



# Coronavirus Disease – Covid 19

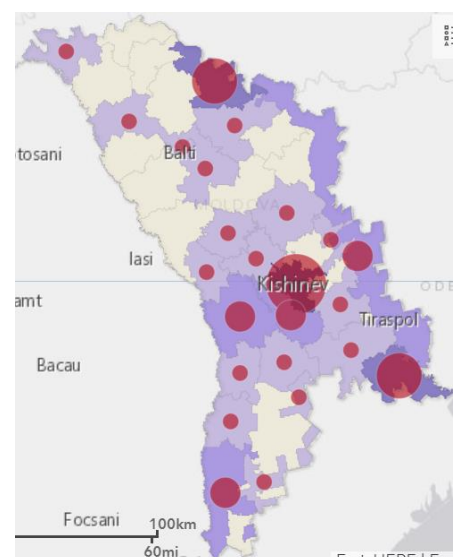
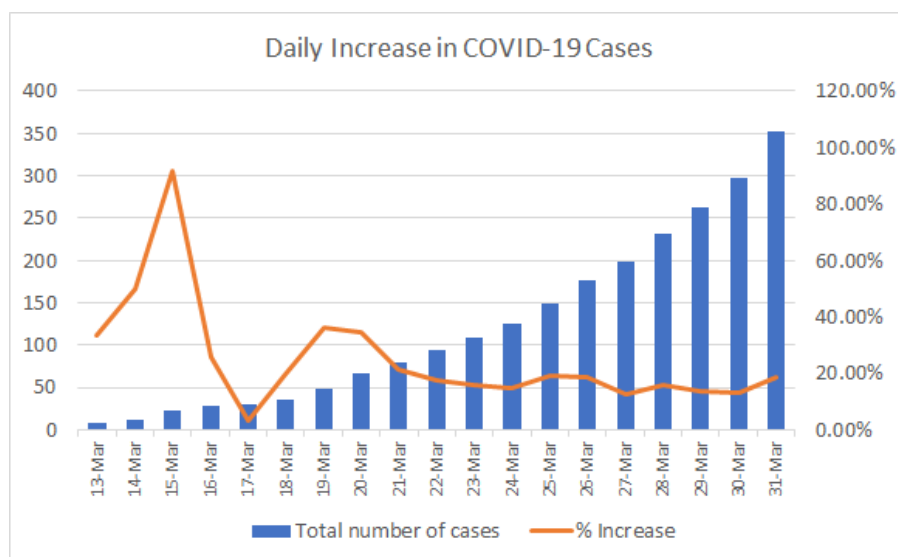
## Situation Report No. 4 (31 March 2020)



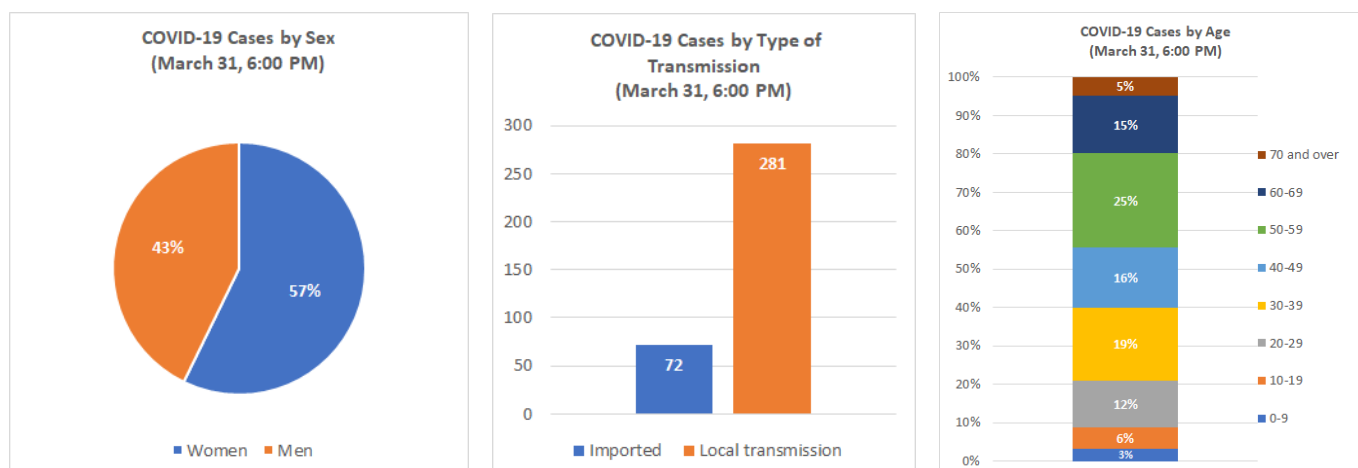
This report is produced by UN Moldova in collaboration with Government and development/humanitarian partners.

