

Coronavirus Disease - COVID 19

Situation Report No. 30 (28 August 2020)



COVID-19
RESPONSE

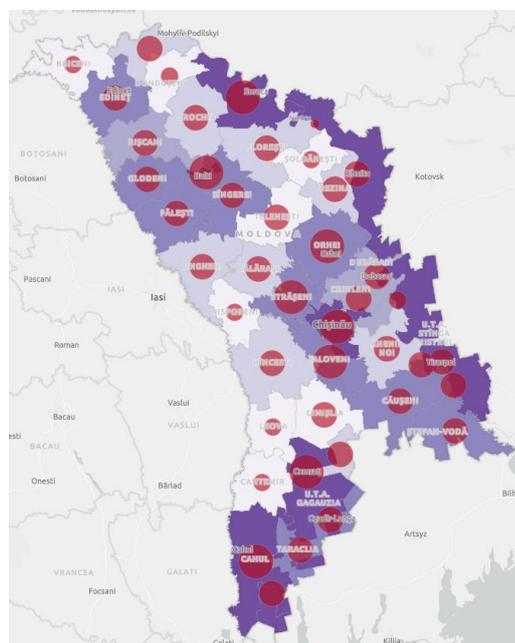


This report is produced by UN Moldova in collaboration with Government and development/humanitarian partners.

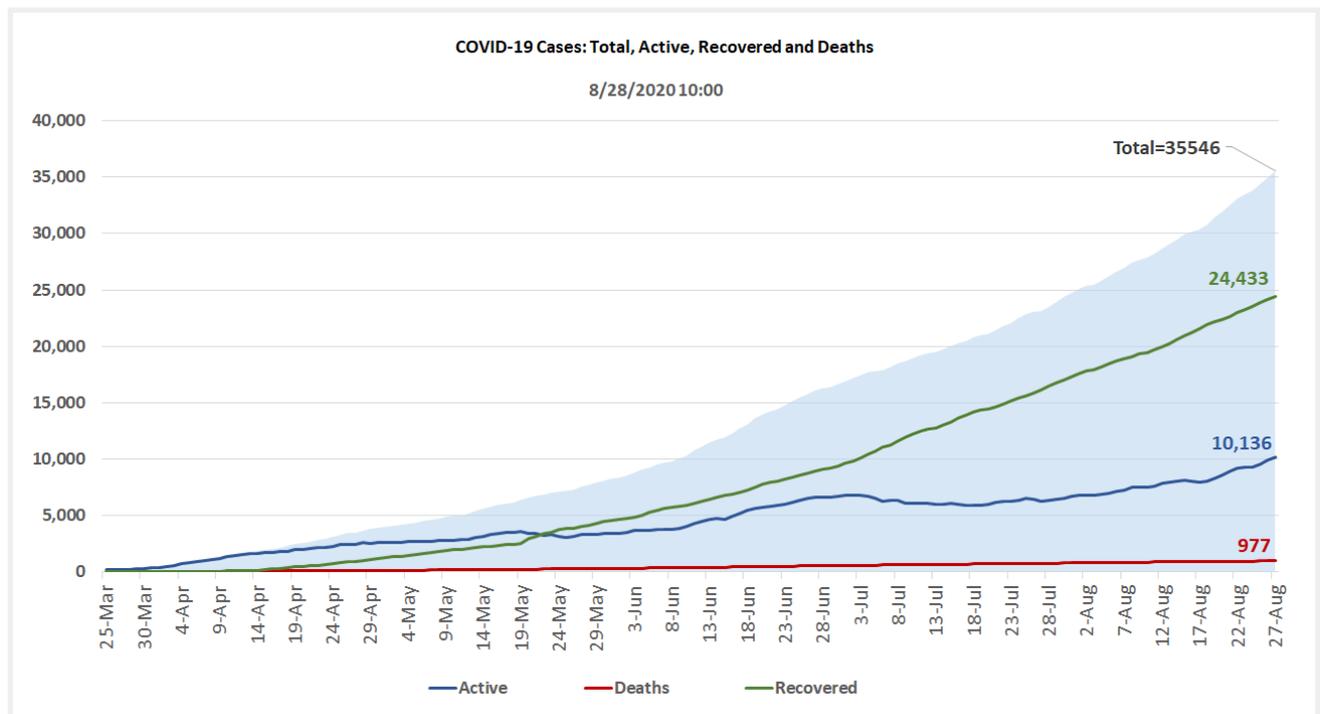
Highlights – data as reported by national authorities

