

Coronavirus Disease - COVID 19

Situation Report No. 21 (25 June 2020)



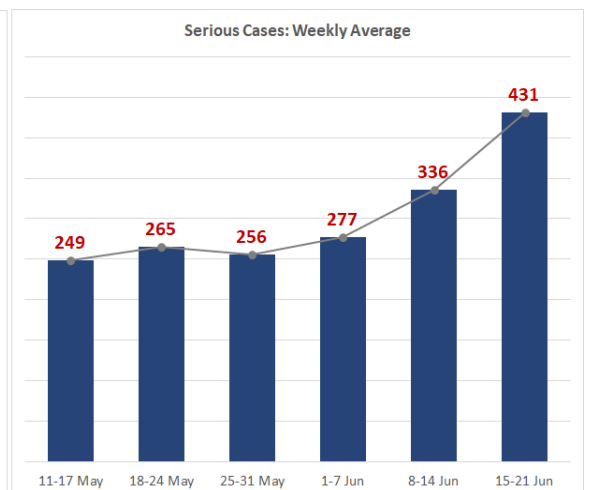
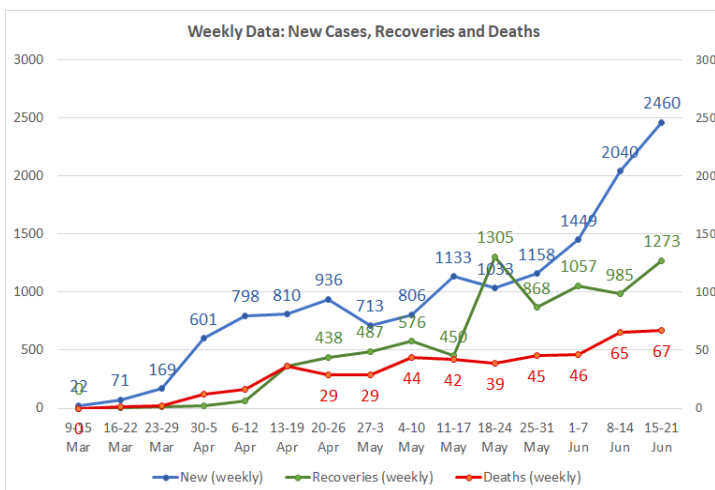
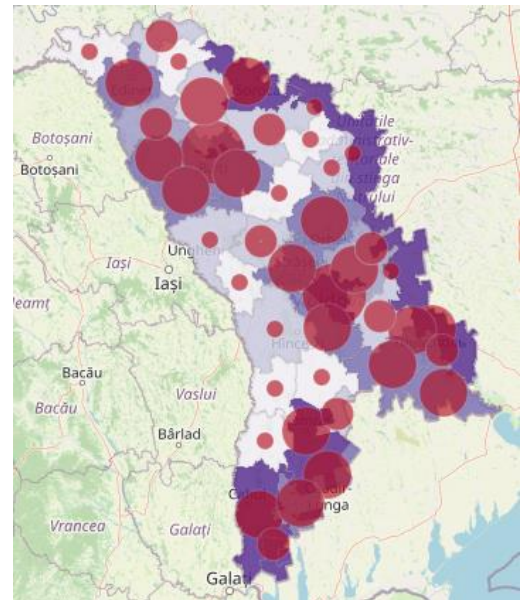
COVID-19
RESPONSE



