

Coronavirus Disease - COVID 19

Situation Report No. 22 (2 July 2020)



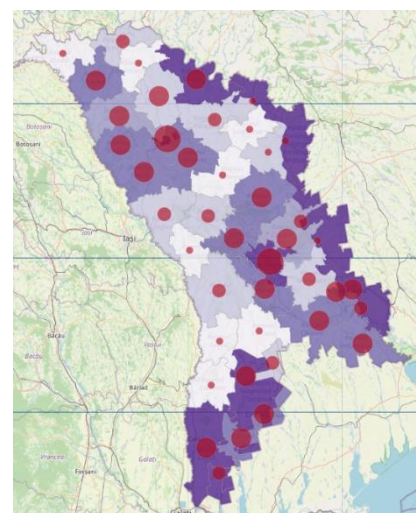
COVID-19
RESPONSE



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

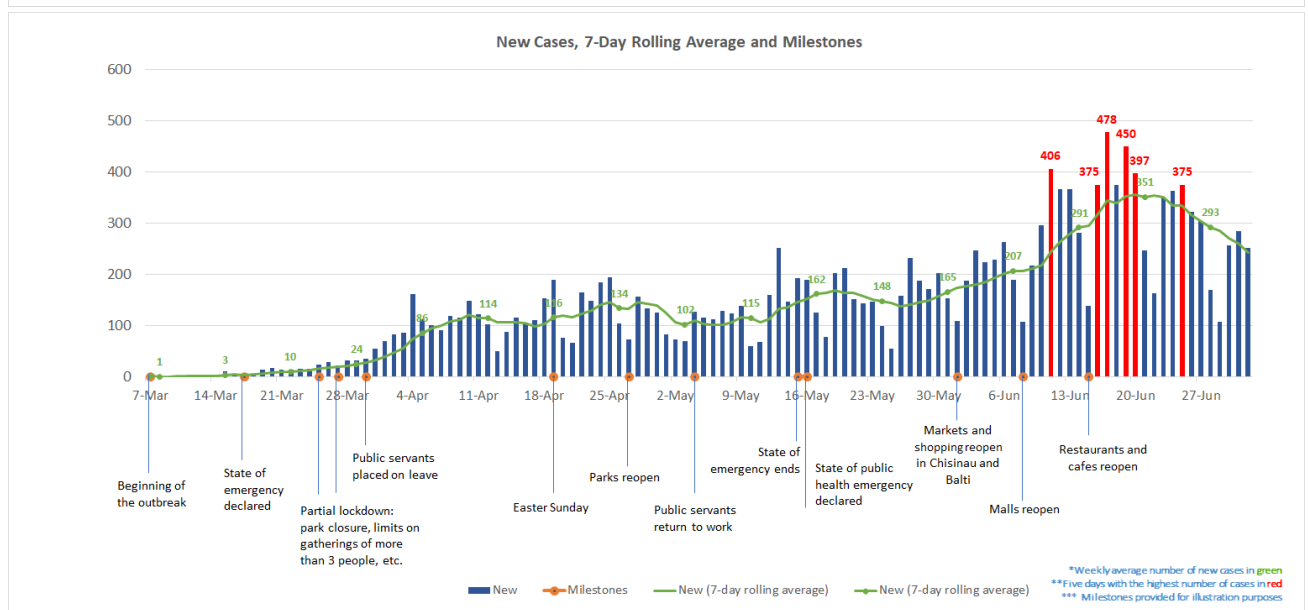
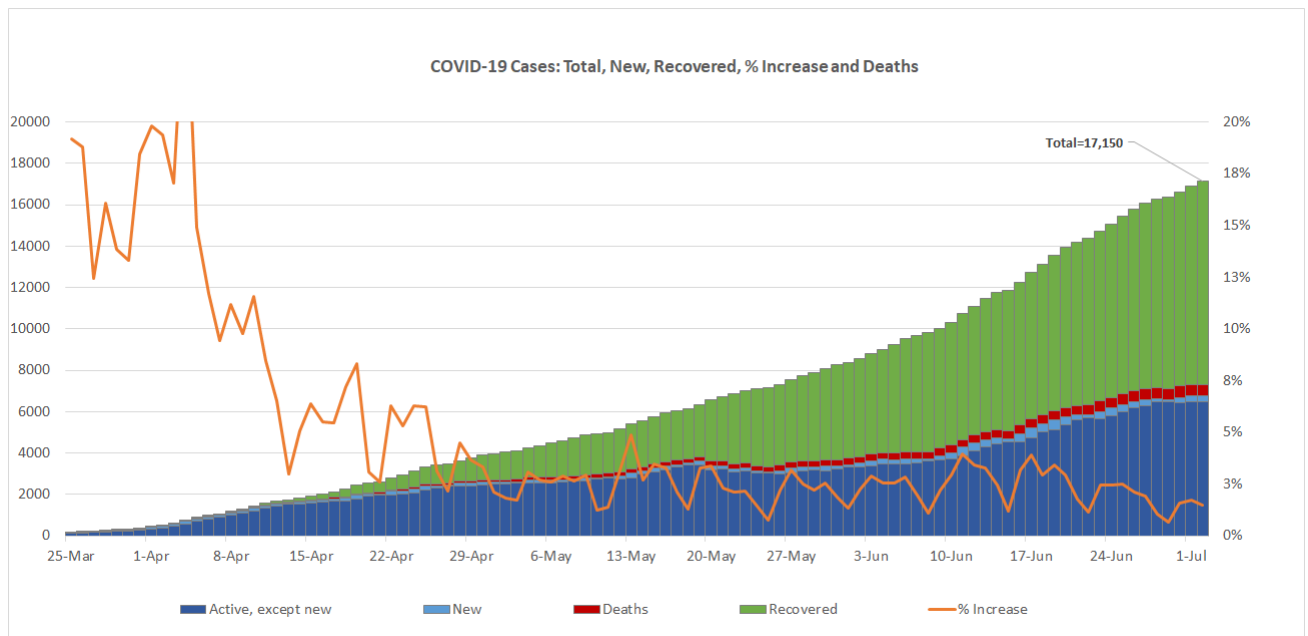
Highlights – data as reported by national authorities