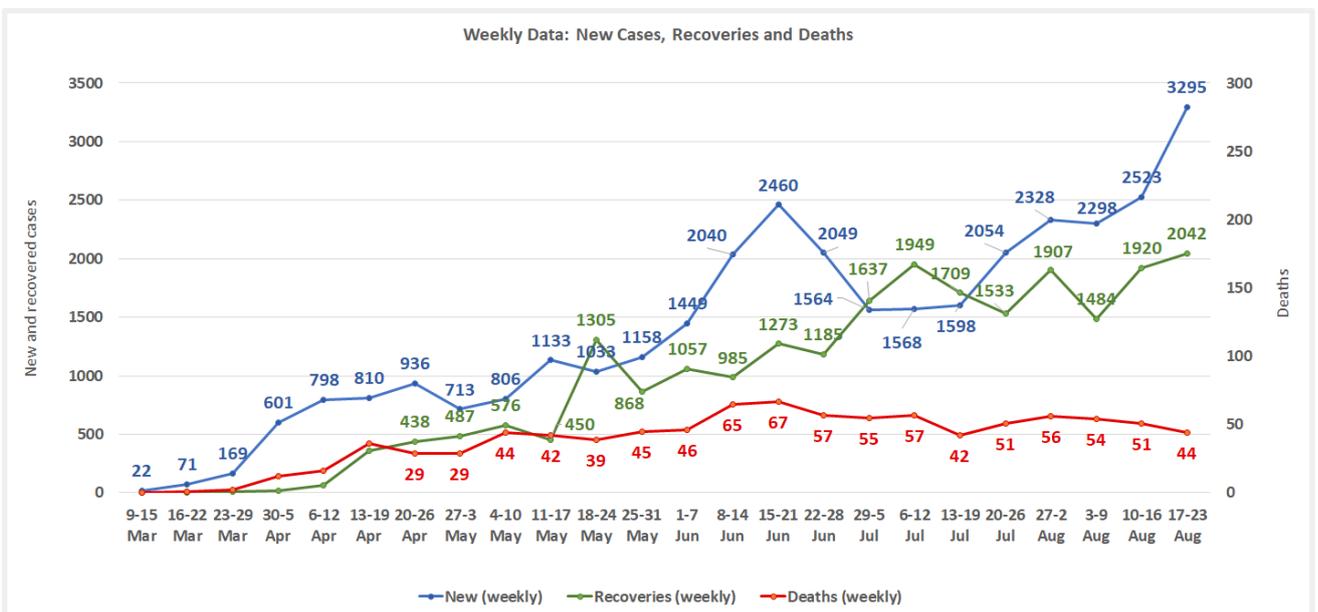
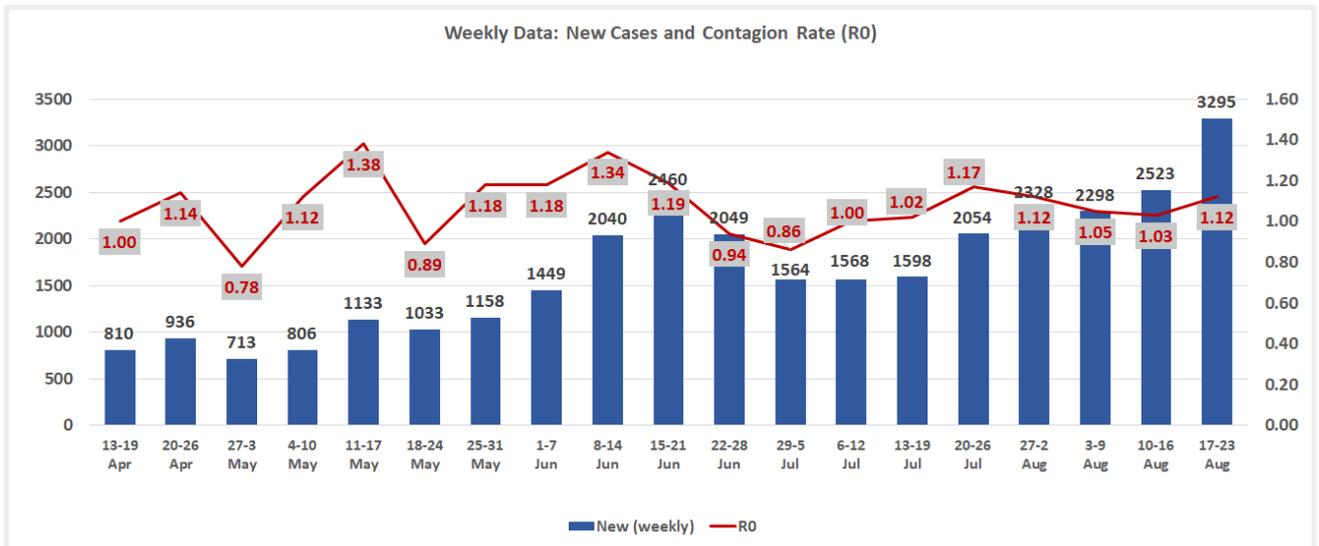
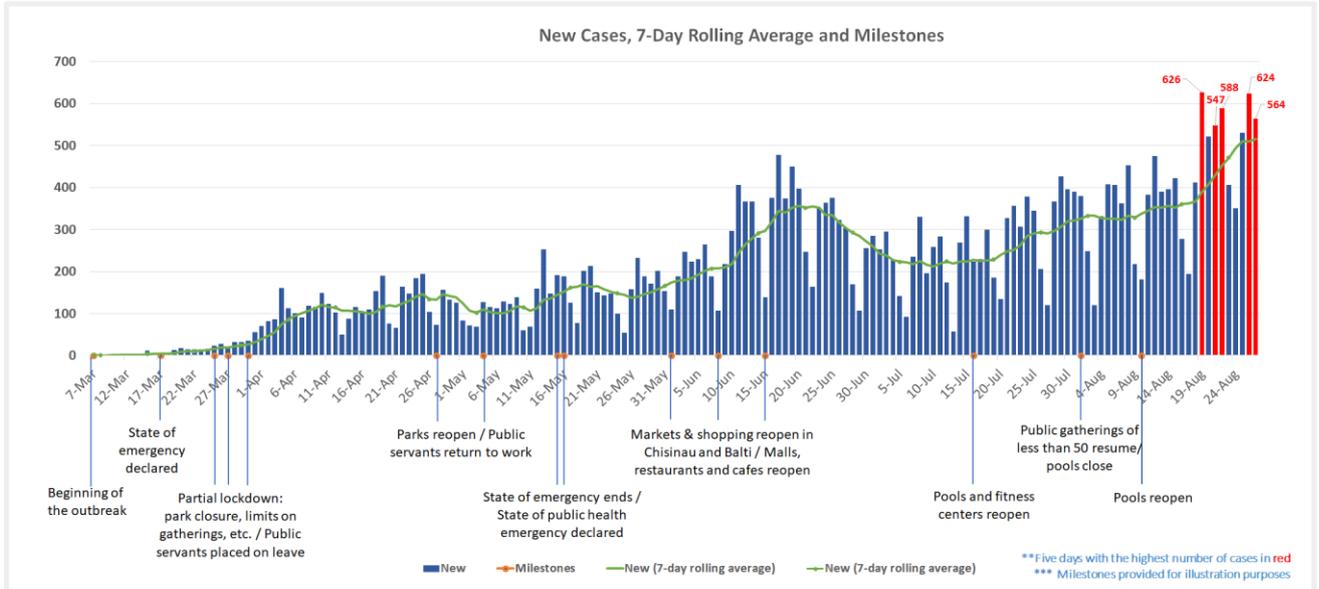
Data as at 28/08/2020, 10:00 a.m.

