Highlights – data as reported by national authorities

Data as at 7/08/2020, 12:00 p.m.
*Figures marked with an asterisk and charts as at 6/08/2020, 6:00 p.m., to ensure consistency in reporting

- The number of confirmed cases continued to grow over the past week, with the average number of daily cases during the last seven days reaching 326, which is about 19 cases more per day compared to the same figure last week. The total number of cases now stands at 26,628;

- The overall crude cumulative incidence of cases per 100,000 stands at 689 - one of the highest in Europe and in the region. The crude cumulative incidence of cases over the last seven days is 66 and over the last 14 days is 130, with both of these figures registering an increase over the past week. Although Moldova has seen a significant increase in cases over the past seven to ten days and remains at the top of the list in terms of the cumulative incidence of cases, some other countries in the region, such as Albania, Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Romania and Ukraine, have also seen considerable increases in cases over the same period, with a few of them, including Montenegro and Bosnia and Herzegovina, reporting an accelerated growth in the cumulative incidence of cases;

- The number of deaths continued to grow as well, with another 57 deaths being reported in the last seven days. The average number of daily deaths reported over the past seven days is 8.14*, which is higher compared to the 6.71 figure reported last week. The total number of deaths reached 828. The case fatality rate decreased slightly and stands at 3.1%*. The average age of patients who have died from the disease is 66, with more than 92% of all deaths having been reported in patients 50 years of age and older;
Weekly figures show some concerning developments regarding the evolution of the pandemic in the country. With 2,285 new cases reported, last week saw a significant - 6.3% - increase in the number of new cases compared to the previous week. The contagion rate (R0) went down, reaching 1.08.

The average number of serious cases increased to 392 last week (from 418 the previous week) and continued to increase further this week. The number of serious cases currently stands at 424, and the average number of serious cases over the past seven days is 431. The number of deaths also increased by 9% last week, with 5 more deaths being reported compared to the previous week;

The number of recoveries increased for the first week in a row, with 12% more recoveries being reported last week compared to the week prior. However, the number of weekly recoveries is still lower than the number of weekly cases. The total number of patients who have recovered from the disease currently stands at 18,676;

The share of health care workers in the total number of cases remained at 13%. Over 3,1400 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 37% 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. 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, Chisinau, Taraclia, ATU Gagauzia and Soroca, in the order listed and all with more than 1,000 cases per 100,000, 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, 53% vs. 47%. Furthermore, the case fatality rate among men is higher than among women, 4.0%* vs. 2.5%*;

Real-time figures and graphs can be accessed here in Romanian and in Russian here. This site has more than 1.92 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.

Biweekly confirmed COVID-19 cases

Biweekly confirmed cases refer to the cumulative number of confirmed cases over the previous two weeks.

Source: European CDC – Situation Update Worldwide – Last updated 7 August, 10:34 (London time). Official data collated by Our World in Data

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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

- The International Health Regulations (2005) Emergency Committee regarding the outbreak of coronavirus disease met on July 31st. The Committee unanimously agreed that the pandemic still constitutes a public health emergency of international concern (PHEIC). The WHO Director-General declared that the outbreak of COVID-19 continues to constitute a PHEIC. The Committee provided advice to WHO Secretariat and Temporary recommendations to State Parties which can be accessed here;

- 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**);

- Two additional COVID-19 hospitals:”Sfinta Treime” and Ialoveni hospital with 320 beds have been re-purposed, 16 ICU beds are functional.

- The UN invites partners to support awareness rising among the Moldovan population for the prevention of Covid-19 transmission. For this purpose we have made all the communication materials available for your use here ➔ [https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1DrL7IT-vlVoIZQXWu4hCvM0KIQySXMaH](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1DrL7IT-vlVoIZQXWu4hCvM0KIQySXMaH)

**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 August 31st 2020. The full list of provisions agreed by the Extraordinary National Commission on Public Health can be found in **Decision 21** of July 24th.

**Political Situation**

- The fight between the Government and Avia Invest over the Chisinau airport escalated this week when the Stockholm Arbitration Court ruled in favour of Avia Invest and prohibited the termination of the Chisinau International Airport concession contract pending a final decision on the claim against Moldova and temporarily stopped any enforcement of the concession termination notice sent to Avia Invest sent to the company by the Moldovan Government on July 8th. Avia Invest has stated that it remains open to a legal dialogue with the authorities on any issues.

