

Coronavirus Disease - COVID 19

Situation Report No. 25 (23 July 2020)



COVID-19
RESPONSE



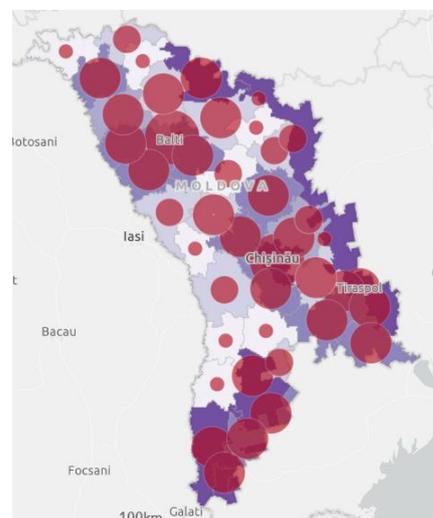
This report is produced by UN Moldova in collaboration with Government and development/humanitarian partners.

Highlights – data as reported by national authorities

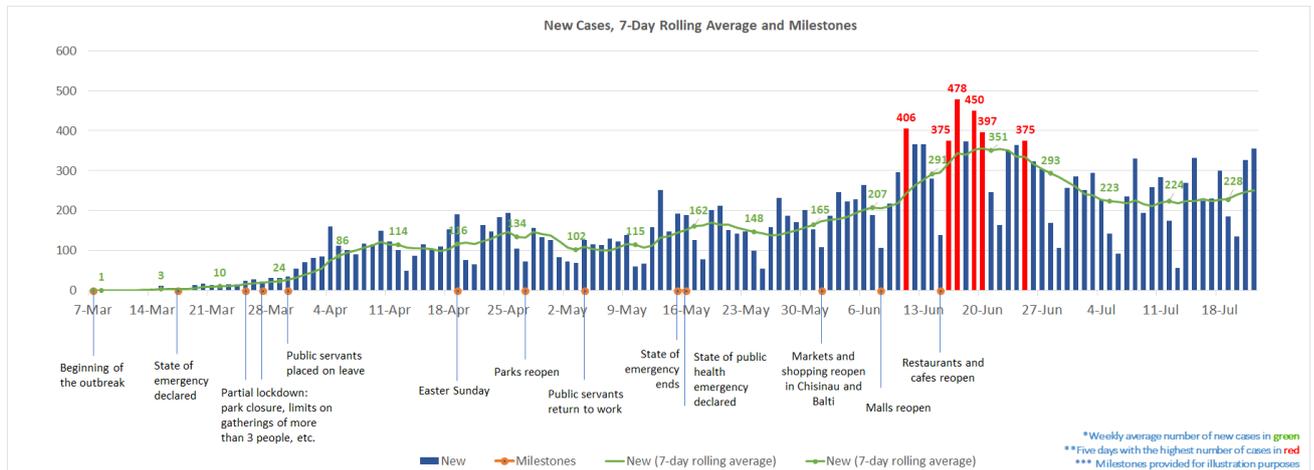
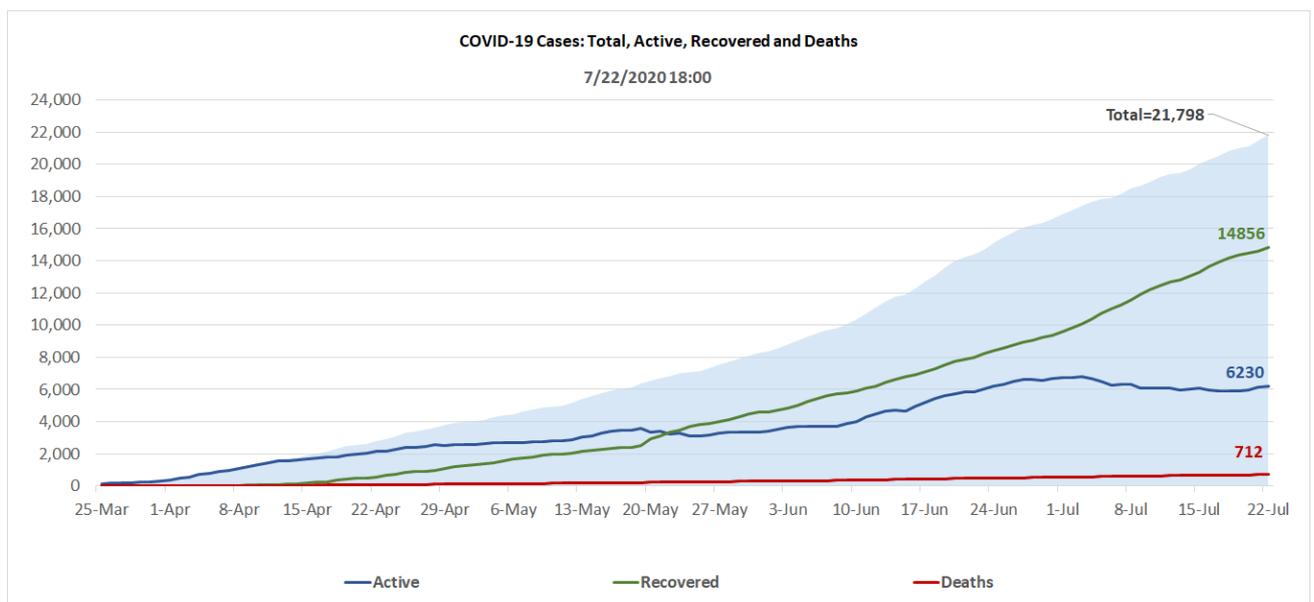
Data as at 23/07/2020, 12:00 p.m.