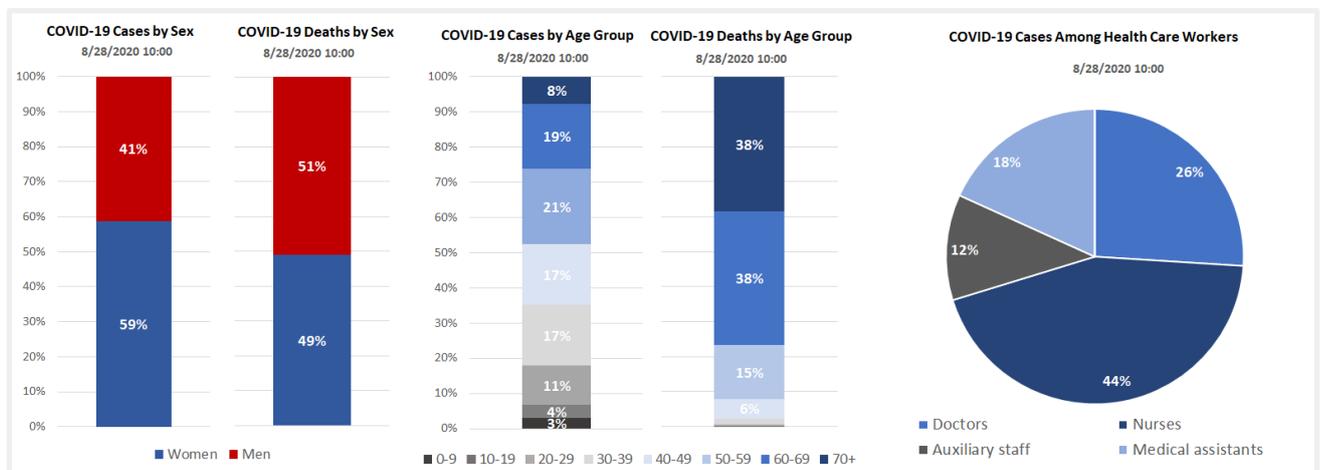
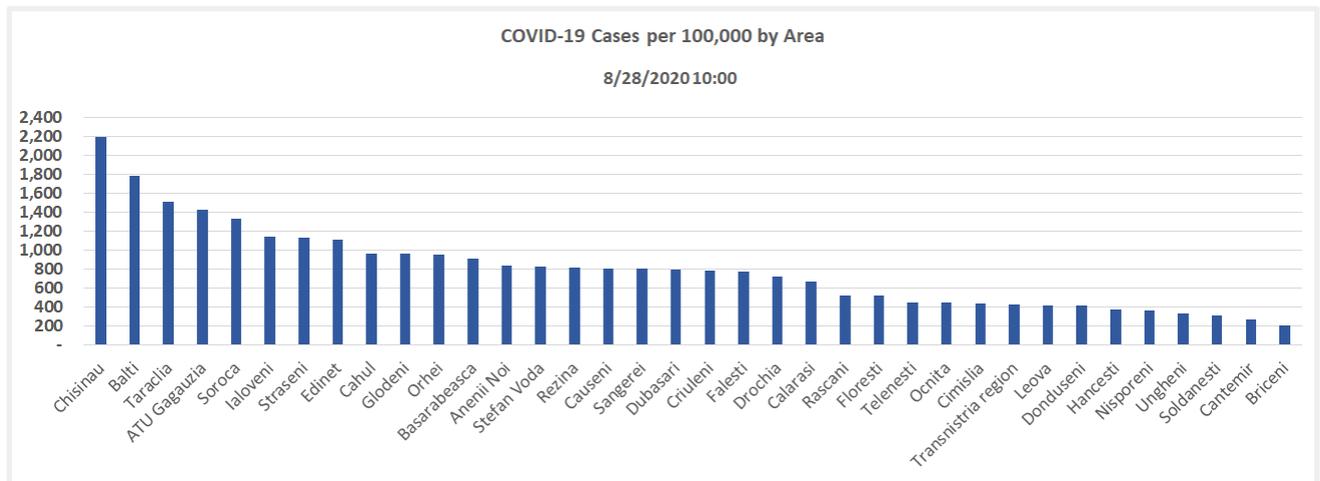
- The increase in cases continued to accelerate over the last week, with the total number of reported cases reaching 35,546. The average number of daily cases over the last seven days stands at 516, which is 109 cases more per day compared to the same figure last week. The total number of active cases has surpassed 10,000 and now stands at 10,136. This represents 28.5% of all registered cases;
- The overall crude cumulative incidence of cases per 100,000 stands at 10,023 - one of the highest in Europe and in the region. The crude cumulative incidence of cases over the last seven days is 104 and over the last 14 days is 186, with both of these figures registering an increase over the past week;
- The number of deaths continued to grow as well, with a total of 56 deaths being reported over the last seven days. The average number of daily deaths over the same period is 8.00, which is considerably higher compared to the 6.14 figure reported last week. The total number of deaths reached 977. The case fatality rate, however, decreased further and now stands at 2.7%. The average age of patients who have died from the disease is 66.1, with a little over 90% of all deaths having been reported in patients 50 years of age and older;
- The number of recoveries continued to grow at a relatively steady pace. The total number of patients who have recovered from the disease currently stands at 24,433, which represents 68.7% of all cases;
- Weekly figures continued to paint a concerning picture of the evolution of the pandemic in the country. With 3,295 new cases reported, last week saw an over 30% increase in the number of new cases compared to the previous week. The contagion rate (R0) also increased and now stands at 1.12 based on the latest data available. Furthermore, the average number of serious cases increased to 512 last week (from 448 the previous week) and continued to increase further this week, reaching 548 over the last seven days. The number of serious cases currently stands at 544;