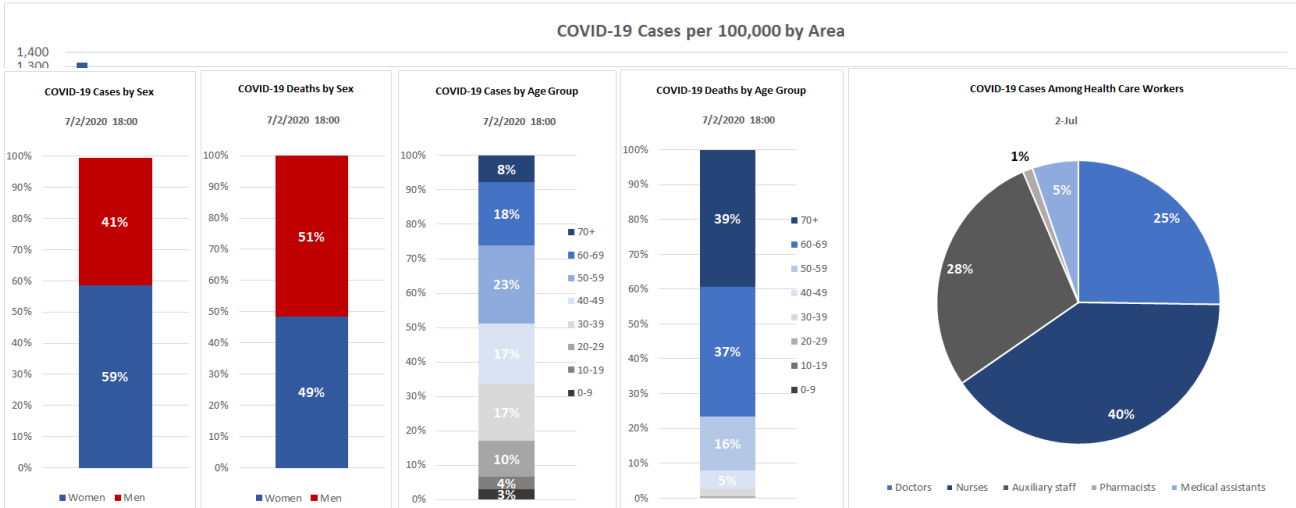
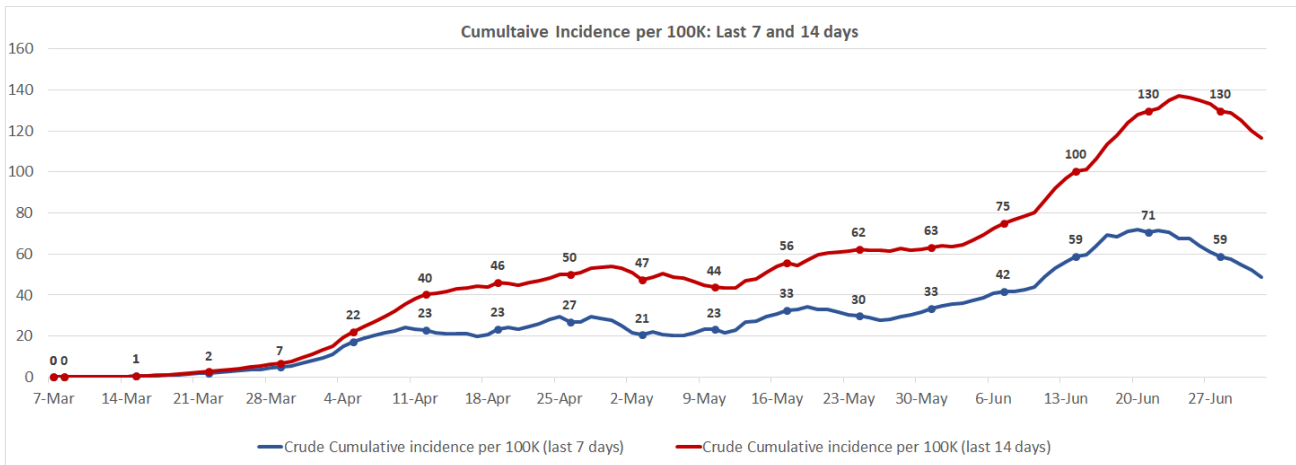
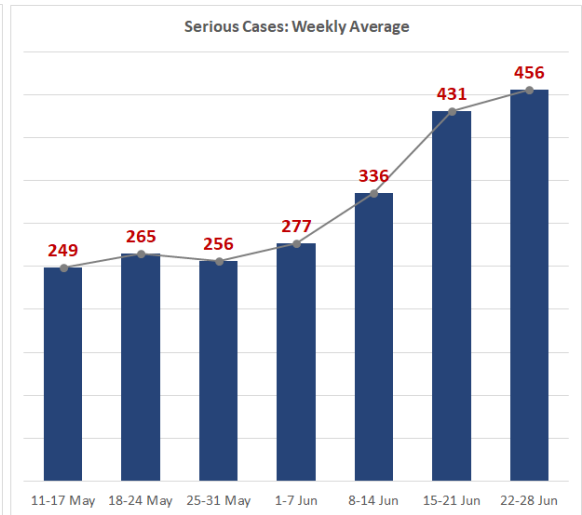
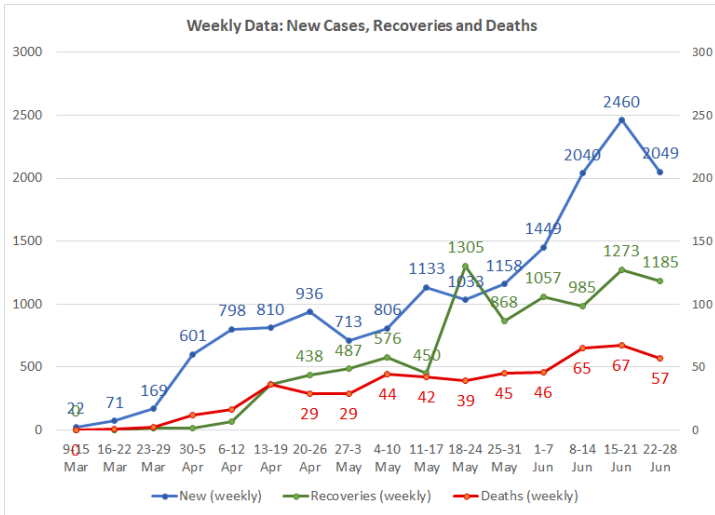
- The number of cases continued to increase over the past days but at a slower rate compared to the previous few weeks. Another 252 new cases were reported today, bringing the total number of cases to 17,150. The average number of daily cases reported over the past seven days is 242;
- The overall crude cumulative incidence of cases per 100,000 stands at 494. The crude cumulative incidence of cases over the last 7 days is 49 and over the last 14 days is 116, with both figures registering a decrease over the past week;
- The number of deaths continued to grow, with another 11 deaths being reported today. The average number of daily deaths reported over the past seven days is 8.2, which is comparable to the same figure last week. The total number of deaths reached 560 today. The case fatality rate currently stands at 3.3%. 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 show some positive developments regarding the number of new cases and deaths. With 2,049 new cases reported, last week saw a 17% decrease in the number of new cases compared to the previous week. The number of deaths also decreased by approximately 15% compared to the previous week, with 10 less deaths being reported. In addition, the R0 number decreased from 1.19 to 0.94;
- At the same time, weekly data show a decrease in the number of recoveries as well. About 7% less recoveries were reported last week compared to the previous week. The total number of patients who have recovered from the disease currently stands at 9,846. This represents 57% of the total number of cases;
- The number of patients in serious condition continued to hover around the 450 mark over the past week. The number currently stands at 453;
- The share of health care workers continued to decrease gradually in the total number of cases. Currently, approximately 14% of confirmed cases are health care workers. Nearly 2,450 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. Balti, ATU Gagauzia and the Transnistria region follow in the list of most affected areas, accounting for 7-8% of all cases each. Cahul, Sorooca, Orhei and Ialoveni account for another 3-4% 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, 4.1% vs. 2.7%;
- Real time figures and graphs can be accessed [here](#) in Romanian and in Russian [here](#). This site has reached nearly 1.8 million views to date.