- During an August 4th working meeting to Ukraine, the Minister for Foreign Affairs and European Integration of the Republic of Moldova met with his Ukrainian counterpart and reaffirmed Moldova’s support for Ukraine’s independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity within its internationally recognized borders and expressed gratitude for Ukraine’s continued support to Moldova in identifying sustainable solutions to the Transnistria Region conflict settlement. They also discussed the agreement on the Dniester Hydro Power Plant and the Odesa-Reni road and agreed to organize a regular meeting of the Intergovernmental Commission on Trade and Economic Cooperation in Chisinau and further promote direct dialogue at the level of the Commission’s co-chairs.
● President Dodon announced that the first round of negotiations between the representatives of the Governments of the Republic of Moldova and the Russian Federation on EUR 200 million loan will take place in the coming days. President Igor Dodon announced this news, following his meeting with the Deputy Head of the Russian Presidential Administration, Special Representative for Developing Trade and Economic Relation with Moldova, Dmitry Kozak in Moscow. President Dodon also noted that he discussed the transit of Moldovan export to Russia via the territory of Ukraine and the provision of assistance in the form of fuel to agricultural producers in Moldova. The sides agreed to hold a meeting of the Moldovan-Russian Intergovernmental Commission for Trade and Economic Cooperation in Chisinau in October to sign a large number of important bilateral agreements.

● The Moldovan Government has amended an earlier decision and postponed for six months (until February 1st, 2021) the implementation of joint Ukraine/Moldova control on the Transnistria Region section of the Moldova-Ukraine border. The reason given for the extension was due to the situation with the Covid-19, which has caused a slowdown in the activities of economic entities and institutions.

### Security

#### NTR

### Transnistria Region

● As of August 6th, the Operational Headquarter in Tiraspol reported a total number of 1,573 COVID positive cases. Out of the total number of infected patients, 1,391 or 88% have recovered, and 54 persons or 3.4% have died. According to Tiraspol, a total number of 19,000 tests have been performed so far;

● All the staff of the local Transnistria Region educational institutions will be tested for COVID-19, three days before commencement of the school year (September 1st). Schools with a limited number of pupils will function as usual, while for institutions that exceed 1,000 pupils the educational process will be organized in three shifts. The number of lessons and the length of the school hours will be reduced. In addition, 2,000 computers will be purchased for schools and Internet will be provided. Bactericidal lamps will also be purchased.

● Starting from August 1st, cross-river and international transportation services restarted for left bank citizens, but a special permit from the Operational Headquarters in Tiraspol is required to travel.

### Economic Update

● According to the NBS, the producer’s prices for agricultural products (average sale prices by agricultural companies) increased by 10.4% during January-June 2020 compared to the same period of the previous year. In particular, producers’ prices for vegetable products increased by 16.8% on average. The most significantly increased prices for table grapes - by 2.3 times, fruits and berries - by 57.4%, sunflower - by 23.4%, tobacco - by 18.1%, maize - by 11.6%, legumes - by 7.8%. At the same time, the producers' prices for field vegetables decreased - by 17.2% (out of these for cabbage - by 64.5%, dried garlic - by 52.3%, carrot - by 21.5%, dried onion - by 7.3%). For animal products, the average producer’s prices decreased by 1.6% in January-June 2020 versus the same period of 2019. Prices for porcine (live mass) fell by 3.8% and for the poultry (live mass) - by 3.3%. At the same time, the producers’ prices for sheep and goats (live mass) increased by 29.9%, for milk - by 9.4%, for eggs - by 6.8%;
The NBS published the results of the second gender-tailored business environment survey (data collection conducted in 2018). The aim of the research was to identify the particularities of female entrepreneurship and the problems faced by the entrepreneurs during the starting-up of their business, growth and business development, but also to identify the barriers hindering their development through the prism of gender. The survey included questions that allow the compilation of both quantitative and qualitative indicators, as well as comparability with 2009, on the basis of which the research was carried out. The survey sampling was 9,000 legal entities. The results of the survey are showing changing patterns of entrepreneurship showing women becoming more active in business undertakings. In particular, although the share of female entrepreneurship grew by 6.4% compared to 2009, the share of men entrepreneurs is twice higher. However, women dominate in terms of business ownership and more often occupy managing positions within companies. By age structure, the businesses are established and managed by people of both sexes aged 35-55, while every third woman entrepreneur is aged 35-44 (cca 32%). Young people aged 15-34 represent cca 42% of the economically active population; however, their engagement in entrepreneurship is only 14.4% and is in decline by 8.3 p.ps versus 2009. Further details of the study are available at the NBS web-page;

