Parliament approved the country's first significant wartime tax increases on October 10 to bolster its finances. This legislation aims to raise taxes on individuals, companies, and banks to address the budget deficit and support the war effort. The bill seeks to generate an additional UAH 58 billion (\$1.4 billion) this year and UAH 137 billion (\$3.3 billion) in 2025. Notably, the military tax will increase from 1.5% to 5%.

[Source](#)

### → The Japan External Trade Organization has opened an office in the Ukrainian capital

The Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO) has opened an office in Kyiv, the Ukrainian capital, to assist Japanese businesses in participating in Ukraine's reconstruction efforts.

[Source](#)

### → Russian court ordered arrest of CNN journalist over Kursk reporting

On October 11, a Russian court ordered the arrest in absentia of CNN journalist Nick Paton Walsh for reporting from Ukrainian-held territory in Russia's Kursk region. This action follows Moscow's criminal proceedings against several Western journalists for allegedly illegally crossing the border after Kyiv's unexpected incursion in August. The Leninsky court in Kursk

called for Paton Walsh's extradition, stating he should be arrested on Russian territory or upon extradition. A British journalist, Paton Walsh has previously worked for Channel 4 News and The Guardian. Earlier this week, Russia also ordered the arrest of two Italian journalists for reporting from the Kursk region.

[Source](#)

#### → **Nearly 37,000 residents have been evacuated from Sumy Oblast**

Nearly 37,000 residents, including over 6,400 children, have been evacuated from Sumy Oblast as efforts continue under expanded mandatory evacuation orders, according to the Sumy Oblast Military Administration on October 13. The evacuations follow local authorities' decision on September 30 to mandate the evacuation of children accompanied by their parents from an expanded area within the 10-kilometer zone bordering Russia.

[Source](#)

#### → **New funding scheme for Ukrainian refugees has been launched**

Ukrainian refugees seeking to settle in the UK can now benefit from a new council initiative. Cherwell District Council has collaborated with South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse district councils to establish the Homes for Ukraine Grant Scheme. This program provides funding of up to £2,000 to community organizations to support projects and services for Ukrainians.

[Source](#)

#### → **Russian drones have again violated the no-fly zone around Ukrainian nuclear sites**

During the last week, Russian Shahed drones once again breached the no-fly zone around the Pivdenoukrainsk Nuclear Power Plant (NPP). Ukrainian energy company Energoatom reported a significant increase in these incidents, raising concerns that Russia may be preparing to target Ukraine's nuclear infrastructure.

[Source](#)

#### → **North Korea is likely to send troops to Ukraine to support Russia**

Ukrainian and South Korean sources indicate that several thousand North Korean soldiers are currently undergoing training in Russia, with the potential for deployment to the front lines in Ukraine by the end of 2024. Moreover, reports suggest that some North Korean military personnel may already be active near occupied Donetsk City, supporting Russian troops on the ground. Additionally, it has been reported that some of these soldiers may have already been killed or injured, raising questions about the depth of military cooperation between Pyongyang and Moscow. While the specifics of the North Korean troop deployment remain uncertain, their involvement could bolster Russian military operations in Ukraine. The Kremlin, however, denies that North Korean soldiers are engaged in combat in Ukraine.

Sources [1](#), [2](#), [3](#), [4](#), [5](#), [6](#), [7](#), [8](#) and [9](#)

## 3. Geopolitical Developments

### 3.1 Summary

The ongoing conflict in Ukraine has profound geopolitical implications, with recent developments highlighting intensified international support, strategic diplomatic initiatives, and evolving military assistance. As the war progresses, the global community is demonstrating a heightened commitment to Ukraine's defense and long-term security, evidenced by substantial financial pledges, sophisticated military aid packages, and increased diplomatic engagement from NATO, the European Union, and individual nations.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky's strategic European tour to advocate for his "victory plan" exemplifies the escalating diplomatic efforts to secure comprehensive support. His high-level meetings with leaders from Britain, France, Italy, Germany, and NATO officials reflect the international community's focused attention on Ukraine's future and its potential NATO integration.

International support for Ukraine remains robust and has intensified. Germany has pledged €1.4 billion in aid, including advanced air defense systems and military equipment. Denmark has committed \$618 million for Ukrainian defense production, while the European Union has approved a €35 billion loan, utilizing frozen Russian assets as collateral, to bolster Ukraine's economy. These actions demonstrate the international community's substantial commitment to Ukraine's defense and economic stability.

Military support has evolved to incorporate more advanced elements. France's commitment to provide fighter jets by 2025, Slovakia's expansion of its repair base for Ukrainian equipment, and Norway's appointment of a defense cooperation official to its Kyiv embassy illustrate a multifaceted approach to enhancing Ukraine's defense capabilities and fostering long-term military cooperation.

Economic measures crucial for sustaining Ukraine's resistance include the World Bank's approval of a new Financial Intermediary Fund and the Ukrainian Parliament's passage of wartime tax increases. Concurrently, humanitarian efforts continue, exemplified by the UK's new funding scheme for Ukrainian refugees.

The conflict's global dimensions are further emphasized by reports of potential North Korean troop deployment to support Russia in Ukraine and the Japan External Trade Organization's establishment of an office in Kyiv, signaling international interest in Ukraine's future reconstruction.

However, challenges persist, as evidenced by Russian drones violating the no-fly zone around Ukrainian nuclear sites, raising significant security concerns.

These developments underscore the conflict's expanding international implications. The situation remains dynamic, with the escalating global response playing a pivotal role in shaping the conflict's trajectory and broader geopolitical landscape. The scale of military support, innovative economic assistance, and intensified diplomatic efforts highlight the conflict's complex ramifications and the international community's resolute commitment to addressing both immediate crisis needs and long-term strategic considerations in Eastern Europe.

### 3.1.1 Weekly Geopolitical Analysis

The past week has witnessed significant geopolitical developments that continue to shape the complex landscape of the Ukraine-Russia conflict and its global implications. These events underscore the multifaceted nature of the conflict, involving diplomatic efforts, international support mechanisms, military developments, and economic pressures.

**Diplomatic Developments and International Support:** Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky's European tour to promote his "victory plan" has been a focal point of diplomatic efforts. Zelensky met with leaders from Britain, France, Italy, Germany, and NATO officials, emphasizing Ukraine's aspirations for NATO membership. This diplomatic push demonstrates Ukraine's proactive approach in seeking international support and shaping the conflict's narrative.

**Military Aid and Economic Support:** Several countries have made substantial commitments to Ukraine's defense. Germany pledged €1.4 billion in aid, including advanced air defense systems and various military equipment. France announced plans to send fighter jets to Ukraine by 2025, while Denmark committed \$618 million for Ukrainian defense production. These actions reflect a growing trend of tangible, long-term support for Ukraine's military capabilities.

**Economic Support and Reconstruction Efforts:** The EU's approval of a €35 billion loan, utilizing frozen Russian assets as collateral, marks an innovative approach to supporting Ukraine's economy. Lithuania's three-year roadmap for Ukraine's reconstruction and the World Bank's approval of a new Financial Intermediary Fund further demonstrate the international community's commitment to Ukraine's long-term recovery.

**International Cooperation and Strategic Planning:** Ukraine's security agreement with Croatia and Norway's appointment of a defense cooperation official in Kyiv highlight the expanding network of bilateral support. These arrangements encompass various aspects of cooperation, from defense production to cybersecurity and humanitarian efforts.

**European Union Strategic Adjustments:** The EU's loan approval, despite potential obstacles from member states like Hungary, shows the bloc's determination to maintain support for Ukraine. This strategic move reflects the EU's adaptability in the face of internal challenges.

**Humanitarian and Justice Efforts:** The UK's new funding scheme for Ukrainian refugees and its imposition of sanctions on Russian troops for alleged chemical weapons use demonstrate the multifaceted approach to addressing the conflict's consequences.

