

COVID-19 Response and Recovery Monthly Bulletin

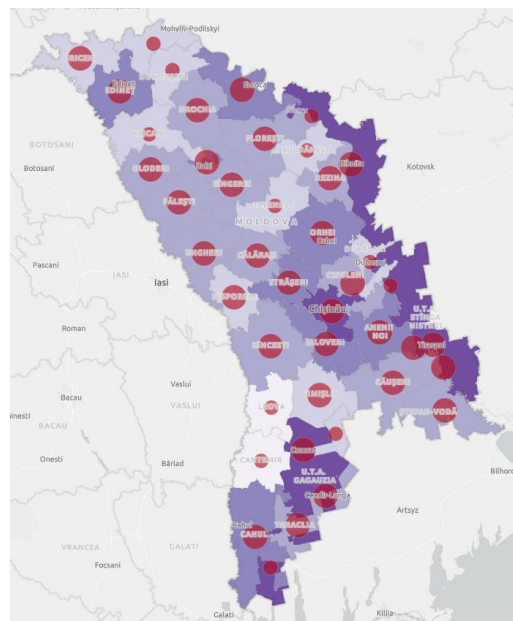
November 2020



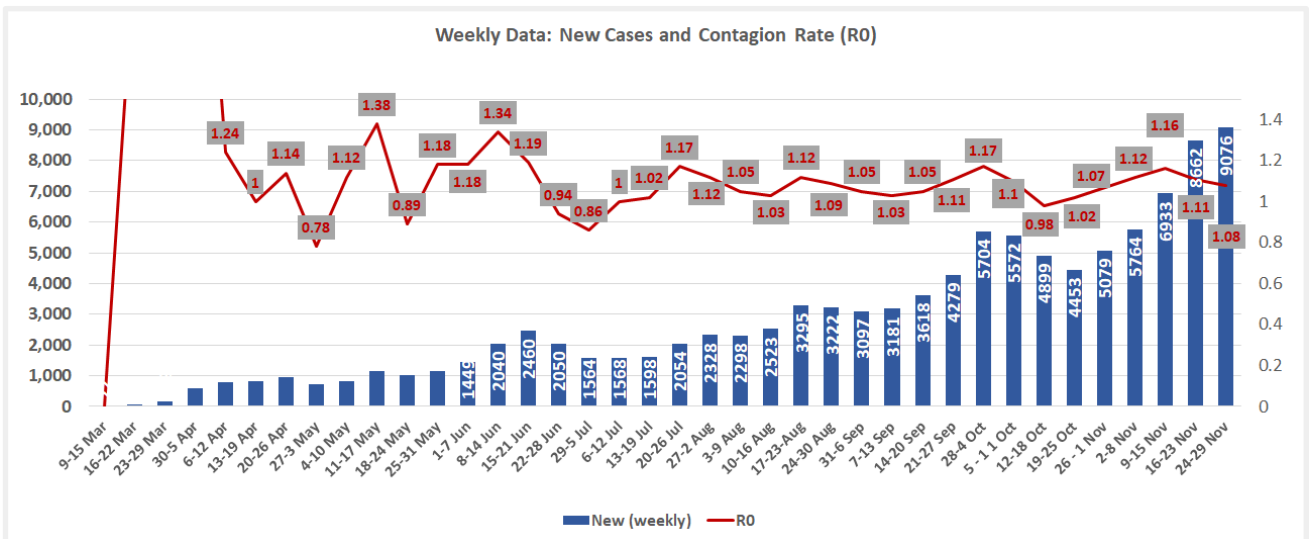
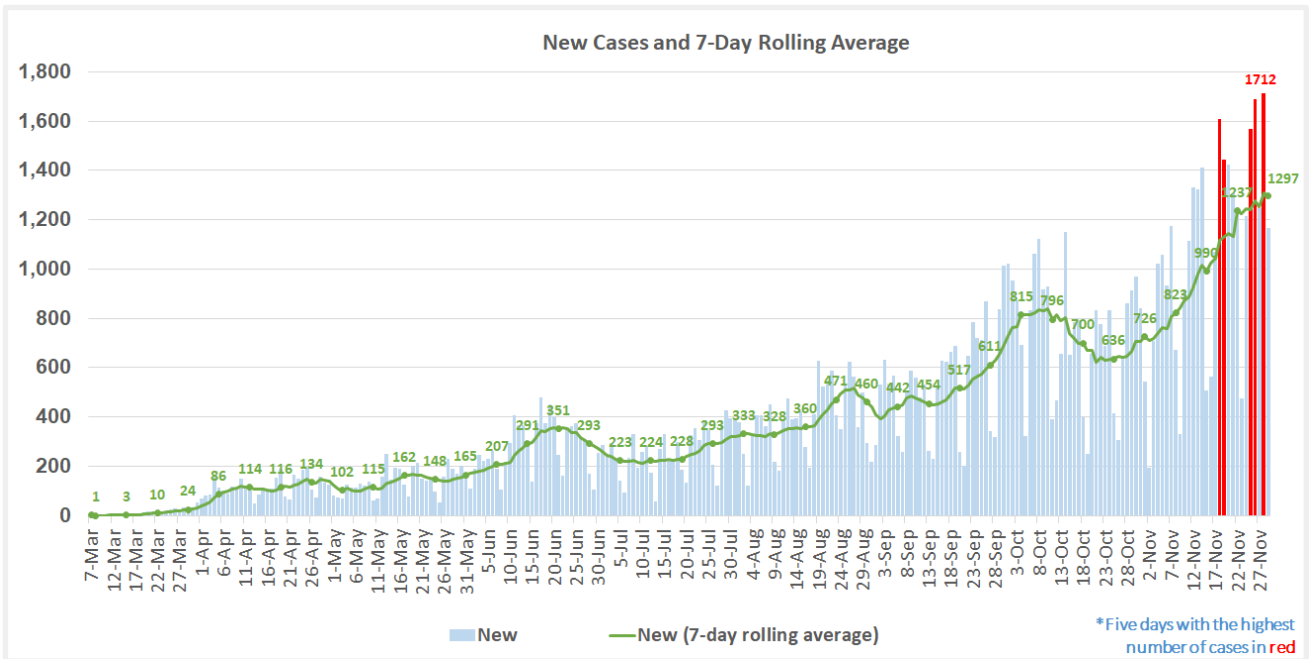
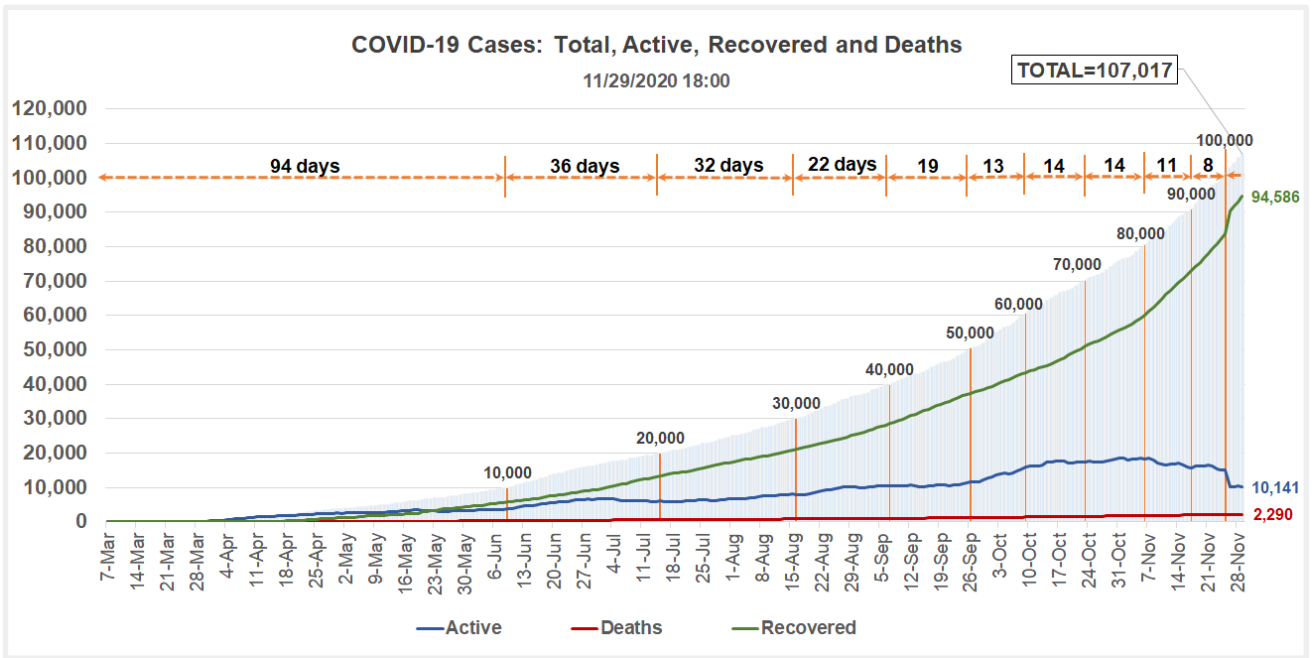
