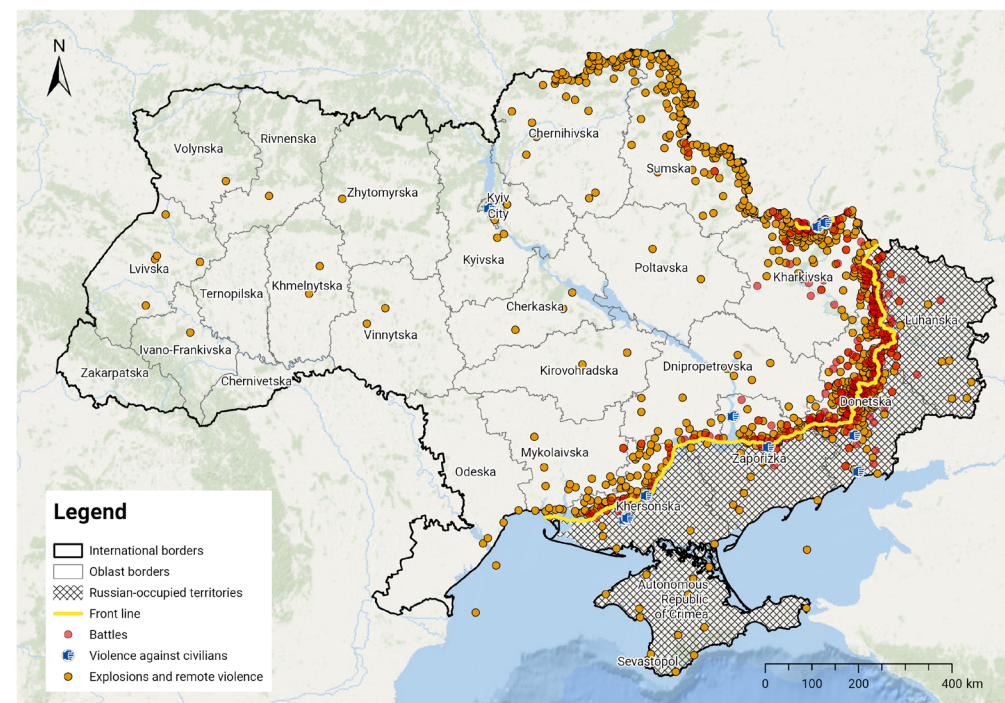


### MAIN DEVELOPMENTS IN UKRAINE BETWEEN 1 APRIL AND 30 JUNE 2024

- In May–June 2024, intensified ground conflict and increased air attacks further constrained humanitarian access to frontline areas of Donetsk and Kharkiv oblasts (OCHA 12/07/2024; KII 12/07/2024 a). In April, the Pokrovsk-Kostyantynivka section of T0504 Road in Donetsk oblast became inaccessible to humanitarians because of its proximity to the front lines (KII 25/06/2024 b; KII 12/07/2024 b).
- In May, Russia launched a ground offensive taking over ten settlements in Kharkivska oblast, with heightened security risks limiting humanitarian operations, especially in the north and northeast of Kharkiv (Reuters 31/05/2024; KII 26/06/2024 a; KII 12/07/2024 a; KII 25/06/2024 b).
- In April–June, at least four first-person view (FPV) drone attacks against humanitarians injured volunteers and civilians and impeded humanitarian aid delivery and evacuation efforts in Donetsk, Kharkivska, and Khersonska oblasts (KII 12/07/2024 a; KII 26/06/2024 a; KII 25/06/2024 b; KII 21/06/2024). Several humanitarian organisations had to suspend or terminate operations in the frontline areas in response to the targeting of humanitarian facilities (DRC 24/04/2024; Suspilne 05/04/2024).
- In April–June, Russia intensified its air, rocket, and shelling attacks on Ukraine’s electricity infrastructure, substantially damaging Ukrainian power generation capacities, and causing planned and emergency power outages throughout Ukraine (CEPA 11/06/2024; OSW 24/06/2024).
- In April–June, the escalating violence led Ukrainian authorities to introduce additional evacuations, including the mandatory evacuation of minors with at least one parent in several locations of Donetsk, Kharkivska, and Sumska oblasts (Suspilne 06/06/2024; Radio Svoboda 28/06/2024 a; Espresso 26/06/2024). Evacuation in areas with active ground conflict, including Donetsk, Kharkivska, and Zaporizka oblasts, faced some challenges, as some civilians hesitated to evacuate until the last possible moment. Electricity and internet outages limited access to evacuation information, worsening the situation (KII 26/06/2024 b).
- According to Ukrainian authorities, people without Russian passports have faced further restrictions in accessing medical care and medicine in the Russian-occupied territories of Zaporizka and Luhanska oblasts (Ukrinform 15/05/2024; Suspilne 02/05/2024 and 14/06/2024; National Resistance Center of Ukraine 29/05/2024). Access to cash and financial services also remains challenging in the Russian-occupied territories of Donetsk oblast, with residents often paying extra commission payments and unregulated exchange rates (REACH 26/06/2024).

In April, Ukraine introduced a mobilisation law affecting Ukrainian men ages 18–60. The resulting fear of conscription among male staff members has limited movement for humanitarian organisations, which have to consider minimising their staff’s exposure to conscription risks while planning operations (KII 26/06/2024 a; KII 25/06/2024 a; KII 21/06/2024). This situation also affects the provision of critical services to civilians in the frontline areas (KII 12/07/2024 b; KII 12/07/2024 a; KII 26/06/2024 a).

