

COVID-19 Response and Recovery Monthly Bulletin

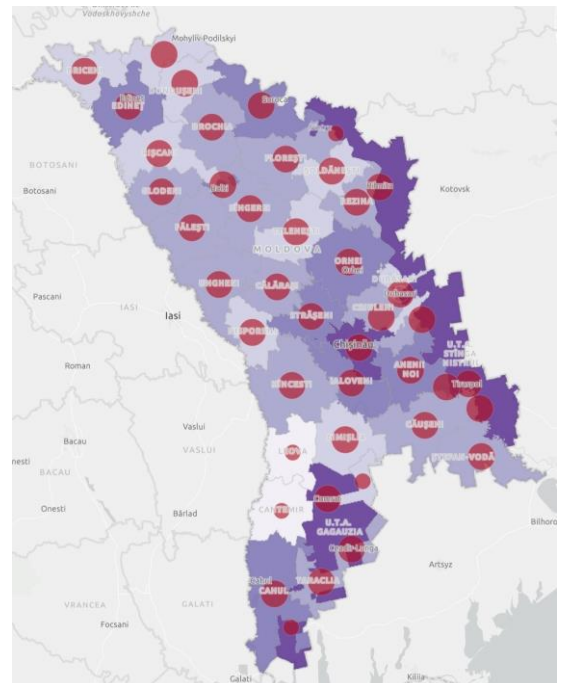
December 2020



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1 COVID-19 Epi and Health situation update

- The number of coronavirus cases continued to grow at an accelerated pace during the first half of December, which saw some of the highest figures for the number of daily new cases registered since the beginning of the pandemic, including the record-high number of 1,766 cases, which was registered on December 9. However, during the second part of the month, the growth in cases started to slow down, with the observed downwards movement also continuing during the first week of the new year.
- The total number of confirmed cases surpassed the 140,000-case mark at the end of December and continued to grow gradually since then. The total number of confirmed cases now stands at 149,391.
- Overall, a total of 37,454 new cases were reported in December. This represents a 20% increase compared to the number of new cases reported during the previous month. The daily average number of new cases was 1,208 during the same period, which is 164 cases more compared to the month prior. The average number of new cases over the past seven and 14 days is 503 and 574, respectively, reflecting a considerable slowdown of the pandemic during the past few weeks. Nevertheless, given the recent holiday season, these figures need to be interpreted with caution until the downwards trend can be confirmed in the coming weeks.
- The percentage of coronavirus tests to return a positive result, which was 43.6%, on average, in December, also started to decrease towards the end of the month and continued to decrease during the first week of the new year. The average percentage of positive tests over the past seven days stands at 29%.
- The total number of active cases fluctuated between approximately 10,000 and 15,000 in December, with the highest number of active cases - 15,443 - being registered in the middle of the month. The number of active cases started to decrease gradually during the second half of the month and continued to decrease

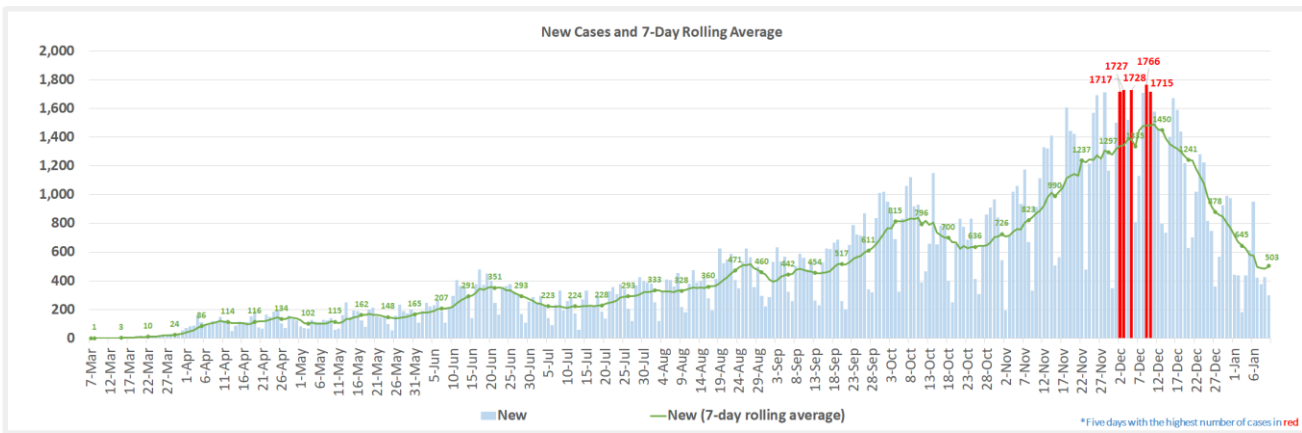
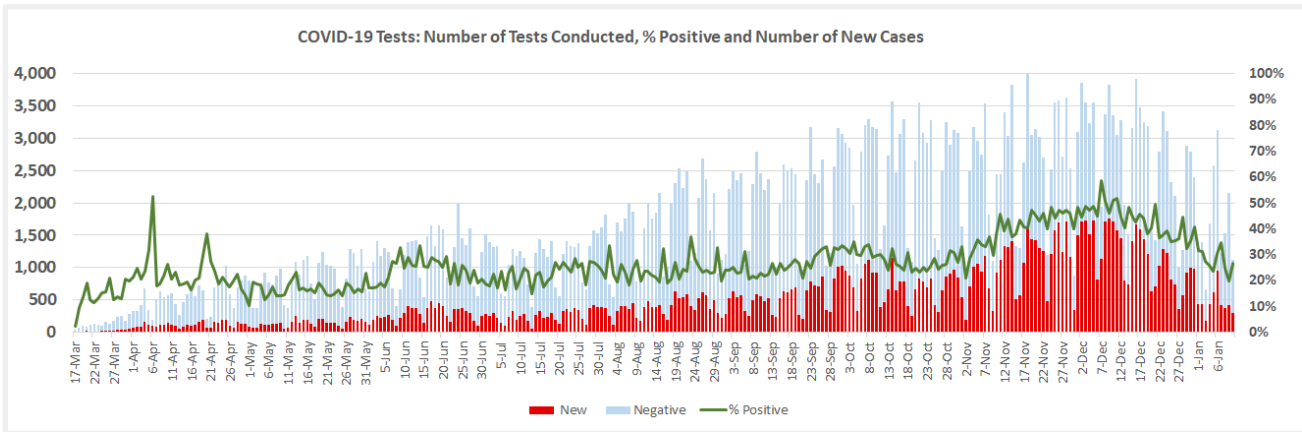
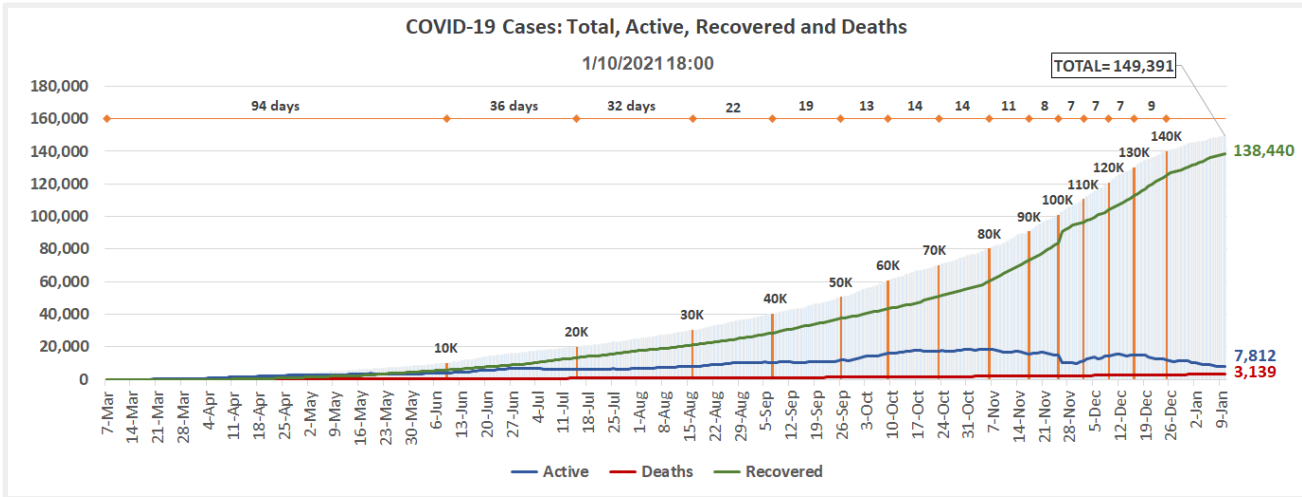


