

Coronavirus Disease - COVID 19

Situation Report No. 23 (9 July 2020)



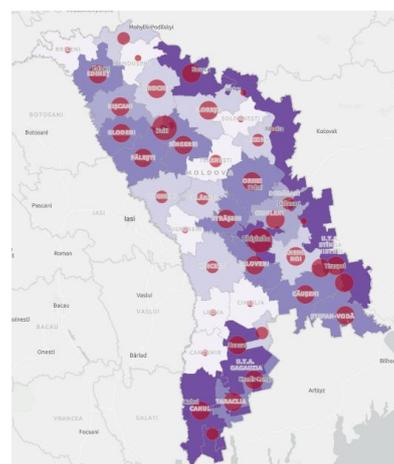
COVID-19
RESPONSE



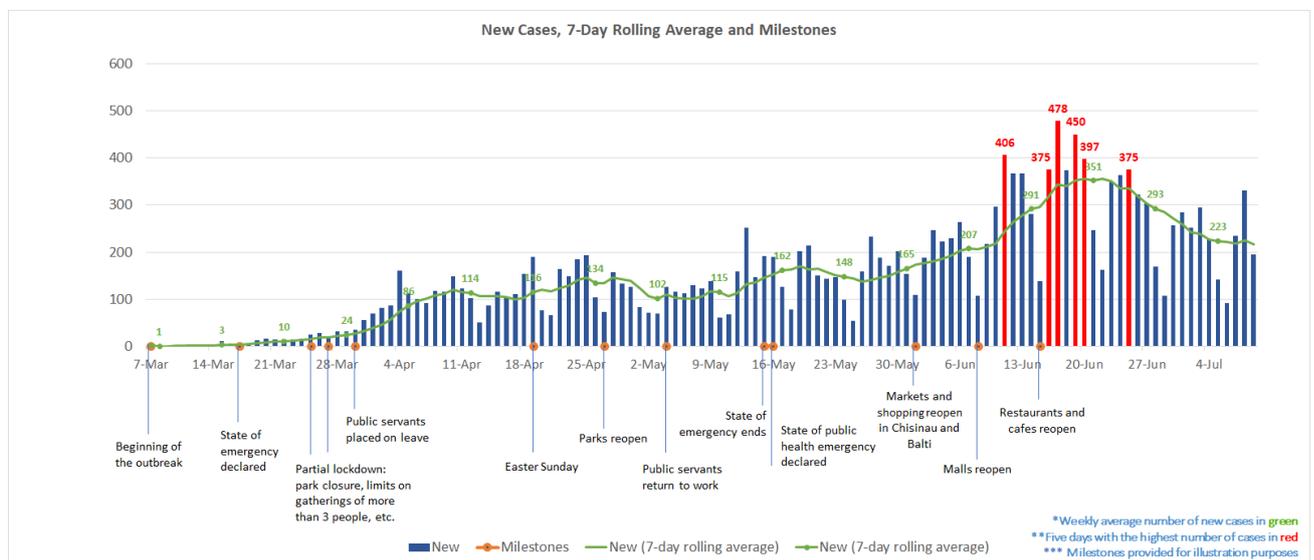
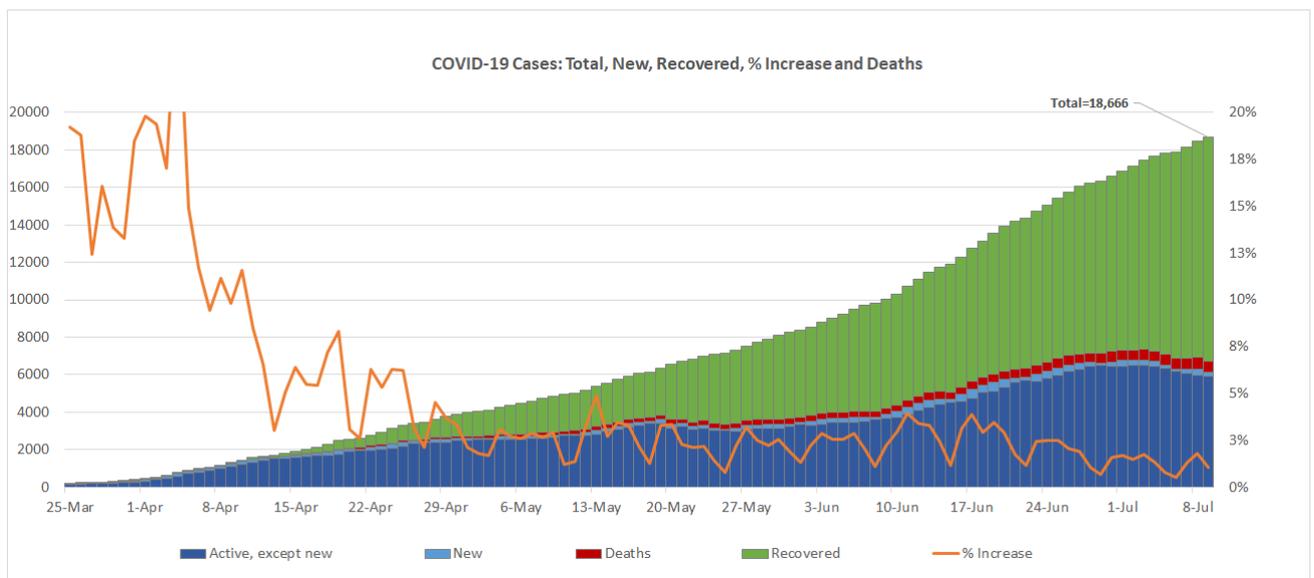
This report is produced by UN Moldova in collaboration with Government and development/humanitarian partners.

