



COVID-19 Response and Recovery Monthly Bulletin

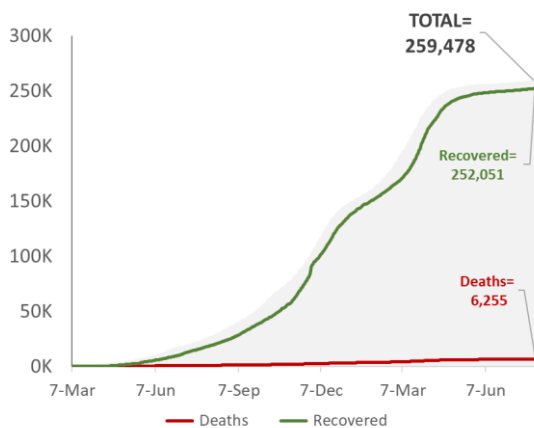
July 2021



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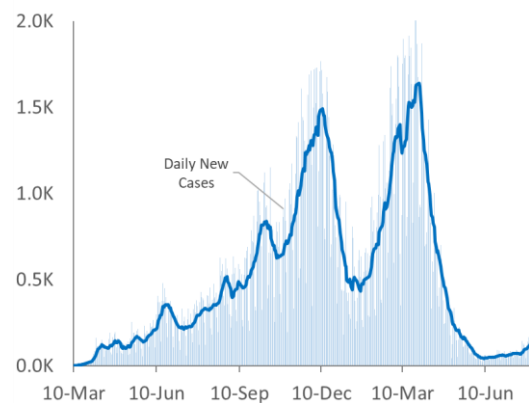
1 COVID-19 Epi and Health situation update (data as of July 31, 2021, unless stated otherwise)

Total Cases, Recoveries and Deaths



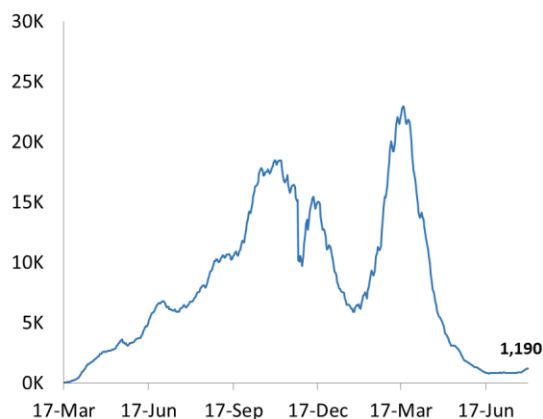
The total number of COVID-19 cases in the country has continued to increase and reached 259,478 at the end of July.

New Infections



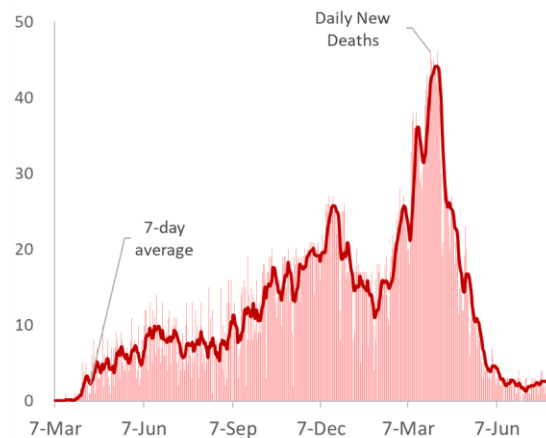
The number of new cases has begun to increase and the 7-day average at the end of July was 128, compared to 65 at the beginning of the month.

Active Cases



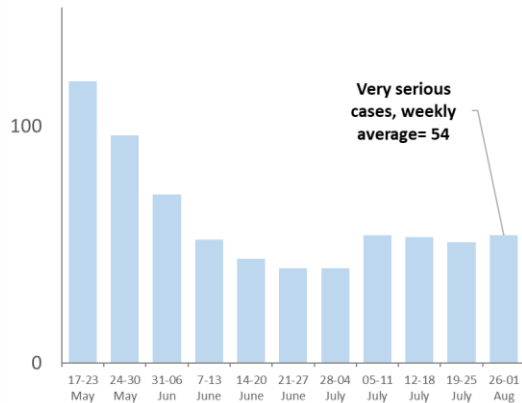
The number of active cases has started to increase over the past month and on July 31 it stood at 1,172 and further increased to 1,190 on Aug 1.

New Deaths



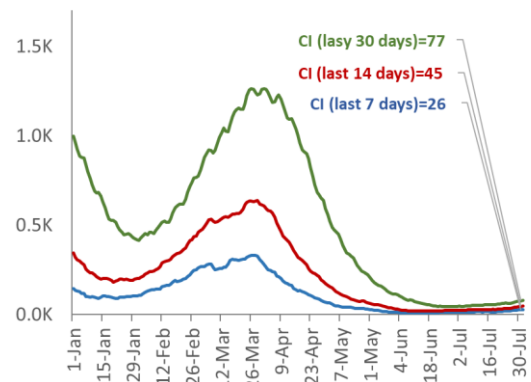
Overall, the 7-day average for the number of deaths has remained steady in July and by the end of the month it stood at 1.86. As of July 31, the total number of deaths was 6,255.

Very Serious Cases



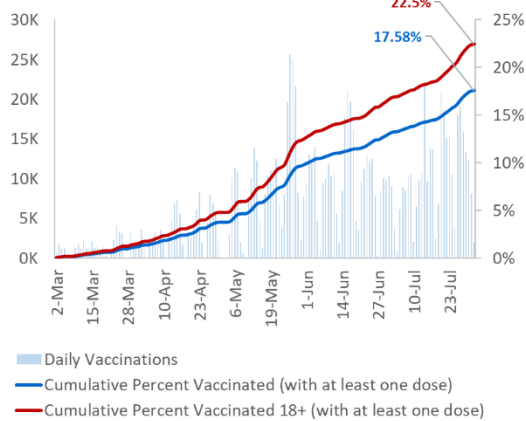
The average number of very serious cases increased somewhat in June, reaching an average of 54 in the week of July 26-Aug 1. The total number of hospitalized patients with COVID-19 at the end of the month was 365, out of which 55 were in a very serious condition.