Overview of Key Decisions & Announcements

- The State of National Public Health Emergency is due to end of July 15th, there is no indication yet if this will be extended;
- We are seeing some positive trends in the number of cases per week, deaths per week, and the R0 falling below 1.0, however this should be taken with caution given the increasing number of serious cases, and the relatively static number of positive cases per day of the total number tested (averaging 17-20% of all tests per day). The cases have not yet peaked, and continued caution and vigilance will still be required;
- Ms. Tatiana Ivanicichina, State Secretary, Ministry of Finance attended the Covid-19 Response and Recovery Trust Fund - “Recover Better Together” Action Forum held on virtually 26 June and chaired the UN Deputy Secretary-General. [Video](#) message;
- The Ministry of Education and Research mentioned that the Labor Code is being revised and adjusted to Covid-19 pandemic situation meaning that some additional facilities will be provided for working parents/caregivers during the crisis and recovery period;
- The WHO Regional Office for Europe today launched a sub-page on the COVID-19 pandemic in Romanian. The latest information about the new coronavirus and COVID-19 is [available here](#).

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 remain unchanged.

Political Situation

- The migration of deputies from the former ruling coalition of the Socialists and Democrats continued with the defection of the Socialist MP Stefan Gatcan to the Pro-Moldova Party. If this defection were to be recognized, it would mean that the former ruling majority would now have 49 deputies out of 101 (depending on how the two independents were to vote) in parliament and could lead to the government being ousted by an opposition no-confidence motion. However, instead of recognizing the defection the Socialists acted to address the issue. They announced that Gatcan, instead of leaving the party, resigned after “an agreement with deputy speaker Vlad Batrincea and the faction leader Corneliu Furculita. The further stated that Mr. Gatcan attended the meeting of PSRM’s legislative faction on July 1 and resigned to dedicate himself to his profession as a doctor fully. Pro Moldova replied, however, that the Socialists had forced Mr. Gatcan to sign a resignation request during a meeting of the social protection, family, and health legislative committee. The party further stated said that Mr. Gatcan’s whereabouts throughout the day were not known and noted that the M.P. had filed a complaint at the Prosecutor General’s (PG) office regarding “the harassment, intimidation and blackmail to which he was subjected on June 30 by a group of Socialist M.P.s.” PAS head Sergiu Litvinenco said that the Socialists have presented Mr. Gatcan’s resignation document, adding that “it is not clear if the document was filled out by Gatcan or by someone

else, or whether Mr. Gatcan was forced to sign it. If the latter happened, we are dealing with a crime.” Pro Moldova and Shor Party M.P.s the protested in front of the presidency, accusing the Socialists and President Dodon of pressuring Mr. Gatcan and of holding Mr. Gatcan hostage at the presidency. Later in the evening of July 1, media outlets broadcast a video clip showing Mr. Gatcan, in a field, where he proceeded to announce that he was feeling healthy and had not been kidnapped: He asked everyone to please not worry and that everything was fine. He added that he would not communicate with his friends for a while because he needed a rest. It is rumored that he is currently in Romania with his family. The entire episode shows how desperate the situation is for all parties, and the lengths they may go to just to stay in power. The situation bears watching as all sides continue to ratchet up the pressure on each other. It seems inevitable that more deputies will try to leave the Democratic or Socialist parties, but now, the danger for them to do so has increased significantly. How the opposition will react to this new set of circumstances remains to be seen;

