

Coronavirus Disease - COVID 19

Situation Report No. 20 (18 June 2020)



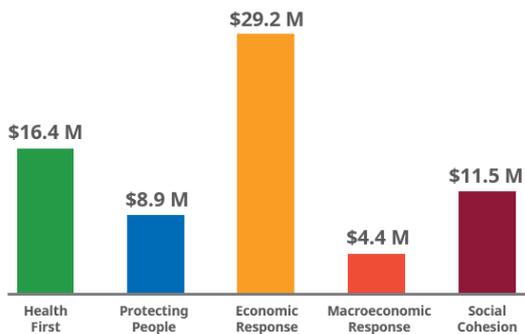
COVID-19
RESPONSE



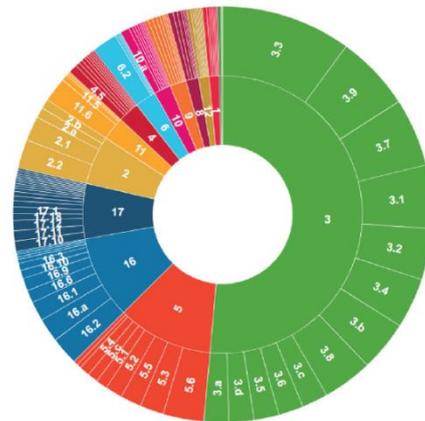
This report is produced by UN Moldova in collaboration with Government and development/humanitarian partners.

The United Nations has issued its [Covid-19 Response and Recovery Plan](#). The initial plan foresees an **immediate \$70.2 mil resource requirement for response and recovery efforts**. The United Nations looks forward to working with development partners and the Government to support the delivery of this plan. The document will be reviewed in mid-July and updated based upon ongoing assessments and emergent needs.

