

## Coronavirus Disease - COVID 19

Situation Report No. 24 (16 July 2020)

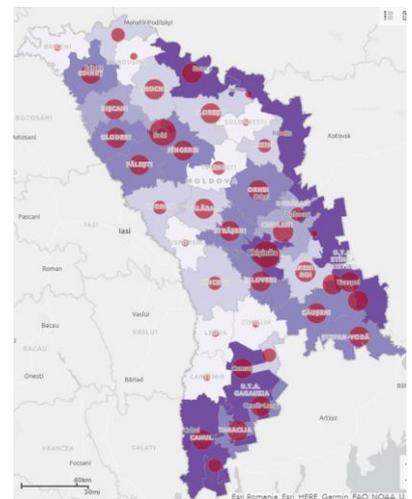


*This report is produced by UN Moldova in collaboration with Government and development/humanitarian partners.*

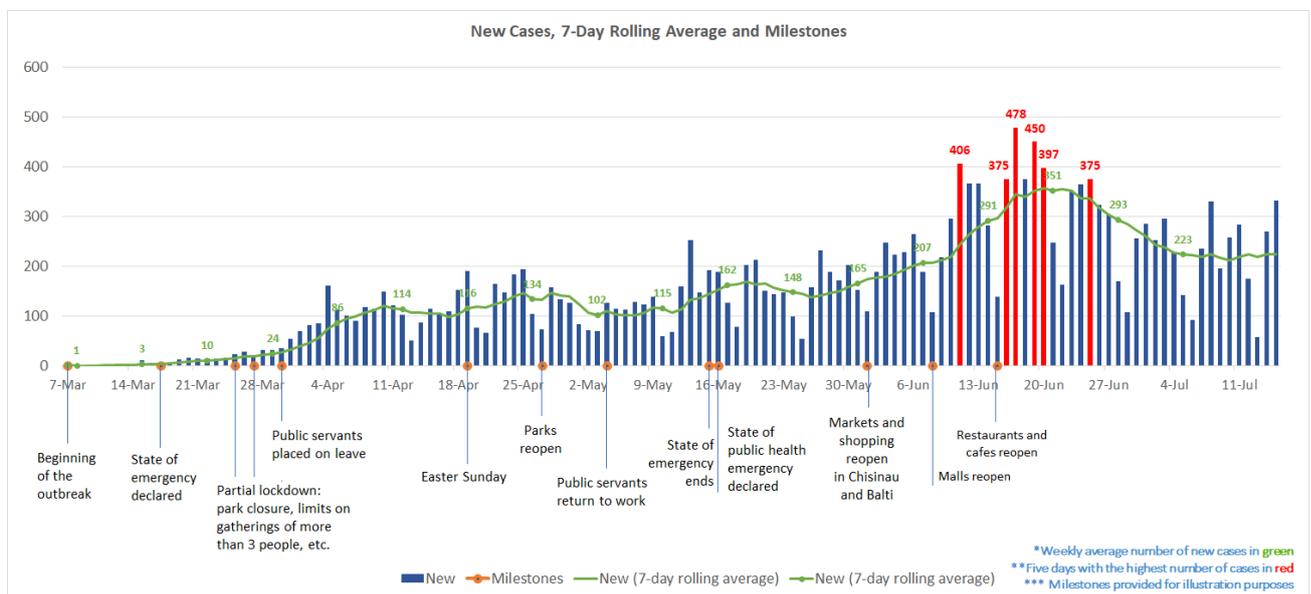
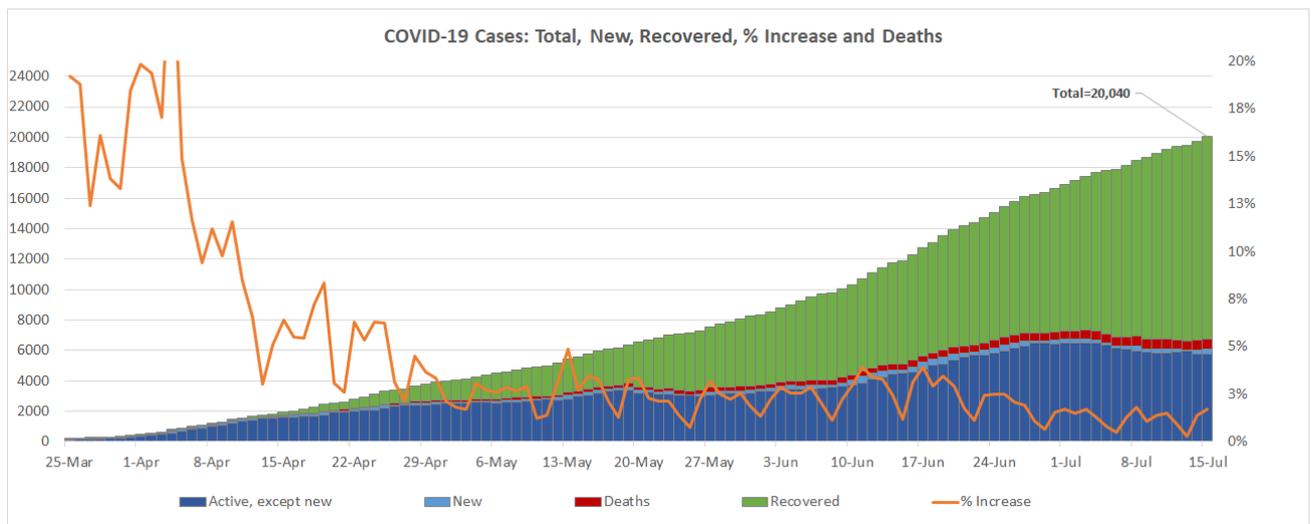
## Highlights – data as reported by national authorities

