

Coronavirus Disease - COVID 19

Situation Report No. 32 (11 September 2020)

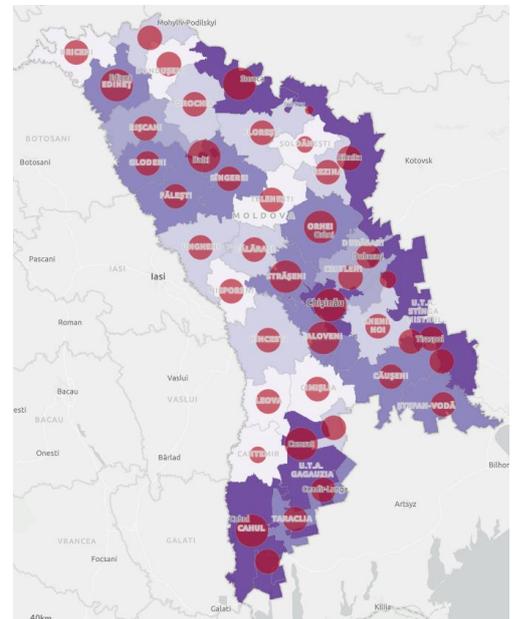


This report is produced by UN Moldova in collaboration with Government and development/humanitarian partners.

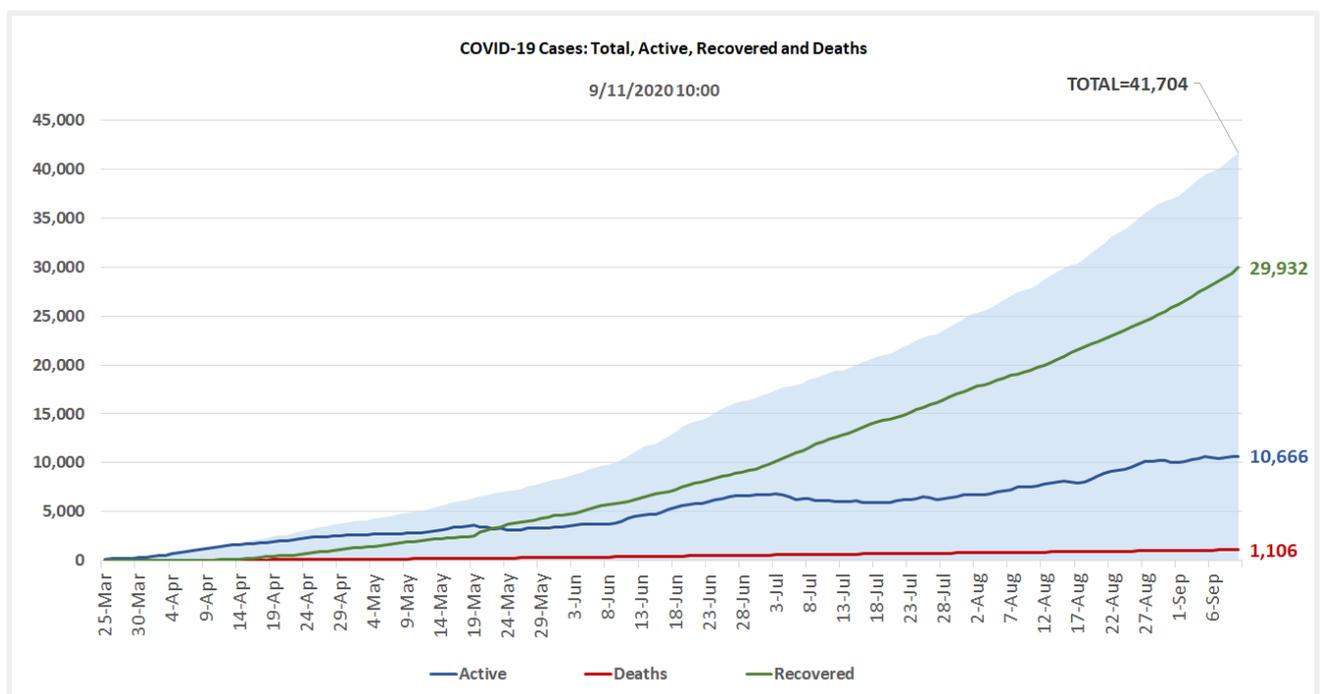
Highlights – data as reported by national authorities

