

Coronavirus Disease - COVID 19

Situation Report No. 29 (21 August 2020)

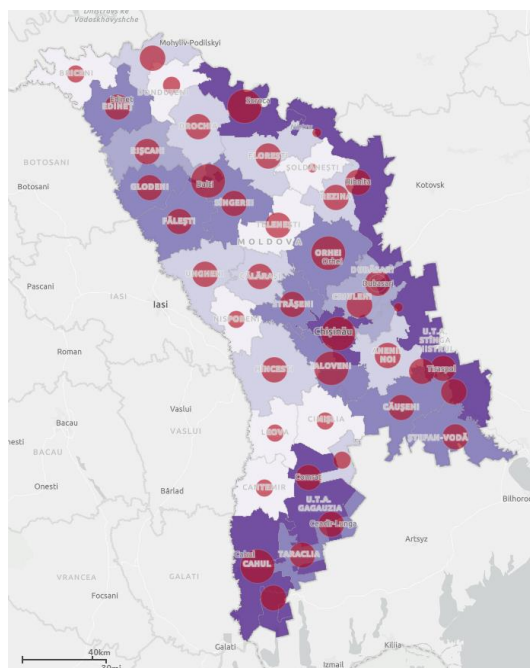


This report is produced by UN Moldova in collaboration with Government and development/humanitarian partners.

Highlights – data as reported by national authorities

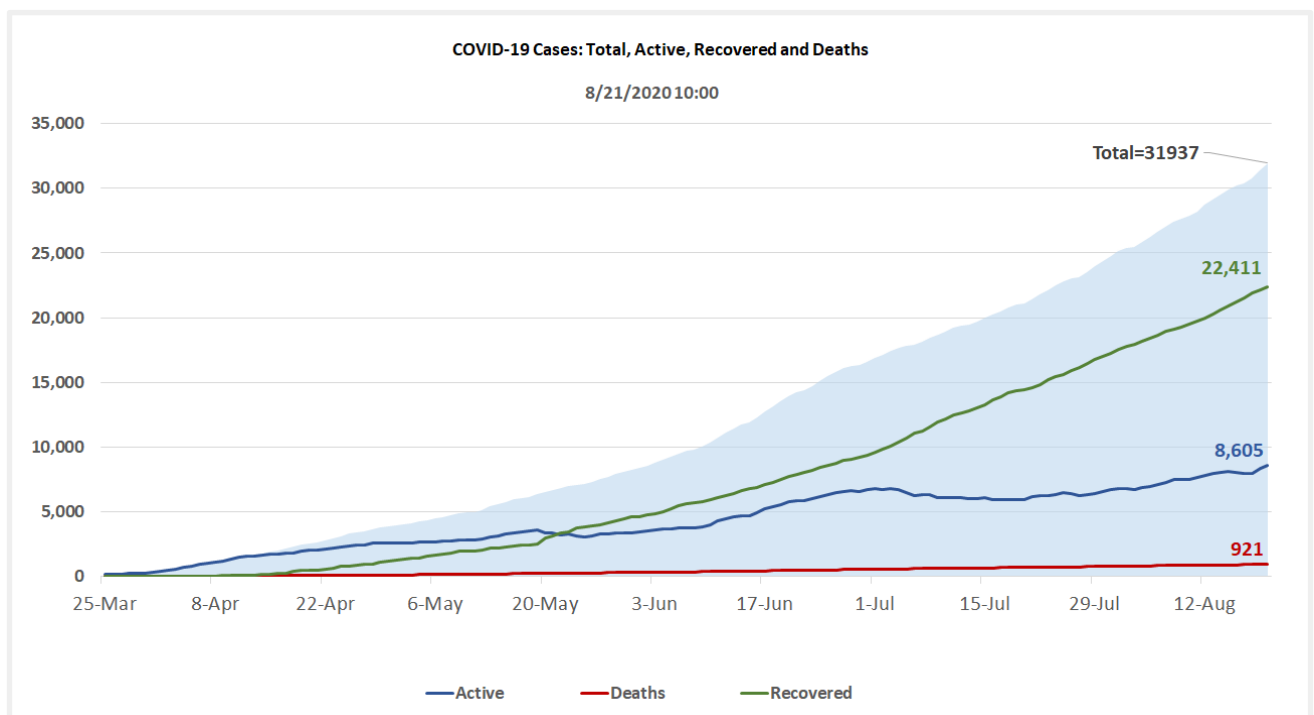
Data as at 21/08/2020, 10:00 a.m.