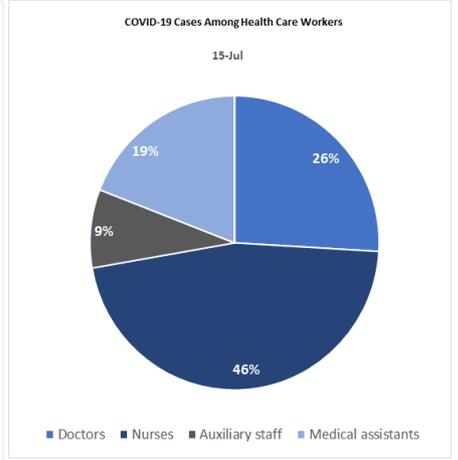
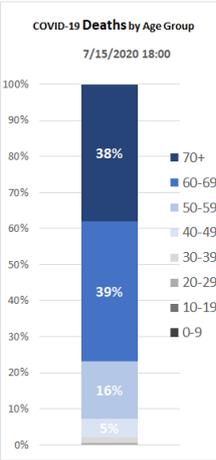
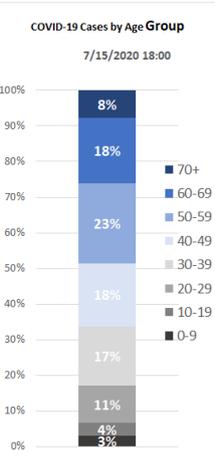
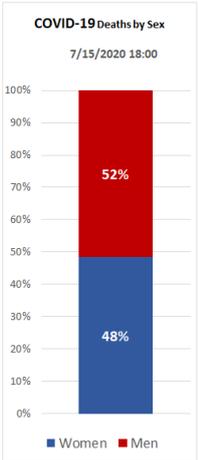
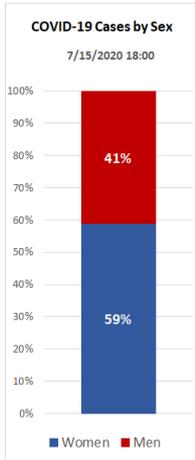
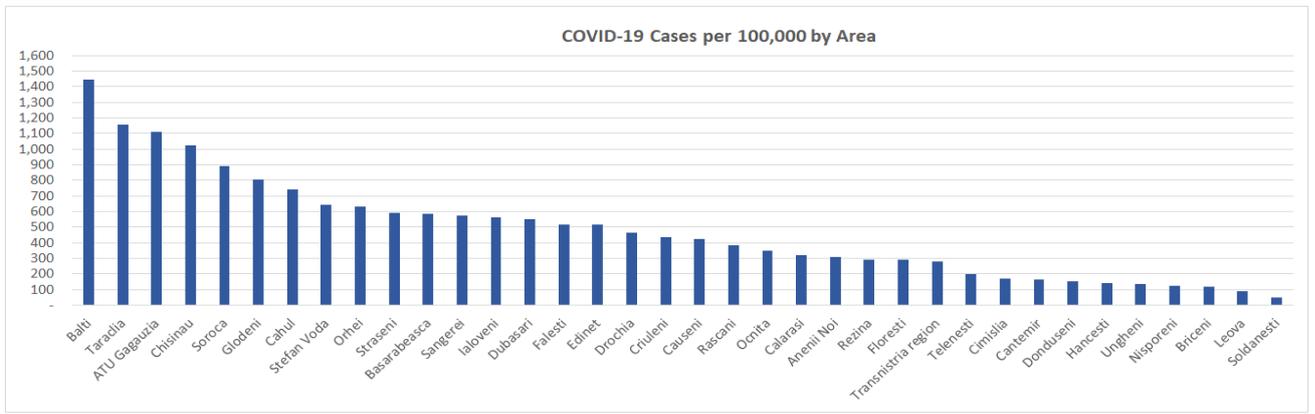
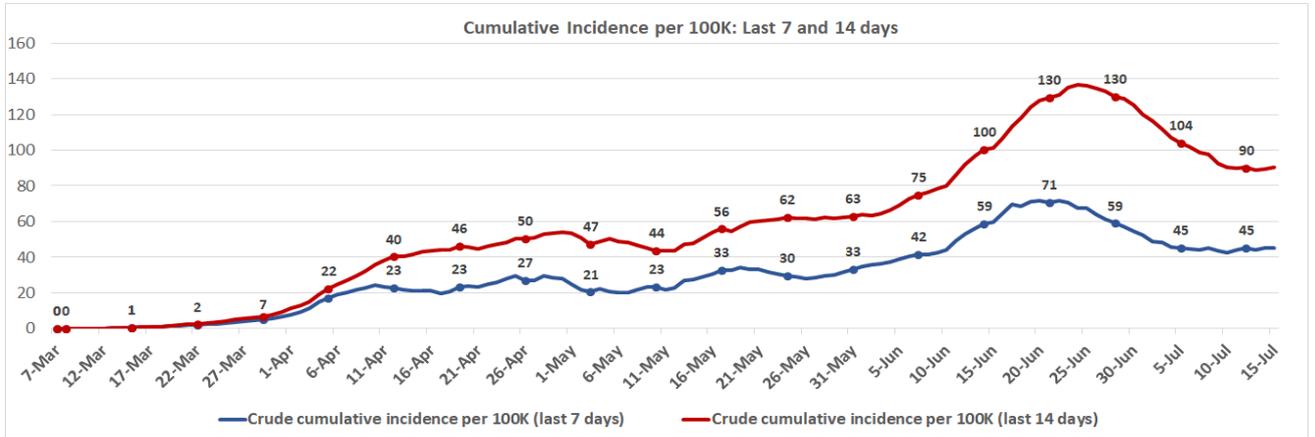
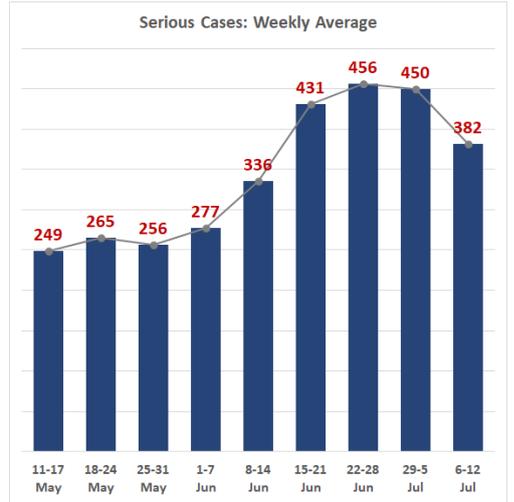
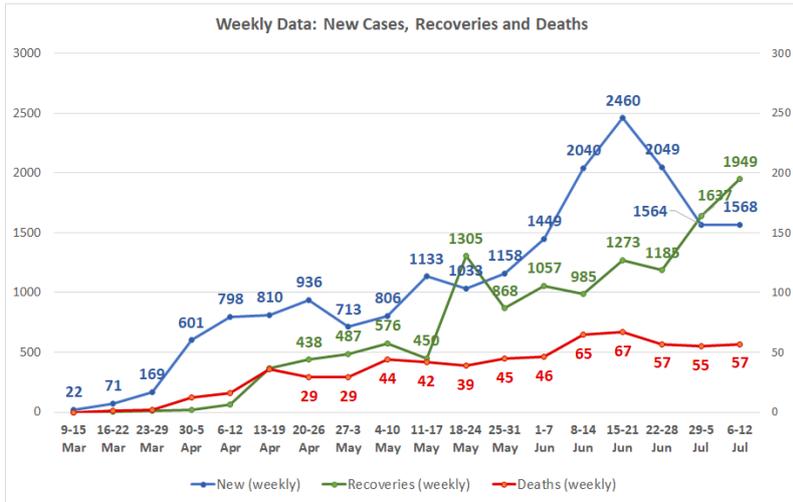
\* Data as at 16/07/2020, 9:00 a.m.