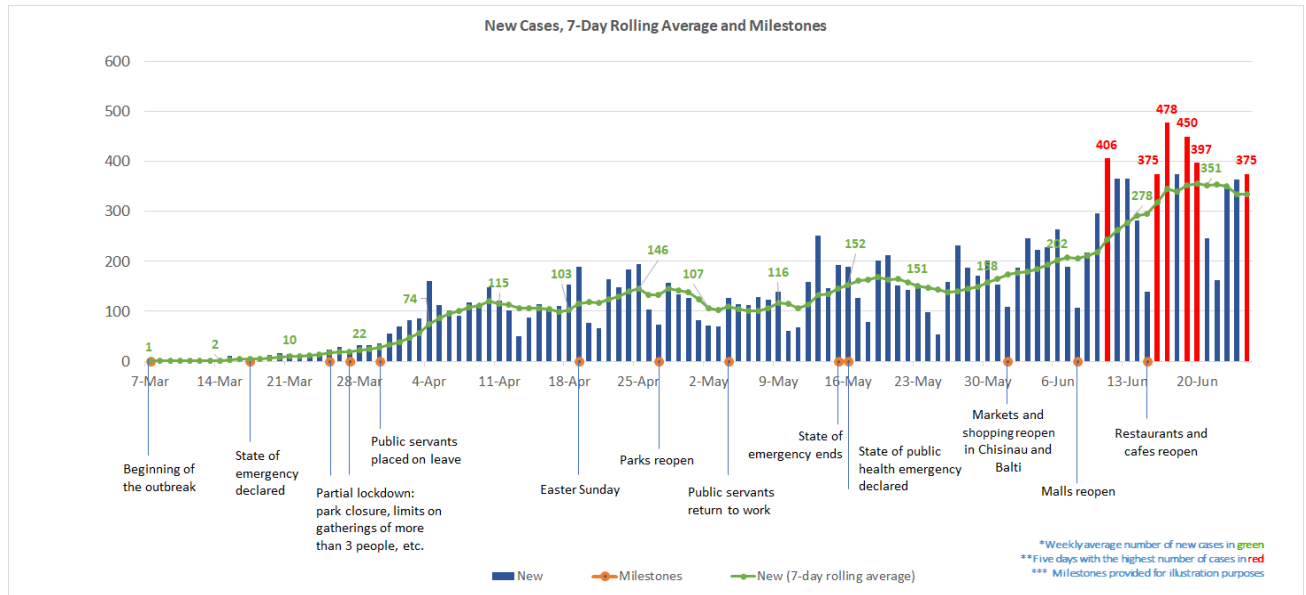
This report is produced by UN Moldova in collaboration with Government and development/humanitarian partners.

Highlights – data as reported by national authorities

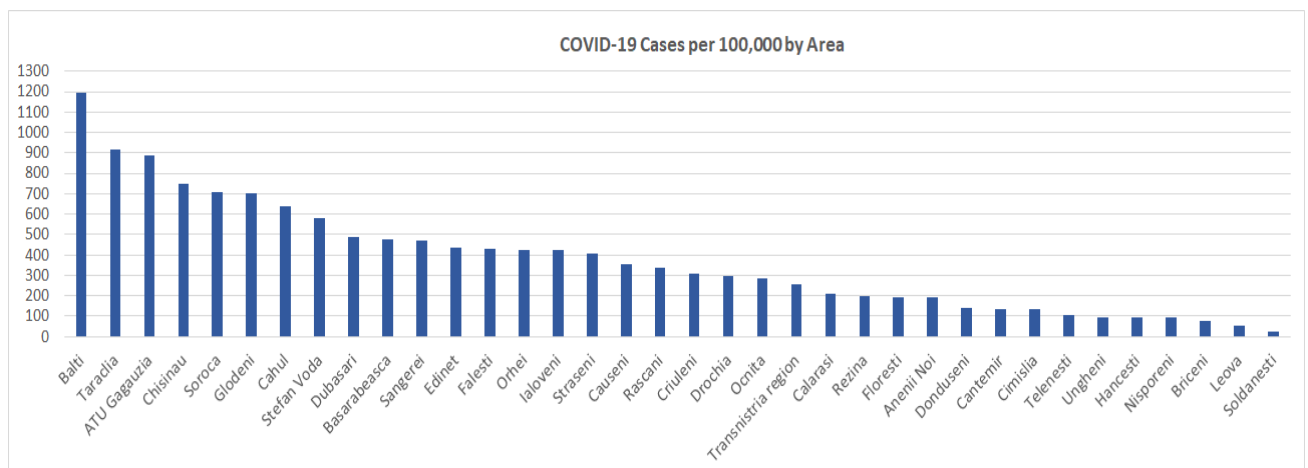
- The number of new cases continued to grow over the past days, with another 375 being reported today. The average number of daily cases reported over the past week is 335. The total number of cases currently stands at 15,453.
- The number of deaths also continued to grow. Seven deaths have been reported today, with the total number of deaths reaching 502. A record number of deaths - 14 - was reported on June 20, with the average number of daily deaths over the past week being 8. The case fatality rate currently stands at 3.2%. The average age of patients who have died from the disease is 66, with more than 90% of all deaths having been reported in patients 50 years of age and older.
- Weekly numbers also show an increase in new cases and deaths. Last week saw the highest number of cases - 2,460 - registered over the course of a week since the beginning of the outbreak, which represents an approximately 20% increase compared to the previous week. A slight increase in the number of deaths was also registered, bringing the weekly number to 67, the highest so far.