during the first week of the year. The number of active cases currently stands at 7,812, which represents 5.2% of the total number of cases.

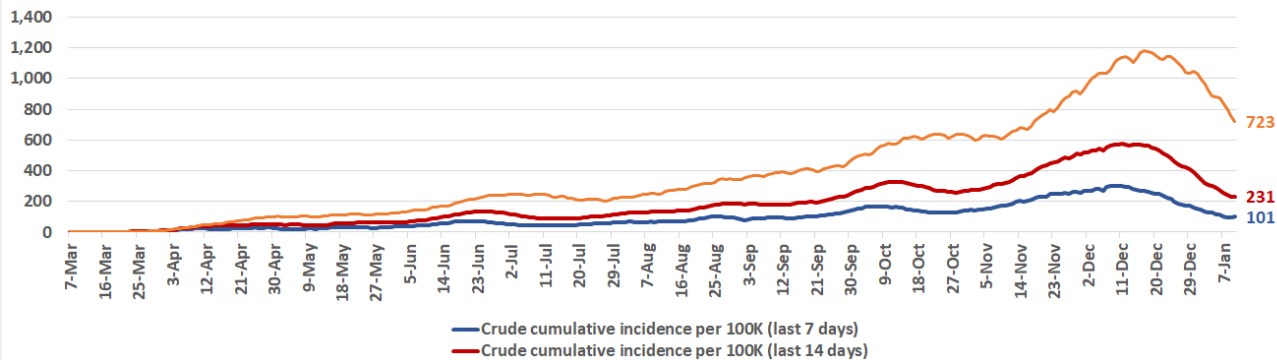
- The overall crude cumulative incidence of cases per 100,000 currently stands at 4,300. The crude cumulative incidence of cases for the last 30 days is 723. The same figure at the end of December was 1,035. The decrease in this figure reflects the slowdown in the pandemic highlighted above. The crude cumulative incidence of cases over the last seven days is 101 and over the last 14 days is 231, with both of these figures registering a decrease over the past weeks.
- The number of deaths increased by 700 in December, which is 181 fatalities more compared to the previous month. As reflected by the weekly figures, the growth in deaths was more accentuated during the first few weeks of the month, with the week of December 14-20 seeing the highest number of deaths - 180 - reported since the beginning of the pandemic. The weekly number of deaths started to decrease at the end of the month and continued to decrease during the first week of the new year, which saw 102 deaths reported. The case fatality rate fluctuated slightly between 2-2.1% during the month of December and remained stable at 2.1 during the past week.
- Currently, the total number of deaths stands at 3,139. The average age of patients who have died from the disease is 67. Overall, nearly 95% 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 decrease in December, dropping below the total number of new cases reported during the month, mostly due to the high number of new cases registered at the beginning of the month. A total of 35,289 recoveries were reported in December. Weekly figures also reflect a decrease in the number of recoveries starting with the middle of the month. However, the decrease in the weekly number of recoveries has followed closely the recent decrease in the weekly number of new cases. Furthermore, over the past four weeks, the weekly figures for the number of recoveries remained consistently above the weekly figures for the number of new cases. The total number of recoveries now stands at 138,440. This represents 92.7% of all cases.
- The contagion rate (R0) decreased from 1.05 during the first week of December to 0.8 towards the beginning of January. The contagion rate currently stands at 0.82. The contagion rate is uneven across the country, with certain districts registering considerably higher rates than others. Cahul, Nisporeni and Ocnita currently have the highest contagion rate in the country, which stands at 1.3. The contagion rate in Chisinau stands at 0.8.
- In terms of geographical distribution, Chisinau, with 42% of all confirmed cases, remains the most affected area if the number of cases is considered. With 12% of all confirmed cases, the Transnistria region follows in the list of most affected areas. Balti, ATU Gagauzia and Ialoveni account for 3-4% of all cases each. The relative extent to which these areas have been affected by the pandemic has not changed in the recent months. All other areas currently have 2% or less of the total number of cases each. If the size of the population is considered, with about 9,500 cases per 100,000, Chisinau is the most affected area in the country. The capital city is followed by Balti, which has surpassed the 5,000-case mark as well as Edinet, Ialoveni and Anenii Noi, which have surpassed the 4,000-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 continued to be somewhat higher than that of women throughout the entire month of December, 51% vs. 49%. This proportion remained unchanged during the first week of January as well. 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 1.7%.

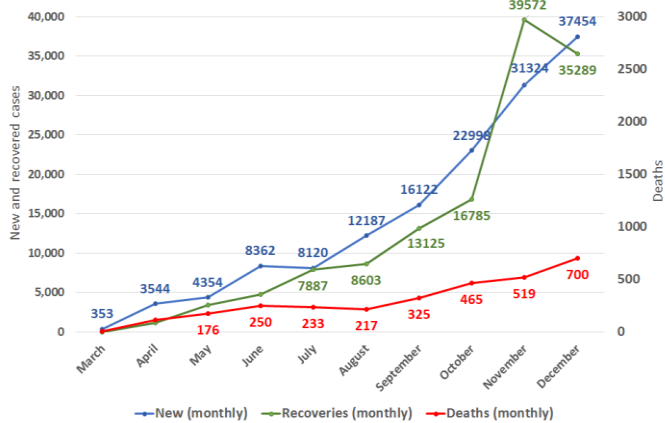
- Real time figures and graphs can be accessed [here](#) in Romanian and in Russian [here](#). This site has more than 2.24 million views to date.