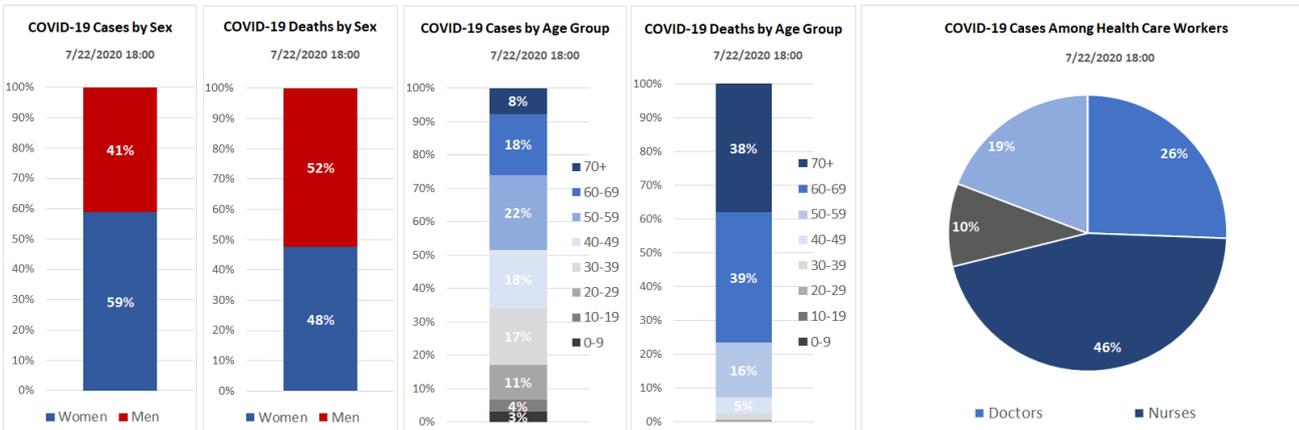
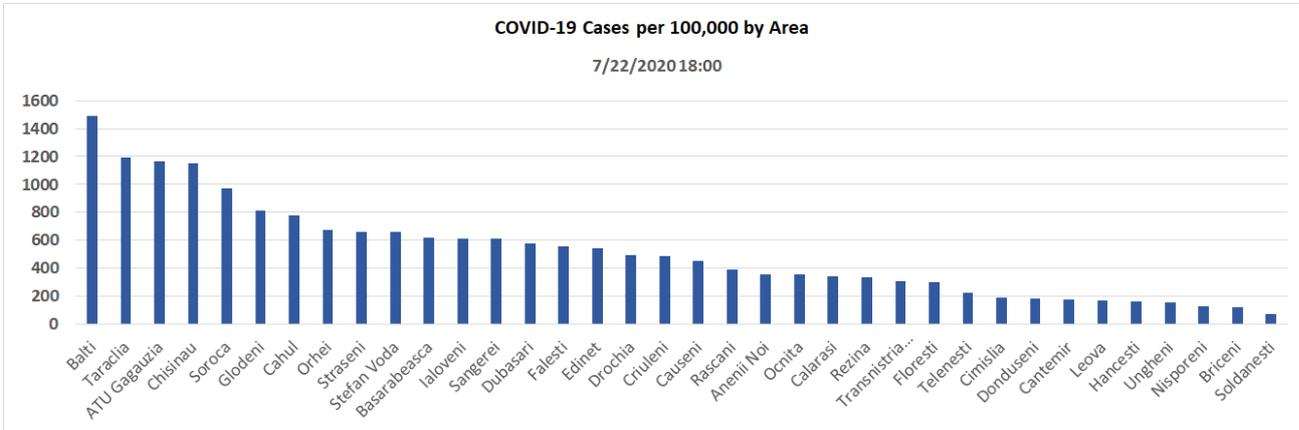
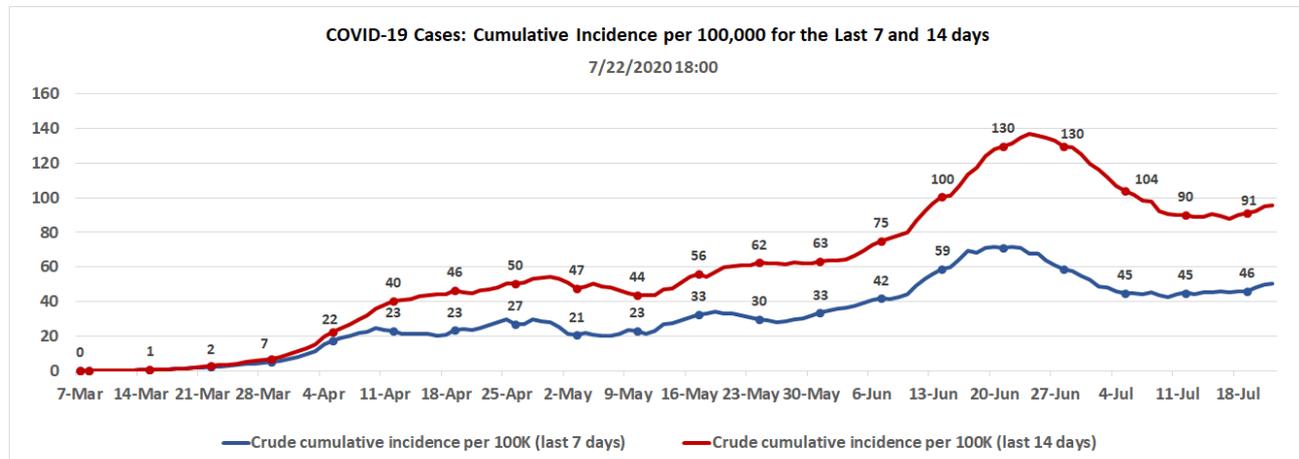
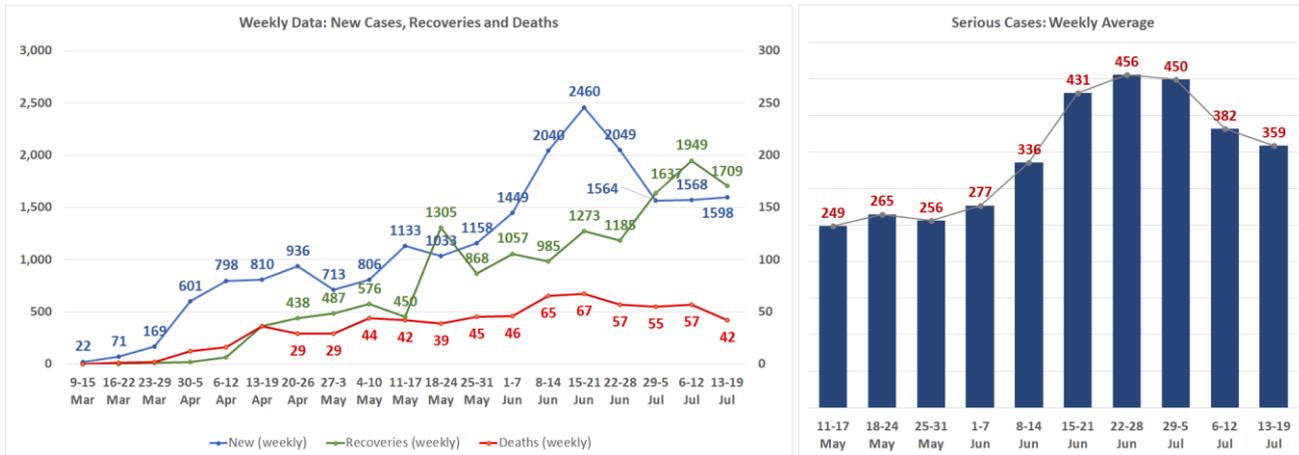
*Graphs and figures marked with an asterisk as of 22/07/2020, 6:00 p.m., to ensure consistency in reporting