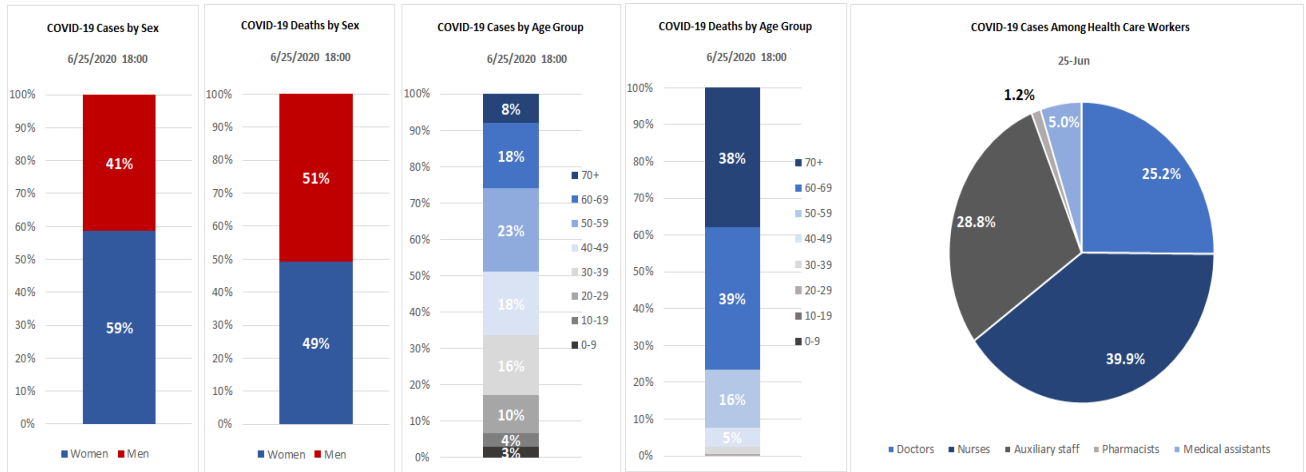
- At the same time, the number of weekly recoveries reached 1,273, which represents a 29% compared to the previous week. The total number of patients who have recovered from the disease now stands at 8,599. This represents 56% of the total number of cases.
- The number of patients in serious condition continued to grow and has been hovering around the 450 marks over the past week. The number currently stands at 455.



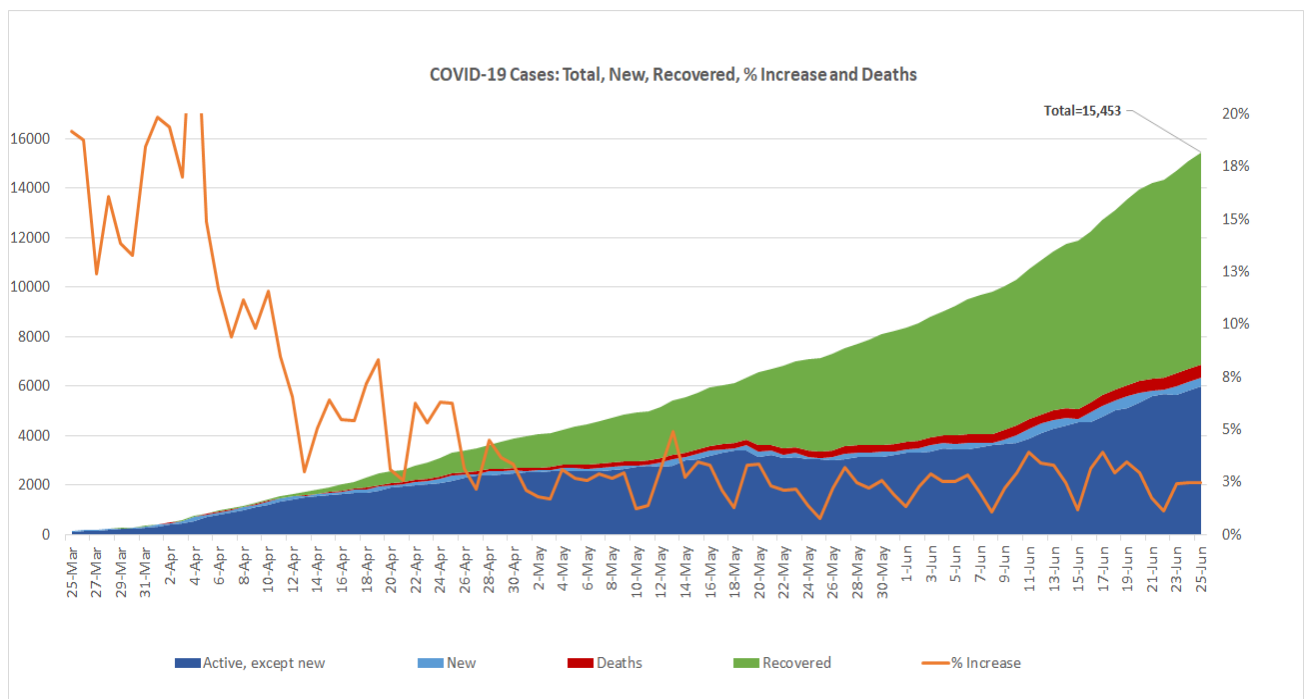
- The share of health care workers continued to decrease gradually in the total number of cases. Currently, approximately 15% of confirmed cases are health care workers. Over 2,300 doctors, nurses, medical assistants and other staff from the health care sector have been infected with the virus since the beginning of the outbreak.
- In terms of geographical distribution, Chisinau, with more than 30% of all confirmed cases, remains the most affected area if the number of cases is considered. The Transnistria region, ATU Gagauzia and Balti follow in the list of most affected areas, accounting for 8% of all cases each. Cahul and Soroca account for another 4% of all cases each. Overall, more than three in five cases are from the areas mentioned above. If the size of the population is considered, Balti, Taraclia, ATU Gagauzia and Chisinau, in the order listed, 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 slightly higher than that of women, 51% vs. 49%. Furthermore, the case fatality rate among men is higher than among women, 4.0% vs. 2.7%.