Cumulative Incidence per 100,000 over the Last 7, 14, and 30 Days



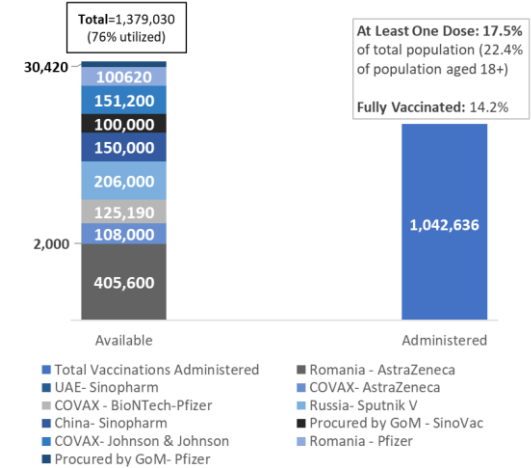
At the end of July, the crude cumulative incidence of cases per 100,000 population for the last 7, 14, and 30 days was 26, 45, and 77, respectively. All of these values have nearly doubled over the past month. The overall crude cumulative incidence of cases stood at 7,469 per 100,000 on the last day of July.

Daily Vaccinations and Percentage Vaccinated



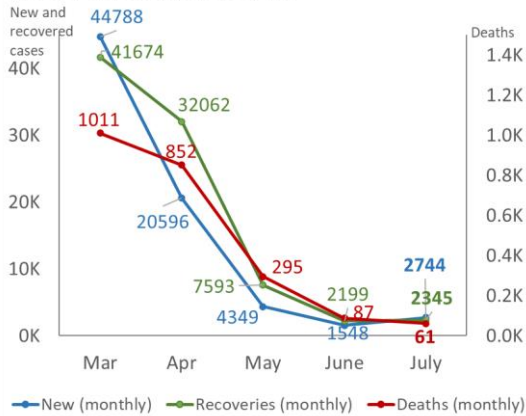
The number of vaccinations administered in July was 336,684 marking a 12% increase compared to the previous month. As of July 31, an estimated 17.54% of the country's population or 22.4% of the population aged 18+ has received at least one vaccine dose. The numbers stood at 17.58% and 22.5%, respectively, as of August 1.

Administered and Available Vaccines



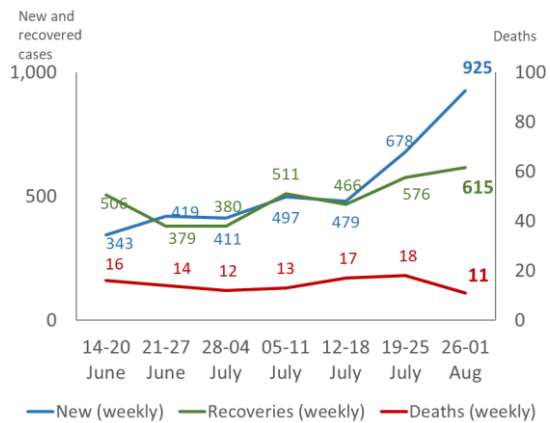
As of July 31, a total of 1,042,636 COVID-19 vaccines have been administered. Overall, 14.2% of the country's population has received a full vaccination course. As of the last day of the month, over 330,000 vaccine doses were available for use.

Monthly Data: New Cases, Recoveries and Deaths



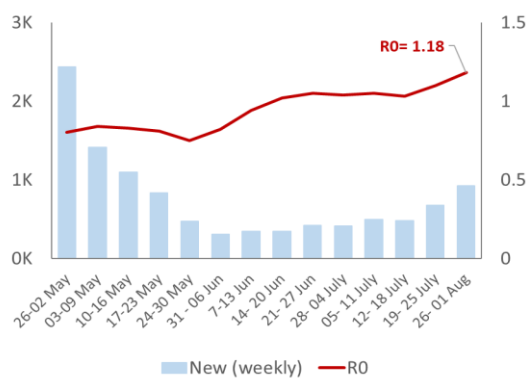
Overall, the number of new cases in June increased by 77% compared to the previous month and reached 2,744. The number of deaths decreased by 30%. The monthly number of recoveries partially reflected the increase in cases and rose by 7%.

Weekly Data: New Cases, Recoveries and Deaths



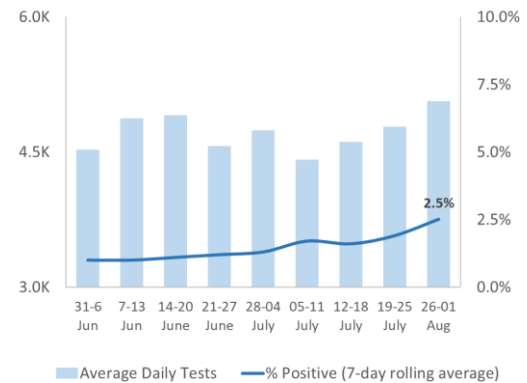
The number of weekly cases has gradually increased over the course of the past month and reached 925 for the week of July 26-Aug 1. This represents a 36% increase compared to the previous week. Conversely, the number of deaths has decreased by 39%, while the number of recoveries rose by 7%.

COVID 19 Weekly Cases and Contagion Rate (R0)



The contagion rate has remained above 1 throughout July and it stood at 1.18 at the end of the month. Currently, the contagion rate is uneven across regions, and values range from 0.40 (Rezina) to 1.83 (Ungheni). The contagion rate in Chisinau stands at 1.19.

Average Daily Tests and Positivity Rate



The percentage of positive tests has increased over the course of July and by the end of the month the 7-day average reached 2.4% and further increased to 2.5% on the first day of August.

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. 58](#), of the Extraordinary National Commission for Public Health was issued on 23 July 2021. The decision [updates the procedures](#) for border crossing from the [countries in the Red Zone](#) (starting with 02.08.2021- the latest update). All incoming passengers from these countries (including if transiting in less than 24 hours) need to present a PCR negative test, with the due exceptions: fully vaccinated (min. of 14 days from completion), technical personnel, children under 6yo and other categories.

