



# Coronavirus Disease – Covid 19

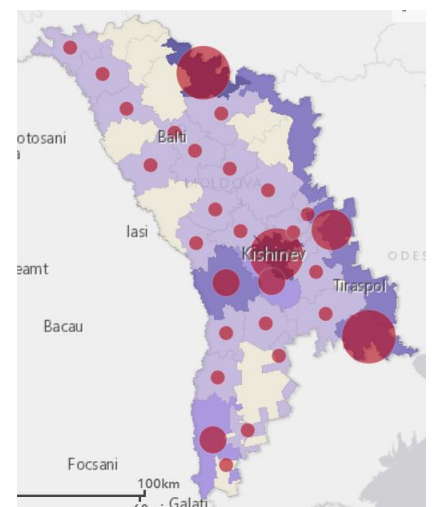
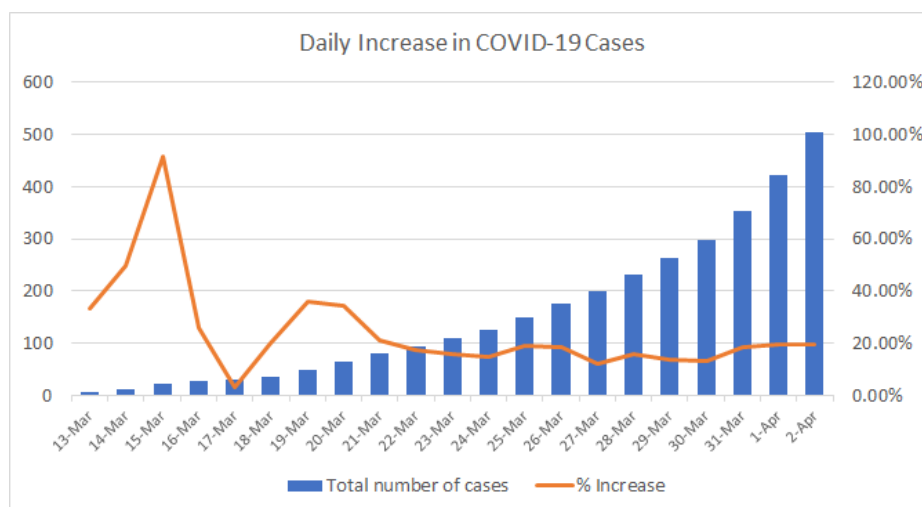
## Situation Report No. 5 (2 April 2020)



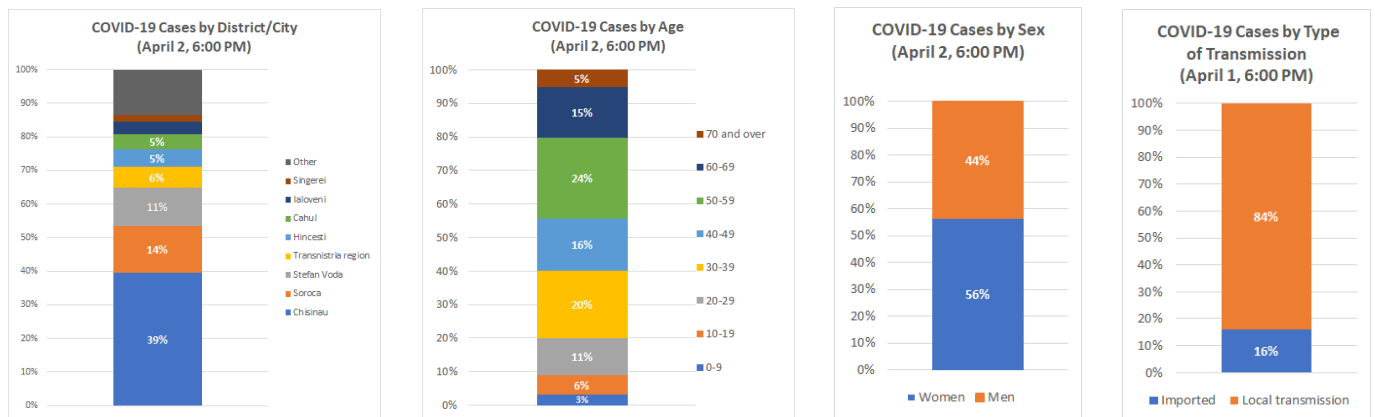
This report is produced by UN Moldova in collaboration with Government and development/humanitarian partners.