**Military Production and Supply Chains:** Collaborations like the one between Ukraine and France to establish joint defense production facilities indicate efforts to create sustainable supply chains for critical military equipment.

**Emerging Concerns:** Reports of potential North Korean troop deployment to support Russia and continued violations of no-fly zones around Ukrainian nuclear sites by Russian drones raise new security concerns and highlight the conflict's potential for further escalation.

In conclusion, these developments underscore the conflict's far-reaching international implications and dynamic nature. The global community continues to balance increased military support with diplomatic efforts, economic assistance, and humanitarian initiatives. As the conflict evolves, its impact on global politics and security paradigms becomes increasingly evident, underscoring the need for continued international engagement and adaptive strategies.

## 4. Conflict Zone Developments

The past week has been marked by notable developments in the Ukraine-Russia conflict, particularly in Kursk Oblast and the Pokrovsk sector. Both Russian and Ukrainian forces have engaged in a series of aggressive military operations, displaying an intricate combination of offensive and defensive tactics that have created a dynamic and convoluted battlefield environment.

In Kursk Oblast, the situation remains fluid, characterized by intense military engagement between both sides. On October 10 and 11, Russian troops escalated their counterattacks, aiming to displace Ukrainian forces before anticipated poor weather conditions could impede operations. Ukrainian Commander-in-Chief Oleksandr Syrskyi reported the redeployment of approximately 50,000 Russian soldiers to the Kursk region. Although Russian forces have made confirmed advances in several areas, including central Kremyanoye, the northern outskirts of Zeleny Shlyakh, and near Lyubimovka, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky asserted on October 12 that Ukrainian troops are effectively holding their frontline positions, aided by well-entrenched defenses that complicate Russian progress. While some sources suggest that Russian forces had regained nearly a quarter of lost territory by October 15, Ukrainian officials reported that their troops had partially reclaimed ground amid ongoing counterattacks.

In the Donetsk region, particularly around Pokrovsk, both sides engaged in significant offensive operations. Ukrainian forces advanced into northwestern Mykolaivka and regained positions near Selydove and Toretsk, while Russian forces made incremental gains in various sectors, including areas southeast of Pokrovsk and southwest of Donetsk City.

Long-range strike campaigns have continued on both sides. Russian forces conducted multiple missile and drone strikes against Ukraine, targeting critical infrastructure and civilian areas. Notably, Russia launched four aerial attacks in one week against Ukraine's grain-exporting Odesa region, striking merchant ships and port infrastructure, resulting in civilian casualties. Ukrainian President Zelensky reported that Russian forces launched 900 glide bombs at Ukraine during the week of October 7-13. Meanwhile, Ukrainian forces responded with strikes on Russian fuel depots, ammunition warehouses, and military facilities across multiple regions, including a Shahed drone storage facility near Oktyabrsky in Krasnodar Krai and a storage facility in Karachev, Bryansk Oblast, which housed military equipment provided by North Korea and Iran.

As the conflict evolves, the adaptability of both sides is becoming evident. Ukrainian forces have fortified their defensive lines, successfully slowing Russian advances while inflicting heavy casualties. However, operational challenges persist for Ukrainian troops, offering Russian forces opportunities for localized tactical gains. Russian forces are prioritizing their offensive push towards strategic locations like Pokrovsk and are reportedly massing for potential breakthroughs in various sectors.

The coming weeks will likely see continued intense fighting as both sides attempt to consolidate positions and exploit vulnerabilities before winter conditions set in. The ability to sustain offensive capabilities, maintain effective air defenses, and manage logistics in the face of deep strikes will be crucial in determining the near-term course of the conflict.

## 4.2 Conflict Activity Reporting

Official updates on the frequency of the conflict, troop and equipment losses, and other related data can be accessed through the following links:

→ [Official Ukrainian source](#)

→ [Official Russian source](#)

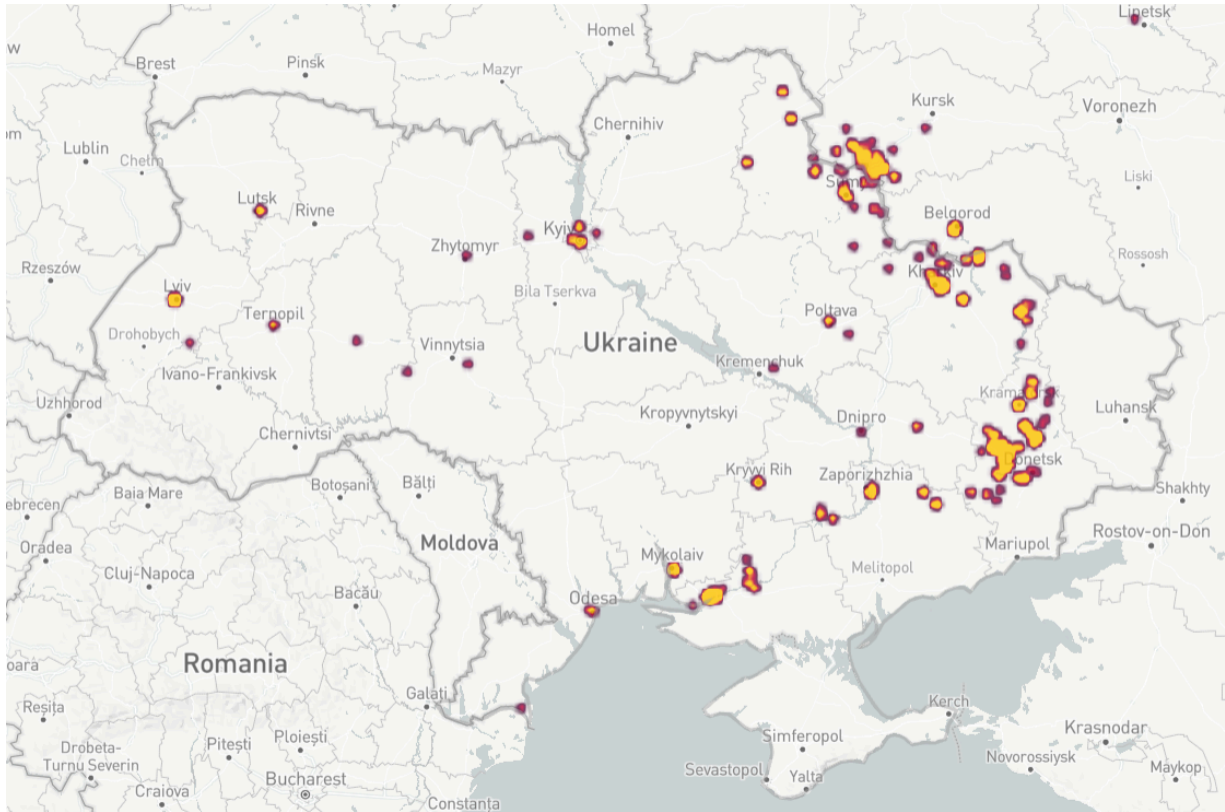
Disclaimer: The information provided from the sources provided above, specifically regarding combat-associated losses, should be approached with caution, as the figures are subject to significant variations due to a myriad of influencing factors. While data related to territorial and conflict zone areas of control is generally more consistent, it is important to note that the reliability of such data is contingent upon open-source reporting, visual and satellite imagery, and other informational sources. These sources, while often accurate, may experience varying degrees of delay in dissemination due to restricted access, reporting challenges, and other situational factors.

Organizations with potential risk exposure in Ukraine are strongly encouraged to consult with their respective security management teams for updated information. Please be aware that situational details can change on a daily basis or, under certain circumstances, even more frequently. For such high-risk environments, organizations and personnel are advised to practice prudence and seek the support of experienced and qualified security teams.