- The number of cases continued to grow at a somewhat steady pace, with the average number of daily cases over the past seven days being 224, which is comparable to the same figure last week. The total number of cases has surpassed the 20,000-case mark and stands at 20,040;
- The overall crude cumulative incidence of cases per 100,000 stands at 577. The crude cumulative incidence of cases over the last 7 days is 45 and over the last 14 days is 90, with both of these figures remaining steady over the past week;
- The number of deaths continued to grow but at a slower pace compared to the previous week. The average number of daily deaths reported over the past seven days is 6.4, which is considerably lower compared to the same figure last week. The total number of deaths reached 659. The case fatality rate stands at 3.3%. The average age of patients who have died from the disease is 66.1, with more than 90% of all deaths having been reported in patients 50 years of age and older;
- Weekly figures show a mixed picture regarding the evolution of the pandemic in the country. With 1,568 new cases reported, last week saw a nearly identical number of new cases compared to the previous week. The number of deaths increased slightly, with 2 more deaths being reported. The R0 number also increased from 0.86 to 1.00;
- On the other hand, positive developments were registered in terms of recoveries and serious cases. About 19% more recoveries were reported last week compared to the previous week, with the weekly number of recoveries continuing to exceed the weekly number of new cases. The total number of patients who have recovered from the disease stands at 13,298. This represents 66.4% of the total number of cases;
- The average number of serious cases decreased to 382 last week (from 450 the previous week) and continued to decrease further this week. The number of serious cases stands at 346;