Moldova’s agricultural sector was severely affected by drought while cereals suffered the most: more than 180 thousand hectares of wheat, barley and rapeseed out of the total grain crops area of 415 thousand hectares suffered from drought in a proportion of more than 60%, and the total damage to these crops is about 900 mln MDL (namely, wheat 700 mln MDL, while barley and rapeseed by 100 mln MDL each). The total wheat harvest in Moldova in 2020 will amount to 600-650 thousand tons. Given that about 350 thousand tons of wheat are used for domestic consumption, approximately 300 thousand tons might be exported (source: infomarket);

According to the NBM, in Q2’20 the money transfers from abroad to individuals in Moldova reached $US 369.77 mln. Out of this, 83.4% were transferred by means of fast money transfer systems (without opening of a bank account) while 15.7% through bank accounts using SWIFT system. The total amount equivalent to $US increased by 18.2% compared to the same period of 2019. Transfers from the EU-27 increased by 2.5 p.ps (48.8%) versus 2019 however the impact of BREXIT affected the amounts transferred. The biggest share of transfers comes from Italy (31.6%), followed by Germany (24%), France (12.5%), Ireland (5.4%) and Romania (3.7%). The money transfers from CSI accounted for 14.7% (in decline by 8.1% versus the same period 2019) while the share of transfers from other countries reached 36.5% in Q2’20. Over 93% of all CSI transfers come from Russia followed by Ukraine (4%);

On August 6th, 2020 the NBM adjusted its monetary policy as follows : (i) the base rate applied to the main short-term monetary policy operations decreased by 0.25 percentage points to 3.0 percent annually. This measure is meant to create conditions for maintaining inflation within the range of ± 1.5 percentage points from the medium-term inflation target of 5.0 percent; (ii) the interest rates decreased by 1.0 percentage points reaching the level of 5.5 percent on overnight loans and of 0.5 percent on overnight deposits. The required reserves ratio from the financial means attracted in MDL and in non-convertible currency decreased by 1.0 percentage points, up to 32.0 percent for the application periods of August 16th 2020 – September 15th 2020, and, respectively, September 16th 2020 – October 15th 2020. The required reserves ratio from the financial means attracted in freely convertible currency increased by 3.0 percentage points, up to 27.0 percent, for the same application periods. This decision was meant to support the national currency in the context of the ongoing economic crisis.

Education
Two meetings were organized by MECR on August 6th to prepare the reopening of preschools and schools. The first meeting was attended by Minister Sarov, State Secretary Griu, other relevant ministerial staff, UNFPA, CCF CSO and UNICEF representatives. MECR informed during the meeting that every educational institution would have a responsible person for the management of Covid-19 prevention and the 1st lesson in September will be dedicated to the prevention of Covid-19 pandemics. During the second meeting, MECR, MHLSP and NAPH discussed the regulations for reopening schools.

Aid Coordination

The mapping of contributions to the Health System for COVID response in Moldova will be updated in the next sit rep.

Development Partners who are supporting the Covid-19 response are invited to share information about their bilateral support with the Center assistenta.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 UN System in Moldova

Procurement support and equipment

- The first shipment of PPEs procured by UNICEF with the support of the COVID Response and Recovery Trust Fund will arrive on August 14th. The cargo contains: 100,000 surgical masks; 20,000 face shields; 500,000 gloves.

Assessments and Data

- The rapid assessment conducted by CCF with UNICEF support focused on opinions of social work territorial structures regarding issues of families with children and children's rights protection professionals in the context of COVID-19 pandemic in the Republic of Moldova, which was earlier finalized in Romanian, is now also available in English;

- With USAID funding support, UNICEF launched a specific socio-economic assessment of COVID-19 impact on remittances and the coping mechanisms adopted by vulnerable households with children. This assessment will allow the formulation of targeted and evidence-based recommendations to be applied for the development of related mid-term mitigation planning with local authorities. The data collection is planned to start in August ’20. Preliminary results from the quantitative and qualitative surveys are expected at the end of August and the final assessment report by the end of September ’20.

Socio-Economic Support

- The Socio-Economic Taskforce meeting, led by UNDP, was held on Wednesday, August 5th with presentations from 1) USAID and Tekwill e-commerce for Moldova project on e-commerce and
digitalization support, and the 2) WB on the recently approved additional financing for the existing
Enhancing the agricultural competitiveness project.

- 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 to
date.

- UNDP globally has issued its **offer 2.0** to support the recovery from COVID19 and focusing on four main
areas: governance, social protection, green economy, and digital disruption. The CO is in the process of
its operationalization in line with the findings of the socio-economic impact assessment and the
commitments of the UN Response Plan

**Health**

- UNICEF, under the "EU4Moldova: Focal Regions Programme", procured 2,000 waterproof gowns and
1,600 disposable non-woven protective suits for specific usage by about 600 frontline healthcare workers
from more than 100 primary healthcare units. The equipment was delivered to the primary healthcare
centers in Ungheni and Cahul districts.