- The Russian Embassy has stated in a verbal note to the Foreign Ministry that it wants to open two polling stations in Chisinau and Tiraspol. The Foreign Ministry has “recommended” that the Russian Embassy not open polling stations in the Transnistria Region during the upcoming Russian constitutional referendum, noting that the “constitutional authorities in Chisinau will not be able to ensure the necessary security conditions for such activities”;
- The Deputy Prime Minister for Reintegration met online with the Ukrainian Deputy Prime Minister for the Reintegration of Temporarily-occupied Territories about the negotiations process with the separatist regions in both countries, the impact of the Covid-19 crisis, institutional reforms, and human rights. The Ukrainian DPM reiterated Kyiv’s support for Moldova in the Transnistria Region Settlement process and repeated his past proposal to resume trilateral cooperation between Ukraine, Moldova, and Georgia;
- On Wednesday, July 1, the Moldovan Government rejected a draft law on holding parliamentary and presidential elections over a two-day period. The bill was proposed by the Dignity and Truth Platform Party (DA) to facilitate the voters’ access to polling stations, in particular for diaspora representatives. Earlier, on June 16, the Central Electoral Commission had approved the draft bill.

Security

- NTR.

Transnistria Region

- On June 29, the de facto Operational Headquarters in Tiraspol reported a total number of 1,196 cases of COVID infections, out of which 972 or 81% have recovered and 46 persons or 3.8% have died (These statistics might be different from the right bank statistics). According to de facto structures, the transition permits previously issued to the “citizens” of the left bank working for two companies from the right bank have been nullified because of the increased number of infections at those enterprises. In this context, 300 left bank residents will have to self-isolate for 14 days. On a related note, beginning from the last week of June, all inter-city transportation within the region is fully operational;
- The Head of the OSCE Mission met recently with the de facto leader. During the meeting, the head of office and the de facto leader reviewed ways forward in implementing confidence-building measures in the field of telecommunication, banking issues and freedom of movement. The de facto leader, for his

part, criticized Chisinau for not allowing Visa and MasterCard transactions in the region, arguing that the restrictions violate human rights since about 10,000 Russian citizens cannot get their pensions in the region. The head of the OSCE stated, following the meeting, that improved connectivity between the people and the economy on both banks is key for building trust and for the prosperity of both Sides.