- The share of health care workers continued to decrease gradually in the total number of cases. Approximately 13% of confirmed cases are health care workers. Over 2,650 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 nearly 34% of all confirmed cases, remains the most affected area if the number of cases is considered. ATU Gagauzia, Balti and the Transnistria region follow in the list of most affected areas, accounting for 7% of all cases each. Cahul, Soroca, Orhei and Ialoveni account for another 3-4% of all cases each. Overall, more than three in five cases are from the areas mentioned above. If the size of the population is considered, Balti, Taraclia, ATU Gagauzia and Chisinau, in the order listed, have been most affected by the disease;
- More women continue to be infected with the virus than men, 59% vs. 41%. However, the percentage of men who have died from the disease is slightly higher than that of women, 52% vs. 48%. Furthermore, the case fatality rate among men is higher than among women, 4.1% vs. 2.7%;
- Real time figures and graphs can be accessed [here](#) in Romanian and in Russian [here](#). This site has more than 1.84 million views to date.





## Overview of Key Decisions & Announcements

- On July 14, WHO and the UN Resident Coordinator together with the Prime Minister, the Minister of HLSP, European Ambassador and the Ambassadors from the EU members countries have received a first batch of personal protective equipment, and other protective equipment and medical devices (330,000 gloves, 356 oxygen concentrators, 41 patient monitors, 40 ventilators, 215 pulse oximeters, 1500 test kits, laboratory and 12,000 sampling kits);
- The VNR Lab took place on 15th of July. The VNR Report will be presented by the Government of the Republic of Moldova on the evening of the 16th of July.

### 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

- All restrictions on movement and presence in public spaces, operation of economic entities are extended through 30 July 2020.

### Political Situation

- The Public Property Agency (PPA) of Moldova's Ministry of Economy and Infrastructure announced the termination of its concession agreement with Avia Invest on the Chisinau international airport and demanded that the company return the property to the state. According to the PPA press release, the reason for terminating the contract is non-execution of contractual obligations by Avia Invest. Avia Invest continues to fight the action;
- The National War Veterans Council (CNVR) has announced that they will block a highway going from Sanatauca to Hagimus if Tiraspol does not remove illegal checkpoints within 48 hours. CNVR representatives said the checkpoints restrict free travel and the freedom of expression of citizens on both banks of the Nistru river;
- Parliament has announced that the joint working group created to broaden Gagauz autonomy has approved an action plan and a list of priorities to continue permanent dialogue between the parliament in Chisinau and the Gagauz Popular Assembly. This stage is necessary to initiate an analysis of topics and, if necessary, request international or local expertise to begin the development of a normative base. Dialogue between legislators in Chisinau and Comrat started in 2015;
- PAS leadership on Wednesday accused President Igor Dodon and the Socialist Party of preparing to commit fraud in the upcoming presidential elections by modifying the electoral code. The new modifications mean, for example, that observers, including international ones, will no longer be able to monitor the national electoral roll and they will not have access to either the names or number of voters. The Socialists have since withdrawn the proposed modifications;
- Intellect Group presented new poll results showing that 38.55 percent of respondents would support Igor Dodon for a new presidential term, followed by PAS head Maia Sandu (31.31 percent), Renato Usatii (10.74 percent), Vladimir Voronin (2.72 percent), and Andrei Nastase (2.07 percent). The Socialist Party

would get support from 34 percent of the electorate, followed by PAS (28 percent) and the Shor Party (11.1 percent). The poll was conducted in-person from July 2-9 with a sample size of 1,172 people in 69 localities, with a 3.1-percent margin of error;

- Pro Moldova confirmed that its 14 M.P.s will support the motion to censure the Chicu cabinet put forward by the DA platform. DA's 11 M.P.s and an unaffiliated M.P. Octavian Ticu have already signed the motion. PAS also announced on July 16<sup>th</sup> that its 14 MPS would support the motion. A motion must be signed by 26 M.P.s to be registered, and with most of the opposition supporting the motion, it appears ready to move forward in the parliament. The vote on the censure of the Government would most likely take place early next week. Following censure, the Government could ostensibly become a "lame duck" government, without any power, including the ability to bring motions to parliament.

## Security

- NTR.

## Transnistria Region

- The Head of the OSCE Mission to Moldova met with the Deputy Prime Minister of Reintegration and exchanged views on the organization of the upcoming academic year in the context Covid-19 restrictions imposed by Tiraspol in the Security Zone. The OSCE reiterated the need to keep and strengthen links between the Sides, including ensuring freedom of movement for people to access places of work and services, integrated telecommunication networks, and transparent financial transactions between both banks;
- During a 15 July discussion with the European Union's representative in the 5+2 format of the Transnistria Region settlement process, the Deputy Prime Minister (DPM) for Reintegration expressed Chisinau's concern about the risk of worsening dialogue between Chisinau and Tiraspol. In this context she referred to the restrictions to the freedom of movement imposed by Tiraspol in the Security Zone since the beginning of the pandemic. The DPM thanked the European Union for the financial support in providing the accommodation of doctors from the left bank who work on the right bank;
- In the Transnistria Region, as of July 16, a total of 1,329 positive Covid-19 cases were registered, with 1,140 recovered and 50 deaths. On July 15 284 tests were conducted, in laboratories either in Chisinau or Tiraspol, out of which 19 tests were positive and 234 negative (31 tests are still being checked). In a recent decision, the de facto authorities will allow kindergartens to open on July 20. The Nistru Sanatorium also began operating starting from July 15 and urban transportation is now available for the public at large from 10 AM till 4 PM. The de facto authorities recommend COVID tests for persons willing to go to the left bank, otherwise a 21 days isolation period will be imposed;
- On July 13 President Dodon and the de facto leader discussed the issues related to newly installed checkpoints. The de facto leader stated that the initial number of 31 checkpoints has been reduced to half. The other 16 points will remain until the end of the pandemic. President Dodon and the de facto leader agreed to meet at the end of July;
- In June, the main industries of the left bank registered an increase of production of 5.5% compared to the same period of 2019 and of 19% compared to May of this year but is still far from the numbers of March

