

Coronavirus Disease - COVID 19

Situation Report No. 28 (14 August 2020)

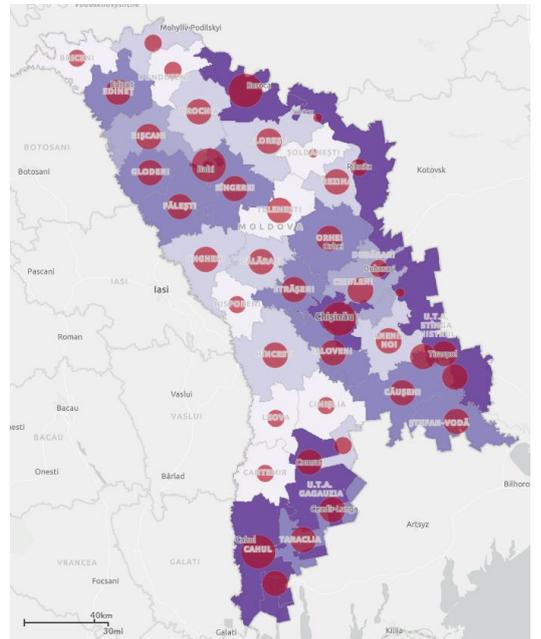


This report is produced by UN Moldova in collaboration with Government and development/humanitarian partners.

Highlights – data as reported by national authorities

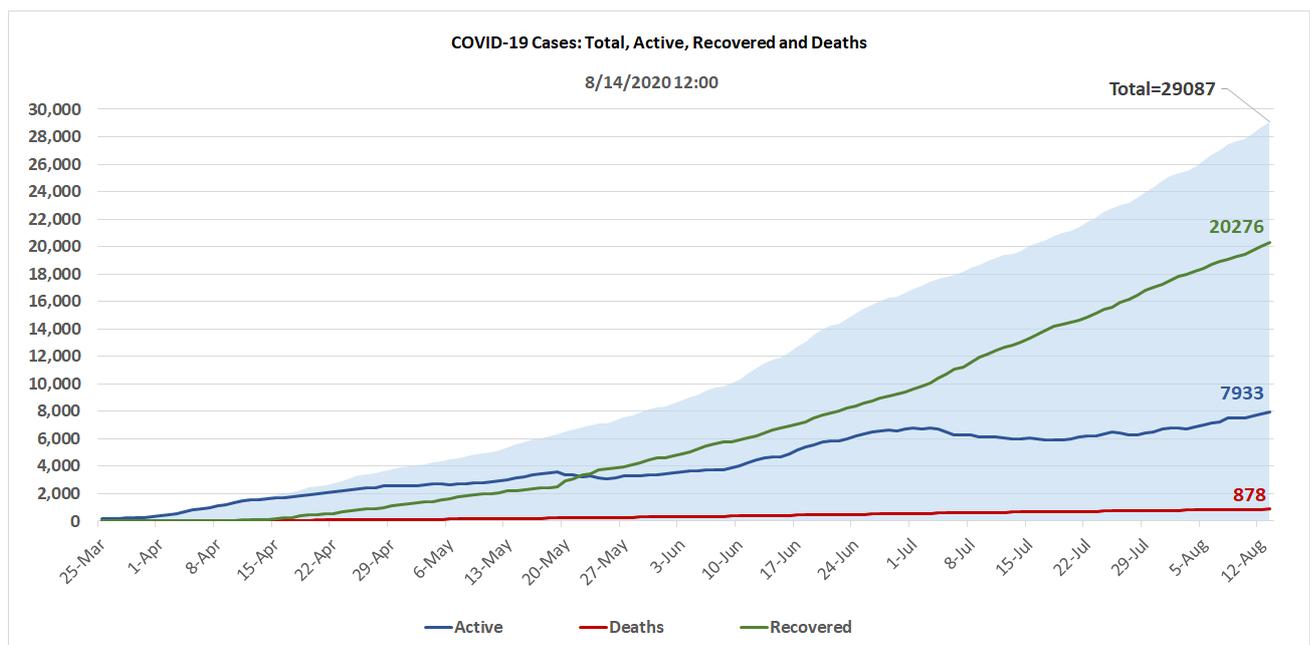
Data as at 14/08/2020, 12:00 p.m.