For a comprehensive understanding of the probability and extent of data deviation, please refer to this referenced [source](#). Exercise due diligence and consult multiple sources where possible to form a well-rounded understanding of the situation.

## 4.3 Threat Mapping

### Last 7 Days Threat Reporting



[Source](#)



## 4.4 Key Conflict Updates

As the conflict between Ukraine and Russia persists, both nations are intensifying their efforts to secure technological superiority and strategic advantage on the battlefield. This evolving arms race is characterized by rapid advancements in military technology, the adaptation of combat tactics, and the expansion of domestic defense production capabilities. The competition for military dominance is driving innovation across a range of domains, from conventional weaponry to cutting-edge technologies, including artificial intelligence, drone warfare, and cyber operations, fundamentally reshaping the nature of modern conflict.

Recently, Ukraine showcased its latest military innovations to foreign partners at an undisclosed training facility, emphasizing key developments in domestically produced weaponry. Among the systems presented were the Stuhna anti-tank missile system, Bohdana self-propelled artillery, armored vehicles, unmanned ground platforms, mine clearance vehicles, and one-way attack drones designed for deep-penetration strikes. This event highlighted Ukraine's focus on fostering international collaboration while demonstrating its evolving capabilities to meet the demands of the battlefield.

On the domestic front, Ukraine has made substantial progress in military production. The Ministry of Defense reported that in the first nine months of 2024, over 600 new models of domestically manufactured weapons were approved for operational use—up from 244 in the previous year. This includes the TAHA amphibious vehicle, advanced communication systems, ground robotic platforms, and electronic warfare systems, all designed to meet the challenges of diverse combat conditions.

Drone technology has emerged as a key area of advancement for Ukraine. In 2024, more than 170 domestically designed unmanned aerial and ground vehicles were approved for military use, including 140 UAVs and 33 UGVs. Ukrainian forces have further integrated artificial intelligence into drone operations, creating an "army of robot drones" capable of identifying enemy forces based on uniforms and movement patterns, a significant leap in battlefield automation.

Ukraine's air defense capabilities have also been enhanced with the deployment of AIM-9X Block II air-to-air missiles, significantly improving its aviation assets, including future F-16 operations. These versatile missiles, which can be integrated into the NASAMS air defense system, enhance Ukraine's ability to intercept cruise missiles and other aerial threats.

In response to emerging challenges, Ukraine has adjusted its defense strategies. The Wild Hornets workshop, for instance, has announced plans to mass-produce weapons capable of intercepting Iranian-Russian Shahed drones, underscoring Ukraine's ability to counter evolving aerial threats. Additionally, Ukraine continues to strengthen its cyber capabilities, conducting successful operations against Russian military institutions, including the North Caucasus Federal University, where a recent cyberattack resulted in the destruction of over 150 terabytes of critical resources.

International cooperation remains a cornerstone of Ukraine's defense efforts. In collaboration with France, Ukraine is establishing joint defense production facilities, further bolstering its industrial base and enhancing its capacity for sustained military innovation.

At the same time, Russia continues to advance its military strategies and technologies. Despite international prohibitions, the use of chemical weapons by Russian forces in Ukraine persists. In September 2024 alone, Ukrainian authorities reported over 250 incidents involving Russian munitions containing unknown chemical agents, adding to the more than 4,200 cases documented since February 2023.

To address personnel shortages, Russia is establishing new recruitment centers, including one in St. Petersburg for the Russian Africa Corps. The Russian government plans to allocate 90 billion rubles (\$948 million) for one-time payments to incentivize military contracts between 2025 and 2027, reflecting its ongoing reliance on crypto-mobilization.

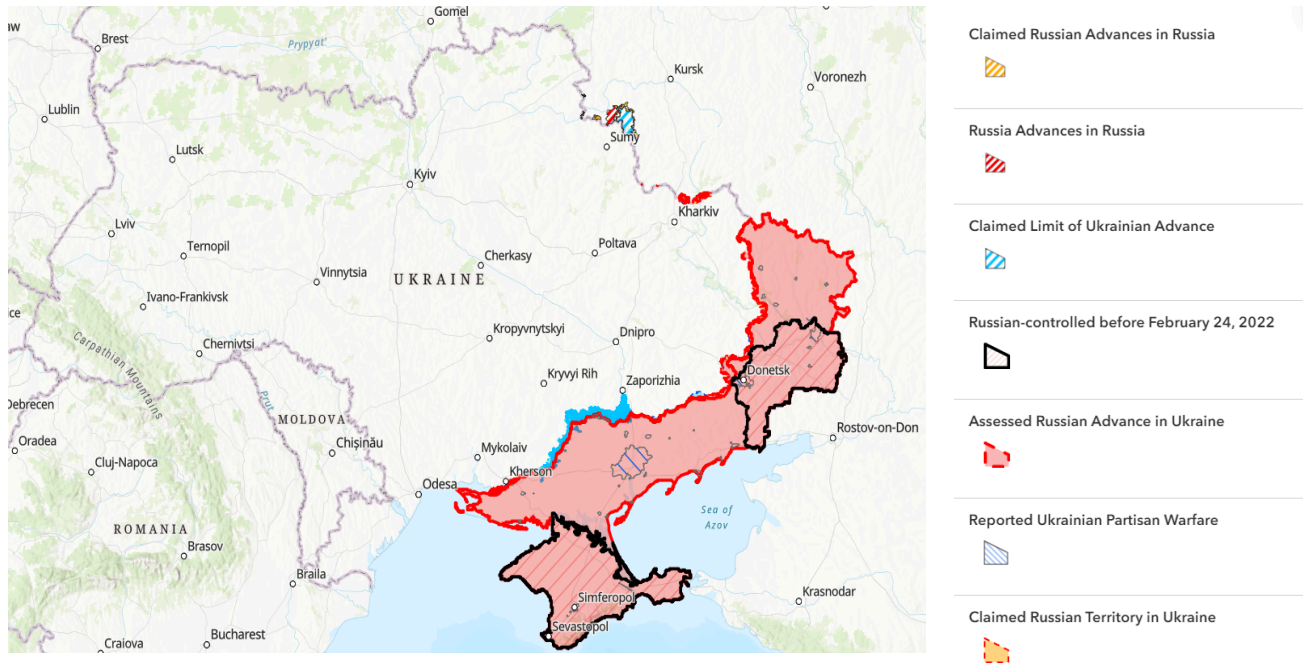
Russia's naval capabilities have also seen significant developments. The KMZ Vizir, a newly tested hunter-killer sea surface drone, is designed to destroy Ukrainian kamikaze drones while also providing capabilities for cargo transport, surveillance, medevac operations, and fire support. Preparations for mass production are underway, marking a significant step in Russia's naval drone program. Additionally, Russia recently launched the Yakutsk, a large diesel-electric submarine from the Project 636.3 Varshavyanka-class series, equipped with advanced precision weapons, further expanding its naval fleet.

In drone warfare, Russian forces are adapting to counter Ukrainian UAV threats by retrofitting drones with electronic warfare devices, such as the Zerkaltse system, which disrupts the video feed of enemy drones. Reports also indicate that Russian forces are illicitly acquiring Starlink terminals to improve battlefield communications and the efficiency of their tactical reconnaissance-strike complexes, particularly in areas like Vuhledar, where notable gains have been reported.

Russia is also accelerating the deployment of AI-powered drones in Ukraine. On October 11, Russian Defense Minister Andrei Belousov announced that two detachments equipped with AI-enabled drones are operational in eastern Ukraine and Russia's Belgorod and Kursk regions. The Ministry of Defense has plans to establish five additional units, underscoring Russia's growing reliance on artificial intelligence and drone technology in modern warfare.