Requirements by Pillar



List of SDGs and targets covered by the Plan

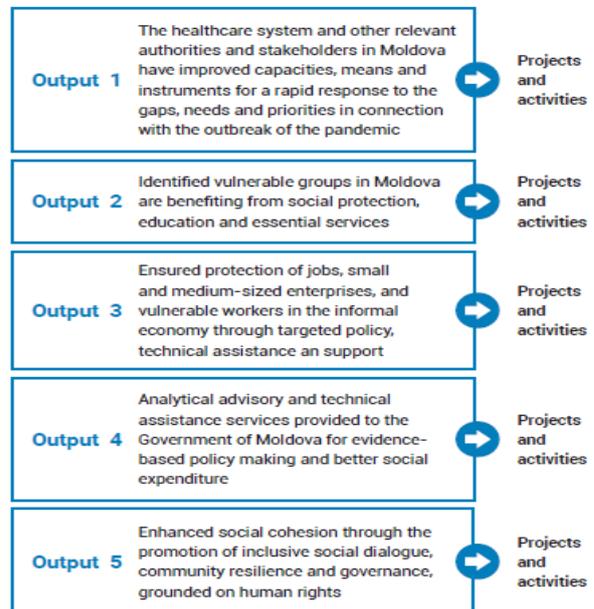


The Theory of Change



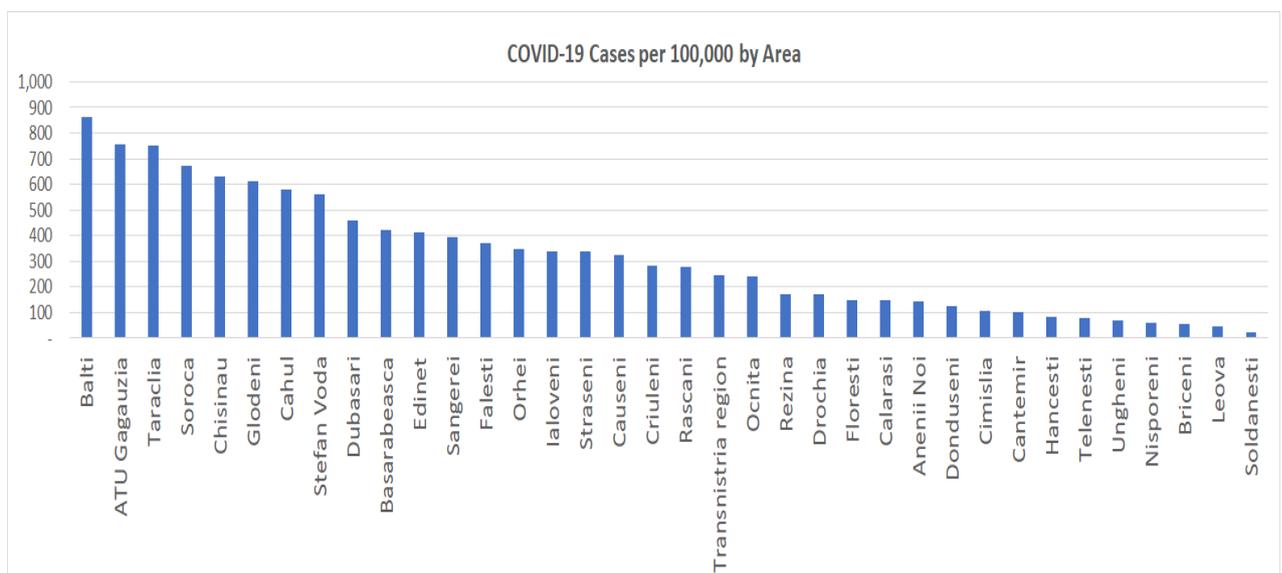
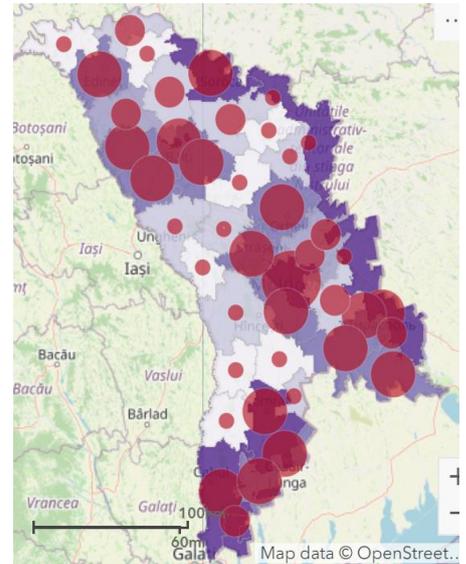
IMPACT
The people of Moldova, in particular the most vulnerable, have access to essential services, in particular health, and livelihoods opportunities during the COVID Response and recuperation

OUTCOME
The Government of the Republic of Moldova and its people successfully overcome the immediate and medium-term adverse health, social and economic consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic