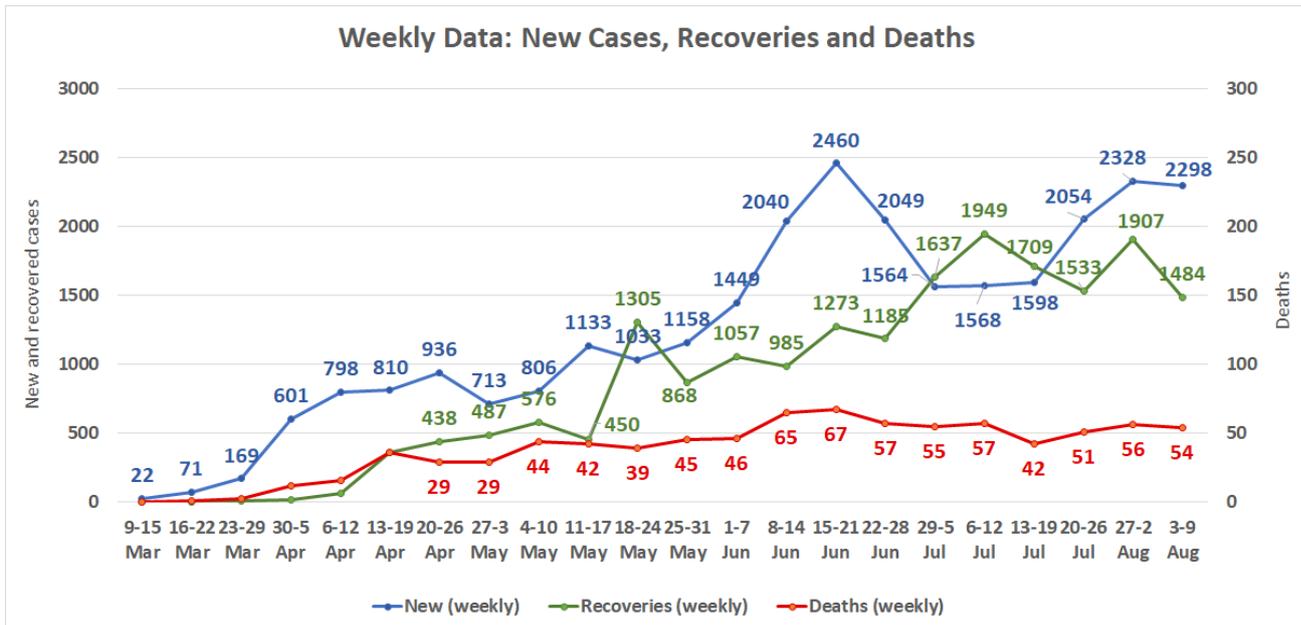
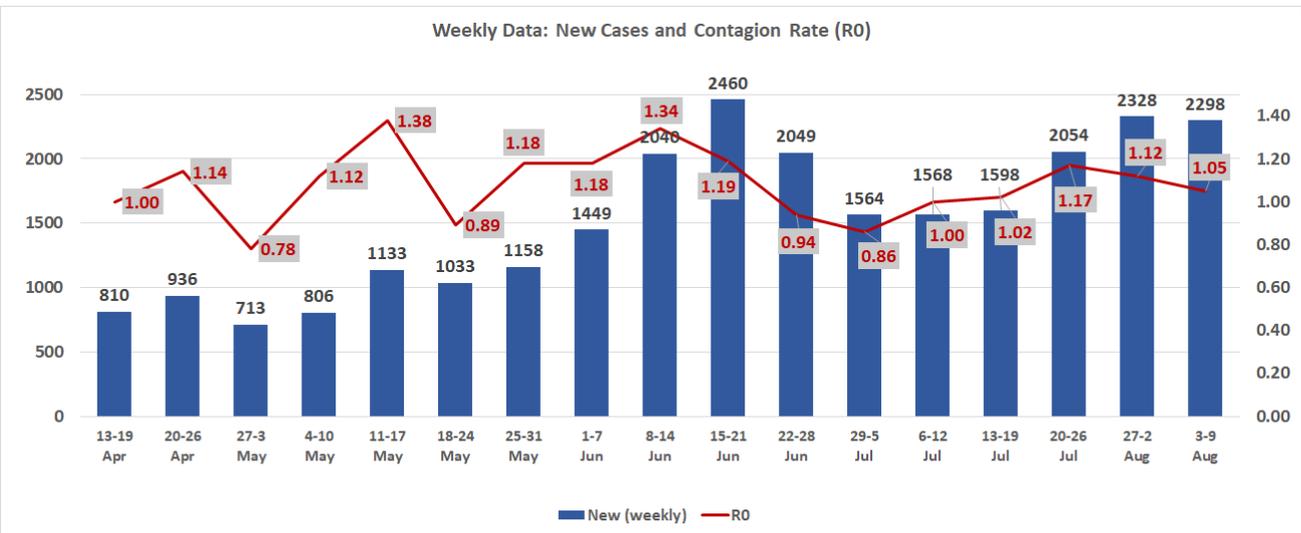
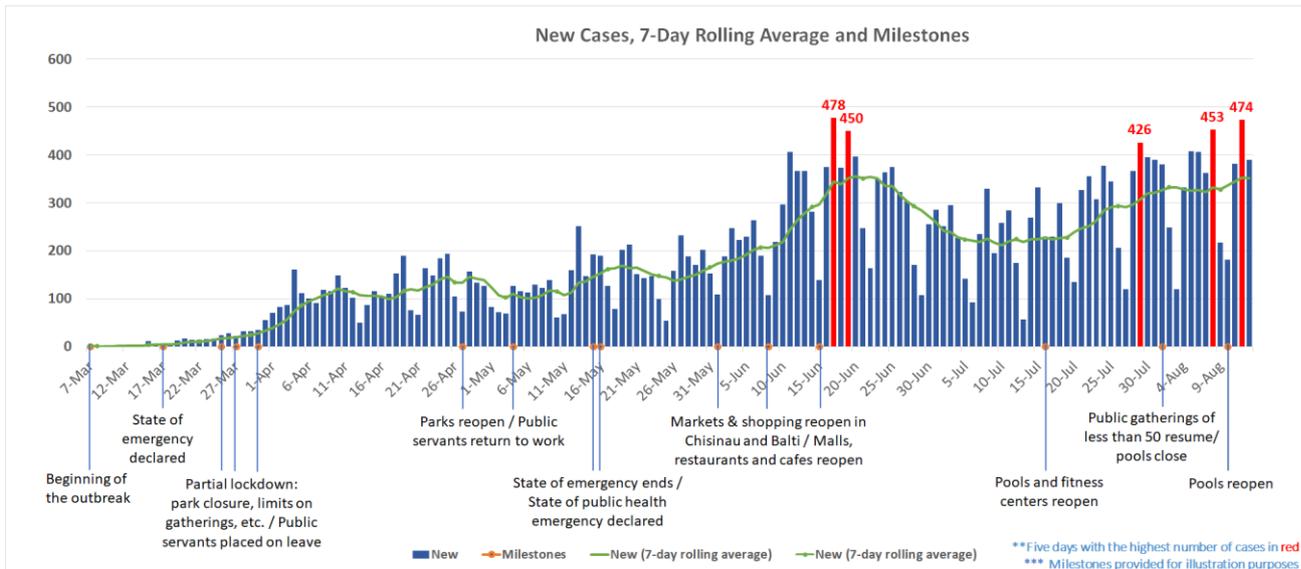
- The number of confirmed cases continued to grow over the past week, with the second highest number of cases - 474 - since the beginning of the outbreak being registered this Wednesday, August 12. The average number of daily cases during the last seven days reached 351, which is 25 cases more per day compared to the same figure last week. The figure now matches the highs registered at the end of June. The total number of cases currently stands at 29,087. The total number of active cases also continued on an uptrend and now stands at 7,933;
- The overall crude cumulative incidence of cases per 100,000 stands at 837 - one of the highest in Europe and in the region. The crude cumulative incidence of cases over the last seven days is 71 and over the last 14 days is 137, with both of these figures registering an increase over the past week;
- The number of deaths continued to grow at what seemed a slower pace than in the previous few weeks. However, this Thursday, August 13, saw a record high number of deaths - 15 - reported in a single day since the beginning of the outbreak. A total of 50 deaths were reported over the past seven days, with the average number of daily deaths over the same period being 7.14, which is lower compared to the 8.14 figure reported last week. The total number of deaths reached 878. The case fatality rate decreased slightly and stands at 3.0%. The average age of patients who have died from the disease is 66.2, with about 93% of all deaths having been reported in patients 50 years of age and older;
- Weekly figures continue to raise concerns regarding the evolution of the pandemic in the country. With 2,298 new cases reported, last week saw only a slight - 1.3% - decrease in the number of new cases compared to the previous week. The contagion rate (R0) also decreased somewhat last week and stands at 1.05 based on the latest data available;
- The average number of serious cases increased to 440 last week (from 430 the previous week) and remained at roughly the same level this week. The number of serious cases currently stands at 468, and