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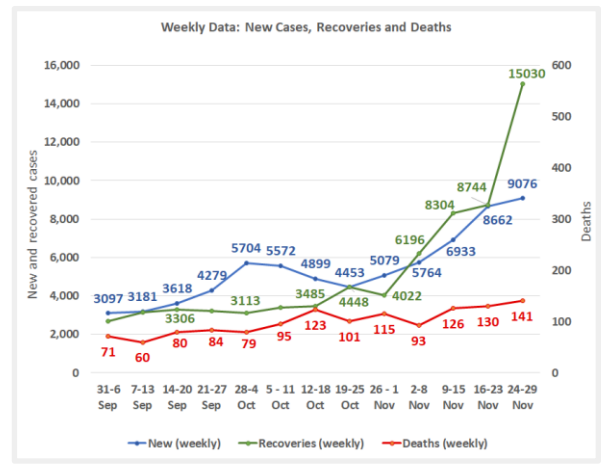
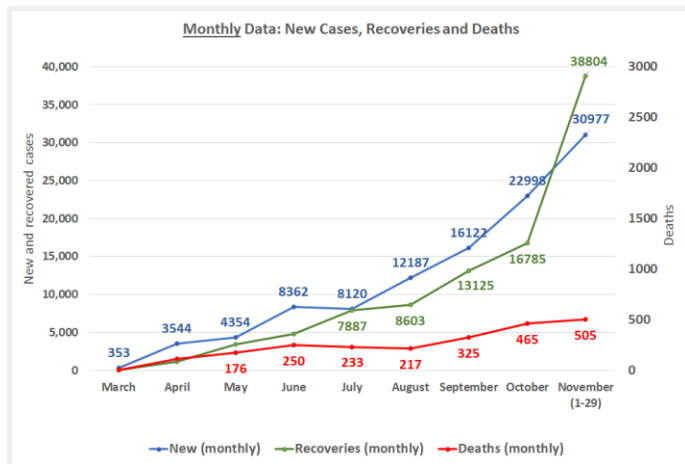
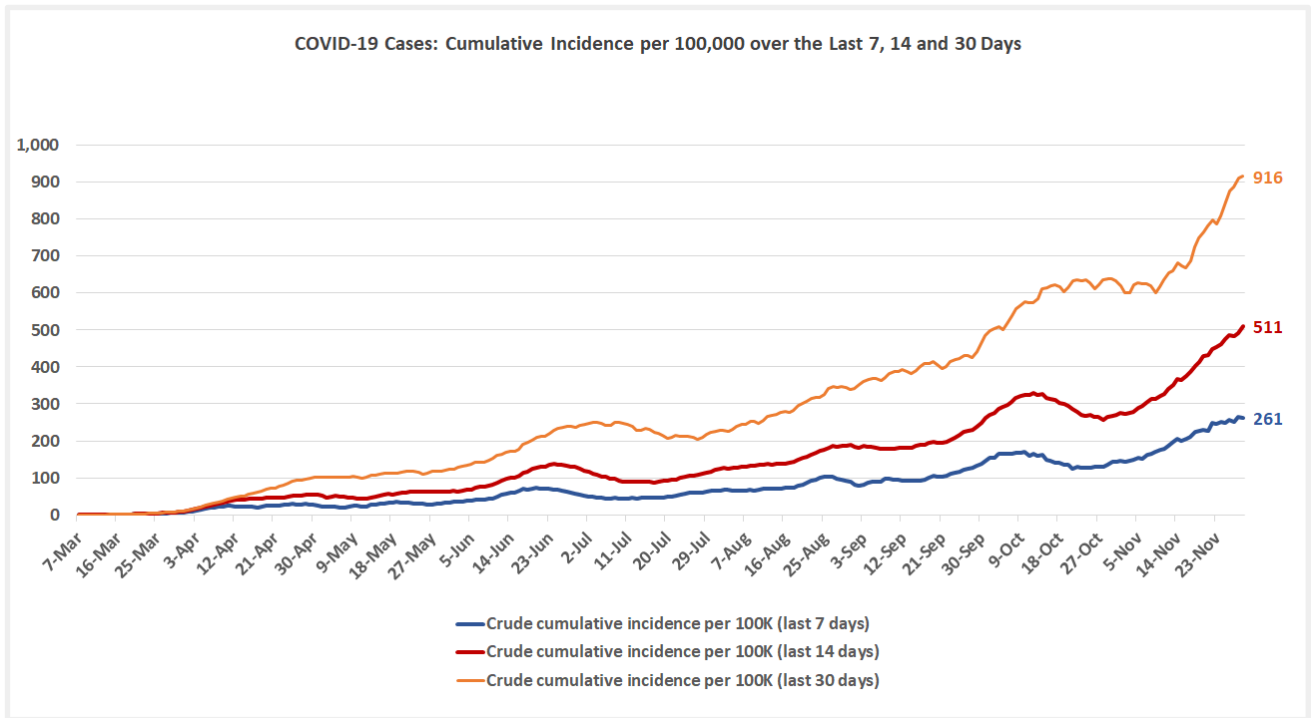
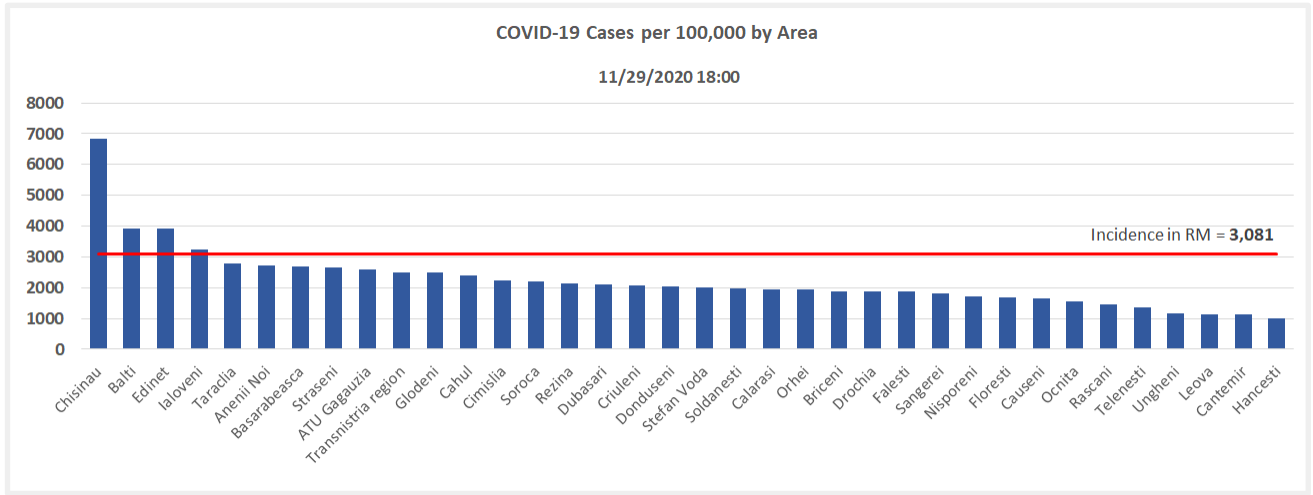
1 COVID-19 Epi and Health situation update