- UNICEF completed, under the USAID supported the project, the procurement of hygiene-related supplies
for Youth Friendly Health Services (covering 41 YFH Centers nationwide), with the distribution taking place
next week.

- Prior to the start of the new school year parents are requested to book medical appointments for their
children and to ensure all vaccinations are up today. The announcement from the MoHLSP can be found
[here](#)

- WHO is supporting the elaboration of the Health Sector Development Strategy 2030, particularly the
chapter on public health emergency management and other chapters;

- WHO offered support for the development of the health sector emergency preparedness and response
plan;

- The update to the COVID-19 emergency preparedness and response plan was developed and have been
coordinating with other sectors in order to make response mechanisms more functional.

- WHO supported the elaboration of the draft plan on COVID-19 emergency preparedness and response in
the prisons. The Plan will be revised and updated based on the WHO recommendations.

- WHO conducted a rapid review mission was conducted in the prison hospital. The assessment of the
health service of prison institutions was requested by the MoJ.

- The proposal for the public health emergency preparedness and response activities in PoE was developed
based on the rapid assessment and integrated in the new project proposal developed by the IOM and
WHO.

- **A visit to the national warehouse SANFARM-PRIM of the European Union Ambassador and WHO team**
took place on August 6th 2020. The aim of the visit was to familiarize with storage conditions of the
humanitarian aid and distribution mechanisms of the donations to healthcare facilities, and numbers of
PPEs to be distributed to the Transnistrian Region (121,000 masks, 35,000 respirators, 3,600 gowns, 1,600
goggles)

**Case management, clinical and health care interventions**

- Three face-to face trainings were conducted for the COVID-19 severe case management, for 62 doctors
and nurses from the Hospital" Sfinta Treime";

- Online training on clinical case management and infection prevention and control (IPC) was conducted for
32 HCWs from the prisons health care institutions;
● The online training on revised and adjusted to COVID-19 situation antenatal care standards were conducted for staff from all primary health care facilities and the maternities;

● Criteria for releasing COVID-19 patients from isolation was discussed by the MoHLSP working group and reflected in the last National Protocol revision;

● National Clinical case management protocol the 3-rd version is in the process revision and update;

● The IT system on hospital sector capacities and resources monitoring and mobilization in public health emergencies was initiated by the MoHLSP with support of WHO and it is ongoing;

**Surveillance, Case Investigation and Laboratory Testing**

● Re-engineering and digitalization of the surveillance system for communicable diseases was initiated by the National Agency for Public Health (NAPH) with support of WHO.

● WHO is supporting the development of a draft protocol and implementation of the sousveillance study to measure population immunity to COVID-19 and cumulative age-specific incidence of infection in populations is at the final stage.

● The Laboratory (self-) assessment in nine institutions have been finalized with the support of WHO.

● The field missions and assessment have been conducted in nine public and private laboratories, involved in the COVID-19 investigation with the support of WHO.

● The Public Health Emergency Operational Center refurbishment and endowment in the premises of the National Agency for Public Health is at the final stage. The SOPs and algorithms are in the process of development with the support of WHO.

● IPCAT questionnaires will be fulfilled by the National team of experts with the support of WHO.

**Education and youth**

● The UN coordinated Education Task Force for COVID-19, chaired by UNICEF, was held on Thursday, August 6th and focused specifically on the support being provided for the ongoing preparations for the new school year;

● In a UNICEF supported project, 60 young finalists of the UPSHIFT program have developed and submitted 15 social innovation projects. The projects were submitted for the pitching event which is going to be attended by the regional business incubators in Cahul and Ungheni, including ODIMM representatives and UNICEF;

● UNICEF launched the U-Report chatbot on Fake News in cooperation with the Association of Independent Press. It aims to inform users about key principles of fake news and disinformation. So far, 1,200 young people accessed it, the most popular questions being facts about COVID-19 and the signs of fake news.