Map 1. Battles, shelling, air strikes, and violence against civilians between April–June 2024



Source: ACLED (accessed 22/07/2024); ISW 21/06/2024

See full map on page 11

## About this report

**Aim:** This report compares access challenges across Ukrainian oblasts to inform humanitarian responders and support their decision-making. It is part of the ACAPS quarterly analysis of access constraints, with the latest report published on 26 April 2024.

**Methodology:** This analysis is based on changes in the access severity model between **1 April and 30 June 2024**, which ACAPS developed using data collected from secondary sources and seven key informant interviews with international and regional humanitarian responders conducted in June. The last section of this report provides a short description of the methodology. The complete methodology, access events dataset, and access severity model API are available on the ACAPS Ukraine hub website.

**Limitations:** The analysis relies primarily on publicly available data, which is unlikely to be comprehensive because of the dynamic situation.

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## MAIN ACCESS DEVELOPMENTS AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL

### Increased attacks on humanitarian responders

The number of attacks on humanitarian responders slightly increased between April–June 2024 compared to January–March of the same year. In April–June, shelling, rocket attacks, and drones, particularly in areas close to the front lines in Donetska, Kharkivska, Khersonska, Luhanska, and Zaporizka oblasts, resulted in at least 11 publicly reported incidents. At least 9 incidents were publicly reported in January–March 2024 (ACAPS 26/04/2024). Key informant interviews and public reports also identified instances of organisations suspending operations because of attacks or the perceived risk of attacks (Suspilne 05/04/2024; DRC 24/04/2024; KII 12/07/2024 a).

### Shelling and rocket attacks

**Donetska:** on 5 April, Russian shelling destroyed the Doctors Without Borders office and wounded five people, including one staff member in Pokrovsk city, suspending the organisation’s activities in Donetska oblast (MSF 05/04/2024). On 25 June, Russian forces attacked an East-SOS vehicle during the evacuation of Toretsk city residents, injuring one person (Zmina 25/06/2024).

**Luhanska:** on 18 May, Russian forces hit the village of Nevske with artillery systems during the distribution of humanitarian aid, although the attack led to no casualties (Ukrinform 18/05/2024).

**Zaporizka:** on 5 April, a Russian missile strike in Zaporizhzhia city damaged a facility assisting displaced people from occupied territories (Zmina 06/04/2024; MLT 06/04/2024).

**Khersonska:** on 26 June, Russian shelling hit a humanitarian facility in Kherson city, damaging the building and wounding five civilians (Zmina 26/06/2024).

**Kharkivska:** on 24 April, a Russian rocket attack struck in the vicinity of the Danish Refugee Council office in Kharkiv city, damaging its office premises and vehicles and injuring two civilians (DRC 24/04/2024). The organisation had to temporarily suspend operations in the area to recover from the damage.

## Drone attacks

Since April, the operation range of short-range drones has expanded, increasing the number of attacks on civilians and humanitarians operating in frontline areas (KII 26/06/2024 a; KII 25/06/2024 b; KII 21/06/2024). Russian drones have attacked responders and led to the suspension of operations, primarily during evacuations (KII 12/07/2024 a).

**Kharkivska:** on 24 May, the threat from Russian FPV drones suspended evacuations from Vovchansk city. 76 people were expected to be evacuated, although law enforcement representatives could not get in contact with some (Suspilne 24/05/2024).

**Khersonska:** on 26 April, a Russian drone attacked a bus of Proliska, an NGO transporting 16 residents from frontline settlements to receive administrative and social services. The munition damaged the vehicle but resulted in no injuries (Zmina 26/04/2024). On the same day, a Russian drone hit a civilian car in Bohodukhivskiyi raion, injuring two volunteers and their son who were distributing humanitarian aid in the village (Ukrinform 26/04/2024).

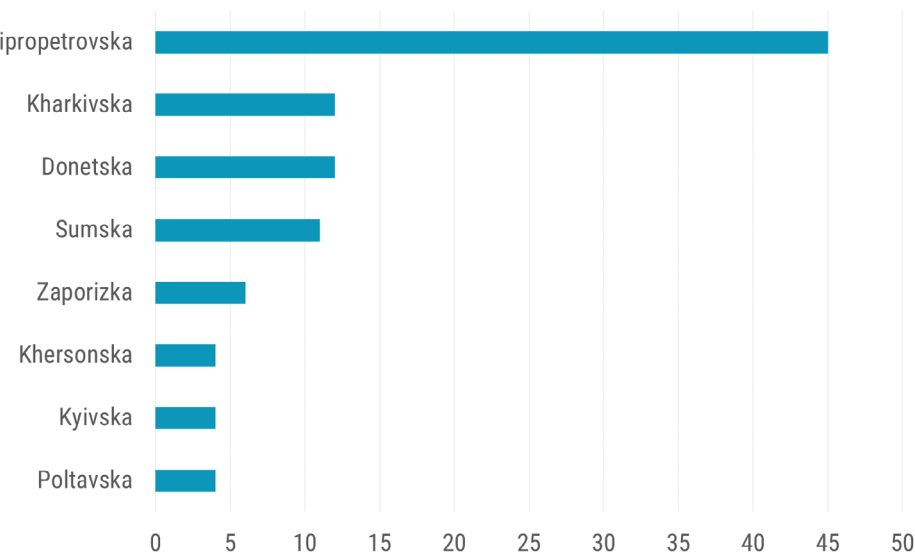
**Sumska:** on 14 June, Russian forces attacked another Proliska bus with a drone near Vilna Svoboda village, injuring three passengers. The bus was transporting people from villages near the Russian border to Hlukhiv to access banking, administrative, social, and health services (Zmina 14/06/2024).