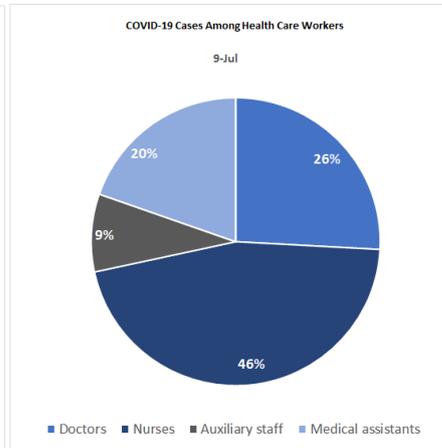
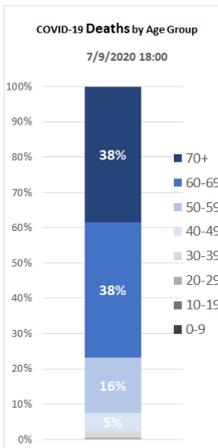
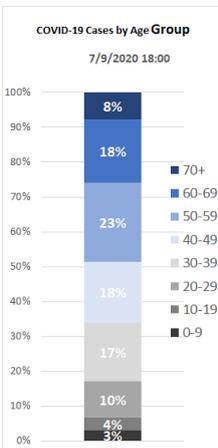
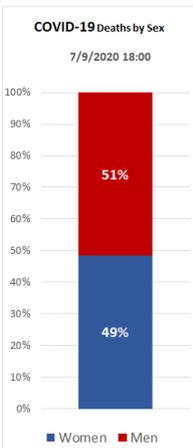
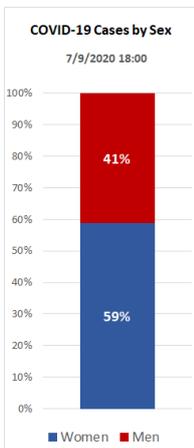
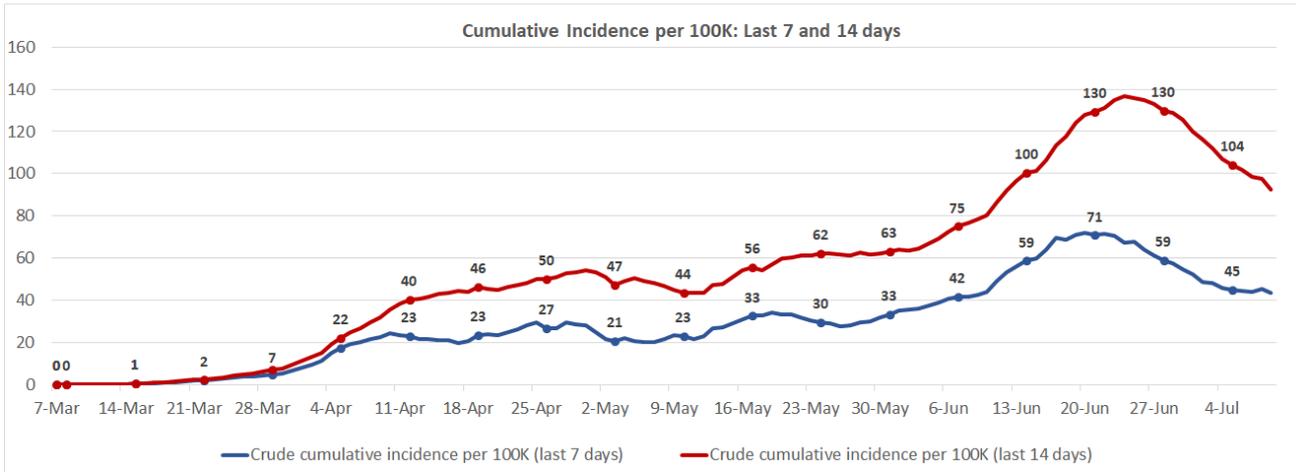
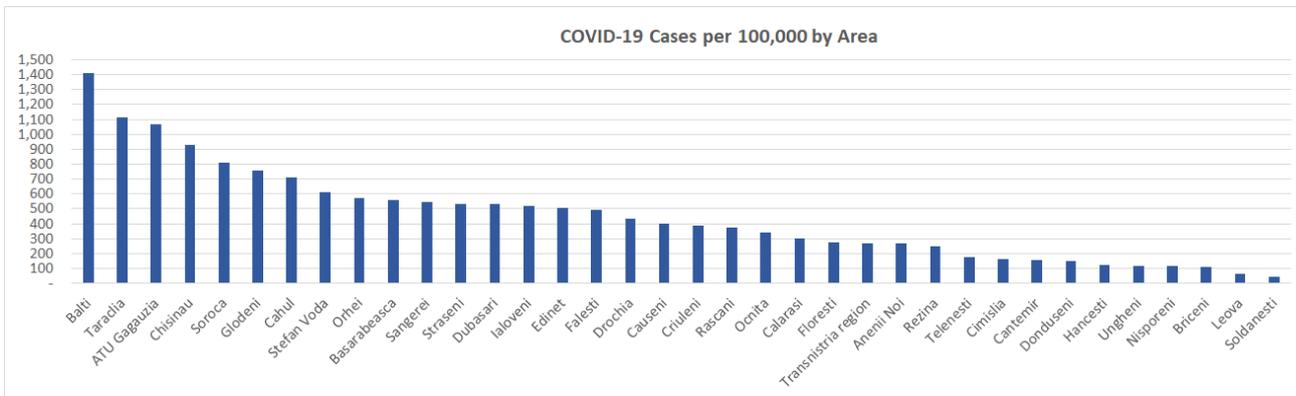
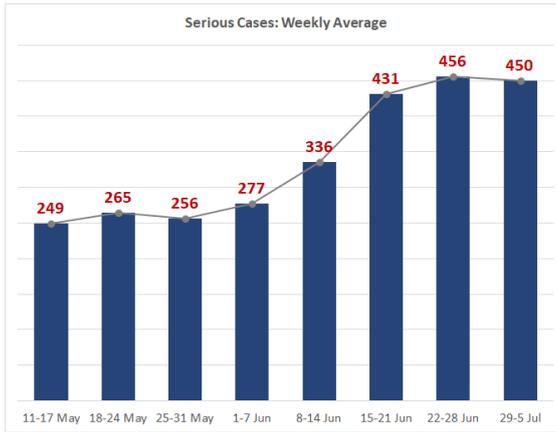
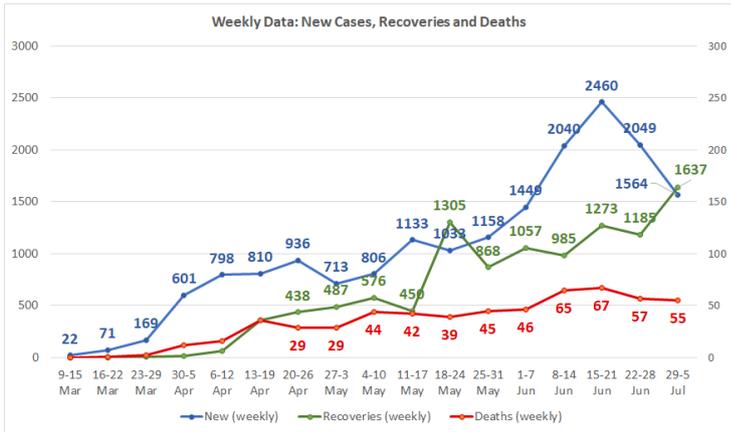
Highlights – data as reported by national authorities