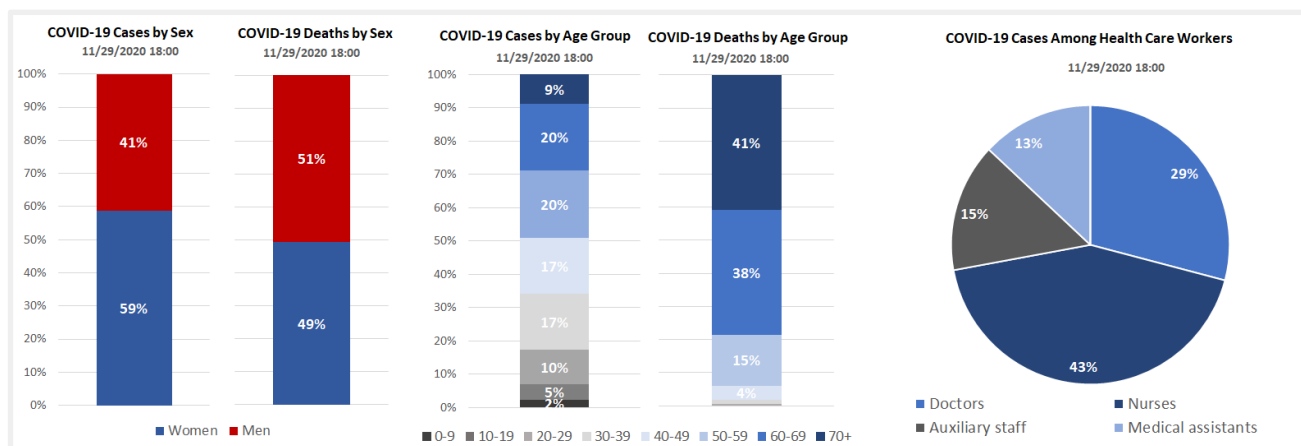
- The coronavirus outbreak has accelerated over the past week and month. Every week in November saw another record in the number of new cases broken, with the latest being this past Saturday, November 28, when 1,712 new cases were reported. The total number of confirmed cases surpassed the 100,000-case mark last week and continued to increase rapidly since then. The total number of cases now stands at 107,017;
- A total of 30,977 new cases were reported between November 1-29. This represents a 35% increase compared to the total number of cases reported during the previous month and nearly 30% of all cases reported since the pandemic reached the country in March. The daily average number of new cases was 1,068 during the same period, which is 326 cases more compared to the previous month. The average number of new cases over the past seven and 14 days is 1,297 and 1,267, respectively, reflecting an accelerated growth in cases over the past weeks;
- The total number of active cases gradually decreased during most of November and registered a sharp drop last week due to the data reported for the Transnistria region, which had not been captured in previous statistics on recoveries. At the beginning of the month, nearly 18,500 cases were active based on the data available at that time. This number decreased to around 10,000 until the end of the month, with the share of active cases in the total number of cases now standing at 9.5%;
- The overall crude cumulative incidence of cases per 100,000 stands at 3,081. The crude cumulative incidence of cases for the last 30 days is 916, which is about 280 cases more compared to the previous 30 days. The crude cumulative incidence of cases over the last seven days is 261 and over the last 14 days is 511, with both figures registering an increase over the past week;



- The number of deaths increased by 505 between November 1-29, which is 40 fatalities more compared to the previous month. The case fatality rate, on the other hand, decreased from 2.35% at the beginning of the month to 2.14% at the end. The total number of deaths now stands at 2,290. The average number of daily deaths over the last seven days is 20.14. The average age of patients who have died from the disease is 66.9. This is somewhat higher than the 66.7 figure reported at the beginning of November. Overall, over 90% of all deaths have been reported in patients 50 years of age and older;
- The number of patients who have recovered from the disease registered a considerable increase in November, surpassing the total number of new cases reported. A total of 38,804 have been reported during the month so far. The figure includes the recoveries reported for the Transnistria region. The total number of recoveries now stands at 94,586. This represents 88.4% of all cases;
- The contagion rate (R0) increased from 1.12 during the first week of the month to 1.16 the following week and then decreased over the next couple of weeks to 1.08. The contagion rate is uneven across the country, with certain districts registering considerably higher rates than others. Cimislia and Cantemir currently have some of the highest contagion rates in the country, which stand at 1.6 and 1.5, respectively. The contagion rate in Chisinau stands at 1.1;
- The share of health care workers in the total number of cases remained stable at around 10%. About 10,500 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 42% of all confirmed cases, is the most affected area if the number of cases is considered. With 11% of all confirmed cases, the Transnistria region follows in the list of most affected areas. Balti, ATU Gagauzia, Ialoveni and Edinet account for 3-4% of all cases each. Although the share of cases in these areas in the total number of cases has varied slightly since the beginning of November, the relative extent to which these areas have been affected by the pandemic has not changed. All other areas currently have 2% or less of the total number of cases each. If the size of the population is considered, with over 6,800 cases per 100,000, Chisinau is the most affected area in the country. The capital city is followed by Balti, which is approaching the 4,000-cases mark per 100,000, and Edinet and Ialoveni, which have surpassed the 3,000-case mark per 100,000 people;
- More women have been infected with the virus than men since the beginning of the pandemic, 59% vs. 41%. However, the percentage of men who have died from the disease is somewhat higher than that of women, 51% vs. 49%. These proportions remained stable throughout the entire month of November. The case fatality rate among men has also consistently stayed above the case fatality rate among women. Currently, the case fatality rate among men is 2.6%, and the case fatality rate among women is 1.8%;
- Real time figures and graphs can be accessed [here](#) in Romanian and in Russian [here](#). This site has more than 2.18 million views to date.







