

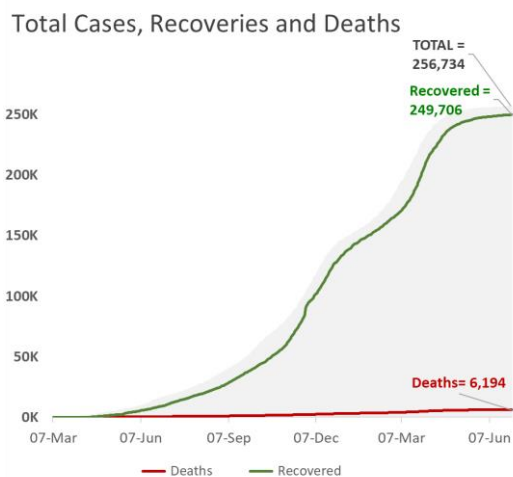
# COVID-19 Response and Recovery Monthly Bulletin

## June 2021

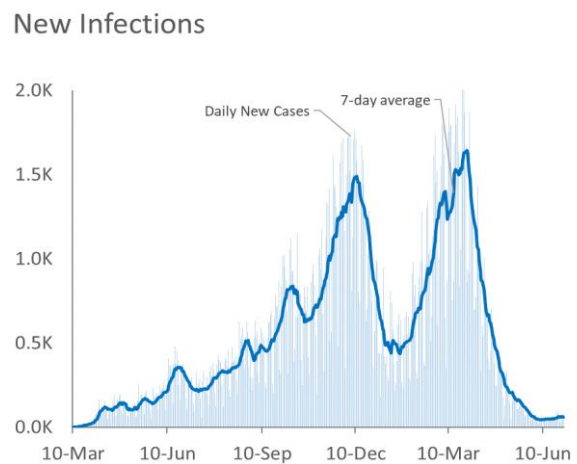


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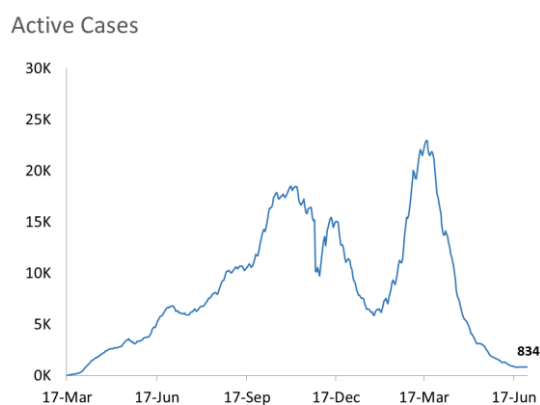
### 1 COVID-19 Epi and Health situation update (data as of June 30, 2021, unless stated otherwise)



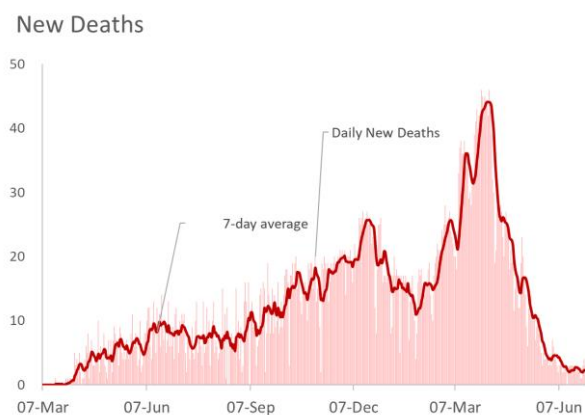
The total number of COVID-19 cases in the country has continued to increase gradually and reached 256,734 at the end of June.



The number of new cases has remained steady and the 7-day average at the end of June was 59, compared to 61 at the beginning of the month.

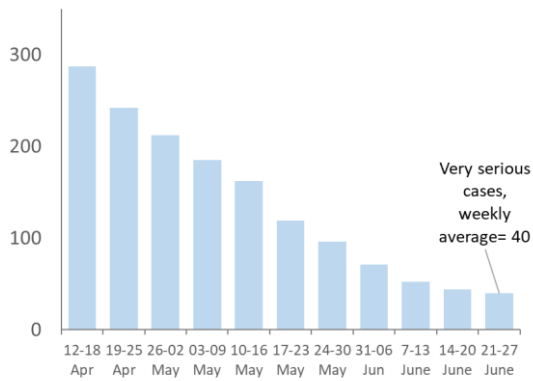


The number of active cases has continued to decrease over the past month and on June 30 it stood at 834.



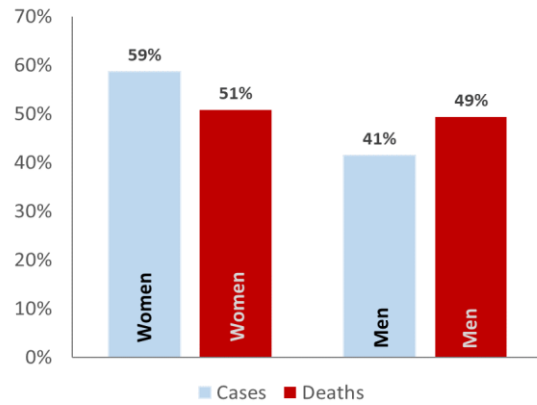
The 7-day average for the number of deaths has decreased further in June and by the end of the month it stood at 2.29. As of June 30, the total number of deaths was 6,194.

### Very Serious Cases



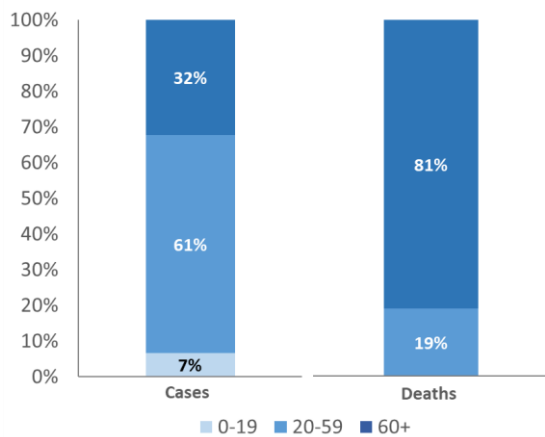
The average number of very serious cases decreased in June, reaching 40 in the week of June 21-27. The total number of hospitalized patients with COVID-19 at the end of the month was 187, out of which 40 were in a very serious condition.