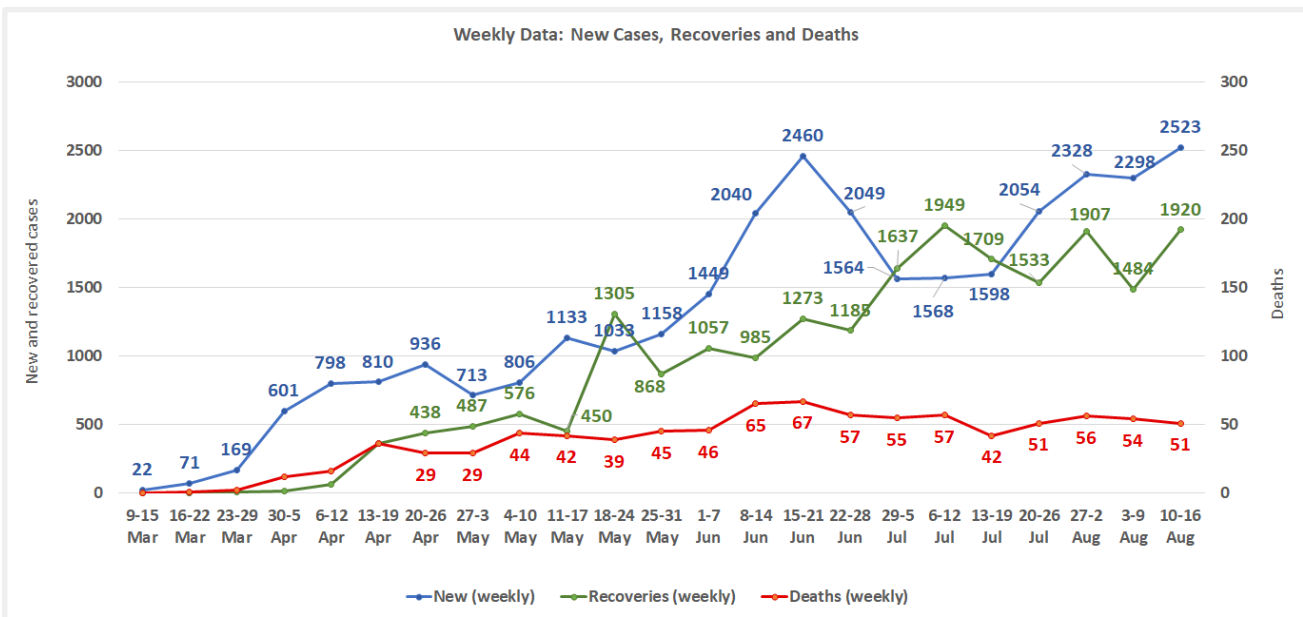
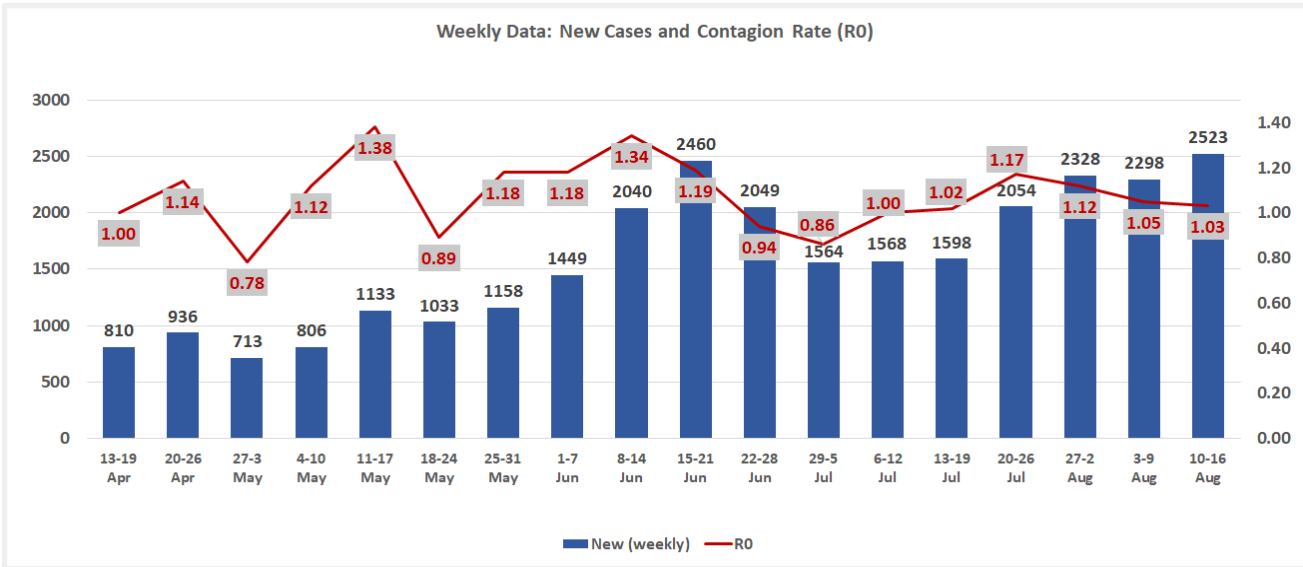
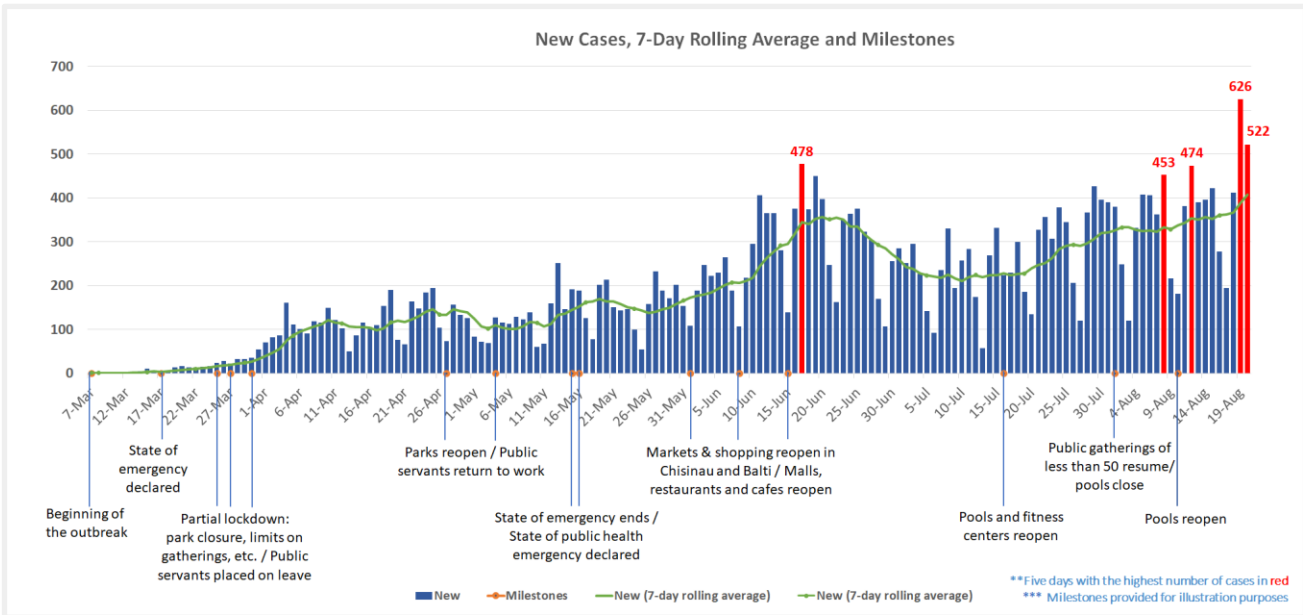
- The number of confirmed cases continued to grow over the past week, with a record-high number of new cases - 626 - since the beginning of the outbreak being reported this Wednesday, August 19. Another 522 new cases were reported yesterday, which is the second highest number of cases reported in a day. The average number of daily cases during the last seven days reached 407, which is 56 cases more per day compared to the same figure last week and another record-high figure since the pandemic reached the country in March. The total number of cases currently stands at 31,937. The total number of active cases continued its uptrend and now stands at 8,605, which represents 27% of all registered cases;