2 General situation update

2.1 Vaccination campaign updates

- According to the government portal on vaccination (<https://vaccinare.gov.md/>) as of August 2, a total of 1,044,259 doses of vaccine were administered (495,051 people received 2 doses); adverse reactions: severe = 81 cases / Mild = 1,447 cases; The MoHLSP also announced the vaccination rate of the general population is nearing 18%, 88% of all medical personnel is vaccinated;
- Starting with July 23, the Moldovan citizens vaccinated through the national vaccination platform are able to download the digital COVID-19 vaccination certificate;
- The US Embassy [announced](#) the delivery of the second batch of 150,000 single shot Johnson & Johnson vaccines to Moldova through the COVAX platform, as part of a total donation of 500,000 doses.

2.2 Political update

- According to the after-election reports issued by OSCE/ODIHR, the European Network of Election Monitoring Organizations (ENEMO) and PromoLex the Parliamentary snap elections were partially free and partially fair. Among the key conclusions drawn are: poorly reviewed electoral complaints, delays in the examination of the electoral disputes, non-transparent, unpredictable process of establishing the polling stations abroad and in the Transnistria region, with reasonable doubts about political interference in such cases. The 3 organizations considered that the elections were held in an incomplete legal framework with problematic provisions which were not improved as per the Constitutional Court and Venice Commission recommendations from 2016 and 2020. At the same time, the elections were competitive, voters having many alternatives, exception being the voters from the left bank of the Nistru River who had limited access to information about political contenders.
- The pre-election period was characterized by the use of administrative resources, worrying increasing dynamics of hate speech used closer to the election day, incomplete or lacking financial reports by contenders, media with a biased behavior and the Broadcasting Council failing to exercise its duties.
- The large number and diversity of electoral incidents of the election day were of particular concern. In particular, the Promolex report cites 459 incidents among which are interrupted recording of the electoral process, electioneering near the polling stations, unjustified termination/ suspension of voting, acts of violence, bullying, errors for the voters' addresses, deceased voters, presence of advertising materials, electoral billboards, posters near the polling stations, taken pictures of the ballot papers, late closure of polling stations, reduced accessibility to the polling stations, etc.
- The Central Electoral Commission (CEC) was considered to have met all legal deadlines while conducting its activities efficiently, despite facing multiple challenges, including an insufficient budget to fully finance the process, organizing polling stations abroad and those for voters from the left bank of the Nistru River. The CEC has implementing COVID-19 prevention measures and ensured protection of the health of voters, observers and other actors involved in the electoral process.

- The election turnout was 48.41%, with **1,477,574** votes casted, of which **212,145** were from the diaspora and **28,780** were from the left bank of the Nistru River. The votes expressed at the national level counted for 85 MP seats, the diaspora vote counted for 14 seats and votes of the left bank citizens counted for 2 seats. The overall voter turnout was slightly less than the first round of the fall 2020 presidential elections 48.54% and significantly lower than the second round at 58.22%. The turnout was also lower than the 2019parliamentary election which had a 50.57% turnout.
- Two political parties (PAS and ŞOR) and one electoral bloc (BECS) passed the required thresholds and were elected to parliament.

Party / Bloc	PAS	BECS	SOR	BERU	Platforma DA	PDM	Democratia Acasa	PACE
Score	52.80%	27.17%	5.74%	4.10%	2.33%	1.81%	1.45%	1.28%
N. of seats	63 MP	32 MP	6 MP	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

- At the national level, the lowest participation rate was registered by citizens from the Transnistria region 11.1% and UTA Gagauzia at 36.82%. In both regions BECS (Electoral bloc of Communists and Socialists) received more than 82% of the voters. The highest participation rate was registered in Ocnîța – 48.79%, Criuleni – 48.74%, Donduşeni – 48.19%, Ialoveni – 47.57% districts and Chişinău municipality – 47.67%.
- At the national level, the Action and Solidarity Party (PAS) received the most votes in 26 districts. This includes districts from the south and north of the country previously dominated by the Socialist Party. BECS received the majority of votes in the remaining 10 districts. In the diaspora voting, the PAS dominated the polls at 86.23% followed by Renato Usatii Bloc 2.78%, Democratia Acasa 2.74% and BECS 2.47%.
- And this is the first time in the history of the Moldovan Parliament when a relative gender balance was achieved with 40 MPs out of 101 being women. The diaspora vote represents for 14 MPs of the new parliament. This election brings many new and young MPs. The number of women MP's entering parliament is also the highest in history
- With 63 seat PAS has 62% of the seats in the new Parliament, a simple majority sufficient to pass legislation and to implement critical reforms, especially of the justice sector. For a constitutional majority (2/3), PAS would require four cross party votes.
- The Central Electoral Commission (CEC) has validated the results of the snap parliamentary elections on 19th of July. The Constitutional Court has confirmed the results of the elections and the mandates of 101 members of the parliament on 23 of July. On 26 of July the first session of the new Parliament has been organized with the President giving a public speech on the proposed priorities for the new legislative. However, the election of the Parliament speaker, deputy speakers and 11 parliamentary commissions was postponed for 29 of July. As a result, the PAS faction got the speaker and one deputy speaker seats. The BECS bloc got the second deputy speaker seat. Out of 11 parliamentary commissions only 3 will be led by BECS bloc.
- On 30 of July the President has consulted the parliamentary factions of PAS and SOR. The bloc of Socialists and Communists insisted for Maia Sandu to come to the Parliament to talk to the factions, those they missed the consultations. As a result of the consultations Natalia Gavrilita was nominated as the candidate to lead the new cabinet of Ministers. On the following days, the new government shall be voted. The new government is expected to have a different structure with the Ministry of Health, Labor and Social Protection, the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Economy, being reorganized and split, getting more ministries instead.