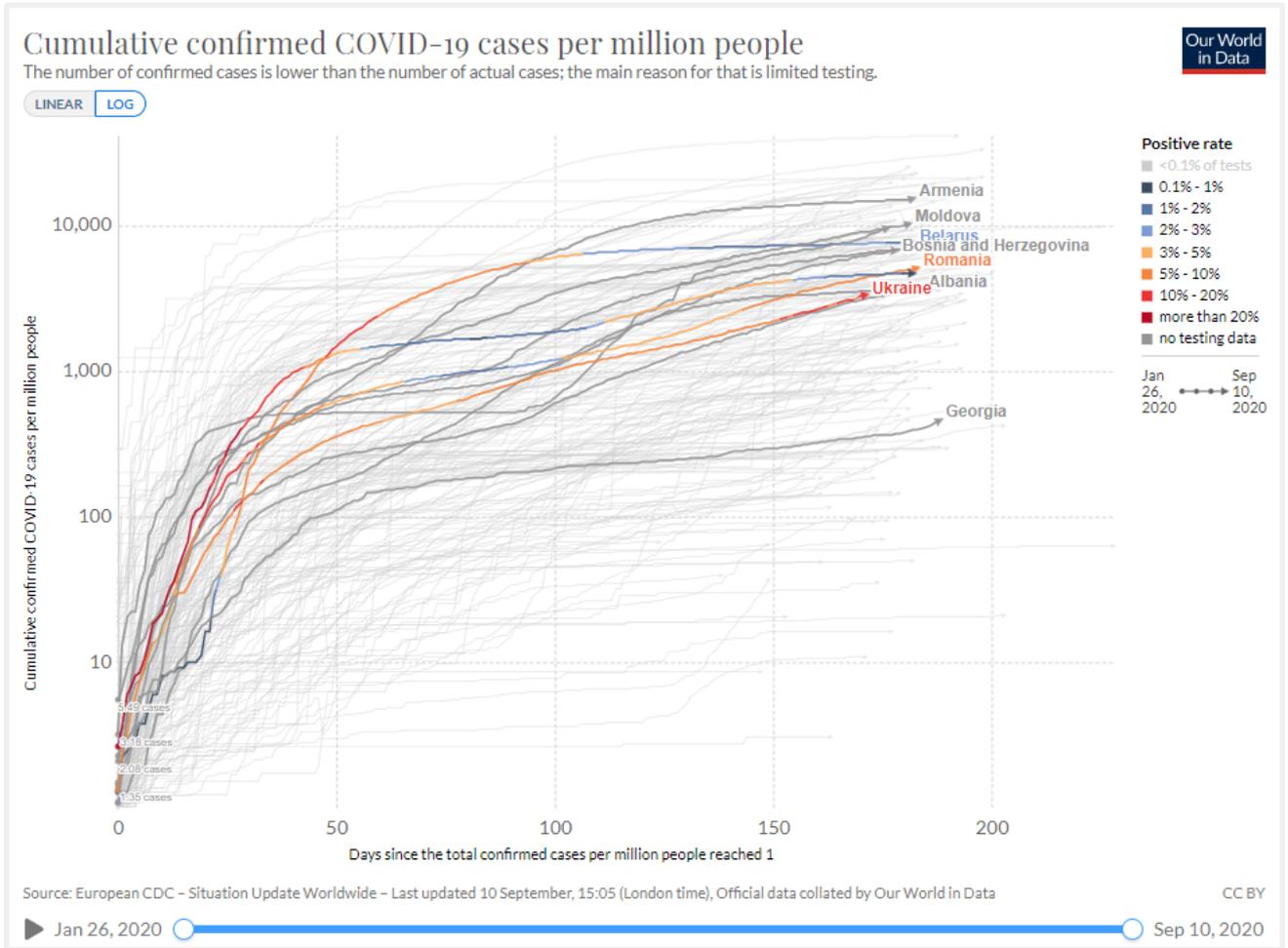
Data as at 11/09/2020, 10:00 a.m.

- After registering a decline last week, the average number of daily cases over a seven-day period started to grow again, reaching 476 in the past week, which is 72 cases more compared to the same figure last week. The total number of reported cases now stands at 41,704. The total number of active cases continued to increase gradually and reached 10,666. This represents 25.6% of all registered cases;
- The overall crude cumulative incidence of cases per 100,000 stands at 1,200, placing Moldova near the top of countries with the highest incidence of cases in Europe and in the region. The crude cumulative incidence of cases over the last seven days is 96 and over the last 14 days is 177, with the former registering an increase and the latter registering a decrease over the past week;
- The number of deaths continued to grow, with a total of 69 deaths being reported over the last seven days. The average number of daily deaths over the same period is 9.86, which is higher than the 8.57 figure reported last week. The total number of deaths reached 1,106. The case fatality rate, however, remained stable at 2.7%. The average age of patients who have died from the disease is 66.3, with a little over 90% of all deaths having been reported in patients 50 years of age and older;
- The number of patients who have recovered from the disease now stands at 29,932. This represents 71.8% of all cases;
- Weekly figures show a mixed picture of the evolution of the pandemic in the country. With 3,097 new cases reported, last week saw a 3.9% decrease in the number of new cases compared to the previous week. The contagion rate (R0) also decreased somewhat to 1.05 (from 1.09) last week and decreased further to 1.03 at the beginning of this week. The number of weekly recoveries continued to increase, reaching 2,679 last week. This represents a 19.5% increase compared to the week prior. Although the weekly number of recoveries remained below the weekly number of new cases, the difference between the two figures decreased to about 400 cases;