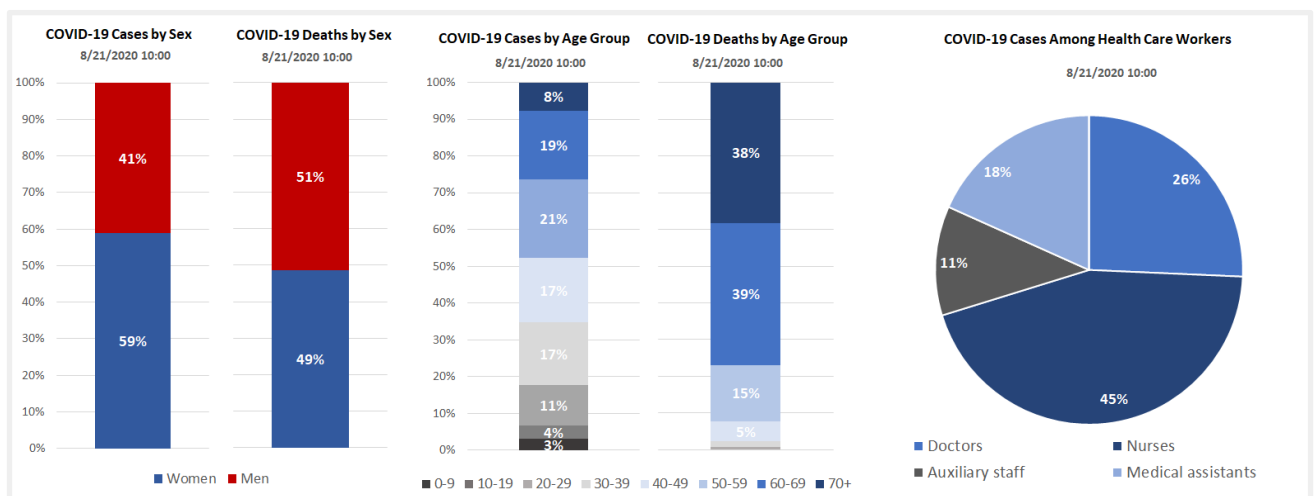
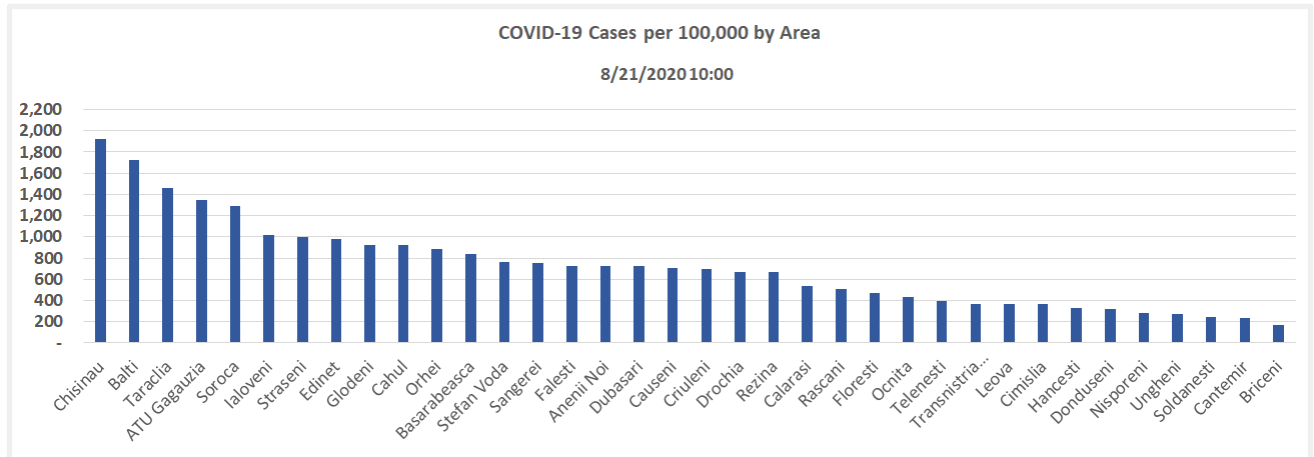