2.3 Economic and social update

- Annual inflation rate in June 2021 stood at 3.16%. The price increase was affected by the continuously growing food prices (4.56%), as well as higher prices for non-food items (5.16%) while prices for services provided to population went down by 1.53% in June. To curb inflation, on July 30, 2021 the NBM revised its monetary policy to increase the base rate by 1 p.p on major interventions with no changes to obligatory reserves requirements.
- Producers prices in June'21 grew by 7.8% versus the same period of 2020. In extractives and manufacturing the producer's prices were higher in June'21 versus June'20 by 4.7% and 8.4% accordingly. However, the prices for energy and went down although marginally (by 0.1%). Further details could be found [here](#).
- The NBS released data on exports suggesting a steady improvement of trade outcomes versus 2020: exports in May 2021 grew with 29.5% versus May'21, while total value of exports during January-May 2021 was higher by 12.7% compared to the same period of 2020. Noteworthy that exports growth was inter alia affected by the growing share of re-exports (up by 30% versus the same period of 2020). The exports to the EU zone grew by 2.2% while exports to CIS went down by 0.8% in the five months of 2021. Imports grew more dynamically during January-May'21 having increased by 35.2% (vs. same period of 2020), while in May'21 imports grew by over 70% versus May'20. The imports from the EU grew with 36.8% while from CIS - with only 25%. The value of goods imported by Moldova's citizens in the first 5 months of 2021 grew by 1.7 times compared to the same period of 2020. Noteworthy that the growth in the imports value occurred on the account of increased costs of vehicles imported, the later accounted cca 85% of all imported goods. Due to imports dynamic, the trade balance deficit for five months of 2021 grew by 1.6 times versus the same period of 2020.
- According to NBS, the constructions sector has grown in the pandemic year of 2020 by 11.8% versus 2019. Further information can be found [here](#).
- The Covid-19 pandemic affected investments in fixed assets: it decreased by 3.1% versus 2019. Additional information is available [here](#).
- The NBS released the [Report](#) on SME activity in 2020 that suggests the SME's profits went down in 2020 by 6.8% versus 2019 as a result of Covid-19 related crisis.
- According to the NBM, the number of cashless transactions, including through e-commerce platform, grew in Moldova during 2020. The share of e-commerce reached 15.6% out of which every fifth transaction used domestic platform for electronic commerce. The total value of domestic transactions grew by 50% while the value of transactions using foreign platforms decreased by 7.6%. At the same time, the number of e-commerce platforms in Moldova increased by 28.7% versus 2019.

2.4 Transnistria region

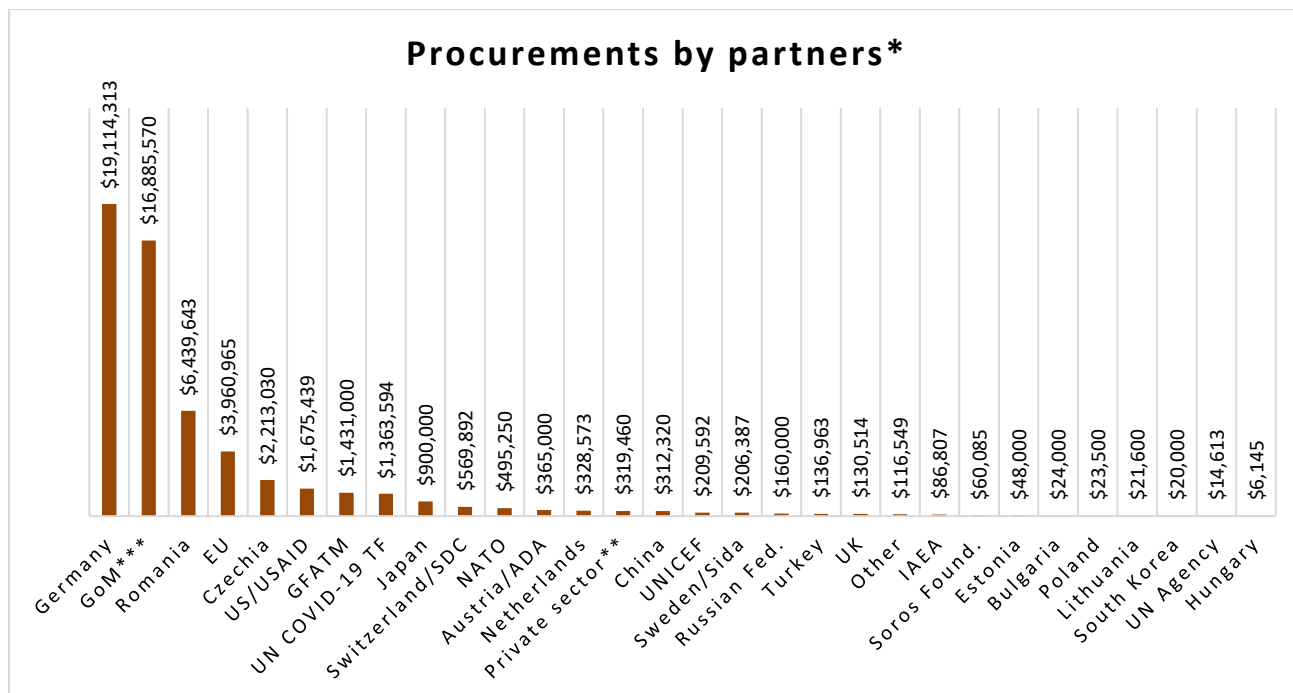
- According to the last decision of the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) in the Shcherbinina case, the Russian Federation is responsible for the human rights violations committed by the facto-authorities from the left bank of the Nistru River and must pay moral damages and the expenses for the provided legal services. In the case of other two citizens of the TN region who complained against the inhumane conditions of detention, illegal detention, unlawful confiscation of property, but also the lack of effective remedies regarding their complaints, the Russian Federation was convicted by ECHR and now has to pay 38,600 EURO.
- The United States called on the TN de-facto authorities to release Ghenadie Ciorba and Mihail Ermurachi convicted on politically motivated charges. The Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor, which is part of the U.S. State Department, made a statement on this matter. The de-facto authorities from the

left bank called the condemnation of Ghenadie Ciorba and Mihail Ermurachi “an exclusively internal matter”. At the same time the statement of the de-facto authorities drew attention of the US State Department's Bureau for Democracy, Human Rights and Labor Relations regarding the court decision referring to the Andrei Samonii case, who is detained by Moldovan authorities and sentenced to 15 years in prison.