## Electricity disruptions

In April–June, Russian forces increased attacks on critical energy infrastructure throughout Ukraine, placing further strain on the country's electric grid. Since April, extensive shelling and rocket attacks against infrastructure have destroyed approximately 80–90% of Ukraine's energy generation capacity at thermal power plants and around 60% at hydroelectric facilities (CEPA 11/06/2024). By June, Ukraine had lost around half of its installed capacity, impeding its ability to meet minimum electricity needs, which, along with the scheduled maintenance of nuclear power plants, led to planned and emergency power outages almost daily (OSW 24/06/2024; DTEK accessed 15/06/2024).

Between April–June, 104 attacks on energy infrastructure (76 attacks in Ukrainian-controlled territories and 28 attacks in Russian-occupied territories) destroyed electricity substations and power generation facilities and disrupted access to electricity and water supply (OHCHR 10/05/2024, 08/07/2024, and 07/06/2024).

Figure 1. Newly reported electrical infrastructure damage in the second quarter of 2024 in the most affected oblasts



Source: ACAPS accessed 24/07/2024

In April, Ukrenergo, an electricity transmission system operator in Ukraine, started limiting electricity consumption from 18:20–22:00 in Dnipropetrovska, Donetsk, Kirovohradska, Poltavska, Sumska, and Zaporizka oblasts in response to the lack of sufficient generating capacities (LB 04/04/2024). In May, the situation worsened, and significant electricity shortages resulting from infrastructure damage, insufficient electricity generation, and import capacity led to scheduled blackouts in all oblasts (Epravda 16/05/2024, 08/05/2024, and 02/05/2024; MEV 17/05/2024). In June, Kyiv city and 11 Ukrainian oblasts (Cherkaska, Chernihivska, Dnipropetrovska, Donetsk, Kharkivska, Kirovohradska, Kyivska, Poltavska, Sumska, Zaporizka, and Zhytomyrska oblasts) faced stricter power restrictions from 11:00–23:00, with plans for extended power outage schedules at least until the end of July (LB 24/06/2024).

In some oblasts, extreme weather events such as thunderstorms and winds have worsened electricity supply constraints. In May, more than 100 settlements across Chernihivska, Khmelnytska, Sumska, and Zhytomyrska oblasts reported weather-related power shortages and cuts (Ukrinform 25/05/2024 a; Epravda 07/05/2024). On 12 June, bad weather cut off electricity for more than 81,000 people in 360 settlements, including 58,800 people in Kyivska oblast (Radio Svoboda 12/06/2024; Interfax 12/06/2024).

## Conscription and new mobilisation law

To address the shortage of military personnel and strengthen Ukrainian defence capabilities, Ukrainian authorities developed and adopted a new mobilisation law (OSW 09/02/2024). On 18 May, the law came into effect, requiring all Ukrainian male citizens ages 18–60 to update their contact and military records within two months, either in person or at military territorial centres. Summons can be served in public places (Rada 11/04/2024). Personnel issuing summons have detained some Ukrainian men against their will with the use of violence (TSN 01/06/2024 and 22/05/2024; Hromadske 16/05/2024; Focus 26/04/2024).

Several key informants spontaneously mentioned mobilisation as a current and potential access constraint. Mobilisation affects humanitarian organisations' ability to deliver aid. Male staff of conscription age sometimes receive a military summons in public or while updating their military records at military centres, making them reluctant to travel (KII 25/06/2024 a; KII 12/07/2024 b; KII 26/06/2024 a). The male personnel of contractors and service providers working for humanitarian organisations also become unwilling to work in certain areas for the same reasons (KII 26/06/2024 a; KII 25/06/2024 a). As a result, many organisations have to plan their operations around travel constraints (KII 21/06/2024).

The recent introduction of the mobilisation law also affects the provision of public services to civilians. The law has resulted in the conscription of many specialists employed across critical segments (e.g. utilities, public transportation, and logistics), affecting the provision of essential services, such as water, gas, sewage, and public transit (TSN 30/05/2024; UNIAN 08/06/2024 and 07/05/2024; Epravda 08/06/2024). Specialists are sometimes mobilised before their employers can secure exemptions (KII 12/07/2024 a; KII 12/07/2024 b).

The new mobilisation law does not regulate the humanitarian exemptions governed by Order No. 560 and adopted by the Cabinet of Ministers on 5 June 2024 (CoM's Order No.650 05/06/2024).

## Mandatory evacuation

Between April–June, intensified shelling and rocket attacks caused Ukrainian authorities to call for evacuations in the east and north of the country, including the mandatory evacuation of minors with at least one legal guardian.

**Donetska:** on 6 June, authorities called for the evacuation of minors and at least one legal guardian from seven cities, villages, and settlements (Karpivka, Lyman, Lypove, Nove, Progress, Stavky, and Zorya Illinska) (Suspilne 06/06/2024). On 25 June, authorities called for the further evacuation of minors and at least one guardian from Drobysheve village in Lymanska hromada and Nova Poltavka, Novoolenivka, Oleksandropil, and Romanivka villages

in Illinivska hromada (Suspilne 25/06/2024). Until 29 June, the evacuation of 157 children from Lyman city and 34 children from Drobysheve village was still underway (Zmina 30/06/2024).

**Kharkivska:** on 11 April, the regional state authority called for the mandatory evacuation of 182 minors and their guardians in 47 frontline and border settlements in Bohodukhivskiy, Iziumskiy, and Kharkivskiy raions (Zmina 11/04/2024). On 28 June, the defence council of the oblast decided to expand the forced evacuation zone for families with children to include Bohodukhivska, Chuhuivska, Iziumiska, and Kupianska districts (Radio Svoboda 28/06/2024 a). By June, 157 children were supposed to be evacuated from 24 settlements across these districts (Radio Svoboda 28/06/2024 a; Espresso 26/06/2024).