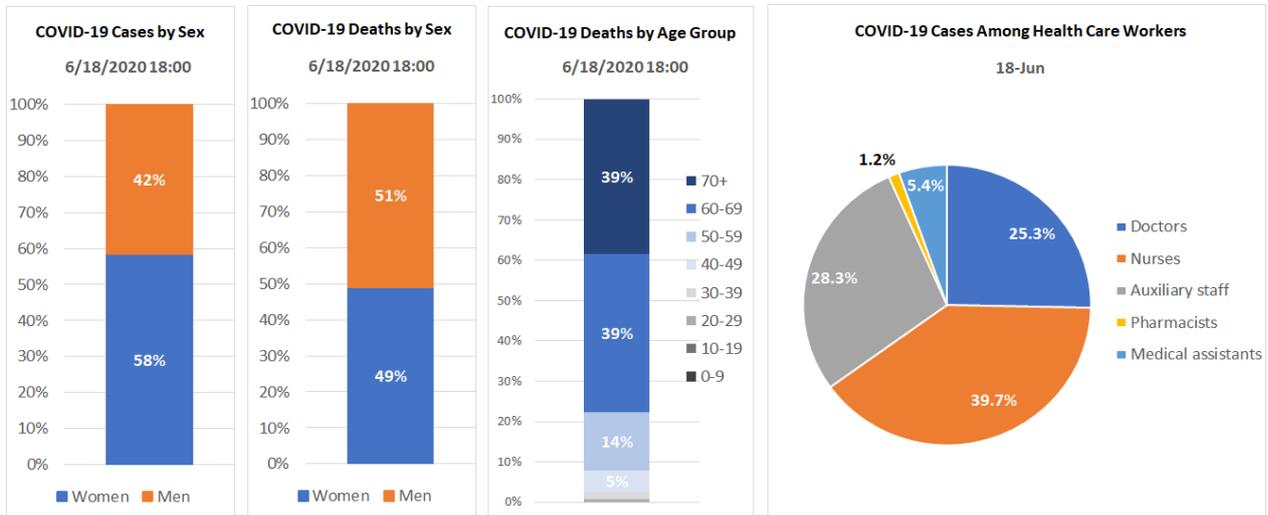


Highlights – data as reported by national authorities

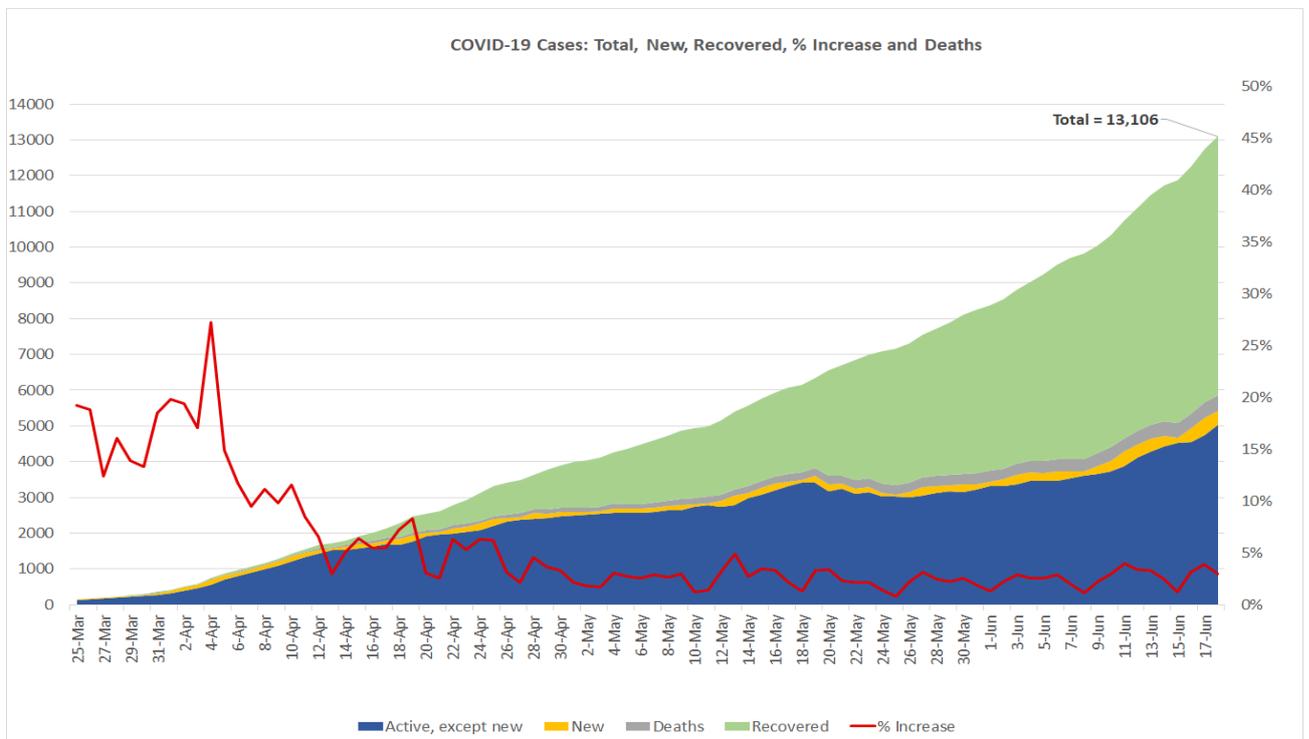
- The number of new cases continued to grow over the past days. After a record high number of new cases - 478 - were reported yesterday, another 374 were reported today. The total number of cases currently stands at 13,106.
- The number of deaths also continued to grow, with another 11 deaths being reported today. The total number of deaths reached 444, and the case fatality rate currently stands at 3.4%. The average age of patients who have died from the disease is 66, with more than 90% of all deaths having been reported in patients 50 years of age and older.
- Weekly numbers also show an increase in cases and deaths. Last week saw the highest number of cases and deaths registered over the course of a week since the beginning of the outbreak. Both figures grew by over 40% compared to the previous week. At the same time, the number of recoveries decreased by approximately 7% last week compared to the previous week.
- The total number of recoveries reached 7,252 today, which represents 55% of the total number of cases.
- The number of patients in serious condition continued to grow and has stayed above 400 for the past several days. The number currently stands at 444, which is the highest figure for this indicator since the beginning of the outbreak.
- The share of health care workers continued to decrease gradually in the total number of cases. Currently, approximately 16% of confirmed cases are health care workers. About 2,050 doctors, nurses, medical assistants and other staff from the health care sector have been infected with the virus since the beginning of the outbreak.
- In terms of geographical distribution, Chisinau, with more than 30% of all confirmed cases, remains the most affected area if the number of cases is considered. The Transnistria region, ATU Gagauzia, Balti and Cahul follow in the list of most affected areas, accounting for 5-9% of all cases each. Overall, about three in five cases are from the areas mentioned above. If the size of the population is considered, Balti, ATU Gagauzia, Taraclia, Soroca and Chisinau, in the order listed, have been most affected by the disease.