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 National Extraordinary Commission in Public Health met on November 27, chaired by the Prime Minister that declared an emergency situation on the whole territory of the country from November 30, 2020 to January 15, 2021. Decision #35 can be found [here](#). The video recording of the meeting and full decision can be found [here](#). Some of the new restrictions are:
 - Banning of night clubs and discotheques activities, limiting of restaurants and public catering open hours - from 7 am to 10 pm;
 - Banning of public events in indoor spaces with physical attendance, including conferences, sport competitions, theatres, cinema etc;
 - Obligatory wearing of masks in all places on the whole territory of the country;
 - Banning of groups of more than 3 persons in public spaces, including parcs, forests etc;
 - Banning of people over age of 63 outside of home or household without an emergency reason.
- As of November 20, the National Extraordinary Commission in Public Health [updated the rules and restrictions regarding the entry into the Republic of Moldova](#) during the pandemic. It makes reference to the list of countries the incoming passengers from which need to observe the 14-day quarantine, also exceptions for family members, etc.

2 General situation update

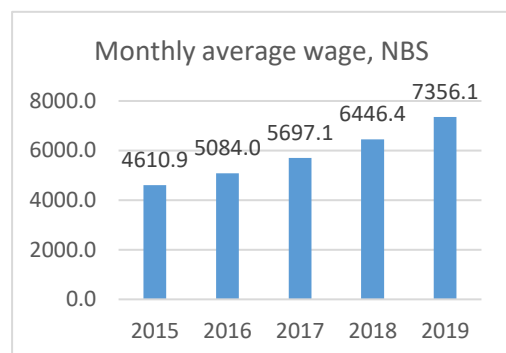
2.1 Political update

- The second round of the Presidential Election took place on Sunday, November 15. After all the votes were tallied, Maia Sandu was provisionally declared the winner with 57.75% of the vote compared to 42.25% for Igor Dodon;
- The overall turnout in the elections was 52.78% or 1,650,131 participating voters;

- Diaspora registered 262,739 votes – which is more than 100,000 more than from the first round – and represents 15.2% of the total number of voters. This is a record for diaspora participation. The highest diaspora turnout abroad was noted in Italy, Germany, UK and France. Out of this total number of diaspora votes, 95% were for Maia Sandu;
- In the Transnistria region, 31,071 people voted in the 39 special poll stations opened on the right bank. This is 13% of eligible voters from the region. Women were most active in the election at the national level and among the diaspora, with 54.33% participation. 46.09% of men took part in the voting as well. The most active voters were people between 56 and 70 years old at 31.93%. Again, the least active voters were from 18 to 25 years old at 8.44%. However, an increase was registered for the participation of young voters between 26-40 years old at 24.58%;
- Five European polling stations were forced to close early because the ballots were exhausted. This shortage was due to a high number of voters coming into conflict with the existing law that allowed only 5,000 ballots per polling station;
- As per the law, the Central Election Committee has submitted the final results to the Constitutional Court for its final confirmation of these results.

2.2 Economic and social update

- The average monthly wage in Q3' 2020 amounted to 8,074.3 MDL being with 9.3% higher than in similar period of 2019. The highest salaries are in ICT (18,118 MDL), finance and insurance (14,099 MDL), energy sector (13,799 MDL), while the lowest - are in hotels and catering sector (5,100 MDL), agriculture (5,283 MDL) and art and recreation (5,621 MDL). If to compare wages in the third quarter 2020 with the same period of 2019, earnings in the healthcare and social assistance increased with 26%, while in extractives and ICT – with 12.4% and 12% respectively. The average monthly salary in public sector stood at 7,032.9 MDL, while earning in private sector reached 8,452.2 MDL (Q3'2020), and both are higher than in the same period of previous year by 8.9% and 9.4% respectively. Being affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, employment in the hotels and catering sector declined by almost one third versus Q3'2019, while the share of managerial and administrative personnel went down with 9.2%, as well as in transport and storage (-7.8%), science, research and manufacturing (-7%). At the same time, employment in other activities and services grew up with 19.2%, while in ICT and constructions – with 4.7% and 3.3% respectively. Easing of lockdown measures in end summer reflected in hiring more people in HORECA sector in third quarter versus second quarter 2020, while growing investment in infrastructure lead to 12.5% increase in number of employees in construction sector. Further details [here](#);
- As the economy has been showing timid signs of recovery, the retail trade turnover in September 2020 (except for automobiles and motorcycles) increased with 2.9% compared to August 2020 and with 9.3% compared to September 2019. On a different pathway, turnover in services sector increased with 15.5% in September 2020 versus previous month, yet this was still lower with 3.6% than in the same period of 2019. If to compare retail trade turnover



during three quarters of the current year, it also shows an increase of 1.4% versus 2019 (in comparable prices). On contrary, turnover in services provided to population in the Q3'2020 decreased with 21.2% (comparable prices) versus the same period of the last year. As economic activity intensified in September 2020, the wholesale trade turnover grew with 20.5% (current prices) versus August, while it remains with 0.9% lower than in September 2019. Similarly, turnover of trade with automobiles and motorcycles improved in September 2020 with 18.9% versus last month, however this is with 10.4% lower than in the same month of 2019. Since the beginning of 2020, sale of automobiles and motorcycles declined by roughly one fifth versus same period in 2019. Further details [here](#);