- The number of cases continued to grow but at a somewhat slower rate compared to previous weeks. Another 195 new cases were reported today, bringing the total number of cases to 18,666. The average number of daily cases reported over the past seven days is 217;
- The overall crude cumulative incidence of cases per 100,000 stands at 537. The crude cumulative incidence of cases over the last 7 days is 44 and over the last 14 days is 92, with both of these figures registering a decrease over the past week;
- The number of deaths continued to grow, with another 39 deaths being reported since the beginning of this week. The average number of daily deaths reported over the past seven days is 9.1, which is somewhat higher than the same figure last week. The total number of deaths reached 624 today. The case fatality rate currently 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 continue to show some positive developments regarding the number of new cases and deaths. With 1,564 new cases reported, last week saw a 24% decrease in the number of new cases compared to the previous week. The number of deaths also decreased slightly, with 2 less deaths being reported. In addition, the R0 number decreased from 0.94 to 0.86;
- Weekly data show a considerable increase in the number of recoveries as well. About 38% more recoveries were reported last week compared to the previous week. Furthermore, for the first time in six weeks, the number of recoveries exceeded the number of new cases last week. The total number of patients who have recovered from the disease currently stands at 11,936. This represents 64% of the total number of cases;
- After hovering around the 450 mark for a couple of weeks, the average number of patients in serious condition decreased gradually and now stands at 376. The average number of patients in serious condition over the past seven days is 411;



- The share of health care workers continued to decrease gradually in the total number of cases. Currently, slightly under 14% of confirmed cases are health care workers. Nearly 2,590 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. Balti, ATU Gagauzia and the Transnistria region follow in the list of most affected areas, accounting for 7-8% 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, 51% vs. 49%. Furthermore, the case fatality rate among men is higher than among women, 4.2% vs. 2.8%;
- Real time figures and graphs can be accessed [here](#) in Romanian and in Russian [here](#). This site has more than 1.8 million views to date.