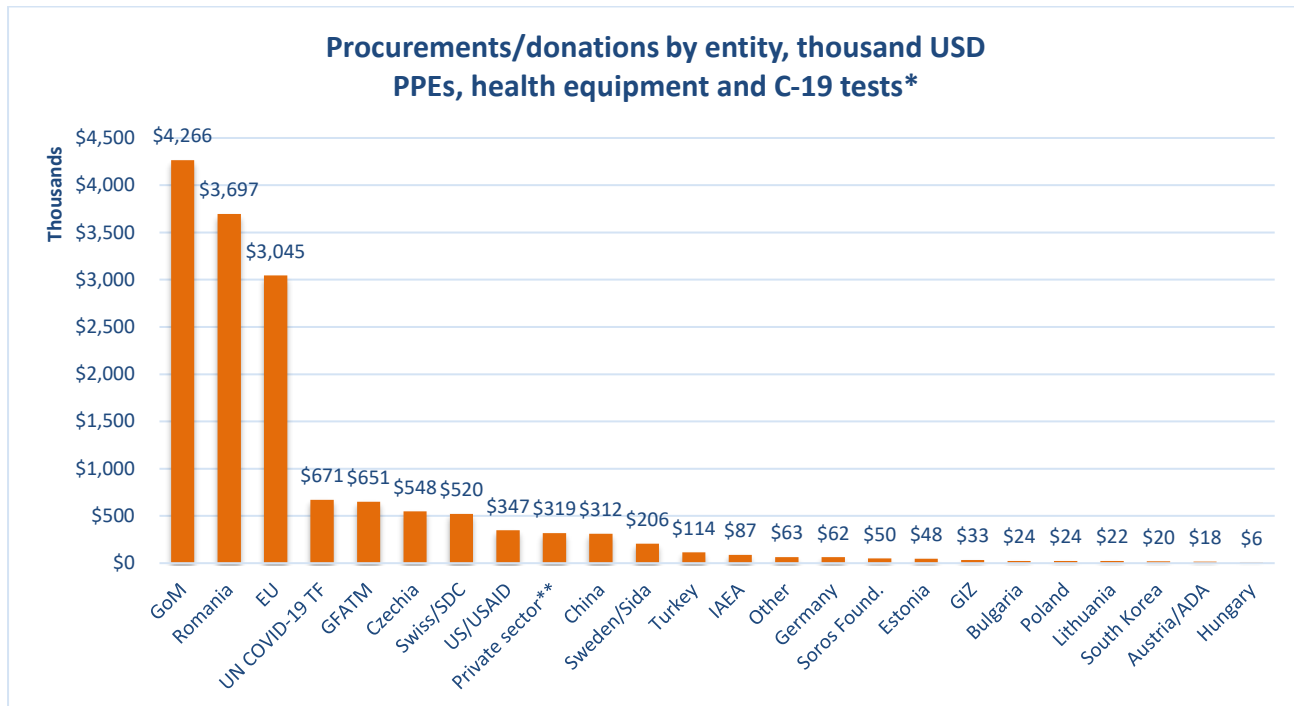
Economic Update

- The Government allocated 300 million lei to help businesses affected by Covid-19 pandemic, especially those experiencing technical unemployment or shutdowns. The authorities announced that there have been about 300 requests for about 12 million lei in aid. The executive will distribute 50 million lei to create 16 industrial platforms in Moldova's raions, and the money will be used to connect them to communication networks. A total of 12 land plots have been located for these platforms and the government is speaking with local public authorities to identify four other locations;
- The labor market in Moldova shrank by 6.5% in Q1'20 compared to the same period 2019. The employment structure is dominated by men (52%) versus women (48%), while the share of economically active population in rural areas (53.1%) is higher than in urban settlements (46.9%). Participation rate of 15+ y.o. was 39.1% witnessing a decline by 2.2% versus Q1'19 and is higher amongst men than women, being predominantly from rural settlements. The share of those employed decreased by 2.7% in Q1'20 versus the same period in 2019. The share of employed aged 15-29 stood at only 26.1%, whereas the share of NEET in the same category was 25.9%. Further analysis of employment structure by age and territorial profile suggests significant discrepancies in employment status amongst elderly (55-64): employment amongst men is 16.3% higher than amongst women; while for younger population (25-34) it is easier to get employment in urban areas than in rural settlements. Noteworthy, agriculture retains 19% of all employees, while the share of those employed in industry reduced (by 1% versus Q1'19) reaching 15.1% (manufacturing 12.2% and construction 5.3%). The majority of people are employed in the public sector (68.2%) whereas only 31.1% are working in private sector. Overall, the unemployment rate stood at 4.1% in Q1'20. The share of those employed in the informal sector of the economy slightly declined reaching 15.1%. In the context of Covid-19, the share of population declared jobless reached 4.1% from the overall employed population (3,7% amongst men and 4,6% amongst women), while majority of those people were not previously employed (over 60%), cca 28.4% have been performing home-based (remote) work, 25.5% worked less hours per week and 8% moved to part-time job. Noteworthy that the number of persons with job who stopped working as a result of Covid-19 contamination measures increased twice in Q1'20 versus the same period in last year (34% stopped working due to employer's suspension of the activity, 29% were forced to take annual leave, 28% took unpaid leave, 6% were in technical/temporary unemployment).

Aid Coordination

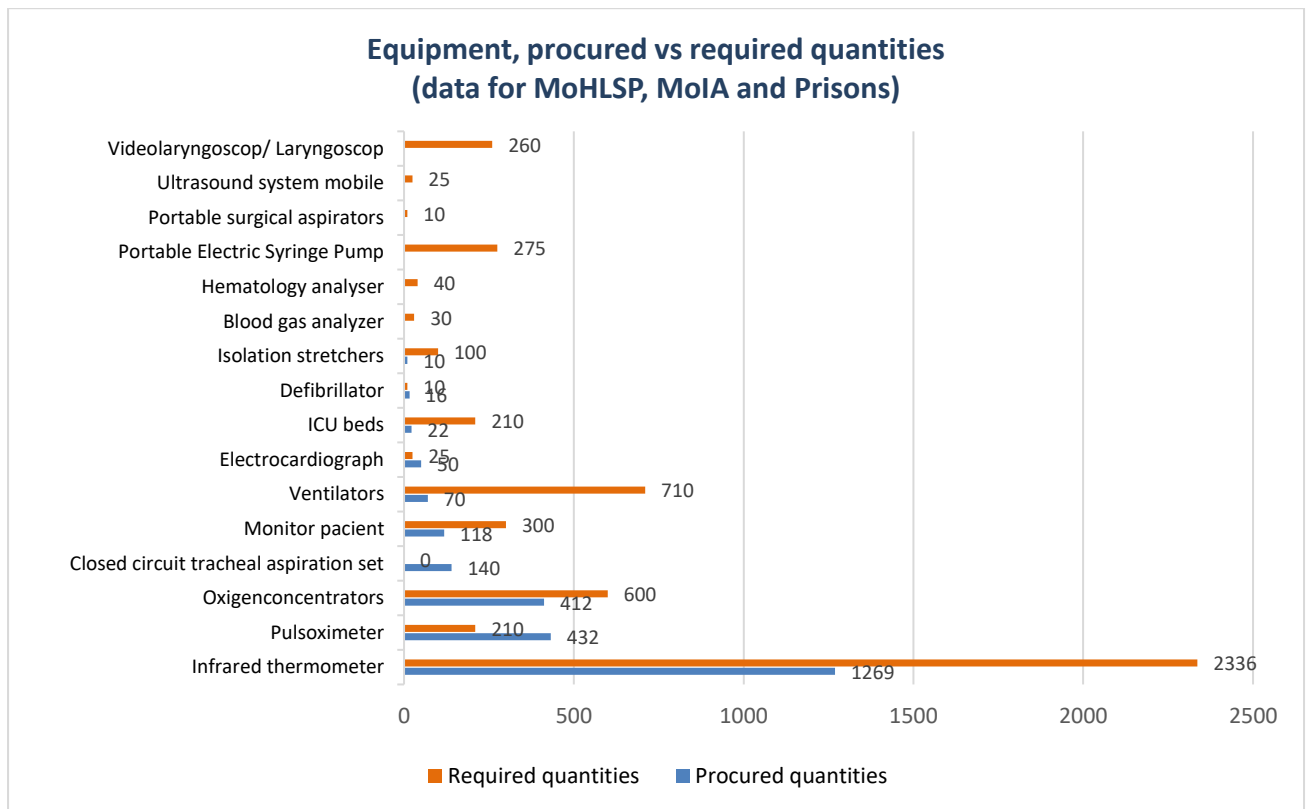
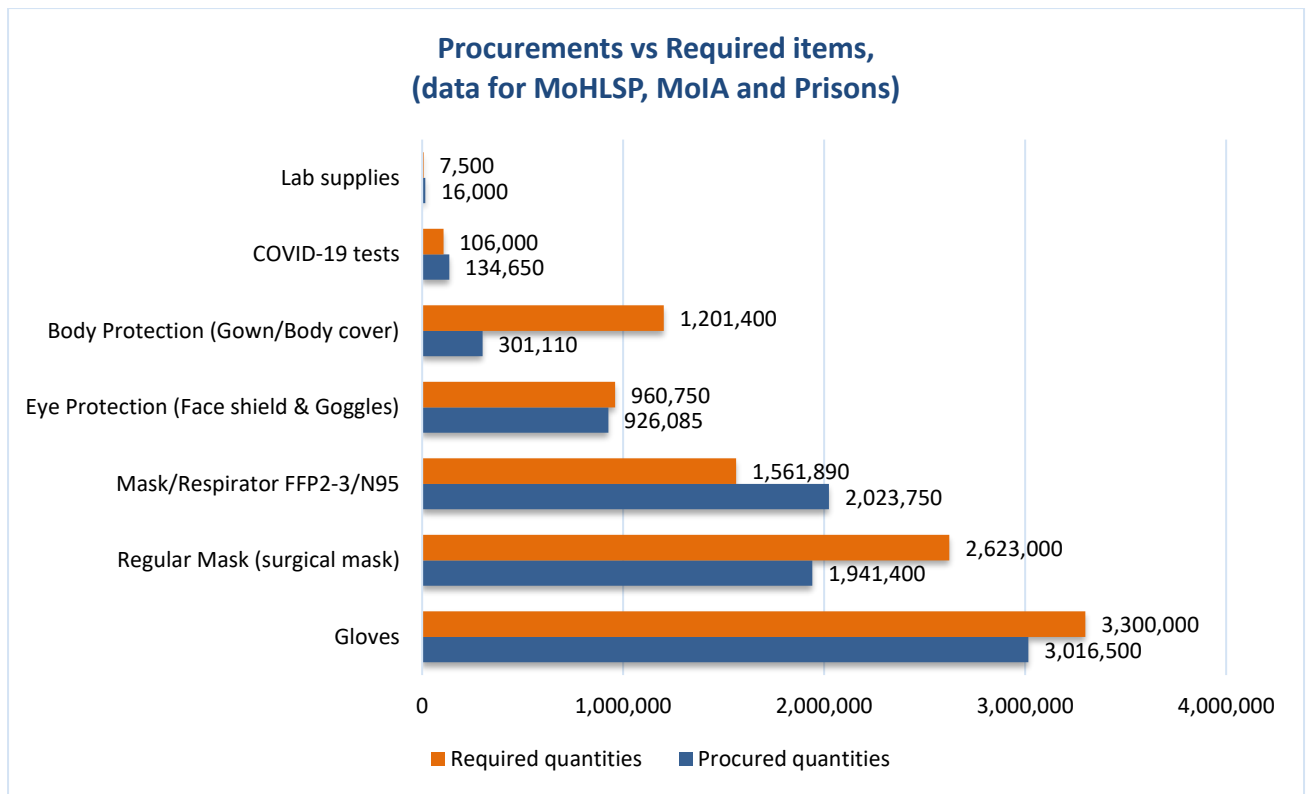
- UNICEF received from USAID nearly USD 1M in incremental funding for covid-19 prevention and response, featuring risk communication and community engagement, infection prevention and control in designated health care and other targeted facilities, data collection and analysis to improve the overall COVID-19 emergency response, capacity building of relevant actors in applying COVID related normative framework and guidelines;