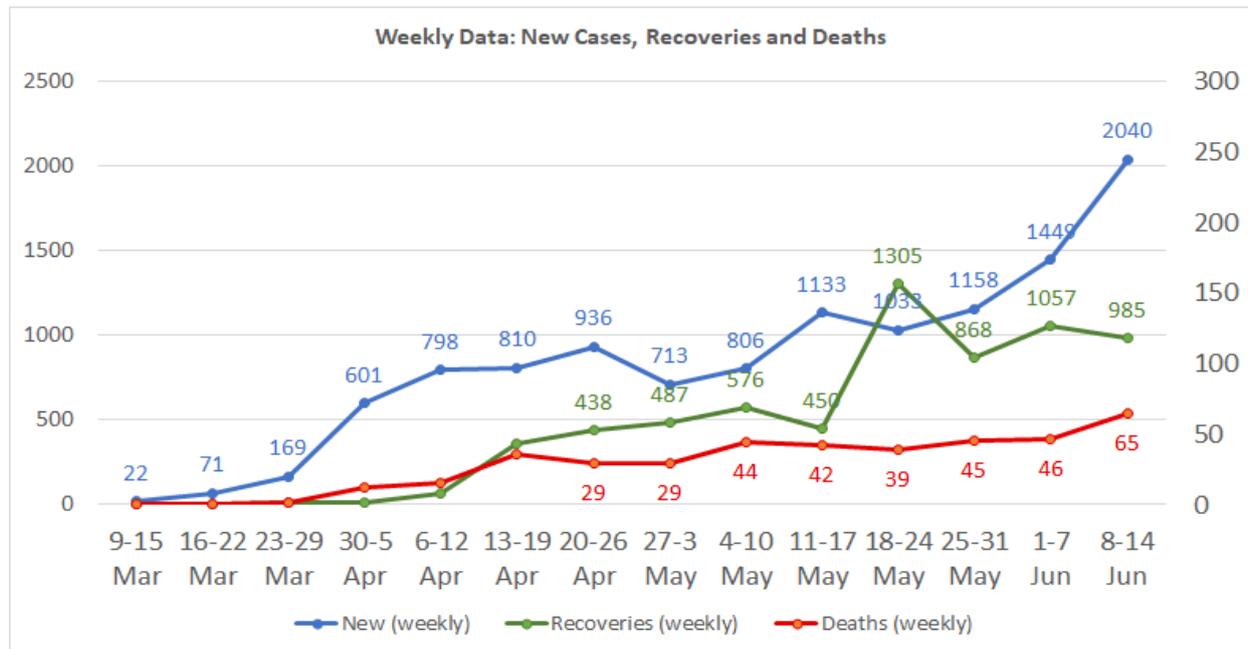


- More women continue to be infected with the virus than men, 58% vs. 42%. However, the percentage of men who have died from the disease is slightly higher than that of women, 51% vs. 49%. Furthermore, the case fatality rate among men is higher than among women, 4.1% vs. 2.8%.



- Real time figures and graphs can be accessed [here](#) in Romanian and in Russian [here](#). This site has reached more than 1.7 million views to date.