- Despite certain relaxation of COVID-19 related measures in the third quarter of 2020, the activity of tourism agencies fell by almost three quarters (74.3%) compared to the same period of 2019. Between January and September 2020, the outgoing tourism declined with 81.5% compared to 2019, while receiving tourism reduced by 56.3%. Amidst pandemic situation people were cautiously travelling not only abroad, but also within the country that led to a decline in internal tourism by 23.9% during Q3'2020 versus last year. Between January and September 2020, the tourism sector revenues generated only 24.4% from the total earnings of the last year. Revenues from the incoming tourism activity declined more (89.7%) than revenues from the outgoing tourism (76%). Further details [here](#);
- As a result of increased infrastructure investment, between January and September 2020 constructions works increased by 3.8% (in comparable prices) versus the same period of 2019. This growth was caused by investing in repairs and maintenance works (16.6%) and capital repairs (2.3%), while new constructions declined by 0.5%. Further details [here](#);
- During October 2020 the number of new loans provided by commercial banks amounted to 3,157.4 mln MDL, which is by 5.4% less than in the same period of 2019. Most of loans were provided in Moldovan lei (64.8%), while about one third (33.1%) were in foreign currency and 2.1% in MDL linked to foreign currency. Almost a half of all loans were issued for a period of 2 to 5 years, while in most cases the solicitors were legal entities. The average interest rate on new loans in MDL was 7.97% while in foreign currency – 4.22% and in MDL linked to foreign currency – 4.27%. The average interest rates increased in October 2020 versus previous month. Majority of loans provided for individuals were for consumption (60.2%) while loans provided to legal entities were requested to finance trade (48%) and agriculture (21%). Further details [here](#);
- In October 2020 the amount of transfers to Moldovan citizens from abroad reached US\$136.52 mln which is by 23.9% more than in the same period of 2019. Almost a half of all transfers (48.8%) came from the EU, approximately 13.4% of all transfers were from the CIS, while the rest of the world accounted for 37.8%. Transfers from Israel (17.9%) increased by almost one third compared to October 2019, followed by Italy (13.2%), Russia (12.3%) and Germany (11.5%). In October 2020 transfers from the EU-27 increased by 20.5% compared to October 2019 while if not being affected by the BREXIT, this number could have been higher. Nevertheless, approximately 64.3% of all money transfers were in Euro, while 33.7% in US dollars and only 2% in Russian rouble. Altogether the amount transferred from abroad to Moldova between January and October 2020 is by 19.1% higher than in the same period of the last year. Further details [here](#);

- In the attempt to generate additional fiscal revenues into Municipal budget, the Mayorality of Chisinau developed draft local tax policy for 2021. Amongst others it proposes application of new sanitation tax (10 MDL per person on monthly basis, with some exemptions), tax for electric car charging (5,000 MDL), as well as increase in taxes for advertisement, parking, landscaping, etc. and introduction of tax adjustment to inflation, just to name a few. This policy document is placed for public consultations till December 15, 2020 and can be downloaded [here](#);
- In the context of the second wave of Covid-19 and a more slow economic recovery, the GoM revised its macro-economic projections for economic growth in 2020 by further downgrading GDP from -4.5% to -6.5% while expecting the economy to bounce back at the rate of 4.1% during 2021. It is expected that inflation will continue its downward trend till the end 2020 reaching 0.4%, however it will revert to 4%-5% in the coming years. Investments will also decline in 2020 by 4.8% as a result of contracting investors activity which is expected to recover in 2021 being stimulated by development of construction sector, higher population incomes that will stimulate demand for housing, as well as investors seeking to improve labour productivity and upgrade their competitiveness. Manufacturing is projected to fall by 4% in 2020 as a result of lower demand in the automotive (29%), textiles (5%), beverages (9%), processing of fruits and vegetables (17%) sectors. However, during 2021 it is expected that the recovery will reach on average 4% being supported by the activity of Free Economic Zones, development of industrial platforms and the recovery of automotive supply chains in which Moldova is a part. Being affected by the drought and subsequent flooding, it is estimated that agriculture will decline by 27% in 2020, while the estimations for plants production suggest a decline by 35% and for animal production – by 3%. Subject to favourable weather conditions agriculture will likely to grow by 24% in 2021. Further details [here](#).

2.3 Education update

- According to an [information note from the MECR](#), as of November 27 there were 489 positive cases of COVID-19 infections among students/pupils and 13615 were placed in self-isolation. The note also shows there are 550 infections among teaching staff, with 583 people being placed in self-isolation. Also, 126 school non-teaching staff are reported being positively tested, with another 211 being placed in self isolation. From a total of 1240 general education public and private institutions, 15 are closed and are organizing the education process on-line only due to quarantine measures;
- MECR informed that 1138 state preschools out of 1398 restarted their learning and care activities as of September 22. 14 preschools are working on-line due to quarantine measures, 44 preschool groups are placed in quarantine. There are 109 cases positively confirmed among didactical staff and 154 professionals are placed in isolation. There are 74 positive cases among non-didactical staff and 141 are placed in self-isolation. There are 14 cases of COVID-19 confirmed infections among young children and 1084 children are in self-isolation.

2.4 Gender and Human Rights

- The United Nations in Moldova in partnership with Public Authorities, the International Community and the Civil Society is joining the UN Secretary-General's [UNiTE by 2030 to End Violence against Women campaign](#) that marks the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-based

Violence (25 November to 10 December 2020) under the global theme, "[Orange the World: Fund, Respond, Prevent, Collect!](#)";

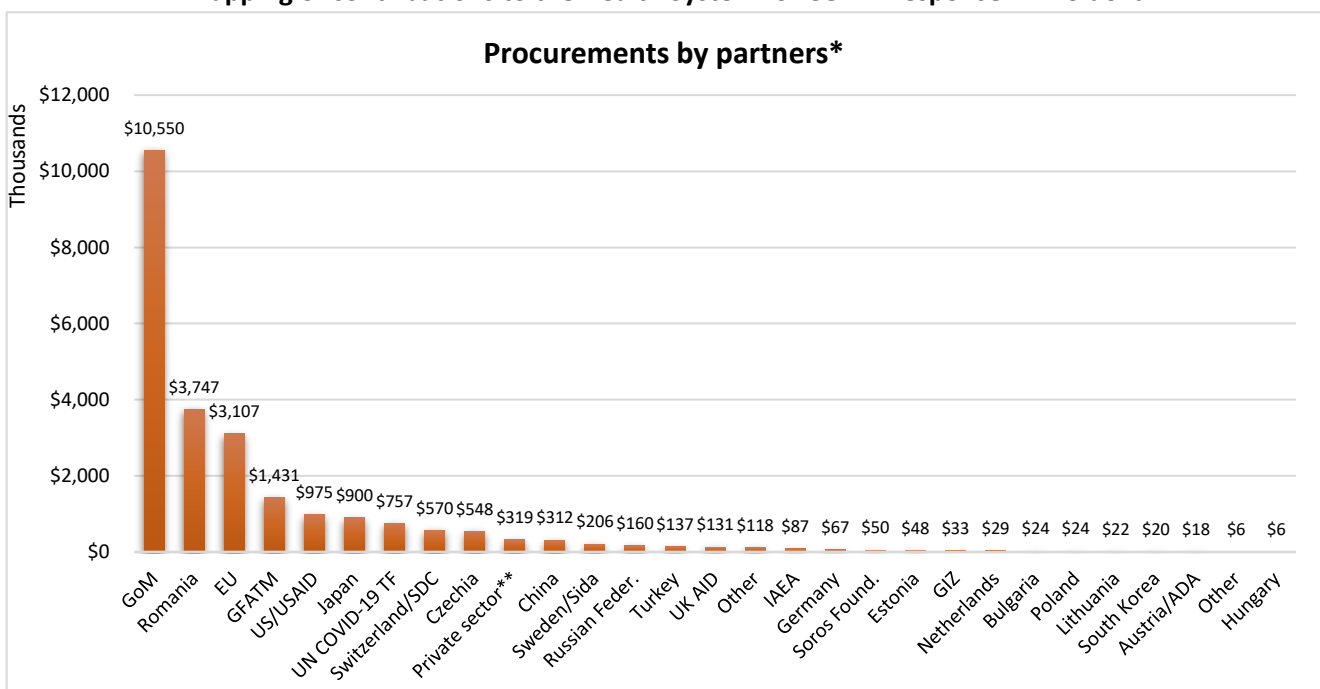
- The 16 Days of Activism against Gender-based Violence Campaign in the Republic of Moldova will be focused on the importance of prevention as well as on the availability of services for the survivors of violence that are essential in the COVID-19 response. In the frames of the campaign, the United Nations in Moldova jointly with the Government, the Parliament, CSO partners and international community in line with the moto of the global campaign "**Orange the World: Fund, Respond, Prevent, Collect!**" and under the local slogan "**United against violence**" is planning to organize a series of online and offline activities, media and social media campaigns to challenge gender stereotypes, raise awareness about the importance of availability of essential services and to encourage women who are suffering of violence to speak up and report the cases;
- In the context of the Human Rights social media awareness raising campaign "Recover better together – Human Rights for All" which started on 22 October and is putting at its centre the voices of members of marginalized groups as well as others particularly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, 5 videos, 3 media editorials, 2 events, 2 policy briefs, and 5 posts were published/conducted. These online and offline activities were meant to stress the impact of human rights on quality of life including in the context of COVID-19 from the point of view of vulnerable groups.

