

Coronavirus Disease - COVID 19

Situation Report No. 31 (4 September 2020)

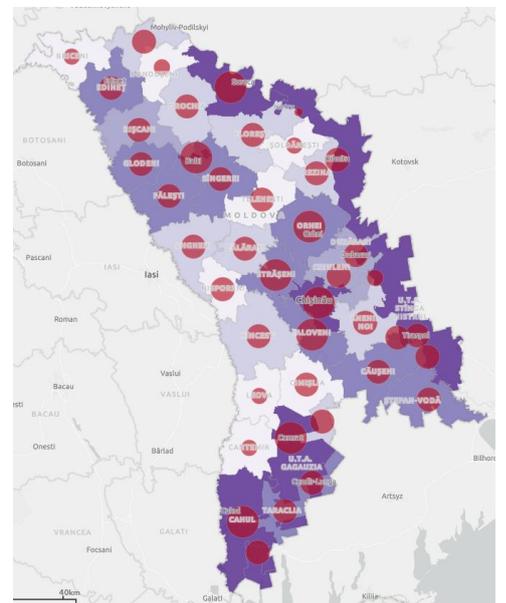


This report is produced by UN Moldova in collaboration with Government and development/humanitarian partners.

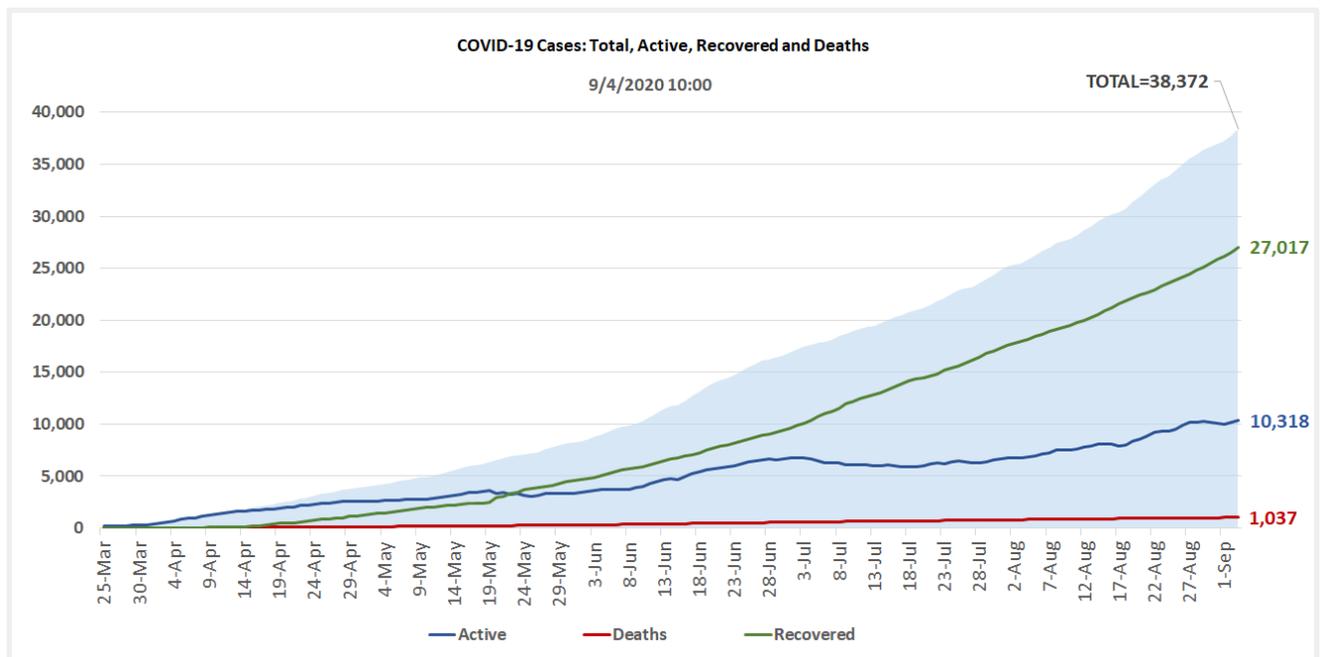
Highlights – data as reported by national authorities

Data as at 04/09/2020, 10:00 a.m.