Overview of Key Decisions & Announcements

- The UN RC and WHO representative had a meeting with the Prime Minister, Ion Chicu, on July 6, to discuss the evolution of the epidemiological situation in the Republic of Moldova;
- The state of National Public Health Emergency is due to expire on July 15, it is not clear at this time if this will be extended;
- The Voluntary National Review Report will be presented by the Government of Moldova on July 16th. The event will be broadcasted online via platform: <http://webtv.un.org/> as well as all formal events of the 2020 UN ECOSOC High Level Political Forum. The VNR Report can be accessed on: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/memberstates/moldova;>
- The VNR Lab “**National experience of the SDG implementation and review processes in the Republic of Moldova**” will be held on July 15 at 8:00 pm to 9:00 pm (Chisinau time). For participation, you can access this link to [register](#) before July 13, 5:00 pm;
- The National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) released the revised population and migration data. The main reported findings are related to the fact that Moldova's population number decreased with 1.7% in just one year to a total population number of 2,640.4 thousand people (51.9% women and 48.1% men). The main driver of the shrink of the population number is emigration (46% of emigrants are aged 21 - 40 years old). In general, the population number of the Republic of Moldova decreased by 8% in the last 7 years.

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 remain unchanged.

Political Situation

- Stefan Gatcan, a former PSRM M.P. who quit the party to join Pro Moldova, then apparently resigned and vanished from the country, resurfaced on Facebook and then in parliament to say that he has rejoined the Socialist Party and is withdrawing a complaint he made on June 30 at the Prosecutor General's office;
- The organization of three legislative sessions, where Prime Minister Ion Chicu was to submit to parliament four bills that the government had passed, failed after PAS, PPDA, and Pro Moldova M.P.s boycotted the meetings and deprived the parliament of a quorum. Among the bills proposed by the cabinet were an increase of medical workers' wages and compensations to agricultural producers. On the fourth attempt, the ruling coalition of the Socialists (which included the deputy Gatcan, who had tried to leave the party last week) and the Democrats, with the support of one independent deputy (Olenic) managed a quorum of 51 deputies and the bills passed. The opposition parties again boycotted the vote, but they did not have enough deputies to block the bills from passing;

- The Constitutional Court ruled on Tuesday that Presidential elections cannot be held together with parliamentary elections in Moldova. In addition, the Constitutional Court clarified that the parliament cannot be dissolved six months before the presidential term of office expires;
- Slightly over 20 percent of respondents would vote for Igor Dodon if presidential elections were held next Sunday, says an opinion poll conducted by iData sociological company. Maia Sandu would be second with 18.2 per cent. Maia Sandu is followed by Ilan Sor with 4.3 per cent and Renato Usatii with 3.6 per cent, while Andrei Nastase would get less than 2 percent;
- The Austrian government announced on Wednesday it is issuing travel warnings for Romania, Moldova and Bulgaria because of the worsening coronavirus situation in these countries. Anyone who travels to these countries despite the travel warning would need to enter into a 14-day home quarantine upon returning to Austria or show a negative Covid 19 test.

Security

- NTR.

Transnistria Region

- The OSCE Mission to Moldova has expressed its serious concern to the sudden cancelation, by the de facto authorities of the Transnistria region, of permits for the residents of the left bank to travel to the right bank of Moldova. They also stated that this step has severely impacted the people and negatively affects confidence-building in the Transnistria region settlement process. They further stated that while health-related measures are necessary to prevent the spread of Covid-19, a working mechanism needs to be in place that allows people to commute to their places of work, to access healthcare and other pressing needs even during the pandemic. All checkpoints established in relation to the Transnistria region quarantine measures should be dismantled once the Covid-19 situation is under control;
- On July 2, a group of people protested on the Ribnita-Rezina bridge because of the cancelation of permits for Ribnita residents to go to work on the right bank. Following the protest, Ghennadie Ciorba, leader of the “Transnistria Our Common Home” Movement, was arrested and jailed for ten days for allegedly organizing the protest. The de facto security agencies are currently conducting an investigation of Ciorba, who may face criminal charges. The local media in the region for its part has spent more time focused on Ciorba’s possible role in the protest rather than on the protest itself;
- The de facto leader stated during a meeting with the U.S. Ambassador that he feels negotiations with Chisinau are practically at a standstill. The possibilities of resuming normal dialogue are not yet clear to him. He believes the sides have a build-up of humanitarian and social problems, many of which have lingered on for years. He feels these problems, which are not tied to the pandemic, must also be dealt with. In his opinion officials must not use the pandemic as an excuse for lack of actions. It is necessary to find all possibilities to resume normal communications;
- As per the latest decisions of the de-facto authorities, local entrepreneurs will be able to suspend their activity and to deduct or postpone payment of local taxes. In March and April, 6,000 people have received this financial support/compensation. In May, the number was 4.300 people. Small businesses will get similar support in the form of reimbursement of tax related expenses from the local budget for the period the companies were on hold. On a related note, the local budget is expected to have a deficit of 5 million

USD due to the outbreak. Due to this expected deficit many social programmes and projects will be closed or postponed until 2022;