- The overall crude cumulative incidence of cases per 100,000 stands at 919 - one of the highest in Europe and in the region. The crude cumulative incidence of cases over the last seven days is 82 and over the last 14 days is 153, with both of these figures registering an increase over the past week;
- The number of deaths continued to grow but at a slower pace than in the previous few weeks. A total of 43 deaths were reported over the past seven days, with the average number of daily deaths over the same period being 6.14, which is lower compared to the 7.14 figure reported last week. The total number of deaths reached 921. The case fatality rate decreased further and now stands at 2.9%. The average age of patients who have died from the disease is 66.1, with about 92% of all deaths having been reported in patients 50 years of age and older;
- Weekly figures continue to raise further concerns regarding the evolution of the pandemic in the country. With 2,523 new cases reported, last week saw a 9.8% increase in the number of new cases compared to the previous week, continuing the uptrend that began in mid-July. The contagion rate (R0), nevertheless, decreased slightly last week and stands at 1.03 based on the latest data available;

- The average number of serious cases increased to 448 last week (from 440 the previous week) and continued to increase further this week, rechanging 473 over the last seven days. The number of serious cases currently stands at 444. The weekly number of deaths, however, decreased slightly last week compared to the week prior;
- The number of recoveries registered a considerable increase last week, with 29% more recoveries being reported compared to the week prior. Nevertheless, the number of weekly recoveries continued to trail the weekly number of new cases by about 600. The total number of patients who have recovered from the disease currently stands at 22,411, which represents 70% of all cases;
- The share of health care workers in the total number of cases dropped to around 12.1%. Over 3,800 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 40% 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% of all cases each. Sorooca, Cahul, Ialoveni, Orhei and Straseni account for another 3% 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, Chisinau remains the most affected area in the country, followed by Balti, Taraclia, ATU Gagauzia, Sorooca and Ialoveni. All of these areas have surpassed the 1,000-case mark per 100,000;
- 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 slightly higher than that of women, 51% vs. 49%. Furthermore, the case fatality rate among men is higher than among women, 3.6% vs. 2.4%;
- Real time figures and graphs can be accessed [here](#) in Romanian and in Russian [here](#). This site has more than 1.97 million views to date.







Overview of Key Decisions & Announcements

- An Extraordinary National Commission on Public Health meeting is tentatively scheduled for 21 August to discuss possible extension of the National Public Health Emergency;
- The [UN Moldova Covid-19 Response and Recovery Plan](#) is now also available in Romanian ([UN Moldova COVID-19 Planul De Actiuni Pentru Raspuns Si Redresare Socio-Economica](#)). The plan is currently being updated and the next version is planned for release in mid-September;
- The Extraordinary National Commission on Public Health agreed to the opening of private kindergartens starting 17 August;
- The Government COVID-19 emergency preparedness and response (COVID-19 EPRP) draft plan was developed and shall be approved by the Extraordinary Committee on Public Health scheduled for 20 Aug 2020.

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](#);

Political Situation

- The head of the IMF Moldova mission issued a press statement where they highlighted some concerns regarding the ongoing investigations of Victoriabank. “We take note of the Anticorruption Prosecutor’s indictment against Victoriabank and the recent court authorization to seize its assets in connection with the 2014 bank fraud investigation. It is critical to achieve tangible progress recovering assets from the 2014 bank fraud through an independent and comprehensive investigation and prosecution. Following the 2014 fraud, several important reforms have been taken to clean up and modernize Moldova’s banking sector, including Banka Transilvania’s entry into Victoriabank, in strategic partnership with the EBRD, which has been a major milestone. Hard-earned progress in this area should be protected.” The IMF further stated that it will be closely monitoring developments in the case, particularly with regards to potential implications for a new IMF supported program that will focus on strengthening rule of law. This statement follows a similar statement from EBRD that also expressed concern with the investigation;
- Farmers have been organizing road closures and other actions over the last week to protest against what they say is a lack of sufficient support from the government for the loss of crops due to inclement weather in the spring and summer. The Prime Minister stated that the government will approve a number of policies to help farmers. The policies include a simplified procedure for farming subsidies, a moratorium on state inspections until December 31, delaying debt payments for a year, simplifying ties with suppliers, decreasing the VAT for farming, and delaying debts for purchasing technology (about 200 million lei) for a year. The government also announced the allocation of 100 million lei in aid from the government’s Intervention Fund for farmers who incurred losses during the 2020 harvest because of natural disasters and a hike from 100 to 200 million lei from the National Fund to Develop Agriculture and the Rural Environment to help farmers and “ensure food security.” The budget allocations allow hikes in subsidies per hectare to 1,500 lei for fall wheat, 1,530 lei for barley, 2,100 for rapeseed, 1,620 lei for unplanted land, 2,000 for land covered by vegetables, and 3,000 lei for land covered by vines. The previous average subsidy was 1,000 lei.

Security

- NTR.

Transnistria Region

- The Operational Headquarter in Tiraspol reported that as of August 20 a total number of 1,748 cases of COVID. Out of the total number of infected patients 1,475 or 84.4% have recovered and 58 people or 3.32% have died;
- On August 10, WHO delivered EU-funded humanitarian assistance to the left bank healthcare institutions. The material assistance included surgical masks, respirators, protective gowns, and surgical glasses for doctors;
- The Reintegration Bureau announced the completion of six projects (worth a combined 1.6 million lei) that support the country’s reintegration. The projects focused on the installation of streetlights in

Molovata Noua, Dorotcaia, Boscana, and Balabanesti, the creation of a youth center in Malaiestii Noi, and repairs at the concert hall in the Ursoaia school. Another 36 projects will be implemented until the end of the year. A total of 42 projects worth 15 million lei were selected this year.