- The number of cases continued to grow at a relatively steady pace, with a somewhat greater increase in cases being registered at the beginning of this week. The average number of daily cases over the past seven days stands at 251, which is about 25 cases more compared to the same figure last week. The total number of cases now stands at 21,798;
- The overall crude cumulative incidence of cases per 100,000 stands at 627. The crude cumulative incidence of cases over the last seven days is 51 and over the last 14 days is 96, with both of these figures registering a slight increase over the past week;
- The number of deaths continued to grow, with another 29 deaths being reported since the beginning of this week, including the one death reported this morning. The average number of daily deaths reported over the past seven days is 7.6*, which is somewhat higher compared to the 6.4 figure reported last week. The total number of deaths reached 713. 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 somewhat mixed picture regarding the evolution of the pandemic in the country. With 1,598 new cases reported, last week saw a slight - 2% - increase in the number of new cases compared to the previous week. The R0 number also increased slightly from 1.00 to 1.02. The average number of serious cases decreased to 359 last week (from 382 the previous week and 450 the week prior) but picked up again this week. The number of serious cases currently stands at 421, and the average number of serious cases over the past seven days is 380;
- After increasing for two weeks, the number of recoveries decreased by 26% last week compared to the previous week but continued to exceed the weekly number of new cases. The total number of patients who have recovered from the disease currently stands at 15,174;



- On the other hand, a more positive development was registered in terms of the number of fatalities, which decreased by 12% last week, with 15 less deaths being reported compared to the previous week;
- The share of health care workers in the total number of cases remained at 13% following the release of updated figures last week. Over 2,900 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 now 35% 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, Ialoveni and Straseni account for another 3-4% of all cases each. Overall, more than two in three 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 higher than that of women, 52% vs. 48%. Furthermore, the case fatality rate among men is higher than among women, 4.2%* vs. 2.6%*;
- Real time figures and graphs can be accessed [here](#) in Romanian and in Russian [here](#). This site has more than 1.86 million views to date.