2.5 Transnistria region

- The de facto legislative elections will be held on November 29, the same day as the municipal and district elections. The 33 mandates are contested by 45 candidates, of whom 32 candidates are deputies of the current legislature.

2.6 Aid Coordination- data on procurements for COVID-19

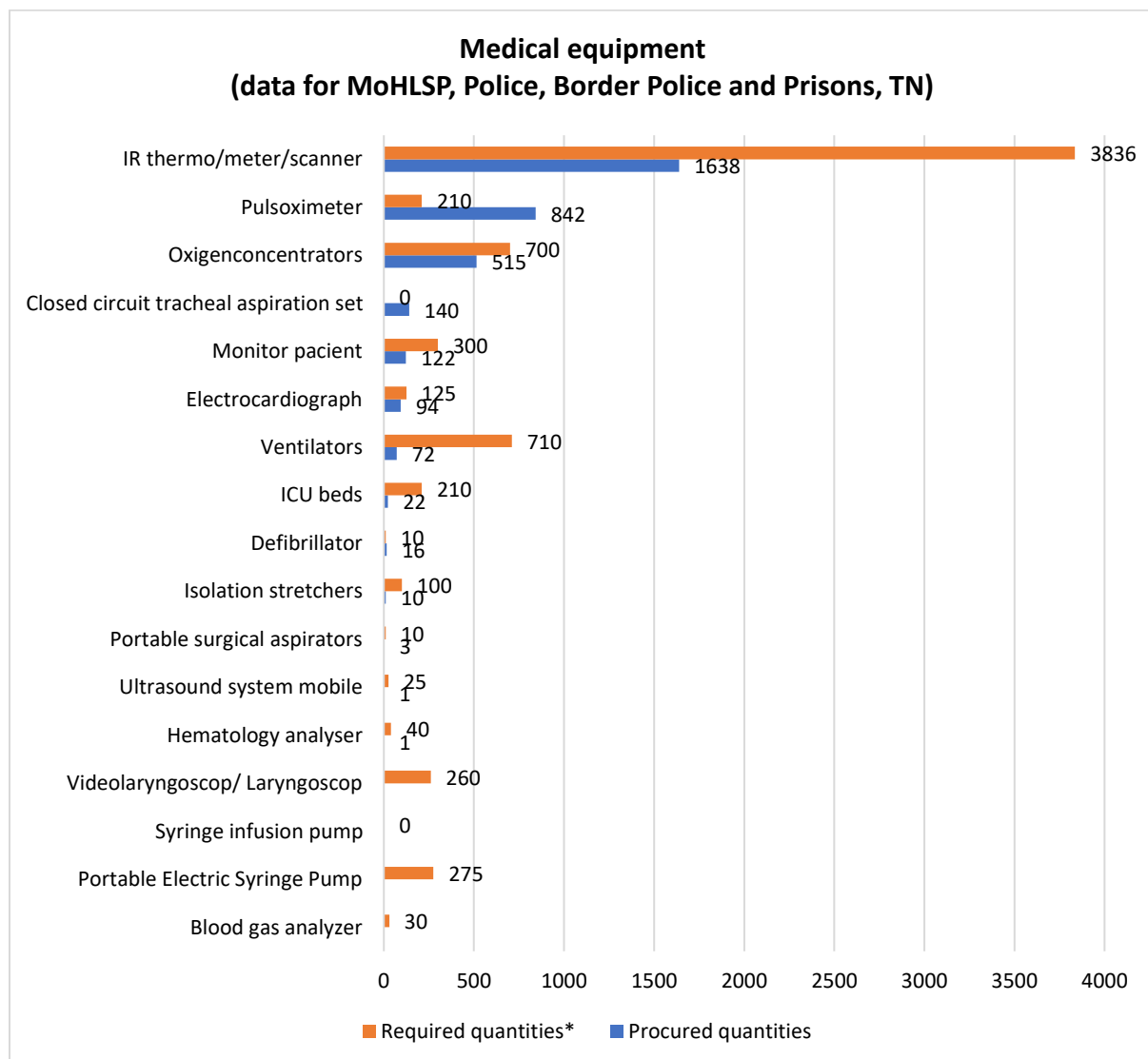
Mapping of contributions to the Health System for COVID response in Moldova