- In contrast, the weekly number of deaths decreased somewhat last week compared to the week prior, and the number of recoveries increased by 14% to 2,042. Nevertheless, the gap between the number of weekly recoveries and the number of weekly cases widened considerably last week and continued to widen this week;
- The share of health care workers in the total number of cases dropped to 12.0%. Over 4,250 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 41% 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, Soroca, Cahul, Orhei 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 remains the most affected area in the country, surpassing the 2,000-case mark per 100,000. The capital city is followed by Balti, Taraclia, ATU Gagauzia, Soroca, Ialoveni, Straseni and Edinet. 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 slightly higher than that of women, 51% vs. 49%. Furthermore, the case fatality rate among men continues to be higher than among women, 3.4% vs. 2.3%;
- Real time figures and graphs can be accessed [here](#) in Romanian and in Russian [here](#). This site has more than 1.98 million views to date.







Overview of Key Decisions & Announcements

- The Extraordinary National Commission on Public Health has extended the National Public Health Emergency until 15 September;
- An Emergency Operations Center has been opened in the National Public Health Agency by the WHO with the support of the EU. Media event [here](#);
- The Extraordinary Committee for Public Health approved to abolish the [package](#) of the public health measures, especially measures related to the re-opening of the schools (on 21 August 2020);
- WHO has developed a [European Region COVID-19 Subnational Explorer](#) where additional sub-national statistical analysis can be reviewed.