### Highlights – data as reported by national authorities\*

- Two more coronavirus-related deaths have been reported today, bringing the total number of reported deaths to 4. The patients were a woman from the Transnistria region and a man admitted to a hospital in Edinet but originally from a different district. The woman died on March 29.
- The total number of confirmed cases continued to grow, with 55 new cases being reported today. Currently, there are 353 confirmed cases in the country, which represents a 18.5% increase compared to yesterday.
- Approximately 20% of all Covid-19 confirmed cases are healthcare workers, including doctors, medical assistants, nurses and other professionals employed in the healthcare sector.
- Out of the total number of confirmed cases, 22 patients have recovered. At the same time, however, according to the latest information available, 43 of the existing patients with Covid-19 are in serious condition.
- The share of local transmission cases continued to grow in the total number of cases. Currently, there are 281 local transmission cases in the country, which represents roughly 80% of all confirmed cases.
- In terms of geographical distribution, Chisinau continues to have by far the highest number of cases (138), followed by Stefan Voda (40), Soroca (37), Transnistria region (25) and Hincesti (24). All other districts have fewer than 20 cases each.
- The number of suspected cases stands at 66 and approximately 26,000 people are quarantined at home.



- Individuals in the 50-59 age group continue to be most affected by the disease, with approximately one quarter of all confirmed cases falling in this group. Those in the 30-39 and 40-49 age groups are not far behind accounting for 16-19% of all cases each. Children, adolescents and adults over 70 years of age continue to be the least directly affected groups as a percentage of all cases.
- More women continue to be infected with the virus than men, 202 vs 151 or 57% vs. 43%.



## Overview of Key Decisions & Announcements

- The UN Secretary-General will launch today at 19.00 a report entitled *“Shared responsibility, global solidarity: Responding to the socio-economic impacts of Covid-19.”* The report is a call to action, for the immediate health response required to suppress transmission of the virus to end the pandemic; and to tackle the many social and economic dimensions of this crisis. At the launch, the Secretary-General will also announce the creation of a Multi-purpose Trust Fund to address the socio-economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and to cover lower and middle income countries. This complements the humanitarian appeal launched last week, which focuses primarily on supporting crisis countries, as well as the WHO/UN Foundation solidarity fund, which addresses immediate health needs.
- Summary of contributions through the UN System for COVID-19 response:

Source of funding	Contributions	Implementing partner	Areas of support
SDC	\$200,000	UNDP	PPEs (gowns)
SDC	\$569,913	WHO - UNDP	WHO: Risk communication, monitoring, materials for the laboratory, among others. UNDP: ventilators.
USAID	\$1,200,000	WHO - UNICEF	Concept to be agree asap
SIDA	15,000	One UN	Risk communication (set of videos)
EU	4,300,000 (approx)	WHO	TBD

- Global Partnership for Education (GPE) allocated 70K USD to UNICEF Moldova, to be used for response to Covid-19.
- The MoH has increased the number of hospitals that will treat Covid-19 cases to 19. The MoldExpo is being prepared to support mild cases.
- Development Partners supporting the Covid-19 response are invited to share information about their bilateral support with the Resident Coordinator's Office in order to map all supports and avoid duplication of efforts. Focal person in RCO: [laura.fiorotto@un.org](mailto:laura.fiorotto@un.org) and [christine.petre@un.org](mailto:christine.petre@un.org)
- **WHO Partnership Platform** <https://covid-19-response.org/> has been launched. All partners are invited to participate. For more information send an email to [laura.fiorotto@un.org](mailto:laura.fiorotto@un.org)
- UN Moldova will shortly be setting up a Multi Donor Trust Fund as a pooled funding mechanism for those governments / agencies wishing to contribute. Partners interested in channeling support through the UN system in Moldova are invited to contact Laura Fiorotto, Head of RCO, [laura.fiorotto@un.org](mailto:laura.fiorotto@un.org) for more information.
- Education, Social-Economic, Migration Task and Big Data for Covid-19 Response Teams are meeting virtually regularly. More information below of ongoing interventions.
- The United Nations in Moldova remains available to support on and with coordination but the Ministry of Finance remains the focal ministry for all international assistance