- Real time figures and graphs can be accessed [here](#) in Romanian and in Russian [here](#). This site has reached more than 1.75 million views to date.



Overview of Key Decisions & Announcements

- Moldova has now passed 15,000 cases and more than 500 deaths since the first case on March 7;
- The Extraordinary Emergency Public Health Commission (CNESP) met on June 23. The state of National Public Health Emergency has been extended until July 15 and will remain under revision for further extension based on the epidemiological situation;
- On June 26, Moldova will participate in the `UN COVID-19 Response & Recovery Fund - Recover Better Together Action` Forum. The forum is chaired by HE Ms. Amina Mohammed, UN Deputy Secretary-General and is acting as a pledging conference for the MPTF Response & Recovery Fund. More than 20 donors and 40 recipient countries will participate;
- The UN in Moldova is monitoring the flooding situation to ensure that any potential displacements do not increase risks. If required, an additional sitrep focused on the flooding will be released.

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**

- The Extraordinary Public Health Commission (CNESP) has extended the state of emergency until July 15, which upholds restrictions on public events or being present in public spaces of more than three people, the presence of people older than 63 in public spaces; and the use of playgrounds, stadiums, and parks. Restrictions will also be upheld for recovery centres (except the Republican Center for the Rehabilitation of Children and the Experimental Prosthetic Republican Center), educational institutions, camps, night clubs, and ceremonies (weddings, funerals, and other events);
- CNESP also announced the reopening of all businesses on July 1, as long as pandemic public health standards are followed. Rehabilitation centers, educational institutions, camps, and nightclubs will stay closed. CNESP is also allowing gatherings of fewer than 50 people, as long as participants comply with health standards and provide a list of attendees. Such events cannot be organized next to public or educational institutions, hospitals, and other locations with a high risk of infection;
- Restrictions are also imposed on providing health diagnostics and programmed care services, sports competitions or cultural mass events are forbidden and last but not least all educational activity performed in the frame of schools, universities, other related institutions shall be avoided.

Political Situation

- According to a recent opinion poll, carried out in the six countries of the Eastern Partnership (EaP) - Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine, more than 60 percent of citizens of Moldova trust the European Union (EU) and 33 per cent trust the Eurasian Economic Union (EEU). According to the poll, 82 per cent of Moldovans are aware of the EU's financial support and 58 per cent consider the support effective. At the same time, 61 percent of Moldovans have a positive image of the EU, 29 per cent feel neutral about it and only 9 per cent hold a negative view;

- Pro Moldova has officially registered as a political party after collecting over 6,000 signatures and creating 23 territorial branches. Pro Moldova says that they seek to reset the political system during early legislative elections and to offer the country projects to ensure durable development and European integration;
- President Igor Dodon paid a two-day working visit to Moscow, at the invitation of Russian President Vladimir Putin. The two presidents apparently discussed the development of bilateral relations, largely in the commercial and economic sectors. President Dodon attended the Victory Day parade in Moscow to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the Soviet victory during World War II. A 75-soldier delegation also participated in the parade. Mr. Dodon will also meet with other key Russian officials to discuss transportation permits, the Russian loan, and the potential extension of a preferential export regime, which expires on June 30;
- Moldavskaya GRES, located on the left bank, will officially become the only electricity supplier in Moldova again starting from July 1. Electricity will be supplied via the Moldovan state-owned electricity supplier Energocom until March 31, 2021. Energocom won the tender announced by Premier Energy, the largest electricity market operator. The purchase price will be 48.6 cents per one kWh, which is 2.6 percent lower than the earlier price. Three suppliers participated in the bid announced by Premier Energy: Energocom, Ukrainian company DTEK Pavlohradvuhillia and DE Trading. In the past, the reliance on one supplier has been criticized by multiple international and local actors as potentially negatively impacting Moldova's energy security;
- PAS head Maia Sandu has rejected President Dodon's invitation to "anti-oligarchic parties," including PAS, to discuss the future of the parliamentary majority and the forming of a government following the departure of several M.P.s from the current Democratic Party and Socialist party and the loss of a stable majority;
- The Constitutional Court head announced that the Court has validated the law on states of emergency, siege, and war that allows the authorities to implement all "necessary measures." However, she said the measures "should not surpass the sphere of influence of executive authorities. Parliament must have the right to conduct effective control over the discussed measures." The Court also said that article 225(3) in the Administrative Code is unconstitutional because it prevents courts from inspecting the proportionality of measures adopted by public authorities.