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



*Note - procurement 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, 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



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.

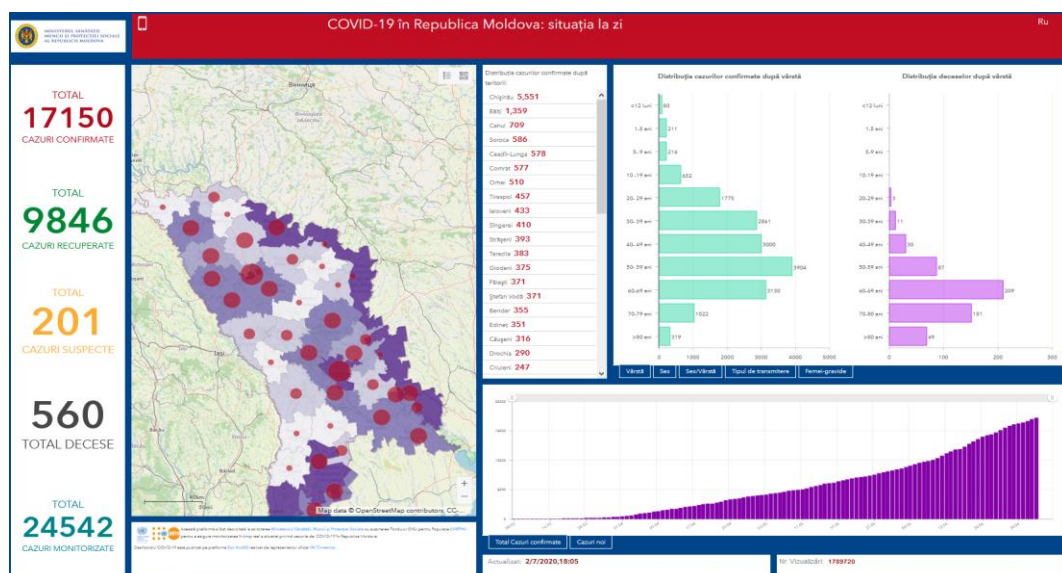
Response of UN System in Moldova

Procurement support and equipment

- UNICEF and IOM procured 3K units of protective personal equipment (downs, thermo-scanners, among others), worth 337K MDL to be distributed to the border police frontline workers, as part of the SG's TF project;
- The requisition for the medical equipment from SOROS funds was approved and submitted to UNDP GPU Health Unit for further sourcing and order placement;