Overview of Key Decisions & Announcements

- The COVID-19 pandemic remains a serious public health risk, Moldova has not entered a second wave but is rather seeing an increase of cases as a result of easing of restrictions accompanied by lack of longer term behavioral changes in relation to social distancing and recommended COVID-19 hygiene measures. The situation remains volatile and is worse now than at any time during the start of the crisis year. Everyone is reminded to stay vigilant and to follow all public health and hygiene guidelines.
- We must seek to collectively enhance public health messaging through all projects and public engagements, including social media.
- A briefing was held on June 17th on the current epidemiological situation in the country for the Diplomatic Corps chaired by the RC with the support of the WHO Representative.
- Not related to Covid-19, but in an important achievement during these difficult times, the Government submitted the [Moldova Voluntary National Review](#) to the UN ECOSOC on June 12th. The VNR is accompanied by a [Statistical Annex](#)

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

- The Ministry of Health, Labour, and Social Protection stated again [today](#) that the following restrictions still apply:
 - ✓ being in public places (forests, parks, alleys, beaches, etc.), in groups of more than 3 people;
 - ✓ persons over 63 years of age, outside the home and in public spaces without urgent need;
 - ✓ using playgrounds, sports fields, leisure areas;
 - ✓ leaving the territory of the Republic of Moldova for persons in self-isolation at home;

- ✓ leisure centers, activity of leisure and recreation units, swimming pools, theaters, cinemas, concert halls, etc.;
 - ✓ organizing and carrying out all cultural/sport activities/competitions, as well as other measures/events in enclosed spaces/buildings.
- The Extraordinary National Commission for Public Health in its [decision nr. 15](#) demands that relevant authorities, including the National Army, to be involved in supervision and monitoring of the implementation of measures and restrictions listed above.

Political Situation

- The Government of Moldova announced on Tuesday that it had asked the United States to extradite Vladimir Plahotniuc, the former oligarch, currently charged with involvement in the theft of the billion. The U.S. declined to comment on the extradition request.
- The Prime Minister has announced that Chisinau has fulfilled all conditionalities to receive the second installment of EU macro financial aid, including passing the law on NGOs. The Prime Minister promised to follow up in the near future with the EU directly. However, there are some opposition members of Parliament who do not agree. It falls to the EU to clarify its position and determine whether the aid can, in fact, move forward.
- On June 17th, the MP Efrosinia Gretu pulled out of the Democratic Party to join the Pro Moldova parliamentary group. Gretu's defection reduced the number of MPs supporting the Government of Prime Minister Ion Chicu to 50 out of 101: currently, Socialists have 37 members and the Democrats have 13. Thus, the ruling coalition has lost its majority of votes in Parliament.
- The President met Gagauz Bashkan to discuss the COVID-19 situation and infection hotspots in Comrat and Ceadir-Lunga. The Bashkan noted that the region is keeping the situation under control but asked for additional medical personnel and equipment from the central level.

Security:

- NTR

Transnistria Region:

- The OSCE's Special Representative for the Transnistria Region Settlement Process, Thomas Mayr-Harting, met with the President and later with the Deputy Prime Minister for Reintegration and discussed a wide range of issues, including the freedom of movement, the functioning of the banking system, and telecommunications, the Covid-19 crisis, dialogue between Chisinau and Tiraspol, human rights protection, security and rule of law issues. In Tiraspol, the Special Representative met the de facto leader and chief negotiator. During these meetings, they exchanged views on ways to solve outstanding issues in the settlement process and noted that the pandemic and related restrictions have had a negative impact on the dynamics and effectiveness of the negotiations. At the conclusion of all his meetings, the Special Representative highlighted that he was interested in continuing to move the settlement process forward despite the challenges posed by the Covid-19 pandemic.
- As of June 15th, the local press in the Transnistria Region reported that 1,100 cases of COVID-19 infections were registered in the region, out of which 855 had recovered, and 42 died, with the remaining cases still active.
- The state of emergency in Transnistria ended on June 16th. However, the de facto authorities announced that several restrictive measures necessary to prevent the spread of COVID-19 will remain in effect until the situation notably improves, among them the restrictions on movement entering and departing the region.
- According to the de-facto authorities, a significant increase of economic activity has been registered by most of the large industries of the region, even if the numbers are far from the levels of 2019. The increase

