What is at stake for education in Ukraine?

Ukraine overview

Data from 2020

- **72 yrs**
  - Life expectancy at birth
- **USD$13,017**
  - GDP per capita
- **43.5 M**
  - Population
- **75.3%**
  - Population reporting to use the Internet over the past 12 months (2020)
- **100%**
  - Adult literacy rate

Population movements

Since the beginning of the conflict with Russia, almost 4 million Ukrainians moved to other countries (March, 2022').

In 2020, before the beginning of the current conflict, there were already 1.4 million Internally Displaced Person. (July 2020, IOM)

Population decrease—with the largest share amongst youth

- **Total population**
  - 51.5 million (1991)
  - 43.5 million (2021)
  - **-15.5%** (8.0 million)

Age group proportion, out of total population (2021)

- **0-14**
  - 13%
- **15-64**
  - 18%
- **65+**
  - 21%

Fertility rate

- **less than 2 births per woman since 1990**

Youth form part of the largest share of the population, with 15.9% between 0-14 years

The population has been shrinking and is rapidly ageing, mainly due to migration and an extremely low fertility rate.

Figure 1: Number of Ukraine refugees by receiving country (in thousands)²

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Refugees (in thousands)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Poland</td>
<td>3075</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belarus</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Slovakia</td>
<td>535</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hungary</td>
<td>382</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Romania</td>
<td>836</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moldova</td>
<td>448</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Russia</td>
<td>681</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Data from 2020.
Enrolment

Decomposing and stagnant enrolment numbers reflect population changes.

School education is universal and more than 80% students from targeted age groups are enrolled at higher education.

Girls form the greater part of enrolment at tertiary level.

Education expenditure is in line with international benchmarks.

At 12% and 15% of total government expenditure.

And 4-6% of Gross Domestic Product.
Education Institutions

**Number of educational institutions decreased since 1991 at all levels**

Almost all rural schools have internet access (98%)

Teachers are overwhelmingly female at 98% in primary and 80% in secondary schools

**Student mobility**

A high number of Ukrainian students are studying abroad, with almost a third in Russia

Top five destination of Ukrainian students (2020)
1. Poland (26938, 35%),
2. Russian Federation (21609, 28%),
3. Germany (6313, 8%),
4. Czechia (3132, 4%)
5. Slovakia (2911, 4%)

Total 77,586 students

Top five countries sending students to Ukraine 2020
1. India (14383, 24%),
2. Morocco (5721, 9%),
3. Azerbaijan (4718, 8%),
4. Turkmenistan (4304, 7%)
5. Nigeria (3302, 5%)

The numbers of foreign students in Ukraine is high and was increasing.
Learning

Results are improving and are better in reading than in mathematics

Table 1: Minimum proficiency level at end of lower secondary and end of primary level by year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Proportion of student at the end of lower secondary achieving at least minimum proficiency level, 2018</th>
<th>Proportion of student at the end of lower secondary achieving at least minimum proficiency level, 2011</th>
<th>Proportion of student at the end of primary level achieving at least minimum proficiency level, 2007</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>Mathematics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>74.1</td>
<td>52.7</td>
<td>50.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>81.1</td>
<td>51.2</td>
<td>49.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>67.8</td>
<td>54.3</td>
<td>50.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urban (both Sex)</td>
<td>81.7</td>
<td>66.2</td>
<td>60.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rural (both Sex)</td>
<td>57.6</td>
<td>45.4</td>
<td>36.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Very Affluent socioeconomic background</td>
<td>89.1</td>
<td>54.3</td>
<td>51.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Very poor socioeconomic background</td>
<td>56.7</td>
<td>50.0</td>
<td>46.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Minimum Proficiency levels (MPL) in reading at the end of lower secondary level were achieved by 74% students in 2018, with higher proportion for girls (81%) compared to boys (68%).

MPL in mathematics at the end of lower secondary was around 50% in 2011, showing no improvement from 2007; with boys at a higher proportion than girls.

The gap between urban and rural proportions are significant in both subjects at about 24 % points.

The gap between higher income and lower income groups is also significant for reading (32 % points) but much lower for mathematics (4 % points).

Sources other than UIS database, April 2022:

1. UNHCR data, Belarus (28 April 2022), Russian Federation (30 April 2022), other countries (2 May 2022), Refugees fleeing Ukraine (since 24 February 2022).
2. The accumulated data in this table is higher than the total number of refugees fleeing Ukraine presented above since it also takes into account people crossing the border between Romania and Moldova.
3. Government expenditure on education as % of GDP (%) for 2020 data is from 2019.
4. Pre-school and secondary education numbers are presented in hundred (100) and Tertiary level is mentioned in absolute number.
5. For 2005 and 2010, data are used from 2000 for secondary level due to unavailability of data at UIS database and secondary level disaggregated data is not available before 1999.