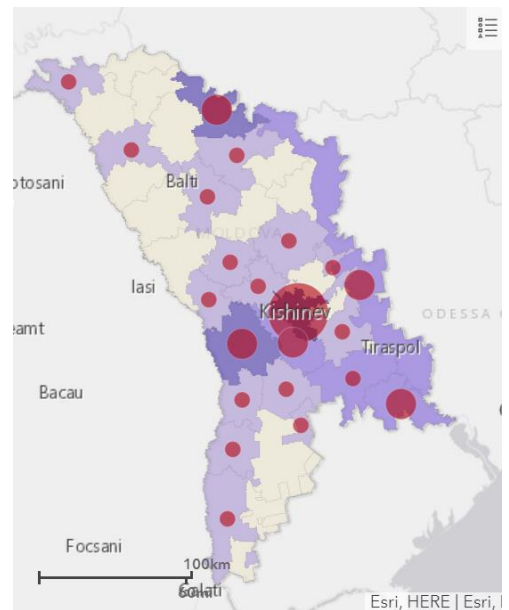


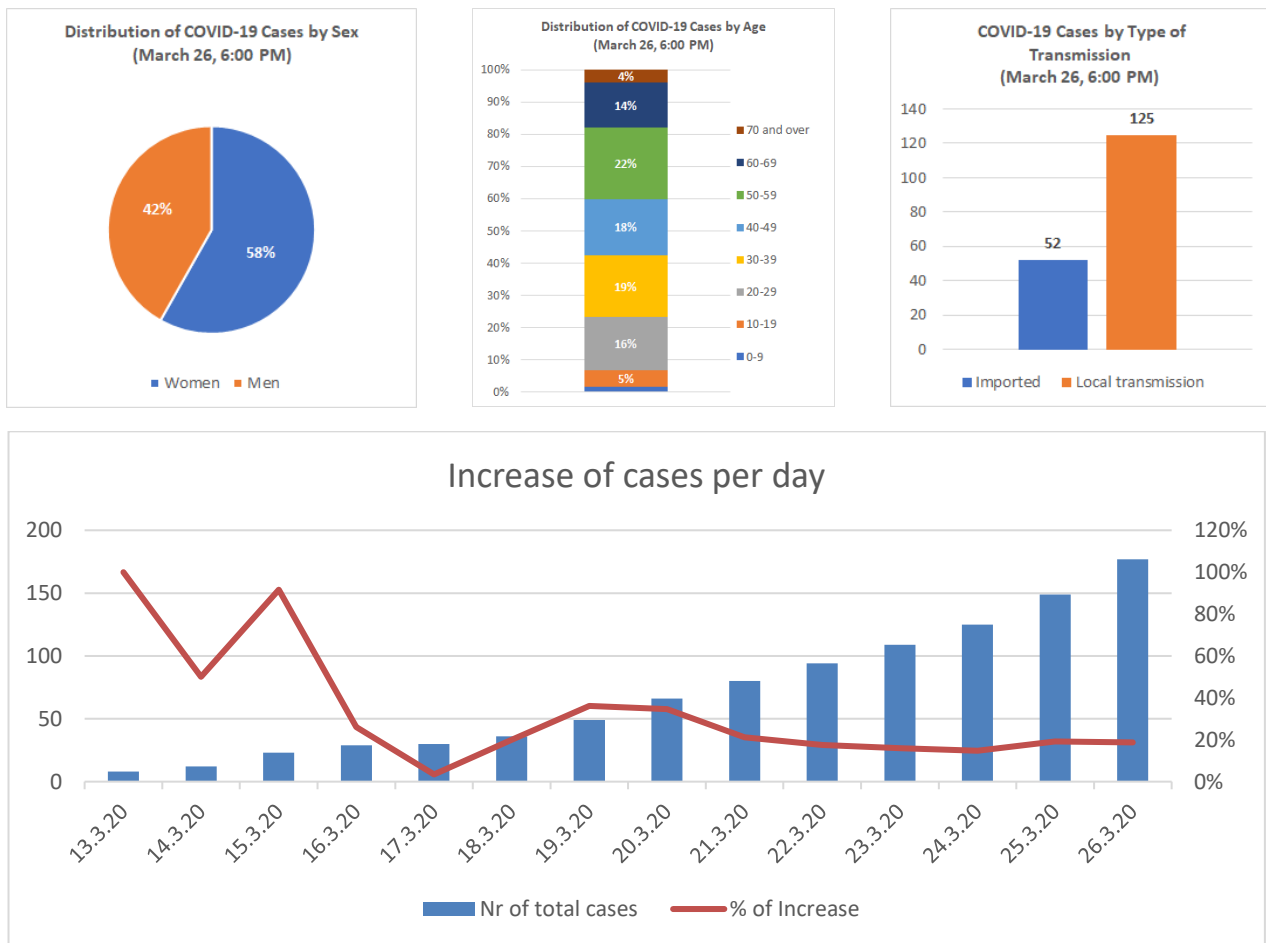


This report is produced by UN Moldova in collaboration with Government and development/humanitarian partners.