The continuous technological advancements and strategic innovations by Ukraine and Russia are fundamentally altering the dynamics of the conflict, as both sides strive to surpass the boundaries of military capabilities. This war has evolved into a crucible for next-generation warfare technologies, with each new development serving as a real-world test of future combat systems. The implications of these advancements extend far beyond the immediate conflict zone, potentially reshaping military doctrines, defense strategies, and geopolitical power balances across the region and on a global scale.

## 4.5 Conflict Zone Mapping



Source: Data and insights sourced from a combination of curated OSINT platforms, further informed by analysis of both ground reporting and specialized commercial intelligence reporting. Map source [here](#).

It is imperative to remain acutely aware of the dynamic nature of conflict lines within Ukraine. These constantly shifting boundaries factor into varying levels of risk, which are heavily influenced by proximity to different weapon systems and the potential for incidental contact with military forces. The fluid nature of this conflict means that areas previously considered relatively safe can quickly become high-risk zones.

Conversely, formerly contested areas may temporarily stabilize. This volatility is driven by several factors:

**Weapon Range:** The deployment of long-range artillery, missiles, and drones places areas far from the front lines at significant risk. For instance, Russia's recent acquisition of Iranian Fath-360 ballistic missiles allows for strikes up to 120 kilometers behind Ukrainian lines. Similarly, the planned modification of Russian KAB bombs could extend their range up to 150 kilometers, further expanding the threat zone.

**Military Movements:** Rapid advances or retreats can quickly alter the risk profile of an area. The recent Ukrainian incursion into Russia's Kursk Oblast demonstrates how quickly new fronts can open.

**Electronic Warfare:** The growing prominence of electronic warfare systems poses escalating risks of communication disruptions and interference with unmanned aerial operations. These sophisticated technologies introduce a complex layer of non-kinetic threats that, while often less

visible than traditional weaponry, can significantly impact battlefield effectiveness and strategic outcomes.

**Civilian Infrastructure Targeting:** Historical patterns suggest that civilian areas, even those far from the front lines, can become targets if they contain critical infrastructure or hold strategic significance. Recent large-scale aerial campaigns by both Ukraine and Russia highlight how such strikes can inflict substantial damage and disrupt civilian infrastructure.

**Unexploded Ordnance:** Areas that have seen active combat, even if currently stable, may pose lingering risks due to unexploded ordnance and landmines. Given these factors, it's crucial for all personnel operating in or near conflict-affected areas to:

- Regularly update their understanding of current front lines and areas of active combat.
- Consider not just proximity to conflict lines, but also the range and capabilities of weapons systems being employed.
- Be prepared for rapid changes in the security situation and have robust evacuation plans in place.
- Maintain awareness of both military and civilian targets in their area that could attract enemy action.
- Exercise extreme caution even in areas that appear stable, as the situation can change rapidly with little warning.

Continuous monitoring and analysis of these dynamic factors are essential for maintaining operational safety and effectiveness in this complex and volatile environment.

## 4.6 Oblast Threat Reporting

### Oblast Threat Activity Map

Click [here](#) for the daily oblast threat mapping report. Threat reporting included in the report as reported.



Source: Data and insights sourced from a combination of curated OSINT platforms, further informed by analysis of both ground reporting and specialized commercial intelligence reporting. Mapping overview sourced from MAP Action.

## 4.7 Air Raid Frequency Updates

In the field, having accurate and up-to-date information about air raid alerts is crucial for the safety and efficiency of personnel. Understanding the frequency, duration, and location of these alerts provides valuable insight that can significantly impact decision-making on the ground.

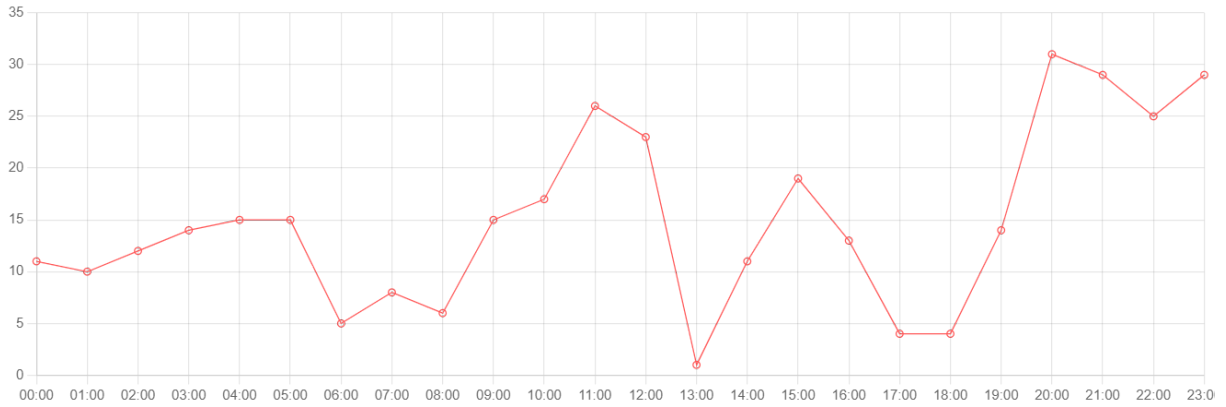
Armed with this knowledge, personnel can plan their movements more strategically, avoiding high-risk areas during times of increased alert activity. With the help of this vital information, they can ensure safer operations while maximizing their resources effectively.

By analyzing the available information from October 8 to October 14, several key points can be observed:

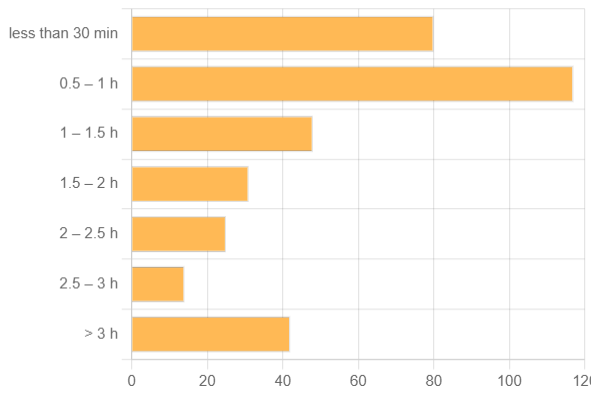
- Like the previous week, which saw multiple peaks in Air Raid Alerts at 8 AM, 1 PM, and 9 PM, this week also experienced several peaks at 11 AM, 3 PM, 8 PM, and 11 PM.
- Furthermore, most Air Raid Alerts typically lasted between 30 minutes and one hour, with a total of 117 occurrences. Alerts lasting between two and a half and three hours were rare, occurring only 14 times.
- Moreover, there has been a shift in the pattern of Air Raid Alerts compared to the previous reporting period. While Monday previously recorded the highest frequency, recent data shows Thursday as the most eventful day, with 82 occurrences. In contrast, Sunday has now become the least active, with only 20 reported alerts.
- Finally, it was discovered that the Kharkiv region had the highest concentration of Air Raid Alerts, with 40 occurrences recorded. In contrast, the Chernivtsi region had a minimal number of Air Raid Alerts, with only 1 occurrence recorded.