- Starting with September 1, 2021 the transport means from the TN region will have access to the international road traffic only if registered with neutral-type plates.
 - Citizens from the TN region are now able to get the confirmation for the COVID-19 vaccine certificates issued by de-facto authorities from left bank. Since the start of the vaccination campaign in Moldova, the Ministry of Health distributed over 158,000 vaccine doses to the TN region. The health facilities from both banks use the same Electronic Vaccination Register.
 - In the frame of the Healthcare Working Group experts from Chisinau and Tiraspol discussed issues related to the vaccination of pregnant women, they shared best international practices and recommendations, and concluded that the vaccination of pregnant women is highly recommended with the vaccines authorized by the World Health Organization (WHO).
 - By beginning of July 2021, the foreign trade turnover of the TN region exceeded \$ 1.028 billion, 29% more than in the first half of 2020. The exports grew by 40%, accounting \$ 398.9 million, and imports by 23% - to \$ 629 million. The main exported goods/materials were metals, metal products, fuel, but also energy products, electricity to Moldova. Imports are dominated by fuel and energy products from the Russian Federation. The largest trading partner of the Transnistria region is the EU. The turnover with the EU countries increased by 65% Y-O-Y and reached almost \$ 318.4 million. Exports to the EU increased by 76% - to \$ 150.6 million. Among the countries, Russia is the leader with a turnover of \$ 252.3 million (-1%).
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2.5 Aid Coordination - data on procurements for COVID-19

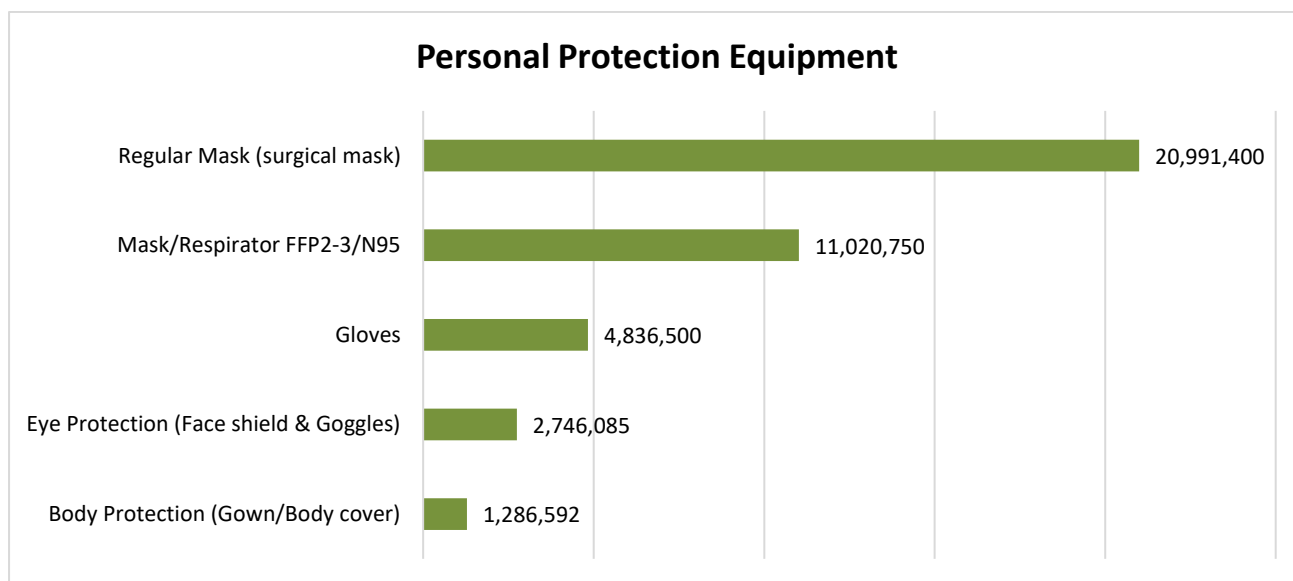
Mapping of contributions to the Health System for COVID response in Moldova