Human Rights

- On March 18, in a very positive development, the parliament approved in its first reading a draft law which establishes a parliamentary commission mandated to monitor the implementation by the Republic of Moldova of decisions issued by the European Court for Human Rights and the Constitutional Court.
- The Ombudsperson raised concerns over draft amendments to the labour code, according to which medical staff can, without prior notification and without their consent, be asked to return from annual leave as well as be moved to another medical facility during times of state of emergency, siege and war.
- According to the Ombudsperson, the Ministry of Justice in response to the Ombudsperson's recommendation of releasing certain categories of detainees to reduce the risk of spread of COVID-19 in places of detention said that they considered it inappropriate to amnesty or pardon any detainees for the purpose of reducing the number of detainees in prisons.

Security

- NTR

Transnistria Region

- According to the data provided by the de facto Operational Headquarters from Tiraspol on June 22, a total number of 1,154 cases of COVID infections were registered, out of which 922 or 79.8% have recovered, and 44 people have died.
- The Railroad Transportation Working Group met over video on June 19 and discussed various issues related to the transit of goods and agreed to extend the agreement on the freight railroad traffic through the Transnistria Region for the next six months. The meeting took place in a videoconferencing format. Following the meeting, the Government of Moldova extended the possibility to import oil products via the crossing point Novosavitskaya-Cuciurgan on the Transnistria Region segment of Moldovan-Ukrainian border until December 31 2020. On a related note, The Rybnitsa office tasked with registering Transnistrian region vehicles reopened on June 23. The Tiraspol office reopened on June 3. The centers were shut down on March 20 because of the Covid-19 crisis. They initially opened on September 1, 2018 and have registered 3,801 neutral license plates for Transnistrian region vehicles, which allows the vehicles to travel internationally.
- In his weekly address on June 19, President Igor Dodon underlined three priorities on the agenda of the Transnistria Region settlement process to be addressed in the coming months: telecommunications, banking, and freedom of movement. According to the President, these priorities were also discussed in meetings with the Special Representative of Albania's OSCE Chairperson-in-Office, Thomas Mayr-Harting. While there are some disagreements between the Sides related to the freedom of movement, an agreement has been reached to establish a new trolleybus line between Bender and the Severny district.

Economic Update

- According to the NBS, in April '20 the industrial production (seasonally adjusted series) declined by 19.7% compared to the same period in 2019 with extractives (-26.3%) and manufacturing (-27.9%) being the main triggering factors. Energy, gas and other utility-related supplies continued on a descending trend (-5.9% in April '20). If we compare (adjusted to seasonality and working days) January-April' 20 versus the same period of last year, the cumulative decline in industrial production was less sharp, reaching -6.4%. As a result of emergency situation in force until end of April, the majority of manufacturing industry witnessed a significant decline, namely automotive industry (-82.5%), electrical equipment (-69.1%), furniture (-66.8%), computers, electronic and optical equipment manufacturing (-61.7%), apparel (-58.6%), printing (-47.3%), metallurgic industry (-31.7%), repair of equipment and machinery (-31.4%), beverages (-22.5%), pharmaceuticals (-11.5%). Conversely, the growth was registered in the production of chemicals by 31.4%. In terms of food processing, positive growth was observed only in the production of vegetable and animal fats and oils by 7.7 times, and milling products grew by 18.1%. Other food processing declined by almost a half, particularly in the processing of fish and seafood (-36.4%), fruits and vegetables (-23%), bakery (-18.3%), dairy (-2.4%) and meat processing (-1.9%).
- Producers' prices increased in May versus April by 0.1%, yet if to compare with May 2019 the increase is much higher +2.9%. In May versus April, the producers' prices per main groups of industrial commodities

