

Coronavirus Disease - COVID 19

Situation Report No. 26 (30 July 2020)



COVID-19
RESPONSE



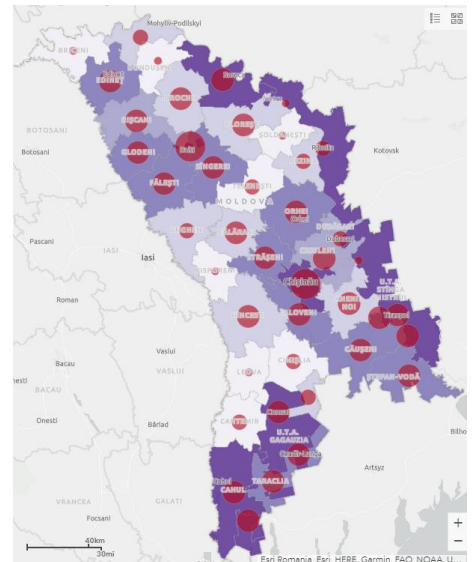
This report is produced by UN Moldova in collaboration with Government and development/humanitarian partners.

Highlights – data as reported by national authorities

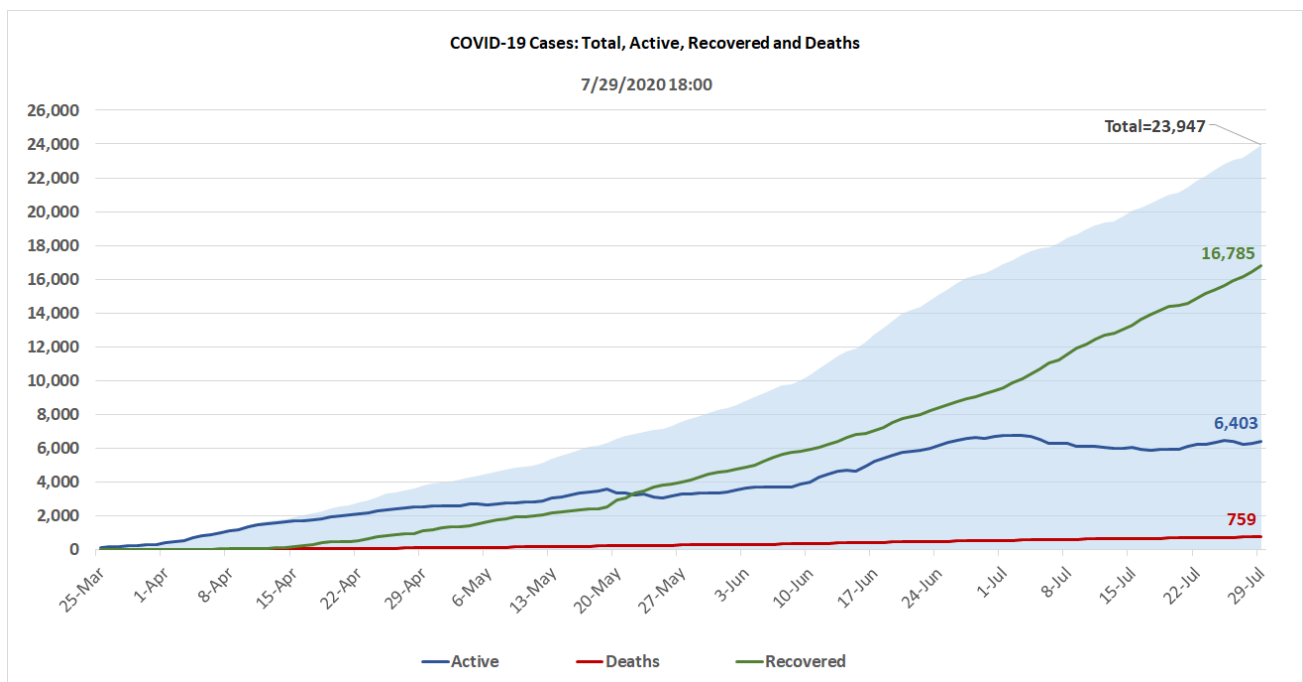
Data as at 30/07/2020, 12:00 p.m.