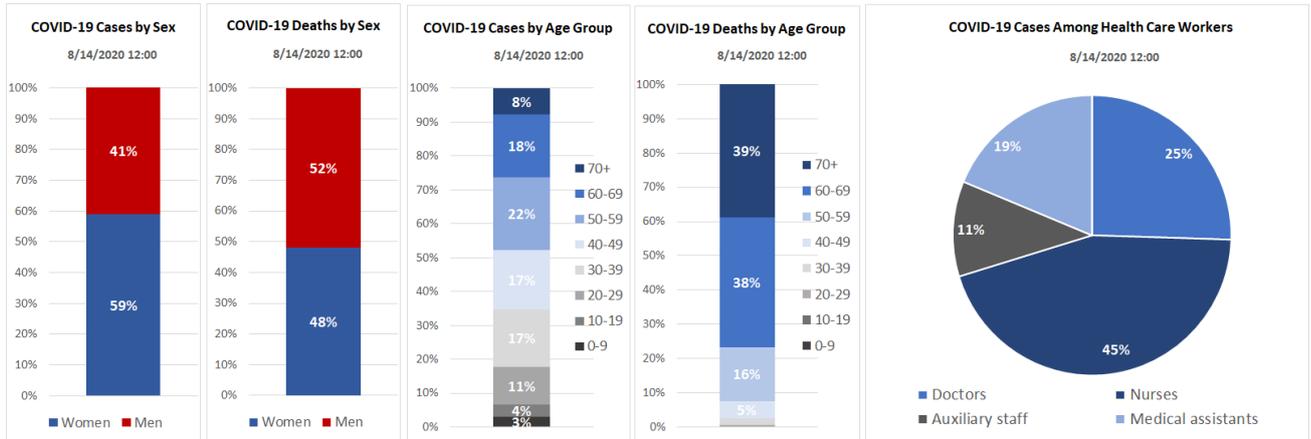
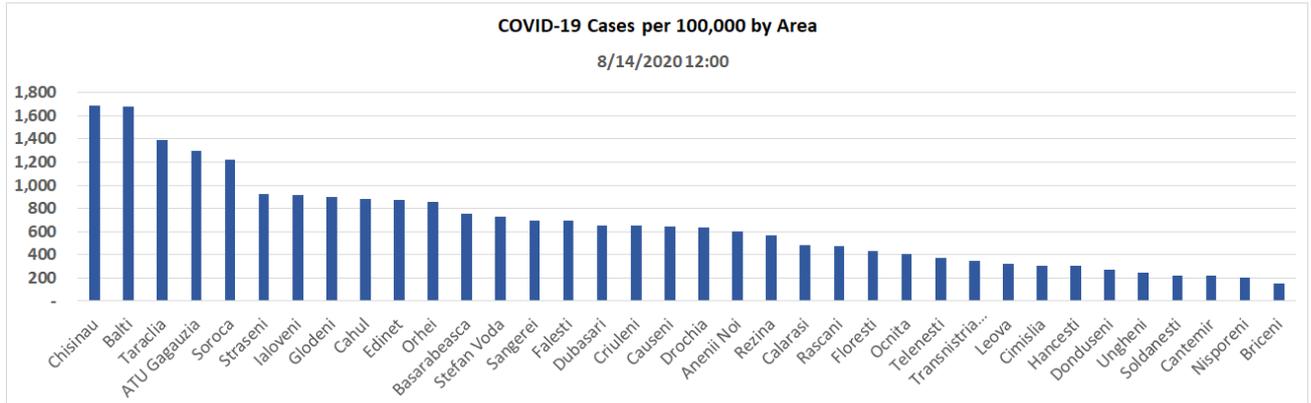