### Cases and Deaths by Sex



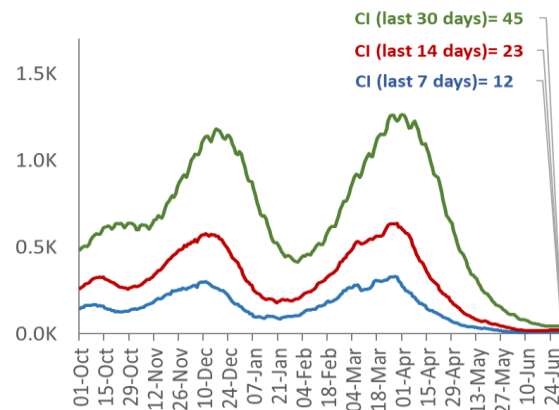
Overall, 59% of all cases have been recorded among women and 41% among men. Moreover, women (51%) account for a slightly higher proportion of all deaths than men (49%).

### COVID-19 Cases/Deaths by Age Group



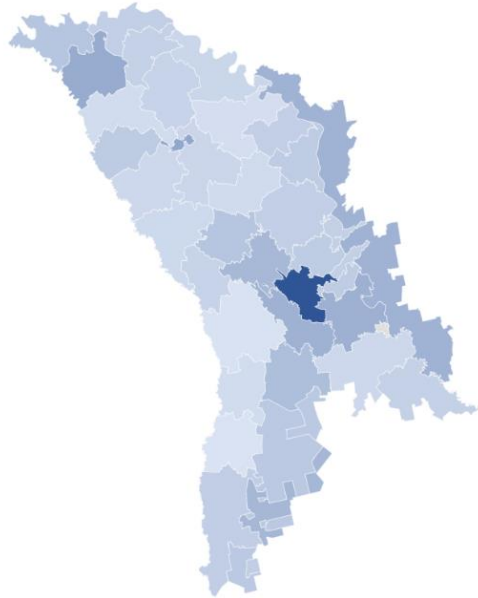
Even though, as of June 30, infections among people aged 60 and over accounted for 32% of the total number of cases, 81% of all deaths were registered in this age group. The average age of patients who have died from the disease is 67.8.

### Cumulative Incidence per 100,000 over the Last 7, 14, and 30 Days



At the end of June, the crude cumulative incidence of cases per 100,000 population for the last 7, 14, and 30 days was 12, 23, and 45, respectively. All these numbers have remained relatively constant over the past month. The overall crude cumulative incidence of cases stood at 7,390 per 100,000 on the last day of June.

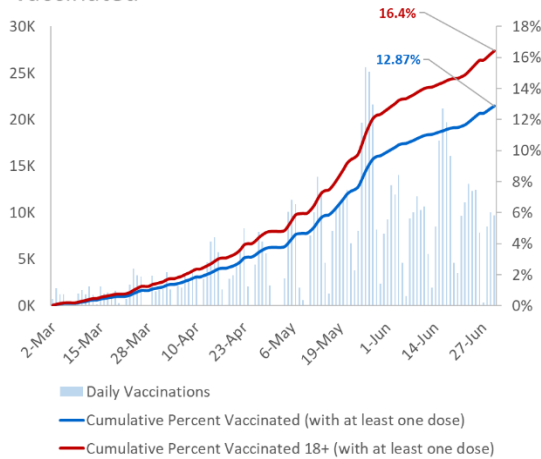
### Cases per 100,000 by District



Chisinau is the most affected area with 16,081 cases per 100,000 population. Thirteen other areas have also passed the 5,000 cases per 100,000 population mark.

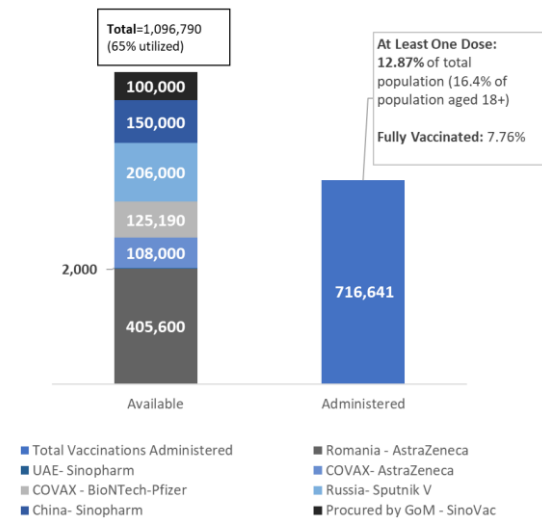
Chisinau	16,081
Balti	8,290
Edinet	7,939
Anenii Noi	7,461
Ialoveni	7,392
Transnistria region	7,251
Taraclia	6,778
Straseni	6,679
Cimislia	6,199
Calarasi	5,508
Briceni	5,475
ATU Gagauzia	5,201
Basarabeasca	5,180
Glodeni	5,052

### Daily Vaccinations and Percentage Vaccinated



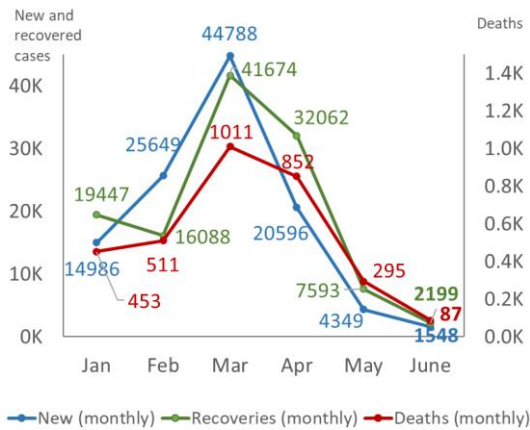
The number of vaccinations administered in June was 299,827 marking a 11% increase compared to the previous month. As of June 30, an estimated 12.87% of the country's population or 16.4% of the population aged 18+ has received at least one vaccine dose.