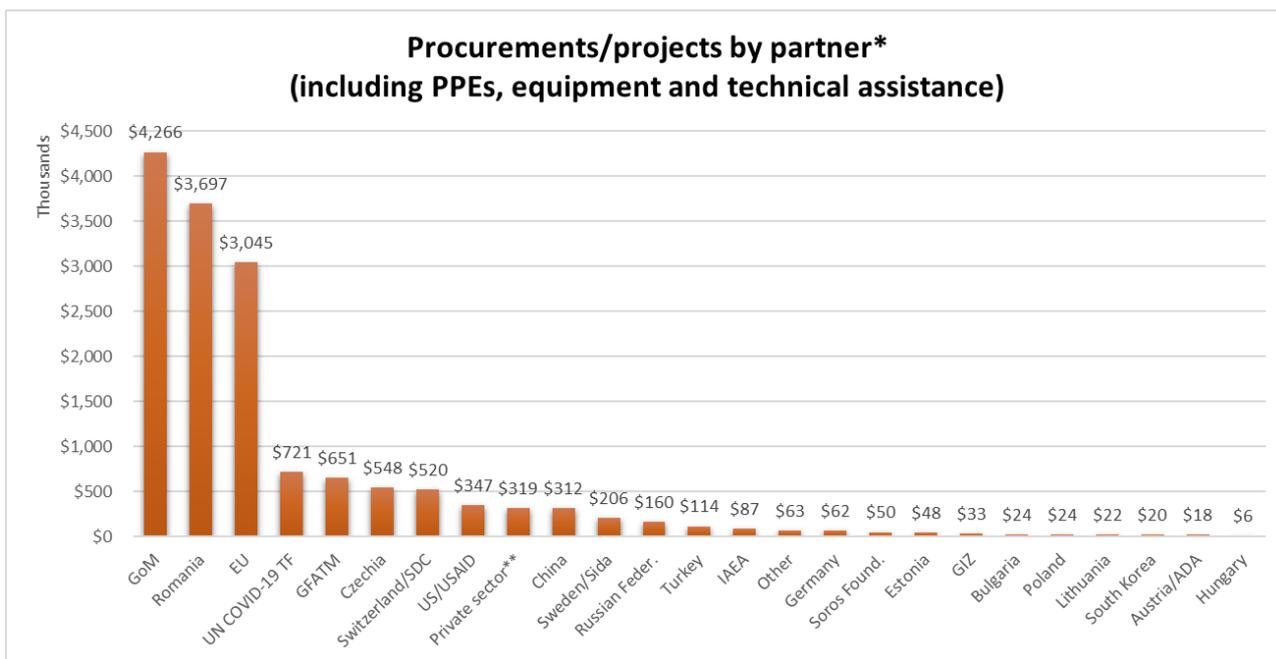
Economic Update

- A recent [poll](#) (conducted by iData company during June 20-July 4, 2020 on 1,511 respondents with a 2.5-percent margin of error) showed that 22 percent of respondents lost their incomes during the Covid-19 crisis and 4 percent had to sell their belongings to handle the crisis. About 48.4 percent of respondents used savings, 35.2 percent saved on other items to handle necessity expenses, 30 percent borrowed money, and 3.9 percent sold personal goods. About 55 percent of respondents said most expenses went to food, followed by health care (about one third) and home maintenance (about one quarter);
- In 2018, the NBS with support from the World Bank reconsidered the methodology for calculation of national absolute poverty line that was established back in 2006 and was hence no longer in line with the changing structure of population incomes and expenditures, their consumption patterns, living conditions, as well as introduction of the notion on decent minimum instead of subsistence minimum. Subsequently, based on 2018 methodology the NBS recalculated the poverty data for 2019 and the absolute poverty line reached 1,819.2 lei and extreme poverty line stood at 1,467.2 lei monthly per adult (both being based on 2016 prices). Based on the new methodology, almost a quarter of the population was poor in 2018. At the same time, both the poverty depth (3.09%) and severity of poverty (0.85%) have been declining since 2014. However, rural poverty reached 31.6% while urban poverty stood at only 10.6% indicating a big imbalance between the level of well-being and poverty risks in terms of territorial profile. At the same time, the NBS data suggest that households composed of 5 members are 2.2 times more exposed to the poverty risks than households with one member. Noteworthy is the correlation between the educational background of the household's head and the poverty rates: the risks of being pushed into poverty for households in which its head (main supporter) has higher education is lower. Furthermore, every additional educational degree obtained by the head of households might reduce poverty from 5.2% (in case of HH's head with higher education) to 48.5% (in case of HH's head with no education). In terms of household composition, the poorest are households with 3+ children;
- As of June 30 2020, official NBM reserves reached US\$ 3,193.55 mln which is 1.8% increase compared to the previous month. This increase is due to (i) NBM interventions for procurement of foreign currency (ii) loans and grants provided to the GoM (iii) revenues from administration of currency reserves (iv) appreciation against the US\$ of the bundle of reserve's currencies (v) net inflows to the Office for Management of External Assistance Programmes (vi) net inflows as a result of mandatory requirements on the foreign currency reserves by commercial banks.