the average number of serious cases over the past seven days is 439. The number of deaths also remained relatively stable last week compared to the week prior;

- The number of recoveries registered a considerable decline last week, with 22% less recoveries being reported compared to the week prior. The difference between the number of weekly recoveries and the number of weekly cases has also widened, with more than 800 new cases being reported last week compared to recoveries. The total number of patients who have recovered from the disease currently stands at 20,276;
- The share of health care workers in the total number of cases dropped to around 12.5%. Over 3,600 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 38% 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 6% of all cases each. Soroca, Cahul, Orhei, Ialoveni and Straseni account for another 3% 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, Chisinau is now the most affected area in the country, followed by Balti, Taraclia, ATU Gagauzia and Soroca. All of these areas have surpassed the 1,000-case mark per 100,000;
- 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, 3.8% vs. 2.5%;
- Real time figures and graphs can be accessed [here](#) in Romanian and in Russian [here](#). This site has more than 1.95 million views to date.

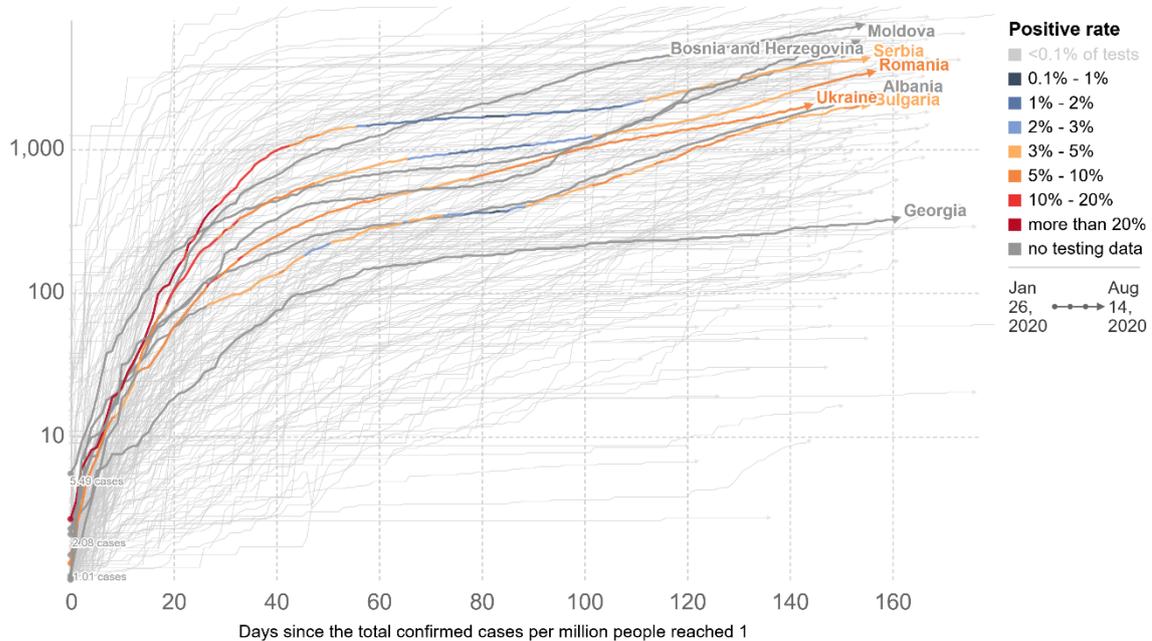






Cumulative confirmed COVID-19 cases per million people

The number of confirmed cases is lower than the number of actual cases; the main reason for that is limited testing.



Source: European CDC – Situation Update Worldwide – Last updated 14 August, 10:33 (London time), Official data collated by Our World in Data
CC BY

Source: Our World in Data, <https://ourworldindata.org> *Some differences may exist between the data included in the charts above and the data mentioned in the rest of this section because of the difference in the population number used in the calculations.