## 4.7.1 Air Raid Frequency Tracking

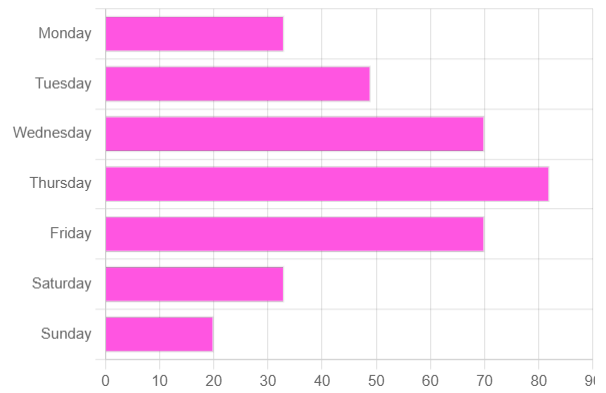
### Number of Daily Air Raid Announcements per hour



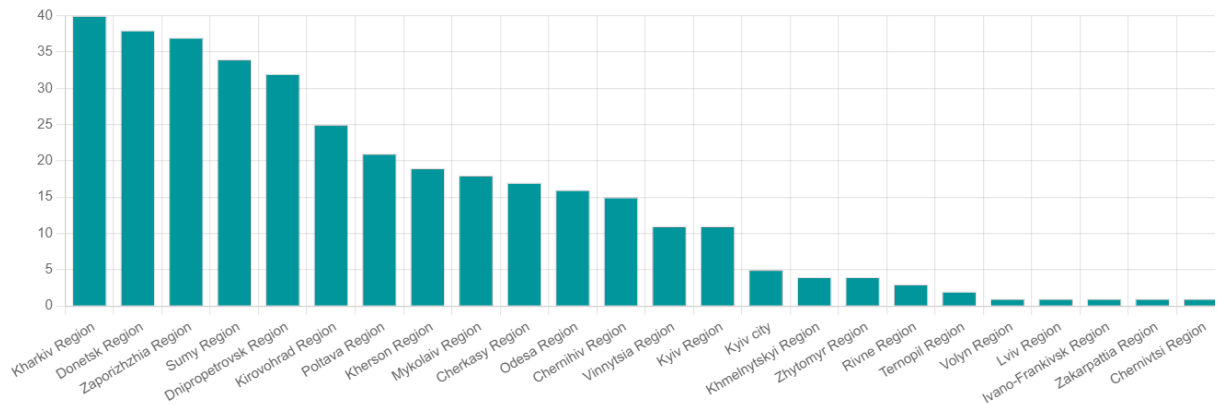
### Air Raid Alert Duration



### Air Raid Alerts Daily Report



### Number of Air Raid Alerts by Region



[Source](#)

## 4.8 Weekly Conflict Analysis

The past week has witnessed a significant escalation in the Ukraine-Russia conflict, characterized by intense military operations across multiple fronts, particularly in Kursk Oblast and the Donetsk region. Both sides have demonstrated a complex mix of offensive and defensive maneuvers, resulting in a highly fluid and intricate battlefield situation.

### 4.8.1 Kursk Oblast Operations

**Russian Counteroffensive:** Russian Counteroffensive: Russian troops intensified counterattacks in Kursk Oblast on October 10 and 11, aiming to push Ukrainian forces out before deteriorating weather conditions could limit maneuvers. Advances were made into central Kremyanoye, the northern outskirts of Zeleny Shlyakh, and near Lyubimovka. By October 15, Russian forces had reportedly regained nearly a quarter of the lost territory.

**Strategic Redeployment:** Ukraine's Commander-in-Chief Oleksandr Syrskiy reported that Russia has transferred approximately 50,000 soldiers to Kursk Oblast, indicating the region's strategic importance. This redeployment aims to rapidly push Ukrainian forces out and free up combat power for priority operations in Donetsk Oblast.

**Ukrainian Resistance:** Despite Russian attempts, Ukrainian President Zelensky stated on October 12 that Ukrainian troops are holding the front line, aided by well-entrenched defenses and extensive fortifications that complicate Russian progress.

### 4.8.2 Donetsk Region Developments

**Pokrovsk Sector:** Both sides engaged in significant operations around Pokrovsk. Ukrainian forces advanced into northwestern Mykolaivka and regained positions near Selydove, while Russian forces made incremental gains southeast of Pokrovsk.

**Toretsk Battles:** Russian forces made progress in southern Toretsk, advancing along several streets including Heroiv Pratsi, Peremohy, and Konstytutsyi. Ukrainian forces partially regained lost positions within the town and advanced north of Nelipivka (south of Toretsk). Russian forces reportedly control at least 38% of Toretsk, with heavy urban combat ongoing.

**Vuhledar Area:** Russian troops intensified attacks northwest of Vuhledar, making advances northwest of Vodyane.

### 4.8.3 Aerial and Long-Range Strikes

**Russian Air Campaign:** During the week of October 7-13, Russian forces launched 900 glide bombs, 40 missiles, and 400 strike drones at Ukraine, as reported by President Zelensky. Multiple missile and drone strike series were conducted throughout the week, targeting various oblasts, including Odesa, Kyiv, and Kharkiv.

**Odesa Region Attacks:** Russia conducted four aerial attacks against Ukraine's grain-exporting Odesa region, targeting merchant ships and port infrastructure, resulting in civilian casualties and damage to critical export facilities.

**Ukrainian Deep Strikes:** Ukraine struck Russian fuel depots, ammunition warehouses, and military facilities, including a Shahed drone storage facility near Oktyabrsky in Krasnodar Krai



and an ammunition storage in Karachev, Bryansk Oblast. The latter reportedly housed North Korean and Iranian-provided weapons.

#### 4.8.4 Other Significant Developments

**Kharkiv Oblast Operations:** Russian forces have made notable advances within Vovchansk, with geolocated footage showing them raising a Russian flag at the Vovchansk Aggregate Plant. They are also constructing elaborate defensive positions, including elongated trenches in deep ravines and interconnected tunnels, indicating preparation for long-term occupation and defense.

**Zaporizhzhia Front:** Russian forces achieved marginal advances south of Stepnohirsk and northwest of Robotyne. These gains, while limited, suggest a persistent effort to make incremental progress in the region. The successful breakthrough near Levadne, about 20 km southeast of Velyka Novosilka, represents a potentially significant development in this sector.

**Dnipro Direction:** Ukrainian Southern Operational Command reported intensified Russian offensive activities in this area. Of particular concern is the accumulation of Russian weapons and equipment on the Kinburn Spit, suggesting potential preparations for amphibious assaults on nearby islands where the Dniprovsk Gulf meets the Black Sea.

**Kupyansk-Svatove-Kreminna Line:** Russian forces have made advances east of Kupyansk and northwest of Kreminna, indicating a sustained push along this strategic axis.

**Siversk Area:** Russian forces have progressed east of Hryhorivka and into western Verkhokamyanske, demonstrating their continued focus on this sector.

#### 4.9 Implications and Future Outlook

**Weather Considerations:** The impending deterioration of weather conditions in Fall 2024 and early Winter 2024-2025 is likely driving the current intensity of operations. Both sides are attempting to secure advantageous positions before muddy conditions restrict mobility, potentially leading to an operational pause or shift in tactics.

**Tactical Adaptations:** Ukrainian forces are employing increasingly sophisticated layered defenses, effectively slowing Russian advances while inflicting significant losses. Russian forces, in response, are prioritizing mechanized offensive operations to exploit current dry conditions and are adapting their air campaign tactics.

**Strategic Targets:** The continued strikes on critical infrastructure, military logistics, and newly identified targets such as grain export facilities indicate an evolution in strategic thinking. These attacks aim not only at military degradation but also at economic pressure and potential diplomatic leverage.

**Resource Allocation and Sustainability:** The significant redeployment of Russian forces to Kursk Oblast may impact their operational capabilities in other sectors. The sustainability of these intensive operations for both sides remains a critical factor, especially considering the reported use of North Korean and Iranian-supplied weapons by Russian forces.

**Technological Warfare:** The increasing use of drones and electronic warfare (EW) systems by both sides is shaping the battlefield dynamics. Ukrainian success in neutralizing Russian drones through EW suggests a growing technological contest that could influence future engagements.

**International Implications:** The targeting of civilian ships and port infrastructure in Odesa by Russian forces may have significant international repercussions, potentially affecting global grain markets and international support for Ukraine.