**Sumska:** in April, the authorities announced the mandatory evacuation of children and at least one legal guardian from Seredyno-Budska and Velykopysarivska, two border villages (Ukrinform 02/04/2024; Rubryka 05/04/2024; MINRE 05/04/2024). On 14 June, the authorities called for mandatory evacuation in eight additional settlements (Bublykove, Hurynivka, Hyrine, Kandybyne, Myrlohy, Novi Vyrky, Oleksenky, and Sokhany) within 10km of the Russian border, wherein 266 people, including 27 children, remained (Suspilne 14/06/2024).

## Challenges in evacuating older people and people with disabilities

Some people are unwilling to evacuate because of a lack of information on available services and assistance in host locations. Internet unavailability and electricity outages are some factors preventing people in areas facing considerable access constraints from receiving this information (KII 26/06/2024 b).

Accommodating an increasing number of displaced people, particularly those with low mobility, also poses a challenge. Some transit centres face overcrowding, which creates additional security risks (KII 25/06/2024 a; KII 26/06/2024 b).

According to evacuation orders, older people and those with disabilities must evacuate to specialised institutions more than 100km from the front lines, but people often refuse to leave their oblast, and some cities are poorly equipped for the movement of these groups (REACH 29/05/2024).



## Access constraints for civilians in Russian-occupied territories

In April–June, Russian authorities continued to restrict civilians' access to essential services.

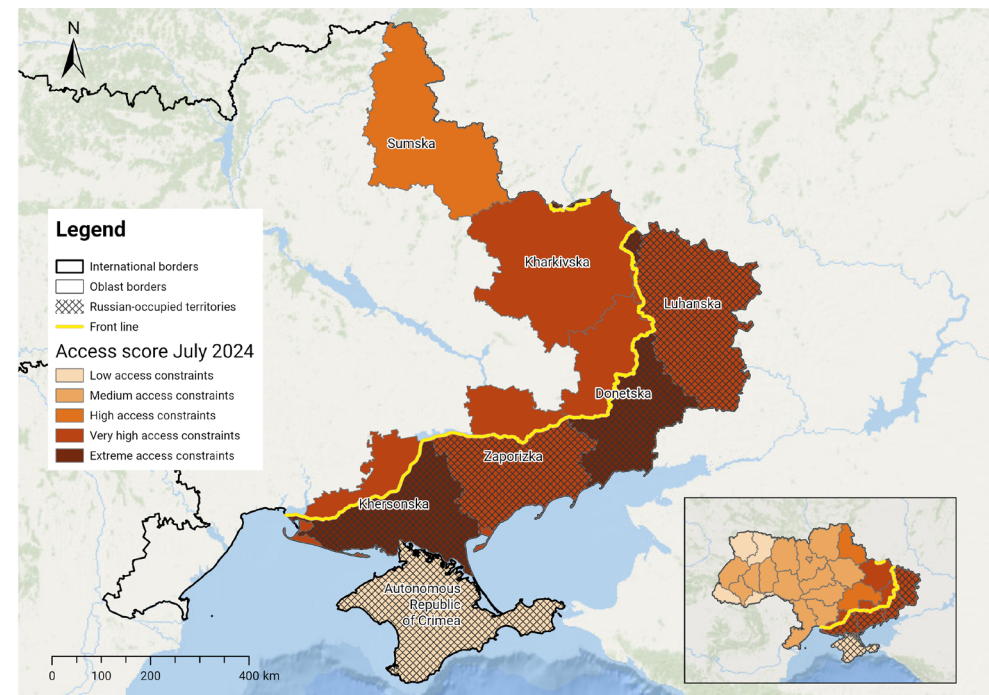
**Access to cash and financial services:** residents in Russian-occupied territories lack access to cash and financial services. Accessing cash through intermediaries often leads to extra commission payments and unregulated exchange rates. People in the Russian-occupied Donetsk oblast face the most restrictions in accessing cash. This situation has led to the adoption of coping strategies with potentially harmful consequences, such as selling their means of transportation and reducing essential health expenditures (REACH 26/06/2024).

**Medicine shortages:** logistical issues have led Russian-installed authorities to prioritise the military over civilians, leading to a critical medicine shortage in the occupied territories of southern Ukraine (National Resistance Center of Ukraine 05/04/2024; Suspilne 02/05/2024; Ukrinform 25/05/2024 b; National Resistance Center of Ukraine 05/04/2024). According to Ukrainian authorities, civilians must look for critical medication on their own, often paying much more. In most cases, however, even at inflated prices, it is nearly impossible to find the required medicine, with instances reported of people putting notices at the entrances of homes about their medication needs (Rubryka 14/04/2024; National Resistance Center of Ukraine 19/06/2024).

**Russian passportisation efforts:** Russian authorities have continued exerting pressure on people to obtain Russian passports to access medicine and medical care in the Russian-occupied territories of Zaporizka and Luhanska oblasts (Ukrinform 15/05/2024; Suspilne 02/05/2024; National Resistance Center of Ukraine 29/05/2024). In the occupied Zaporizka oblast, Russian-installed authorities have increased the pressure on residents for forced passportisation. Receiving medical aid and vital medication, including anticoagulants, are conditional to having a Russian passport, enrolling in the Russian register of social benefits, and having medical insurance (Suspilne 02/05/2024).