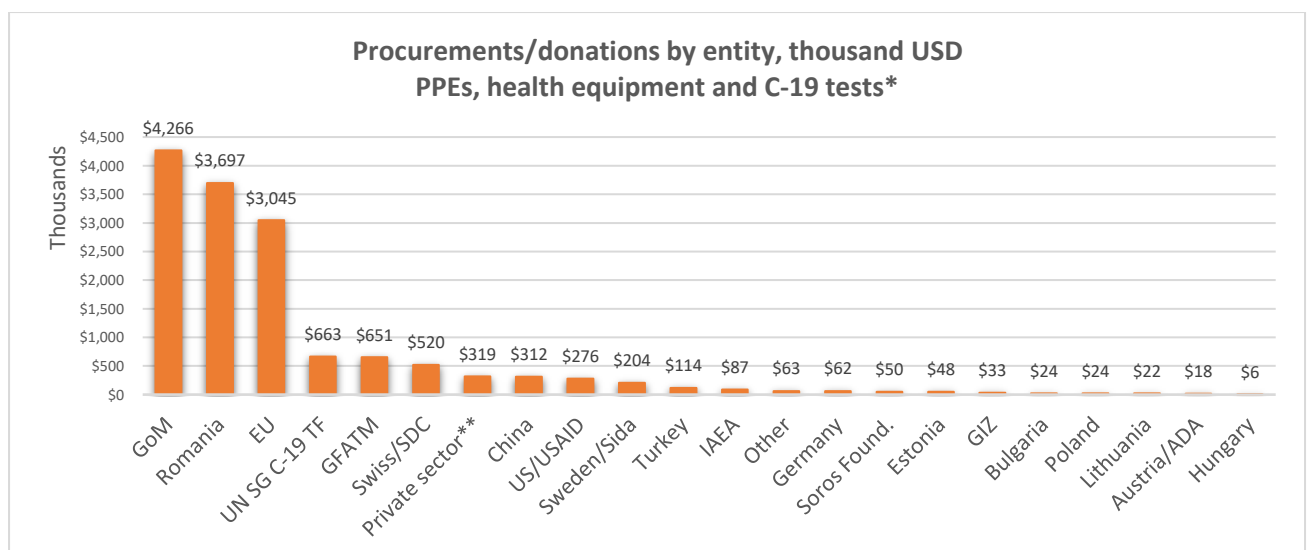
(as per EU classification) increased for goods of current use (+0.3%), whereas for energy-related goods went down by 0.2% and prices for intermediary goods used in production went down by 0.1%.

- In May '20 the share of new credits provided by commercial banks declined by 25.9% compared to the same period of last year. In terms of structure, loans issued in MDL are dominating representing 72%, loans in foreign currency constitute 25.1% while loans attached to exchange rate - 2.9%. Noteworthy is the fact that in the context of Covid-19 crisis, commercial banks increased loans linked to exchange rates (+ 75.8% in May '20 versus May 19). Half of all loans were issued for the period of 2 to 5 years, while the majority (over 70%) of loan beneficiaries were legal entities.
- As per NBM, the amount of money transferred through commercial banks increased by 24.6% in May '20 versus the same period 2019. Geographically, transfers from the EU accounted for over 50% of all money transfers in May. Oil prices decline compounded with Covid-19 crisis led to a decline in transfers from CSI states, in which Russia's remittances have been dominating. Conversely, remittances from the EU (\$US 67.48 mln) increased by 32% in May '20 versus the same month of 2019. During January-May 2020 the total amount of transfers to natural persons in Moldova reached \$US 502.94 mln that exceeds by 3.1% the same period of 2019.