**Long-term Strategic Considerations:** The conflict appears to be entering a new phase of attrition warfare. The ability of both sides to maintain effective air defenses, manage logistics under constant deep strikes, and sustain offensive capabilities will be crucial in determining the long-term trajectory of the conflict.

In conclusion, these developments suggest a potential shift in the conflict's dynamics, with both sides adapting to a more protracted and technologically intensive form of warfare. The coming weeks will be critical in determining whether these changes represent a temporary escalation or a fundamental alteration in the war's trajectory, particularly as winter approaches and international diplomatic efforts potentially intensify.

## 5. Operational Assessment Factors

The ongoing conflict in Ukraine bears significant relevance to international personnel, impacting a range of operational and strategic considerations. As the situation continues to evolve, organizations and individuals must navigate a complex landscape of risks and opportunities.

**1. International and Domestic Travel Considerations:** Travel to and within Ukraine could be challenging due to potential disruptions, security concerns, and changing restrictions. Organizations need to closely monitor travel advisories, maintain communication channels, and consider alternative routes or modes of transportation.

**2. Field Operations and Restricted Zones:** The conflict's fluid nature may lead to the restriction of field operations in certain conflict-prone zones. International personnel should be aware of evolving security protocols, stay informed about no-go areas, and coordinate closely with local authorities.

**3. Risk Profile Considerations:** The likelihood of increased physical, digital, and reputational targeting warrants heightened security measures for personnel and clients. Cyberattacks and information warfare are active threats, demanding robust digital security measures.

**4. Frequency and Timing of Field Operations:** Active conflict reporting trends can guide the frequency and timing of field operations. Flexibility in scheduling operations based on real-time conflict updates is crucial to mitigate risks.

**5. Weather and Environmental Preparedness:** As seasons change, weather conditions can impact operational efficiency. International personnel should be prepared for weather-related challenges and adjust operational plans accordingly.

**6. Energy, Infrastructure, and Operational Resilience:** The conflict could potentially disrupt energy supplies and critical infrastructure. Ensuring operational resilience, maintaining backup systems, and having contingency plans for essential services are paramount.

**7. Sociopolitical and Economic Context:** Understanding the broader socio political and economic landscape is vital. Shifting dynamics could influence local perceptions, business practices, and resource availability.

**8. Communication and Coordination:** Effective communication and coordination mechanisms with local stakeholders, international partners, and diplomatic channels are essential for navigating the dynamic environment.

## 5.1 Intermediant Forecasting

In forecasting potential implications, heightened security threats, increased logistical challenges, and shifting operational priorities are likely. The conflict's continuation could lead to further territorial adjustments, affecting travel routes and security protocols. As the conflict impacts regional stability, organizations must consider the potential for wider disruptions, including economic and energy-related concerns. Involvement of international actors could also have diplomatic and geopolitical ramifications, necessitating careful monitoring and analysis.

To navigate these complexities, international personnel should prioritize real-time intelligence, flexibility in operations, comprehensive risk assessments, and strong collaboration with local security management counterparts and international partners. Adapting strategies to changing circumstances and anticipating potential scenarios will be crucial for maintaining safety, operational efficiency, and overall mission success.

## 5.2 Stabilization Factors

### Degrading Indicators

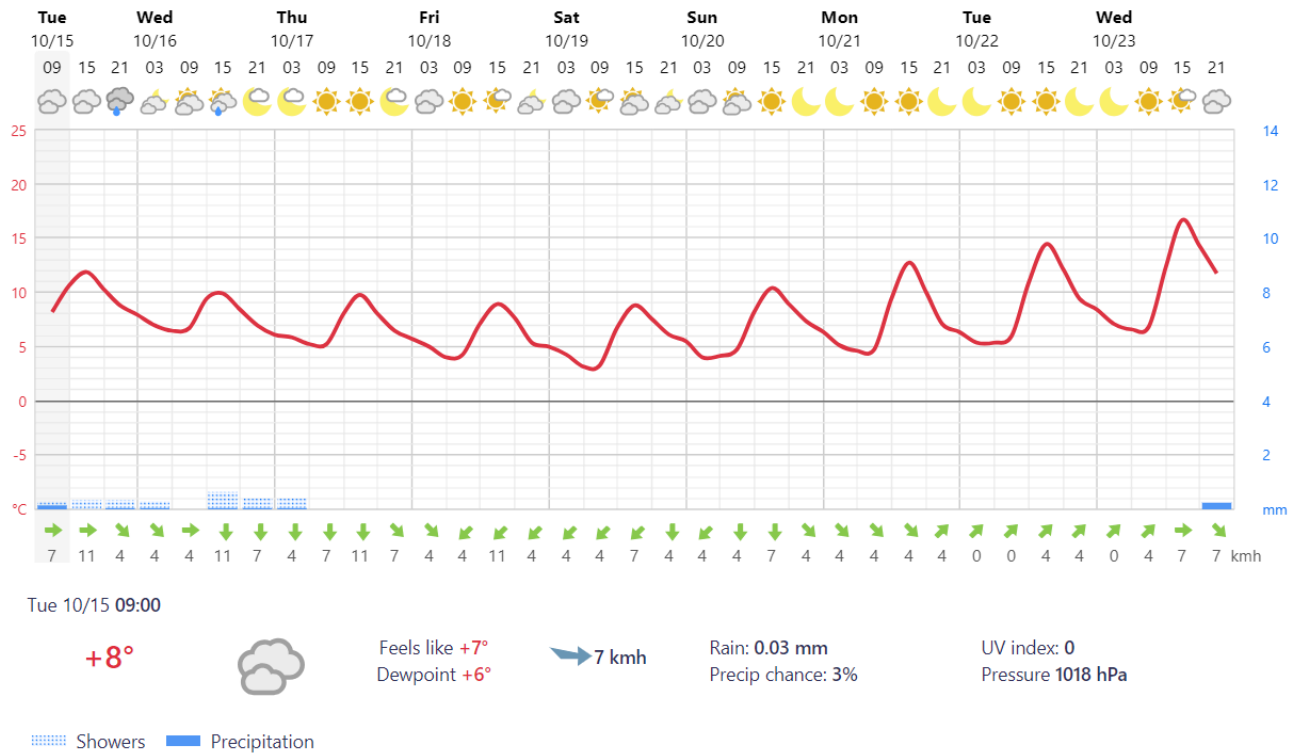
- **Weaponization of Food Security:** Russia's strategic targeting of Ukraine's agricultural export infrastructure, particularly in the Odesa region, represents a dangerous escalation in the conflict with global implications. Four major attacks in one week on merchant ships, port facilities, and grain storage sites have resulted in civilian casualties and significant damage to critical export capabilities. This could lead to increased food prices and shortages in vulnerable regions worldwide, weaponizing food insecurity for geopolitical leverage.
- **Escalation of Aerial Activity:** The significant increase in Russian aerial attacks, including the launch of 900 glide bombs, 40 missiles, and 400 strike drones in a single week, indicates a dangerous escalation of the conflict. This intensification of aerial warfare poses a greater threat to both military and civilian targets, potentially leading to increased casualties and widespread infrastructure damage across Ukraine.
- **Potential North Korean Involvement:** Reports of North Korean troops potentially joining Russian forces in Ukraine introduce a new destabilizing factor, potentially broadening the conflict's scope and complicating diplomatic efforts.
- **Nuclear Safety Concerns:** The violation of no-fly zones around Ukrainian nuclear sites by Russian drones raises serious safety concerns and the risk of a catastrophic incident.
- **Wartime Economic Measures:** The Ukrainian Parliament's approval of wartime tax increases, while necessary for sustaining the war effort, may strain the civilian population and economy.
- **Media Suppression:** Russia's order to arrest Western journalists reporting from Ukrainian-held territory in the Kursk region represents an attempt to control information flow, potentially limiting international understanding of the conflict and complicating diplomatic efforts.