Overview of Key Decisions & Announcements

- An Extraordinary Commission on Public Health meeting chaired by the Prime Minister is tentatively planned for 14 August at 15:00. Any decision stemming from this meeting will be posted [here](#);
- The next Development Partners Meeting will be held on August 18 at 1300hrs. The agenda will include an update on the epidemiological situation, an update from the Ministry of Education, Culture and Research on the next academic school year (see also education below), and a presentation of initial results of a recent UN survey on the Impact of Covid-19 on Social Cohesion;
- The MoHLSP and the National Agency for Public Health [presented the results of the first study "Behavioral Insights on COVID-19 in the Republic of Moldova"](#). The study aims to understand the perceptions of the population in terms of risks, knowledge, sources of information and attitudes towards the pandemic response initiatives undertaken by the authorities.
- The [UN Moldova Covid-19 Response and Recovery Plan](#) is now also available in Romanian ([UN Moldova COVID-19 Planul De Acțiuni Pentru Răspuns Și Redresare Socio-Economică](#)).

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 31 August 2020. The full list of provisions agreed by the Extraordinary National Commission on Public Health can be found [here](#).

Political Situation

- Moldovan farmers who have lost crops due to inclement weather in 2020, blocked traffic on the Chisinau-Causeni road, calling on the authorities to support them in their hour of need. Meanwhile, on Tuesday, the Moldovan lawmakers created a working group to tackle the issue. Moldova saw an abnormally warm winter with insufficient precipitation, which was followed by a drought in spring as well as heavy rains and hail in May;
- The Prosecutor General's Office announced on Tuesday, August 11, that the Court had approved the request to seize Victoriabank's assets worth 1.9 billion lei [EUR95 million]. The Prosecutor General's office noted that the bank appears in the investigation of the "theft of a billion." In its turn, Moldova's Victoriabank said that it is open to collaborating with authorities in an investigation related to its alleged involvement in a 2014 banking fraud. Since 2018, Banca Transilvania, Romania's largest bank, and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) hold 72.19% of the share capital of Victoriabank between themselves. Previously, the bank had been controlled by Vladimir Plahotniuc. EBRD announced on Wednesday, August 12, that it is seriously concerned by the ruling.

Security

- NTR.

Transnistria Region

- During a recent meeting with the Deputy Head of the OSCE Mission to Moldova, the Deputy Prime Minister for Reintegration flagged the efforts of Chisinau to ensure freedom of movement in the context of the upcoming new academic year. She particularly focused on pupils and teachers from the eight Moldova-administered Latin-script schools located on the left bank, as well as teachers and students from the left bank of the Nistru, who study in educational institutions on the right bank. The Deputy Prime Minister called on the OSCE to continue mediating between Chisinau and Tiraspol with the aim to facilitate unhindered movement of these teachers and students;
- As of August 13, the Operational Headquarter from Tiraspol has reported a total number of 1,604 cases of COVID infections revealed. Out of the total number of infected patients 1,410 or 88% have recovered and 54 persons or 3,4% have deceased. Overall, a total number of 22,088 tests were performed so far. As of today 2,354 citizens living on the left bank have self-isolated. Costs of the COVID tests will be covered by the de-facto authorities for persons with disabilities who had to leave the region to get healthcare services on the right bank or to neighbouring countries.