Overview of Key Decisions & Announcements

- The Exceptional Commission on Public Health, chaired by the Prime Minister, is tentatively scheduled to meet virtually on 24 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

- On Monday, the Moldovan Parliament voted down a motion of no confidence in Ion Chicu's government. The coalition of Socialists and Democrats, as well as an independent lawmaker, Alexandru Oleinic, voted against the motion of no-confidence. A total of 93 out of 101 lawmakers took part in the session. The DA Platform and PAS parties submitted the no-confidence motion last week claiming that the government had failed to fulfill its responsibilities and had mismanaged the socio-economic crisis. According to local media, the legislative session was tense: M.P.s exchanged words and journalists were not initially allowed inside the room where the session was taking place. After a half-hour break, most Sor Party M.P.s were prevented from attending the session, since two of their M.P.s have been diagnosed with Covid-19. Opposition party members claimed that the ruling coalition had scheduled the meeting on Monday to prevent opposition parties from putting together 51 MPs to support the cabinet's dismissal. At the end of Monday, Parliament announced that its spring session had ended, and Parliament would enter into its summer recess until September. Parliament typically holds a spring session (February-July) and a fall session (September-December);
- Several hundred veterans of the Transnistrian conflict organized several days of protest in central Chisinau to demand the resignation of President Dodon and Prime Minister Chicu. The veterans stated the reason for the protests were that they were dissatisfied that the government has not provided them with social benefits, which were promised after similar protests in March and in May. Some of the protesters also demanded the removal of illegal checkpoints set up by the de facto structures in the security zone. The protest on Thursday, 16 July escalated into clashes with police, where some protesters were allegedly beaten. Amnesty International Moldova, opposition parties, and some civil society organizations condemned the use of force by security forces during the protest. The police from its side claimed that police officers did not use physical force against protesters. Some sources also reported that the protesters used hate speech during the protests, in an attempt to provoke the police. The Moldovan police have begun an investigation into the issue;
- President Igor Dodon convened a meeting of the Supreme Security Council next week in response to a request of the Democratic Party of Moldova. The Council reviewed the issue of illegal posts installed by Tiraspol in the Security Zone;
- The Party of Action and Solidarity (PAS) has officially nominated Maia Sandu to run for president in the November elections. This decision was made at a party meeting on 18 July;

- Azeri and Armenian diaspora members clashed in front of the Armenian Embassy during a protest and counter-protest. Police broke up the two groups, following some violence between them. Each side blamed each other for the recent flare up in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, where a number of soldiers from both sides have been killed recently.

Security

- NTR

Transnistria Region

- As of July 22, the Operational Headquarter from Tiraspol has reported a total number of 1,440 cases of COVID infections. Out of the total number of infected patients 1,168 (81%) have recovered, and 50 people or 3.5% have died. Sources of COVID infections were identified at two enterprises in Rybnita and one enterprise in Doibani village. A decision was signed by the de-facto leader that one working day worked by healthcare personnel during the pandemic period would be equal to three usual workdays. The new decision also allows healthcare personnel to take early pension;
- Early in the week, Moldova's delegation at the Unified Control Commission (CUC) issued a statement criticizing the de facto authorities for installing 37 illegal checkpoints in the Security Zone, in violation of the Moldovan-Russian agreement on July 21, 1992. The delegation noted that these actions "increasingly threaten the balance of powers in the Security Zone. /.../ These checkpoints are seriously affecting the freedom to travel and ultimately compromise the peacekeeping operation on both shores of the Nistru. Chisinau will continue to maintain its clear position on the checkpoints until they are eliminated;
- Later in the week, the Deputy Prime Minister (DPM) for Reintegration announced that the de facto authorities had shut down 15 out of the 37 illegal checkpoints it installed: six around the northern region of Bender, three in Mirenesti-Tiraspol, and one each in Proteagailovca, Hirbovat, Dzerjinscoie, Pohrebea, Cosnita, and Dorotcaia. The DPM stressed that neither the Bureau for Reintegration nor the CUC delegation want to escalate the situation and are instead dedicated to the peaceful resolution of the conflict;
- On July 21, the working group on telecommunications and postal services met. During the meeting, the parties reviewed the current situation of the fulfillment of obligations arising from the agreements signed in 2017-2018 on telecommunications and exchanged views on the prospects for further cooperation.