Aid Coordination

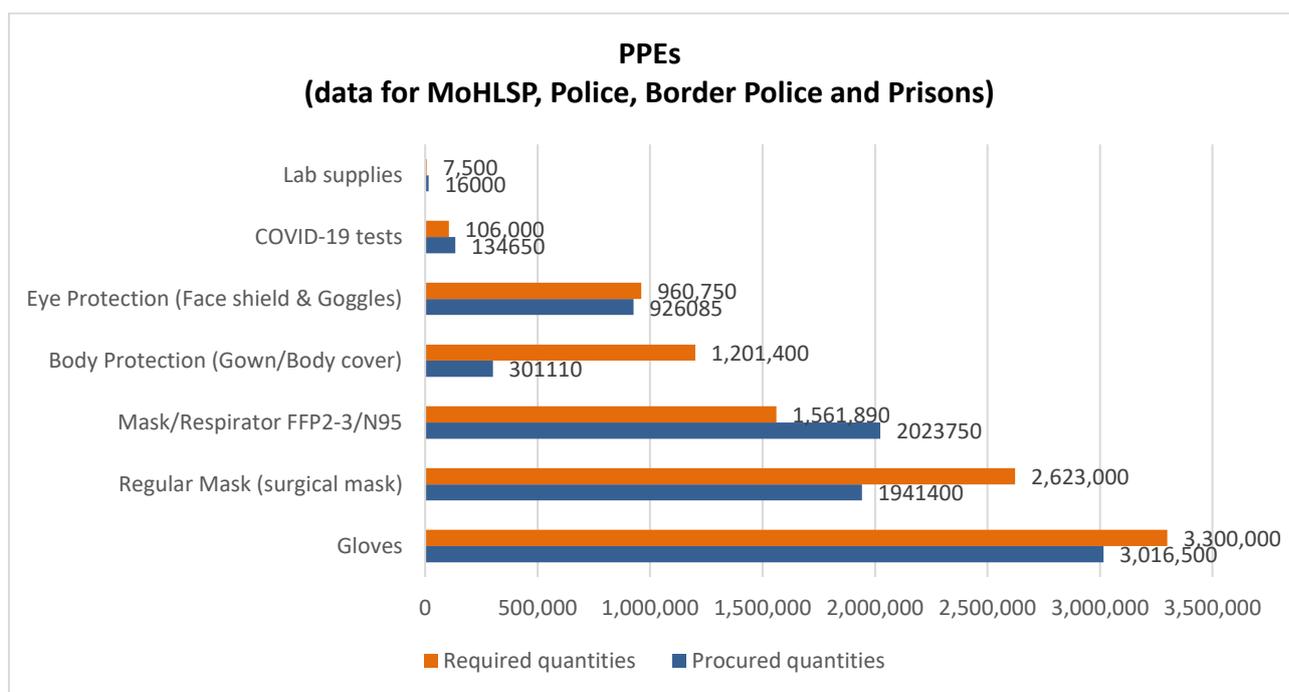
- A Cost-sharing Agreement between UK FCO and UNDP was signed on 9 July 2020. The contribution of GBP 160,000 (US\$ 197,775) will be used to cover emergency needs arising from COVID-19 in Moldova, including Transnistria, as well humanitarian support to the most vulnerable populations in Transnistria identified in collaboration with OHCHR.

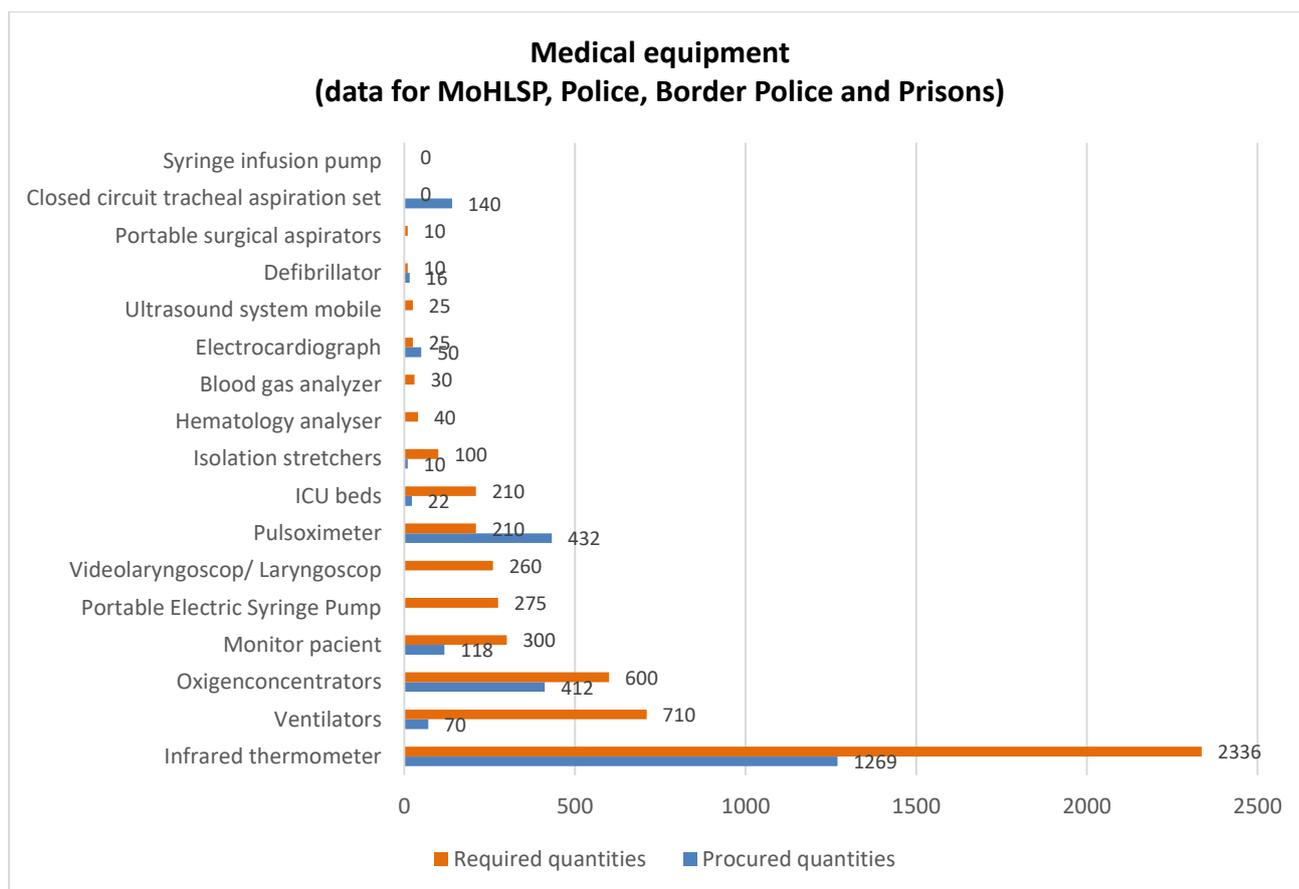
Mapping of contributions to the Health System for COVID response in Moldova