## Update on Restrictions\*

\*these are subject to changes and amendment and should be viewed as an overview and not as a definitive source for decision making

- Restrictions as per 30 March:
  - Charter air flights are authorized, carrying passengers with EU citizenship from the Republic of Moldova and passengers with citizenship of the Republic of Moldova to Republic of Moldova, operated by the airlines:
    - AIR SERVICE LIEGE, as of 31 March, 2020, LONDON-CHISINAU-ANTWERPEN;
    - AIR MOLDOVA, 31 March, 2020, CHIȘINĂU - PARIS (CDG) -CHISINAU;
    - AIR MOLDOVA, from 2 April, 2020, CHIȘINĂU - PARIS (CDG) -CHISINAU;
    - FLYONE, from 3 April, 2020, CHIȘINĂU - PRAGA - CHIȘINĂU;
    - AIR MOLDOVA, 4 April, 2020, CHIȘINĂU - LONDON (STANSTED) - CHIȘINĂU;
    - FLYONE, from 5 April, 2020, CHIȘINĂU - VERONA - CHIȘINĂU.
  - This provision shall enter into force from the moment of its issuance and shall be published on the official page of the Government.

### Transnistria Region:

- Some employees at the Kuchurgan power station have gone into quarantine after one of their colleagues tested positive for the Covid-19 virus. However, this led to one incident at the station, where some of the workers refused to observe the isolation measures. In response the local police used tear gas to break up the protest. Two personnel were detained for five days, a penal file was started against another one.
- The de facto Transnistria Region Health Minister announced that the region has 18 confirmed cases of the virus.
- The Slobozia infectious disease hospital has admitted 64 people suspected of carrying the Covid-19 virus. The de facto structures have sent 45 samples to Chisinau for testing.
- By decision of the de facto leader, the head physician of the "Republican" Clinical Hospital and his deputy have been removed. According to news reports, the doctor failed to maintain proper protection standards, despite an order issued from the de facto leader that outlined the need for all hospitals and individual doctors to maintain strict protective measures.

**Economic impact:**

- The GoM approved a set of economic and fiscal measures aimed at easing the economic impact on the private sector as a result of lockdown caused by the Covid-19 crisis. The full list of measures will be published in the coming days. Here is a short summary of proposed measures (valid through the extraordinary situation period only):
  - The companies whose economic activity was suspended as a result of the GoM Extraordinary Committee based on Covid-19 pandemic will receive support from the State in the form of 100% social tax reimbursement for all payroll staff since March 1, 2020 (income tax, social insurance and health insurance tax).
  - For all other companies which totally or partially suspended their activity based on their own initiative or not directly regulated by the Decision of Extraordinary Committee, the social tax reimbursement (same as above) will be carried out in the amount of 60%.
  - The employees who lost their job as a result of Covid lockdown and who were formally employed in the last 9 months prior to the crisis, will receive reimbursement of 60-80% of their average monthly salary.
  - Unemployed, who either did not have formal employment in the last 9 months, or who were informally employed, will receive allocation in the amount of minimum wage of 2775 MDL.
  - Public sector employees at the frontline of prevention and treatment of Covid-19 (healthcare professionals, police etc) in case of contamination will receive a one-time allowance of 16,000 MDL per person.
- All the proposed measures need approval by the GoM Extraordinary Committee, Parliament and President as they trigger reallocation of resources and budget rectification. The MoF Puscuta intends to propose a draft budget 2020 in the coming days.
- In the context of expected food shortages the prices for cereals are on the rise, Russia and Ukraine banned export of these food items, while Moldova's Minister of Agriculture proposes to introduce a ban on export of cereals and livestock.

## Preparedness & Response of UN System in Moldova

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### Procurement

- The MoHLSP are procuring locally masks, goggles and other PPEs materials
- UNDP is procuring gowns (19,000) produced by a local supplier. 4,200 were delivered on 31/3 to the MoHLSP
- UNICEF has placed an order for their Supply Center to provide PPEs, oxygen concentrators and medicine. Awaiting for confirmation of availability. The request is under revision and approval of UNICEF HQ. Funds to cover the costs will be required if availability is confirmed.
- UNFPA is procuring hygienic kits for victims of domestic violence to be distributed through shelters.