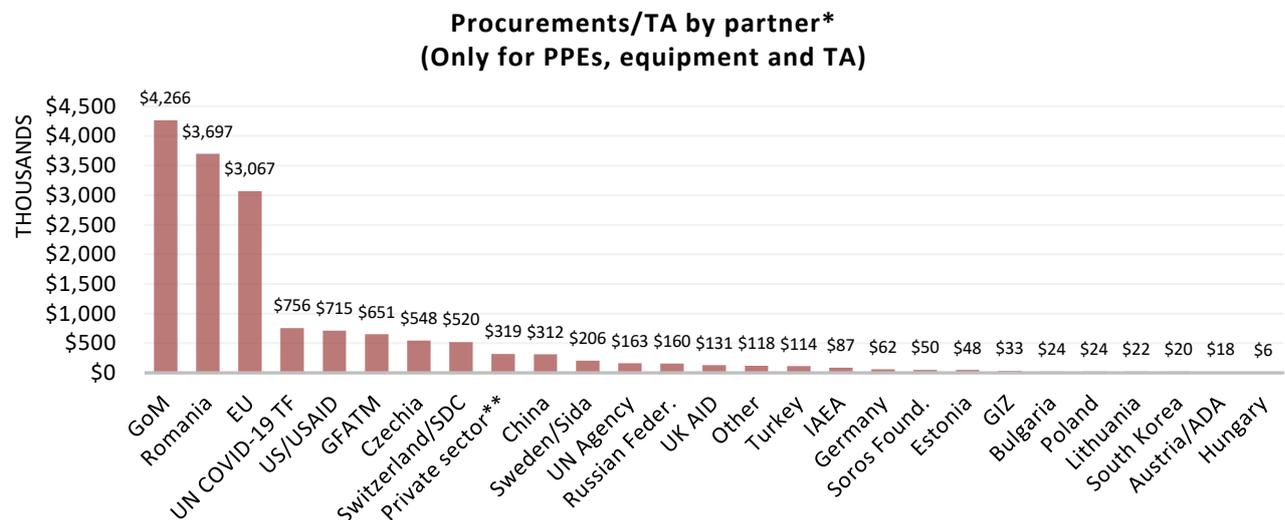
Economic Update

- According to the NBS, annual inflation for July 2020 continued downward trend reaching 4.23% (within the NBM target of 3.5%-5%), while in July prices for food products reached 8.12%, for non-food products - 0.43% and for services provided to the population - 3.76%. Overall, food prices in July versus previous month decreased by 1.01% primarily for vegetables (except carrots), grapes and eggs. On the contrary, the prices for fruits, berries, carrots, beans and honey went up. Amongst non-food items the price increase was registered for bicycles, automobiles, houseware, furniture and medical devices. However, the prices for apparel and household equipment. The prices for external tourism services and airfare, catering, registration of apartments and reparation services went up. Comparing consumers' prices in July'20 with July'19 an increase of 4.23 per cents is quite noticeable;
- Although the impact of Covid-19 pandemic negatively affected Moldova's external trade, exports have been showing modest signs of recovery in the last month. In particular, exports in June'20 increased by almost 22% compared to the previous month, yet this is still by 6% less than in 2019. Overall, in the second semester 2020 exports declined by 14% compared to the same period 2019. Particularly, exports of domestically produced goods declined by over 5% in this period, while re-exports (22.9% in total exports) declined by 34.8% versus 2019. From a geographical point of view, exports to the EU are still 13% less than January-June 2019, while timidly climbed up to 63.4%. Exports to CIS stood at 16.6% being in decline by only 4.2% versus same period of 2019. In terms of exports structure, in June'20 compared to the previous month there was an increase in exports of fruits and vegetables, oils, organic chemicals, animal feed, sugar and sugary products, woods, construction installations, non-ferrous metals, office equipment, leather and fur. Whereas imports in June'20 increased by over one quarter (+25.4%) versus previous month, it is still by 7% less than in June'19. Overall, imports during January-June'20 are lagging behind by 14% versus the same period of 2020. Imports from the EU were account for 46.7% (18.7% less than January-June'19) and imports from CIS reach 24.5% (24.8% in same period 2019). In terms of import structure, there was decreased import of petrol and petrol products, gas, electric equipment and machinery, automobiles, textile products, industrial equipment, non-metal products, apparel and shoes, energy, minerals and organic chemicals. On the contrary, there was an increase in imports of dairy products and eggs, chemical minerals, animal feed, seeds, metal processing equipment, livestock, sugar and sugary products. As a result, the balance of payments in June'20 increased by 28% versus May'20,

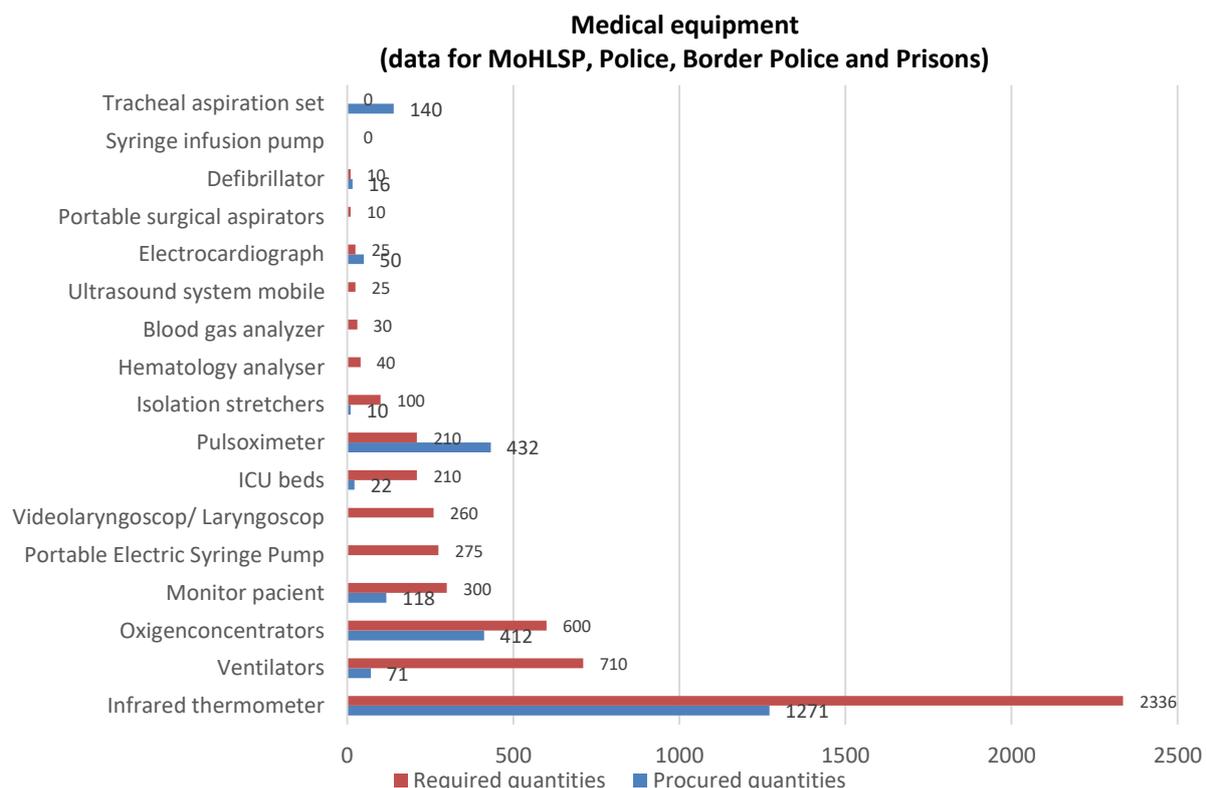
yet being by 8% less if compared to June'19. Noteworthy, that during January-June'20 individuals also imported less goods (-20.5%) than in the same period 2019.