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

- One more coronavirus-related death has been reported today, bringing the total number of reported deaths to 6. The person, born in 1967, had hypertension and other underlying medical conditions.
- The total number of confirmed cases continued to grow, with 82 new cases being reported today after the processing of 332 tests. Currently, there are 505 confirmed cases in the country, which represents a 19.4% increase compared to yesterday.
- Out of the total number of confirmed cases, 25 patients have recovered. At the same time, according to the latest information available, 65 of the existing patients with Covid-19 are in serious condition.
- The share of local transmission cases continued to grow further in the total number of cases. Currently, there are 426 local transmission cases in the country, which represents 84% of all confirmed cases.
- With 199 confirmed cases at the moment, Chisinau continues to be the most affected area in the country if absolute numbers are considered. However, a considerable increase in cases is being registered in other areas as well. For example, 30 new cases have been reported in Soroca today, contributing to a nearly 75% increase in the number of cases in the district, which now counts a total of 71 cases. Stefan Voda (57), Transnistria region (32), Hincesti (26) and Cahul (23) follow in the list of areas with the highest number of cases. Taken together, the six areas mentioned above account for 80% of all confirmed cases. All other districts have fewer than 20 cases each and account for the remaining 20% of all confirmed cases.
- The number of suspected cases stands at 112 and nearly 33,000 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. Another one fifth of all cases fall in the 30-39 age group. Those in the 40-49 and 60-69 age groups account for 16% and 15% of all cases, respectively. Children, adolescents and adults over 70 years of age continue to be the least directly affected groups.
- More women continue to be infected with the virus than men, 285 vs 220 or 56% vs. 44%.



## Overview of Key Decisions & Announcements

- The RC and WHO met today with Minister Tulea (MFAEI) to discuss external (non-consular) [coordination](#).
- The RC and WHO continue with outreach to Embassies and Ministers to ensure coordinated information sharing, particularly around specific needs of Ministries and Departments.
- On 1 April, Moldova submitted a request for [assistance](#) to NATO Euro-Atlantic Disaster Response Coordination Centre (EADRCC).
- Council of Europe Office in Chisinau has procured and delivered materials to the National Administration of Penitentiaries (24 Infrared thermometers, 380 packages, 430 litres hand and surface sanitizers).
- The MoH has increased the number of hospitals that will treat Covid-19 cases to 21, the number of ventilators and ICU has also been increased. The preparation of the MoldExpo to treat mild cases is in progress.
- 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 channelling 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.

## 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

- **Updated Status of Restrictions - Measures of the Government Covid-19 Emergency Commission dated 31.03.20:**

- In Chisinau, on the territory of the MoldExpo exhibition center, from 1 April, the healthcare institution Center Covid-19 Chişinău will be registered. The Center will accept patients with coronavirus symptoms and treat patients who have a confirmed diagnosis. The center will operate during the state of emergency. Its work can be extended at the end of the emergency. This order was issued by the emergency commission on 31 March.
- The current head of the Holy Trinity Hospital, Oleg Krudu, was appointed the director of the center. While the center is operating, Krudu will temporarily step down from his work at the Holy Trinity Hospital.
- According to the decree, all public and private medical institutions will have to send their medical staff to provide medical care to patients of the Covid-19 Chişinău Center.
- Also, all medical institutions are required to allocate the necessary equipment for the treatment of patients at the request of the Ministry of Health or the director of the center.
- Minister of Health, Viorika Dumbrevianu stated that people who have coronavirus symptoms will be accommodated in the Chisinau Center Covid-19. She also noted, after confirming the diagnosis, patients will be hospitalized in strategic hospitals that receive patients with coronavirus.
- Prior to transfer to other hospitals, patients will receive treatment and necessary assistance at the Covid-19 Chişinău Center.