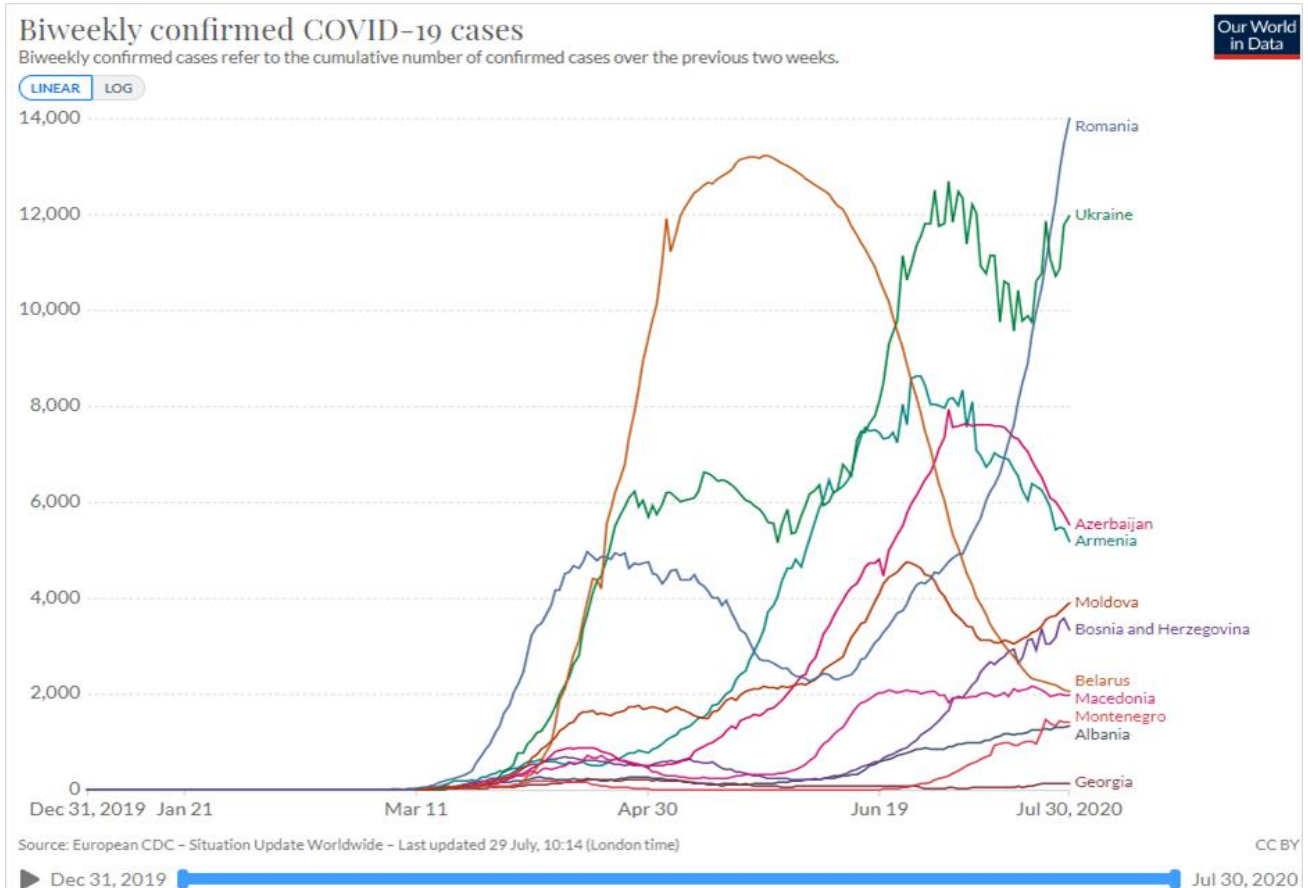
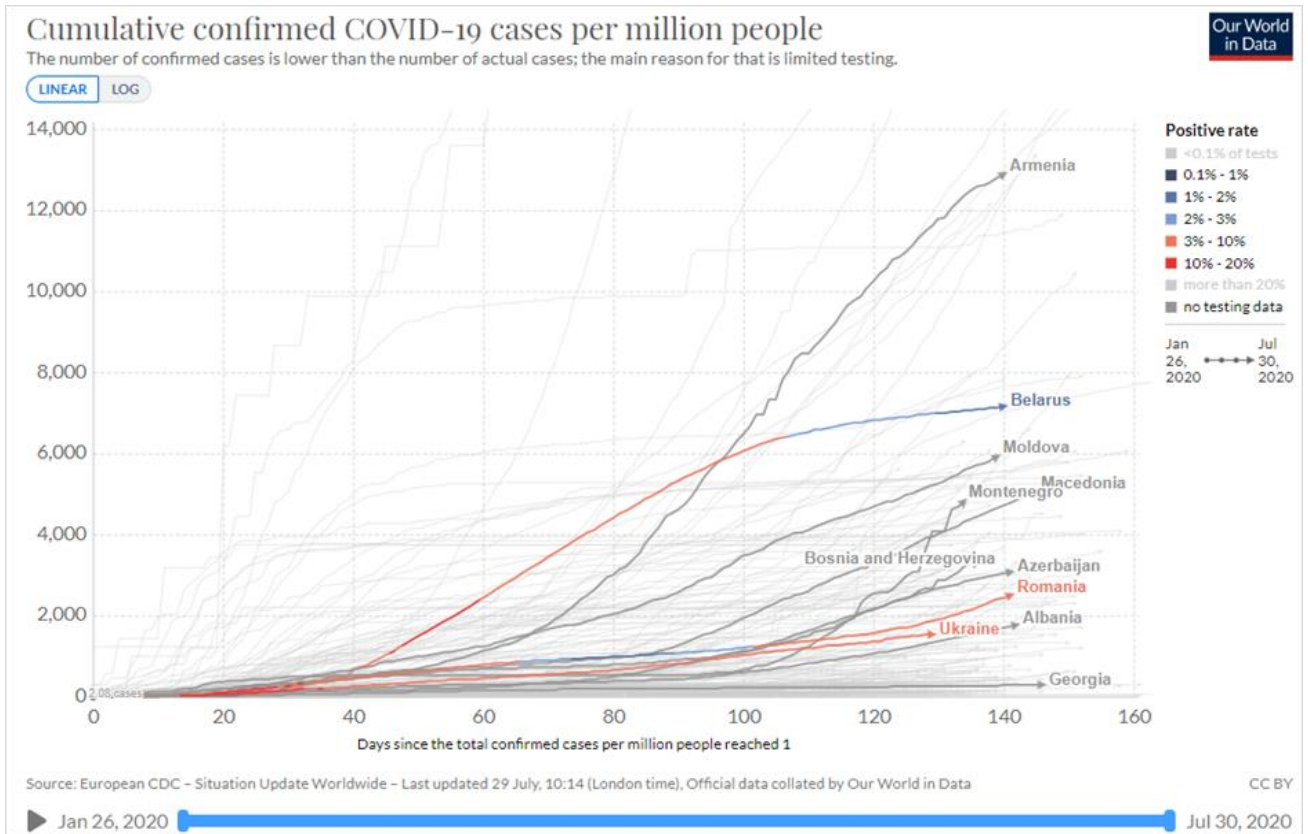
*Figures marked with an asterisk and charts as at 29/07/2020, 6:00 p.m., to ensure consistency in reporting

- The number of confirmed cases continued to grow over the past week, with the average number of daily cases during the last seven days reaching 307, which is about 55 cases more per day compared to the same figure last week. Yesterday saw the third highest number of daily cases (426) since the beginning of the outbreak. The total number of cases now stands at 23,947;
- The overall crude cumulative incidence of cases per 100,000 stands at 689 - one of the highest in Europe and in the region. The crude cumulative incidence of cases over the last seven days is 62 and over the last 14 days is 112, with both of these figures registering an increase over the past week. Although Moldova has seen a significant increase in cases over the past seven to ten days and remains at the top of the list in terms of the cumulative incidence of cases, some other countries in the region, such as Albania, Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Romania and Ukraine, have also seen considerable increases in cases over the same period, with a few of them, including Montenegro and Bosnia and Herzegovina, reporting an accelerated growth in the cumulative incidence of cases;
- The number of deaths continued to grow as well but at a somewhat slower pace, with another 27 deaths being reported since the beginning of this week, including the three deaths reported this morning. The average number of daily deaths reported over the past seven days is 6.7*, which is lower compared to the 7.6 figure reported last week. The total number of deaths reached 762. The case fatality rate decreased slightly and stands at 3.2%*. The average age of patients who have died from the disease is 66.1, with more than 90% of all deaths having been reported in patients 50 years of age and older;
- Weekly figures show some concerning developments regarding the evolution of the pandemic in the country. With 2,054 new cases reported, last week saw a significant - 29% - increase in the number of new cases compared to the previous week. The contagion rate (R0) also increased for the third week in a row, reaching 1.17;