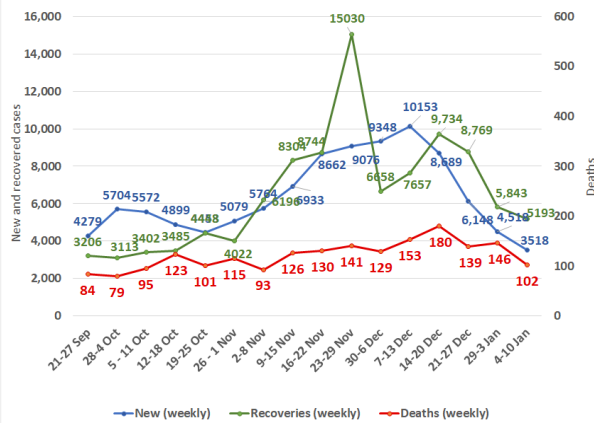
COVID-19 Cases: Cumulative Incidence per 100,000 over the Last 7, 14 and 30 Days



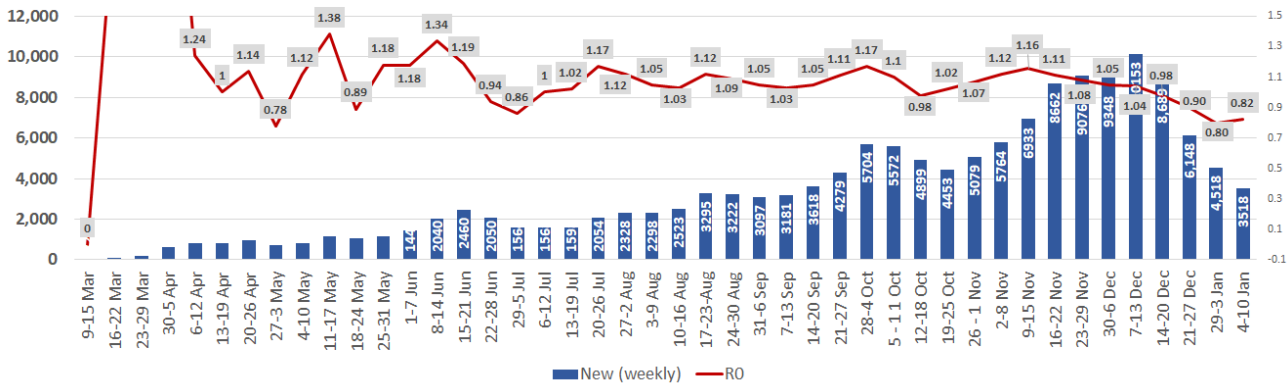
Monthly Data: New Cases, Recoveries and Deaths



Weekly Data: New Cases, Recoveries and Deaths

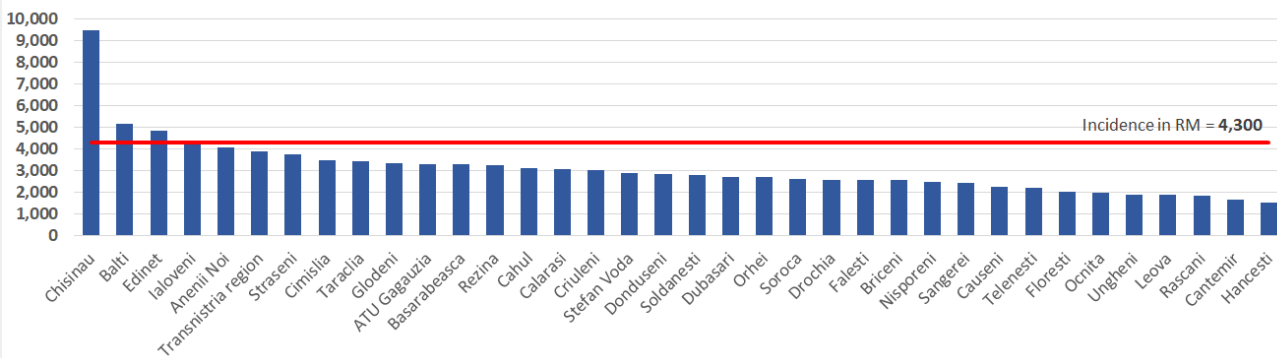


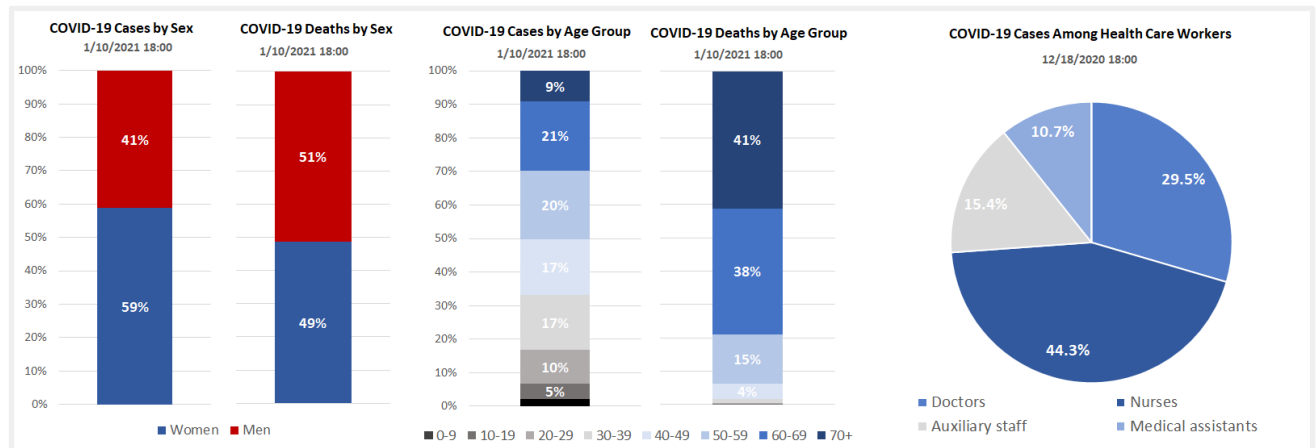
COVID 19 Weekly Cases and Contagion Rate (R0)



COVID-19 Cases per 100,000 by Area

1/10/2021 18:00





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 latest Decision [No 40 of the National Extraordinary Commission in Public Health](#) dates 6 January 2021. Among other issues the decision resumes the air traffic with the UK, states the school semester to start without delays on January 11th, instructs the Border Police and General Police to intensify and implement all the sanitary measures and others.
- As of 4 January 2021, 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.
- The National Public Health Emergency declaration is due to expire on 15 January 2021 but will likely be extended for another 30 days.

2 General situation update

2.1 Political update

- Maia Sandu was sworn in as the 6th President of the Republic of Moldova on December 24.
- President Sandu appointed Foreign Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration Aureliu Ciocoi as Prime Minister a.i. on December 31.

2.2 Economic and social update

- The National Bureau of Statistics presents the results of the module [“Influence of the COVID-19 pandemic on the household”](#) in the third quarter of 2020.