Assessments and Data

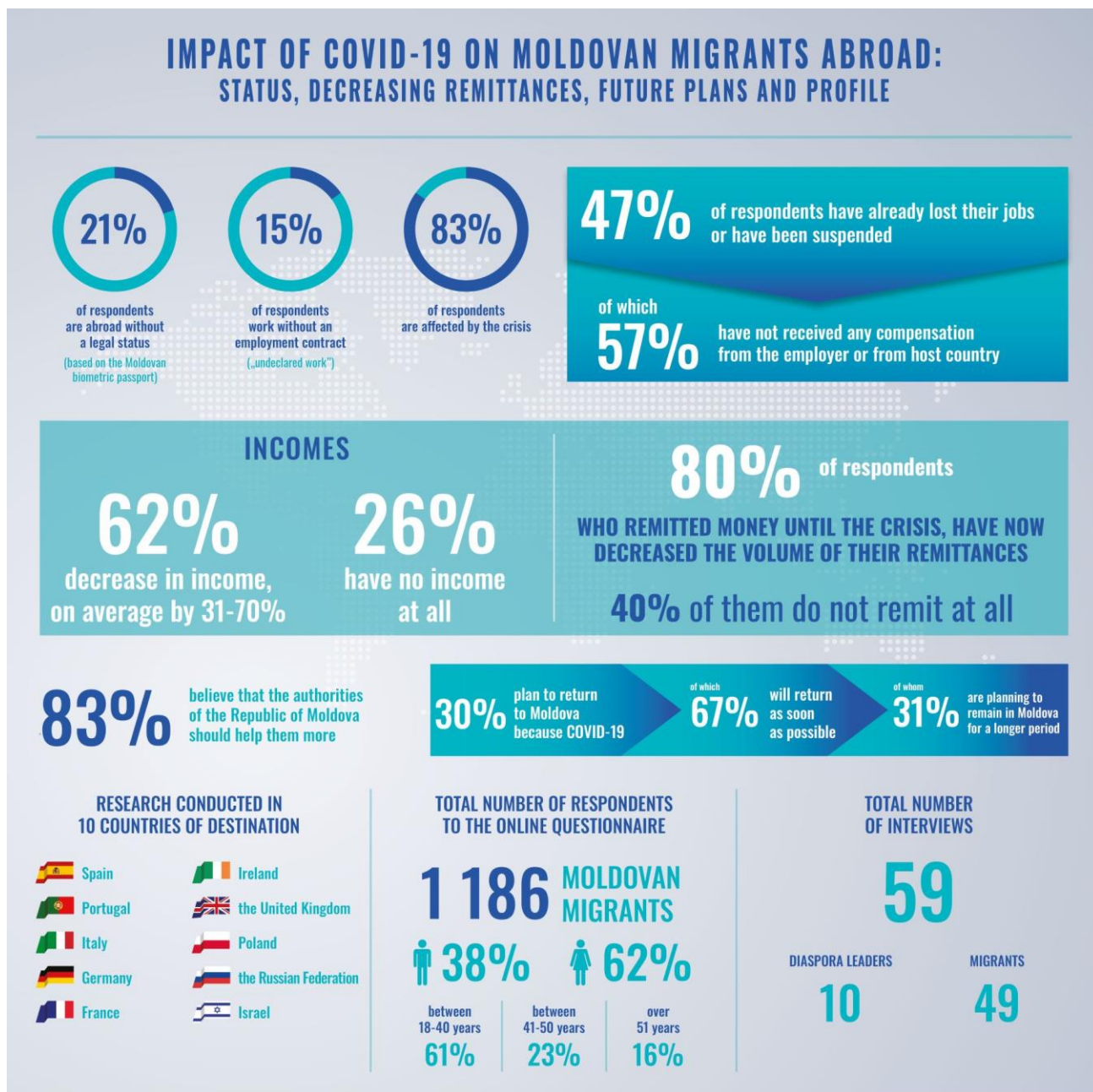
- The real time monitoring [dashboard on Covid-19](#) developed with UNFPA support has been updated with new indicators on deaths disaggregated by sex and age:



- IOM Moldova carried out a rapid empirical assessment of the impact of Covid-19 on Moldovan citizens residing abroad over the period 17 April – 17 May 2020 in order to better understand how and to what extent Covid-19 pandemic impacts welfare of labour migrants originating from the Republic of Moldova. The study reached 1,186 Moldovan migrants from the 10 main host countries - Portugal, Spain, France, Italy, Germany, Ireland, United Kingdom, Poland, Russian Federation, and Israel;

According to the survey, 83 percent reported being affected by COVID-19 in terms of either losing their job, seeing decreased income or becoming without a dwelling. Some 55,000 of the approximately 350,000 short term migrants managed to return before the declaration of national emergency in Moldova on 15 March. The rest were left in dire straits as many of the jobs migrants held simply vanished. Returns are likely to continue beyond 2020 in numbers seriously impacting unemployment numbers in the short term. Returnees under COVID-19 are a boon for Moldova; numerous return with skills and/or are ready to invest. IOM's survey recommends support strategies for returning migrants, such as counselling, services

for business start-ups, vocational training, career guidance, and services for validation and certification of informal skills gained abroad.



IOM rapid assessment on COVID-19 impact on Moldovan migrants' wellbeing: approaching migrants vulnerabilities, expectations and coping strategies
Data collected during: 17.04.20-17.05.20



Socio-Economic Support

- The Socio-Economic Impact Assessment Taskforce meeting, led by UNDP, took place on Wednesday, July 1 during which an overview by the Association of Banks from Moldova on access to financing for MSMEs and suggestions to address them through the establishment of a Guarantee Fund. During the meeting, OHCHR gave an overview of the Human Rights angle for C19 assessment and recovery planning and the PDA Peace and Development Advisor provided a quick overview on the planned social cohesion survey.
- The UN Working Group on the UN Socio-Economic Response Plan- co-chaired by RCO and UNDP met twice to discuss the update of the UN Response Plan. Bilateral meetings are also being held with the different UNWG members to discuss the update.