### Administered and Available Vaccines



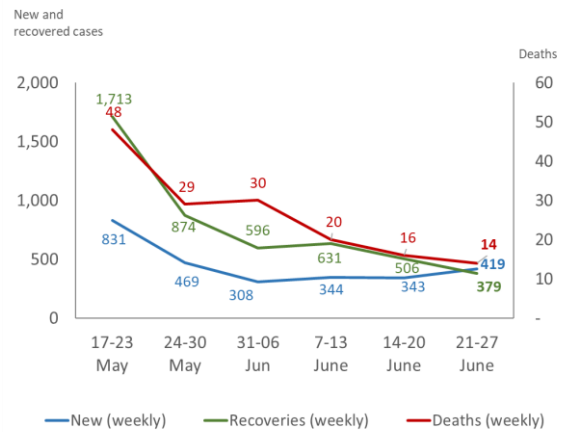
As of June 30, a total of 716,641 COVID-19 vaccines have been administered. Overall, 7.76% of the country's population has received a full vaccination course. As of June 30, over 380,000 vaccine doses remain available for use.

### Monthly Data: New Cases, Recoveries and Deaths



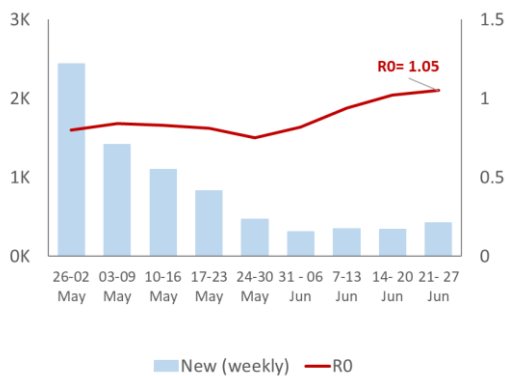
Overall, the number of new cases in June decreased by 64% compared to the previous month and reached 1,548. The number of deaths decreased by 71%. The monthly number of recoveries also reflected the reduction in cases and decreased by 71%.

### Weekly Data: New Cases, Recoveries and Deaths



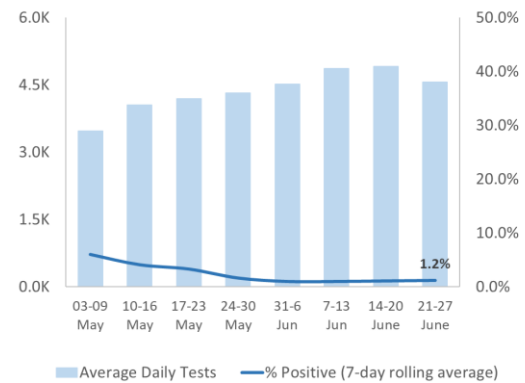
However, the number of weekly cases has slowly increased over the course of the past month and reached 419 for the week of June 21-27. This represents a 22% increase compared to the previous week. Conversely, the number of deaths and recoveries has continued to decrease.

### COVID 19 Weekly Cases and Contagion Rate (R0)



The contagion rate rose above 1 in the week of Jun 14-20, and as of Jun 30, it stood at 1.05. Currently, the contagion rate is uneven across regions, and values range from 0 (in ten regions) to 1.86 (Floresti). The contagion rate in Chisinau stood at 1.39 at the end of last week.

### Average Daily Tests and Positivity Rate



The percentage of positive tests has remained steady over the course of June with values ranging between 1%-1.2%.

## 1.1 Restrictions\*

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

- The Extraordinary National Commission for Public Health issued its [Decision No. 56 from June 3, 2021](#). The Decision comes to re-enforce the sanitary measures and the *Instructions for Organization* of the early parliamentary elections on July 11 in pandemic conditions. In this sense the Decision decrees that the electoral process and election day abide to all the sanitary measures, including:
  - Social distancing of min. 1 meter
  - Respiratory and hands hygiene
  - Compulsory masks wearing, at least 3 times all surfaces need to be sanitized and the rooms ventilated
  - Ensure all voting sections are equipped with PPEs and sanitizer
- Romania updated the [List of countries on epi classification on 25 June 2021](#). Moldova is maintained in the List of GREEN ZONE of countries, thus Moldovan citizens can travel to Romania without the need for self-quarantine or any other restrictions.

## 2 General situation update

### 2.1 Vaccination campaign updates

- According to the government portal on vaccination (<https://vaccinare.gov.md/>) as of July 1 , a total of 716,641 doses of vaccine were administered (269,650 people received 2 doses); adverse reactions: severe = 81 cases / Mild = 1,340 cases; The MoHLSP also announced the vaccination rate of the general population is nearing 13%, 85% of all medical personnel is vaccinated
- The MoHLSP is currently in [negotiations](#) for procurement of additional vaccines, i.e. 700,000 doses of Pfizer and 700,000 doses of Sputnik V. It is expected the vaccines to arrive in fall.

### 2.2 Political update

- On 18 of June CEC has registered the last 2 electoral contenders with a total of 22 parties and electoral blocs, and 1 independent candidate ready to run for the elections. As of 28 of June the Central Electoral Commission has accredited 1'704 *observers*, including 1'397 national observers and 307 *international observers* to monitor the early parliamentary elections. The observers' accreditation process is ongoing and the deadline for submitting applications is 3 of July. Among the accredited observers are those delegated by ODIHR, ENEMO, Promo-LEX, MIRAD, Observation Mission of CIS, Central Electoral Commission of the Republic of Uzbekistan and Central Electoral Commission of the Republic of Kazakhstan. The OSCE/ODIHR and the European Network of Election Monitoring Organizations have officially launched their missions to Moldova, announcing that they will monitor the pre-election, post-election period and the election day. The ODIHR mission consists of 39 long-term observers deployed throughout the country and more than 200 short-term observers who will monitor the opening of polling stations, the voting, the counting of ballots and the tabulation of results. A preliminary report will be drafted together with the parliamentary partners and will be made public on 12 of July. A final report will be issued 8 weeks after the end of the observation mission.
- Considering the last decisions of the Court of Appeal and of the Supreme Court of Justice, CEC has increased the number of polling stations to be abroad to 150, a decision which was limited by the financial constraints. This decision was key for the diaspora which according to the Bureau for Relations with the Diaspora counts more than 700'000 citizens that have temporarily or permanently left Moldova. For voters from the left bank of the Nistru River only 41 polling stations will be available, a number decreased

by 3, after recommendation of the intelligence service to exclude the ones for Bender and Corjova. Thus, for the parliamentary snap elections 2'150 polling stations will be open abroad and at the national level, including the TN region.