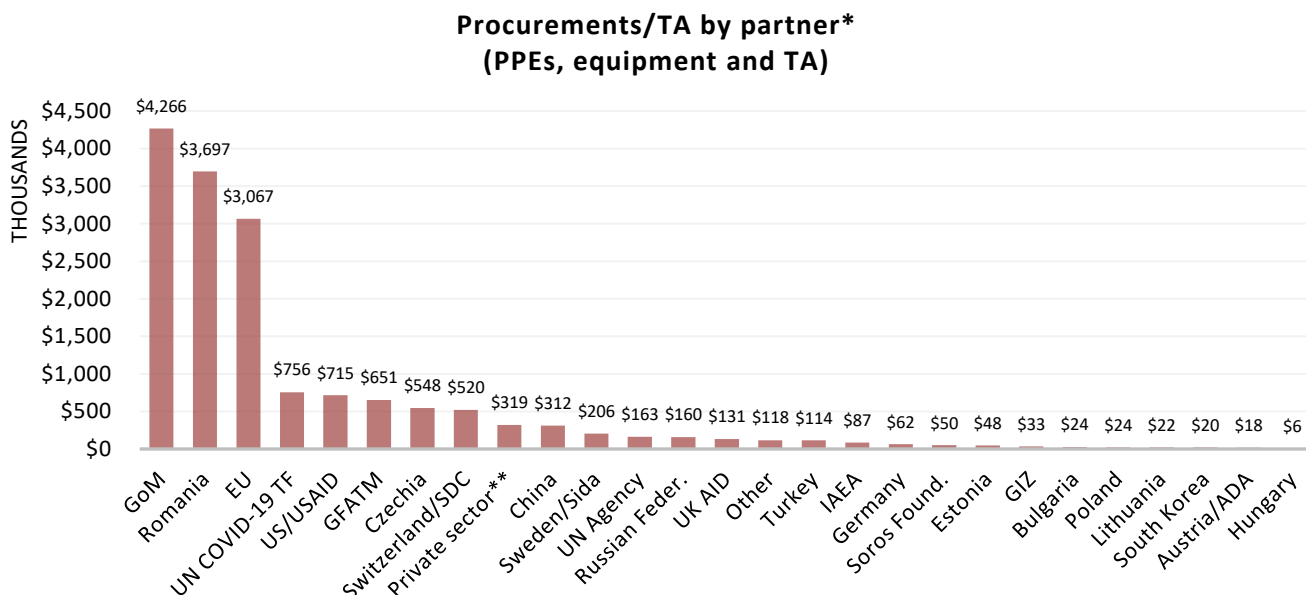
Economic Update

- According to the NBM, during the period of January-June'20 the volume of cash receipts in Moldova's banking system decreased by 10% compared to the same period 2019. By activity type, the reductions were registered from the transportation companies (-54.9%), taxes and duties (-33.9%), foreign currency sale to individuals (-29.8%), rent and utilities payments (-25.3%), from companies rendering services (-23.1%), from sale of consumer goods (-5.9%), other cash inflow (-3.5%), In the same period, there was observed 10.2% decrease in release of cash by all types of activities: procurement of agricultural goods (-26.7%), procurement of foreign currency from individuals (-20.3%), other payments (-7.3%), payments from current accounts or savings accounts of individuals (-2.5%), payments for salaries, wages, stipends, pensions, allocations, insurance payments (-0.4%);
- According to NBS, in July'20 producers prices increased by 1.9% compared similar period of 2019: extractive industry decreased prices by 0.3% in July'20 versus July'19, manufacturing industry increased its prices in July'20 by 2.9% versus July'19, while energy sector also decreased its prices by 10.7% in July'20 compared to similar period 2019. As for producers' prices by the Main Industrial Groups (aligned to the EU classification), in July'20 the capital goods industry increased prices by 0.8%, while the industry of current goods - by 0.2%, the industry of intermediary goods increased prices by 0.8% and industry of long-term goods increased prices by 0.1% versus June'20. At the same time, prices for goods (and services) related to the energy industry remained at the level of June'20;
- The NBS reported that in June'20 industrial production (seasonally adjusted series) declined by 9.1% compared to June'19 that was triggered by the decline in manufacturing industry (-9.1%) and in the production and supply of energy (-3.2%), while in the same period there was observed an increase in the extractive industry (+3.2%). Overall, in January-June'20 industrial production (seasonally adjusted series) decreased by 7.8% compared to the same period of previous year. In June'20 food processing registered growth of 9.7% (versus same period in 2019), while manufacturing industry on contrary, showed some decline: production of machinery and equipment (-46.9%), repairs and maintenance of equipment (-42.1%), production of vehicles (-42%), electrical devices (-38.4%), pharmaceuticals (-29.4%), textiles (-22%), beverages (-15%), paper & paper products (-10.9%) etc. Similar to the previous month's trend, in June'20 there was an increase in production of chemicals (+31.3%), processing of leather, fur and such other products (+6.6%), manufacturing of non-metal products (+1.9%) compared to the same period of 2019. In June'20 the energy sector showed an increase in industrial production by 6.4% due to an overall increase in production index by 0.5%;
- Moldova's government has announced the allocation of 100 million lei in aid from the GoM Intervention Fund to those farmers who incurred losses during the 2020 harvest because of natural disasters, and a hike from 100 to 200 million lei from the National Fund for Agricultural Development and Rural Environment to support farmers, but also to "ensure food security." The budget allocation allows hikes in subsidies per hectare to 1,500 lei for the fall wheat, as follows: 1,530 lei for barley, 2,100 for rapeseed, 1,620 lei for unplanted land, 2,000 for land covered by vegetables, and 3,000 lei for land covered by vines. The average previously offered subsidy was 1,000 lei. Prime-Minister Chicu said that "about 2,800 agricultural leaders, some of whom are blocking roads, will get an unplanned 300 million lei from the

budget, which were accumulated from taxes paid by all citizens. We have had several meetings with farming representatives in the country and at the government. We have agreed that the State will make an effort and increase subsidies from 1,000 to 1,500 lei per hectare.” The MARD’ estimates suggest that drought and hail have affected about 200,000 hectares of farmland. Most of this land had about 60 percent of its harvest affected, leading to about 1.2 billion lei in losses. The Agency for Payments and Interventions in Agriculture (AIPA) has received about 75 applications for subsidies worth 7.35 million lei. All farmers can apply for financial support until September 18, 2020.