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

- Following the weekly meeting of the President, Prime Minister, and the Speaker of Parliament, they noted the rise in Covid-19 cases, and urged citizens to follow health and epidemiological rules. They stated that if citizens do not follow such measures, they could be forced to reintroduce movement restrictions and other measures;
- President Dodon has announced that schools and kindergartens will reopen in-person on September 1 but that shut-down decisions will be made on a case-by-case basis. The Education, Culture, and Research Minister stated that, according to a recent survey, 769 out of 1,240 educational institutions in the country wanted a resumption of in-person education, with additional safety measures;
- The Central Electoral Commission (CEC) announced that the electoral period for the November presidential election began on August 25 and will last for 90 days. The period officially ends after the Constitutional Court confirms the results of the elections and validates the mandate of the winner. The CEC notes that the major actions that will occur during the electoral period include the creation and organization of the activity of electoral offices, the registration of initiative groups and presidential candidates, the creation and organization of polling stations, the updating and publication of electoral lists, informing voters, training poll workers, monitoring elections and their coverage in media outlets, organizing the voting process, and counting ballots;
- The head of Moldovagaz recently informed President Dodon that the company will cut natural gas fees for final consumers beginning in September. They also spoke about the initiation of negotiations with Gazprom for a new three-year gas delivery contract, Transnistria's debts to Gazprom, and the implementation of the third EU energy package;
- A new poll from the Association of Sociologists and Demographers in Moldova shows President Dodon with support of 43.3 percent of voters who have already decided on their candidate, followed by Maia Sandu (26.9 percent), Balti mayor Renato Usatii (7.2 percent), Shor Party head Ilan Shor (5.9 percent), PPDA head Andrei Nastase (5.3 percent), and PD head Pavel Filip (4.1 percent).

Security

- NTR

Transnistria Region

- As of August 26, the Operational Headquarters in Tiraspol reported a total number of 1,951 cases of COVID. Out of the total number of infected patients 1,527 or 78,26 % have recovered and 59 persons or 3,02 % have died. About 26,000 tests were performed in the region from the beginning of the pandemic.

Most of the COVID tests are processed in Chisinau and Tiraspol. A record number of 51 COVID positive patients were confirmed on August 26. However, despite this bleak news, public events, including a military parade will be organized on August 28;

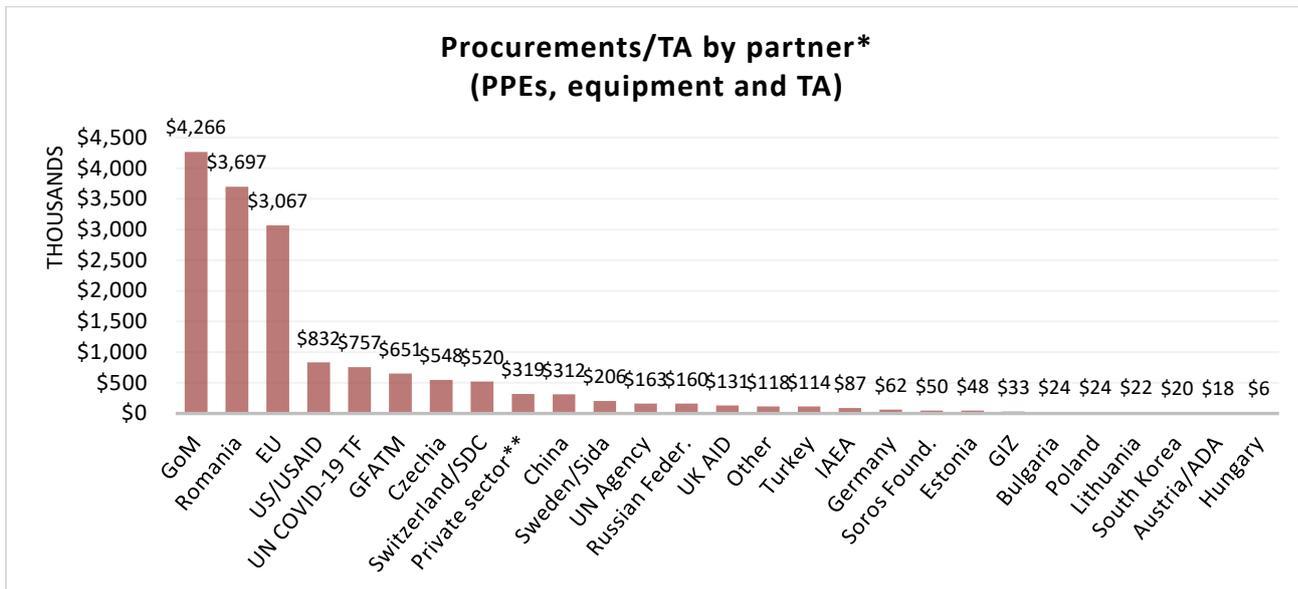
- The de facto authorities have announced that border crossings will be cut because the number of Covid-19 infections in the region rose 2.4 times recently. The de facto leader stated that only people with emergencies can get into the region as long as they follow health standards. The de facto leader also ordered the creation of a lab in Ribnita to test Covid-19 suspected cases and the reopening in the Tighina and Tiraspol hospitals of centers for Covid-19 treatment. Individuals in critical condition will be sent to the Slobozia hospital;
- A new tranche of humanitarian aid was provided by Russian Federation to the Transnistrian Region. Thanks to this assistance, an additional \$10 per month will be added to pensions for the next 6 months;
- According to a new online poll organized by the left bank media, Victor Gushan, the oligarch from the TN region is the most popular figure in the region with 43% of respondents reporting that they would like to see him as a candidate if a new elections for the de-facto leader were to be organized next week.