- The Code of Conduct submitted by CEC was improved and included the definition of the public speech and incitement to hatred, still the electoral body cannot act in cases of hate speech and incitement to discrimination. Only two contenders agreed to undersign the document.
- According to CEC 3,282,837 people are included in the State Register of Voters, with 19.5% from Chişinău 4% from UTA Gagauzia, and 7,8% from the Transnistria region. Despite the number of registered voters, a total number of 3,644,642 ballots will be printed, out of which 726,700 ballots for the abroad polling stations. The ballot paper will have a length of 58 cm.
- According to the Promo-Lex intermediary report part of the electoral contenders started their campaigns before the allowed time. Among other violations 120 cases refer to the involvement of public sector employees in campaigning and one case to taking of merits for services provided with public funds. Also, significant expenses were not declared by the electoral contenders, with PAS and BECS leading in this regard. As per 7 of June, Promo-LEX has already registered 36 cases of hate speech and incitement to discrimination 33% more compared to the presidential election. Most cases were generated online against electoral contenders, party members and supporters. On the other end no physical violence was observed so far.
- All parties and blocs accepted by CEC for the snap elections have respected the gender quota in the candidates lists, with no application being rejected for such reasons. At the same time the gender balance was respected for managerial position in the 37 electoral councils at the management level, with the only exception for the secretary position with 84% being held by women.
- Based on recent polls the PAS party and BECS bloc register high scores ranging from 31 to 46% for PAS and 18.9 to 30% for the second contender. Due to technical difficulties diaspora and the left bank voters were not considered for most surveys. Even so, at the national level dissonant forecasts are provided for at least 3 contenders Renato Usatyi Bloc, Sor and Civic Congress parties, with scores from 10% to under the minimum threshold of 5%, depending on which organization has conducted the survey. That makes it difficult to foresee any after-election math, the only obvious fact is that only one right party – PAS will accede to the parliament, while the left segment may become crowded with up to 4 actors jamming on the same area. Left parties seem to have many old disputes, which reduce their chances for a strong long-term partnership. Also, the Sor party is perceived as the black swan because of its infamous past and its compromised leader, any alliance with it being toxic. Notwithstanding the final scores and the majorities to be established few are the chances for a strong coalition and a long-lasting political stability. The MPs crossing party lines is a common practice and this unpredictable feature could play prominently in post-election math, with a high risk for political instability in Moldova.

### 2.3 Economic and social update

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- The EBRD raised forecast for Moldova's economic development to 4.5% for 2021 (from 3.5% forecasted growth rate as of fall 2020) following slow down to 4% growth in 2022. For comparison, Ukrainian economy is projected to grow at 3.5% during 2021-2022. Forecasts are, however, still highly sensitive to the path of the health crisis. Further details could be found in the EBRD Regional Economic Prospects Report.
- The ILO statistical [brief on the youth market impact of the Covid-19 crises](#) provides an update on the impact of the COVID-19 crisis on youth in terms of employment, unemployment, NEET and inactivity trends, highlighting the differences between youth and adults (aged 25 and above) along with gender disparities. Moldova figures among countries with significant drop in youth employment and far from

recovering to its pre-COVID youth employment levels. Worryingly, employment losses among young people translated mostly into an increase in inactivity. In cases like this the unemployment rate provides only a partial insight into the impact of the COVID-19 crisis on young people losses. Just a narrow focus on unemployment does not allow a proper assessment of the pandemic's impact on the labour market just now. Thus, the ILO is advising policy makers to wade carefully through all available data and analyse them thoroughly. The ILO remains available to provide guidance in this respect. The research advises actions to prevent short-term exit turning into long-term exclusion for a generation of young people. Stimulating new employment and entrepreneurship for youth, especially the vulnerable ones, along another reconstructive measures, remain critical.

- According to the NBS, Moldova's GDP in the first quarter 2021 grew incrementally in real terms (by 1.8% in gross series and by 0.1% in seasonally adjusted series). Furthermore, the increase in gross value added was relatively small (0.6%) in Q1'2021, however maintaining the overall dynamism in development of sectors with higher value added, such as manufacturing and extractives (GVA grew by 6.1%), the ICT (GVA grew by 6.5%) and constructions (GVA grew by 5.5%). Noteworthy that negative contribution to GDP and a decline in GVA was observed in the following sectors: agriculture (GVA reduced by 13.9%), finance and insurance (GVA went down by 7.4%) and professional activities and research (GVA decreased by 8.3%). During the Q1'2021 the final consumption grew by 2.8% while gross capital formation increased by 14.2%. Further details can be found [here](#).
- The Republic of Moldova (namely, National Food Security Agency) supplied information on the fulfilment of conditions set by the EU to allow export of dairy products to the EU market under the DCFTA agreement. As a follow-up, upon the evaluation by the EU of the legal entities proposed by NFSA and their inclusion in the TRACES system the Moldovan dairy products compliant with the EU regulatory requirements can be exported to the EU market.
- Producers prices continued to grow throughout first half of the 2021. Compared to December 2020, the producer's prices went up by 5.3% in May 2021. The highest growth rate was in processing and extractive industries – by 5.8% and 4.2% compared to December 2020, however the pace of growth in the last month was higher for extractives due to seasonality. Producers process for energy declined marginally – by 0.2%. Further details can be found [here](#).
- Annual inflation in May 2021 reached 3.09% being within the NBM target of below 5%. Consumers prices went up on the account of growing prices for food products by 4.95% and non-food products by 4.66%. However, the average consumer prices for services decreased by 1,54%. Further details can be found [here](#).
- The NBM released [International Accounts Report](#) (preliminary data) for Q1'2021.