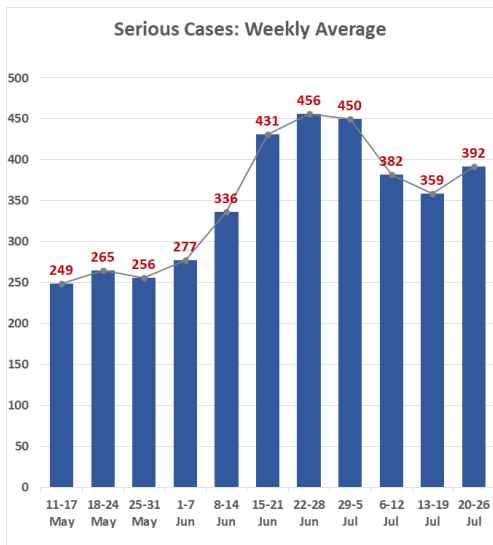
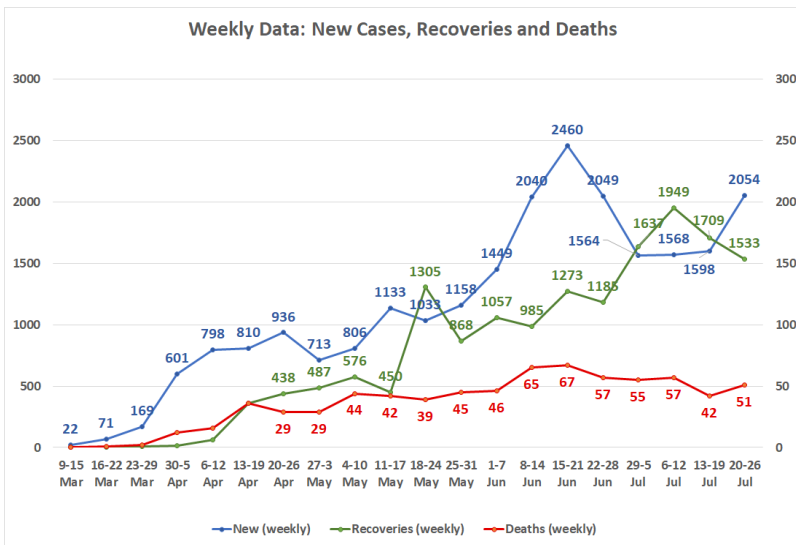
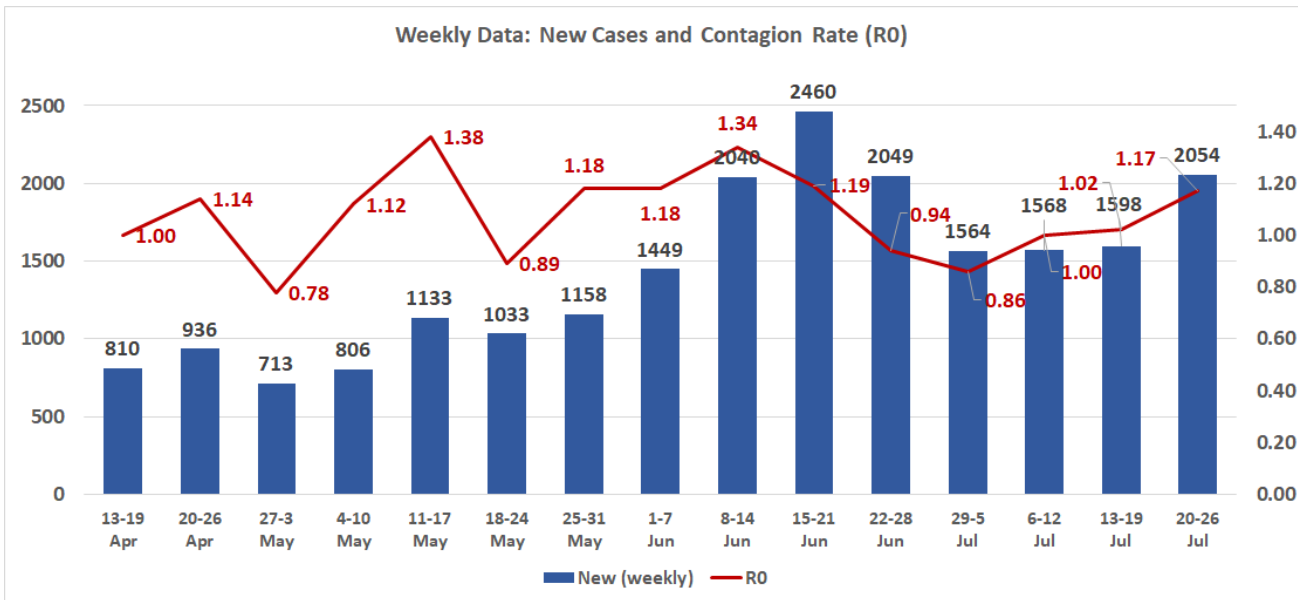
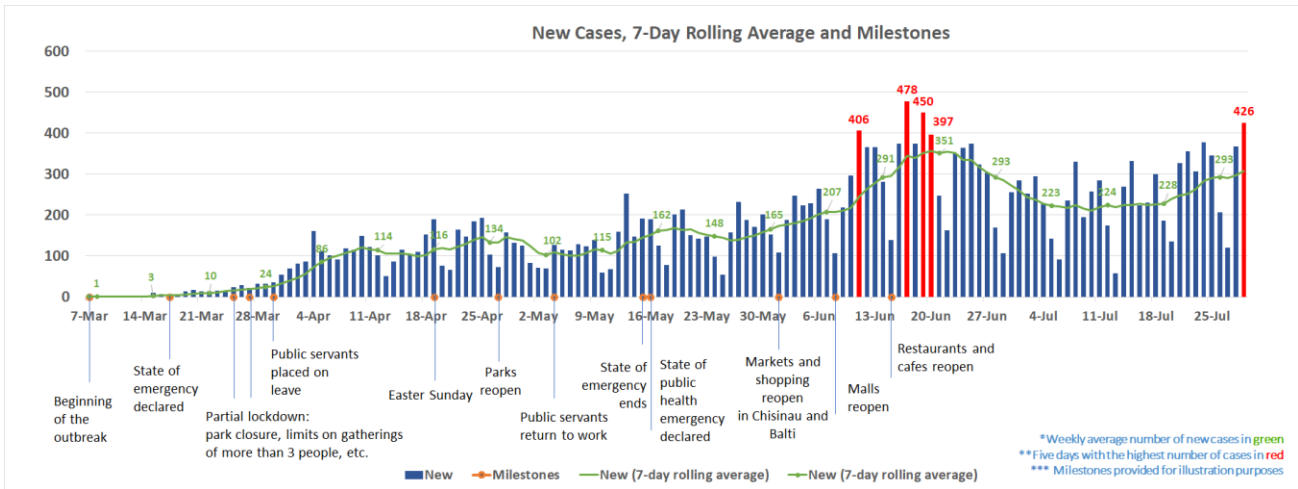