Economic Update

- The NBS released data on the turnover in retail trade (except motor vehicles) during June'20 that indicate 10.5% growth in comparable prices versus previous month and 3% increase versus June'19. At the same time, turnover in the services sector grew by 23.9% in June'20 compared to May'20 while it is still in decline by 43.5% versus the same period of 2019. Also, during the period of January-June'20 the turnover in retail trade declined by 1.4% (in comparable prices) versus the same period of 2019, while turnover in the services sector witnessed a more severe decline of 24,7% in the same period. The turnover of wholesale trade (except motor vehicles) grew by 5.3% (in current prices) versus May'20, yet it decreased by 11% compared to June'19. Turnover in B2B services grew by 16.6% (in current prices) in June'20 versus previous month, however it declined by 22.7% versus June'19. If to consider half-year trend, the turnover of B2B services showing 15.2% (in current prices) decline during January-June'20 versus the period of 2019. Although being in decline by over 10% the turnover in retail trade of motor vehicles in June'20 registered substantial growth of 12.1% versus May'20. The overall decline in turnover of motor vehicles trade during January-June'20 reached 22.3% (in current prices) versus same period of 2019.

Aid Coordination

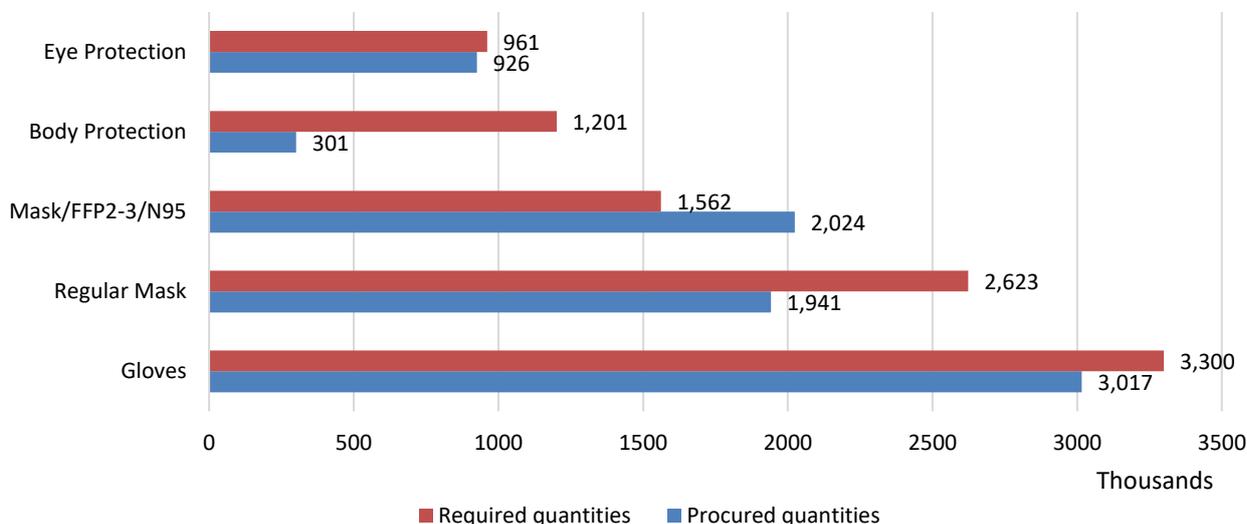
Mapping of contributions to the Health System for COVID response in Moldova