## Stabilization Indicators

- **International Economic Support:** The EU's approval of a €35 billion loan utilizing frozen Russian assets and the World Bank's establishment of a new Financial Intermediary Fund demonstrate sustained international economic commitment to Ukraine. This support is further reinforced by the Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO) opening an office in Kyiv to facilitate Japanese business participation in reconstruction efforts. These diverse economic initiatives from multiple international actors collectively strengthen Ukraine's economic resilience, aiming to stabilize its war-damaged economy while attracting long-term investment and signaling confidence in the country's recovery and future development.
- **Long-term Reconstruction Plans:** Lithuania's three-year roadmap for supporting Ukraine's reconstruction and Croatia's 10-year security agreement indicate long-term commitment to Ukraine's stability and recovery.
- **Diplomatic Engagement:** Zelensky's meetings with European leaders and NATO officials signal ongoing high-level diplomatic engagement, providing opportunities for coordinated international response and potential de-escalation strategies.
- **Strengthening of Defense Production:** Collaborations like those between Ukraine and France to establish joint defense production facilities could lead to more sustainable military capabilities, potentially deterring further aggression.
- **Humanitarian Support:** New funding schemes for Ukrainian refugees, such as the UK's Homes for Ukraine Grant Scheme, help address the humanitarian aspects of the conflict.
- **Sanctions Enforcement:** The UK's establishment of the Office of Trade Sanctions Implementation underscores its commitment to maintaining pressure on Russia, influencing its war efforts and potentially encouraging a return to diplomacy.

These indicators present a complex picture of the conflict's current state. While military escalation and potential new actors threaten stability, sustained international support and long-term planning provide counterbalancing factors. The conflict's trajectory in the near term will likely depend on the interplay between these degrading and stabilizing factors, with particular attention to the outcomes of diplomatic efforts, the effectiveness of economic support, and the impact of evolving military capabilities on both sides.

## 6. Climate and Weather Context



[Source](#)

### Weather Safety Considerations

All personnel in Ukraine are advised to closely monitor weather conditions due to extreme temperatures posing health risks, limited healthcare access in emergencies, and weather impacts on operations and conflict dynamics. Essential actions include staying informed on forecasts, preparing appropriate gear, maintaining contingency plans, and regularly updating risk assessments. Weather can rapidly alter safety conditions, making constant vigilance and preparedness critical for all personnel operating in the region.

## 7. Border Activity Updates

Border crossing times between Ukraine and neighboring countries are subject to significant variability and can be impacted by a multitude of factors. Protests, increased traffic volume, heightened security measures, and conflict-related disruptions can all contribute to unexpected delays. For a country in conflict, internal borders and checkpoints may also present challenges. These can change rapidly based on the evolving security situation, military movements, or local administrative decisions.

According to the latest official reports, entry from Romania into Ukraine typically takes up to 25 minutes for passenger cars and up to 30 minutes for cargo vehicles. Exiting Ukraine generally takes up to 25 minutes for passenger vehicles and up to two hours for cargo vehicles, particularly at the Diakove - Halmeu border crossing.

Entry from Hungary typically takes between four and 45 minutes for passenger vehicles and between 21 and 49 minutes for cargo vehicles. In contrast, exiting Ukraine shows more variability. For passenger vehicles, wait times can range from 13 minutes to seven hours, particularly at the Luzhanka - Berehshuran border crossing. Cargo vehicles generally take between 24 and 96 minutes to exit, with the Chop - Zakhon border point recording the longest crossing times.

Entry from Slovakia typically takes between 25 and 42 minutes for passenger cars and up to 75 minutes for cargo vehicles, especially at the Uzhhorod - Vyshnie - Niemetske border crossing. Exiting Ukraine into Slovakia generally takes between 60 and 67 minutes for passenger cars and can take up to one hour for cargo vehicles, notably at the same Uzhhorod - Vyshnie - Niemetske border crossing.

Entry from Poland typically takes up to one hour for passenger cars. The duration for cargo vehicles varies depending on the specific border crossing. Exiting Poland also involves varying times for both passenger and cargo vehicles, depending on the crossing point.

## 8. Ukraine Recognized Dates

Date	Day	Description
1 January	Monday	New Year (public holiday)
22 January	Monday	Day of Unity of Ukraine (working day) *
8 March	Friday	International Women's Day (public holiday)
1 May	Wednesday	Labour Day (public holiday)
5 May	Sunday	Easter (public holiday, non-working day on 6 May)
8 May	Wednesday	Victory Day over Nazism in World War II (public holiday) *
23 June	Sunday	Pentecost (public holiday, non-working day on 24 June)
28 June	Friday	Constitution Day of Ukraine (public holiday) *
15 July	Monday	Day of Ukrainian Statehood (public holiday) *
23 August	Friday	Day of the National Flag of Ukraine (working day) *
24 August	Saturday	Independence Day of Ukraine (public holiday, non-working day on 26 August) *
1 October	Tuesday	Defender of Ukraine Day (public holiday) *
6 December	Friday	Day of the Armed Forces of Ukraine (working day) *
25 December	Wednesday	Christmas (public holiday)

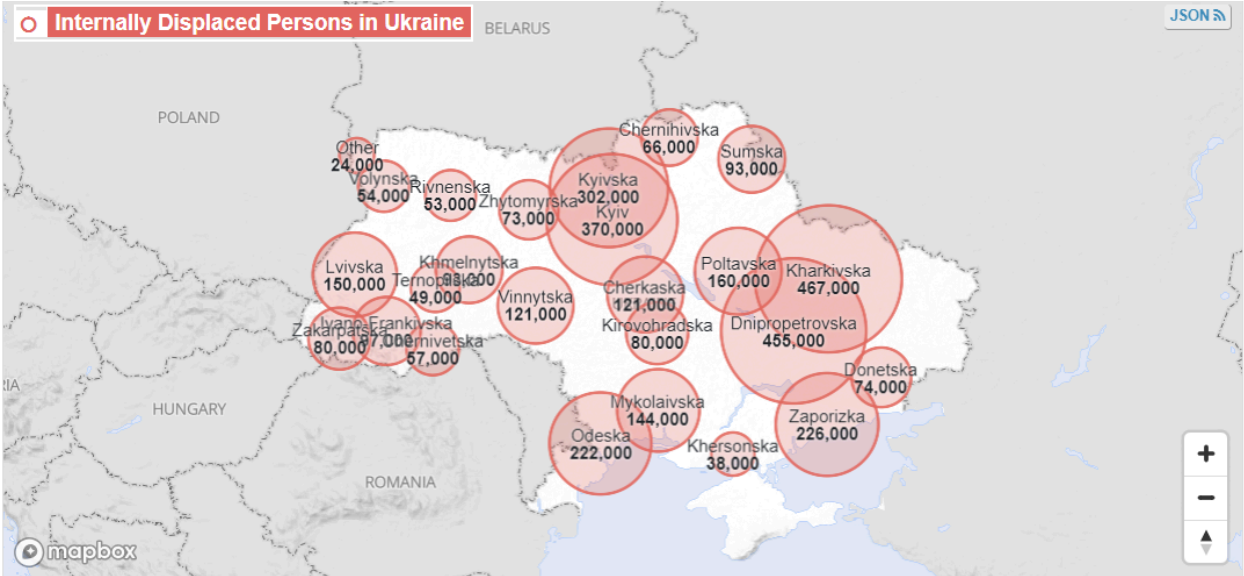
\* National holidays of Ukraine when the National Flag of Ukraine must be flown



# 9. Displaced Persons Update

The conflict that commenced in Ukraine in February 2022 has catalyzed one of the most rapid and substantial humanitarian and displacement crises in modern times. In a matter of weeks, over a quarter of the Ukrainian population was compelled to seek refuge either abroad or in areas of Ukraine more removed from the conflict.