### Transnistria Region:

- The de facto leader of the Transnistria Region signed a decree toughening the restrictive quarantine measures in force in the region. Now “citizens” of the region, as well as those who are registered on the territory of the republic, are required to maintain self-isolation in their place of residence. People may only leave their homes in exceptional cases, including to purchase food, medical and pharmaceutical products, to assist people in need of outside care, or to work (if they have been determined as critical employees). When leaving the house, people must carry proper identification and be prepared to show it to the appropriate authorities when asked. The procedure for the isolation of citizens infected or suspected of being infected with coronavirus remains the same.

### Economic impact:

- National Public Budget revenues increased during January-March 2020 by 4.8% compared to similar period 2019. The national public budget revenue accumulated 9.8 bln MDL out of which 4.3 bln state budget revenues (recording 3.6% decrease due to Covid crisis), local public budget – 877,4 mln (10.5% increase), social insurance budget - 3.4 bln (14% increase), mandatory health insurance – 1.1 bln (9.6% increase).
- During the last Fiscal inspectorate conducted controls of retailers, particularly pharmacies and food supermarkets to verify compliance with the GoM decision #774 dd 26 June 2016 regarding retail prices on socially important goods. The fiscal inspectorate conducted 164 fiscal inspections during which 23 cases of unjustified increase in commercial margin ranging from 0.6% to 8,36 % for food products and between 9,76 % to 25,12 % on pharmaceuticals (protection gloves, masks, disinfection products).

- The following fiscal measures were proposed: (i) State controls to be suspended till 1 June 2020 (ii) Payment of taxes (income tax, real-estate tax, land tax and local taxes) for micro-enterprises (up to 3 employees) is extended to 25 April 2020 (iii) Corporate income tax is split into gradual payment for first quarter 2020 is set for 25 June 2020 (iv) Income declaration and income tax payments for natural persons (individuals) is extended till 29 May 2020 (v) Financial reporting period is extended to 29 May 2020. VAT for HORECA sector will be reduced from 20% to 15%.
- The GoM took responsibility for the Law aimed at supporting entrepreneurship and citizens for the period of extraordinary situation in the context of the Covid crisis. The set of measures included the following: (i) unemployment benefits provided to people who lost their job as a result of Covid-19 will receive 60-80% of their monthly salary while those employed in informal sector or formally employed for less than 9 months prior to Covid-19 related job loss will get 2,775 lei per month (ii) child allowances for uninsured increased from 553 to 975 (iii) Ajutor Social minimum guaranteed income increased from 1,1 thousand to 1,3 thousand while beneficiaries whose social benefits rights expire during the extraordinary period will be extended in their rights till the end of this period. The law also included a set of measures to support entrepreneurship such as:
  - The companies whose economic activity was suspended as a result of 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 1 March, 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%.
  - 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.
- The President proposed few initiatives to relocate additional funding for Covid-19 response:
  - Relocate 50% of airport taxes to the national population support fund
  - Relocation for Covid needs of 50% from the fees paid by the telecommunication economic agents for the use and maintenance of the centralized database for portability of phone numbers
  - As of today, the pensions in Moldova were increased by 4.83% thus minimum pension accounts for 131,46 lei (\$62). This increase covered 680,000 age pensioners. The minimum disability pensions were also increased and vary between 565,73-848,60 lei. Starting 1 April, there is also an increase in social allocations for participants in chernobyl accident fight, social assistance and allowances. This adjustment was based on average inflation in the last three years and the next adjustment is expected on 1 October.