*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 and/or garami@who.int

** Private sector companies: Orange Moldova, Lismedfarm 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

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 procured locally, as part of the Response and Recovery Trust Fund project, 3,000 units of gowns and coveralls for Border Police. Supplies will be delivered early next week;
- UNICEF, with USAID support, initiated the procurement of hygiene items for residential educational institutions prioritized by MoECR. A total of 11 schools and preschool institutions out of 14 will receive support with 3 institutions being covered previously;
- UNICEF, with USAID support, initiated the procurement of hygiene supplies for 41 Youth Clinics that provide PHC services for adolescents and youth aged 10-24 y.o., especially those vulnerable and at risk, as part of primary health care.

Assessments and Data

- UNFPA in partnership with the MoHLSP have re-launched the data collection under the Generations and Gender Survey, that includes a special COVID-19 section assessing the impact of pandemic on the following areas: family life, work-life balance, gender relations, fertility intention, income, health, intergenerational support etc. The survey will provide comparable and disaggregated data on country's situation before and post-COVID19 period;
- With UNFPA support, a series of online training sessions on COVID-19 preventive measures and how to use PPE equipment have been initiated under the Generations and Gender Survey. The training will be conducted by an expert on Health from the National Agency for Public Health;
- On July 3 2020, the National Bureau of Statistics released the revised population and migration data. The main findings reported are related to the fact that Moldova's population has reduced with 1.7% in just one year to a total population number of 2,640.4 thousand people (51.9% women and 48.1% men). The main driver of the shrink of the number of population is emigration - 46% of emigrants are aged 21 - 40 years old. In general, the population number of the Republic of Moldova decreased by 8% in the last 7 years.

Socio-Economic Support

- The Socio-Economic Taskforce meeting was held on Wednesday, July 8, with presentations from UNFPA and National Bureau of Statistics, WB and Tekwill. UNFPA /NBS provided updates on the population and migration data, the WB presented the major highlights of the Enterprise survey and Tekwill showcased its building new skills programmes;
- The UN Working Group on UN Socio-Economic Recovery and Response in in the process of updating the UN Socio-Economic Response and Recovery Plan (SERR Plan) to respond to the most current context with COVID19 recovery programming under 5 Pillars – Health, Social Protection and Basic Services, Economic Response, Macro-economic Response and Multilateral Cooperation, Social Cohesion and Community Resilience;
- UNDP Launched the grants for local economic and migrants' driven development as part of the Migration and Local Development project funded by the Swiss Development Cooperation (SDC). The grants were provided to projects that presented an innovative model for post-COVID recovery solutions for the local communities.