Highlights – data as reported by national authorities*

- Another 28 cases have been confirmed today, bringing the total number of confirmed cases to 177. The total number of active cases stands at 174.
- According to the latest information available, 28 patients are in serious condition. At the same time, 25 patients are not showing any clinical signs of disease. However, they remain hospitalized because they continue to test positive to the virus.
- Local transmission cases (125) now represent more than double the number of imported cases (52).
- Chisinau, 20 of the country's 32 districts and the Transnistrian region have been affected until now. Chisinau continues to have by far the highest number of cases (63), followed by Hincesti (22), Soroca (18), Stefan Voda (13), Ialoveni (10) and Transnistrian region (10). However, if the size of the population is taken into account, Hincesti, Soroca and Stefan Voda have been 2.4 to 2.5 times more affected than Chisinau.
- The number of suspected cases stands at 117, and over 28,500 people are quarantined at home as of this writing.
- The distribution of cases by age remained largely unchanged since the last report. Nearly 90% of confirmed cases are reported in those aged 20 to 69. Approximately 22% of all confirmed cases are in the 50-59 age group, making it the most affected group so far. However, the other groups in the 20 to 69 age range are not much far behind. Children, adolescents and adults over 70 years of age continue to be the least affected groups, accounting for a little over 10% of all cases taken together.
- The distribution of cases by sex remained mostly unchanged, with more women being infected than men, 103 vs. 74 or 58% vs. 42%.
- Since March 18th we have seen an average increase of cases at 22% per day





Overview of Key Decisions & Announcements

- On 26 March a Development Partners Meeting was held by video conference with the RC, WHO, MFA, MoHLS, MoF giving updates and then taking an extensive Q&A session. MoF will coordinate the assistance of the IFI's was confirmed by the State Secretary.
- RC and WHO attended the Exceptional Situation Commission chaired by the Prime Minister on 24 and 25 March.
- The Ministry of Finance remains the main coordinator of External Assistance but welcome the support of the UN in negotiating and supporting assessments to facilitate emergency bilateral assistance.
- The President signed a decree on 24 March for the national army to help the police patrol public places and to contribute military doctors and hospitals. Following the decree the head of the army said that the army is ready to provide 1,500 soldiers and 160 patrol cars. On 25 March some observers reported some armored military patrols in different parts of the city.
- Development Partners supporting COVID-19 response are invited to share information about their bilateral support with the Resident Coordinators Office in order to map all supports and avoid duplication of efforts. Focal person in RCO: laura.fiorotto@un.org and christine.petre@un.org
- **WHO Partnership Platform** <https://covid-19-response.org/> has been launched. All partners are invited to participate. For more information send an email to laura.fiorotto@un.org
- UN Moldova will be setting up shortly a Multi Donor Trust Fund as a pooled funding mechanism for those governments / agencies wishing to contribute. Partners interested in channelling support through the UN system are invited to contact Laura Fiorotto, Head of RCO, laura.fiorotto@un.org for more information.
- Education, Social-Economic, and Migration Task Teams are now meeting virtually regularly.
- 2,500 PCR kits arrived from WHO, 1,000 kits to arrive next week and 1,500 from The People's Republic of China.

- The Government of Moldova notified the Council of Europe of the derogation of three articles of the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms. The derogation referred to freedom of assembly and association, right to education and freedom of movement. <https://rm.coe.int/09000016809cf9a2>
- The Governor of Gagauzia, Irina Vlah, announced that Gagauz authorities have opened a bank account for donations to fight COVID-19. All funds received will go to the regional Commission for Exceptional Situations to buy masks, gloves, and disinfectant and to inform the population about the virus.
- The Prime Minister Chicu approved a loan from the Government of Japan for the extension of agriculture equipment project (cca \$US18.6 mln) and the state agriculture subsidy agency will revise the rules for offering agriculture grants for young people by increasing the applicants age from 35 to 40 years. The Prime Minister also requested identification of possibilities to engage returning migrants in business start-ups in the field of agriculture.