## Resource and Mobilisation

- Summary of contributions through the UN System for Covid-19 response:

Source of funding	Contributions	Implementing partner	Areas of support
Swiss Cooperation	\$200,000	UNDP	PPEs (gowns)
Swiss Cooperation	\$569,913	WHO - UNDP	WHO: Risk communication, monitoring, materials for the laboratory, among others. UNDP: ventilators.
USAID	\$1,200,000	WHO - UNICEF	TBD
SIDA	32,800	One UN	Risk communication (set of videos)
EU	4,300,000 (approx)	WHO	TBD

- 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). This will shortly move to also covering social and economic requirements.

## Preparedness & Response of UN System in Moldova

### Procurement support

- UNDP has delivered to the MoH on 1 April 4,200 gowns produced in Moldova. In total, 36,400 will be delivered.
- Until 2 April as support for PPEs to MoHLSP were delivered 8,200 single use coverall gowns, pending delivery of 10,800 units. The contract amendment for additional 17,400 units to be submitted on 2 April to RACP for review and endorsement and will increase the total quantity to 36,400 units (19,000+17,400).
- The order for Mobile ICU Ventilators for critical care was submitted to GPU Health Unit on 31 March with all the details regarding the list of documents required for shipping and details for in-country registration of medical devices. Additional follow-up with the unit to discuss the final production date and transportation arrangements. To ensure avoiding bottlenecks, UNDP Armenia CO was contracted to learn about their experience for transportation arrangements.

### Assessment and Data

- UNDP continues to conduct small scale needs assessments in the localities of its projects and with beneficiaries to better understand immediate needs of the persons and communities to guide the re-alignment of its programming.
- The UN Women led needs assessment for affected women was due to begin this week.

### 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 has submitted a \$2m proposal to the Migration MPTF this week with IOM, UNDP, UNICEF and ILO participating.

### 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. *More information to follow.*

### Socio Economic Task Force

- PM office confirmed the support to the Economic and Social Impact Task and assigned a focal point (Adrian Ermurachi, Deputy Secretary General of the Government). It has also supported the development of an impact assessment to be carried out by UNDP.
- UNDP submitted a proposal to the global UNDP Rapid Response Facility that provides funding to UNDP COs to conduct socio-economic impact assessments in close coordination with UNCTs and development partners. The proposal focuses on 0 areas: 1) impact assessment and design of recovery measures for the most vulnerable groups, men and women in the context of (rising) urban-rural divide as well as income and non-inequalities, faced by most vulnerable; 2) impact of the crisis on local private sector, existing supply and sales chains, on trade and competitiveness of the enterprises of all types and size, by prioritized sectors and locations of the companies, in coordination with development partners and using newly available evidence from alternative sources of data.
- Next meeting will be held on Wednesday 8 April at 10:00 am.

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## 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

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## Human Rights

- OHCHR is in the process of setting up an NGO task force on Covid-19 and Human Rights including NGOs from rural areas to exchange information on the impact that Covid-19 has and has had on human rights of vulnerable groups.

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## Communications

- UNDP started a #stayathome campaign with representatives of various groups (persons with disabilities, ethnic minorities, elderly) from the right bank of Nistru, as part of joint UN-Sweden human rights programme.
- UNDP distributed a press-release on delivery of the first batch of PPE to frontline health workers, as part of SDC support. The news piece was taken by 43 media outlets.
- Set of supporting documents for a Grant application managed by Sweden Ministry of Foreign Affairs intended for Risk Communication activities on Covid-19 in the amount of USD 32,800 was prepared and submitted to SIDA. Currently forwarded to the Sweden MFA and is under review.

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## Gaps/Needs Identified

- WHO Partnership Platform for Moldova has currently \$30m of unmet needs. UN Moldova has opened a basket fund within a Multi-Donor Trust Fund to support the Moldova Covid-19 response

### 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/>