2.3 Education situation update

- The Ministry Education (MECR) [announced](#) the second semester of the school year is starting on January 11th 2021 after the end of winter vacation. The school attendance will observe all sanitary and epidemiological measures.
- As of the data of 18 December 2020, there were 7 schools and 279 classes were placed in quarantine, 425 school children, 514 teachers and 143 non-didactical and auxiliary staff were tested positive.
- Schools moved to online learning one week prior to the holiday break that lasts from 24 December 2020 until 11 January 2021, ensuring children have three weeks out of school. All extracurricular activities were suspended or organized online.
- MECR starts distribution of 516 tons of liquid sanitizer, procured for 26 mln MDL allocated by the Government, to all the kindergartens and schools. The volumes are sufficient to cover the needs till the end of the 2020-2021 school year.

2.4 Gender and Human Rights

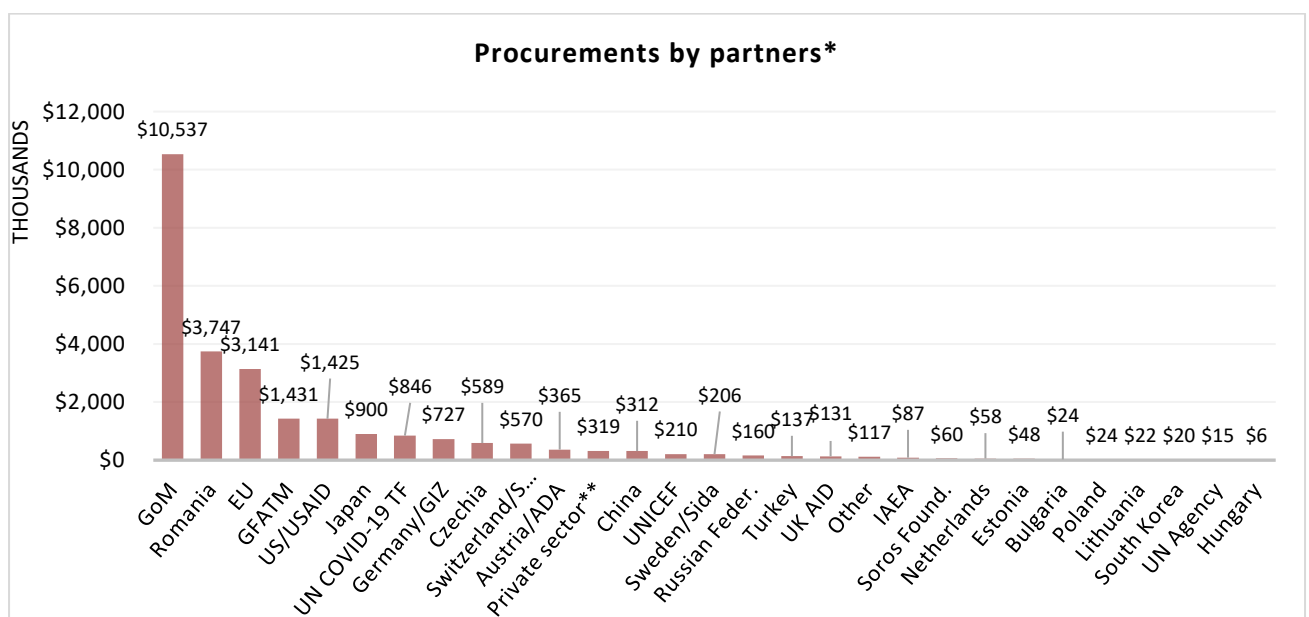
- In celebration of International Human Rights Day on December 10th, the UN in Moldova released a [video message](#).

2.5 Transnistria region

- The election for the de-facto Supreme Soviet and de facto local authorities was held on November 29. 33 de-facto MPs were elected. In 23 out of 33 electoral districts only one single candidate ran. Around 27% of the registered voters turned out.