## ACCESS TRENDS IN OBLASTS FACING THE HIGHEST CONSTRAINTS

Map 2. Humanitarian access severity for oblasts with the highest access constraints by 30 June



Source: ACAPS using data from ISW (accessed 21/06/2024)

Table 1. Humanitarian access severity scores for oblasts with the highest access constraints

OBLAST	ACCESS OF PEOPLE IN NEED TO HUMANITARIAN AID	ACCESS OF HUMANITARIAN ORGANISATIONS TO PEOPLE IN NEED	PHYSICAL, ENVIRONMENTAL, AND SECURITY CONSTRAINTS	ACCESS SCORE
Donetska	5.0	4.9	4.0	4.6
Kharkivska	5.0	5.0	3.9	4.6
Khersonska	5.0	5.0	3.4	4.5
Zaporizka	5.0	4.5	2.5	4.0
Luhanska	5.0	3.9	2.7	3.9
Sumska	1.9	1.5	3.4	2.3

Table 2. Humanitarian access severity scores for oblasts with the highest access constraints, without accounting for the territory's controlling authority

OBLAST	ACCESS OF PEOPLE IN NEED TO HUMANITARIAN AID	ACCESS OF HUMANITARIAN ORGANISATIONS TO PEOPLE IN NEED	PHYSICAL, ENVIRONMENTAL, AND SECURITY CONSTRAINTS	ACCESS SCORE
Donetska	3.5	4.2	4.0	3.9
Kharkivska	3.2	4.3	3.9	3.8
Khersonska	3.5	4.5	3.4	3.8
Zaporizka	3.5	3.8	2.5	3.3
Luhanska	3.5	3.5	2.7	3.3

## Donetska oblast

- **Access severity score:** 4.6/5.0
- **Access severity score trend since the first quarter (Q1) of 2024:** no significant change
- **Raions with the highest number of events:** Bakhmutskyi, Donetskyyi, and Mariupolskyi raions
- **Most recurrent access events:** physical prevention of the use of services or assistance

Access constraints in the oblast have remained high, with new reporting on logistical, security, and environmental constraints (e.g. the suspension of operations because of violence, seasonal impediments, and logistical constraints) between April–June, maintaining the same overall access severity score as in the January–March period (ACAPS accessed 30/06/2024).

Since April, humanitarian operations have shifted in response to increased shelling, rocket, air bomb, and cluster munition attacks on infrastructure, and access to some previously accessible areas has become more limited (KII 26/06/2024 a; ACLED accessed 15/06/2024).

**Humanitarian aid delivery impediments:** since April, intensive shelling, rocket, and drone attacks have increased security risks for humanitarian organisations operating close to the front lines, impeding efficient aid delivery in the region (KII 26/06/2024 a; OCHA 12/07/2024). Some areas are off-limits for many humanitarians, including the Pokrovsk-Kostyantynivka section of T0504 Road because of its proximity to the front lines (humanitarian travel between the two cities remains possible via a detour) (KII 26/06/2024 b; KII 12/07/2024 b). Chasiv Yar remains under heavy artillery fire, and humanitarian responders cannot provide humanitarian aid to 643 remaining residents (Suspilne 01/05/2024; Ukrinform 22/05/2024; Radio Svoboda 28/06/2024 b).

**Civilian access to services** remains a primary challenge. Communities near the front lines and in Russian-occupied territories, in localities such as Chasiv Yar, Donetsk, and Mariupol cities, have reported a lack of access to gas, electricity, and drinkable water (Tribun 26/04/2024; Ukrinform 20/04/2024). Shelling by Russian forces has continued to cause new damage and utility interruptions (Ukrinform 28/04/2024 and 17/05/2024; Epravda 21/05/2024). In some occupied territories, including Mariupol city, the payment of pensions, particularly for people with disabilities, has been delayed for over four months (Ukrinform 29/04/2024).

## Kharkivska oblast

- **Access severity score:** 4.6/5.0
- **Access severity score trend since Q1 2024:** no significant change
- **Raions with the highest number of events:** Kharkivskiyi and Kupianskiy raions
- **Most recurrent access events:** physical prevention of the use of services or assistance

The deteriorating security situation has not translated into an increased access severity score, as war-related indicators are already near the maximum possible score. The April–June period in Kharkivska oblast saw intensified Russian attacks against critical infrastructure, leading to power outages and mandatory evacuations in the region.

**Ground offensive impact:** since 10 May, Russian troops have conducted an intensified ground offensive coupled with recurrent air and rocket attacks, taking over 13 settlements (including Borysivka, Krasne, Morokhovets, Ohirtseve, Oliinykove, Pletenivka, Pilna, Strilecha, and Zelene) in Kharkivska oblast (H&I 20/06/2024; OCHA 25/05/2024; Suspilne 06/07/2024). Because of heightened security risks, this situation has affected humanitarian operations focused on evacuations and early recovery (Reuters 31/05/2024; KII 26/06/2024 a; KII 12/07/2024 a; KII 25/06/2024 b).

**Security impediments:** constant shelling and FPV drone activity have led to limited mobile activities in some areas close to the front lines, affecting evacuations and service provision (KII 26/06/2024 b; KII 25/06/2024 b). Prior authorisation is required to access certain front line areas (KII 25/06/2024 b; KII 26/06/2024 a). By June, as a result of repeated Russian attacks, approximately 12,000 residents had evacuated from the border communities to other areas within and outside Kharkivska oblast (Suspilne 11/06/2024).

**Power outages:** Russian attacks have substantially damaged or destroyed numerous facilities across different segments, such as education, transportation, railway, and energy (OCHA 12/07/2024). This situation has resulted in new restrictions and scheduled power outages in Kharkivska oblast (Epravda 06/04/2024; Suspilne 07/04/2024). In April–May, combined with the planned electricity outages across most of Ukraine, intense hostilities in Kharkivska oblast led to additional unscheduled blackouts in Kharkiv city and the suburbs, affecting 410,000 subscribers (Suspilne 07/04/2024; Epravda 21/05/2024).