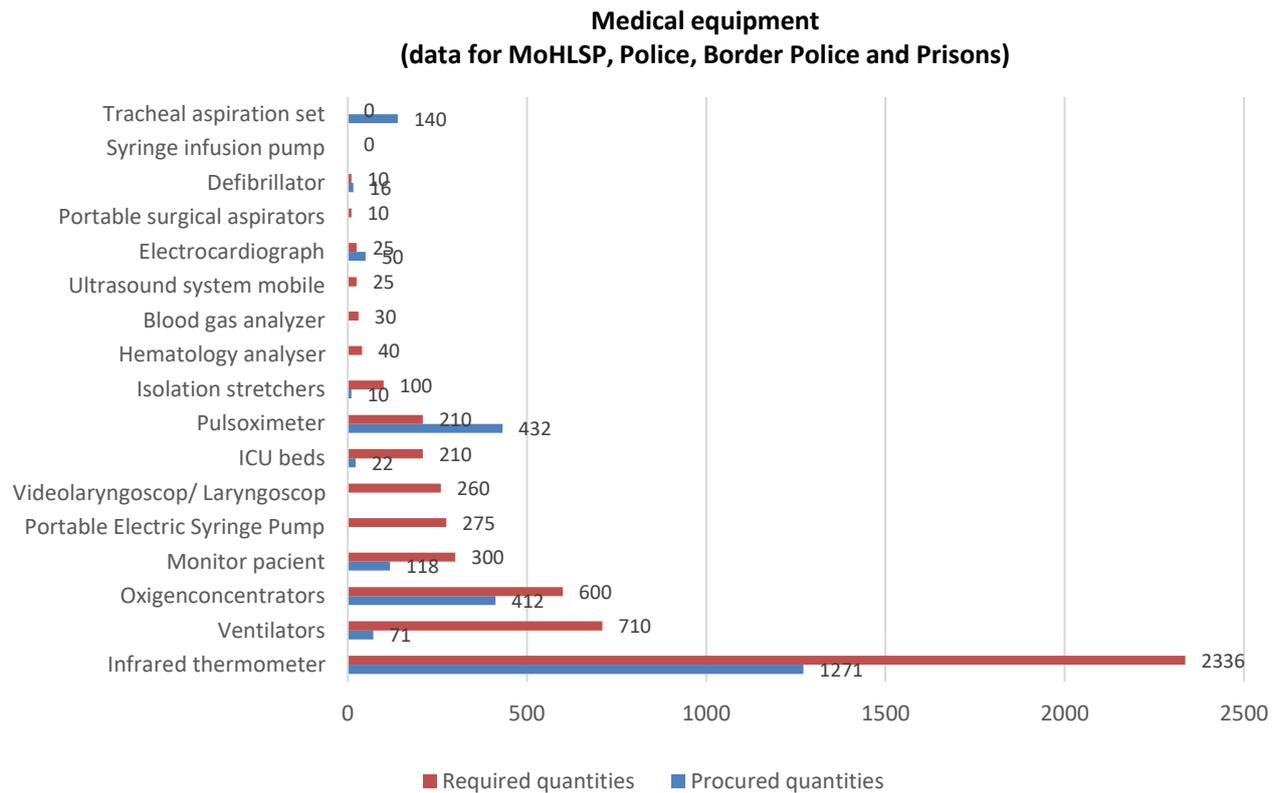


*Note - data only for contracted/procured items and technical assistance. Committed and/or pledged contributions are not reflected. Data are captured from various sources, i.e. media and may not be accurate. The process of reflecting donors/contributions is ongoing, and data is updated once details of procured items are confirmed. For more information please send an email to veaceslav.palade@un.org and/or garami@who.int

** Private sector companies: Orange Moldova, Lisedfarm SRL, Moldretail Grup SRL, Kaufland, Moldcell Moldova, Starnet SRL, Gedeon Rihter, Farmacia Familiei SRL, Svibmagtex SRL, Miso Textile SRL, Zernoff SRL, Aromcom SRL, Art Vest SRL, Dita Est Farm SRL, Tetis International Co SRL, Rihpangalfarma SRL, Sonaris Com

Personal Protection Equipment (data for MoHLSP, 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 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 liquid soap, bars of soaps, and liquid disinfectants, for delivery to each school in the country, to cover their need over a three months period. Furthermore, also with USAID funds, UNICEF is also supporting MECR in procuring non-contact thermometers for all the pre-schools in the country;
- WHO with the support from USAID, procured 13 autoclaves for the National Agency for Public Health laboratory network (10 regional laboratories, including national reference laboratory). On August 20, 2020, the supplies were delivered to the NAPH. The 13 autoclaves, in the amount of 116,870 USD, will ensure the biosecurity conditions in the context of infection waste management resulting from laboratory activity, including those involved in the diagnosis of COVID-19 infection;

- Several medical devices: i.e. oxygen concentrators, pulse oximeters, equipment for mechanical ventilation have been procured in the framework of EU DG NEAR project. The oxygen concentrators were delivered to the series of health care institutions. The oxygen concentrators will be distributed in all hospitals in the country, including Transnistria region;
- The green light for PCR test kits (30K) was initiated and will be delivered by the WHO on 27 August 2020.

Assessments and Data

- UNDP Moldova with technical support of the European Space Agency finalized a pilot research project on the impact of the COVID-19 and droughts on the agriculture sector in Moldova; another stream of work is on analyzing satellite imagery on air pollution to derive additional insights on the impact of the COVID-19 on urban mobility and transportation and industrial output; both analytical products will be publicly available on UNDP Web page in the next two weeks;
- UNICEF, in collaboration with IOM and UNDP, is conducting an “Assessment of COVID-19 impact on remittances and coping mechanisms of families with children in Moldova”. The overall purpose of the assessment is to analyze the impact of the reduced flow of remittances, and the possible coping mechanisms adopted by families with children on any child-related issues. This impact assessment will drive policy discussion and advocacy with local authorities for the development of an equity-focused and gender-sensitive mid-term mitigation plan. Preliminary results are expected to be available in September 2020.

Socio-Economic Support

- UNCTAD is contributing to improving the capacities of stakeholders to design, develop and implement innovative, gender-sensitive policies and services towards inclusive and sustainable economic growth and productive employment. In this regard, it aims to assess government efforts to strengthen policies and institutions relevant to investment, both local and foreign, and enterprise development to support economic recovery in the aftermath of COVID 19. It will also provide assistance to stakeholders on ways to enhance investment-specific legislation.