2.6 Aid Coordination - data on procurements for COVID-19

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

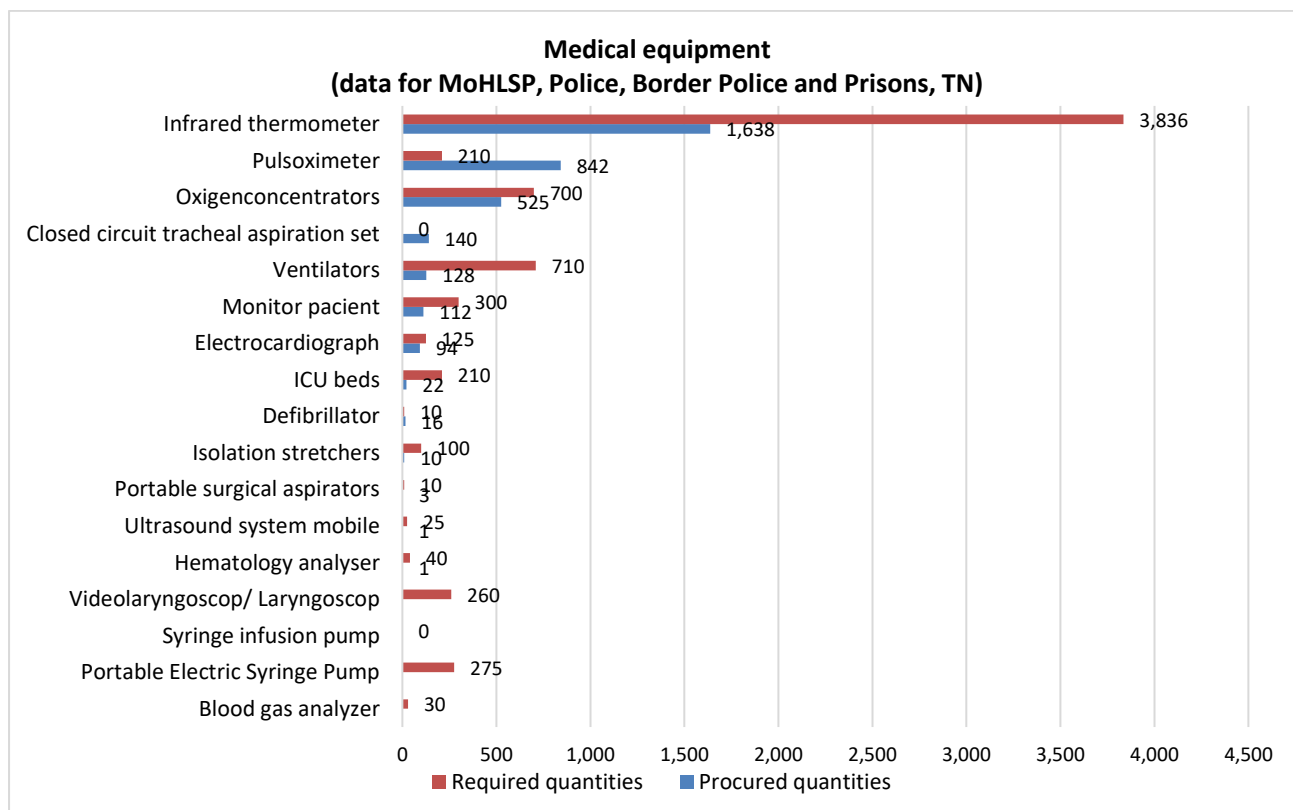


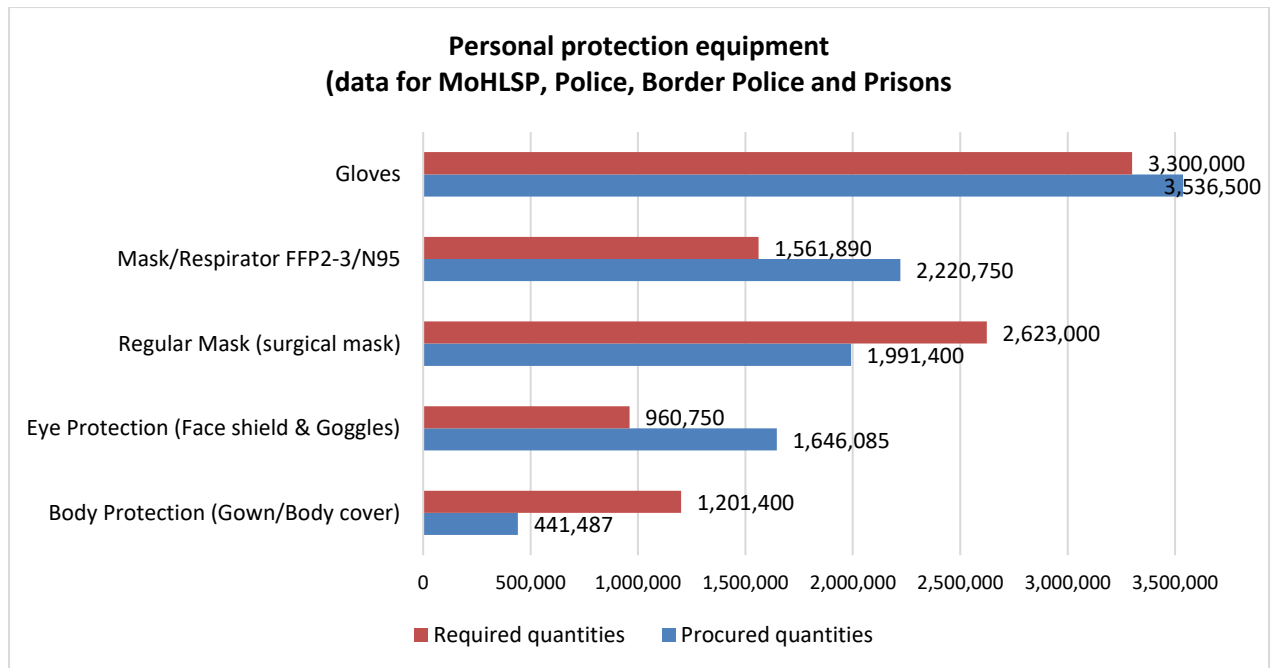
*Note - data only for contracted/procured PEEs, medical equipment and technical assistance COVID related. Committed and/or

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, 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

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

- As part of UNDP-UK agreement, and in partnership with OHCHR, more than 1160 packages containing non-perishable food, hygienic products and 1500 packages with masks and sanitizers reached out to approximate 1200 vulnerable women, men and children from the left bank of Nistru river. Among beneficiaries are women survivors of domestic violence and their dependents, single mothers, persons with disabilities, Roma, older persons, people with chronic illnesses, or weakened immune systems, and HIV positive people. With support from the UK offered via UNDP and in partnership with WHO, 26,875 gowns were distributed for frontline health workers from medical institutions from the left bank of the Nistru river. A [handover event](#) took place on 2 December in Tiraspol. The news was published by 22 media outlets.
- UNICEF Moldova with financial support from USAID Moldova [has distributed](#) household chemicals and hygienic products to the "Ceadir-Lunga" Children's Recovery Centre, an institution that provides rehabilitation services for children who have been cured of COVID-19 and need post-illness rehabilitation. Every year, over 1000 children benefit from its services. A total of 98 employees work within the center - the medical staff providing personalized assistance to children. Currently, 22 children and 14 parents benefit from personalized neurological, cardiological, musculoskeletal recovery services. The Recovery Centre was recently reopened and according to the Ministry of Health Order No. 823 of September 10, 2020, it was temporarily re-profiled into the Center for the rehabilitation of children who have undergone SARS-CoV2.
- UNICEF Moldova [donated two computers to the Child Helpline Children 116 111](#) – the service is provided by the National Center for Training, Assistance, Counseling and Education in Moldova "CNFACEM" and managed by the Ministry of Health, Labor and Social Protection of the Republic of Moldova. During the COVID-19 pandemic, from March to December, the advisers from Child Helpline received over 3,500 calls. The donation aims at strengthening capacities of the Child Helpline in order to provide better services for children victims of violence.
- IOM Moldova delivered the second batch of WASH supplies such as disinfectant gel, liquid soap, contact and contactless dispensers to the National Administration of Penitentiaries. This action is implemented within a 4-month project with the overall objective of contributing to the Republic of Moldova's efforts in

the urgent COVID-19 preparedness and response plan to halt further transmission of COVID-19 and mitigate the impact of the outbreak in the country. The project activities are accomplished in close coordination with the National Administration of Penitentiary as the primary counterpart and with the technical support of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). The donation is carried out with the financial support of the Embassy Office of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Chisinau within the project “Enhancing the Republic of Moldova’s COVID-19 preparedness and urgent response capacity in the International Borders and Penitentiaries”.

- IOM Moldova in coordination with the border authorities distributed 10,000 travel hygiene kits for travelers at the PoEs with the highest traffic. The travel kits include information materials on COVID-19 prevention, masks, hand sanitizers, and disinfecting wipes. The kits have been distributed during Migrants Day 17-18 December, 2020, through the general support of the Embassy Office of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Chişinău.

3 UN Social and Economic Response and Recovery Portfolio update

The Social and Economic Response and Recovery Plan and its associated programme portfolio can be accessed [here](#).