### Assessment and Data

- The UN Women led needs assessment for affected women will begin this week.
- The hospital material requirements for 20,000 cases is on the WHO Partnership Platform and has been shared with all interested potential supporting partners.
- UNDP, together with existing private sector partners, initiated the work on Big Data for Covid-19. A UNDP led taskforce has been established with the participation of 112 service, the office of the Prime Minister and key specialized UN agencies (UNFPA, WHO, UNICEF) in addition to Resident Coordinators Office to further analyse the technical parameters required for this endeavor. A first meeting was held where the confidentiality of the data was discussed as key concerns as well as the follow-up steps including a more technical discussion to be held and a presentation with the Advisor to the Prime Minister for the discussion of the available products so far.
- The number of views of the real time monitoring dashboard on Covid-19 developed with UNFPA support has reached 12 million views as of 31 March 2020.  
<http://gismoldova.maps.arcgis.com/apps/opsdashboard/index.html#/d274da857ed345efa66e1fbc959b021b>

## Health

- Moldova with SDC financial support in the amount of 200,000 USD aiming at covering the needs for Personal Protective Equipment for first line doctors as requested by MoHLSP has contracted single use protective gowns in an amount of 19,000 units from a local manufacturer. The first batch of 4,200 units were delivered today, on 31 March 2020 to the MoHLSP designated storage facility and the rest will be tentatively delivered on a daily basis in an amount of up to 4,000 units. For the additional PPE items to be procured: goggles and respirators/mask; the MoHLSP submitted an official letter of request to re-allocate all the remaining amounts from this contribution to increasing the number of gowns, given that for the other items, they have identified suppliers and contracted them directly. SDC confirmation received regarding the non-objection to accommodate this request. Next actions are management of the current contract and preparatory actions for amendment to include additional quantities (RACP submission and endorsement).
- ICU Mobile Ventilators will be purchased by UNDP with SDC support. The completed order form will be placed today and for any shipping facilitation will be coordinated with the UN RCO and MFA.
- UNFPA provided technical expertise to the network of Youth Friendly Health Clinics in ensuring continuity of sexual and reproductive health services for young people and provisioning of minimal initial service package in emergency situations.

## Migration

- The UNCT's Migration Task force continues to meet and is currently looking at how Covid-19 and Moldova's migration profile will affect vulnerability and development in the country. The Task force will be fundraising for support to households that stop receiving remittances and short-term migrants that return jobless as the gig economy evaporates in Europe. The Task force will submit proposals to the Migration MPTF this week with IOM, UNDP, UNICEF and ILO participating.
- UNICEF will analyze the socio-economic impact of COVID-19 on remittances (monetary and non-monetary) as coping mechanisms for vulnerable families with children.

## Education and youth

- UNICEF is leading the UN coordinated Task Force on Education for COVID-19, incl. membership of WB, UNDP, UN Women, UNFPA and UN OHCHR, with Ministry of Education currently reviewing the offered key areas of support, including coordination of efforts, ensuring continuity of learning, "express-mode training" of teachers; provision of preschool and school meals to the most vulnerable; conceptualisation of actions surrounding the exit from COVID-19. UNICEF plays a catalytic role in education response to Covid-19 and will convene the next UN Coordinated Education Task Force on 2 April.
- To fight the "infodemic", UNICEF empowered young people to recognize and tackle COVID-19 myths through [a chatbot on U-Report](#), answering questions about covid-19 when activated by users. UNICEF Moldova is one of the 24 country offices in the world using the chatbot through U-Report.
- U-Report ambassadors will be engaged in a social media challenge to help young people feel solidarity and cope with isolation, but also to promote cyber hygiene and fight false news. UNICEF Moldova has built the third largest community of U-Reporters in Europe and Central Asia region, which amounts to more than 25 thousand young people and adolescents.
- UNICEF and UNDP continue to support (along with Sweden, USAID, and Tekwill) the [Hack the virus! hackaton to engage the IT community](#) in the development of innovative solutions to prevent the spread of Covid-19.
- UNFPA is initiating an online support programme through online sessions for adolescents and youth on how to maintain mental health and psycho-social wellbeing in the context of the Covid-19 crisis which led to the closing of schools and moving to distance learning from home.
- UNFPA is working with the Ministry of Education, Culture and Research to ensure the continuity of services provided by the network of 44 Youth Centers and redesign the modality of outreach of young people.