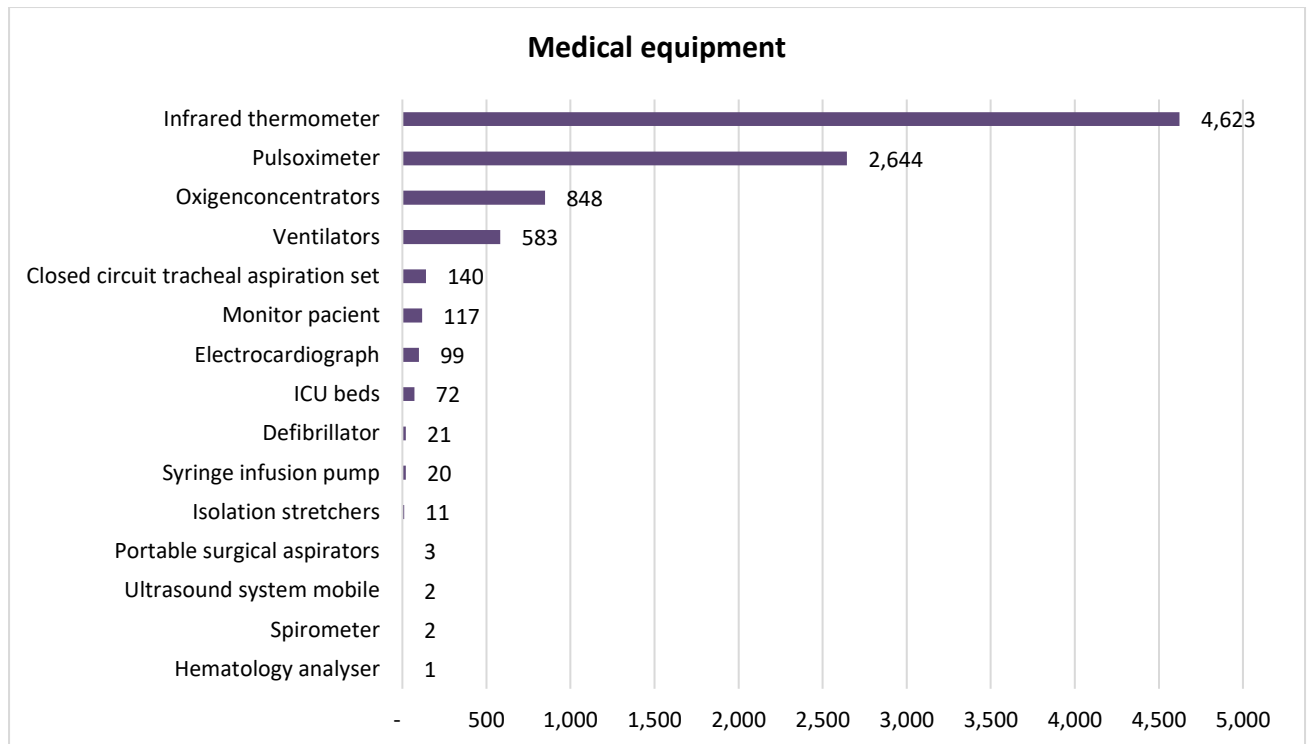


*Note - data only for contracted/procured PEEs, medical equipment and technical assistance COVID related. Committed and/or pledged contributions are not reflected. Data are captured from various sources, i.e. media and may not be accurate. The process of reflecting donors/contributions is ongoing, and 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

*** The procurements of the Government of RM include the materials and supplied procured from the WB loan: Moldova Emergency COVID-19 Response Project





3 UN Social and Economic Response and Recovery Portfolio update

Please access <https://covid19response.un.md/> to see the Plan and the Project Portfolio in more detail, including on-going projects and initiatives still requiring financing.

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

- WHO, jointly with UNAIDS, UNICEF and UNFPA offers support to the MoHLSP to conduct the assessment of continuity of Essential Health Services (EHS) during COVID-19 pandemic. WHO has selected the company, which will conduct data collection and primary analysis of EHS at facility level. The data collection is planned for August. WHO and several UN agencies have conducted technical meetings with defined input to finalize the assessment, perform data analysis, generate report and support policy dialogue for action plan development for August-September 2021. Input from WHO HQ and Regional Office for Europe was provided for technical expertise and additional analysis of other EHS assessment components (community based and national pulse survey).
- The list of essential medicines is in the revision and update process by the national experts with WHO guidance. The WHO AWaRe Classification of Antibiotics was presented to the MoHLSP working group. The list of antibiotics will be included in the list of essential medicines, which will be approved by the MoHLSP.
- WHO CO attended the meeting of the Public Health Advisory council, chaired by the Prime-Minister. The meeting aimed to discuss updates with regards to COVID-19 pandemic response, especially any public health and social measures which need to be implemented. The updated WHO guideline on “critical actions and readiness checklist for SARS-CoV-2 variants of concern & increased transmission in countries across Europe” was presented to the national counterparts for further guidance.
- The workshop on strengthening the Human resource capacities for the Emergency Care System took place on July 21, 2021. The priority actions for HR strengthening for the emergency care system have been discussed by the national counterparts and will be included in the final report on the emergency care system assessment (ECSA). The experience for health workforce training was presented by the international experts.

- The on-line workshop on Priority actions and perspectives of the Emergency Care System assessment, conducted on Jul 23, 2021 have allowed MoHLSP to prioritize a set of priority actions, which will be included in roadmap. The first draft of the ECSA report was finalized and sent to the MoHLSP for the final comments. The recommendations will be included in the draft Governmental decision on Emergency care system development.
- A series of trainings for LTCF staff were launched. The whole activity will end in October 2021. The planned trainings will cover the psychoeducation and psychological support to staff/beneficiaries, burn-out syndrome prevention and management, stress coping methods. In trainings were included all LTCF of the MoHLSP.
- The progress on re-engineering of the electronic system for surveillance of communicable diseases and public health events is closely monitored by the MoHLSP. The first prototype was presented to the members of the working group.
- The bidding for Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS) was finalized and the selection of the winner will allow to initiate the LIS implementation in the national and 10 regional public health laboratories.
- The virological surveillance of the SARS-CoV-2 viruses allowed to identify the circulation of the virus Variants of Concern (VoC), By 26 July 2021 two types of SARS-CoV-2 VoC were identified. In total 36 cases have been sequenced in the WHO Regional Laboratory in Berlin, Germany:
 - VOC Alpha202012/01 GRY(B.1.1.7) - 14 cases;
 - VOC DeltaG/478K.V1(B.1.617.2 + AY.1 + AY.2) – 12 cases.
- In order to improve the monitoring process of the vaccines and supplies stocks from the National Vaccine Warehouse from the National Agency for Public Health, an assessment of current vaccine stock management within 37 regional warehouses monitoring system was conducted. Vaccine logistics and stock management information system is expected to be developed and implemented at national and local levels with WHO and EU support. The information system will provide quality data for stakeholders, managers, and responsible specialists for cold chain and accountants regarding stock management data, according to national legislation and international requirements. This will enable the exchange of real-time data on vaccine forecasting, stock management and ensuring that the right vaccines and consumables quantities are distributed to the right place at the right time.
- The Ministry of Health, Labor and Social Protection with WHO support conducted four subnational policy dialogues (1st, 6th, 7th and 8th July 2021) on the subject of organization of medical services for children and COVID-19 immunization process. The regional policy dialogues were organized in Orhei, Chisinau, Hincesti and Causeni with participation of all main local stakeholders from 34 administrative territories (local public health authorities and managers of health care institution). The backgrounds for the conducted events served Feasibility study in SRMNCAH conducted in 2018 and the recent assessment of the paediatric care during/after COVID-19 pandemic. During policy dialogs the national experts touched upon following areas: reviewing health workforce retention policies at the level of districts and remote villages; endowing the medical institutions with appropriate equipment, development of standards for hospitals; reviewing the national orders on the transportation/referring COVID-19 and non-COVID-19 patients and improving children's healthy eating. A special module was dedicated to vaccination against COVID-19 with specific accent on the role of communication in creating the demand for vaccination at local level.
- On 12th of July a national training for all Health Care Workers involved in delivering immunization services was conducted by MoHLSP and WHO in order to enhance the knowledge of organization vaccine sessions with COVID-19 vaccine. In total were trained staff from 277 health care facilities who deliver immunization against COVID-19 in more than 500 vaccination centers through all of the country. In the same time were

trained a group of epidemiologists from 37 Public Health Centers on the aspects of transportation, distribution, handling vaccine in cold chain, vaccine safety, and communication aspects.