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

Transnistrian Region:

- By way of derogation from the provisions of the Government Decision no.1001 of 19/2001 “regarding the declaration of goods by the economic agents from the eastern districts of Republic of Moldova,” during the declaration of the state of emergency, according to the Decision Parliament no. 55 of March 17, 2020, when importing the products under control.
- The first four cases (now 7) of COVID-19 were confirmed in the Transnistrian Region on 23 March. The tests were made at Chisinau laboratories. In reaction, the de facto leader suspended all public transportation in the region. De facto authorities in the region have also suspended sport and entertainment activities and retail institutions and have asked residents to remain at home. Enterprises and institutions were recommended to provide to all working pension age personnel annual paid vacations, and to organize the work of other employees remotely. Food markets will also be closed.
- The COVID-19 response and oversight has temporarily been taken over by the de facto interior ministry. According to the de facto Authorities, the Transnistrian Region has 45 epidemiologists and 85 doctors. About 330 de facto interior ministry employees have also been mobilized to monitor compliance with the quarantine regime.
- The Commission for Emergency Situations established a simplified authorization procedure for the Transnistrian Region enterprises that import food, fertilizer, and other products for agricultural production. Transnistrian economic entities will need to comply with the national Moldovan legislation, but are exempt from custom duties and payments for environmental pollution. The timeframe for processing documents submitted by Left Bank economic entities and commissioned by the Public Services Agency (ASP), will be reduced. Transnistrian Region enterprises that are not commissioned by the ASP, will be able to obtain a sanitary-veterinary permit and an official registration certificate on food safety by submitting an electronic application.
- As of yesterday, the number of people in the Slobodzey coronavirus hospital in the Transnistrian region is 30 people. The presence of COVID-19 was confirmed in six Transnistrians receiving treatment in conditions of complete isolation. Nine citizens are waiting for the results of laboratory tests. A delivery of 5,000 test units is expected from Russia. These tests will be sent directly to the specialized Chisinau center, but the tests will be used for the study of Transnistrian Region samples.

Preparedness & Response of UN System in Moldova

The UN Country Team prepared a Country Preparedness and Response Plan on 28 February, which included ensuring the business continuity of the UN office in Moldova, in support of the following areas of response:

Assessment and Data

- UNFPA continues to promote the real time monitoring dashboard for easy access to latest disaggregated data about the pandemic. The Dashboard is extensively used by the media and the general public to get the data. From the launch date of the dashboard (20.03), statistics of views registered 273 000 accesses to the Desktop Dashboard, and during 24 hours: 51 000 accesses.
- An updated medical and clinical needs assessment was completed for a total total of 20,000 positive cases (Scenario 4). Total cost of the response to enhance the health system has been estimated for USD 38mln. This has been shared broadly with partners.

Migration

- The UN Migration Task Force meeting was held 24 March, 14.30-16.00. Some of the decisions included: IOM to circulate the concept with 5 clusters of possible interventions, for the interested agencies to input/complement, working towards the development of a One-UN joint action, IOM to contact the MPTF administration to inform of the intentions of UNCT Moldova to develop a COVID-19 related application and seek guidance on the eligibility and the process. Further follow-up will be ensured via subsequent MTF meetings.

Education

- Material by UNICEF to support the development of the psycho-emotional support to children was shared with MECR on 23 March.
- Following the first UN coordinated Education Task Force Meeting, a letter was developed with input of all participating agencies and shared on 24 March with MECR to inform about the support UN Agencies and WB can provide to address COVID-19 and promote coordination by MECR of efforts of all partners.

Socio Economic Task Force

- UNDP convened the first meeting of the social and economic impact taskforce on Wednesday 24 March in the presence of all the 19 member agencies/entities (RCO, UNDP UNFPA, UN Women, UNICEF, UNECE, ILO, FAO, UNAIDS, UNODC, UNIDO, IOM, OHCHR, WB, IMF, EBRD, EIB, SDC, EUD).

Gender

- A Gender Task Group meeting was held (online) 26 March, at 13.00. More information to follow.

Health

- UNAIDS supported the National HIV program on the development of the algorithm to continue the services on HIV testing of pregnant women; as well as ensuring continuity of PMTCT services.