## 2.4 Transnistria region

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- In public speeches the U.S. Ambassador to Moldova, emphasized the need to work out a uniform strategy for resolving the Transnistria dispute. He also said that after the snap elections the process may receive a new impulse. Earlier, a similar message was voiced by the EU Ambassador to Moldova, Peter Michalko.
- On the other side, Moscow has reiterated its readiness to continue to facilitate the search of a fair solution for the Transnistria settlement process, where an agreement shall be reached with a reliable and guaranteed status for the region, while ensuring the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Moldova. Vladimir Putin also pointed that the communities from both banks are built upon common traditions and spiritual values. However, on the NATO summit in Brussels the participating countries called Russia to withdraw its military contingent from the TN region, shortly followed by the Russian Duma resolution criticizing Moldova's and Ukraine efforts to economically block the TN region. In the same timeframe the

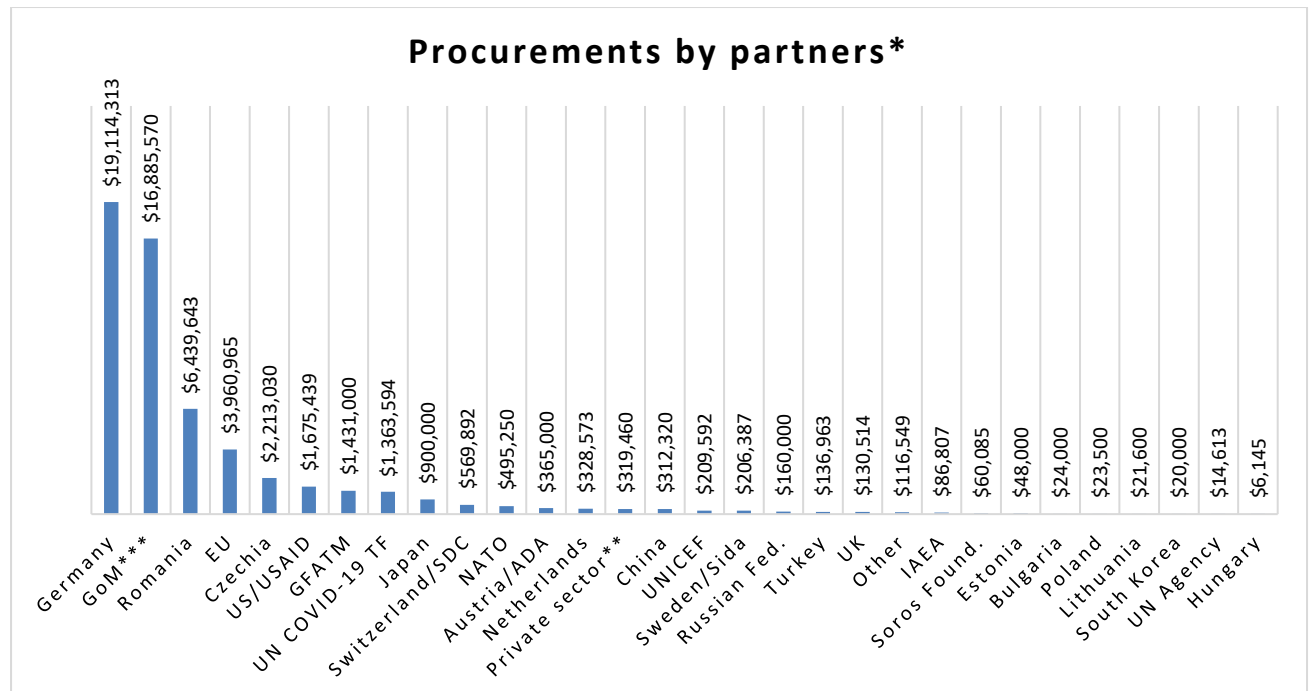
Moldovan Government has adopted a decision to postpone the implementation of the joint border control with Ukraine on the TN segment till 31 of December.

- In the frame of an official visit to Moldova the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office for the Transnistria Settlement Process, Thomas Mayr Harting, has met the Moldovan President, the Acting Prime Minister, and the Deputy Prime Minister for Reintegration. In Tiraspol, he also met Vadim Krasnoselsky, and Vitaly Ignatiev. Both sides were encouraged to consolidate their efforts for a result-oriented 5+2 meeting in Stockholm. The human rights in the Transnistria region, the freedom of movement of people between the two banks and ensuring the security in the region were the areas to which special attention was paid. The talks with the de-facto authorities have focused on aspects related to the further steps for the joint Moldovan-Ukrainian customs-border control at the Cuciurgan checkpoint and the ban for left bank vehicles with Transnistria region plates the access Ukraine starting with September 1.
- As a follow-up on 3-4 of July the group of mediators and observers under the OSCE chairmanship met the Moldovan President, Acting Prime Minister, Acting Deputy Prime Minister for Reintegration, and chief negotiator, but also the TN region leader, and the left bank chief negotiator. The successful restart of negotiation process, the enhanced interaction of the sides to address the pandemic and the restoration of free movement between the banks was much praised. The sides were encouraged to prioritise the outstanding technical and practical issues with respect to the joint registration of vehicles from the left bank. Emphasize was put on the full implementation of the “Berlin-plus” package and to further develop joint confidence-building initiatives. Among such initiatives are the purchase of two ferryboats to transport people and basic goods over the Nistru River and the extensive refurbishment of the Chisinau-Tiraspol-Kuchurgan national road. In the frame of the Customs Working Group meeting the sides have focused on possible ways to resume and develop interaction in the field of transit of goods, excluding the practice of physical control of people, goods and vehicles involved in the transit operation, but also the collection of additional payments linked to this process. In the frame of the Healthcare Working Group the experts have discussed the issues related to the registration and import of drugs. Special attention was paid to the interaction in the sphere of pharmaceutical registration, to avoid shortage of medicines on the left bank, but also the immunization aspects.
- In the frame of the same meetings both sides expressed their readiness to address the selected priority issues in a retreat in Bavaria, Germany to be organized by the end of this year. One of the discussed opportunities was the opening of discussions on the political-institutional basket. For Chisinau, the current priorities include the guaranteeing of the observance of the human rights and freedom of movement between the two banks, protection of the citizens’ health, efficient fight against pandemic and the immunization.
- The acting Moldovan Prime Minister and the U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs of the State Department discussed the settlement of the Transnistria conflict and the withdrawal of foreign troops and ammunition from Moldova. The interlocutors noted the need for a constant and transparent dialogue with the stakeholders, but also in the frame of international specialized organizations.