- The immunization component of the electronic information immunization system (SIA AMP) is under re-engineering with MoHLSP leadership. The last developments of the immunization module of the Information System from Primary Health Care and Hospital were presented with the IT solution implemented and piloted in some health care facilities. The electronic system will allow strengthening and operationalizing the national routine immunization programme.
- New instructions and guidelines for use of COVID-19 vaccines were developed with WHO technical assistance. The instructions were distributed to national stakeholders and to HCW involved in COVID-19 vaccination process. The updated information included in the documents is based on SAGE recommendations.
- The WHO jointly with the National Agency for Public Health have conducted the working meeting on Food safety and health protection activities in the Republic of Moldova on Jul 15, 2021. The activities will lead to improvement of the health protection and Food Safety activities. The Republic of Moldova is eligible for the CODEX Alimentarius trust fund application.
- On 8 July 2021 in Chisinau has arrived humanitarian cargo including: Googles Protective, quantity 100,000, Gowns medical, quantity 300,000, Masks medical surgical, quantity 100,000, for the total amount of USD 712,534. The humanitarian aid was funded by the Government of Federal Republic of Germany. All items have been procured and shipped with the mediation of the WHO. The received Personal Protective Equipment was distributed by the Ministry of Health, Labor and Social Protection into municipal and regional hospitals and municipal and regional Primary Health Care institutions, including the Ministry of Internal Affairs, Medical Service, National Administration of Penitentiaries, Central Military Clinical Hospital of the Ministry of Defense, Security and Information Service Medical Directorate and Transnistrian region (around 10%).
- A high-performance electric forklift was procured for the National Vaccine Warehouse within the National Agency for Public Health in the context of the support provided by the World Health Organization and the European Union the project to support the distribution of COVID-19 vaccines, routine vaccines and supplies. The new forklift will operationalize the NVW works on vaccine receiving, storage and distribution and contribute to the efficiency of vaccine of the unloading / loading process and the improvement of the distribution of vaccines and supplies.
- The bidding process for vaccine logistics management information system was initiated for the national, regional and local vaccine warehouses of the Ministry of Health, Labour and Social Protection of the Republic of Moldova, coordinated by National Agency for Public Health. The vaccine logistics management information system, is expected to be installed at NAPH and is the system of physical and technology based records and reports that supply chain workers and managers use to collect, organize, present and use logistics data gathered across all levels of the system. The system must enable efficient business processes and workflows with forecasting, inventory management, distribution, planning, reporting and performance monitoring, with main function to incorporate routine data management processes.
- In the beginning of July 2021, a bidding process for procurement of walk-in freezer room for the National Vaccine Warehouse were initiated by the WHO CO. The request was done by National Agency for Public Health due to need of strengthening freeze capacity of cold chain for new upcoming batches of vaccine that should be stored at -15 °C -25°C. The walk-in freezer room will be installed according to all WHO PQS standards. The support will leverage to a proper effective vaccine management and will give opportunity to NAPH and Ministry of Health, Labour and Social Protection to enlarge portfolio of vaccines against COVID-19 to cover target population at 70% vaccination coverage.

- Within the EU Support to Confidence Building Measures Programme implemented by UNDP, the health platform educated professionals from both riverbanks on fighting the negative consequences of the pandemic on mental health via seminars dedicated to coping mechanisms for depression, burnout and stress etc.
- UNICEF purchased essential hygienic items for the national Youth Friendly Health Services (all 41 Youth Friendly Centers in the country, located within the Primary Health Centers). The supplies are scheduled for delivery to a centralized medical storage facility under the Ministry of Health, Labour and Social Protection, by early August -- with subsequent distribution to the recipient institutions, serving approximately 150,000 beneficiaries over the course of a year.
- UNICEF with COVAX support insured procurement and transportation of 46 refrigerators for strengthening cold chain for COVID19 vaccine. Refrigerators were installed at the National and Regional Centers of Public Health.
- UNICEF launched a public tender for WASH/hygiene supplies for 26 residential institutions for children. The tender will end mid-July, with supplies aiming to be delivered in August 2021, aimed at reaching approximately 2000 children.

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

- Over 4835 direct beneficiaries (3522 women and 1313 men from vulnerable groups) and 6563 indirect beneficiaries (initial target was 2,700), people in vulnerable situations, including older persons, HIV affected people, persons with disabilities and their families, Roma people, left behind children from both banks of the Nistru river, have improved their resilience against COVID-19 as well as 455 (initial target at least 50) staff and volunteers of 48 NGOs and Initiative groups from both banks of Nistru river working at the national and local level, who are members of the NGO Task Force on COVID-19 and Human Rights, are better enabled to provide direct social support services in response to the immediate needs of people in vulnerable situations.
- 55 staff and volunteers of NGOs from both banks of the Nistru river working at the national and local level, who are members of the NGO Task Force on COVID-19 and Human Rights, out of which 51 women and 4 men, are better enabled to provide safe direct social support services in response to the immediate needs of people in vulnerable situations, in context of COVID-19 as a result of 6 training sessions carried out online by the NGO team during a 2 months period.
- UN Women in partnership with OHCHR and with ADA financial contribution reached the most vulnerable people from both banks of the river Nistru¹ by food packages and hygienic supplies as well as PPEs, under the project COVID-19 Response and Recovery Window of the Moldova 2030 SDGs Partnership Fund (SDGPF).
- The communication campaign around the emergency support and assistance (MPTF - ADA) targeting people in vulnerable situations was reflected on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and website. It included one general [video](#) that reached over 280k people and 555 interactions and a video with representatives of UN Women, ADA and OHCHR, which covered 123k users and 500 interactions. Two posts with photos of beneficiaries were seen by almost 250k people and gained around 3000 interactions. Also, two [human stories](#) about beneficiaries were published on the [UN Women website](#) and a [press release](#) was sent to media.