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

- The Ministry of Health, Labor, and Social Protection (MoHLSP) issued a Report on Infection Response Measures for COVID-19 covering the period Jan-Dec2020. The report can be accessed [here](#).
- UNDP provided support for the temporary relocation of Moldovan medics inhabiting the left bank to their workspace located on the right bank through the EU Confidence Building Programme. Since its start on 23 April 2020, 44 medics and health care professionals (24 women) have been supported covering the cost of accommodation and per diem expenses.
- WHO with the support of the EU delivered 34 pulmonary ventilation devices and 41 patient monitors to the government as part of the EU 'Health Solidarity' initiative.
- WHO with the support of the Austrian Federal Ministry of Social Affairs, Health, Consumer Care and Protection Services in Austria, through the Austrian Embassy in Chisinau, distributed 1,000 liters of disinfectants to 7 temporary foster care for adults and children with disabilities from the management of the National Social Care Agency.
- WHO continues to provide support to MoHLSP in external aid coordination, informing partners and donors regarding the EPI situation and public health measures for COVID-19 public health emergency response. The continuous needs assessment for the health system and resource mobilizations as well as devices and goods procurement are provided by the WHO support. A databased with donor’s contributions related to COVID-19 response is compiled by the WHO consultant and is available on the MoHLSP website.
- UNICEF and WHO jointly provided support to the Ministry of Health Labor and Social Protection and the National Agency for Public Health to carry on the COVID-19 Vaccine Introduction Readiness Assessment to assess programme readiness to introduce COVID-19 vaccines, identify gaps and prioritizing actions for enhanced readiness and identify opportunities for development partners’ financial support and technical assistance. Based on the result of the COVID-19 Vaccine Introduction Readiness Assessment, a National Vaccination Plan against COVID19 was developed by national stakeholders with joint technical support of

WHO and UNICEF. Both documents will be submitted to COVAX to ensure timely deployment of the COVID-19 vaccine to Moldova.

- UNICEF supported procurement of 166 kits for family medical assistance in Calarasi and Cantemir for monitoring newborns and infants during home visits carried out within the Standard for the supervision of the growth and development of the child in outpatient conditions. Each kit contains a portable electronic scale, a measuring tape, a foldable infant pedometer and a bag for home visits. These kits were distributed to all family nurses working in all health centers, family doctors' offices and health offices in both districts. Approximately 800 families with newborns from Călărași district and approximately 650 families from Cantemir district will benefit from quality medical assistance provided during home visits.
- EU Moldova has announced an additional €5.1m to support the Covid-19 response efforts of the WHO and the Pillar 1 of the Covid-19 Social Economic Response and Recovery Plan.
- The draft of the National action plan for International Health Regulations implementation was validated by the national intersectoral technical working group and will be approved by the Government as a framework document. The plan aiming at strengthening country public health Emergency Preparedness and Response capacities based on the “all hazard approach” principles and specific activities contribute to improving the health security.
- One of the first country COVID-19 pandemic comprehensive Intra-Action Review (IAR) in the WHO European Region took place on 1-4 Dec 2020 in the Republic of Moldova. A comprehensive analysis of the ongoing COVID-19 response activities and interventions in order to document best practices, challenges and set-up key recommendations in the nine areas was conducted. A large team of WHO experts jointly with national experts facilitated the response review and approximately 80 participants from key national and local institutions took part in face-to-face and online discussions. The findings and recommendations will guide further public health intervention to manage the COVID-19 public health emergency.
- The information campaign in support to MoHLSP "Support in physical and psychological rehabilitation after COVID-19" launched jointly by MoHLSP, WHO and SDC is ongoing for more than one month. The camping related materials such as social media visuals, video reportages have been developed with WHO support. Two webinars with experts on physical activity and mental health issues were attended by hundreds of participants.
- The third wave of COVID-19 Behavioral Insights study was conducted with WHO support and findings and recommendations were presented to the MoHLSP and National Agency for Public Health. The results lead to adjustment of the public health measures regarding organization of education process, planning of COVID-19 vaccination. Press releases was widely disseminated and set of visuals were produces on main study findings.
- WHO continues to provide support to MoHLSP in updating the estimations of resources and needs for COVID-19 response. The WHO COVID-19 Essential Supplies Forecasting Tool (COVID-ESFT) v2.0 PLUS is used monthly in order to conduct need assessment, tacking in to account the available stocks (public procurements, institutions' own procurement, donations, etc.). An IT solution for reporting and monitoring hospital capacities is under development with WHO support and will be piloted in a few hospitals, in the first quarter of 2021.
- WHO has provided technical assistance to MoHLSP and National Insurance Company in identifying appropriate payment methods for COVID-19 case management for next, 2021 year. The expenditures of the mandatory health insurance for COVID-19 case management for 9 months 2020 was use for budget estimation and payment methods update for suspected COVID-19 cases in pregnant woman, children and

adults, by types of interventions and by severity of cases. A final report will be available in the first quarter of 2021.

- WHO coordinated jointly with the National Agency for Public Health the population-based age-stratified sero-epidemiological investigation for COVID-19, Viral hepatitis B&C. In the survey were included 79 urban and rural primary health care facilities from 32 administrative territories of the country. The calculated sample size was more than 6000 blood samples collected from 5 population groups. In the group of 6-7 years - 3234 samples are collected, 92.0% of the planned ones, in general population 0-60 + years -2433 samples, 96.5% of the planned number. The report will be finalized during the first quarter of 2021.
- The MoHLS update the COVID-19 clinical case management protocol and a series of trainings were conducted with WHO support for health care workers from the all rural and urban primary health care facilities. The HCWs involved in COVID-19 clinical case management were familiarized on updated approaches with regards to treatment, laboratory testing and patients release from the isolation.
- The new guideline on the blood culture investigation methodology was developed to improve the Antimicrobial resistance surveillance. In the context of the COVID-19 case management the antimicrobials are used in a widely manner and could lead to increase the threat of the AMR. 20 lab professionals from the public health laboratory network were familiarized during two-day training (15-16 Dec 2020) with new practices and recommendations to identify the microorganisms in patients' blood and to antimicrobial resistance profiles.
- Medical equipment i.e. 34 ventilators and 41 monitors for patients with severe COVID-19 and supplies for the previously donated - 356 oxygen concentrators and 210 pulse oximeters of 1 million EURO was donated by WHO and EU in the framework of the "Solidarity for Health" initiative. The equipment for assisted breathing, according to the country's health facilities needs was distributed to district and municipal hospitals, also 3 ventilators and 4 patient monitors were allocated for the hospitals from Transnistria region. Another donation of 1.000 liters of disinfectants for hand hygiene (total value – 2.760 USD) for Long Term Care Facilities was organized in the framework of WHO and Austrian Federal Ministry of Labor, Social Affairs, Health and Consumer Protection.

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

- As a response to the increase of the gender-based violence cases, especially in the pandemic, UNDP helped Gagauzia region establish a [new service for combating domestic violence](#) including a Regional Center for victims, which was officially launched on 7 December 2020. Also, a multidisciplinary team was set up in the village of Chirsova in ATU Gagauzia, which is ready to act in all cases of risk to the lives and safety of women and their children.
- Ministry of Education, Culture and Research (MECR), with UNICEF support, organized during 1-10 December 2020 the fifth Annual National [Conference](#) on Inclusive Education. The Conference was held online and attended by about 3,000 teachers, education and authorities, specialists, parents and students. The Conference marked a decade of implementation of inclusive education and featured sessions dedicated to the support of children with special educational needs and disabilities to learn in the context of COVID-19.
- UNICEF and CCF Moldova NGO, partnered to train teachers and school managers to ensure prevention of infectious diseases in schools. To this end, UNICEF and CCF, in coordination with MECR and National Agency for Public Health (NAPH), developed training materials for schoolteachers and managers in the context of school reopening. Since mid-September, the training reached 8351 participants: 6947 are

teaching staff (including 3097 during December 2020), 1207 are managerial staff/school administrators; and 197 participants represent residential institutions. During the reporting period (16th November – 15th December) there have been organized 99 online sessions: 78 - in Romanian and 21 – in Russian. Based on evaluation questionnaires, over 99 percent of participants considered the training content useful and very useful – out of these, 89% rated the information as being very useful.