- UNFPA engages young volunteers of the Youth Centres in digital activities with a focus on intergenerational solidarity empowering them to be part of the solution in the fight against Covid-19, through the #StayHome campaign UNFPA engages young volunteers of the Youth Centres in digital activities with a focus on intergenerational solidarity and making them part of the solution in the fight against Covid-19, by helping the Government to spread the #StayHome message among young people and older persons.

### Socio Economic Task Force

- Following the first Task Force meeting on social and economic impacts of the Covid-19, UNDP pursued the preparation of a proposal addressing social and economic impacts of the Covid-19 in Moldova and will be submitted to the “UNDP Rapid Response” Facility in HQ. The proposal aims at analyzing the immediate to medium-term social and economic effects of the crisis, and contribute to creating a recovery framework for the Government that would provide for the immediate- to medium-term programmatic and policy options, linked to existing measures, that respond to impacts of Covid-19 crisis. The Taskforce also recommended initiating a discussion with the Ministries of Health and Economy in addition to the Prime Minister’s Office who has recently endorsed the need to move ahead with the assessment. A mapping process of the ongoing and planned Covid-19 activities addressing social and economic impacts will be initiated and a shared platform for sharing related documents/tools and reports will be established for the taskforce.

### Gender

- Civil Society Engagement: On 3 April an online Sub-regional consultation to Combat the Covid-19 Outbreak in EaP countries will be held, under Liliana Palihovici leadership, UN Women ECA RO CSAG member from the Moldova side. The aim is to discuss sub-regional challenges and priorities for Covid-19 response from the gender perspective and needs of left-behind groups (informal workers, disabled, irregular migrants, refugees, HIV-positive, etc.) and possible joint actions to address them.
- Gender Working Group co-chaired by UNW and UNFPA: This group convened on 27 March and are currently working on the agreed upon actions as part of engendering the response to Covid-19 outbreak:
  - Joint GTG social media work – engage colleagues from UNCG, in coordination with RCO, to identify 4-5 key messages and distribute through social media, as well as through other means/channels.
  - GBV/VAW - to finalize the process of procurement of goods for women in shelters and undertake a joint/coordinated distribution.
  - Data analysis – to analyse existing data including the fact that current data in Moldova showing more confirmed Covid-19 cases among women than men
  - Joint letter to the Ministry of Health, Labour and Social Protection on the support GTG is ready to provide with regards to Covid-19 response.
  - Social-Economic Impact Assessment: Heads of Agencies (UN Women, UNFPA and UNDP) to meet and agree on the gender chapter; and thereafter guide gender technical teams contribution to Socio-economic impact assessment.

### Human Rights

- OHCHR continues to monitor legislative changes, and decisions issued by the Commission on Exceptional Situations and the implementation of the aforementioned to assess their human rights compliance.

### Communications

- Covid-19 and the risk to food supply chains: How to respond? FAO has created information material that can be accessed [here](#).
- UNDP provides support for Government Covid-19 communications group: develops and disseminates risk communications products, shares debunked myths and uncovered fake news on UNDP’s social media networks and on relevant platforms/groups.