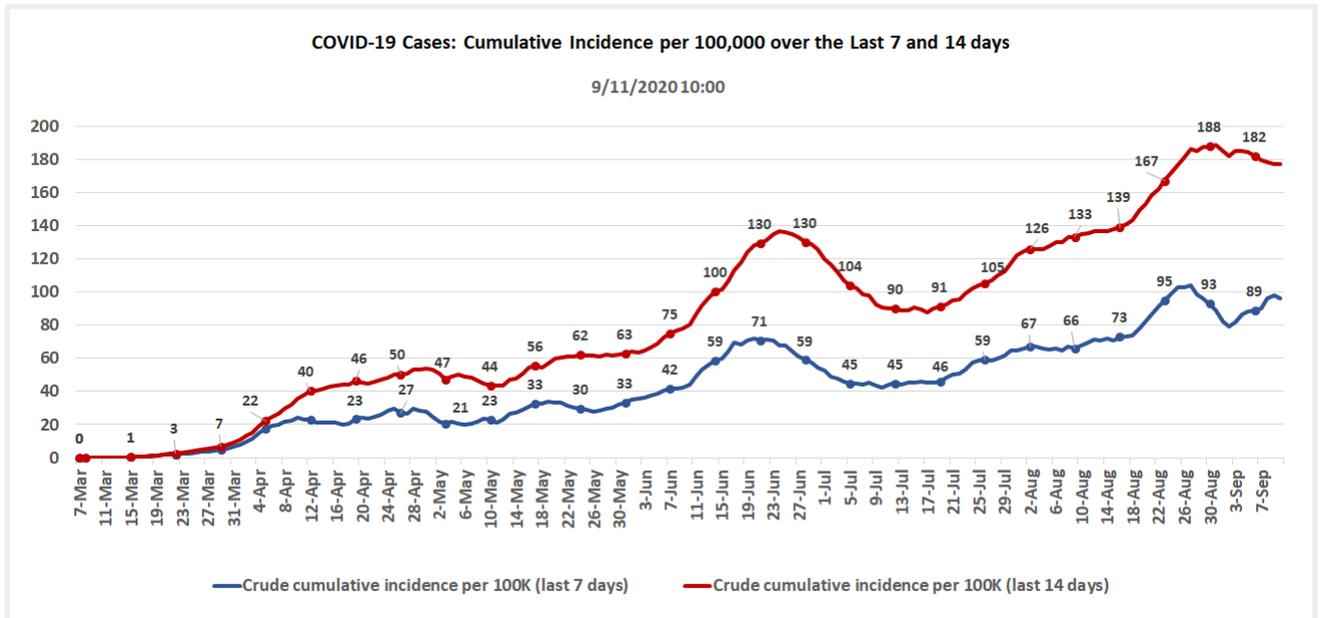


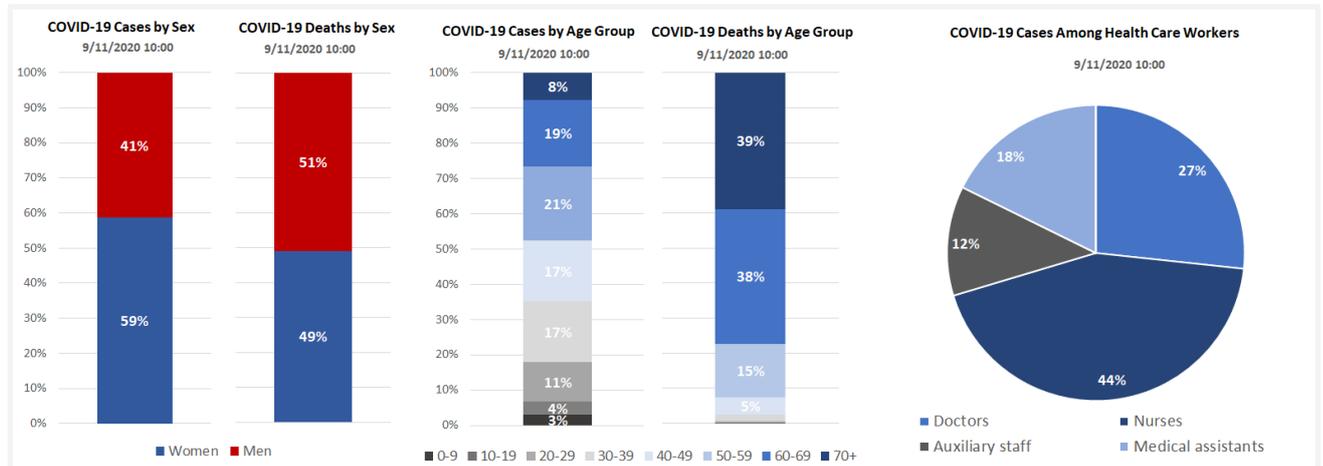
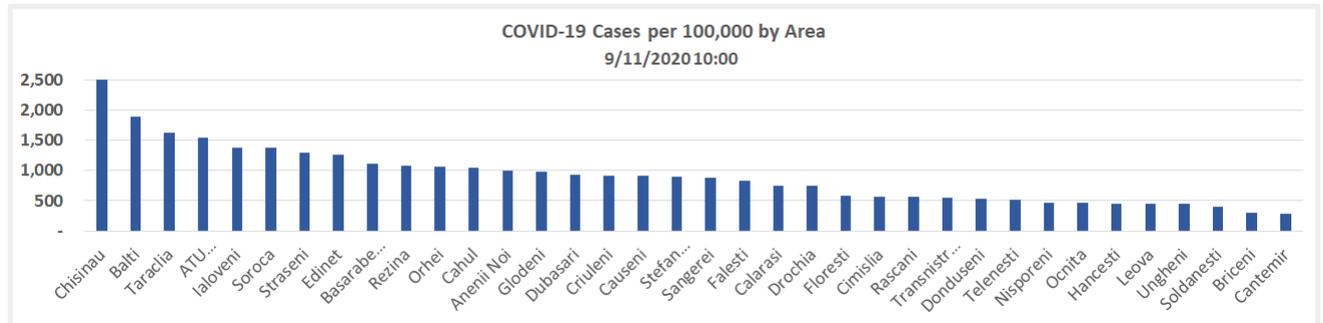
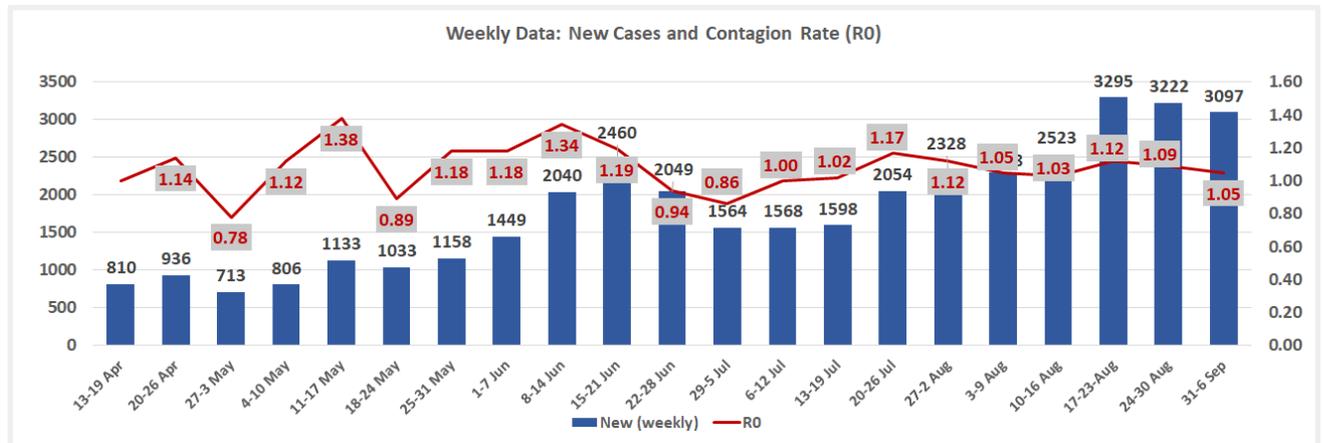
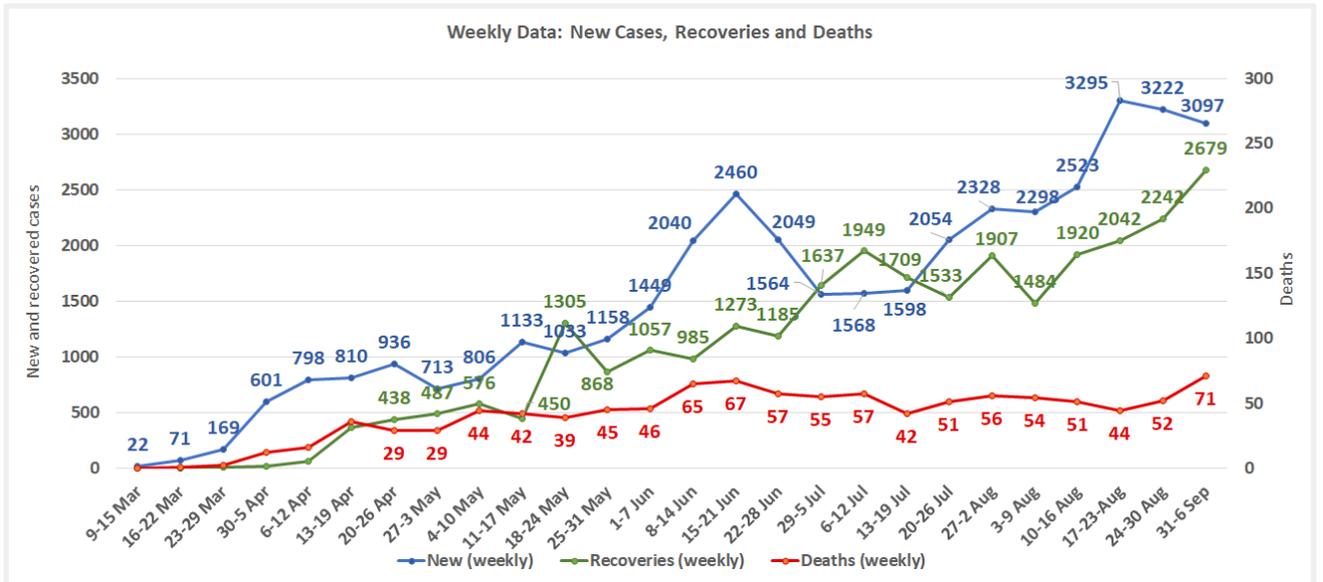
- The average number of serious cases decreased slightly to 534 last week (from 543 the previous week) but increased again to an average of 560 in the last seven days. The number of serious cases currently stands at 564. The weekly number of deaths also increased, with a record of 71 deaths being reported last week. This represents a 36.5% increase in these figures compared to the week prior;
- The share of health care workers in the total number of cases continued to decrease slowly and now stands at 11.4%. Over 4,750 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 42% of all confirmed cases, remains the most affected area if the number of cases is considered. Transnistria region, ATU Gagauzia and Balti follow in the list of most affected areas, accounting for 5-6% of all cases each. Ialoveni, Cahul, Orhei, Straseni and Soroca, account for another 3% of all cases each. Overall, almost three in four cases are from the areas mentioned above. If the size of the population is considered, with more than 2,600 cases per 100,000, Chisinau remains the most affected area in the country. The capital city is followed by Balti, Taraclia and ATU Gagauzia. All of these areas have surpassed the 1,500-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 slightly higher than that of women, 51% vs. 49%. Furthermore, the case fatality rate among men continues to be higher than among women, 3.3% vs. 2.2%;
- Real time figures and graphs can be accessed [here](#) in Romanian and in Russian [here](#). This site has more than 2 million views to date.





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

- Schools successfully restarted on September 2. The Ministry of Education, Culture and Research has set up the National Group for the Coordination of Safety in Education to monitor the processes and discuss policy options;
- [New measures](#) to prevent and control COVID-19 infection at the entry to the Republic of Moldova from September 1, 2020. A list of countries with additional restrictions can be accessed [here](#).

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 September 15, 2020. The full list of provisions agreed by the Extraordinary National Commission on Public Health can be found [here](#).