- Similarly, UNICEF launched a nationwide training for teaching and nonteaching personnel in pre-primary (pre-school) institutions regarding COVID-19 regulations. To this end, UNICEF partnered with a national NGO, CNETIF, in developing training materials and rolling out the nationwide training. To date, 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 end – December 2020, circa 30,000 representatives of didactical and non-didactical staff (managers, educators, educators' assistants, medical assistants, catering personnel/cooks, cleaning personnel and Local Public Administration representatives). A mentoring process has been set up in order to support the local trainers with adjusting to the individual needs of the trainees and stimulate their active participation.
- UN Women, assisted 361 women, including 129 women migrants, 162 women and girls survivors of violence and potential victims of violence, 42 women with disabilities and 28 women with children with disabilities, who are now able to access essential services, cope with stress and to better overcome the violence/difficult situations during COVID-19 crisis as a result of on-line essential services delivered by 4 NGO's active in EAW field during a 2-month period. In addition to this, 28 children, witnesses of DV, GBV or victims of violence benefited from the above mentioned specialized and targeted support.
- UN Women in partnership Academy of Public Administration, provided support to 6 deputy-heads from various districts (individual psychological counselling) in the context of COVID-19 during December 2020.
- IOM Moldova was involved in coordinating the return of 95 vulnerable Moldovan migrants from Central Asia and Armenia, in November and December 2020. The beneficiaries received documentation support, counselling, hygiene and personal protective items, food packs and pocket money. Among the returnees were 25 women, 33 minors and 4 infants. They all underwent pre-embarkation health assessments, including COVID-19 tests, to confirm their fitness for travel. All movement activities (pre-departure, travel, arrival, including onward transportation) have been carried out with respect to current COVID-19 related measures introduced by host countries, and the countries of transit and origin.
- IOM Moldova provided reintegration support to 16 migrants (8 women/8 men) that returned to Moldova during 2020 due to the loss of jobs and restrictions in the destination countries and found themselves in difficult situations after return. The support mainly consisted of tools and equipment that would allow former migrants and their families to have an income in Moldova.
- Four live events aimed to increase the well-being of people during the pandemic and to combat gender-based stereotypes and violence against women were launched by UN Women in Social Media. The sessions were moderated by psychologists with extensive experience in the field.

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

- More than 40 women signed non-refundable funding contracts with the Organization for the Development of Small and Medium Enterprises (ODIMM) under the national programmes " Women in Business " and " Start for Young People ". Investment projects are co-funded by UN Women with the financial support from the Government of Japan under the Project "Response Measures to the stringent

needs of women and girls who are marginalized or are in a vulnerable situation aggravated by COVID-19". The purpose of the project is to develop women's economic and social skills, especially in rural areas, so that they can react to the economic crisis generated by the current pandemic. Thus, more than 70 percent of the investment projects will be developed in rural municipalities, the most active being: Ungheni, Caușeni, Cahul, Orhei and UTA Gagauzia.

- On 28 and 29 of December, 2020, UN Women in partnership with ODIMM delivered a [2 days online training session on Financial Literacy](#), with participation of 57 women, aiming at developing skills and capabilities for girls and women to properly react to the COVID – 19 crisis and be ready to start a business or grow in line with the economic reality.
- During December 2020, UN Women in partnership with AFAM (Association of Women Entrepreneurs of Moldova) delivered 4 online knowledge sharing thematic seminars, with participation of over 127 women entrepreneurs or business managers, from all over the country and reached an impact of spreading the in 18.000 persons through Facebook. In order to overcome the impact of COVID-19 crisis and improve their personal and business resilience, 53 women managers have received individual online and offline mentoring sessions. All women entrepreneurs were guided by mentors and helped to diversify, adapt and create more resilient and inclusive business models and products, as well to increase competitiveness using online tools and other instruments during COVID 19.
- UN Women with financial support from Sweden and in partnership with XY Incubator, launched the first start-up pre-acceleration program for 25 women and girls wishing to launch businesses in the STEM-related businesses, but not limited to. Each of the 25 selected beneficiaries out of the 115 received direct permanent support from a business mentor, guidance on product placing, marketing, pricing, and reaching out to customers during COVID 19.
- The International Labor Organization (ILO) launched a mobile application to help young people to know their employment rights so that they are better prepared when entering the labor market. The application called „[Youth Rights at Work](#)” is an educational game that can be downloaded free of charge from Google Play.
- On December 30, 2020, the representatives of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) Mission visited Chisinau International Airport in order to conduct the Global Survey - Impact of COVID-19 at Border Crossing Points, Immigration and Border Management Module. In the context of the current crises of public health and human mobility, data from Points of Entry (PoE) are crucial for improving the national capacity to respond to the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic, in this sense being selected six border crossing points that according to Government Decision no. 531 from 03.07.2014 are recognized as being of strategic importance. The survey will address a number of key issues regarding the degree of preparedness and measures to combat the COVID-19 pandemic when crossing the state border, including operational and technical capabilities, inter-institutional cooperation at the level of PoEs, particularly with health authorities, and preparedness in terms of Standard Operating Procedures, equipment, logistics and more. The Immigration and Border Management module of the Global Survey aims to support national border and immigration management authorities in analyzing and assessing the needs for PoEs considered a priority, developing evidence-based interventions, while contributing to the global and regional PoEs data analysis.
- On 17-18 December 2020, new data on the impact of COVID-19 on migration in Moldova were presented by IOM and UNDP. Issues related to the COVID-19 impact on mobility, labor migration, existing solutions to support reintegration of Moldovan migrants, and the diaspora engagement initiatives in local development were also discussed. The event brought together Moldovan Government representatives,

civil society exponents, think-tanks, academia, Moldovan diaspora and labor migrants, and was organized by International organization for Migration (IOM) and The United Nations Development program (UNDP) country offices in Moldova, in partnership with the Ministry of Health, Labor and Social Protection in Moldova, the Moldovan Diaspora Relations Bureau, and with financial support from the Swiss Development Cooperation (SDC).

3.4 Pillar 4: MACROECONOMIC RESPONSE AND MULTILATERAL COLLABORATION

- On December 7, 2020, the Republic of Moldova submitted to COVAX (or the global access tool for vaccines against COVID-19, agreed by WHO, GAVI and CEPI) the request for the vaccine against COVID-19. As the outcome of the discussions among the specialists, decision makers, WHO and UNICEF, the request was completed to ensure the delivery of the vaccine under optimal conditions and determining the mechanisms for organizing immunization services. This result builds up on a long process of discussions between COVAX Facility, governments and UN partners initiated in July to ensure equitable access to COVID-19 vaccine to all countries, including Moldova.