2020. Over the past two weeks, 7.2 M EUR were allocated for salaries, pensions, and other compensation payments. SMEs received support in the amount of 190 k EUR to reduce the impact caused by the pandemic. Beginning in March 2020, 806 individual entrepreneurs received support as a result of the outbreak.

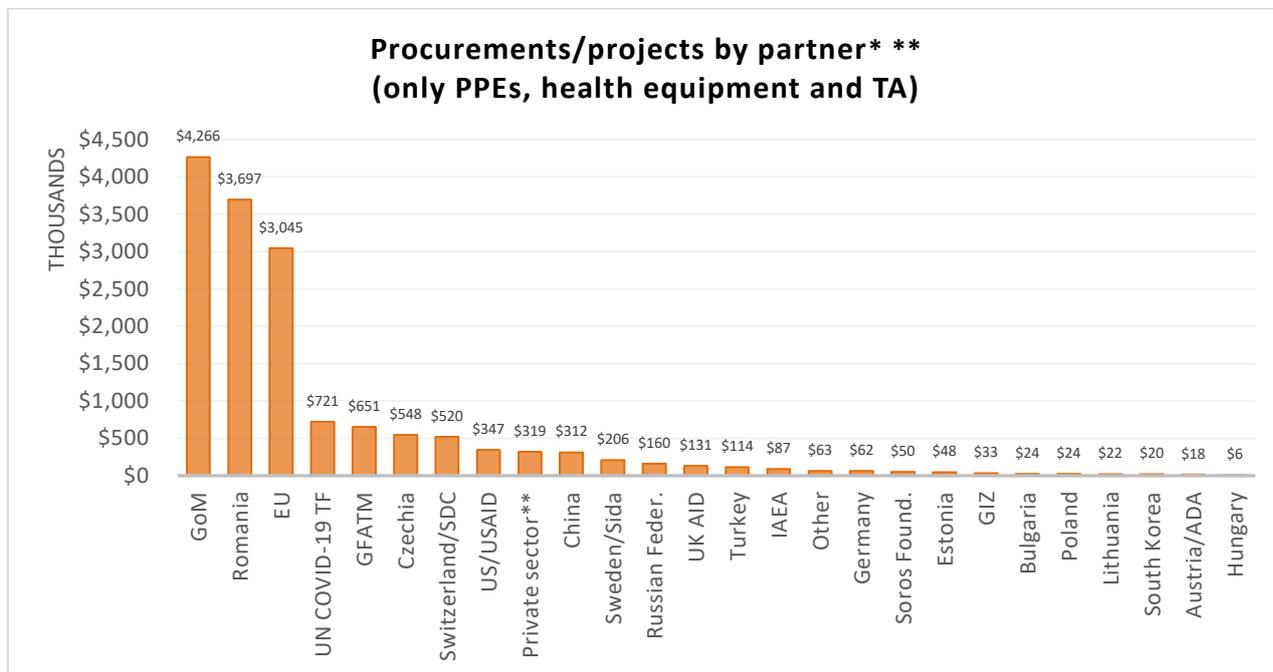
## Economic Update

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- According to the NBS, in June the annual inflation (for the last 12 months) reached 4.25%: for food products – 8.48%, non-food products – 0.30% and services – 3.53%;
- The NBS trade statistics show a 3.9% increase in exports in May'20 versus April'20. However, there is an overall export activity decline of 26% compared to May'19. In particular, the export of goods only during January-May declined by 15.6% compared to the similar period in 2019. At the same time, the export of domestically produced goods went down by 6.7%, while foreign goods' re-export declined by 36% in January-May 2020 versus the same period of 2019 (classic re-exports declined by 6.4% and re-export after processing - by 16%). The structure of exports by destination (in January-May 2020) was still dominated by the EU (63%) followed by CSI (16.5%). However, exports to the EU declined more substantially during this period than to the CSI. In terms of import of goods in May'20 versus April'20, the positive tendency is maintained by 15.3% increase, yet if to compare with the same month in 2019 the imports declined by approx. one third. Imports from the EU and CIS decline in roughly equally shares from both countries (slightly over 18%). The share of imports from EU and CIS is 46.8% and 24.7%, accordingly. The balance of payments deficit in May'20 increased by 27.8% compared to April'20. However, the decrease of import-export operations also affected the BoP in January-May 2020 through a reduction in the BoP deficit by 17%;
- The World Bank conducted a survey on the impact of Covid-19 on the private sector. According to this survey, the most affected are small businesses, primarily in the manufacturing sector. Contrary to expectations, there was not a significant share of laid off staff. However, most personnel were asked to take various forms of leave. Facing liquidity challenges, many respondents (46.4%) reported delaying payments to suppliers, while over a half anticipated accumulation of such other arrears in the future. The large companies adapted their businesses and working modality faster and easier compared to small and medium enterprises, while those companies with a history of innovations are better positioned to sustain the crisis shocks. The respondent businesses reported benefiting from tax deferrals, tax relief and deferral of credit payments as the top three assistance programmes. However, they have reported a need for wider coverage and implementation of other policies such as (i) reduction in tax burden (ii) reduction in parafiscal fees (iii) removal of trade restrictions (iv) access to finance and subsidies.