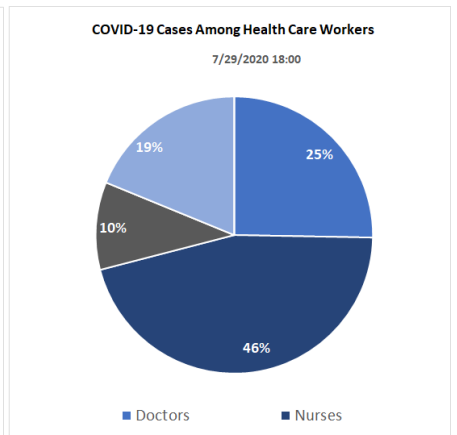
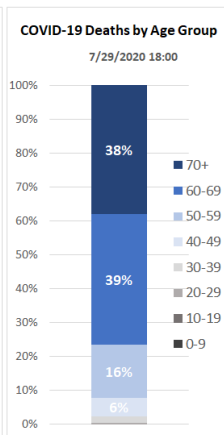
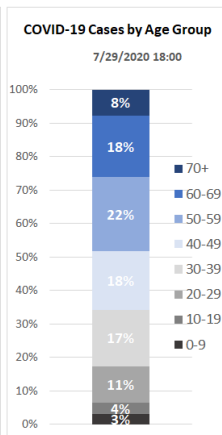
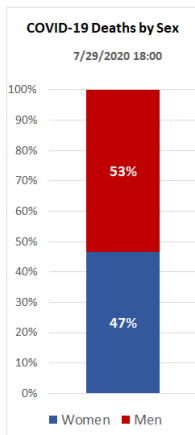
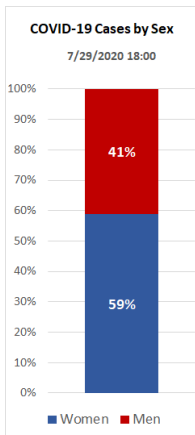
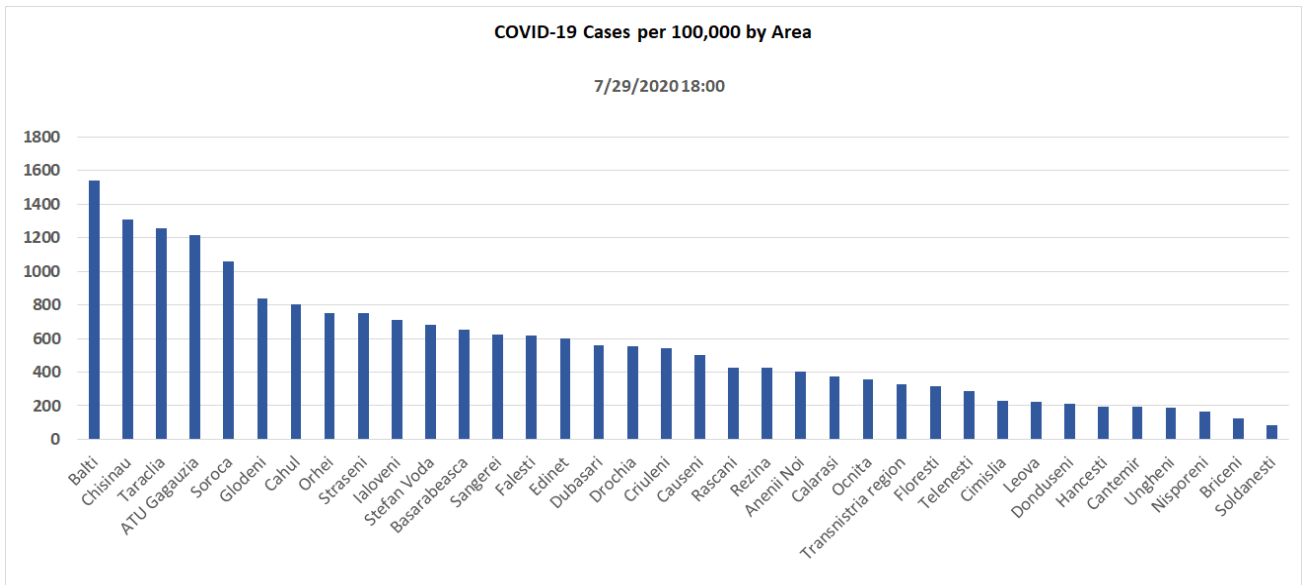
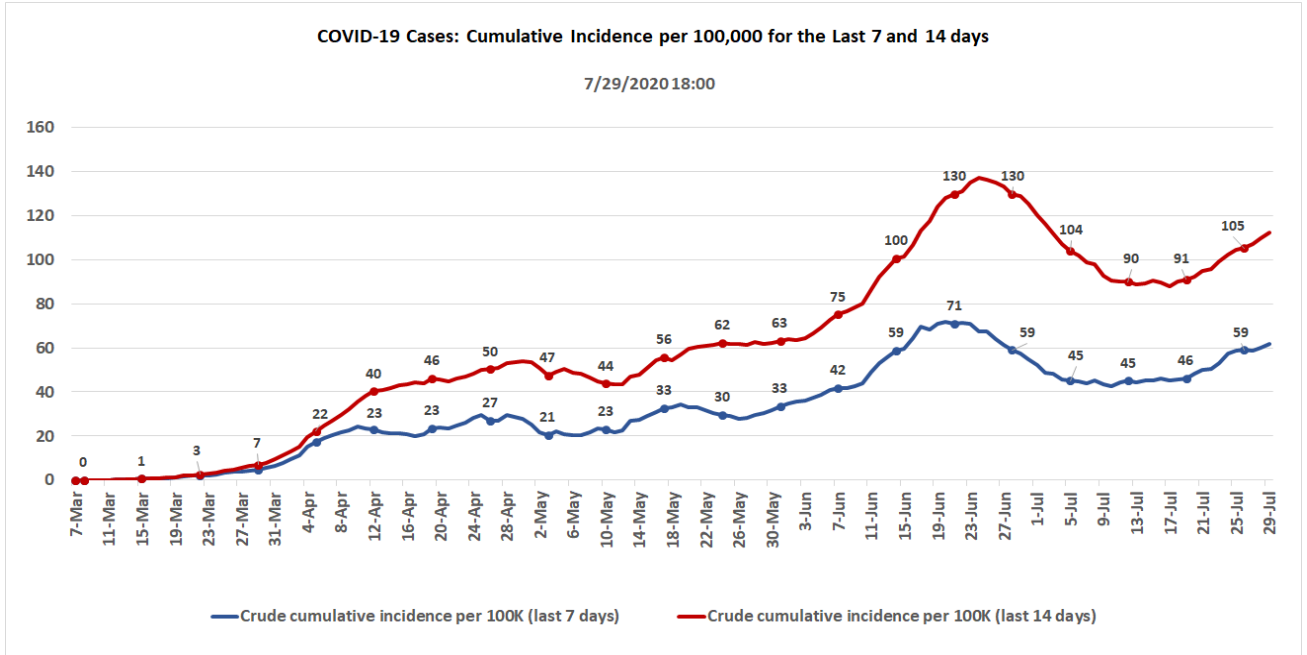
- The average number of serious cases increased to 392 last week (from 359 the previous week) and continued to increase further this week. The number of serious cases currently stands at 426, and the average number of serious cases over the past seven days is 418. The number of deaths also increased by 21% last week, with 9 more deaths being reported compared to the previous week;
- The number of recoveries continued to decrease for the second week in a row, with 10% less recoveries being reported last week compared to the week prior. Furthermore, for the first time in four weeks, the number of weekly recoveries fell behind the number of weekly cases. The total number of patients who have recovered from the disease currently stands at 17,040;
- The share of health care workers in the total number of cases remained at 13%. Over 3,100 doctors, nurses, medical assistants and other staff from the health care sector have been infected with the virus since the beginning of the outbreak;
- In terms of geographical distribution, Chisinau, with now 36% of all confirmed cases, remains the most affected area if the number of cases is considered. ATU Gagauzia, Balti and the Transnistria region follow in the list of most affected areas, accounting for 6-7% of all cases each. Cahul, Soroca, Orhei, Ialoveni and Straseni account for another 3-4% of all cases each. Overall, more than two in three cases are from the areas mentioned above. If the size of the population is considered, Balti, Chisinau, Taraclia, ATU Gagauzia and Soroca, in the order listed and all with more than 1,000 cases per 100,000, have been most affected by the disease;
- More women continue to be infected with the virus than men, 59% vs. 41%. However, the percentage of men who have died from the disease is higher than that of women, 53% vs. 47%. Furthermore, the case fatality rate among men is higher than among women, 4.1%* vs. 2.5%*;
- Real time figures and graphs can be accessed [here](#) in Romanian and in Russian [here](#). This site has more than 1.90 million views to date.