¹ from the following raions: Cahul, Rezina, Edinet, Balti, Soroca, Ungheni, Anenii Noi, Calarasi, Orhei, Basarabasca, Comrat, as well as, in several communities from the left bank of the Nistru river: Riscov, Ribnita, Grigoriopol, Slobozia, Gisca, Dubasari, Camenca, Bender, Tiraspol.

- NGOs from two focal regions of Cahul and Ungheni were capacitated to address the challenges related to the provision of public services to vulnerable groups, during and after the COVID-19 pandemic, Within the EU4Moldova programme, implemented by UNDP and UNICEF.

Education

- 12 videos on child safety online were developed with UNICEF support for children at primary and gymnasium levels. The videos, available in [Romanian](#) and [Russian](#) languages, were up-loaded on MECR's and municipality's sites to be used by the entire education community. Further trainings on application of these videos as teaching aids will be organized by MECR in cooperation with La Strada CSO.
- Based on a needs assessment conducted by MECR, UNICEF partnered with the Foundation for Advancement of Moldova to strengthen digital literacy, knowledge and skills of teaching staff in the pre-primary subsector in support of on-line learning, in order to overcome the challenges imposed by the epidemiological context. The aim is to create a critical mass of preschool teachers (10,300 of professionals, representing approximately 80% teaching personnel in 1485 pre-primary institutions) who can confidently use digital skills to search, collect, receive, store and process information, thus improving their on-line educational services during the lock-downs imposed by the epidemic. The indirect beneficiaries are the 134,158 pre-school age children nationwide. Around 10,000 educators enhanced their knowledge and skills on digital literacy in July.

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

- On July 6, 2021, UNDP co-organized together with the Government, the first Development Partners Dialogue on digital transformation to discuss the key findings of the Moldova Digital Readiness Assessment and brainstorms on the next steps in supporting the digital transformation, with focus on the whole-of-society approach and engagement of all stakeholders, from government to citizens and from the private sector to local academia.
- UNDP trained private sector companies from both riverbanks in using international trade supported portals and databases (trade map, market access map, access2markets), as practical and efficient tools for supporting Moldovan exports during the pandemic, within the Swedish and UK-funded AdTrade project.
- UNDP launched five open competitions with a total budget of USD 600,000 to support startups development, to enhance competitiveness, sales and exports of companies from both banks of Nistru river during the pandemic, within the Swedish and UK-funded AdTrade project.
- UNICEF contracted a research institute to repeat the COVID-19 impact assessment on remittances and families with children. The first such survey was conducted with USAID funds in 2020. The current, repeated survey has been conducted during June-July 2021, after being adjusted to include recommendations from the first survey results, i.e. including additional questions to assess the impact of distance learning on children.

3.4 Pillar 4: MACROECONOMIC RESPONSE AND MULTILATERAL COLLABORATION

- NTR

3.5 Pillar 5: SOCIAL COHESION AND COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

- NTR

4 Communications and Advocacy

- WHO provided support to the MoHLSP in communication regarding COVID-19 vaccination uptake and hesitancy in order to identify drivers and barriers to COVID-19 vaccine uptake in lower performing districts in order to inform communication activities and other interventions. The group discussion with local public authorities (presidents of districts, mayors, etc.), priests, epidemiologists, heads of health departments, health workers, social workers, school administrators, local agricultural leaders, economic agents from Chisinau, Edinet, Bleșteni Village, Ocnîța, Otaci, Comrat and Congaz. A series of recommendations on short-term actions and medium-term actions in order to improve vaccination coverage were elaborated and presented to MoHLSP.
- WHO supported development of messages and materials (flyers and posters in both Romanian and Russian languages) on debunking main myths related to COVID-19 vaccines. A series of video spots/tutorials with well-known specialists were also produced tackling myths about 1) COVID-19 vaccines cause infertility; 2) COVID-19 are not safe, because these have been tested for very short period of time; 3) People who already had COVID-19 do not need a vaccine because they have natural antibodies; 4) COVID-19 vaccines have a long-term effect on the human body.
- [Video](#) on myth regarding short period of time for vaccines development, [Video](#) on myth on COVID-19 vaccines cause infertility, [Video](#) on myth regarding people who already had COVID-19 do not need a vaccine because they have natural antibodies, [Video](#) on myth on COVID-19 vaccines have a long-term effect on the human body.
- WHO provides ongoing communication support to the MoHLSP on COVID-19 vaccines rollout – providing consultancy, Q&As for traditional weekly press conference.
- WHO implements further awareness campaign I got vaccinated too! with Moldovan well-known persons, including priests, teachers, pregnant woman. A series of videos produced in partnership with MoHLSP, EU and UNICEF –
<https://www.facebook.com/OMSMoldova/videos/826469111337430/>
<https://www.facebook.com/OMSMoldova/videos/541095590571418/>
- WHO initiated a photo project on COVID-19 vaccination in the Republic of Moldova: stories from the front lines –
<https://www.facebook.com/OMSMoldova/posts/2778123105812307>
<https://www.facebook.com/OMSMoldova/posts/2787855564839061>
- WHO provides support to regular updates on www.covid.info.md
- UNDP offered support to the Central Electoral Commission in informing voters about the necessity to comply with anti-COVID-19 rules on the E-day of the Early Parliamentary Elections, organized on 11 July 2021. An explanatory video was broadcast on national & regional televisions and was distributed on the social networks of the CEC and UNDP. Short videos (gifs) on anti-pandemic rules during the electoral period and on E-day were published by CEC and UNDP on social networks. Also, on 11 July 2021, UNDP ensured the printing of informative and motivational posters in all polling stations open in Moldova and abroad (2,150).