Economic Update

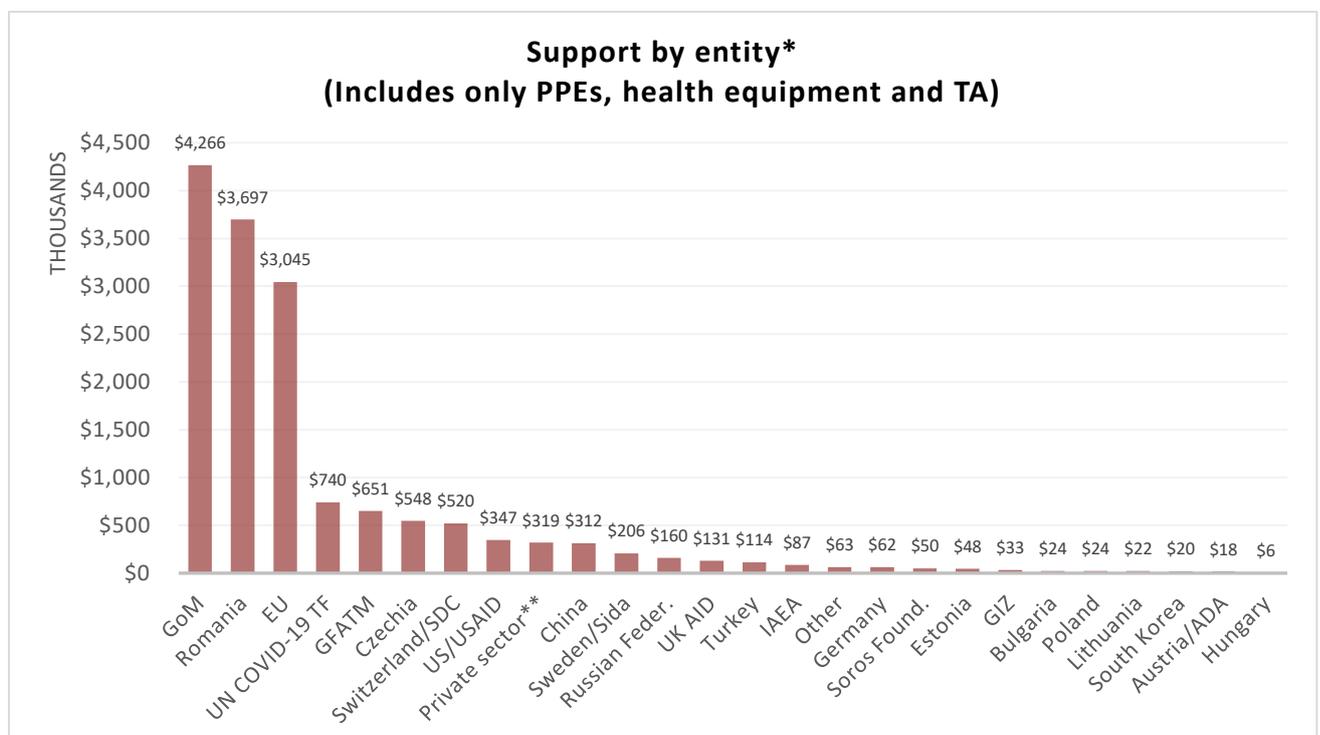
- According to the NBS, producers' prices increased by 0.3% in June'20 versus previous month and by 0.25% versus May'19. In particular, the prices in the extractive industry increased by 0.7% in June versus May'20, in the processing industry - went up by only 0.3%, while in the energy sector prices remained at the same level. Compared with the same period of the last year, processing industry prices increased by 3.5%, while prices for extractives showed a reduction by 1.5% and energy demonstrated 9.3% of price decline. As per the EU Major Industrial Group classification, the industry of intermediate products (except energy) increased its prices by 1.1%, while in the industry of capital/fixed assets, long-terms assets and energy industry goods the price increase was by 0.2%. At the same time, the prices on goods for current use remained at the level of May'20. At the same time, comparing June 2020 to December 2019, the producers prices for capital goods increased by 13.3%, for intermediary products (excluding energy) - by

3.4%, while the prices for goods of current use increased by 1.6%, prices for long-term assets - by 0.5%, yet prices for products and services related to energy sector went down by 10.4%;

- The NBS data on the industrial activity shows the industry slowed down its activity by 11.9% (May'20 versus same period 2019) primarily affected by a decline in extractives (-15.1%), manufacturing industry (-13.8%), production and supply of energy, gas, water (-5.5%), etc. Seasonally adjusted data for January-June 2020 versus same period of last year, is reflecting the period of Covid-19 emergency situation: industrial production declined by 7.6% similarly due to slowdown in the extractives (-6.2%), manufacturing (-6.2%), processing industry (-6.1%) and energy, gas, water supply (-6.0%). In May'20 versus May'19 food industry registered an increase of 13.5% (except processing of fruits and vegetables, bakery and pastry, which registered a decline by 35.5% and 2.8% accordingly). Manufacturing industry activity also declined in May'20 versus May'19: automotive production (-62.2%), production of electrical devices (-57.5%), wood processing except furniture (-53.2%), manufacturing of computers (-52.4%), production of equipment and machinery (-48.7%), furniture production (-45.6%), textile production (-45.1%), printing services (-38.3%), production of beverages (-25.3%), etc. Conversely, the following industry sub-sectors registered growth pattern: production of chemicals (+60.9%), repair and maintenance of equipment and machinery (14.4%), production of non-metal chemicals (+7.4%). Energy sector in May'20 registered decline by 0.9% versus same period 2019.