## Khersonska oblast

- **Access severity score:** 4.5/5.0
- **Access severity score trend since Q1 2024:** slight improvement
- **Raions with the highest number of events:** Beryslavskiyi, Kakhovskiyi, and Khersonskiyi raions
- **Most recurrent access events:** physical prevention of the use of services or assistance

Despite the challenging access and security situation, Khersonska oblast saw a slight score improvement, mainly because of no new reports of certain constraints, especially logistical constraints. The situation in the oblast continues to be the most dangerous in terms of attacks on humanitarian assets, infrastructure, and responders, however the Dnipro River prevents rapid frontline shifts (KII 12/07/2024; OCHA 14/05/2024).

Some people residing in Russian-occupied settlements, such as Kakhovka, Nova Kakhovka, and Zhovta Strichka, experienced issues in accessing water, gas, and electricity (Ukrinform 03/04/2024). Several settlements, such as Hola Prystan and Oleshky, also faced issues related to food price inflation or availability (Espresso 07/05/2024).

In some communities, such as Skadovsk, Ukrainians must obtain Russian passports and register them with the relevant authorities to avoid losing property rights (Glavkom 03/07/2024).

In April 2024, Ukraine established a Commandant's Office to authorise humanitarian movements in the oblast (OCHA 14/05/2024). Advanced authorisation is required for movement within the oblast but does not represent an additional access constraint, according to key informants (KII 21/06/2024; KII 26/06/2024 b).

## Zaporizka oblast

- **Access severity score:** 4.0/5.0
- **Access severity score trend since Q1 2024:** no significant change
- **Raions with the highest number of events:** Berdianskiy, Melitopolskiy, and Polohivskiy raions
- **Most recurrent access events:** physical prevention of the use of services or assistance

Between April–June, Zaporizka oblast's primary access developments were related to the Russian occupation's impacts on providing remuneration and social benefits to residents.

In the occupied territory of Zaporizka oblast, Russian-installed authorities have reduced social benefits, with employees of municipal- and state-owned enterprises not receiving

remuneration in the last several months (Ukrinform 28/05/2024). There have also been mass detention incidents, with members of local communities illegally imprisoned in Russian-occupied territories (Zmina 22/05/2024).

The absence of a unified system and set rules based on proximity to the front lines in Ukrainian-controlled territories has led to a dynamic humanitarian access situation. Responders must maintain regular communication with local authorities to ensure smooth operations in the area (KII 26/06/2024 a).

## Luhanska oblast

- **Access severity score:** 3.9/5.0
- **Access severity score trend since Q1 2024:** no significant change
- **Raions with the highest number of events:** Dovzhanskyi, Shchastynskyi, and Sievierodonetskyi raions
- **Most recurrent access events:** physical prevention of the use of services or assistance, Russian passport requirements in Russian-occupied territories

Luhanska oblast continues to have one of the lowest access severity scores among the oblasts along the front lines. Most of the oblast is occupied, limiting information on incidents affecting humanitarian access. People continue to experience constraints on access to services because of the service disruptions and restrictions that Russian-installed authorities have imposed.

**Russian passportisation:** Russian-installed authorities continue to impose Russian passport requirements on civilians and restrict access to administrative services and other measures for those who refuse to comply. Employment, medical services, and movement across territories are only possible after military registration (Ukrinform 16/06/2024; Luhansk RMA08/05/2024). Russian authorities have also pressured pregnant women in labour to get Russian passports, with reports of the authorities threatening not to hand over newborn children without at least a single parent with Russian documents (Espresso 01/05/2024).

**Medicine:** according to Ukrainian authorities, there are severe issues with the provision of medicine and medical services because of the absence of centralised medicine delivery in occupied territories. Most of the medicine supplied to occupied territories goes to hospitals for the needs of the Russian military (Ukrinform 14/04/2024 and 25/05/2024; National Resistance Center of Ukraine 19/05/2024). People residing in larger communities can access the remaining medicine, while those in villages must travel to raion centres despite the lack of public transportation (Ukrinform 14/04/2024 and 25/05/2024).

## Sumska oblast

- **Access severity score:** 2.3/5.0
- **Access severity score trend since Q1 2024:** deterioration
- **Raions with the highest number of events:** Okhtyrskyi, Shostkynskyi, and Sumskyi raions
- **Most recurrent access events:** physical prevention of the use of services or assistance, electricity disruptions

Several access indicators covering the forced displacement of people in need away from services, the closure of crossings to affected areas, and weather events (e.g. rainy season and seasonal impediments) have deteriorated since the previous quarter. This situation has resulted in movement restrictions affecting humanitarians, with residents cut off from assistance and services.

The April–June period saw an increase in air strikes, shelling, drones, and landmine accidents across the oblast, inflicting damage on civilian infrastructure and limiting humanitarian organisations' access to people in need (KII 12/07/2024 a; ACLED accessed 15/06/2024; VOA 06/07/2024; Reuters 22/05/2024). An increase in attacks in the oblast led authorities to launch evacuation processes in 52 additional border communities (OCHA 08/07/2024; The Kyiv Independent 05/04/2024).

**Evacuation:** in some villages, heavy Russian shelling and drone attacks have constrained evacuations (Espresso 18/03/2024; KII 12/07/2024 a). Since 13 May, more than 1,100 people have been evacuated from the towns of Bilopillia and Vorozhba because of intensive shelling (Ukrainska Pravda 13/05/2024; Suspilne 17/05/2024). This evacuation is not mandatory but voluntary and preventive from settlements where the number of attacks has increased significantly.

**Electricity disruption:** increased Russian shelling, rocket attacks, and drone attacks have led to emergency electricity disruptions and scheduled blackouts (Suspilne 01/04/2024; Ukrinform 28/04/2024). In May, Russian attacks on energy facilities in the region severed power for more than 500,000 people (Reuters 22/05/2024; Ukrinform 22/05/2024).