**Gender**

● A total of 85 women mayors at their first mandate shared the challenges and issues they faced in – among others - ensuring the continuation of services to citizens, and or informing the citizens on how to protect themselves and prevent spreading of COVID-19, as well as shared the best practices in provision of support to vulnerable groups among the local population to overcome the difficulties caused by the pandemic situation. A round table in this regard took place on July 31st, organized by UN Women in partnership with Congress of Local Authorities of Moldova (CALM), aimed at identifying the needs of women mayors at the first mandate as a result of the virus spread.
• The Round Table "Ensuring women’s rights in times of crisis." Online provision of essential services during COVID-19: practices, challenges and opportunities" was organized on August 4th, via Zoom. The event concluded 3 months support offered by UNW to 8 NGO's which were engaged in providing support and delivering essential online services to women affected by violence, women with HIV, women with disabilities, women migrant in the context of the rising level of domestic violence and closing of (unavailability) of support services, caused by the introduction of restrictive measures due to COVID-19. 8 NGO's presented their practices and challenges for ensuring online services to those in need. As an outcome of the activity, a set of recommendations for ensuring the provision of online essential services during COVID-19 will be developed. The Round Table was attended by 33 participants, members of the National Coalition Life Without Family Violence and the National Platform for Gender Equality, UNW team and representatives of the Embassies of Sweden and UK.

• On August 5th, UN Women organized a workshop to present the results of the Rapid Assessment of the national machinery for gender equality in countries from the Europe and Central Asia (ECA) Region (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Macedonia, Moldova, Ukraine, Belarus Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Turkey, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan and Romania), with the participation of the representatives of MHLSP, CSAG, Gender Equality Platform (GEP) and UN GTG. During the event, the legal frameworks and GEMs structures in the ECA region were presented, and the challenges and opportunities of the national institutional mechanism discussed. Following the workshop, tailored recommendations for Moldovan Government will be developed and consulted with the representative of the MHLSP, UN GTG, CSAG and GEP. This work has the aim to revigorated the activity of the national GEM to ensure both, the implementation of the national and international commitments in the area, and better response of the national GEM to different crisis, including COVID-19.

• A study on gender perspective in business development (accessible here), conducted by the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) in 2018 was presented on August 6th in the frames of an online event. The research was developed within the Joint UN Program "Strengthening the National Statistical System", with the support of UN Women Moldova, UNDP Moldova and Sweden.

Human Rights

• The OHCHR conducted 3 thematic working group meetings of the NGO Task Force COVID-19 and Human Rights. The topics discussed included access to information and access to justice, women’s rights and gender mainstreaming, as well as persons in state custody. The members of the thematic working groups will be preparing short briefs on their observations to share with relevant state actors.

Communications

• UN Women Moldova updated and published a series of social media cards "Voices of gender equality mechanisms on COVID-19" elaborated by the Regional Office. The cards contain messages and recommendations to improve gender-sensitive services, reduce the gender gap in the digital area and to address the needs and priorities through the gender perspective. In one week, these cards reached an audience of around 4,000 Facebook users.

• UNFPA Moldova issued a press release to announce the data collection process under the "Gender and Generations" Demographic Study, which takes place in a new format, following the COVID-19 protection measures. In response to the pandemic, the research methodology of the study has been adjusted by
integrating a module of questions related to COVID, which will allow it to assess its impact through a comparative analysis of the situation before and after the outbreak. The press release was picked up by several media.

- UNFPA Moldova released 2 new videos under "My Choice is to OK" Mental Health programme for adolescents and young people. "How do I learn to communicate assertively?" and "Profession vs Career: How do I find my path?" The programme includes overall 22 short videos on topics related to youth development and well-being in the context of COVID pandemic and will be further used by the Ministry of Education, Culture and Research as didactic materials for the teaching staff during "Health Education" and "Personal development" courses.

- During the Global Breastfeeding Week, UNICEF and WHO organized the third aLIVE talk show, dedicated to the topic of breastfeeding in times of Covid-19, with Liudmila Caracalceva, breastfeeding consultant from Mămica Alăptează, și ob-gyn Ala Burlacu, from the Institute of Mother and Child. The talk show was broadcasted on multiple media and digital platforms, having 1.1K real-time views and a total of 12K views in one hour.

- UNICEF issued a press release and a social media post to announce the EU supported procurement of 2,000 waterproof gowns and 1,600 disposable non-woven protective suits for use by about 600 frontline healthcare workers from more than 100 primary healthcare units in Cahul and Ungheni, as part the "EU4Moldova: Focal Regions Programme". The social media post reached more than 80K people in one day and engaged nearly 2K.

- WHO is providing regular support, with EU, SDC and USAID efforts, to MOH and NAPH in emergency risk communication and community engagement activities and campaigns.

- WHO supported the development of the MoHLSP's weekly COVID-19 e-newsletter.

- WHO, RCO and UNICEF are supporting national communication group of MOH and NAPH in developing materials for kindergartens and schools.

- WHO, with EU support, finalized data collection for the first round of the Behavioural insights on COVID-19 in the Republic of Moldova. The analysis was performed by WHO Regional Office from Europe and Erfurt University (Germany). The Ministry of Health, Labour and Social Protection (owner of data) is going to issue a press release on findings on Monday, August 10th 2020.