Aid Coordination

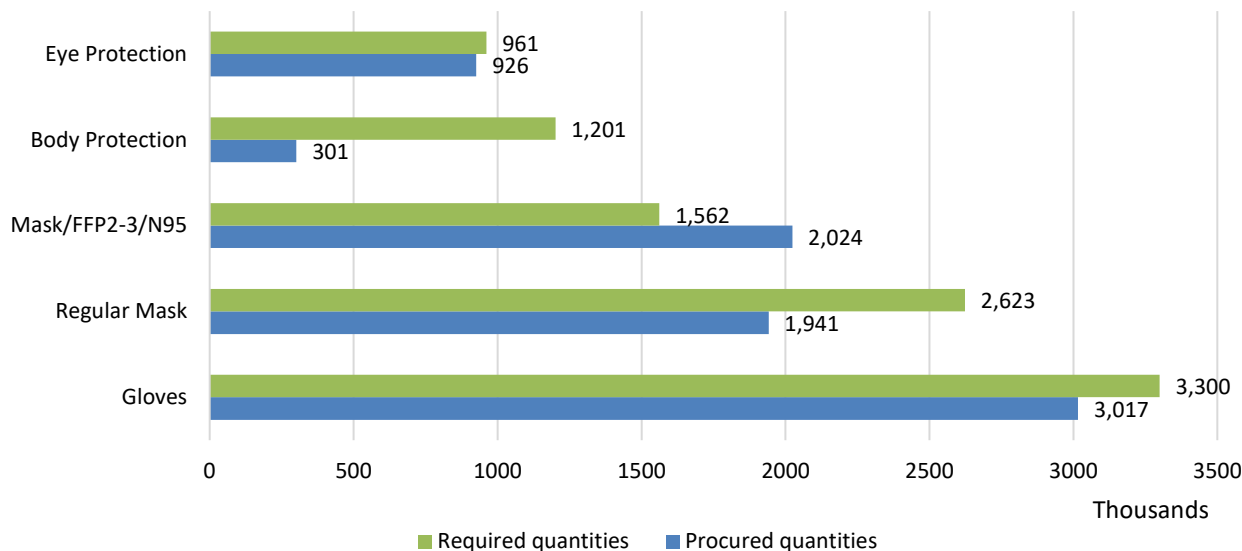
Mapping of contributions to the Health System for COVID response in Moldova



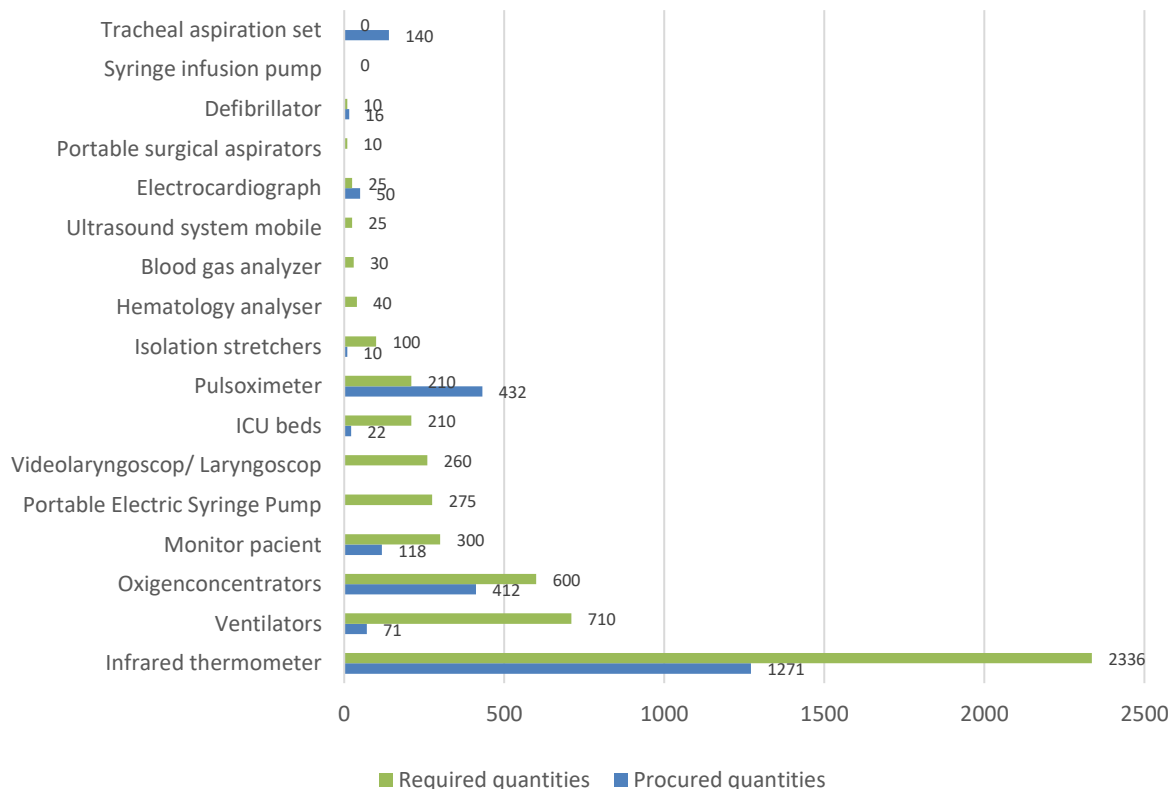
*Note - data only for contracted/procured items and technical assistance. Committed and/or pledged contributions are not reflected. Data are captured from various sources, i.e. media and may not be accurate. The process of reflecting donors/contributions is ongoing, and data is updated once details of 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