Aid Coordination

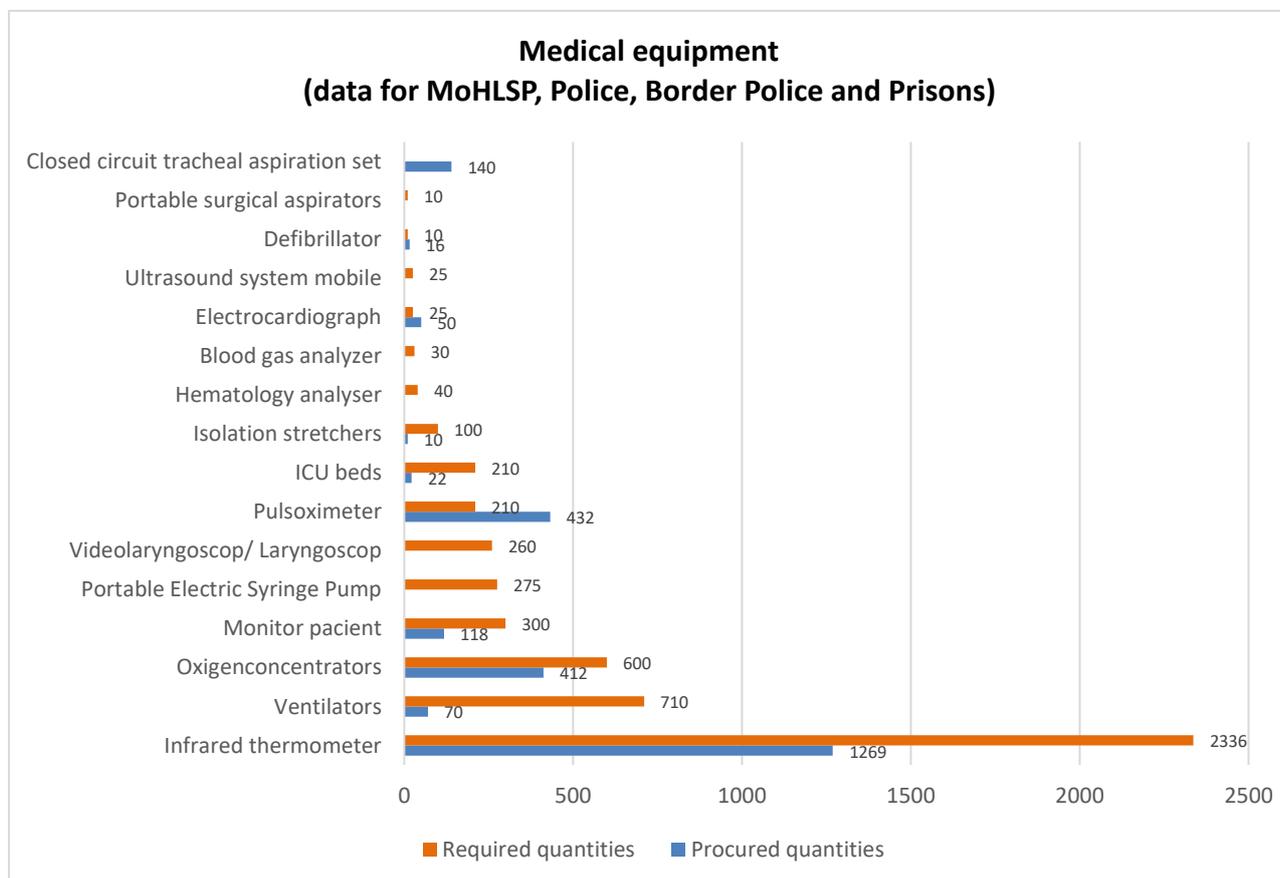
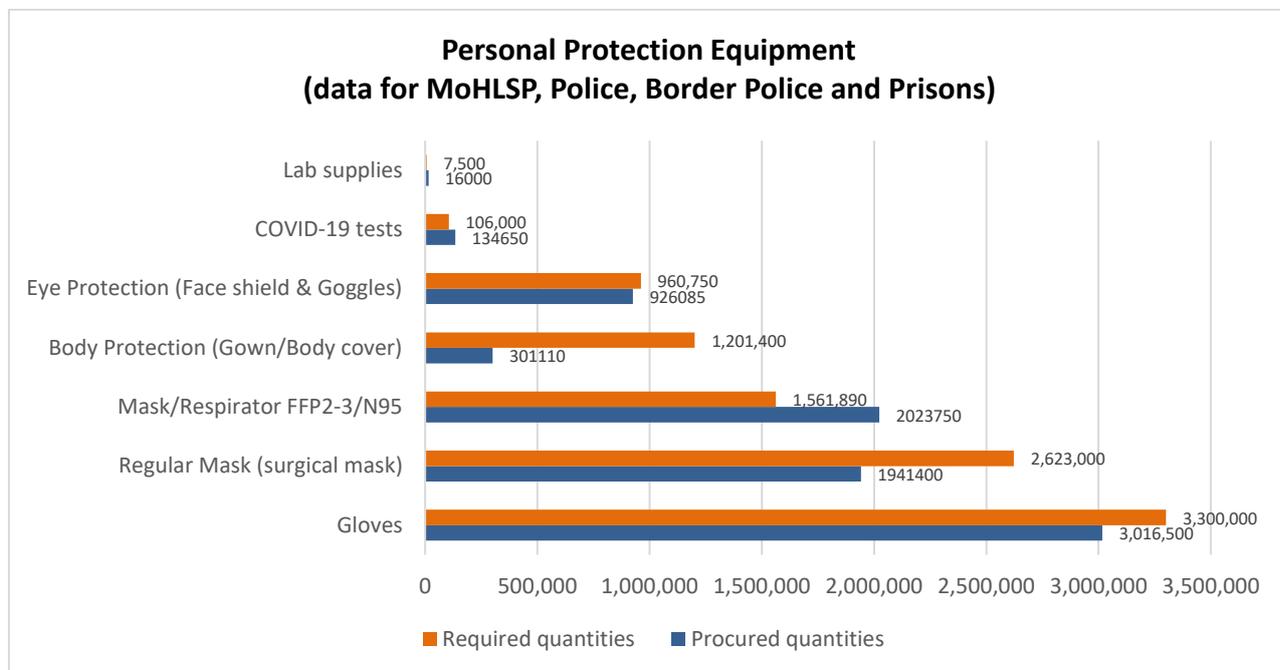
Mapping of contributions to the Health System for COVID response in Moldova