Source: Our World in Data, <https://ourworldindata.org>. *Some differences may exist between the data included in the charts above and the data mentioned in the rest of this section because of the difference in the population number used in the calculations.





Overview of Key Decisions & Announcements

- The Extraordinary National Commission on Public Health met on 24 July and agreed to extend the Public Health Emergency to 31 August. The decision was taken in the context of an increasing number of cases, an increase in the contagion rate (R0) for the third week in a row, with the number reaching 1.17 last week, and the other worrying trends as per the statistics above;
- From next week the United Nations Sitreps will be issued on Fridays. UN Moldova situation reports can all be accessed on the [UN Moldova Webpage](#) and on [ReliefWeb](#).

Update on Restrictions*

***these are subject to changes and amendment and should be viewed as an overview and not as a definitive source for decision making**

- All restrictions on movement and presence in public spaces, operation of economic entities are extended through 31 August 2020. The full list of provisions agreed by the Extraordinary National Commission on Public Health can be found here in [Decision 21](#) of 24 July;
- The PM has not discounted reintroducing some restrictions if the epidemiological situation continues to worsen.

Political Situation

- The local civil society organization, Promo LEX issued a report that highlighted that, for the first time since 2014, the number of voters in the State Voter Registry (RSA), as of July 2, 2020 had decreased. On the other hand, the number of Moldovan voters living in Transnistria and those without a residence, including those who have emigrated, has increased. The report further stated that the organization was concerned the government has not been actively updating information on about 15 percent of voters. This issue would need to be addressed ahead of the upcoming presidential elections;
- PAS and PPDA held a protest at the Supreme Court of Magistrates headquarters to criticize the appointment to the Supreme Court of Justice and the Chisinau Appeals Court of corrupt judges. PAS accused President Dodon of pushing for these appointments;
- The Democratic and Socialist MPs met with President Dodon and premier Chicu to discuss the situation in the country, including the crisis in agriculture and protests from farmers. Mr. Chicu said authorities have already found 250 million lei in subsidies for farmers.

Security

- NTR.

Transnistria Region

- On Tuesday, July 28, President Dodon met the de facto leader Krasnoselsky at the state residence in Condrita. During the meeting, Krasnoselsky announced that the makeshift posts in the Security Zone would only be removed once the number of the coronavirus cases drops. He stated that out of the 31 temporary posts only 11 remained. President Dodon, in turn, announced that the discussion touched

upon the outstanding issues from the Berlin-plus package, including the telecommunication, as well as cooperation in the banking sector. Human rights issues were also included in the meeting agenda. Specific agreements have been reached to advance the issues related to the telecommunication, criminal cases and banking. President Dodon also expressed his support for the initiative of international partners to launch the Bender-Varnita trolleybus line – a new confidence-building measure to promote the freedom of movement. The meeting was held in a one-on-one format followed by discussions in an extended format with the participation of the two Chief Negotiators and other relevant experts. The Special Representative of the Albanian OSCE Chairperson-in-Office, Ambassador Thomas Mayr-Harting welcomed the July 28 meeting between Moldovan President and the de facto leader;

- As of July 30, the Operational Headquarter in Tiraspol has reported a total number of 1,520 cases of COVID infections. Out of this total number 1,274 or 83% have recovered and 54 persons or 3,5% have died. Overall a total number of 19,000 tests (both primary and secondary) have been performed so far. Local TN region healthcare institutions face a lack of blood that is needed to both address the “regular” needs of the population as well as for the highly complex cases of COVID. According to the decision of the de facto leader, healthcare personnel working with COVID 19 patients will get additional financial support, during the period of the pandemic;
- The Joint Military Command reported that Tiraspol has removed 15 out of the 37 illegal makeshift posts that had been installed in the Security Zone during the pandemic. Among these are six makeshift posts around the North district of Bender, three makeshift posts from Merenești-Tiraspol, as well as posts in Proteagailovca, Hirbovaț, Dzerjinscoie, Pohrebea, Cosnița and Dorotcaia. According to the Bureau for Reintegration Policies, and in line with a recent decision of the Joint Control Commission, military observers will inspect the remaining posts;
- Preparations for the election campaign for the de-facto Supreme Council have begun on the left bank. The de-facto elections shall be organized in December of this year. Last year, the number of de facto MPs was reduced from 43 to 33;
- According to the de-facto authorities, during the first half of 2020, remittances have registered a six-year high, with a total of 53 M USD transferred by end of July. The breakdown for remittances is the following Russian Federation – 30,3 M USD (57.1%), Israel – 4,6 M USD (8.7%), United States – 2,6 M USD (4.8%), Germany – 2,5 M USD (4.6%), Italy – 2.4 M USD (4.4%).