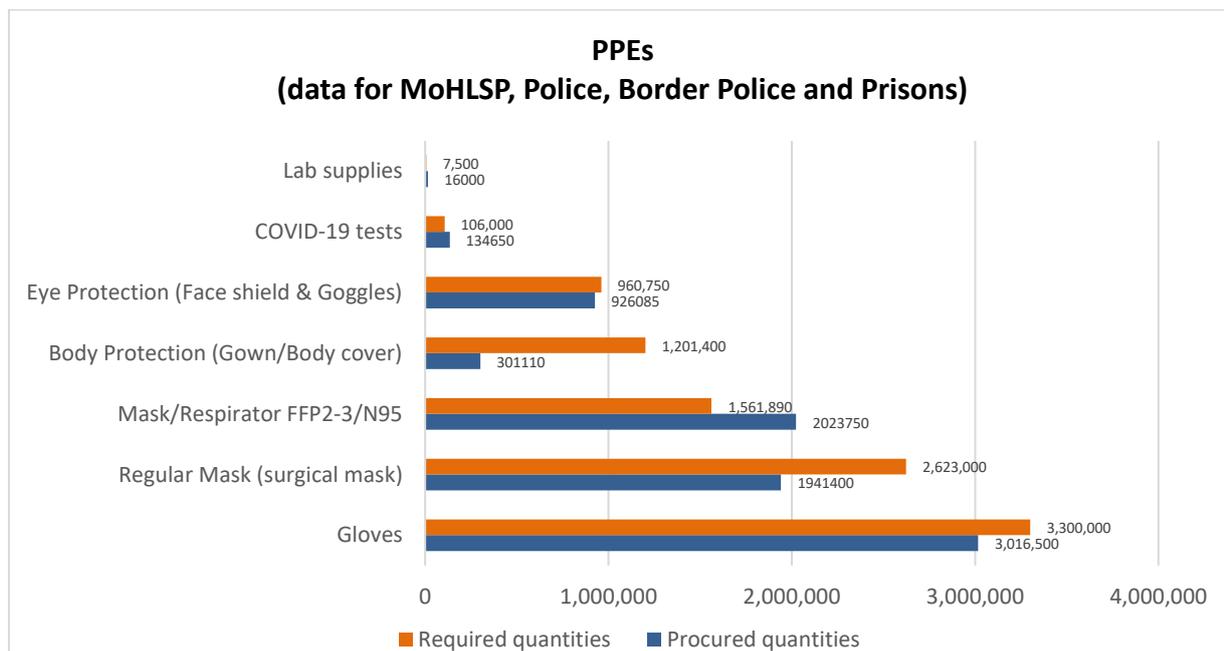
## Aid Coordination

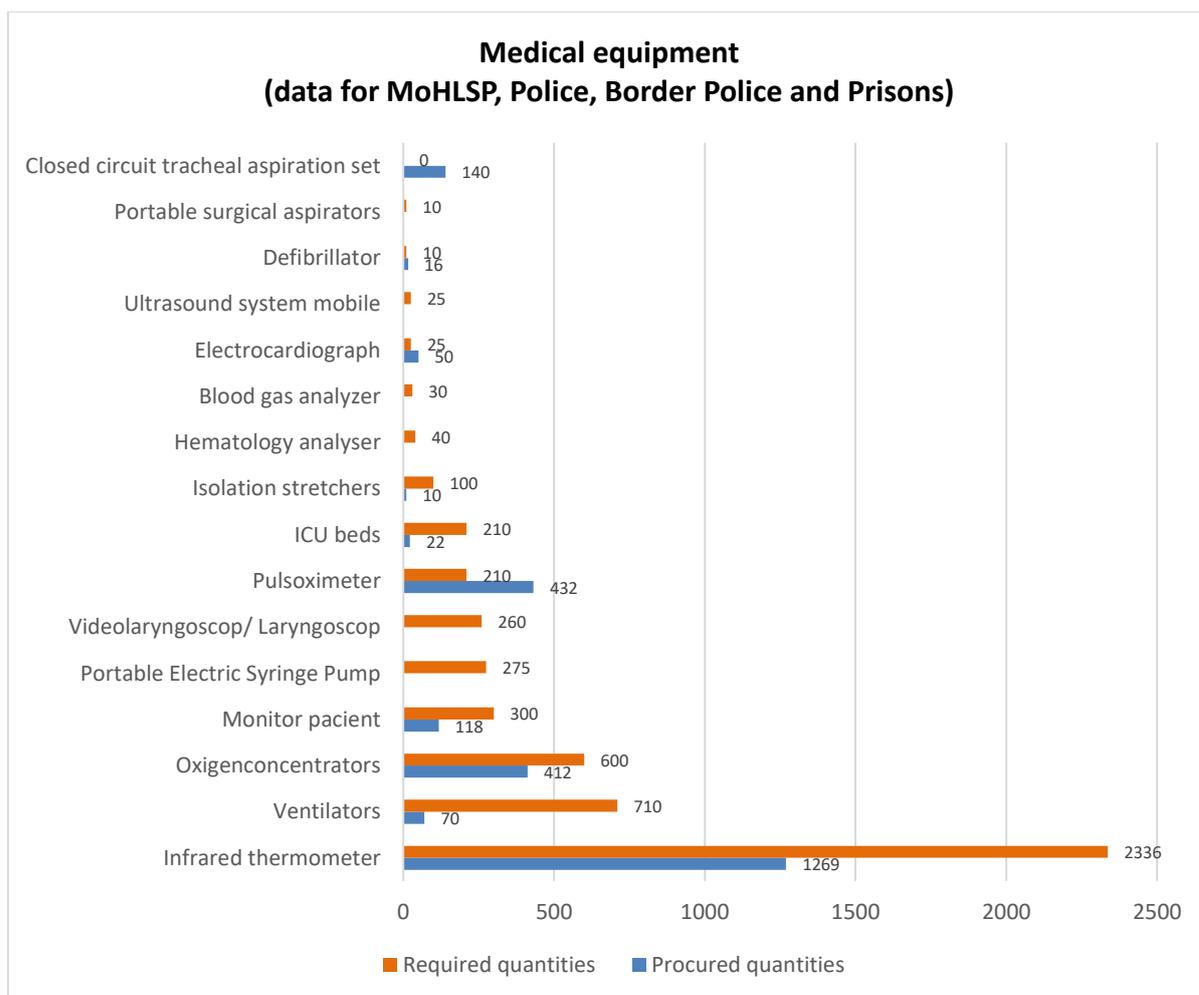
Mapping of contributions to the Health System for COVID response in Moldova



\*Note - data only for contracted/procured items. 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](mailto:veaceslav.palade@un.org) and/or [garami@who.int](mailto:garami@who.int)

\*\* Private sector companies: Orange Moldova, Lisedfarm 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 SRL.





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](mailto:asistenta.covid19@gov.md). The UN will continue to work in close cooperation with the Center in order to avoid duplication of efforts. Focal person in RCO: [laura.fiorotto@un.org](mailto: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 UN System in Moldova

### Procurement support and equipment

- UNICEF, with SG's COVID-19 Trust Fund support, procured personal protective equipment (1,000 gowns 2,000 coveralls) and two thermoscanners from local vendors. The equipment was delivered to the Border Police on 16 July;
- UNICEF, with funds from the Global Partnership for Education, procured and delivered to MECC 105 laptops to be distributed to most in need children and teachers affected by the COVID-19 related school closures;

- WHO with the financial support of the European Union, procured over 1.5 million pieces for personal protective equipment for front-line medical workers in the Republic of Moldova. List of items include 1,210,000 medical masks, 348,000 N95 respirators, 16,200 goggles, 36,000 protective gowns.

## Assessments and Data

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- NTR.

## Socio-Economic Support

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- The Socio-Economic Taskforce from July 15, 2020 hosted a panel discussion on the access and impact of remittances as well as the impact of COVID-19 on their flow to the country. The panel discussion is a follow-up to the joint call initiated by Switzerland, UK and several international partners for the facilitation of the flow of remittances namely for countries most affected such as Moldova. The National Bank of Moldova, SDC regional representatives, UK Embassy, WB, IOM, UNDP and diaspora representatives participated in the panel discussion and shared their views on the role of remittance in the country's development;
- The WB has presented the results of a survey on the impact of Covid-19 on the private sector. [Link here.](#)