The humanitarian condition in Ukraine remains critical for a majority, marked by death, injury, and widespread need across various sectors. The challenges include indiscriminate attacks, unexploded ordnance, destruction of housing, mass displacement, strained public services, and diminished employment opportunities.



The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations

## Total Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)

**3,669,000**

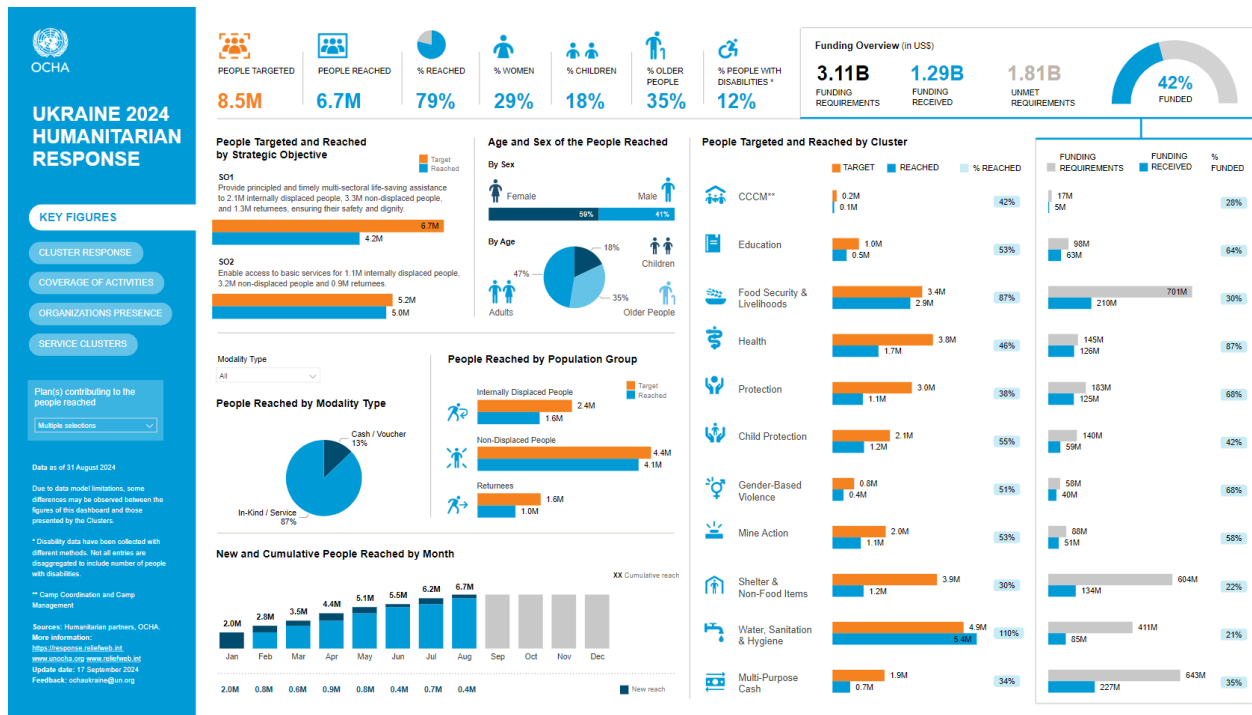
Source - IOM

[Source](#)

Note: The last update from the website was on August 31, 2024.

# 10. Humanitarian Response by Oblast Level

The international community's humanitarian response in the affected regions continues despite ongoing challenges. Key metrics tracked in the interactive dashboard below demonstrate people in need, with specific support targeted toward those most vulnerable, with efforts ongoing to reach as many as possible. Efforts are primarily focused on fulfilling critical needs, including shelter, food, and medical care. Additional factors, such as the number of active aid agencies, logistical challenges, corruption and security incidents continue to affect aid delivery, further contribute to the complexity of the situation. The dashboard below illustrates these key metrics, reflecting a comprehensive view of the humanitarian response's achievements and demands.

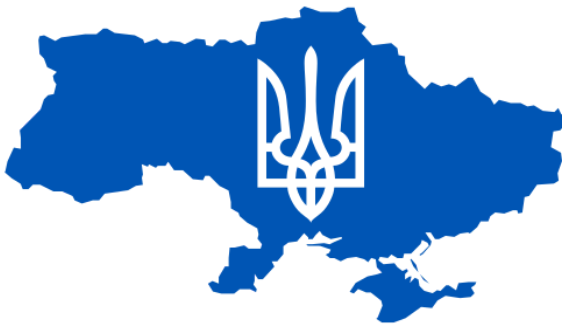


[Source](#)

Note: The last update from the website was on August 31, 2024.

# About SecurityACCESS Ukraine

Leveraging our extensive experience in Ukraine, Riley Risk has established the SecurityACCESS service, strengthening our local presence in Ukraine with our seasoned Risk Advisory team. This service amalgamates a range of critical solutions, meticulously designed to provide significant value to our clientele, ensuring their operations are secure, streamlined, and resilient in Ukraine's unique landscape. This strategic enhancement embodies our dedication to satisfying the growing demands posed by our clients' complex operational environment, in Ukraine and other global locations.



Riley Risk's SecurityACCESS service provides clients with access to a dedicated in-country security manager for full-time or part-time needs. Guided by our seasoned country security manager and support team based in Ukraine, we oversee comprehensive security management, provide localized safety training, generate detailed security analysis and reports, and conduct on-site venue assessments to devise effective risk mitigation strategies. Whatever the task, clients can trust that our tailored approach ensures security needs are met in alignment with their specific operational context.

# Ukraine Core Capabilities

Our in-country services have evolved to meet organizational requirements with operational exposure in Ukraine, encompassing a broad spectrum of security support and risk management. Here is a brief breakdown of the core offerings:

- **Ukraine Operational Presence and Expertise:** Riley Risk maintains a dedicated full-time operations center in Kyiv, Ukraine, supplemented by the capacity to mobilize additional local experts throughout the country as needed. Our longstanding experience and expansive network in Ukraine reflect our commitment to providing tailored, premier risk management solutions. This operational presence ensures prompt and specialized responses to the complex dynamics of the region.
- **Travel Risk Management Support:** Our approach is tailored to the unique risks of travel in designated regions, including High and Extreme risk locations. We offer policy guidance and protocols for both expatriates and national staff operating in Ukraine. Our services include planning, management, and monitoring for all travel, aligned with client-specific operational needs. This covers the creation of customized Journey Management Plans, location assessments, traveler briefings, and en-route tracking to ensure personnel safety.
- **Security Reporting and Alerts:** We offer 24/7 surveillance, alerting, and incident response, complemented by twice-daily and real-time reporting tailored to the assigned personnel and risk context. Utilizing multiple vetted information sources, our in-country operations team validates threat data to deliver a robust monitoring solution for asset protection and risk mitigation.
- **In-Country Security Advisory Support:** Our services include comprehensive venue security assessments and close protection for travelers. Additionally, we offer crisis management consultation, intelligence analysis, cyber threat assessments, and staff training on security protocols. These functions are designed to mitigate risk and ensure operational integrity for both expatriate and national personnel.
- **Additional Specialized Services Support:** We provide an array of adaptable support services in Ukraine, ranging from deploying security-trained drivers in both armored and lower-profile non-armored vehicles, based on conducted risk and operational assessments. Our offerings also include communications support, Technical Surveillance Countermeasures (TSCM), and other pertinent risk advisory services.

To explore how our SecurityACCESS service can offer tailored, often cost-effective support, contact the Riley Risk Team [here](#) to set up an engagement call today.

END OF REPORT