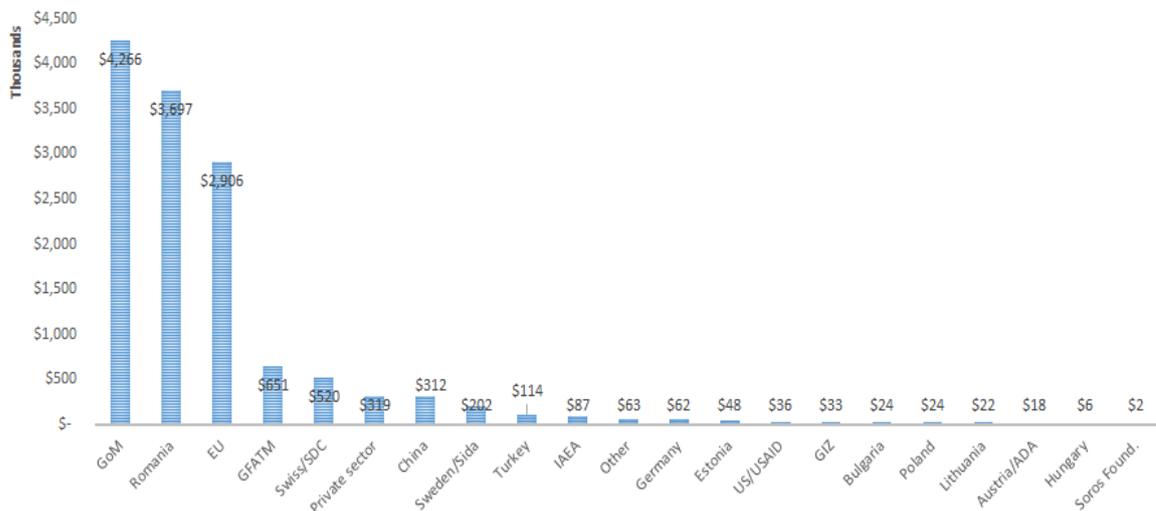
in activity was noted in the production of construction materials, machines, metallurgy, agri-food and light industries. Compared to April, May exports of industrial and agricultural products have increased by 1.3% and imports by 1.5%. According to data from the left bank, budgetary revenues from taxes was reduced by 27% compared to initial forecasts.

Economic Update:

- The agriculture sector was severely affected by COVID-19 outbreak and climate effects. The low level of precipitations during the period of autumn-spring have affected around 215 thousand ha of the total crop surface, the most impacted regions being Center and South (up to 60-80%). Spring frosts affected the most important fruits varieties such as apricots, peaches, cherries and apples. Thus, the global fruit harvest forecast is 15-20% which is lower than the average of the last three years.
- The increase of precipitations in the last weeks had positive effects on crops and agriculture production. According to the State Hydrometeorological Service, the average amount of precipitation at the beginning of May was up to 80mm, exceeding the multiannual monthly average. Thus, a significant part of crops is recovering either partially or totally, which allows considering an optimistic forecast of global wheat harvest up to 600 thousand tons.
- According to NBS, in May 2020, the annual inflation (for the last 12 months) constituted 7.79% for food products. As compared to April 2020, the main price increases were registered for Potatoes (15,5%), Fruits (6%) (particularly berries -15,9%), Pulses (5,1%) and Wheat flour (3,4%).

Aid Coordination

Procurements/donations by partner, thousand USD
PPEs, Equipment and C-19 tests



* Note - procurement 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. Development Partners who are supporting the Covid-19 response are invited to share information about their bilateral support with the Center asistenta.covid19@gov.md. The UN will continue to work in close cooperation with the Center in order to avoid duplication of efforts. The focal person in RCO: laura.fiorotto@un.org

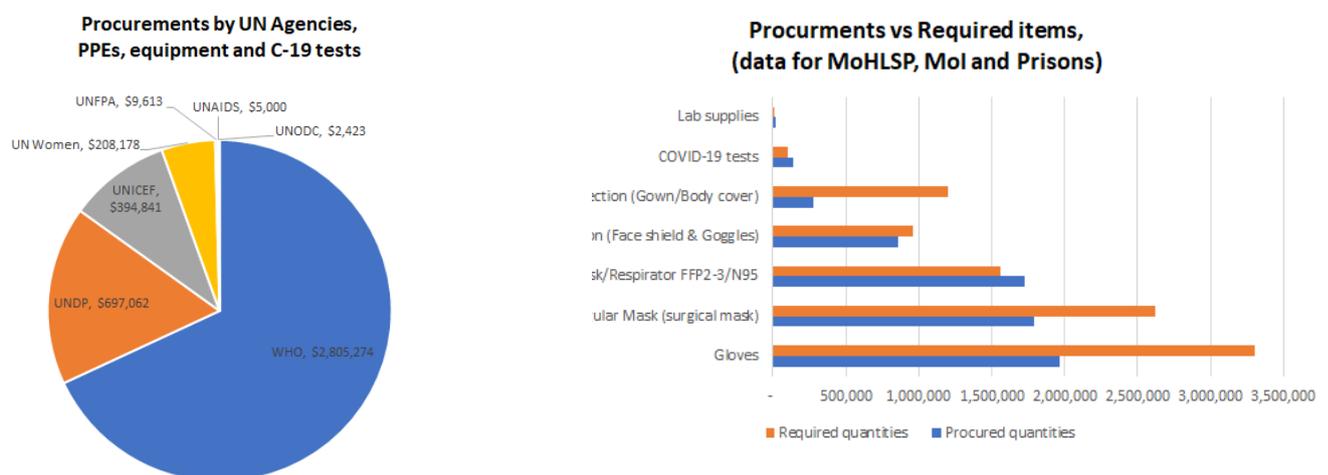
WHO Partnership Platform <https://covid-19-response.org/> All partners are invited to participate so that contributions can be mapped and the requirements kept up to date.