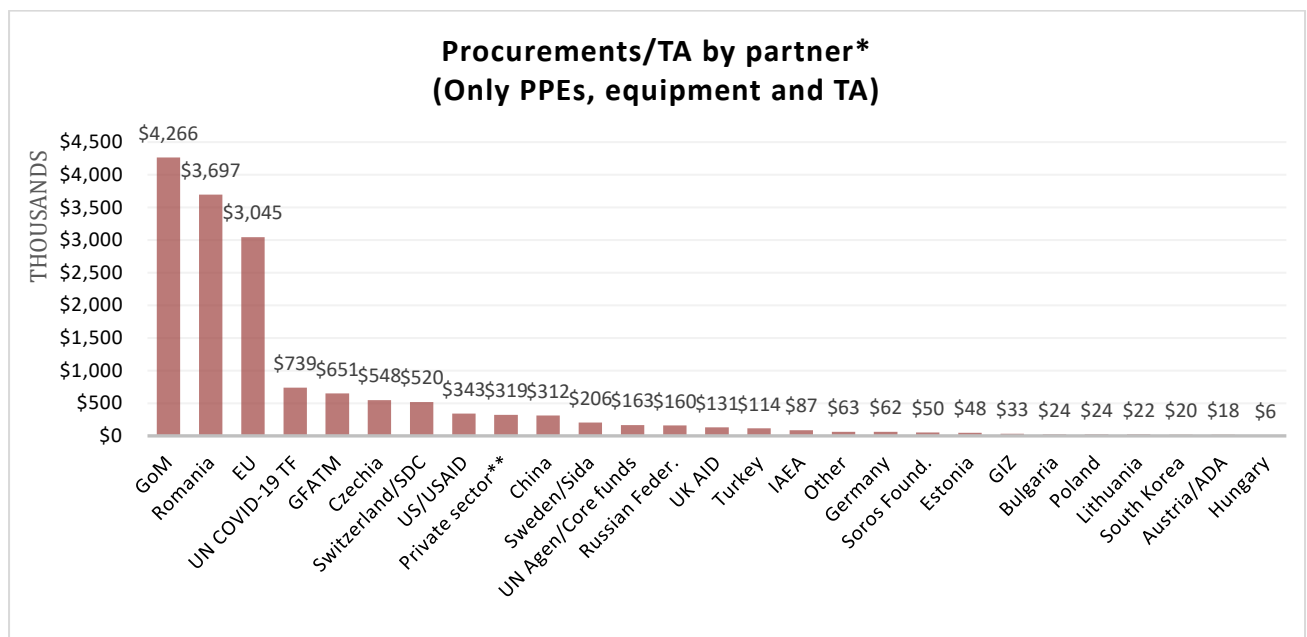
Economic Update

- The ILO and EBRD, supported by the European Union under the EU4Business Initiative, have further advised SMEs on ways to wade through the current crisis and preserve a reliable employment relationship. The information campaign this week covered available social dialogue-based solutions for both enterprises and workers to survive and sail safely these turbulent times. Examples have been provided on how social dialogue has been used across the region to respond to SMEs needs and practical discussions on the Moldovan case have been held;
- FAO and Moldova hosted an on-line Conference of agriculture ministers from Belarus, Moldova and Romania dedicated to the COVID-19 impact on Agri-food Production and Trade in the region. The ministers exchanged policy measures taken in the support of farmers and maintaining food supplies considering additional climate adverse phenomena from the last months. FAO provided an overview of

negative effects of COVID-19 outbreak on food chains in the region and proposed a set of policy recommendations. Ministers presented the assessment of major impacts on agriculture and food systems in their countries and shared the economic, fiscal as well as technical response measures implemented during this short-term period. Representatives of the International Organizations such as EBRD and IFAD also attended the meeting and supported the recommendations identified during the discussion. The meeting contributed to a better understanding of how lockdown measures affected the economy, agricultural production, and trade in the three countries and the region. It made obvious that the pandemic had implications on food chains, in particular the hotel, restaurant and catering sector, and also created transportation constraints, input price increases, as well as liquidity shortage for farmers, processors, and traders. At the same time, the main result of the event was identification and discussion of joint initiatives on responding to COVID-19 impacts on agriculture and food systems in the participating countries and for the region.

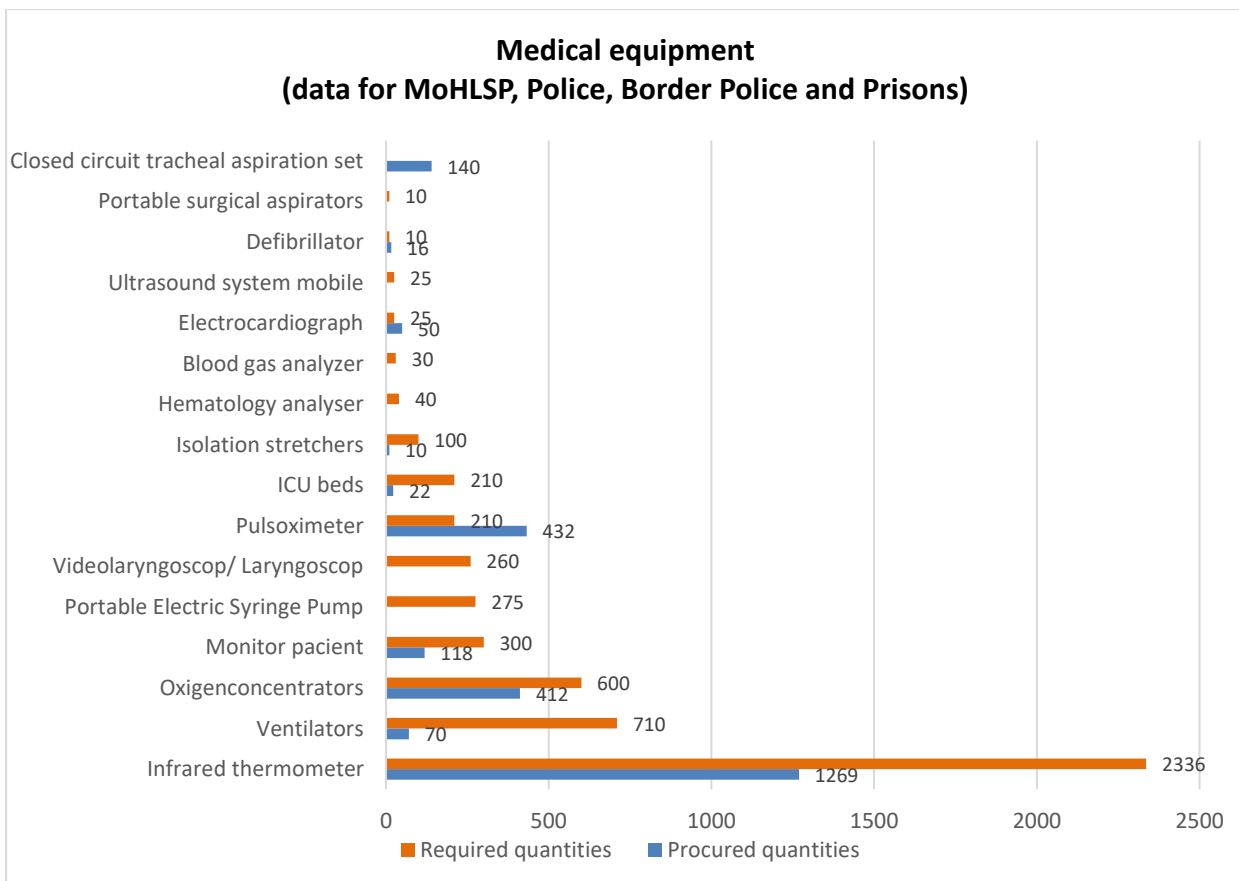
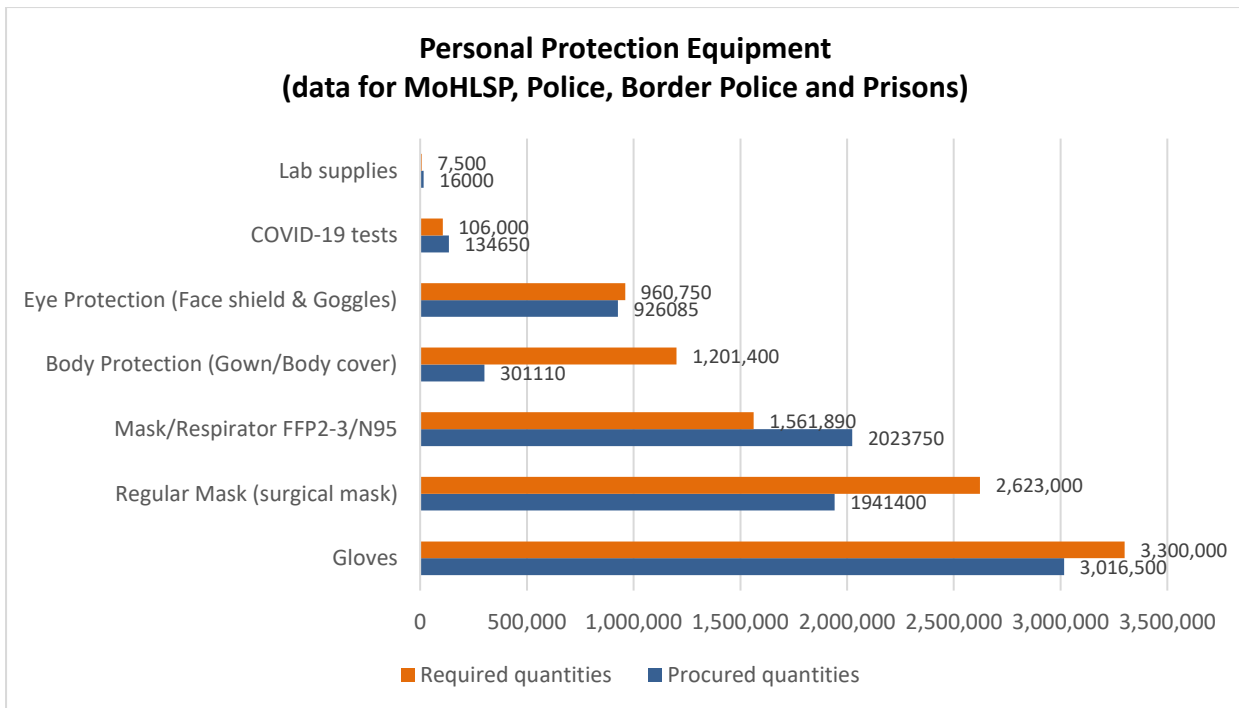
Aid Coordination