Health

- A set of guidelines developed by UNODC Regional Office were shared with the police authorities, including with left bank df authorities. The guides are meant to assist law enforcement agencies to respond to COVID-19 pandemic. These are to serve as initial reference for law enforcement officers, from health and human rights perspectives within the framework of national responses and in support of UN joint strategies. In responding to such events, law enforcement agencies and respective ministries must consider response to the problems by formulating a three-level command structure, Gold (strategic), Silver (tactical) and Bronze (operational);

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- UNICEF continued to provide support to the Ministry of Health, Labor and Social Protection in development of a new National Health Strategy 2030, focusing among others on equitable access for vulnerable groups for quality health services;
 - With USAID support, UNICEF developed several online training courses on care and support to pregnant and breastfeeding mothers and their children during the COVID-19 pandemic. The trainings are ready to start as of next week. Two training sessions are aimed for healthcare providers from 12 perinatal centers and representatives from primary healthcare facilities. The 12 perinatal centers cater 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;
 - WHO Regional Office for Europe donated EUR 41,000 worth of consumables and laboratory reagents; the kits for testing of SARS-CoV-2 arrived in Chisinau today;
 - Also, the team of the Laboratory within the National Agency for Public Health was provided with personal protective equipment, which will ensure compliance with biosafety rules and the protection of laboratory specialists.

Education and youth

- The UNFPA and Ministry of Education, Culture, and Research (MoECR) joint program for youth in the context of Covid-19 - "My choice is to be OK" was successfully completed on the July 3 when the [final session took place](#). The program lasted 3 months and included 24 sessions in Romanian and Russian life streamed twice a week on the Facebook page of the MoECR. The sessions were conducted by professional psychologists with the participation of young people and addressed important subjects like how to cope with the stress caused by Covid-19, online security, how to maintain harmonious relationships with friends but also with family members and many more. Thousands of young people and teachers received guidance and support during the pandemic period;
- UNICEF led the regular UN Coordinated Education Task Force for COVID-19, which 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 the Ministry of Education, Culture and Research to address the challenges and effects of COVID-19 on education.

Gender

- UNFPA is working with the Women's Law Center and Ministry of Health, Labor and Social Protection on the development of statistical forms on GBV to be collected in the health information system. In present, drafts are developed of the register for the GBV recording in the Primary and Hospital health sectors and corresponding reporting forms;
- UN Women in partnership with WLC and MoHLSP finalized the development of the intersectoral mechanism on EVAW area. The document will be presented further to the line ministries for consultations and final approval;
- UN Women in partnership with ALEG NGO and National Coalition Life without Violence organized 4 mentoring sessions with 10 CSO's and 6 women survivors of violence/positive champions on the available essential services, gender mainstreaming and personal development;

- On July 9, the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova approved in the second reading the legislative package on EVAW area. For the above, UNW supported through WLC the MoHLSP in elaboration of the compatibility report of national legislation in line with Istanbul Convention. This represents one more step towards the ratification of the Istanbul Convention;
- UN Women provided an online workshop organized for over 40 women mayors and women councilors who improved their knowledge on management of public services, in the framework of “Women4Leadership” Academy on July 3 2020, undertaken by Center Contact Cahul and Institutum Virtutes Civilis, in partnership with UN Women;
- Nearly 50 newly elected women councilors enhanced their skills on gender equality, human rights and good governance due to their participation within two 2-days training sessions, which are part of a complex capacity building program for women councilors at their first mandate, implemented by Center Contact in partnership with UN Women.

Human Rights

- UNODC is supporting the National Prisons Administration by equipping remote-justice rooms during COVID19 pandemics. Since the quarantine restrictions were lifted a big number of prisoners are taken out of prisons for hearing with persecutors or judiciary courts to continue the criminal investigation process, which increases the risk of infection with COVID19 among prisoners. As of June 1, up to 1,200 prisoners were scheduled for hearing outside prisons or detaining pre-trial centers. Thus, in order to ensure the access to justice and reduce the risk of acquiring COVID19 infection, 4 criminal investigation isolators will be arranged in prisons in Chisinau, Balti, Cahul and Rezina. These rooms will ensure access to court hearings, criminal investigation process and lawyer meetings via teleconference. Those premises are also envisaged for hosting short-term visits with the relatives.

Communications

- Following the distribution of educational kits with Global Partnership for Education, UNICEF produced a [video human interest story](#) and a [photo gallery](#) featuring a beneficiary from Nisporeni city, a child with special educational needs;
- A [video](#) of a joint UNFPA and UN Women campaign “MenEngage” featuring stories of men sharing household and care work with their partners during the COVID-19 outbreak was launched on Sunday. As of today, the video reached 3477 unique views on UN Women Moldova Facebook page;
- RCO together with WHO have supported the Ministry of Health, Labor and Social Protection to develop one additional animated [video](#) for the communication campaign on COVID19 on the importance of wearing masks in public spaces. The video was produced with support from Sweden;
- RCO updated at the request of the Ministry of Health, Labor and Social Protection [the video](#) on calls to emergency number 122 when prevention rules established are not being followed. The production and update of the video was done with support from Sweden;
- IOM in collaboration with RCO has ensured the visibility to the first delivery of equipment to Border Police within the UN SG COVID-19 Trust Fund project. Press release [here](#);

- RCO is supporting the Ministry of Health, Labor and Social Protection with translation into Russian of communication materials/press releases on COVID19. This is possible due to support from Sweden;
- UNDP has published a photo essay & video story about a reanimatologist from Causeni, engaged in saving the lives of patients with COVID-19. Causeni district hospital was the first district medical institution to offer medical services for treating and triage of COVID cases and received 1 of the 10 ventilators donated by Switzerland/SDC via UNDP.