Aid Coordination

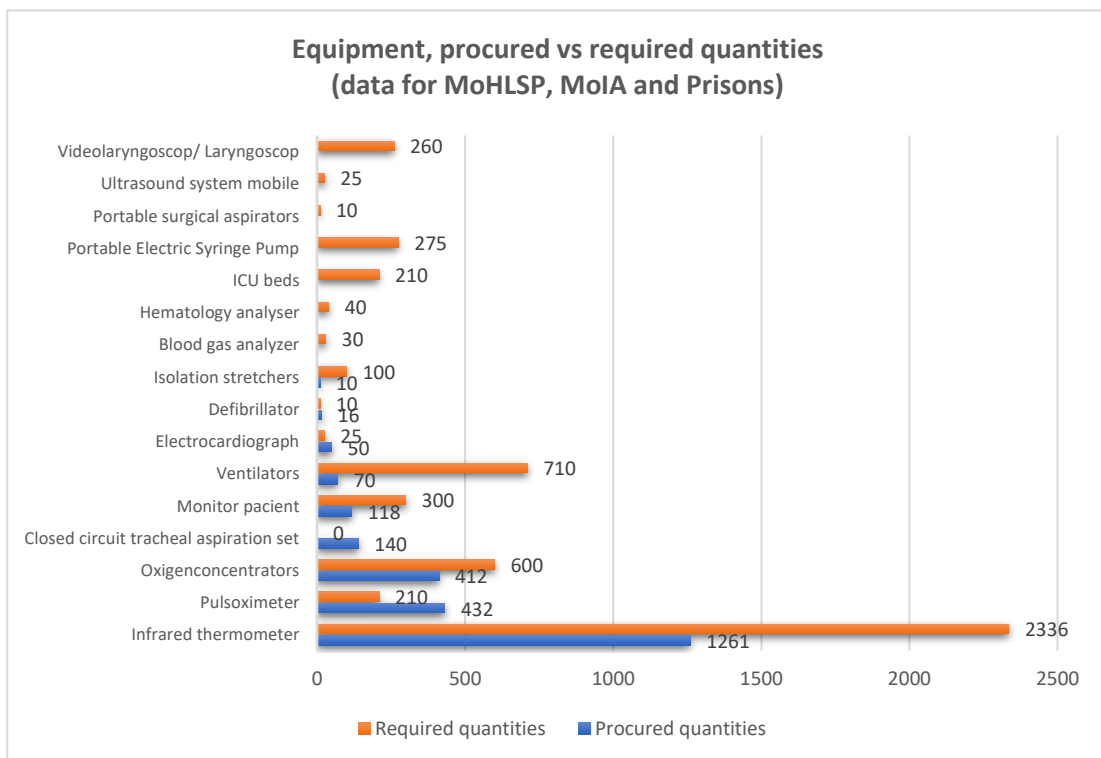
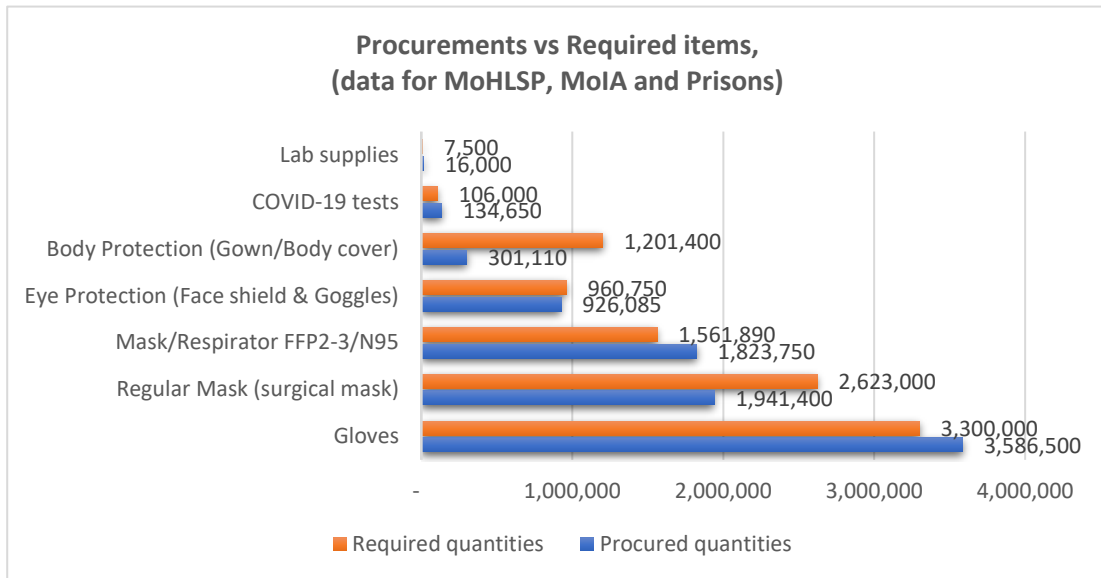
- The Moldova's application to the Global Fund to fight AIDS, TB and Malaria has been approved. An additional amount of EUR 643,594 has been approved for the COVID-19 response, under the Global Fund COVID-19 Response Mechanism.

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



Private sector: 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 SRL.

**Note - procurement data are captured from various sources, i.e. media. The process of reflecting donors/contributions is ongoing, and data is updated once details of procured items are confirmed. Delivery time depends on donor arrangements. Additional needs for equipment will be required after July/August 2020, e.g. need for PPEs for the continuation of the response and prevention of the second wave in fall-winter. For more information, please contact veaceslav.palade@un.org and garami@who.int*



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. The 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

- UN Women under the Joint UN Programme "Strengthening the Republic of Moldova's National Response to the COVID-19 Crisis", funded by UN COVID-19 Response and Recovery Multi-Partner Trust Fund delivered on June 23 support to over 4,000 women and men with from vulnerable groups (women with low or no income, women with disabilities, Romani women, elderly women, sex workers etc.) consisting of food, hygienic and protection supplies;
- UNDP has received support from SOROS Foundation Moldova for procurement of medical equipment (oxygen concentrator, pulse oximeter, monitor systems, etc.);
- UNDP has received financial support from Endava for procurement of medical equipment which will be delivered in 10 weeks;
- The first delivery of COVID tests donated by IAEA arrived on June 19. UNDP handled the process of customs clearance, brokerage and delivery of the COVID tests to the National Center of Public Health.