Aid Coordination

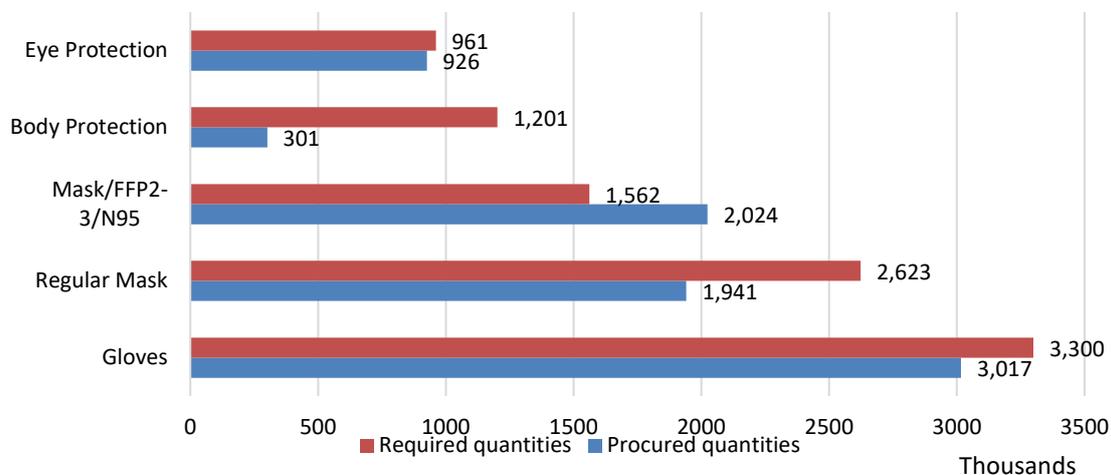
Mapping of contributions to the Health System for COVID response in Moldova



*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, 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.



Personal Protection Equipment (data for MoHLS, Police, Border Police and Prisons)



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 the 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 UN System in Moldova

Procurement support and equipment

- UNICEF, with USAID support, procured hygiene supplies in anticipation of school and kindergarten re-opening, envisaging for the supplies initial stocks to cover the needs of a total of over 22 thousand school and preschool classes during a 2-3 months period.

Assessments and Data

- UNDP issued three thematic policy papers:
 - [Green transformation: the time is now;](#)
 - [Investing in climate resilient communities;](#)
 - [Collaborative use of new evidence to support the Government of Moldova's response to COVID19.](#)
- Un Women, with support from SIDA, concluded the [Rapid assessment of the response to cases of Domestic Violence/GBV under the crisis \(COVID-19\)](#).
- WHO, with EU support, supported national data collection for the first round of the [Behavioural insights on COVID-19 in the Republic of Moldova](#) (data owner – Ministry of Health, Labour and Social Protection and National Agency for Public Health). The analysis was performed by WHO Regional Office from Europe and Erfurt University (Germany). The MHLSP shared a press release on 12 August 2020.

Main findings:

- Most people are not thinking about COVID-19 very much. If they do think about it, they believe it's not dangerous, and they think the media is hyping it. Fewer than ¼ believe that if they became infected, it would be severe.
- People feel very confident in their knowledge of how to avoid infection with COVID-19, but less able to actually avoid infection.
- 66% are still seeking COVID-19 info very often.
- Very high knowledge of protective behaviours and uptake, except some forms of physical distancing.
- People trust doctors and hospitals.
- Media use seems to have a strong influence in positive and negative ways.
- Over 80% worry about the economic crisis, 64% worry about not being able to pay bills.
- Most people believe that restrictions were not lifted too early.
- Fewer than half agree with schools being opened.
- 80% agree masks should be mandatory.
- Nearly 2/3 of respondents say they will continue restrictions even after the government has stopped recommending them.
- 31% would get a vaccine if it were available now; 62% would refuse.

Socio-Economic Support

- NTR.

Health

- A batch of hygiene supplies for 41 centers delivering Youth Friendly Health services have been purchased and are being consolidated at a central warehouse (SanFarmPrim) under the Ministry of Health, Labor and Social Protection. Once all the supplies are consolidated, these will be distributed to the 41 YFH Centres nationwide.