3.5 Pillar 5: SOCIAL COHESION AND COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

- On 11 December, Chisinau and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) held an event to present the main findings of the resilience assessment undertaken by the city and to celebrate the membership of Chisinau in the UNDRR resilience project for local governments: the *Making Cities Resilient 2030 Initiative*.
- UNDRR supported Chisinau authorities in assessing its resilience to disaster risks, including the public health system's exposure to hazards. Chisinau ran multi-stakeholder resilience assessments using UNDRR's Disaster Resilience Scorecard for Cities and the Public Health System Resilience Scorecard, in line with the Covid-19 UN Socio-Economic Response Plan for Moldova. The assessment process contributed to identifying present and future risks and future actions to reduce all disasters' negative impact. It helped explore the state of resilience of local public health systems in the face of the current pandemic, while facilitating the baseline development of a long-term resilience strategy. On the basis of the multi-stakeholder assessments, the city defined new goals in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction to be achieved within the next decade, and will continue engaging on urban resilience as an active member of the MCR2030 initiative.

3.6 Gender and Human Rights

- OHCHR held an end of the year conference on human rights entitled "Moldova and COVID 19-Ensuring a human rights approach to response and recovery measures. The conference can be watched [here](#).

3.7 Communications and Advocacy

- WHO Moldova led and provided support to launching of the next stage of the COVID-19 pandemic prevention communication plan – *Stay safe! Celebrate Winter holidays in safety!* campaign. The awareness campaign was launched on 11 December 2020 with participation of the Government, Ministry of Health, Labor and Social Protection, Internal Affairs, External Affairs, Education, Chisinau Municipality, PLAs, UN agencies, donor/partners community, mass media, business.
- WHO Moldova with SDC support produced and distributed a series of 3 video spots in the frame of *Stay safe! campaign* – on handwashing, cough etiquette, and safe celebration of winter holidays -

<https://fb.watch/2TkIIAVryX/>

- WHO Moldova with SDC support launched an [awareness campaign](#) (video reportages, visuals, webinars, etc.) on post-COVID-19 rehabilitation.
- WHO Moldova with EU support developed and launched a dedicated webpage on COVID-19 pandemic – www.covidinfo.md as a viable, trustful source of information on COVID-19 pandemic, national response, COVID-19 immunization.
- WHO Moldova and MoHLSP with EU support presented the [main results](#) of the third round of data collection of the Behavioral insights on COVID-19 in The Republic of Moldova - Monitoring knowledge, risk perceptions, preventive behaviour and trust to inform pandemic outbreak response. Some of the findings show:
 - Consistently high proportions (over 80%) of respondents expressed good understanding on COVID-19, personal behaviour, and government policies. Judging media reliability was considered the most difficult with 66% confident in their ability;
 - Overall risk perceptions have grown, moving from 26% to 36% in high risk perceptions between July and November. Increases are measured particularly in those that consider their susceptibility and likelihood of infection as high;
 - Feelings of stress among the respondents has grown slightly, from 42% in August to 48% in November. Similarly, the perceptions of the virus being close have grown from 30% to 33%;
 - Although vaccine acceptance has grown slightly since August, only 31% express strong willingness for getting vaccinated. There are doubts regarding its efficiency as 32% do not believe it would help control the spread of COVID-19.
- WHO Moldova and its partners are providing continuous support to the MoHLSP on risk communication and community engagement. A regular e-newsletter with SDC and EU support is disseminated.
- The information campaign in support to MoHLSP "Support in physical and psychological rehabilitation after COVID-19" was launched jointly by MoHLSP, WHO and SDC and is ongoing for more than one month. The camping related materials such as social media visuals, video reportages have been developed with WHO support. Two webinars with experts on physical activity and mental health issues were attended by hundreds of participants.
- UNICEF has launched the [COVID-19 Vaccine Market Dashboard](#) – an interactive tool for partners, industry and general public to follow the developments of the rapidly evolving COVID-19 vaccine market and the efforts of the COVAX Facility to ensure fair and equitable access for every country in the world. In this first release, the dashboard provides a regularly updated overview of the global research and development pipeline, the projected production capacity, publicly announced bilateral and multilateral supply agreements, as well as reported price points. [Answers to the most common questions about coronavirus vaccine development](#) also available on UNICEF Moldova website in three languages.
- UNICEF Moldova signed a [Memorandum of Understanding](#) with Premier Energy Distribution and Chisinau Municipality to ensure the promotion and development of actions aimed at avoiding accidents and trauma due to ignorance or non-compliance with safety regulations and unauthorized intervention in electrical installations. A series of informative materials in the field of electrical safety will be developed and made available to parents, guardians, caregivers, but also to children and adolescents through the online educational platform (educatieonline.md), as well as in urban public transport and educational institutions.

- UNICEF Moldova supported the development of a [song](#) dedicated to the superheroes of the year 2020 - health workers, police officers, teachers, and other frontline workers who provided essential services during the COVID-19 pandemics. It was developed as part of the "Be Safe" communication campaign with the participation of four children from the inclusive choir Voices, and supported by UNICEF Moldova from USAID funds, in cooperation with the Ministry of Health, Labor and Social Protection and WHO in Moldova.
- UNICEF supported the development of a game tool "[Dialogica](#)" to facilitate the engagement of children and adolescents in dialogue on important topics, as well as to contribute to the development of their critical and logical thinking, teamwork and negotiation skills. The tool consists of methodological guidance for teachers and volunteers on how to organize educational games in their communities and of 18 educational games-quizzes on the topics of Sustainable Development Goals and Bullying. The tool is adapted to COVID-19 context providing guidance how to organize such games online.
- UNICEF Moldova continues the [End of Violence against Children Campaign](#), implemented within the EVA Project, supported by the European Union. The campaign aims at raising awareness about violence against children and risk factors conducive to violence, abuse and neglect of children amid the pandemic. The Campaign also promotes the Child Helpline - national service that provides children free of charge, confidential and 24/24H information on their rights. Child Helpline is also an important mechanism of reporting cases of violence, abuse or neglect.
- UNICEF Moldova continues to support communication and advocacy activities in the context of COVID-19 pandemic. In December UNICEF supported two episodes of an online talk show aLIVE [Inclusive Education in the times of COVID](#) and [Safe Holidays during COVID-19 pandemic](#), a number of human interest stories:
 - [How the pandemic influenced children with special educational needs](#);
 - [Life of a young woman, mom of 4 children and entrepreneur, during the pandemic](#);
 - [Increasing of cases of domestic violence during the pandemic](#);
 - [Challenges in reintegrating back into society after being treated for COVID-19, a story of a high school student](#).
- UN Women [developed a video](#) aiming to highlight the importance of supporting women survivors of violence and to increase access to services. As violence against women increases globally during the pandemic, it is important for women to be aware of service providers, including public institutions, civil society organizations, social workers and the Trust Line for Women and Girls, where women and girls can report cases of abuse and ask for help. The pandemic revealed some weak spots in the prevention and response systems but services for survivors of violence are still available in Moldova.
- UN Women launched an awareness online and offline campaign on the importance of preventing and combating violence against women and girls during the COVID-19 pandemic, by developing graphics cards, videos, radio spot, billboards etc.