Mapping of contributions to the Health System for COVID response in Moldova



*Note - data only for contracted/procured items. Committed and/or pledged contributions are not reflected. Data are captured from various sources, i.e. media and may not be accurate. The process of reflecting donors/contributions is ongoing, and data is updated once details of procured items are confirmed. For more information please send an email to veaceslav.palade@un.org and/or garami@who.int

** Private sector companies: Orange Moldova, Lisedfarm SRL, Moldretail Grup SRL, Kaufland, Moldcell Moldova, Starnet SRL, Gedeon Rihter, Farmacia Familiei SRL, Svibmagtex SRL, Miso Textile SRL, Zernoff SRL, Aromcom SRL, Art Vest SRL, Dita Est Farm SRL, Tetis International Co SRL, Rihpangalfarma SRL, Sonaris Com SRL



Development Partners who are supporting the Covid-19 response are invited to share information about their bilateral support with the Center asistenta.covid19@gov.md. The UN will continue to work in close cooperation with the Center in order to avoid duplication of efforts. Focal person in RCO: laura.fiorotto@un.org

WHO Partnership Platform <https://covid-19-response.org/> All partners are invited to participate so that contributions can be mapped and the requirements kept up to date.

Response of UN System in Moldova

Procurement support and equipment

- As part of the commitment of the [United Nations Population Fund \(UNFPA\)](#) to support public institutions in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic, all 44 Youth Centres from districts and rural areas of the country received a consignment of protection products and disinfectants for youth workers, to prevent COVID-19. A total of 2,420 reusable masks, 46 infrared thermometers, 585 liters of disinfectants and 666 packs of wet wipes with alcohol to disinfect the working surfaces within youth centers, as well as 324 liters of liquid soap were donated to the network of youth centers. The action takes place under the [Joint Fund for Developing Youth Centers and Strengthened Participation and Civic Engagement of Young People in the Republic of Moldova](#), set up by the Ministry of Education, Culture and Research, the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation and the United Nations Population Fund;
- WHO, with the financial support from the EU, delivered on Thursday, July 23, 2020, over 62,000 units of personal protective equipment, goggles, gowns, medical masks and respirator masks N95. The equipment was handed over to district hospitals and primary care institutions in ATU Gagauzia: Comrat, Ceadâr-Lunga and Vulcănești districts. The donation is part of the first tranche of the assistance package (one of the largest shipments of PPE - 1.5 million pieces) offered by the European Union to support the government efforts to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. More protective equipment is expected to be delivered, including 330,000 gloves, and medical devices including 356 oxygen concentrators, 41 patient monitors, 40 ventilators, 215 pulse oximeters, 1,500 kits for laboratory tests, and 12,000 kits for samples, with a total value of 2.8 million EURO;
- As part of the WHO and USAID joint activities of humanitarian and health care in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, on 28th of July 2020, 25 laboratory refrigerators and 12 water distillers were delivered to the National Agency for Public Health. The support offered aims to provide laboratory equipment and strengthen laboratory capacity to ensure continuity of diagnosis and biosafety requirements in the National Agency for Public Health laboratories, including those laboratories involved in the diagnosis of COVID-19 infection using molecular biology techniques. Modern laboratory refrigerators will allow the safe storage of biological samples collected for testing at COVID-19, including other laboratory samples, as well as reagents for molecular biology techniques. Distillers for water purification will ensure the water quality when reconstituting the reagents, thus ensuring the laboratory procedures according to the requirements. The donation value exceeds 60,000 USD. The USAID and WHO donation for the national network of laboratories reached all Public Health Centers in Moldova;
- UNICEF, as part of the UN COVID-19 Response and Recovery Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MPTF) project "Strengthening the national response of the Republic of Moldova to the COVID-19 Crisis" will hand over a batch of 9 tons in protective equipment, i.e. gloves, surgical masks, FFP2 / N95, gloves, gowns, and goggles. The batch, representing approximately half of the equipment purchased within this project, is currently being transported by truck from Copenhagen to Chisinau.

Assessments and Data

- **EVAW Rapid Assessment:** UN Women has finalized the rapid assessment of the response to cases of Domestic Violence/GBV under the crisis (COVID-19). The main scope of the assessment is to: (1) To identify the victims' needs in the crisis situation; (2) To evaluate the systemic response to cases of violence against women under the situation of crisis. Key findings of this assessment include: the financial challenges that were exacerbated by COVID affected their well-being women survivors of violence; accommodating victims of domestic violence with children in rented emergency apartments was a double challenge, which had to be faced by both women and the specialists who monitored them; the restrictions imposed created difficulties in accessing services, and the suspension of public transport limited the possibility for women affected by domestic violence to travel and seek the help of the competent institutions, among others. The Assessment suggest a set of recommendations such as: identifying a viable, institutional testing mechanism free of charge; ensuring the accommodation needs of victims of domestic violence and appropriate triage spaces; ensuring the availability and diversification of services, with an emphasis on the needs of victims; consolidation of organizational resources and endowment with necessary technical means. The report will be disseminated widely in the coming days;
- UNDP, in partnership with UNFPA and PWC, and close collaboration with the UN System agencies, finalized the Report on Initial Socio-Economic Impact of COVID-19 on vulnerable groups and sectors. The Report was presented to the Socio-Economic Task Force on 29 July. The next phase of the socio-economic impact assessment will be the 'deep dive' data collection to research in depth impacts of COVID-19 on prioritized (most effected) vulnerable groups and economic and social sectors.