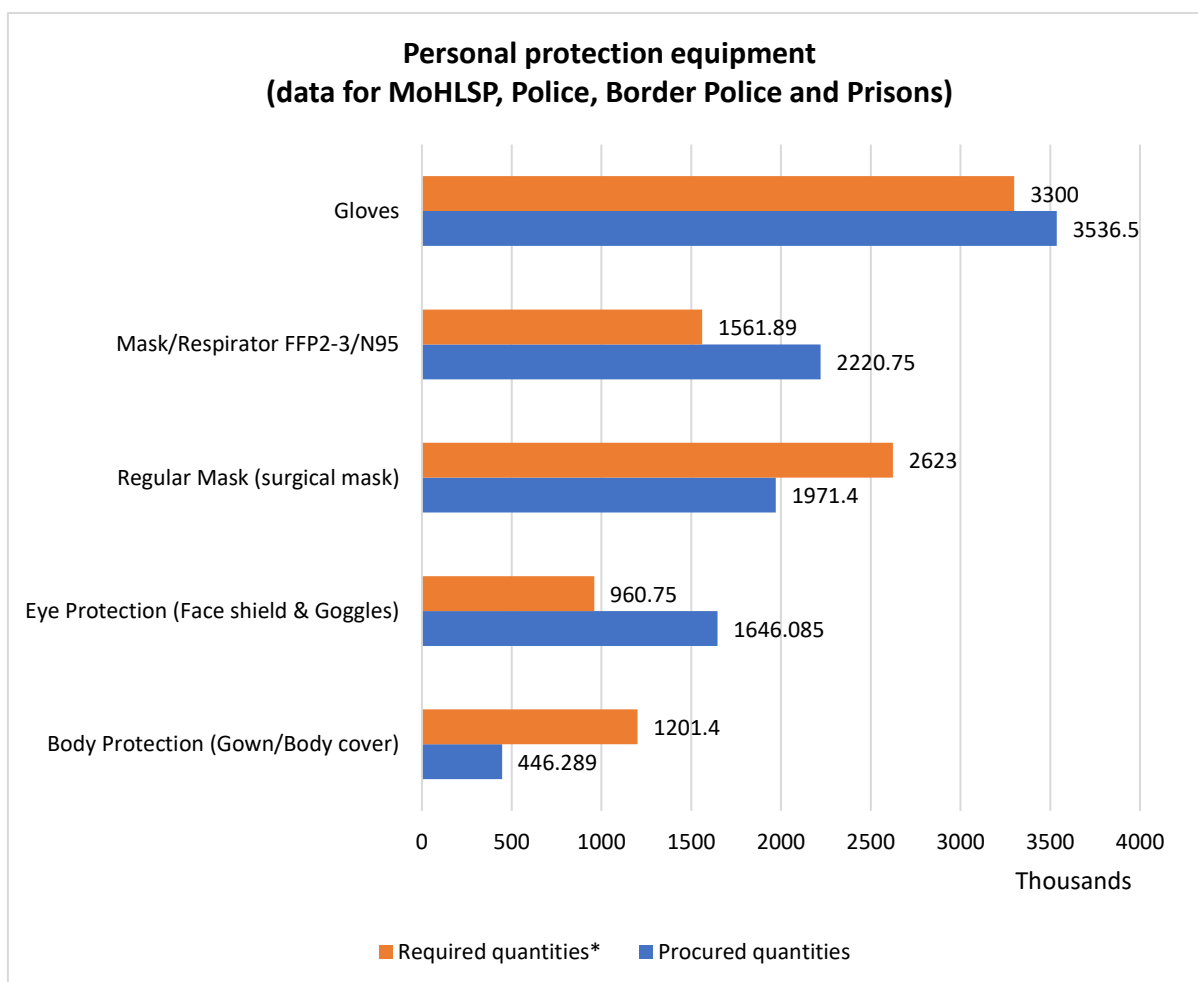


**Note - data only for contracted/procured PEEs, medical equipment and technical assistance COVID related. Committed and/or pledged contributions are not reflected. Data are captured from various sources, i.e. media and may not be accurate. The process of reflecting donors/contributions is ongoing, and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

*** Private sector companies: Endava, Orange Moldova, Lisedfarm SRL, Moldretail Grup SRL, Kaufland, Moldcell Moldova, Starnet SRL, Gedeon Rihter, Farmacia Familiei SRL, Svibmagtex SRL, Miso Textile SRL, Zernoff SRL, Aromcom SRL, Art Vest SRL, Dita Est Farm SRL, Tetis International Co SRL, Rihpangalfarma SRL, Sonaris Com*

Development Partners are encouraged to share information about their bilateral support programmes. The UN will continue to work in close cooperation with the MoHLSP and others 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.





**Note- Required quantities for PPEs are estimates of the needs for a three-month period*

- UNDP handed-over the [medical equipment procured from SOROS contribution](#). The official transmittal was held on November 25 at the Emergency Medicine Institute. The list of beneficiary institutions was coordinated both with the Ministry of Health, Labour and Social Protection and with SOROS;
- UNDP in partnership with WHO handed-over PPEs for Transnistria Region procured from the UK contribution to the medical representatives on November 24. The PPEs for the 6 medical institutions from the right bank of Nistru river will be delivered by the end of November. All food and hygiene packages for the app. 900 vulnerable families from the Transnistrian region have been purchased, in partnership with OHCHR, and will be delivered to the left bank by the beginning of December;
- UNICEF in partnership with Terre des Hommes supported 30 educational institutions from 17 districts of the Republic of Moldova with protective materials (hand sanitizers, face masks) in order to support the organization of local online children led awareness-raising campaigns and to contribute to online activities organised by schools.

3 UN Social and Economic Response and Recovery Portfolio update

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

- On November 26, the WB and UN hosted the November Development Partners meeting that was attended by approx. 50 people representatives of diplomatic missions and international development agencies. Among the subjects, WHO updated the partners on the epi situation as well as on the plans in place for procurement and deliveries of the COVID-19 vaccine. At this point in time there are no specific dates yet known or quantities to be delivered. The meeting was also attended by the EUD delegation representatives that made an introduction on the upcoming EU new programming cycle with Moldova for 2021- 2028;
- The “Pillar 1-HEALTH FIRST: protecting health services and systems during the crisis” of the [UN Socio-Economic response and Recovery plan](#) was presented on November 25 at the Socio-Economic Impact Assessment Taskforce, led by UNDP;
- UNDP with EU funds, through the Cross-River Platform on Healthcare, continued providing support in the form of temporary accommodation to 44 health care professionals residing in the Transnistrian region who work in the medical institutions from the Security Zone;
- 4 out of 27 small community initiatives implemented by women councillors at first mandate come to respond to COVID-19 outbreak, with the support of Center Contact and UN Women. The 4 community initiatives are related to procurement of PPEs for persons in need, refurbishment of outdoor places for people/students to meet, arrangement of additional entrances in school;
- Members of the Gender Equality Platform will benefit from support in coping with stressful situations, including in COVID-19 context. In this respect, Gender Centru, in partnership with Gender Equality Platform (GEP) and UN Women, is providing 3 capacity building sessions for GEP members on communication techniques and tools (October 30), communication during crisis (November 5), coping with burnout (November 25);
- Women mayors continue to receive support, including legal consultations, in the context of COVID-19 pandemic. The support is provided by Congress of Local Authorities from Moldova (CALM) in partnership with UN Women. Besides this, on November 6, the 5th and last online study visits will take place, with participation of women mayors at first mandate, where women mayors with more experience tackle subjects on responding to COVID-19 outbreak as well, among others;
- During November-December, UN Women is undertaking the provision of online essential services for women survivors of violence, migrant women, women with disabilities including from Transnistrian region in partnership with 4 NGO's in the framework of COVID-19. Provision of capacity building and psychological counselling for women subject to domestic violence, survivors of violence in the north of the country (Soroca) and training sessions for service providers in the field;
- UNICEF and CCF Moldova, with USAID funds, partnered to train teachers and school managers to ensure prevention of infectious diseases in schools. Since mid-September, the training reached 5304 educational professionals, including 197 participants representing residential

institutions, 1207 managerial staff in schools, and circa 3900 teaching staff in primary and secondary educational institutions. The on-line training will continue in subsequent months, aiming to cover, cumulatively, over 19,000 staff in 1200 primary and secondary education settings, including 17 residential institutions;

- Similarly, UNICEF (with USAID funding) launched in October a nationwide training for teaching and non-teaching personnel in pre-primary (pre-school) institutions regarding COVID-19 regulations. To this end, UNICEF partnered with national NGO, CNETIF, in developing training materials and rolling out the training. The training content, featuring hygiene practices, the application of protocols for COVID-19 and infectious diseases prevention and control (IPC) is being used in large-scale capacity building reaching, as of early November, circa 12,760 representatives of didactical and non-didactical staff (1450 managers, 6250 educators, 1790 cooks and cooks' assistants, 3240 educators' assistants, nurses and cleaning personnel). The training aims to cover 12,945 managerial and didactical staff, 18,650 non-didactical staff and 1,486 managers for preschools and LPAs representatives nationally.