Political Situation

- In the six years since the signing of the Association Agreement between Moldova and the European Union and the implementation of the Comprehensive and Deep Free Trade Area (DCFTA), Moldovan exports to the European market have steadily increased. The top EU countries where domestic companies carry out export activities are Romania, Italy, Germany, Poland and Bulgaria. Exports of Moldovan products to the EU market in January- June 2020 reached 742.6 million dollars, and imports from the EU amounted to 1118.2 million dollars;
- The CEC has announced that three initiative groups supporting Violeta Ivanov (the Shor Party), former Defense Minister Ion Costas (independent), and former presidential adviser and deputy premier Constantin Oboroc have applied for registration. The CEC will make a decision on the applications in the coming days;
- President Dodon has announced that he will run for a second term. The President said he had decided to take part in the election following the support given to him by the citizens of the country. The President also noted that the country needs a powerful, responsible leader in this stage of its development and implied that he was that leader;
- The Prosecutor General (PG) announced that the former head of Moldovan Information and Security Service (SIS), Vasile Botnari, received a suspended sentence for his role in the controversial deportation to Turkey of a group of Turkish teachers. The PG also stated that Botnari was forced to pay 125,000 euros in a fine, the amount Moldova had already paid in the cases of the five teachers that had been brought before the European Court of Human Rights. The former head of SIS will have to pay a further 19,000 euros for the charter flight that transported the seven teachers to Turkey. Botnari pleaded guilty in the case and took full responsibility for the orders he gave. However, the PG said he believes the former SIS chief was influenced from outside the country, suggesting that he had been following political orders;
- The Permanent Bureau of the Parliament announced that M.P.s are meeting today, September 10, for their first session, which will include analyses of changes to the 2020 state budget law, the state social insurance law, and the medical insurance law.

Security

- NTR

Transnistria Region

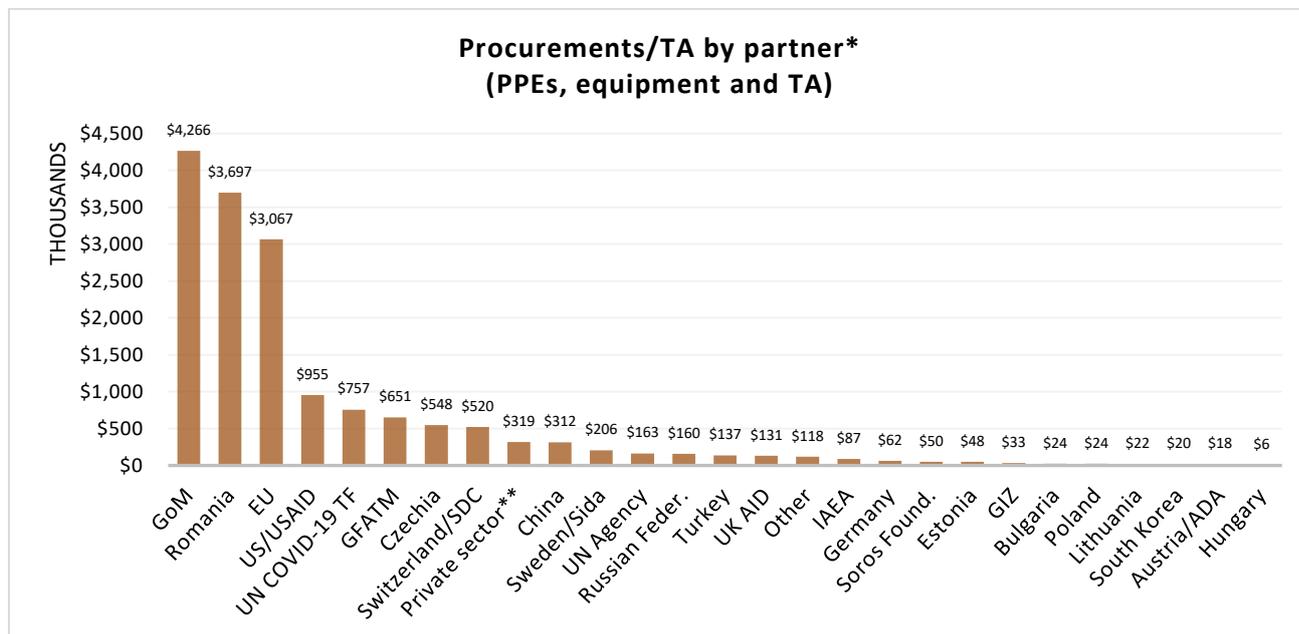
- As of September 9, 2020, the operational headquarters in Tiraspol has reported a total number of 2,594 cases of COVID 19. Out of the total number of infected patients 1,702 or 66% have recovered and 69 persons or 2.7 % have died. The de-facto leader has banned visits to places of detention;
- On November 29, 2020, Transnistria Region residents will elect de facto deputies of the Supreme Council as well as de facto deputies and chairs of local councils (de facto heads of administrations of villages, settlements). The election campaign started on September 3. Elections of de facto deputies will be held in 33 constituencies and elections of de facto deputies of local councils - in 251 constituencies, and de facto deputies of rural councils - in 724 constituencies.

Economic Update

- In August 2020 the annual inflation (for the last 12 months) reached 3,45%, including inflation for food products 7,59%, nonfood products (-0,04%) and services 2,13%. Furthermore, the consumers price index (CPI) in August compared to July was 99.97% which reflects seasonal reduction in prices for food products, while reduction in prices for non-foods and services provided to population was largely affected by Covid-19. Consumer prices in August 2020, compared to August 2019, recorded an upward trend - by 3.45 percent, while in August 2019 compared to August 2018 a decline by 5.51 percent;
- According to NBS, economically active labor force declined by 9% in first semester 2020 versus same period of previous year. The occupied population was by 8.8% less than in the first half of 2019. The occupation rate (15+) went down from 43.4% (in the second half 2019) to 39.9% (2020). Similarly, the rate of employment in the first half of 2020 declined from 41.4% (2019) to 38.2%. The breakdown by employment distribution suggests that employment in agriculture declined by 10%, while decline in employment in manufacturing sector was by 7.8% and in constructions the decline reached 9.8%. Population outside employment (primarily young people) increased by 4.9% compared to first half of 2019. The share of economically inactive people who do not work and are not looking for a job in Moldova, because they already have a job (permanent or seasonal) abroad, or who plan to work abroad increased from 11% in the second quarter of 2019 to 12.6% 2020. At the same time, the share of people (declared by households) as having gone abroad to work or looking for work for less than a year decreased by 24.7% compared to the second quarter of 2019. The unemployment rate declined from 4.5% in first half of 2019 to 4.2% in 2020;
- The NBM reduced its base rate from 3% to 2.75% with the purpose of stimulating crediting of the economy. The interest rates on overnight loans will decrease to 5.25% annually and those on overnight deposits to 0.25% annually. For currency reserves the interest rate will increase by 1,5 p.p. reaching 30% of the calculation base for the period of October 15-December 15, 2020. The NBM expects the inflation rate will maintain within the variation of +/-1.5% below the annual target of 5% till the end 2020.