## Health

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- Between 14 July and 18 September 2020, UNFPA, jointly with WHO will provide a series of 25 on-line information sessions for primary healthcare providers - family doctors from rural and urban areas, and gynecologists from the Networks of Youth Friendly Health Centers and Reproductive Health Cabinets. The capacity building events are implemented under the leadership of the Ministry of Health, Labor and Social Protection, aiming at increasing awareness of primary healthcare providers on the importance of ensuring the continuity of family planning in any context, including in case of public health emergency situations, familiarizing them in this regard with the provisions of the newly approved Regulation on ensuring vulnerable groups with modern contraceptives. Also, family doctors and gynecologists are familiarized with the provisions of the 19 Standardized Clinical Protocols approved at the national level on Modern Methods of Contraception developed with UNFPA support. They are also informed on the available opportunity on accessing distance learning courses on Family Planning and Contraceptives Supply Chain Management through the ViC Moldova on-line platform integrated with UNFPA support into the Curricula of the State University of Medicine and Pharmacy "Nicolae Testemitanu". The distance learning courses through the ViC Moldova on-line platform became a valuable distance learning resource for family doctors, gynecologists, as well as students and resident doctors, in the context of Covid19 pandemic;
- UNICEF, with funding from USAID, developed the curricula of the online training courses on care and support to pregnant and breastfeeding mothers and their children during the COVID-19 pandemic. The two training events to start next week (July 21-23 and July 27-29) are aimed for healthcare providers from 12 perinatal centers (maternity hospitals) and representatives from primary healthcare facilities. The 12 perinatal centers accommodate to 2/3 of all pregnant women in the country, including pregnancies with various levels of risk and their new-borns - estimated at 22 thousand children per year.

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## Education and youth

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- UNICEF supported MECR in the development of special regulations for the organization of the school year 2020-2021 and school reopening. The support was implemented in consultation with the members of the UN Coordinated Education Task Force for COVID-19;
- UNICEF chaired the UN Coordinated Education Task Force for COVID-19. The meeting focused on the working paper on education in the context of COVID-19 pandemic, main needs of the sector and main support provided by the UN Agencies and the WB to MECR to address the challenges and effects of COVID-19 on education;
- UNICEF, in partnership with TEKEDU, continued with the training of 120 young people on social innovation and entrepreneurship;
- UNICEF, through U-Report, consulted 1,123 young people on the concept of “Scoala Viitorului” (School of the Future). The results of the poll were shared with MECR and State Pedagogical University.

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## Gender

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- Over 40 newly elected women councilors enhanced their knowledge on gender equality, human rights and good governance within two, 2-days training sessions, which are part of a capacity building program for women councilors at their first mandate, implemented by the Contact Center NGO in partnership with UN Women. The trainings were organized between 13-17 July;
- Over 45 women mayors and women councilors enhanced their knowledge on development of [local strategies](#), in the framework of an online workshop organized within “Women4Leadership” Academy on July 16 2020, undertaken by the Center Contact NGO Cahul and Institutum Virtutes Civilis, in partnership with UN Women;
- 400 police and public order and security representatives will be trained in the efficient response to cases of domestic violence. The ongoing training for police officers will take place during May 2020 – September 2021, under ‘[Capacity building of the justice and](#) law enforcement sector representatives in the efficient application of domestic violence legislation project, implemented by the Women's Law Centre (WLC) and supported by UN Women Moldova and Sweden;
- Ministry of Defense approved the Decision no. 327 as of 7 July 2020 on the adoption of the Regulation on the procedure for prevention, identification, recording, reporting and examination of the cases of discrimination, sexual harassment and gender-based violence within its institutions. The Regulation was developed with extensive expertise and support from UN Women.

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## Human Rights

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- OHCHR organized several meetings of two NGO Working Groups on Human Rights and COVID-19 on the highest attainable standards of health, as well as current developments in the field.

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## Communications

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- UNFPA organized an online public event on [Demographic perspectives of the Republic of Moldova](#) in the context of #COVID19 pandemic in collaboration with National Bureau of Statistic, Ministry of Health, Labor and Social Protection, Swiss Cooperation Office, UN Resident Coordinator's Office, Paris 21, civil society, academia, mass-media. The debate registered more than 21 K views. It was reflected in the media by [Radio Free Europe](#), [IPN News Agency](#), [TVR](#) and live streamed on [Privesc.eu](#) platform. The dialogue which also explored the role of quality data in managing any crises, including COVID and demographic trends, was organized ahead of World Population Day and linked with UN75 global conversations on the future we want to see;
- UNFPA, UN Women and EU [launched](#) a new regional project on gender equality in Eastern Partnership countries. The 3-years project will address gender stereotypes, working with aggressors and changing behaviour and social norms around gender equality, which are critic especially in times of pandemic;
- UNFPA launched a new video under the “My Choice is to be OK” program. [“Think before act: How to make the right decisions”](#), video with useful tips for young people and adolescents from the psychologist Daniela Terzi-Barbarosie;
- UNICEF started the dissemination of COVID19 prevention messages developed jointly with the MHLSP and WHO to more than 200K households through their electricity bill by email, as part of a public private partnership (PPP) with Premier Energy company;
- UNICEF produced a video reportage, [a photo gallery](#) and a press release following the distribution of the personal protective equipment and two thermoscanners, which were delivered to the Border Police on 16 July;
- UNICEF and WHO, with funding from USAID, printed a set of posters on COVID19 prevention, to be displayed in HORECA facilities and targeted at clients and employees;
- UNDP has published a video summary on the policy dialogue (attended by seven journalists among other participants) about the effects of COVID19 on remittances and the measures needed to be taken by authorities to keep these flowing, as suggested by Switzerland - UK - World Bank - UNDP - IOM - UNICEF joint call;
- WHO has delivered a portion of the health equipment procured with the [EU support](#).