## 2.5 Aid Coordination - data on procurements for COVID-19

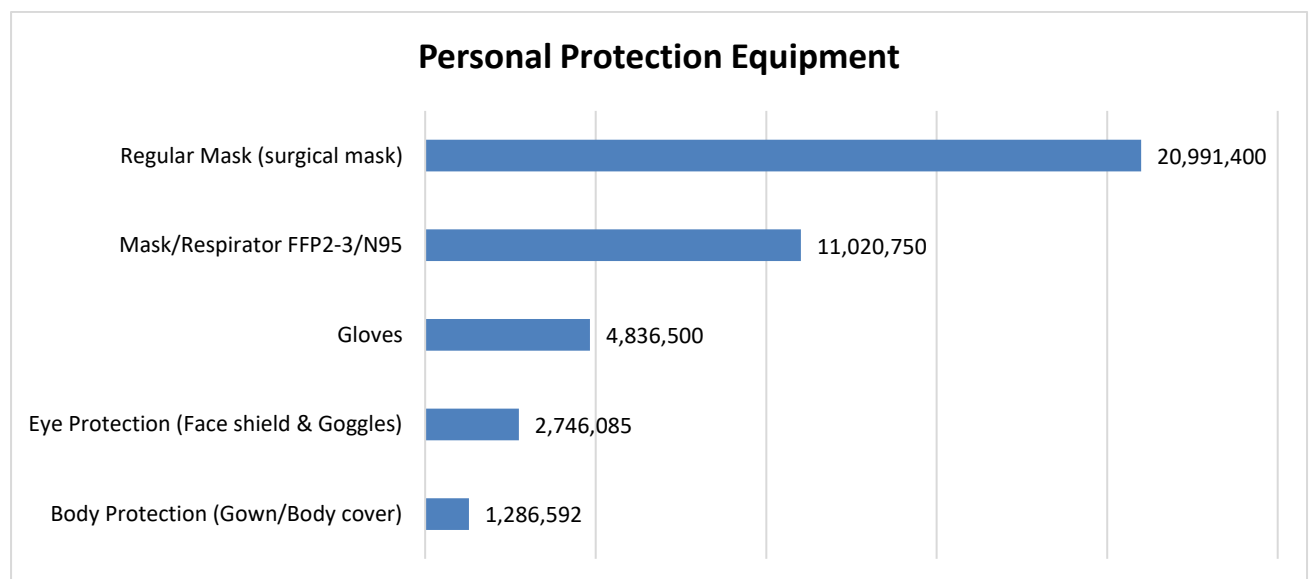
### Mapping of contributions to the Health System for COVID response in Moldova

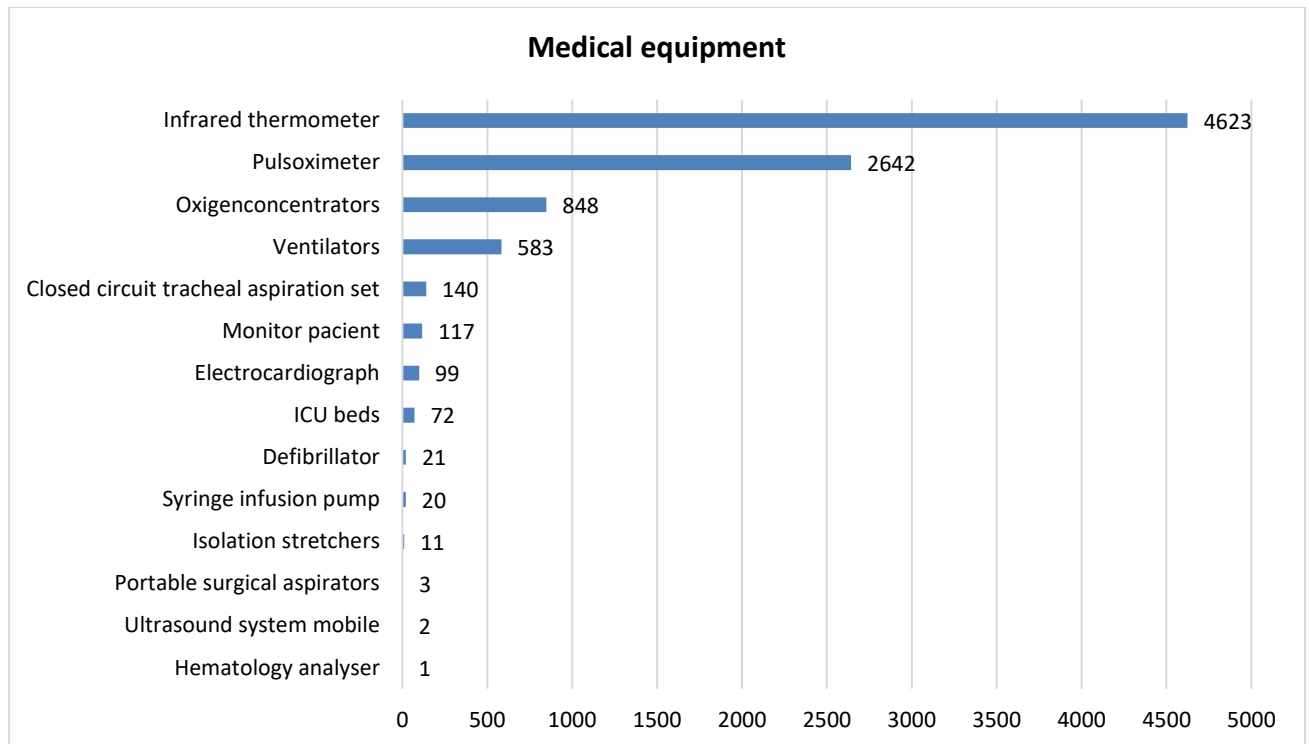


\*Note - data only for contracted/procured PEEs, medical equipment and technical assistance COVID related. Committed and/or pledged contributions are not reflected. Data are captured from various sources, i.e. media and may not be accurate. The process of reflecting donors/contributions is ongoing, and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

\*\* Private sector companies: Endava, Orange Moldova, Lismedfarm 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

\*\*\* The procurements of the Government of RM include the materials and supplied procured from the WB loan: Moldova Emergency COVID-19 Response Project





### 3 UN Social and Economic Response and Recovery Portfolio update

Please access <https://covid19response.un.md/> to see the Plan and the Project Portfolio in more detail, including on-going projects and initiatives still requiring financing.