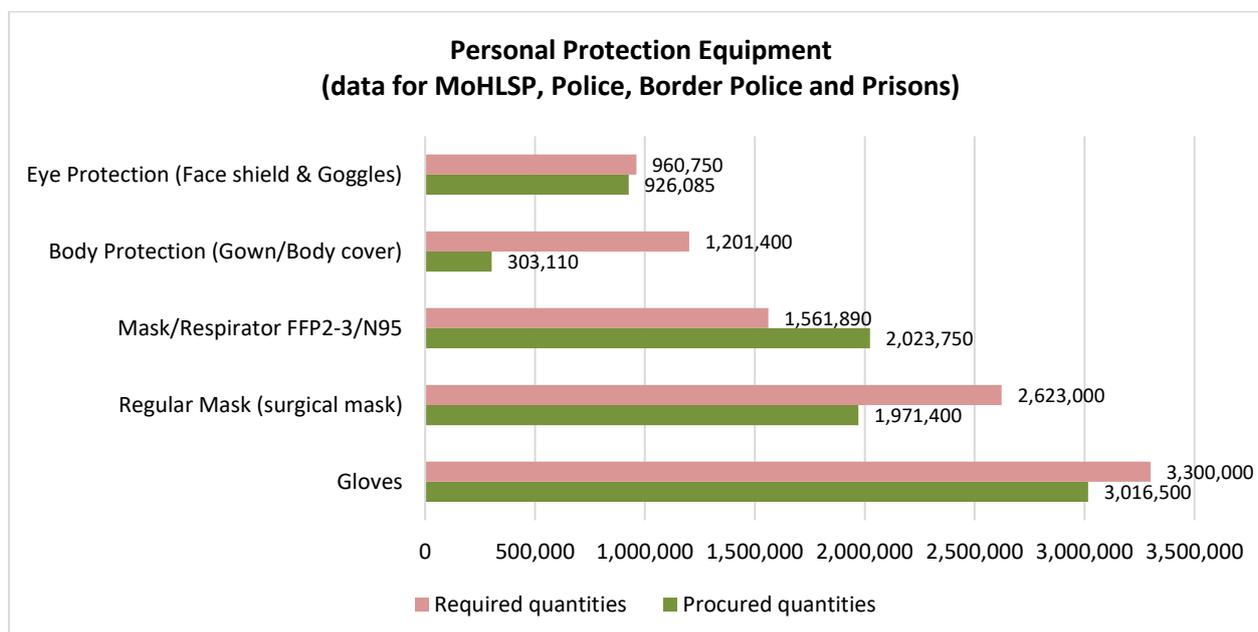
Aid Coordination

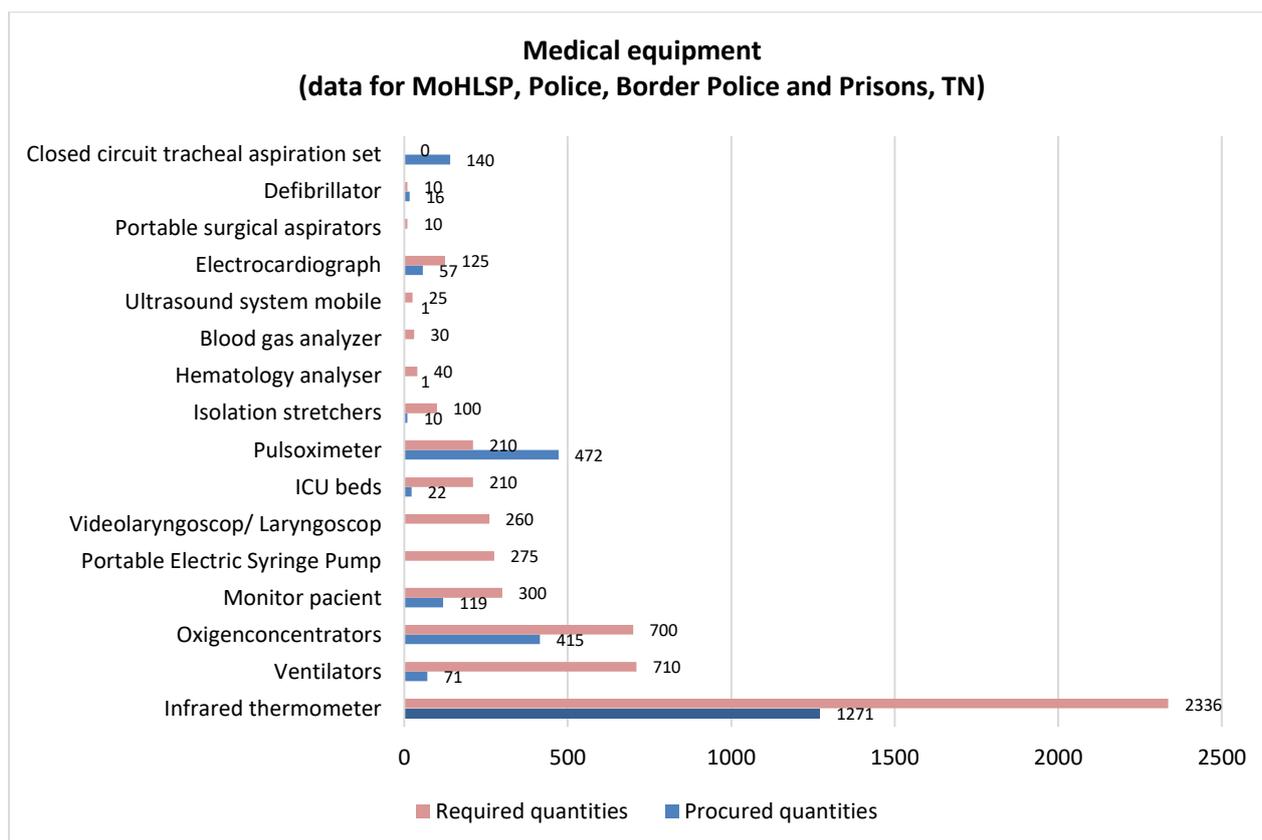
Mapping of contributions to the Health System for COVID response in Moldova