Personal Protection Equipment (data for MoHLSP, Police, Border Police and Prisons)



Medical equipment (data for MoHLSP, Police, Border Police and Prisons)



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

- UNICEF concluded the bidding process for hygiene supplies and sanitizers for preschools and schools (national coverage for the next 3-4 months), aiming to supply schools and kindergartens nationwide. These supplies, procured with USAID funds, will reach 22,7K classes and kindergarten groups by the start of the school year;
- UNICEF, with the funding from the UN COVID-19 Response and Recovery MPTF, delivered PPEs to frontline workers in the health sector and border police workers for a total of 40 cubic meters of PPEs with a total value of MDL 1.24M. The materials arrived by a truck from Copenhagen on 19 August'20. Another batch is expected to arrive on 24 August'20. Items: 100K surgical masks, 20K face shields, and 500K pairs of gloves. Out of the total batch, 20K masks and 80K pairs of gloves will be donated to the border police workers;
- UNICEF procured from its own core funding ten oxygen concentrators from its Supply Division in Copenhagen. The concentrators were brought to the Emergency Hospital in Chisinau by truck from Copenhagen on 19 August'20;
- WHO with the support from USAID, procured 13 autoclaves for the National Agency for Public Health laboratory network (10 regional laboratories, including national reference laboratory). On August 20, 2020, the supplies were delivered to the NAPH. The 13 autoclaves, in the amount of 116.870 USD, will ensure the biosecurity conditions in the context of infection waste management resulting from laboratory activity, including those involved in the diagnosis of COVID-19 infection;
- Arrival of one Set of Primers and Probes for Covid-19 Tests response from IAEA for the National Agency for Public Health from Moldova in amount of 6,140 Euro. UNDP supported for customs clearance and delivery arrangements to the Beneficiary.

Assessments and Data

- In 2018, the UN in Moldova, launched the Social Cohesion and Reconciliation (SCORE) index to better understand and measure social cohesion in Moldova. The SCORE found that the overall score for social cohesion in Moldova was 5.1 on a scale of zero to 10, where zero means that the society is extremely divided and 10 points to a highly cohesive context. This score indicates that the state of social cohesion in the country is fragile. In July 2020, the UN RCO launched a survey to measure the impact of COVID-19 on social cohesion. The survey was based on some of the key indicators from the SCORE index. Support for Gender Equity and Inclusion, the low levels of social tolerance, and the lack of contact and engagement between the different groups in society continue to be issues that are impacting on the wider social cohesion and need to be addressed;
- UNDP, in partnership with UNFPA, and close coordination with UN System agencies, will begin this week with data collection as part of the Socio-Economic Impact Assessment to collect more data on impact of COVID19 on vulnerable groups and sectors.

Socio-Economic Support

- The UN Socio-Economic Working Group has finalized the draft of the updated UN Socio-Economic Response and Recovery Plan (UN SERR Plan), which has been shared for review to selected national counterparts and development partners. The finalized version is expected by September 11;
- The UN Socio-Economic Task Force was held on Wednesday during which the revised version of the UN Socio-Economic Response Plan was presented and discussed with the taskforce members, some development partners and the representative from the Government entities: Deputy State Secretary of the State Chancellery, State Secretary of the Ministry of Economy and Infrastructure, State Secretary of the Ministry of Finance;

Health

The following support was provided by WHO:

- The public health indicators used for risk assessment were presented to representatives from the Ministry of Education in the context of schools and kindergartens re-opening and will be part of the COVID-19 EPRP;
- Additional pediatric beds and intensive care beds (units) will be re-purpose in two additional COVID-19 hospitals: in Comrat and Cahul;
- A face-to face training was conducted by WHO on the COVID-19 severe case management, for ~30 doctors and nurses from the Cahul district hospital;
- Four COVID-19 possible re-infection cases were presented and discussed with WHO RO and WHO HQ during on-line meeting;
- Criteria for releasing of COVID-19 patients from isolation was included in the updated National COVID-19 clinical case management Protocol;
- The draft of the National Clinical case management protocol – the 3rd version was finalized;
- Participation in the “Solidarity” clinical trial for COVID-19 treatments was confirmed by the MoHLSP, the national procedure for trial authorization are launched;
- The IT system on hospital sector capacities and resources monitoring and mobilization in case public health emergencies was initiated by the MoHLSP with support of WHO and is ongoing;
- The MoHLSP has continued distribution of personal protective equipment to hospitals and primary health care facilities on frontline of COVID-19 from the left bank of Nistru river. Clinical Hospital from Tiraspol initiated distribution of personal protective equipment to hospitals and primary health care facilities on frontline of COVID-19 from the left bank of Nistru river;
- The draft report on Laboratory (self-) assessment was developed;
- Re-engineering and digitalization of the surveillance system for communicable diseases was initiated by the National Agency for Public Health (NAPH) with support from WHO and is ongoing;

- The draft protocol and implementation of the serosurveillance study to measure population immunity to COVID-19 and cumulative age-specific incidence of infection in populations is at the final stage;
- The Public Health Emergency Operational Center refurbishment and endowment in the premises of the National Agency for Public Health was finalized. The SOPs and algorithms are in the process of development;
- UNFPA with support of SDC supported the Ministry of Health, Labor and social protection in increasing the capacities of primary health care doctors in ensuring the continuity of cervical cancer screening services in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. The training was based on the “Standard on organizing and functioning of the cervical screening services in the Republic of Moldova” and included the importance of continuity of cervical screening services delivery during public health emergency and provision of services respecting the mandatory measures for personal protection and prevention of the spread of COVID-19 infection;
- UNFPA and UNAIDS provided support to the MoHLSP in development of the “*Standard of organizing and functioning of HIV prevention services among key populations, including young key populations*”, including during COVID-19 pandemic. The document aims to ensure the quality of HIV prevention services and is based on the latest international recommendations and best practices related to the provision of the respective services – its provisions being applied in any context, including in case of any humanitarian crises, exceptional situations or public health emergencies. Link to document: [here](#).