**Increase in civilian casualties:** since April, Russian shelling and rocket attacks across Sumska oblast have become increasingly destructive, leading to 11 civilian deaths by early May (Suspilne 26/04/2024 a, 26/04/2024 b, and 04/06/2024; UNN 07/05/2024 and 03/04/2024). In April–June, Russian shelling and rocket attacks in Bilopilska, Esman, and Krasnopilska communities wounded over 30 civilians (Suspilne 19/04/2024; Ukrainska Pravda 06/05/2024 and 29/05/2024; Ukrinform 13/05/2024; The Kyiv Independent 15/06/2024).



## METHODOLOGY

The data used in this report came from publicly available and unpublished sources circulated within the response. The narrative presented is based on data analysis and a secondary data review. Access severity scores were calculated using the oblast-level data collection of events related to access constraints. The collected access events are available in the [Ukraine hub humanitarian access events dashboard and dataset](#). ACAPS has predefined 75 event types and grouped them into 35 subindicators, nine indicators (I1–9), and three pillars (P1–3). The indicators receive a score between 0–3, and the pillars receive a score between 0–5. The final access severity score is an average of the three pillar scores.

### Pillar 1: access of people in need to humanitarian aid

11. Denial of existence of humanitarian needs or entitlements to assistance
12. Restriction and obstruction of access to services and assistance

### Pillar 2: access of humanitarian organisations to people in need

13. Impediments to enter the country (bureaucratic and administrative)
14. Restriction of movement within the country (impediments to freedom of movement and/or administrative restrictions)
15. Interference in implementation of humanitarian activities
16. Violence against humanitarian personnel, facilities, and assets

### Pillar 3: physical, environmental, and security constraints

17. Insecurity or hostilities affecting humanitarian assistance
18. Presence of landmines, improvised explosive devices, explosive remnants of war, and unexploded ordnance
19. Physical constraints in the environment (obstacles related to terrain, climate, lack of infrastructure, etc.)

More information on ACAPS' humanitarian events monitoring and access scoring system is available in [this methodology note](#). For Ukraine's oblast-level scoring, calculations were done on a continuous numerical scale instead of thresholds, allowing for decimals and a more nuanced result. The resulting scores were classified into the following groups:

- 0–1 low access constraints
- 1–2 moderate access constraints
- 2–3 high access constraints
- 3–4 very high access constraints
- 4–5 extreme access constraints.

## Limitations

The analysis relies on publicly available data, which is unlikely to be comprehensive in a dynamic war situation such as Ukraine. Reported data may come with a delay, meaning some published data may no longer be applicable at the time of analysis. This analysis collected data through a review process to ensure that selected subindicators for a given oblast are still relevant. The evolving situation and the amount of data collected mean that some inaccuracies will likely remain.

Detailed information is lacking on the humanitarian response and the access constraints that humanitarians face in Russian-occupied areas, including Crimea and Sevastopol.

### Map 3. Ukraine's access severity by 30 June 2024



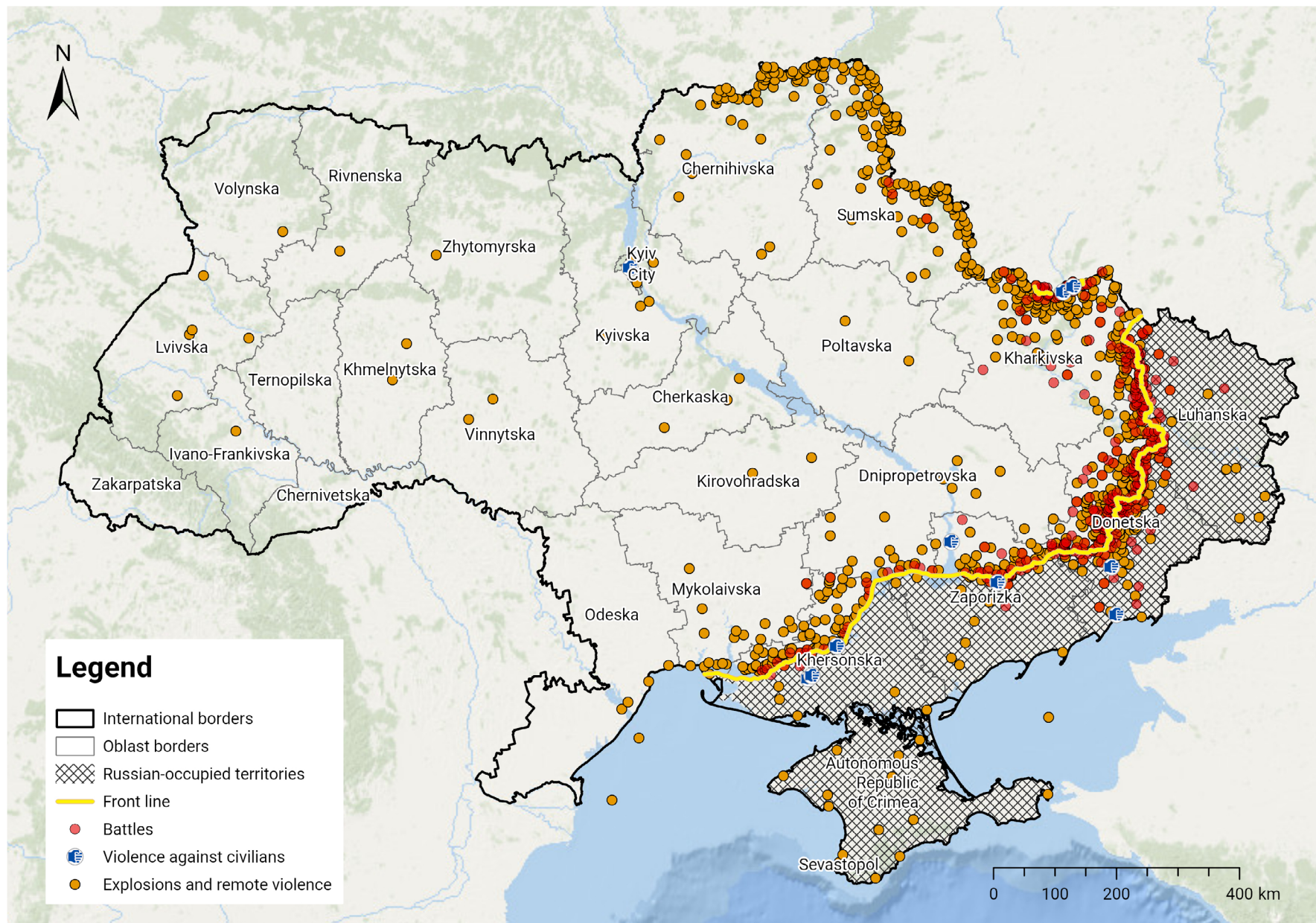
Source: ACAPS using data from ISW (accessed 21/06/2024)