*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: Endava, 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





Development Partners are encouraged to share information about their bilateral support programmes. The UN will continue to work in close cooperation with the MoHLSP and others 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

- UNICEF, with funding from USAID, further managed the process of delivery of COVID-19 related hygiene supplies to rayonal Directorates of Education for use by students in the 22,700 classes in the country for the first three months after school re-opening;
- UNICEF with the support from USAID has completed the delivery of supplies for use by Roma children and their families in Nicoreni, Drochia;
- UN Women within the Joint UN Programme “Strengthening the Republic of Moldova’s National Response to the COVID-19 Crisis”, funded by UN COVID-19 Response and Recovery Multi-Partner Trust Fund is delivering food packages and PPEs consisting of masks, gloves, hand and space sanitizers to more than 1000 women from underrepresented groups, out of which women living with HIV, sex workers and drug users, survivors of violence, elderly etc. and 16 assistance and protection centers for victims of domestic violence on the both banks of Nistru river during the period of September 02-18, 2020;

- UNDP Copenhagen has Oxygen concentrators for allocation. Specs are available upon request. Both models have been UNDP Quality Assurance approved: mobile oxygen concentrator for 5LContinuous flow - OXYTEK- OX-5A and mobile oxygen concentrator for 10LContinuous flow - OXYTEK- OX-10A;
- UNFPA Moldova will donate 13 tablets to the National Bureau of Statistics. The tablets will be used to begin the listing process for the next population and housing census, cartography in the field and training of the field operators.

Assessments and Data

- UNFPA provided support to the Generations and Gender Survey, which is the most comprehensive demographic survey conducted in the Republic of Moldova. As of today, 6,500 people aged 15-79 years old, out of 10,000, from the entire country have already completed the survey. The data is collected by more than 60 field operators that continue to be trained on COVID-19 protective measures. All field operators and survey participants are using PPE, including masks, disinfectants and gloves. The GGS data will be used for monitoring the demographic trends, behavioral changes, changes in the value system, the intention to create a family, the desired number of children, changes in family structure and also for assessing the socio-economic impact of COVID-19 on people's life;
- Currently the National Bureau of Statistics, with the support of UNFPA and SDC, is performing the audit of the National Bureau of Statistics on compliance with personal data protection legislation. The National Bureau of Statistics is reviewing the law on the next population and housing census of the Republic of Moldova, the new structure of the law will incorporate the types of data collected, methods of data collection, target subjects and will be aligned to the personal data protection legislation and will allow to process personal data and assure proper protection of the personal data. At the same time, the new law on population and housing census will rely on the use of the administrative data to ease the data collection process and ensure a better quality of the data. The main difference is that the new law will be a generic one and not specific for each round of census;
- UNICEF presented the preliminary results of the "Assessment of COVID-19 impact on remittances and coping mechanisms of families with children in Moldova" at the UN Socio-Economic Task Force meeting. The overall purpose of this assessment is to analyze the impact of the reduced flow of remittances and understand the most common adopted coping mechanisms by households, and how they impact children in the areas of health, education, nutrition and any other child-related social services. These preliminary results revealed a decrease in revenue for vulnerable households with children, while health, utilities and transportation costs have increased, resulting in indicated expenditure cuts in leisure, clothing and most importantly food intake. Quantitative and qualitative data collection are still undergoing, and final results and assessment are expected by early October 2020. This initiative is undertaken within the framework of the overall COVID-19 Impact Assessment under leadership by RCO and UNDP and with close cooperation with IOM, and it will drive the development of an equity-focused and gender-sensitive mid-term mitigation plan;
- UNDP [presented the results](#) of the scaling-up of the electricity consumption experiment during COVID-19, that resulted in reduction of energy consumption in July 2020 for more than 20,000 Moldovan households, even with 'stay at home' measures. While the overall population increased their electricity consumption with more than one third + 34.05%, the households that were part of the social experiment used only 5.06% more electricity;

- UNDP with support from the European Space Agency is finalizing a national report on impact of COVID-19 on air pollution in Moldova, with particular focus on specific areas of interest, including industrial and urban settlements;
- UNDP finalized the development of the first draft of the analytical note on impact of COVID-19 on incomes and expenditures in households, based on the data from the ad-hoc COVID-19 module to HBS of the NBS.