Response of the UN System in Moldova

Procurement support and equipment

- UNICEF Moldova allocated funds for procurement of 10 Oxygen concentrators that will support oxygen therapy for 10 adults or up to 50 children in hospitals involved in COVID-19 response.
- UNICEF procured PPE in an amount of around 120,000 USD through UNICEF SD. The first batch of PPE arrived with the Moldova Gt airplane on April 19th. The second batch is undergoing logistics arrangements in view of regular flights resumed on June 15th.
- UNICEF, with USAID funds, procured and delivered hygiene and cleaning supplies to 11 residential institutions, including schools for children with special needs from Chisinau, Hancesti, Balti, Donduseni, Orhei and Ungheni. Forty-one youth-friendly health facilities will follow to be provided hygiene and cleaning products, as well as sanitizer dispensers, medical consumables and waste management supplies.
- The 10 Mobile ICU ventilator devices for critical care, procured by UNDP Moldova with Swiss Cooperation funds, have arrived in the country. Customs clearance, delivery and handing over to the Ministry of Health warehouse was on June 16th. The delivery has been done to the MoHLSP warehouse, whereas further distribution to the end hospitals will be undertaken by the Ministry.
- UNDP financing agreement with SOROS Foundation Moldova for support to Moldova's response to COVID-19 in the amount of 47,275 USD was signed. The contribution is intended for procurement of equipment (oxygen concentrator, pulse oximeter, monitor systems, etc.)
- UNDP has pre-identified the availability of gloves from UNDP GPU Copenhagen with a delivery time of 3-4 weeks. Partners interested in procuring can contact the agency.

Summary of current support*



* Estimate of needs for a three-month period. Note that this only covers the procurement of PPEs and health equipment. Technical support, supplies for vulnerable groups and others are not included here.

Assessment and Data

- UN Women conducted a Gender rapid assessment on the impact of COVID-19, and one of the findings of this assessment was the burden of care which women were going through at their home. The highlights of the assessment had women care work as a key issue that needs to be addressed. The assessment is being finalized based on a series of dialogues which were convened on agreeing on joint actions in taking forward these recommendations.
- UNDP developed, with the support of several partners, a COVID-19 dashboard with the core six services observing and analyzing mobility and risks of spread. The dashboard is being tested, and access is given to Government, specific private sector partners and UNDP Moldova.
- UNDP Moldova starts the conceptualization of an Early Warning System, as stage 3 of the work on big and thick data.
- UNDP Moldova partnered with the European Space Agency to use big data from satellites for assessing the impact of COVID-19 on Moldovan agriculture and on air pollution in Moldova and neighboring Ukraine.
- UNDP Moldova continues the collection of micronarratives on COVID-19 to evaluate the impact of the crisis on the most vulnerable and socially excluded groups of the population.

Socio-Economic Support

- Switzerland, UK, World Bank, IOM, UNDP, UNICEF issued a press release on the International Day of Remittances, calling for better access to remittances in rural areas, use of financial services among the most vulnerable migrant families, and financial inclusion of labour migrants by channelling remittance savings towards income-generating activities and increase in investment opportunities.
- The weekly meeting of the Socio-Economic Task Force, led by UNDP, was held on Wednesday, June 17th with presentations from EBRD and AmCham. The EBRD Advisory team delivered a presentation on COVID-19 response /online training for SMEs, and the AmCham showcased the needs assessment of SMEs.
- As part of the ongoing update of the UN Socio-Economic Response Plan, the UN Working Group on Socio-Economic Recovery, co-chaired by UNDP and RCO, met on June 16th to discuss and identify next steps in addressing the socio-economic and environmental impacts of COVID-19.