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

are confirmed. For more information please send an email to veaceslav.palade@un.org and/or garami@who.int

** Private sector companies: 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. 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

Response of the UN System in Moldova

Procurement support

- UNICEF, with Global Partnership for Education (GPE) catalytic fund for COVID-19 support, delivered 105 laptops to MECR, to be further distributed to digital libraries in all rayons in Moldova, and used for online classes by most in need children and teachers with no access to technology. The Directors of the Departments of Education from the Districts of Ialoveni, Hancesti and Cahul received the computers for their respective districts;
- One lot of laboratory equipment for COVID-19 response from IAEA for the National Agency for Public Health from Moldova in the amount of 21,080 Euro has arrived in Moldova. UNDP supported the clearance in customs and delivery arrangements to the beneficiary.

Assessments and Data

- A rapid assessment [report](#) was produced with UNICEF support and in cooperation with the MoHLSP and CCF, as part of the USAID funded Data for Impact project on the [Issues of Families with Children and Children's Rights Protection Professionals in the Context of COVID-19 Pandemic](#). The paper outlines the profile of the most affected families and children. The main challenges and bottlenecks in social service provision, also proposing short, medium- and long-term actions as recommendations for a variety of actors, including state authorities, civil society and development partners.

Socio-Economic Support

- In response to the challenges micro, small and medium enterprises face due to COVID-19 crisis, the International Labor Organization (ILO) and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) launched an information campaign, supported by the European Union under the EU4Business Initiative. The campaign consists of a series of webinars targeting SMEs between July and December 2020. The campaign covers the labor issues triggered by the pandemic, and SMEs will receive expert advice on how employment relationships can be preserved. The webinars covered the following issues: recovery from COVID-19: boosting enterprise productivity through skills development; business continuity: response to COVID-19, partial unemployment vs. lay-offs: an overview of measures agreed on by employers and workers and others. The first event took place on July 15th 2020. During the webinar, local and international experts shared their knowledge and expertise on the relevance of skills development for better productivity. It brought together nearly 35 participants, MSMEs and beyond;
- The ILO has recently published a [practical guide](#) on telework. The purpose of the Guide is to provide practical and actionable recommendations for effective teleworking that are applicable to a broad range of actors; to support policymakers in updating existing policies; and to provide a flexible framework through which both private enterprises and public sector organizations can develop or update their own teleworking policies and practices. The Guide also includes a number of case examples regarding how employers and policymakers have been handling teleworking during the COVID-19 pandemic and

addresses the lessons learned from the recent months that are relevant for the future of teleworking arrangements beyond the pandemic; including a list of available tools and resources;

- The Municipal Strategy for the Protection of the Rights of the Child 2020-2025, developed with UNICEF support, was approved at the last meeting of the Chisinau Municipal Council. The new policy document provides the framework for the protection of children's rights for the next 5 years, including during COVID-19 pandemic;
- The weekly meeting of the COVID-19 Socio-Economic Impact Task force took place on Wednesday, July 22, with presentations from the National Bureau of Statistics Deputy Director, Ms. Aurelia Spataru (on the adjusted Household budget survey to address COVID-19 impacts) and Ms. Svetlana Lopatina Secretary of the community Sustainable Development Platform (a cross-river cooperation platform on Human Rights established by the joint UN Project on Human Rights in partnership with SIDA);
- The UN Working Group on Socio-Economic Recovery and Response is finalizing the revised version of the UN Socio-Economic Recovery and Response Plan that consolidates the UN response to COVID-19.