- Sixteen residents from the left bank of Nistru - influencers and ordinary people - have recorded videos in which they call everybody to stay home during the Covid-19 crisis. Videos were published on UNDP Facebook page, EU CBM Facebook and Odnoklassniki pages, and shared in eight left bank Facebook and Odnoklassniki groups (Молодежь Приднестровья, Новости Приднестровья, Новое Приднестровье, etc).
- UNDP has created a landing page [www.undp.md/coronavirus](http://www.undp.md/coronavirus) (Romanian and English) that contains the global narrative on UNDP response to Covid-19, local actions and links to relevant news releases and stories that are going to be included as we advance with support. Also, the local cases tracker, produced with UNFPA support, was embedded.
- UNDP and WHO conducted a webinar for LPAs on how to act correctly in times of Covid-19. Sixty-five persons participated. The recording was distributed via Congress of Local Authorities of Moldova.
- UNDP is conducting campaigns with influencers from both banks of Nistru river with #StayAtHome messages.
- UNDP supports local public authorities as frontline workers to contain the virus in their awareness-raising and information activities: sharing of developed UN-UNDP communications guide (available in Romanian and in process of translation in Russian) for local level and collection and sharing of best practices.
- UNICEF is engaging the Youth Health Centers (YK) in an awareness raising initiative on the mental health and wellbeing of adolescents and young people.
- UNICEF partnered with Special Olympics to engage the online communities of parents raising children with special needs to participate in a social media challenge using the hashtags #dadsathome and #funathome. A [video](#), based on the user generated content throughout the challenge, encouraged other dads too to further spend meaningful time while at home, by engaging their young children with disabilities in sport activities.
- UNICEF has created a landing [page on coronavirus response](#) (English, Romanian, Russian) on UNICEF in Moldova webpage. It includes useful resources for parents, caregivers and teachers, as well as media releases.
- Following the lockdown needs for information on parenting, UNICEF shared [information for parents, with a focus on dads](#), to the media and was taken by most mainstream media outlets. The social media campaign on parenting during covid-19 (including engagement of fathers and parents of children with special needs) had a weekly reach of more than 350K and engaged more than 35K. The [video featuring Ludmila Adamciuc and her daughter with DS](#), produced jointly by UNICEF and OHCHR, reached more than 200K in 3 days.
- A [starter toolkit with resources](#) by UNICEF in a variety of areas specific to Early Childhood Development in emergency were translated and distributed further on media platforms and with UN agencies through the Education Task Force.
- UNFPA leads the communication on pregnancy and COVID, providing support to the Ministry of Health in dissemination of key messages to pregnant women through social media and traditional media.
- UNFPA elaborated and promoted the [Romanian](#) version of the WHO [Questions and Answers](#) about COVID and pregnancy.
- UNFPA teamed up with Suntparinte media portal and produced a [video interview](#) with Dr. Aliona Lupascu from the Institute of Mother and Child, responding to many questions about pregnancy. The interview reached more than 30 K persons in social networks.
- The UNFPA supported [Dashboard](#) on COVID cases continues to be among the top informational sources about the situation in real time, providing disaggregated data, and used in TV shows/media programmes. The platform registered a record number of clicks as of 31st of March (12 Million).
- UNFPA supports the Network of 44 Youth Centres across Moldova to run [a social media campaign](#) with a focus on intergenerational solidarity, helping the Government to spread the #StayHome message among young people and older persons.
- As part of the #StayHome campaign, UNFPA engaged popular older persons (Bunica & Bunelul characters/Zdob and Zdob band) to convince the older generation about the need of self isolation.
- UNFPA has volunteered to help with production of infographics for journalists to curb the growing stigma surrounding the Covid-19.

- UN Women produced social media cards and GIFs with messages to support women, and were disseminated through the various channels including on Facebook page in Russian and Romanian; and English version for the Twitter page. Messages in Russian and Romanian were also disseminated through Radio Moldova, including collaborating with Radio Albenă from Taraclia to translate in Bulgarian and Gagauz languages. Currently UN Women is in communication with Radio Patrino on translation and dissemination of the messages in Romani Language.
- The statement by Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, UN Under-Secretary-General and UN Women Executive Director [“COVID-19: Women front and centre”](#) ; and the article [“Checklist for COVID-19 response by UN Women Deputy Executive Director Ása Regnér”](#) were translated in Romanian language, and disseminated through the various channels and medias.
- UN Women adapted in Romanian language and posted the video elaborated by UN Women HQ *“How are women uniquely impacted by crises like Covid-19?”* - <https://bit.ly/2UI23ei>.
- WHO is recording two new audio spots for radio on #StayAtHome messages and why it is so important.
- Audio messages with stay at home and prevention measures are being aired by police cars at community levels in Romanian and Russian. The audio is also being recorded in Ukrainian, Gagauzian and Romani languages.
- Printing of floor stickers (15,000 pcs) on social distance for all postal offices and local small groceries are in the pipeline.
- Mayors, local leaders have started to communicate widely in their communities about prevention measures and stay at home rules.

## Gaps/Needs Identified

- Persistent gaps in terms of equipment and materials in the health system based on the joint assessment conducted
- Additional PPE and importantly ventilators are required
- Stronger communication is required to continue with the #stayathome campaign and physical distancing. The UN is supporting the MoH in the development of a new campaign to explain the importance of staying at home for the flattening of the curve and also to thank front line workers (health workers, police, etc).

### Content Contact

Christine Petre, Special Advisor to the UN Resident Coordinator  
[christine.petre@un.org](mailto:christine.petre@un.org)

### Media Contact

Cristina David, Communications and Advocacy, Office of the Resident Coordinator  
[cristina.david@un.org](mailto:cristina.david@un.org)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ONUMoldova/> \* Twitter: [@UNMoldova](https://twitter.com/UNMoldova) \* <https://moldova.un.org/>