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

- UNDP finalized the **Socio-Economic Impact of COVID-19 on most vulnerable groups and economic sectors** in the Republic of Moldova conducted in partnership with UNFPA Moldova and with the overall national coordination by the State Chancellery. The Report covers the period (end-May – beginning of October 2020) and proposes medium-term policy options for recovery that will build resilience. The emerging opportunities explored in the report range from the digitalization and modernization of the public services and businesses, to the future of skills and modern education system, greening the local economy, advancing good governance through new social contracts, among others;
- ILO organised two training sessions on how to assist employers and workers with implementation of practical and protective measures against the risk of COVID-19 at work. Sixty-five representatives, 40men and 25women, from government institutions, trade union, employers' organisations, enterprises and academia, were instructed and provided materials on prevention and mitigation of COVID-19 at the workplace for small and medium-sized enterprises. The training also envisaged the application of labour inspection practices during the COVID-19 pandemic which benefited Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) inspectors from the ten authorized agencies;
- A new ILO project was launched to assist the tripartite constituents in adopting an inclusive, gender-responsive recovery strategy and in generating quality jobs for vulnerable workers. Project offers concrete contribution to the COVID-19 response, aiming to support the reactivation and enabling of national and local tripartite social dialogue mechanisms which will lead to the participation of all social partners in the processes shaping the recovery. Additionally, the project will support the labour market institutions and local actors to generate quality jobs for vulnerable workers, particularly inactive women and youth, low-skilled people and return migrants in two rural communities through Local Employment Partnerships, designed and implemented through local social dialogue;
- UNICEF in collaboration with IOM and UNDP, finalized the "Assessment of COVID-19 impact on remittances and coping mechanisms of families with children in Moldova". This study helps

understand the trends in reduced remittances and what the most commonly adopted coping mechanisms by receiving vulnerable households with children are. It also helps understand the impact of these coping mechanisms on children's rights and well-being and provides recommendations on sector-specific policy options for decision-makers at all levels to mitigate these negative impacts on children and their family. The study is part of a set of complementary studies within a framework of broader socio-economic impact assessments done by several UN agencies within the UN Socio-Economic Taskforce. Together, these assessments will provide a holistic picture of the impact of covid-19 on the various population groups and will help design a mid-term mitigation plan and policy response to the pandemic.

3.3 Pillar 4: MACROECONOMIC RESPONSE AND MULTILATERAL COLLABORATION

NTR.

3.4 Pillar 5: SOCIAL COHESION AND COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

- The municipality of Chisinau has joined the flagship initiative of the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) – Making Cities Resilient 2030. Under this initiative, UNDRR and the municipality's representatives, through a multi-stakeholder process, started resilience assessments which brought to light several criticalities. The COVID-19 crisis has underlined the need to devote significant efforts towards better preparedness and resilience in areas such as good governance, better infrastructure and stronger partnerships with community-based organizations. The objectives identified during dedicated workshops within the Making Cities Resilient 2030 Initiative highlighted a series of needs, i.e.:
 - Smarter and more flexible infrastructure;
 - Coordinated resilience investment efforts;
 - Rethinking and reprioritizing the investments over the coming decade in order to upgrade critical infrastructure;
 - Climate-resilient planning;
 - Strengthened collaboration among governmental actors and civil society;
 - Data sharing with all relevant stakeholders and promoting sustainable partnerships to build local resilience.

3.5 Gender and Human Rights

- UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF and UN Women engaged in consultations with women Members of Parliament on the COVID-19 response initiatives to be implemented by the Women's Caucus based on the findings and recommendations of the Social-Economic Impact Assessment;
- A second Gender Rapid Assessment initiated by UN Women as a follow up on the results of the first survey, with a focus more on the analysis of the situation in the field of work and care services, especially for people with children. Data collection and the findings to be released by the end of the year.

3.6 Communications and Advocacy

- WHO provided support to the MoHLSP and Government to design and develop the next phase of COVID-19 Risk Communication and Community Engagement Plan, based on the COVID-19

Behavioural Insights study results. It will refer to immediate communication for winter holidays, promotion of safe holiday celebration, with intersectoral and partners involvement;

- WHO and UNHCR continued to promote the stigma associated with COVID-19 national awareness campaign, which targets the general population and journalists;
- WHO has produced a video about oxygen therapy in COVID-19 and delivery of oxygen concentrators in Orhei Rayonal Hospital in the framework of the WHO-EU joint project of the Programme “Solidarity for Health”;
- A video spot was developed with the support of Sweden under Risk Communication for COVID19 project and placed on several TV channels which have a higher audience in the rural area. It targets some of the main reasons of continuous growth of COVID19 cases in the country underlined by the results of the survey carried out by WHO & the Ministry of Health in two waves in August and September 2020. Among the gaps underlined the survey is that people start to feel “fatigue” from living under restrictions for nine months in a row, fail to wear the mask correctly because they do not believe in the existence of the virus and visit their friends and family even if having symptoms similar to COVID19. Also, people from rural areas slightly hold a lower level of knowledge compared to the one living in urban ones;
- The above-mentioned video spot is the last one from this project funded by Sweden. All in all there were produced: 8 [videos](#), printed 150 billboards, 30.000 flyers for Moldovan citizens entering the country and 15.000 floor stickers for the use of postal offices, small shops in rural areas especially. Additionally, support was offered to the MoHLSP with Russian translation of press releases on COVID-19 and printing of stickers and indicators needed for the field hospital on COVID-19;
- UNDP continued to support national efforts in promoting safety during elections through the awareness campaign “Vote responsibly! Vote Safely!” for the second round of presidential elections, reaching out to 500,000 people, including diaspora. The risk communications products focused on safety COVID-19 measures to take by voters and polling officials;
- The video containing the messages on the occasion of the 16 Days Campaign of UN Moldova Heads of Agencies, Ambassadors and the State Officials was launched on 25 November in Social Media and already has over 12000 people reach. The video also covers the problem of increasing GBV cases in the COVID-19 pandemic and the support offered by now through joint efforts of the UN Agencies. The version with ENG subtitles is available [here](#);
- UNFPA continued the communication around intergenerational support programs in the context of COVID-19. A [press release](#) about the UNFPA-Moldcell Foundation [partnership](#) to build the intergenerational dialogue between old and young during Covid-19 was released, and resulted in more than 5 media reports: [TVR Moldova](#), [PROTV](#), [Unimedia](#), [TV8](#), [Agora](#). A [press release](#) about a psychological support program for young people was released and covered in the media: [Vocea Poporului](#), [Radio Sputnik](#), [Radio Chisinau](#). Three [videos](#) under this program were produced and promoted in social media. A social media campaign, including a series of [infographics](#) on Young People and impact of Covid-19 on their wellbeing, were produced and promoted.