Health

- The Ministry of Health, Labor and Social Protection with support of UNFPA reviewed and approved the “Regulation for ensuring access of vulnerable groups of reproductive age to contraception”, including during COVID-19. Sexual and reproductive health services, including family planning, are part of the essential package of health services that must be made available to the population during the public health emergency situations. The Regulation includes 12 groups of population who are eligible for free of charge contraceptives at the primary health care level, purchased from the state budget: people living with HIV and key populations at increased risk of HIV; victims/survivors of sexual abuse; victims/ survivors of the trafficking in human beings; survivors of extraordinary situations, humanitarian crises and public health emergencies; persons with refugee status; beneficiaries of humanitarian protection in the Republic of Moldova, asylum seekers, stateless persons and migrants; people with disabilities, including those in residential institutions; people with mental health problems, registered at psychiatrist, or family doctor; people who use drugs and other psychotropic substances, registered at the narcologist, people who have no income, or with low-incomes, adolescents and youth up to 24 years; women in the obstetric risk group, women in the somatic risk group (with chronic diseases and a risk of complication during pregnancy and childbirth); women who had an abortion on request during the last year. [Post and video here](#);
- UNICEF, with USAID funds, procured hygiene supplies for 41 Youth Clinics that provide primary health care services for adolescents and youth aged 10-24 y.o., especially those at risk;
- UNICEF, with USAID funds, supported staff from more than 60 maternity and perinatal care facilities to improve their knowledge and skills on care and support to pregnant and breastfeeding mothers and their children during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Education and youth

- UNICEF Europe and Central Asia prepared a guide on planning the school reopening: “Building Resilient Education Systems beyond the COVID-19 Pandemic: Considerations for education decision-makers at national, local and school levels” which was shared with the Ministry of Education, Culture and Research (MECR);

- UNICEF supported MECR in drafting the special regulations for the organization of the school year 2020-2021 and school reopening, based on the inputs from the members of the UN Coordinated Education Task Force for COVID-19;
- UNICEF, with support from USAID, is preparing a large-scale capacity building for administrators and teaching staff from schools and preschools on hygiene practices for students;
- UNICEF produced a [“Our Voices” blog post](#) for its UNICEF Europe and Central Asia (ECA) Regional Office, featuring the perspectives of a 15 years old adolescent girl from Moldova on how Covid-19 changes our way of life.

Gender

- UN Women, in partnership with Contact Center NGO, identified 50 newly elected women councilors from all over Moldova, for capacity development and awareness on gender equality, human rights and good governance. These three areas are key in undertaking their new roles as community leaders. Councilors participated in a two-day training session, which is part of a capacity building program for women councilors at their first mandate. The training sessions were conducted on 20-21 July, with another one for a group of 20 women Russian speakers on 23-24 July.

Human Rights

- NTR.

Communications

- The EU-funded "EVA" project implemented by UN Women and UNICEF released a video on the support provided to Ungheni district on protective equipment for public service providers to prevent gender-based violence. The support also included basic supplies for vulnerable families. The [video](#) reached over 1500 viewers on Facebook in one day;
- UNICEF, in coordination with WHO, and with USAID support, produced a new [LIVE talk show “Infodemie in pandemie”](#) with the participation of experts in media ethics and fake news from StopFals portal, with a recent journalism graduate, representing the voices of young people. The talk show was cross posted on several digital platforms, having 1.1K real time viewers, and a total of 12K views in one hour. A newly developed chatbot aimed to raise awareness about misinformation and educate the public on media literacy was presented during the aLIVE talk show;
- UNICEF produced a joint event with the MECR and a [joint press release](#) on the distribution of 105 laptops (procured from Global Partnership for Education catalytic funds for Covid-19) for most in need children and teachers, taken over widely by the media (36 mentions in TV, Radio, print and online media). Minister of Education, Culture and Research Igor Sarov and UNICEF Representative Desiree Jongsma attended the event;
- A new [Video](#) on Family Planning was produced with UNFPA Moldova support in partnership with the Ministry of Health, Labor and Social Protection, and Media Platform Suntparinte.md, aiming to increase the awareness of the population on the provisions of the newly approved Regulation on ensuring vulnerable groups with modern contraceptives. The video stipulates 12 categories/ groups of population

who are eligible for freely distributed contraceptives at the PHC level, purchased from the State Budget within the National Programme on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights. Among them there are also - the survivors of public health emergencies and humanitarian crises, persons with refugee status, beneficiary of humanitarian protection and migrants. It also reflects the range of contraceptives available for distribution, by whom the family planning counselling could be provided, and how to access the preferred method of contraception. The [video](#), widely shared through social media by UNFPA, as well as the Ministry of Health, Labor and Social Protection and Media Platform [Suntparinte.md](#);

- UNICEF and WHO, with USAID funds, supported the risk and crisis communication group (RCCG) in producing a series of laminated flyers on COVID-19 prevention to be used in HORECA facilities;
- UNDP has published a press-release about the global Multidimensional Poverty Index, a measure that looks beyond income to include access to safe water, education, electricity, food and six other indicators. In three scenarios of varying deterioration degree in which 10, 25 and 50 percent of people who are multidimensionally poor or vulnerable become undernourished, and half of primary school-aged children no longer attend school, poverty levels could be set back 8 to 10 years;
- UNDP published a press-release on the report [Temporary Basic Income: Protecting Poor and Vulnerable People in Developing Countries](#), which concludes that the measure is feasible and urgently needed, particularly in developing countries, where seven out of ten workers make a living through informal markets and cannot earn money if they are at home. It is also financially within reach: a six-month Temporary Basic Income, for example, would require just 12 percent of the total financial response to COVID-19 expected in 2020, or the equivalent of one-third of what developing countries owe in external debt payments in 2020.