Education and youth

- UNFPA, in partnership with the Ministry of Education, Culture, and Research, continues the implementation of the psychological assistance program for youth in the context of Covid-19 - "[My choice is to be OK](#)". The programme is live-streamed two times per week on the Facebook page of the Ministry. Two new sessions were organized "[How do I learn to communicate assertively?](#)", "[How to keep romantic relationships safe?](#)"
- UNICEF led the regular meeting of the UN Coordinated Education Task Force. The discussions focused on draft paper on education in the context of COVID-19; the results of the assessment with NGO on the most stringent needs, including of assistive technologies, that children with disabilities have in the context of COVID-19; and the continued contribution of the agencies to the Ministry of Education, Culture and Research to respond to COVID-19.
- UNICEF initiated the process for procurement under the GPE Catalytic fund of IT devices to be provided to schools for distance learning. Discussions with MECR were held and the decision on the number of computers to be procured depends on the funds needed for teacher training on the use of computers for distance learning.
- UNICEF supported MECR in developing a package of three documents governing a potential gradual re-opening of the kindergartens.

Gender

- Gender Rapid Assessment: UN Women is continuing to socialize the findings of the gender rapid assessment with various platforms. On June 16th, an online session was convened in a format of a Press Club on the “Results of the assessment of COVID-19 impact on gender roles. The Press Club was viewed by over 3,700 people and generated multiple responses and interest in further reading a detailed report. Once all consultations and socialization on the findings have been finalized, UN Women will finalize and publish the report. The full event is available here: <https://bit.ly/3fxjO92>
- UN Women has conducted a series of online sessions for 25 women with disabilities on *Maintaining a healthy lifestyle during a pandemic* (on June 10th), on *The impact of the suspension of professional activity on psychological and emotional balance* (on June 12th) and on *Depression in crisis situations and Exercises for managing depression* (June 13th).
- UN Women, in partnership with IFIS NGO continues a series of live discussions with psychologists on the concerns and emotions people leave during the pandemic. As well, the discussions aim to raise problems and signs of gender-based violence and abusive behavior. The 4th live session **“The role of father in child’s emotional development”** will be held on June 18th on the UN Women Moldova Facebook page. The previous live session had 61 live viewers and reached 4,674 viewers.
- UN Women continues to support through 4 NGOs with psychological, legal and social online counselling women from underrepresented groups. To date, over 200 women (and their children 32) from underrepresented groups, including 34 women migrants, 5 women from the left bank have been reached with online essential services in the Elimination of violence area.
- UN Women in partnership with Memoria NGO supporting the creation of support groups (private/closed) on Facebook, Messenger, and Viber for victims of gender-based violence with internet access, as well as developed a prospective model of assisting victims of gender-based violence and victims of domestic violence, in the context of crisis situations, including best practices and challenges.

Communications

- UN Women has shared a [press release](#) about psychological support provided to women with disabilities.
- UN Women developed and distributed informative easy to read accessible cards for women with disabilities in Romanian and Russian about maintaining mental health, developing harmonious relationships and overcoming tensions in families, especially during crisis situations, such as the pandemic situation of COVID-19. The cards are available here: RU: <https://bit.ly/2Y2JEfn>; RO: <https://bit.ly/2YCEICj>
- UNICEF and WHO supported the MHSPF to produce and print a series of posters and stickers for the second phase of the COVID-19, following the relaxation of restrictions, including restaurants, barbershops, and fitness centers. The posters will be distributed through the LPAs.
- Switzerland, United Kingdom, World Bank, IOM, UNDP and UNICEF published a call for measures to continue to make remittances available to Moldova citizens, as during the ongoing COVID-19 outbreak, the disruption to, and of, remittance flows is having a significant impact on migrants, their families, members of diaspora communities, and the economies that rely on them.
- UNDP published a blog post on the impact of COVID-19 on circular migrants, who are stuck in the middle, either at home or in host countries.
- UNDP produced a video reportage on arrival in Moldova of 10 mobile artificial ventilation devices for intensive care units. This was possible due to the support provided by Switzerland through the United Nations Development Programme.