Socio-Economic Support

- On September 9, 2020, UNDP organized the Socio-Economic Impact Task Force meeting where the impact of the COVID-19 on M-SMEs in Moldova (AmCham, PwC) was discussed and the recent work of UNICEF on COVID-19 impact on remittances and coping mechanisms of families with children in Moldova was presented;
- As part of the Common Chapter, UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF and UN Women have initiated a preparatory project with the Parliament to re-activate the Women Caucus with a view of the critical role in addressing policy, budgetary and oversight issues related to LNOB during and following COVID-19 crisis.

Health

- On September 10, 2020, UNICEF jointly with WHO and with USAID support, issued [a LIVE stream dedicated to importance of vaccination](#) in the context of recently launched National Campaign “Vaccinate your child and protect the future” with participation of Olga Cirstea, pediatrician, PhD, State University of Medicine and Pharmacy ‘Nicolae Testemitanu’ and Alexei Ceban, epidemiologist, Department of Vaccine preventable diseases, National Agency of Public Health. The event reached more than 14,500 people on the day of the event.

Education and youth

- Jointly UNICEF and WHO, with support from USAID, produced and delivered stickers and information boards promoting healthy WASH behaviour for all schools in Moldova;
- UNICEF Representative, also as Chair of the UN Coordinated Education Task Force for COVID-19, provided a brief at the Development partners meetings about the recent situation in relation to the launch of the new school year 2020-2021. Reference was also made to the recent related [information shared by MECR](#), and to the earlier shared [information on the models](#);
- On September 10, 2020, UNICEF chaired the weekly regular meeting of the UN Coordinated Education Task Force for COVID-19 to update on the actions of authorities and partners to ensure the new school year 2020-2021 in safe conditions. The meeting was also informed about the “National Education Responses to COVID-19: Global Tracker Survey Results, update 6 of 27 August 2020”, produced by UNICEF at Global level. The Education Task Force members also mentioned their jointly prepared Thematic Paper, entitled “Education and COVID-19 in Moldova: Grasping the opportunity the learning crisis presents to build a more resilient education system”, made available in [English](#), [Romanian](#) and [Russian](#), has reached many readers;
- On September 8, 2020, UNICEF met with the Chisinau Municipality General Mayor and Deputy Mayor to discuss about their joint collaboration perspectives, including areas related to education in the COVID-19 context;

- The UNICEF co-funded project “UPSHIFT Moldova” started implementation of the youth-led social innovative projects in the regions. The implementation will last from September to December 2020. More than 6,000 people from various age-groups are expected to directly benefit from these projects. Due to COVID-19, the UPSHIFT programme was adjusted to digital format allowing young people to benefit from quality education even during the quarantine period.

Gender

- UNFPA has successfully initiated the engagement of the “Fabrica Oloi PAK/SANA” enterprise in Comrat, Gagauzia in a series of activities spanning over a 3-year period, seeking to implement sustainable work-life balance strategies for its employees, both women and men, to allow for the harmonization of their career goals and desired fertility and family aspirations;
- UN Women supported more than 60 women local councilors at first mandate to improve their capacities on the integration of gender in local decisions, plans and budgets within the second module of a complex capacity building program. In the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, the participants are also improved their digital skills and are building the capacities to hold on-line meetings and events, which contributes also to close the digital divides among councilors from different municipalities/regions;
- UN Women has supported the development and launching of three documentaries based on the stories of 3 women with disabilities who ran for local elections in 2019 within the International Documentary Movies Festival “Moldox”, taking place in Cahul on September 9, 2020. Discussions with protagonists and state authorities have accompanied the broadcasting of the documentaries.

Human Rights

- NTR.

Communications

- UNFPA launched through a [public event](#) the Cervical Cancer prevention campaign “Stay Healthy. Do the PAP test”! in the region of Gagauzia, addressing mainly Russian speaking audiences, by engaging the Bashkan Irina Vlah, the MoHealth State Secretary and SDC’s Director. The [campaign’s messages](#) are tailored to COVID-19 pandemic and all women are encouraged to call their family doctor first and plan the PAP-test. The campaign was widely reflected in the Gagauz Info [media](#), [NTV](#) channel and social media via [Facebook](#) & [Twitter](#);
- UNFPA launched a [video](#) about Gender and Generations Survey (GGS) data collection during the pandemic. All field operators are equipped with PPEs and people are encouraged to participate in the Survey;
- UNFPA launched a [press release](#) about the Vocational Education Institutions (VET) ready to operate safely during COVID-19, following a training of the VET teachers, pupils and nurses on the protection measures and safe behaviors organized by the Ministry of Education and UNFPA;
- UNFPA jointly with Youth Centers Network launched the [YouthAgainstCovid](#) social media initiative, encouraging young people to observe the protection measures, especially in the context of the new school year;

- UNICEF jointly with WHO published a series of [video animations](#) on importance of vaccination in the context of the reopening of pre-schools and schools during the COVID-19 pandemic, raising public awareness and empowering them to follow regular vaccination. These animations are published as part of joint Immunization campaign launched in August 2020 by Ministry of Health, Labor and Social Protection, National Agency for Public Health, WHO Moldova and UNICEF Moldova;
- UNICEF launched a social media action [“Thank you Teacher”](#) to mobilize people to express the gratitude to teachers who ensure children have the opportunity to receive quality education in the context of COVID-19;
- UNICEF supported the young content creators to participate in the [Global Youth Mediation](#) and benefit from the expert training and networking. This activity supports young people worldwide to “Reimagine” the world they want to build after COVID-19;
- UNICEF shared a [global press release](#) on UNICEF’s leading role in procurement and supply of COVID-19 vaccines on global level. The press release was translated into Romanian and Russian languages and shared on UNICEF Moldova media platforms;