Education and youth

- UNICEF, in close coordination with WHO and UNFPA, supports the Ministry of Education, Culture and Research (MECR) in ensuring children and young people in Moldova have access to education by preparing educational institutions, parents, and students for the new academic year 2020-2021. Amongst the various support areas, MECR's request to produce a Parents' Guide for school re-opening in Covid-19 context was responded to with the Draft outline tested with parents focus groups during this reporting period;
- UNICEF engaged U-Report in a Europe and Central Asia regional initiative aiming to capture youth voices and sentiments on COVID-19, with more than 3,000 opinions collected in Moldova among young people;
- To address collateral effects of COVID-19 on youth, UNICEF, together with ODIMM and local businesses incubators from Singerei and Cahul, conducted an UPSHIFT pitching event with the participation of 50 young graduates of the program, and selected 9 out of 12 presented social innovation proposals for seed funding;
- UNICEF, jointly with U-Report and Brain Games Association launched a [U-Report quiz dedicated to the International Youth Day](#) and global action in times of COVID-19: the quiz will be replicated with U-Report Uzbekistan during an online youth conference on 14 August.

Gender

- UN Women Moldova, in collaboration with 'La Strada' International Centre in Moldova, the Ministry of Health, Labor and Social Protection and with financial support from Sweden, performed a rapid assessment during May – June 2020 to understand how the crisis impacted women affected by domestic violence, to analyze the challenges of a systemic response to domestic violence cases and to identify potential systemic changes that would help cope with crises. The results of this rapid assessment were presented and discussed during an online session held on August 7, including with live transmission on [Facebook in the press club](#). Over 70 persons participated at the event, and 9 mass media sources issued materials on this topic. The assessment is available [here](#);
- The study [“2019 Local Elections – beginning of a change in gender representation or partially seized opportunities? The experience of Cahul and Ungheni districts”](#) was carried out between November 2019 and January 2020, immediately after general local elections. Its results were revealed at an online round table on 11 August;
- [Motivations and barriers for girls and women in the fields of STEM and ICT](#) – an online event that gathered over 100 participants aimed to present the results of the study on the motivations and barriers that girls and women in the Republic of Moldova face when considering a career in ICT or STEM took place on 13th of August. The study was performed by Magenta Consulting and TEKEDU in collaboration with UN Women and funded by Sweden;
- A series of capacity building events for women mayors at first mandate was launched on August 12, 2020 with the purpose to efficiently exercise their functions in the local public administration and gender mainstreaming at the local level. Trainings covered the following topics: Gender equality and feminist leadership at local level (August 12); Local economic development fundraising for a local community (August 13); Labor provisions and social guarantees of the mayors in the Republic of Moldova, including during the Pandemic (August 14). Approximate 50 to 80 mayors attended the online trainings organized by UN Women in partnership with Congress of Local Authorities/ CALM;
- UN Women within the EU funded EVA project conducted an in-house assessment of the 12 partner LPAs in Cahul and Ungheni knowledge and skills in using digital tools for ensuring efficient and safe communication during COVID-19 pandemics and further. The assessment was conducted through online meetings and surveys with the mayors, deputy mayors, secretaries of local councils, social assistants to determine the knowledge gaps among LPAs and identify needs for future capacity building activities on ICT and digital tools to be carried out by UN Women.

Human Rights

- OHCHR in Moldova continues its efforts for the empowerment of CSOs in Moldova, including those in Transnistria region. On August 12, a meeting of the thematic group on the rights of persons from Transnistria region, as part of the NGO Task Force on COVID-19 and Human Rights and the Platform for Sustainable Community Development, was organized in collaboration with UNDP. Twenty representatives of CSOs from Transnistria region and members of the under-represented groups participated. The field presence presented the two pagers on the right to a highest attainable standard of health and rights of persons with disabilities, including the easy to read versions, developed internally based on the set of documents provided by UN as part of the COVID-19 response and recovery. The participants shared their

views with regards to the most important human rights issues and provided recommendations on the situation in the TN region during the pandemic.

Communications

- UNICEF issued a [media release on the International Youth Day](#), to announce the results of the UPSHIFT programme, providing young people with entrepreneurial and innovative skills, giving them confidence in their abilities during COVID-19 pandemic, which has collateral economic and social repercussions;
- UNICEF, in cooperation with WHO, U-Report, and with USAID funds, produced the 4th edition of the LIVE talk show - [Involvement of youth in global action in times of Covid-19](#) - which had more than 1K real-time viewers and more than 12K total views;
- UNDP published an article covering the assistance provided by in partnership Sweden to micro, small and medium-sized enterprises on both banks of the Nistru River to overcome the crisis generated by COVID-19, as this seriously impacted these, and with them thousands of families from Moldova, who have lost their jobs and livelihoods;
- “70 thousand followers overnight. Meet Victor, a 17-years old youngster from Moldova who advocates online for feminism and equality” – a [story UN Women Moldova](#) produced on the occasion of the Youth Day;
- WHO provides regular support, with EU, SDC and USAID efforts, to MOH and NAPH in emergency risk communication and community engagement activities and campaigns. To inform public and mass media, a weekly e-newsletter on main news, interviews related COVID-19 is produced and widely disseminated. Latest issue [here](#);
- WHO, RCO and UNICEF are supporting the national communication group of MoHLSP and NAPH in developing communication materials for kindergartens and schools (posters, stickers with main protection messages, etc.).