#### 3.1 Pillar 1: HEALTH FIRST: protecting health services and systems during the crisis

- WHO continues to provide support to MoHLSP in external aid coordination, informing partners and donors regarding the EPI situation and public health measures for COVID-19 public health emergency response. A databased with donor's contributions related to COVID-19 response is compiled by the WHO consultant and is available on the MoHLSP website.
- WHO offers support to the MoHLSP to conduct the assessment of hospitals capacities (infrastructure, human resources for health, devices, including oxygen sources and human resources) in response to COVID-19 pandemic. WHO have provided expert input to the methodology and assessment tool. The collection of data from all public hospitals through an on-line platform is in progress. The findings from assessment report will be used for further strengthen MoHLSP policies and interventions to ensure efficient response of hospital system to COVID-19 pandemic, rational use of capacities, identification and designation of referral facilities for care of patients with COVID-19, as well as revision of intensive care unit (ICU) capabilities and infrastructure.
- The re-engineering of the electronic system for communicable diseases and public health events surveillance is ongoing under the leadership of the MoHLSP. The first prototype has been presented and the IT solution development is ongoing. The electronic system will allow strengthening and operationalizing the national surveillance system for communicable diseases and public health events, including to have "real time" access to the epidemiological data and to operationalize the public health early warning system. The updated electronic surveillance system will generate the evidences for improvement of the timely decision-making process.
- The comprehensive assessment of the Emergency Care Systems in the Republic of Moldova during 07-11 June 2021 have been conducted jointly by the national team of experts, WHO staff, representatives of the

Israel MoH. The assessment has included technical working meetings and field visits of the emergency and health care institutions and has covered the following domains: system organization, governance, financing, data, quality improvement, scene care, transport, transfer, referral, facility-based care, and emergency preparedness.

- The priority actions for strengthening the Emergency Care Systems have been discussed and agreed by the MoHLSP during two-days consensus/validation workshop. The validation workshop of the Emergency Care Systems Assessment was conducted on 10-11 June 2021 for up to 50 participants from the pre-hospital emergency centers, departments on emergency medicine of the hospitals, primary health care and public health professionals as well as representatives from the Inspectorate for Emergency Situation of the MoIA.
- Two regional subnational Policy dialogs in Edinet (on 29 June 2021) and in Balti (on 30 June 2021) on the organization of the health care to children and COVID-19 vaccination process in the Republic of Moldova. The Policy Dialog is attended by the representatives from the local public authorities and aiming at improvement of the access to the hospital care for children. The COVID-19 vaccine coverage and community engagement in vaccine promotion have been addressed by the central and local public authorities.
- During the WHO regional technical meeting on 15 June 2021 on Point Prevalence Survey (PPS) for the health care-associated infections and antimicrobial consumptions in the acute health facilities, the Republic of Moldova presented the country experience and further steps on PPS. The preparatory work with regards to technical meeting moving forward with Antimicrobial Stewardship program and IPC core components in the Republic of Moldova is ongoing. The Antimicrobial Stewardship program have to be piloting in two national institutions.
- The National Agency for Public Health has sent 25 samples of SARS-CoV-2 viruses collected from the COVID-19 patients from the Republic of Moldova to the WHO regional laboratory. The sequencing has demonstrated presence on B.1.1.7 (Alpha) SARS-CoV-2. Virus. No Delta SARS-CoV-2 viruses were identified.
- In the period of 21 - 25 June 2021 the WHO Technical Support Mission on COVID-19 Vaccination was conducted to identify COVID-19 vaccination and National Immunization Programme technical/programming and communication best practices, challenges and opportunities. During the mission a series of the working meetings with representatives of the MoHLSP; National Agency for Public Health; Medicines and Medical Devices Agency; National Health Insurance Company and Ministry of Finance have been conducted.
- The on-line technical meeting on 22 June 2021 with Maha Damaj, UNICEF Representative in the Republic of Moldova and Siddhartha DATTA, Programme Manager Vaccine-preventable Diseases and Immunization, WHO/EURO have addressed the issues on COVID-19 vaccination communication and demand generation activities.
- WHO continues to provide support to MoHLSP and NAPH on environment and health area. Two projects - on chemical risk assessment at regional level and regulation of lead content in paints in Moldova have been launched. WHO is participating in communication campaign for Environment Day Festival held within 5-27 June 2021.
- WHO is continuing the assessment of continuity of Essential Health Services jointly coordinated with UNAIDS, UNICEF and UNFPA and in July-August 2021 plans to conduct data collection on facility level assessment, and start working on the report drafting on all three-tier components (national, community and facility).
- WHO CO and RO have provided inputs to the Republic of Moldova funding request development for Global Fund C19 Response Mechanism. Assistance on needs assessment for MoHLSP and NAPH in response to

COVID-19 was provided. Comments from WHO HIV and TB technical units were received and provided to the application writing unit in Moldova.

- Development of the new National Essential List aligned to the WHO essential list of medicine is in the final stage. The draft list is in the consultation with 50 specialty commissions of MoHLSP. After the consultation, list will be published for the public consultations.
- More than 40 experts from National Regulatory Authority have strengthened their capacities in the quality and bioequivalence assessment of medicines dossiers with support of WHO. This activity is part of the implementation of first Strategic Plan of MMDA.
- New guidelines for the graduates from medical schools' appointments policy is developed with technical assistance from WHO. After the final consultations, it will be approved by MoHLSP order.
- The bidding process for Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS) have been re-launched using the international UN global platform by the WHO CO. The IT solution development work will start in order to digitalize the national surveillance system for communicable diseases and public health events as well as to integrate the COVID-19 reporting.
- The bidding process for laboratory consumables, reagents and devices in amount of 400,000 USD were initiated by the WHO CO. The Goods are needed for generating the results of the COVID-19 test and further strengthen the NAPH laboratory capacities for improvement of epidemiological surveillance system (consumables for PCR, reagents for detection of different pathogens in the water samples, cards for identification of bacteria, applicable on the equipment VITEK 2, kits for detection of antimicrobial sensitivity, reagents for calibration of real time RT-PCR instrument and device for mass spectrometer system for rapid identification of microorganisms).
- At the request of the Ministry of Health, Labour and Social Protection, UNICEF with financial support from USAID provided around 1300 Primary Health Centers nationwide with essential hygienic products, including over 35,000 liters of sanitizer and 28,600 liters of liquid soap.