Socio-Economic Support

- UN Working Group on the UN Socio-Economic Response, co-chaired by the RCO and UNDP, is working to finalize the updated version of the Socio-Economic Response and Recovery Plan, based on latest evidence on socio-economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Health

- As part of the "[EU4Moldova](#) Focal Regions" project, UNICEF started the distribution of PPEs to primary health care facilities in Cahul and Ungheni. A specific batch of 2,000 waterproof gowns and 1,600 disposable non-woven protective suits for more than 580 frontline healthcare workers from more than 100 primary healthcare units, purchased from EU funds, are being provided to the primary healthcare centers in Ungheni and Cahul districts;
- UNDP is supporting the General Inspectorate for Emergency Situations to have an enhanced response to the increased number of Covid cases through establishment of the regional triage centers throughout Moldova with financial support from the Government of Estonia.

Education and youth

- As part of a USAID project, UNICEF started the distribution of hygiene supplies and materials to 15 boarding and special schools where children stay during COVID-19. The schools were identified in consultation with MECR and the package of supply was developed in consultation with the management of the respective schools;

- UNICEF Education Team participated in the “CopingWithCOVID webinar: Conversation with youth with Disabilities: organized by UNICEF, UN Office of Youth Envoy and WHO as part of the series of webinars “[CopingWithCOVID: A webinar series on young people and mental health](#)”, focused on conversations with youth with disabilities. The webinar presented a good example of provision of sign language translations in different languages during the session;
- UNICEF led the regular UN Coordinated Education Task Force for COVID-19, which focused on the members’ joint working paper on education in the context of COVID-19 pandemic, the draft MECR Regulations on the organization of the school year 2020-2021, the UNICEF ECARO document “Building Resilient Education Systems beyond the COVID-19 Pandemic: Considerations for education decision-makers at national, local and school levels”, as well as on a further review of main needs of the education sector and main support provided by the UN Agencies and the WB to MECR to address the challenges and effects of COVID-19 on education.

Gender

- **Support to Local and District Women Councilors:** UN Women finalized delivery of the first module of capacity building for over 200 women local and district councilors at first mandate on gender equality, human rights and good governance. Women councilors are expected to apply the knowledge and skills gained in their day – to –day activities of their roles and responsibilities as councilors. Also, with guidance from the coaches, councilors will compete on implementation of community-led initiatives on gender equality;
- **Engagement of Women Mayors:** Women mayors at their first mandate will discuss about the faced challenges and issues in the context of COVID-19 outbreak and will share the best practices to overcome the difficulties caused by the pandemic situation. A round table will take place on 31 July, organized by UN Women in partnership with Congress of Local Authorities of Moldova (CALM) and will aim at identifying the needs of women mayors at the first mandate in the context of COVID.

Human Rights

- On 28 July the meeting of the Superior Council of Magistracy took place. During the meeting several important decisions were taken. The Council approved the candidacy of Vladislav Clima as the chair of the Chisinau Appellate Court. This appointment comes after an extended period of the Court having no leadership. Vladislav Clima is known for being part of the panel of judges who invalidated the elections in Chisinau when Andrei Nastase won the elections in 2018. In the same meeting, the Council approved the candidacies for two leadership positions at the Supreme Court of Justice. Tamara Chisca -Doneva was appointed as the chair of the Civil , commercial and administrative litigation panel whereas Nadejda Toma will be proposed to the Parliament to be approved as the vice chair of the Supreme Court of Justice. The meeting of the Superior Council of Magistracy was accompanied by a flash mob against the appointment in leading positions of judges that are compromised. The public gathering was organised by Platform “DA” and “PAS” and not more than 20 people participated;
- The Parliament approved in the first reading the amendments to the Law on money laundering. According to the amendments the property that does not formally belong to those who are under investigation for money laundering will not be an object of special confiscation. While the appropriateness of the provisions that are to be included in the law can be subject of debate, the way the law was promoted in

the Parliament raised concerns among CSOs. Transparency International expressed its concern that it is not clear who is the author of this draft law and that the draft was not placed for public consultations.

Communications

- WHO is providing regular support, with EU, SDC and USAID funding, to MoHLSP and NAPH in emergency risk communication and community engagement activities and campaigns. To inform the public and mass media, a weekly e-newsletter on main news, interviews related COVID-19 is produced and widely disseminated;
- WHO, UN RCO and UNICEF are supporting the national communication groups of MoHLSP and NAPH in developing materials for kindergartens and schools;
- A joint WHO-EU [handover event](#) of personal protective equipment for healthcare facilities from UTA Gagauzia took place in Comrat;
- WHO, with EU support, finalized data collection for the first round of the Behavioural insights on COVID-19 in the Republic of Moldova. The analysis is going to be performed by WHO Regional Office from Europe and Erfurt University (Germany);
- WHO in partnership with UNHCR is working on a concept and series of products on a stigma campaign associated with COVID-19, targeting the general population and mass media;
- UNFPA in partnership with the Ministry of Education, Culture and Research organized a [media event](#) for the handover of PPEs to all 44 Youth Centers across the country. The event was LIVE broadcasted and extensively reported in the media by more than 15 outlets in both [Romanian](#) and [Russian, local](#) and [national](#) media, with the message that youth workers can deliver youth services in a safe and friendly environment. The donation takes place under the [Joint Fund for Developing Youth Centres and Strengthened Participation and Civic Engagement of Young People in the Republic of Moldova](#), set up by the Ministry of Education, Culture and Research, the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation and the United Nations Population Fund;
- UNFPA in partnership with the Ministry of Health, Labour and Social Protection resumed [“Stay Healthy. Do the PapTest”](#) national campaign for the prevention of cervical cancer adapted to COVID19 restriction measures. A [press release](#) was published and reflected in the [media](#). All women 25-61 y.o. are invited to make an appointment at the family doctor and plan the cytological test, which is free of charge and must be done once in three years. The [video spot](#) and the promo campaign [materials](#), including messages, were adapted to the Covid situation;
- UNFPA Regional Office published a human interest story about the initiative to connect older and young people in a dialogue to build resilience against the pandemic. [Young and old unite across generations during COVID-19 pandemic in Moldova](#);
- UNICEF continued to build upon the power of [public private partnerships within a joint initiative](#) with Premier Energy, that provided access to their clients base by distributing the leaflets on Covid-19 prevention to more than 85K of clients via e-mail;

- The [press release issued by UNICEF](#) on the donation of 105 laptops from GPE funds reached out to 39 media outlets, including online media, radio and TV. It was also shared on UNICEFs [facebook](#) and [Twitter](#);
- The UN, with the support of the Swedish Government, is supporting the Ministry of Health, Labor and Social Protection in developing a campaign to **fight the top FAKE NEWS** that are being spread fast threatening the efforts of authorities to stop the spread of the virus.
- UNDP has upgraded its COVID-19 response landing page undp.md/coronavirus, with [global overview](#), [national response](#) (including a subsection on socio-economic impact assessment, [governance](#), [social protection](#), [green economy](#), [digital transformation](#), [health](#) and [gender equality](#)), [COVID-19 projects](#) (automatically pulled from open.undp.org), [news](#), and [COVID-19 map in Moldova](#) (embeds the real-time tracker of COVID-19 cases in Moldova).