Table 3. Access severity scores by 30 June 2024

OBLAST	I1	I2	I3	I4	I5	I6	I7	I8	I9	P1	P2	P3	ACCESS
Autonomous Republic of Crimea	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.1
Cherkaska	0.0	1.8	1.2	0.0	0.9	0.0	0.2	1.2	1.5	1.5	0.9	1.6	1.3
Chernihivska	0.0	1.8	1.2	0.8	0.9	0.0	1.6	3.0	1.5	1.5	1.2	3.4	2.0
Chernivetska	0.0	1.8	1.2	0.0	0.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.8	1.5	0.9	0.4	0.9
Dnipropetrovska	0.0	1.8	1.2	0.0	0.9	1.4	2.0	2.3	1.5	1.5	1.5	3.2	2.1
Donetska	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	2.8	2.6	3.0	1.6	5.0	4.9	4.0	4.6
Ivano-Frankivska	0.0	1.8	1.2	0.0	0.9	0.0	0.1	1.2	0.8	1.5	0.9	1.2	1.2
Kharkivska	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	2.4	3.0	1.5	5.0	5.0	3.9	4.6
Kharkivska*	0.8	3.0	2.1	2.3	3.0	3.0	2.4	3.0	1.5	3.2	4.3	3.9	3.8
Khersonska	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	2.4	3.0	0.9	5.0	5.0	3.4	4.5
Khersonska*	1.2	3.0	2.1	2.8	3.0	3.0	2.4	3.0	0.9	3.5	4.5	3.4	3.8
Khmelnyska	0.0	1.8	1.2	0.0	0.9	0.0	0.3	1.2	1.5	1.5	0.9	1.7	1.3
Kirovohradska	0.0	1.8	1.2	0.0	0.9	0.0	0.3	1.2	1.5	1.5	0.9	1.7	1.3
Kyiv	0.0	1.8	1.2	0.0	0.9	1.0	0.5	1.2	0.8	1.5	1.3	1.4	1.4
Kyivska	0.0	1.8	1.2	0.0	0.9	0.0	0.1	1.5	1.5	1.5	0.9	1.7	1.4
Luhanska	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	0.4	1.5	2.6	0.8	5.0	3.9	2.7	3.9
Luhanska*	1.2	3.0	2.1	3.0	3.0	0.4	1.5	2.6	0.8	3.5	3.5	2.7	3.3
Lvivska	0.0	1.8	1.2	0.0	0.9	0.0	0.1	1.2	1.5	1.5	0.9	1.6	1.3
Mykolaivska	0.0	1.8	1.2	0.5	0.9	0.4	0.8	3.0	1.5	1.5	1.2	2.9	1.9
Odeska	0.0	1.8	1.2	0.0	0.9	0.0	0.6	1.5	0.8	1.5	0.9	1.6	1.3
Poltavska	0.0	1.8	1.2	0.0	0.9	0.0	0.3	1.2	1.5	1.5	0.9	1.7	1.4
Rivnenska	0.0	1.8	1.2	0.0	0.9	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.8	1.5	0.9	0.5	0.9
Sevastopol	0.0	1.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.8	1.5	0.0	0.5	0.7
Sumska	0.0	2.2	1.2	0.8	0.9	0.7	1.6	2.6	2.1	1.9	1.5	3.4	2.3
Ternopilka	0.0	1.8	1.2	0.0	0.9	0.0	0.0	1.2	0.8	1.5	0.9	1.1	1.2
Vinnytska	0.0	1.8	1.2	0.0	0.9	0.0	0.2	1.2	0.8	1.5	0.9	1.2	1.2
Volynska	0.0	1.8	1.2	0.5	0.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.8	1.5	1.1	0.4	1.0
Zakarpatska	0.0	1.8	1.2	0.0	0.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.8	1.5	0.9	0.4	0.9
Zaporizka	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	1.8	1.5	1.5	1.5	5.0	4.5	2.5	4.0
Zaporizka*	1.2	3.0	2.1	2.3	3.0	1.8	1.5	1.5	1.5	3.5	3.8	2.5	3.3
Zhytomyrska	0.0	1.8	1.2	0.0	0.9	0.0	0.0	1.5	1.5	1.5	0.9	1.7	1.4

\*Scores not considering the territory's controlling authority

### MAP 1. BATTLES, SHELLING, AIR STRIKES, AND VIOLENCE AGAINST CIVILIANS BETWEEN APRIL–JUNE 2024



Source: ACLED (accessed 22/07/2024); ISW 21/06/2024