### **3.2 Pillar 2: PROTECTING PEOPLE: Social protection and basic services**

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- High-level policy dialogue dedicated to launching the Joint UNDP and IOM cooperation roadmap organized on International Family Remittances Day, putting issues related to migration and sustainable development and recovery solutions on the public discourse agenda.
- 27 projects of SDC and UNDP-supported Hometown Associations and local public authorities launched to support the recovery efforts of rural communities from Moldova by enhancing access to public services and improving public infrastructure.
- Based on a needs assessment conducted by MECR, UNICEF partnered with the Foundation for Advancement of Moldova to strengthen digital literacy, knowledge and skills of teaching staff in the preprimary subsector in support of on-line learning, in order to overcome the challenges imposed by the epidemiological context. The aim is to create a critical mass of preschool teachers (10,300 of professionals, representing approximately 80% teaching personnel in 1485 pre-primary institutions) who can confidently use digital skills to search, collect, receive, store and process information, thus improving their on-line educational services during the lock-downs imposed by the epidemic. The indirect beneficiaries are the 134,158 pre-school age children nationwide. The training has been launched on June 30, and will conclude by August 2021.

### 3.3 Pillar 3: ECONOMIC RESPONSE & RECOVERY: Protecting jobs, small and medium-sized enterprises, and the informal sector and workers

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- Within the SIDA-UNDP initiative, the mapping of the creative industries on the left bank of Nistru was conducted, including the recommendations to mitigate the impact of COVID19 on the sector.
- UN Women continues supporting women and girls, with focus on the women and girls from excluded groups, to pursue STEM/ICT-related education and jobs, and to launch innovative tech start-ups. Considering successful implementation of the Women Hub concept in Chisinau, UN Women seeks to replicate the project (tailored to local needs) in the regions, including the region of Transnistria, and thus help women and girls at the national level choose and develop careers in STEM/ICT. To achieve the above, UN Women Moldova is seeking to contract an organization/company or a Consortium of organizations/companies that will create at least 3 additional Women Hubs (in north, south and Transnistrian region) and will organize various events in the existing Women Hub in Chisinau and newly created Hubs in the regions.
- Considering that women bring unique attributes and strengths to the technology world, while in the same time technology is a critical catalyst to the advancement of women, especially in the post-pandemic economy, UN Women Moldova dedicates its efforts to a much-needed improvement of women in business, specifically representing the most affected industries. To achieve this objective, UN Women Moldova is seeking to contract an organization/company or a consortium of organizations/companies to organize a pre-acceleration program and provide business development support to newly created women-led startups.

### 3.4 Pillar 4: MACROECONOMIC RESPONSE AND MULTILATERAL COLLABORATION

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- The UNECE organized the [Sixths Session](#) of the Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards on 21-22 June, 2021. At the above meeting the latest UNECE report was discussed. The UN Moldova RC attended and [addressed](#) the meeting on the impact of COVID-19 on trade and structural transformation in the Republic of Moldova: Evidence from UNECE's survey of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises. The report is available in [Russian](#) and [English](#)
- The UNDP and IOM [presented](#) their [Roadmap for Cooperation](#) on June 16<sup>th</sup>, on the International Day of Family Remittances. The strategic document will contribute to promoting equal opportunities for Moldovan migrants and their families in accessing prevention and protection measures in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. The roadmap envisages support for economic recovery by engaging both the diaspora and local communities.
- The ILO with support from the British Embassy released two studies: "[A market systems analysis of the honey sector](#)" and "[A market systems analysis of the berry sector in the Republic of Moldova](#)". The aim of this studies is to better understand the market constraints that limit job creation, higher incomes and greater productivity within the sector, particularly in relation to women and people with disabilities. The studies identify a practical set of evidence-informed actions that address and remove those constraints.
- JICA will provide grant financing in the amount of \$19 mln to support modernisation of fire-fighting equipment and procurement of new special equipment to match the needs of Moldova's Main Emergency Inspectorate.

### 3.5 Pillar 5: SOCIAL COHESION AND COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

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- UN Women's launched a call to support the Government, including the Ministry of Education, Culture and Research, Ministry of Economy and Infrastructures, the Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Health, Labour and Social Protection, the Parliament and the Economic Council to the Prime Minister to pursue the

implementation of the alternative childcare solutions in Moldova, and in this way improve women's participation in the labor market, reduce the selection of working mothers into lower-paid jobs, support business community and reboot the Moldovan economy. In order to achieve the abovementioned, UN Women in Moldova will hire two national consultants to provide support to promote the implementation of the alternative childcare solutions in Moldova.

#### 4 Communications and Advocacy

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- UNDP continues to inform Moldovan voters about the importance of each vote and anti-COVID-19 measures on the Elections day. In June, seven concerts were organized in Soroca, Falesti, Drochia, Leova, Soldanesti, Telenesti, Riscani, in compliance with anti-pandemic measures, in which the population was informed about the voting procedures and the obligation to wear protective masks in the polling station and to keep the physical distance of at least one meter.
- A videographic, developed with UNDP and USAID support, covering anti-pandemic measures on the Elections day, was published on Central Electoral Commission platforms. Also, UNDP and USAID supported the printing of informational posters for all polling stations opened in country and abroad.
- WHO continues to provide support to the Ministry of Health, Labour and Social Protection and National Agency of Public Health with National communication campaign on Immunization Against COVID-19. Regular media briefings on vaccination process are organized.
- WHO provides support in production of a series of video spots in support of vaccination –
  - [Video](#) on COVID-19 vaccination during pregnancy and breastfeeding
  - [video](#) on Get vaccinated with well-known persons to support the message
  - [Video](#) on infertility and COVID-19 vaccine advocacy
- WHO [conducted](#) 10 information sessions on COVID-19 vaccines for a local network of influencers (well-known persons at community/districts levels) to reinforce communication and acceptance. Also, regularly updates the [www.covidinfo.gov.md](http://www.covidinfo.gov.md) portal.