Education and youth

- In the context of the new academic year 2020-2021, UNFPA supports the Ministry of Education, Culture and Research in organizing a training programme for medical staff, teachers and students from Vocational Education and Training. The training programme is organized in the period of 17 August - 3 September and aims at increasing knowledge and skills in ensuring the security of the educational process, early detection, and implementation of measures in the possible outbreak of SARS-CoV-19 virus infection;
- UNFPA and UNICEF are supporting the Ministry of Education, Culture and Research in developing youth friendly and age appropriate guides for students to equip students from general education and Vocational Education and Training with knowledge on safe behaviours for preventing infection with SARS-COV-19 virus in the new academic year 2020-2021. UNICEF is developing the student’s guide for the primary, lower and upper secondary education levels, to provide information and advice for students regarding the education process and the behaviour to be adopted in the context of the new school year in new COVID-19 conditions. The guide for VET will be developed by UNFPA;
- UNICEF is supporting the Ministry of Education, Culture and Research in developing guides for parents to increase their awareness on and equip them with knowledge about the prevention of COVID-19 in the context of school reopening;
- UNICEF, with USAID funds, will support the capacity building of didactical staff from schools and preschools on the application of protocols for COVID-19 and infectious diseases prevention and control, and of Regulations for reopening of educational institutions;

- The State Secretary of MECR provided an update related to the upcoming school re-opening during the Development Partners Meeting convened by the UN Resident Coordinator on 18 August'20, followed by a brief presentation by the UNICEF Representative, as Chair of the UN Coordinated Education Task Force for Covid-19.

Gender

- An event on [Principles of Women's Economic Empowerment: Tips for SMEs, including aspects linked to COVID 19 crisis](#) was organized on August 20, 2020 for entrepreneurs and development partners. Addressed topics: the progress in the implementation of WEPs in Moldova; the local experience and good practices in implementing a fair remuneration system; practical aspects in the implementation of WEPs and the next initiatives. The event was organized by the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), in partnership with UN Women and with the financial support of Sweden;
- More than 40 women mayors at first term participated in a series training (August 18, 19, 20) on gender mainstreaming at the local level, functionality of local public administration directly from local/public specialists on Public Administration and Congress of Local Authorities of Moldova (CALM) experts with special focus on legislative and normative aspects of LPA, gender equality and Gender Mainstreaming, women leadership, GRB at local level.

Human Rights

- On 19 August, OHCHR in Moldova organized the 10th meeting of the NGO Task Force on Covid-19 and Human Rights. The meeting of the thematic group on the rights of children and youth was attended by 16 CSOs. During the meeting the potential impact of COVID-19 on youth was discussed, as well as potential solutions to those. The thematic group decided to share their observations with the authorities;
- Over 20.000 copies of the easy to read, easy to understand version of the four two-pagers developed by OHCHR Moldova in the context of COVID-19, namely on the right to health, labor rights, rights of persons with disabilities and rights of older persons in Romanian and Russian languages were printed and are being distributed to people in different regions of Moldova, in cooperation with 7 CSOs and the National Social Work Agency.

Communications

- A series of cards including [Testimonies of women, victims of domestic violence](#) are being published on the UN Women Moldova Facebook page. The testimonies are collected from the rapid assessment: „The needs of women affected by gender-based violence and the systemic response to domestic violence in the context of the COVID-19 crisis. The cards were seen by over 7000 people;
- UNICEF and WHO, with USAID support, and in coordination with MHSPF and MECR, are developing informational boards to inform students about the prevention of Covid-19 infection for 1252 schools, 92 VET institutions and 6450 preschool classes;
- UNICEF and WHO, with USAID support, and in coordination with MHSPF and MECR, are developing a musical video spot for young children of preschool age to teach them about key safe behaviors, namely hand washing, social distance and cough etiquette;

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- UNICEF produced a press release, a video reportage and a photo gallery on the supplies distribution of personal protective equipment at the Emergency hospital on 20 August 2020;
 - UNICEF produced a press release, a video reportage and a photo gallery on the batch of oxygen concentrators' arrival at the Emergency hospital on 20 August 2020;
 - UNICEF produced an article dedicated to [online youth engagement](#) in the times of COVID-19 , featuring the cross border cooperation between U-Report teams in Moldova, Serbia, Romania, Bulgaria, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan;
 - UNFPA produced a [success story](#) about a 17 years old youth worker, Milena Morari, and her experience of engaging with young people during COVID-19 pandemic. The story was reported in the media on [Diez.md](#), [Tineri.md](#), [ea.md](#);
 - UNFPA developed a social media campaign in the context of [Youth Day](#), featuring young people's role in the fight against COVID-19. The example of young people from Moldova engaged in intergenerational solidarity projects was featured on the UNFPA [global website](#);
 - UNFPA jointly with the Ministry of Education issued a [press release](#) about the training programme for teachers, medical staff and young people from VET institutions on ensuring the security of the educational process, and amplified the message in [social media](#);
 - Two more videos under “My choice is to be OK” psychological assistance programme in the context of COVID-19 pandemic released: [How to manage conflicts?](#) and [How to understand romantic feelings?](#). This [programme](#) includes 24 online sessions and short video materials with useful tips for adolescents and young people;
 - UNDP [published a case study on use of new data sources to help tackle COVID-19](#): a platform that informs tailored containment efforts by mapping new mobility radiuses and analyzing the percentage of people in self-quarantine through a ‘Stay-at-Home indicator’, based on telecom data. The data shall be used as well for complementing the assessment of the socio-economic impacts of the crisis.