Assessment and Data

- UNDP undertook a needs assessment at the local level in 120 local communities, including communities in the right and left banks of the Nistru.

Socio-Economic Support

- The Socio-Economic Taskforce meeting was held on Wednesday, June 24, with presentations from UNFPA, UNDP and UNAIDS. UNFPA presented the results of a survey on the impact of Covid -19 on older persons. UNDP highlighted the results of a local rapid needs assessment, while UNAIDS presented the vulnerabilities, including the socio-economic ones, on people affected by HIV;
- UNDP continues to support temporary accommodation of 28 medical staff from the left bank in the localities on the right bank where they work in Floresti, Soldanesti, Rezina, Criuleni, Dubasari, Anenii Noi, Causeni.

Education and youth

- UNFPA, in partnership with the Ministry of Education, Culture, and Research, continues the implementation of the psychological assistance program for youth in the context of Covid-19 - "My choice is to be OK". The programme is live-streamed each Wednesday and Friday at 4 pm on the [Facebook page of the Ministry](#). Two new sessions were organized "[Profession and career: how to find my way?](#)" and "[How can you develop your self-confidence?](#)";
- UNICEF led the regular meeting of the UN Coordinated Education Task Force. The discussions focused on a draft paper on education in the context of COVID-19 and the continued contribution of the agencies to the Ministry of Education, Culture and Research to respond to COVID-19 crisis;

- UNICEF and UNDP discussed the promotion of e-solutions for the education system, making use of the opportunities and lessons learned from COVID-19 pandemic;
- UNICEF participated in the Mini-International Learning Exchange on WASH and School Re-opening jointly hosted by Secretariat of the South East Asian Ministers of Education Organization (SEAMES) in collaboration with UNICEF, UNESCO, GIZ, WaterAid and Save the Children;
- UNICEF supported a U-Report poll on COVID 19 to understand the needs of young people. Based on poll results, a live Q&A session was organized, with the participation of a representative of the National Agency for Public Health and a U-Report coordinator;
- UNICEF is organizing an UPSHIFT kick-off conference with participation of 120 social innovators.

Gender

- UN Women in partnership with IFIS NGO organized a series of live sessions with local psychologists: on (1) [. How to deal with emotions we experience every day ;](#) (2). [Indicators of the excessive control in the family ;](#) (3). [How to distinguish conflicts from abuse? ;](#) (4.) [A father's role in the emotional development of a child.](#) The live sessions reached over 25k people and generated over 350 comments;
- UN Women provided support through other 4 informative online sessions to 25 women with disabilities on the *Effect of the lockdown on the relationship between parents and children* (on June 16), on *Keeping a harmonious relationship with partner during lockdown* (on June 16), *Domestic violence during COVID-19: causes and control techniques* (June 19).

Communications

- UNFPA released 2 new videos under "My choice is to be OK" mental health programme for young people. Psychologists Daniela Terzi-Barbarosie and Sergiu Toma respond to the following questions: ["How do I control & fight the negative thoughts?"](#) and ["How do I adapt to the transitions in my life?"](#);
- UNFPA and UN Women continue the [#MenEngage](#) campaign as a response to COVID19 implications for women and households, promoting the equal share of domestic and childcare responsibilities for both parents/partners;
- UNDP has launched a video tutorial promoting the newly created online platform on www.ombudsman.md where whistleblowers and doctors can request the protection of the integrity, which is an issue, especially during covid-19 pandemic, when health staff come forward to report challenges;
- UNDP published a press release announcing the extension of the successful experiment aiming to reduce electricity consumption in households. The purpose of the experiment is to motivate people to consume energy more sustainably, mainly while staying at home/working remotely during COVID-19 pandemic;
- UNICEF, with USAID funds, organized the talk show ([aLIVE](#)) as part of a recently signed partnership agreement. Nearly 1K real time viewers watched the talk show. Alexei Ceban, the epidemiologist from ANSP, answered young people's questions about Covid-19. Through the involvement of the U-Report community, the discussion was framed around the young people's concerns. More than 1,700 young

people (a quarter aged 15-19) participated in an [online poll](#) and asked more than 400 questions about Covid-19;

- UNICEF continued to work with the media in enhancing the visibility of Global Partnership for Education (GPE) support, which includes distribution of educational kits for young children with special needs. Last week Primul produced a [reportage from Leova](#), where several families benefited from such kits.