Health

- UNFPA in partnership with the State University of Medicine and Pharmacy has integrated the online learning platform on family planning ([Virtual Contraceptive Consultation](#)) as part of the continuous medical education. The learning platform aims to build capacities of health professionals to deliver client-oriented quality services based on modern international quality-of-care standards and human-rights principles. Through modern distance-learning technology, it enables physicians in the region to provide evidence-based, reliable information and family-planning counselling to their clients;
- UNICEF and WHO supports the adaptation of [HealthBuddy](#), a multilingual interactive chatbot, the newest tool launched as a resource for countries in Europe and Central Asia in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The chatbot, developed by WHO/Europe and UNICEF Europe and Central Asia Regional Office (ECARO), helps access accurate information, and counter misinformation surrounding the virus. It uses artificial intelligence to answer questions about COVID-19, and provides information such as COVID-19 hotlines available;
- USAID and the WHO continue to provide support for the prevention and control of COVID-19 and in particular to strengthen the testing capabilities for the new coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) of the national laboratory network of the National Agency for Public Health. The support provided by the two organizations today in the amount of over \$ 200,000 will contribute to increasing the sample processing capacity of COVID-19 and obtaining timely results. One PCR System machine (laboratory device that analyzes DNA by real polymerization chain reaction (PCR), which allows the identification of virus genes or other microorganisms), dozens of sets of reagents and 21,000 sets of laboratory consumables for to ensure the quality and veracity of the result at SARS-CoV-2 were delivered to the MHLSP;
- WHO conducted an online training course for care workers on mental health, fighting depression and grief. The pandemic can have a particularly large impact on the emotional health of health care workers, where there is a background of anxiety or diagnoses of emotional disorders. Fear and anxiety of the disease can be overwhelming, taking various forms, from mild, moderate, generalized anxiety, hypochondria to panic attacks.

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". The programme is live-streamed two times per week on the Facebook page of the Ministry. Two new sessions were organized "[Managing negative emotions](#)", "[How we manage conflicts](#)";

- UNICEF distributed hygiene supplies to residential and special schools with support from USAID WASH funds;
- UNICEF coordinated with the Ministry of Education, Culture and Research the projects to be initiated in the following months and further support that UNICEF will provide in the context of COVID-19 pandemic. The guidelines for reopening of kindergartens will be approved by the end of this week and kindergartens could be open starting on 15 July 2020;
- UNICEF continued the online training on positive parenting for teachers and parents. So far, more than 10K staff (80% out of the total) are covered by the intervention, as well as parents of more than 100K young children aged 3-6 (7) years (70% out of the total number);
- UNFPA supported the Ministry of Education, Culture and Research in development of the *Guidelines for re-opening and functionality of the Network of Youth Centers for carrying out activities with young people*. The guidelines are developed according to the recommendation of the Ministry of Health, Labor and Social Protection and decisions of the Extraordinary National Commission of Public Health that provides regulations on work modality and instructions for public institutions in the COVID context;
- The Education Plan in Response to COVID-19 pandemics developed by the Ministry of Education, Culture and Research with support from the UN Education Task Force is under final stage of review and approval.

Gender

- On June 25-26, UN Women in partnership with ALEG NGO and National Coalition Life Without Violence discussed and validated the mentoring program within a co-creation workshop for 10 CSO's active in preventing violence against women and girls and for 6 women positive champions and survivors of domestic and gender-based violence. COVID-19 challenges were discussed, taken into consideration and prioritized, including some prep-training for digital literacy. Overall, as per survey, all participants (CSO's and women positive champions) found the topics proposed useful and very useful;
- Last 3 sessions for up to 25 women with disabilities took place on 24 June (Motivational session with an influencing speaker) and on 26 June (Coming back to a post-COVID lifestyle and Assessment of the support program), raising the total number of sessions to 18.

Human Rights

- On July 1, OHCHR conducted an extended meeting on human rights and COVID-19 with representatives of the Ministry of Health, Labor and Social Protection. In addition, representatives of the National Social Work Agency and National Employment Agency, as well as by the Permanent Human Rights Secretariat and the Human Rights Adviser to the Prime Minister attended. The OHCHR developed guidance papers on the right to highest attainable standard of health, labor rights, social protection, rights of persons with disabilities and of older persons in the context of COVID-19, were presented during the meeting. The main developments in related areas were highlighted by the Ministry. The Ministry agreed to ensure a wide dissemination of the developed materials, as well as to engage with the OHCHR established NGO Task Force.

Communications

- Please see a [video message](#) from Ms. Tatiana Ivanicichina, State Secretary, Ministry of Finance to the COVID-19 Response and Recovery Trust Fund - “Recover Better Together” Action Forum held on 26 June 2020. The video highlights the UN Covid-19 Response and Recovery Plan. The message also contains a short video of some of the work being done by UN Women with their grant from the Covid-19 MPTF;
- UNICEF produced [a video reportage](#) on the distribution of educational packages to children with special needs, affected by COVID-19 pandemic. The intervention was possible due to the support provided by Global Education Partnership (GPE);
- UNICEF, jointly with the Ministry of health, Social Protection and Family, partnered with Premier Energy, the biggest electricity distribution company in Moldova, to deliver the health messages about the prevention of covid-19 to its customers, receiving the electricity bill via email;
- UNDP has published a blog post on the impact of COVID-19 on MSMEs, and how it involves partners to offer immediate and medium-term support. MSMEs employ a larger share of the most vulnerable groups namely women and youth and hence bear the brunt of such severe impacts;
- UNDP has promoted on social media the delivery of a new batch of electric backpack sprayers & non-contact infrared thermometers to the EU4Moldova: Focal Regions Programme beneficiaries from Ungheni and Cahul cities;
- UN Women has released a video on the UN COVID-19 Response and Recovery Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MPTF) support for over four thousand women from both banks of the Dniester have benefited from food and hygiene packages. The supplies were distributed among others to women affected by domestic violence, women living in shelters, HIV positive women and women with disabilities. Details: <https://moldova.unwomen.org/en/noutati-si-evenimente/noutati/2020/06/mptf>.
Video: <https://bit.ly/3dNwYxz>