- Based on the recent partnership agreement with SDC, UNDP has been pursuing the implementation of procurement support for priority PPEs. The first batch of 4,000 specialized gowns will be procured locally and delivered to the Ministry of Health next Tuesday. As of then, 4,000 will also be produced each day.
- UNICEF is pursuing the procurement of oxygen concentrators and other materials from its Supply Division.

Communications

- CBS-AXA, as part of a Gallup International Association global initiative, recently conducted a survey (11-13 March) on COVID-19 perceptions. The polling data shows that 52.2 percent believe that Covid-19 fears are exaggerated, including 56.9 percent in cities, 56.2 percent of youth (18-29), 63.5 percent of people aged between 30-44, and 68.1 percent who use Russian as a first language. Around 41.2 percent of the respondents indicated that they were not concerned about the pandemic but about 75.1 percent of respondents said they agreed with temporary restrictions. About 74.9 percent said they had taken some precautionary measures (like wearing sanitary masks, using disinfectant, etc). The polling field work was conducted from 11-13 March, one week after the discovery of the first Covid-19 case. The sample was 502 people in 13 regions, with a 4.4-percent margin of error.
- A [page on coronavirus response](#) was created on UNICEF in Moldova webpage. It includes useful resources for parents, caregivers and teachers.
- Useful [information for parents, with a focus on dads](#), was shared to the media and was taken by 15 mainstream media outlets. A social media campaign #LearnatHome initiated and had a reach of more than 220,000 and engaged more than 11,000 on social media platforms.
- The [press release on UNICEF scaling up support in 145 countries](#) to keep children learning, as COVID-19 forces the majority of schools worldwide to close was shared with the media today.
- Support offered to the Ministry of Health, Labour and Social Protection in reaching out with the #StaiAcasa message through videos, including from key influencers [Vali Boghean](#) and [Mihai Ciobanu](#)
- An educational U-Report quiz on COVID-19 among young people was launched in the form of a poll, and related results will be widely published.
- A [starter toolkit with resources](#) by UNICEF in a variety of areas specific to Early Childhood Development in emergency were sent for translation into Romanian. To be distributed further on media platforms and with UN agencies through the Education Task Force.
- With the growing number of pregnant women affected by COVID-19 (2 as of 23 March), UNFPA teamed up with Suntparinte media portal and released a [video interview](#) with Dr. Aliona Lupascu from the Institute of Mother and Child, responding to many questions in a practical way.
- Furthermore social media campaign on Early Childhood Development underway with a special focus Positive Parenting, incl. on fathers' engagement in children's rearing to address the issues faced by parents/caregivers of young children in emergencies/COVID-19 context.
- UNDP has created a landing page www.undp.md/coronavirus (Romanian and English) that contains the global narrative on UNDP response to COVID-19, local actions and links to relevant news releases and stories. Also, embedded for easy reference the local cases tracker, produced with UNFPA support.
- A U-report "Educational Quiz" on COVID-19 initiated on 25 March. Furthermore, a Global consolidated Chatbot on COVID-19 was shared for use with U-report Moldova. The chatbot will be contextualized and shared soon.
- UNFPA facilitated a media interview on Public Television Moldova 1 about the Dashboard use (Programme "Cine vine la noi?" 24.03/17:00). The Representative of the Ministry of Health, Labour and Social Protection and National Public Health Agency attended the TV show.

- UNFPA continued to engage with the Network of Youth Centres in social media and deliver the #StayHome message among young people. So far, five (5) Youth Centres got involved in the campaign and more than 4,000 young people were exposed to the campaign messages. The campaign is planned to roll-out by the end of April and engage influencers.
- Audio messages with stay at home and prevention measures are being aired by police cars at community levels in Romanian and Russian. The audio is also being recorded in Ukrainian, Gagauzian and Romani languages.
- Printing of floor stickers (15,000 pcs) on social distance for all postal offices and local small groceries are in the pipeline.
- WHO is recording two new audio spots for radio on #StayAtHome messages and why it is so important.
- UNFPA has volunteered to help with production of infographics for journalists to curb the growing stigma surrounding the COVID-19.
- Mayors, local leaders have started to communicate widely in their communities about prevention measures and stay at home rules.

Human Rights

- OHCHR continues to monitor legislative changes, and decisions issued by the Commission on Exceptional Situations and the implementation of the aforementioned to assess their human rights compliance.

Gaps/Needs Identified

- Although the MoH has produced this week PPEs materials and equipment, there is still a large gap in terms of equipment and materials in the health system to be prepared for COVID-19 response. Development Partners are invited to support the MoH in the response.

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