Health

- With WHO support an exchange of experience on COVID-19 case management and best practices on severe clinical case management were shared by the representatives of the MoHLSP with Romanian MoH and three main hospitals in Bucuresti, Iasi and Timisoara;
- WHO provided support in development of the algorithms for suicide prevention in COVID-19 patients and HCWs. The burnout syndrome prevention activities with HCWs continues with WHO support;
- WHO conducted a field assessment mission jointly with MoHLSP in Edinet where additional pediatric beds and intensive care beds (units) will be re-purpose in COVID-19 hospitals;
- A face-to face training was conducted by WHO on the COVID-19 severe case management, for ~35 doctors from the Edinet, Ocnita, Donduseni, Briceni district hospitals;

- WHO provided support in finalization of the national clinical case management protocol. The criteria for releasing COVID-19 patients from isolation and exclude some medicines from the treatment have been included in the protocol.

Education and youth

- UNICEF participated in the meeting of the National Council for the Protection of Child Rights (NCCRP) chaired by the Prime Minister of the Republic of Moldova, which was convened on 25 August 2020. The meeting specifically focused on the right of children to education and the preparations underway for the launch of the new school year 2020-2021 on 1 September 2020, while taking into account the Covid-19 context. The meeting also addressed the discrepancies in data on school drop-out collected by different authorities and institutions;
- UNICEF, in partnership with CCF Moldova and with USAID support, produced in coordination with MECR a Covid-19 related Parents' Guide to support parents of school aged children in conveying messages about key safe behaviors to children and ensuring a safe start of the school year 2020/2021;
- UNICEF, in partnership with CCF Moldova NGO and with USAID funding, developed the training materials for school teachers and managers in the context of schools reopening, in coordination with MECR;
- UNICEF, UNFPA and WHO, supported MECR in producing [guides for school children](#), ensuring the prevention of Covid-19 infection in all educational settings, including Vocational Education and Training (VET);
- With UNFPA support, the Ministry of Education, Culture and Research [trains medical staff, teachers and students from Vocational Education and Training](#) on ensuring the security of the educational process, early detection, and implementation of measures in the possible outbreak of SARS-CoV-19 virus infection. The training programme is organized in the period of 17 August - 3 September;
- UNFPA supports the Ministry of Education, Culture and Research in equipping teachers of "Decisions for a Healthy Lifestyle" from Vocational Education and Training (VET) to provide the course innovatively. Teachers from 12 VET institutions in the country participate in a [distance learning course on new and interactive methods of teaching and interacting with the students](#). This course brings valuable recommendations for life skills development, which are so much important in the COVID-19 pandemic. The training is part of a larger training program for teachers, which will take place during the 2020-2021 academic year.

Gender

- Women local and district councilors at first mandate will have better capacities on how to integrate gender in local decisions, plans and budgets due to their participation in the second module of a complex capacity building program. During 28-30 August, the first two training sessions out of 10 for up to 25 participants in each group are organized by UN Women in partnership with Center Contact;
- Un Women launched and published the ethnographic research [Motivations and barriers for girls and women in STEM and ICT domains](#) . The goal of the research is to understand what are the barriers and main factors contributing to the fact that girls take decisions in favor of STEM and ICT professions and,

subsequently to choose a job corresponding to the Bachelor's degree. This survey was elaborated with the support of UN Women, Sweden, Tekedu and Magenta consulting.

Human Rights

- NTR.

Communications

- UNICEF, jointly with WHO and MHLSP, and with USAID support, and in cooperation with artists and a children's TV channel, produced [a musical video for young children](#), to encourage hand washing, social distancing and health etiquette. The musical video spot will be made available in all preschools in the country and distributed widely on national radio and TV;
- UNICEF, jointly with WHO, with USAID support, printed information boards for all schools in the country with Covid-19 prevention messages to encourage safe behaviors among students of all age groups;
- UNICEF, jointly with WHO, with USAID support, produced series of printed information materials for all schools in the country with Covid-19 prevention messages to be displayed in classrooms, canteens and WASH facilities and to encourage key safe behaviors (social distance, handwashing and cough etiquette) among students of all age groups;
- UNICEF, in the context of the **COVID-19 Response and Recovery MPTF**, issued [a media release](#), a [video](#) and [a photo gallery](#) on the distribution of PPE supplies procured with MPTF funds to the frontline health workers at the National emergency hospital, as well as to the border police;
- UNICEF issued a [media release](#), a [video](#) and a [photo gallery](#) on the delivery of oxygen concentrators procured from UNICEF core resources to the National emergency hospital, including pediatric care units;
- UNICEF jointly with WHO supported MHLSP in the launching of immunization campaign [Vaccinate children, protect the future!](#) in the context of Covid-19;
- UN Women Moldova, has adapted and translated several COVID 19 related graphic images on social media;
- UNICEF, jointly with MECR, [issued a press release](#) on the delivery of disinfectants and hygiene supplies to all schools and preschools;
- 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. The communication materials (poster, stickers) regarding COVID-19 prevention in educational institutions have been developed jointly by WHO and UNICEF. Ongoing distribution of posters across the country: first batch (Romanian/Russian) have been distributed in Chisinau municipally;
- WHO, with SDC support, provided support the Chisinau City Hall and Municipal Education Department to produce a comprehensive set of information materials on COVID-19 prevention measures for educational staff and parents;
- Weekly COVID-19 e-newsletter of MoHLSP id developed with WHO support. Materials [here](#) and [here](#);