- The accelerated increase in cases registered over the past few weeks appeared to slow down at the beginning of this week. However, yesterday saw the highest number of cases - 632 - reported in a day since the beginning of the outbreak, with the total number of reported cases reaching 38,372. The average number of daily cases over the last seven days stands at 404, which is 112 cases less per day compared to the same figure last week. The total number of active cases now stands at 10,318. This represents 26.9% of all registered cases;
- The overall crude cumulative incidence of cases per 100,000 stands at 1,105 - one of the highest in Europe and in the region. The crude cumulative incidence of cases over the last seven days is 81 and over the last 14 days is 185, with both of these registering a decrease over the past week;
- The number of deaths continued to grow, with a total of 60 deaths being reported over the last seven days. The average number of daily deaths over the same period is 8.57, which is higher than the 8.00 figure reported last week. The total number of deaths reached 1,037. The case fatality rate, however, remained stable at 2.7%. The average age of patients who have died from the disease is 66.2, 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 27,017. This represents 70.4% of all cases;
- Weekly figures improved slightly but continued to remain concerning. With 3,222 new cases reported, last week saw a 2.2% decrease in the number of new cases compared to the previous week. The contagion rate (R0) also decreased to 1.09 (from 1.12) last week and decreased further to 1.05 at the beginning of this week. The number of weekly recoveries continued to increase, with 9.8% more recoveries being reported last week compared to the week prior;

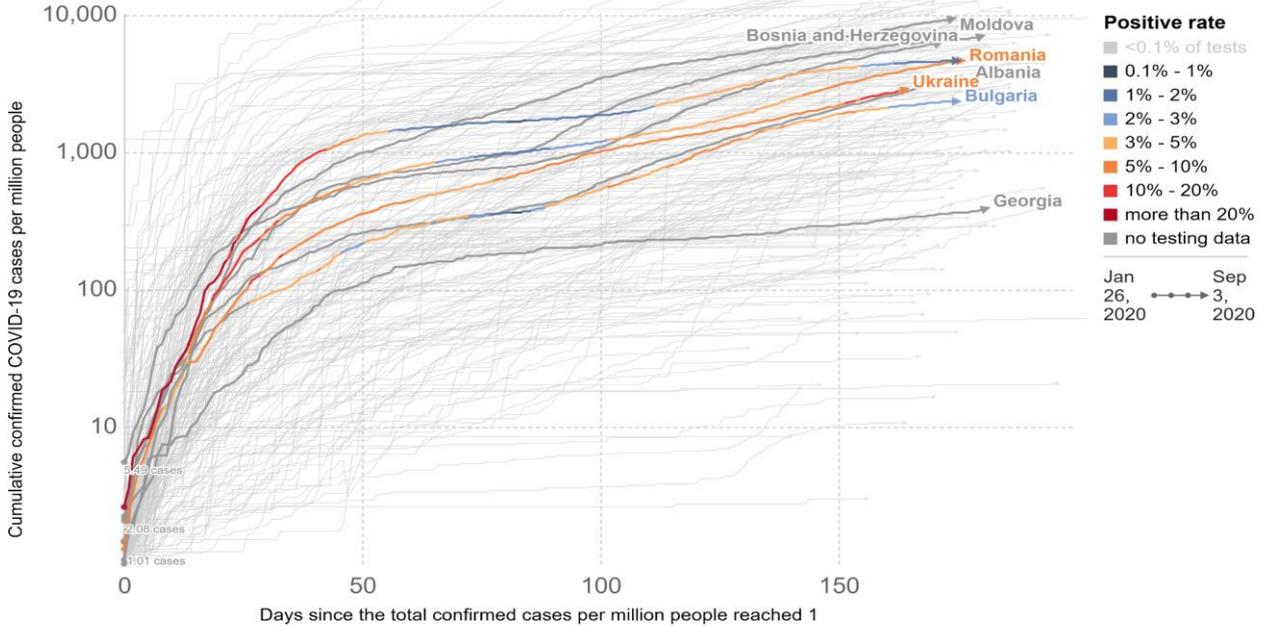


- However, the weekly number of recoveries continued to remain below the weekly number of new cases, 2,242 vs. 3,222. Furthermore, the average number of serious cases increased to 543 last week (from 512 the previous week) but decreased to an average of 527 over the last seven days. The number of serious cases currently stands at 537. The weekly number of deaths also increased, with 8 more deaths being reported last week 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 11.7%. Nearly 4,500 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 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, Soroca, Orhei and Straseni account for another 3% of all cases each. Overall, almost three in four cases are now from the areas mentioned above. If the size of the population is considered, with more than 2,400 cases per 100,000, Chisinau remains the most affected area in the country. The capital city is followed by Balti, Taraclia, ATU Gagauzia, Soroca, Ialoveni, Straseni, Edinet and Orhei. 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, 3.3% 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.



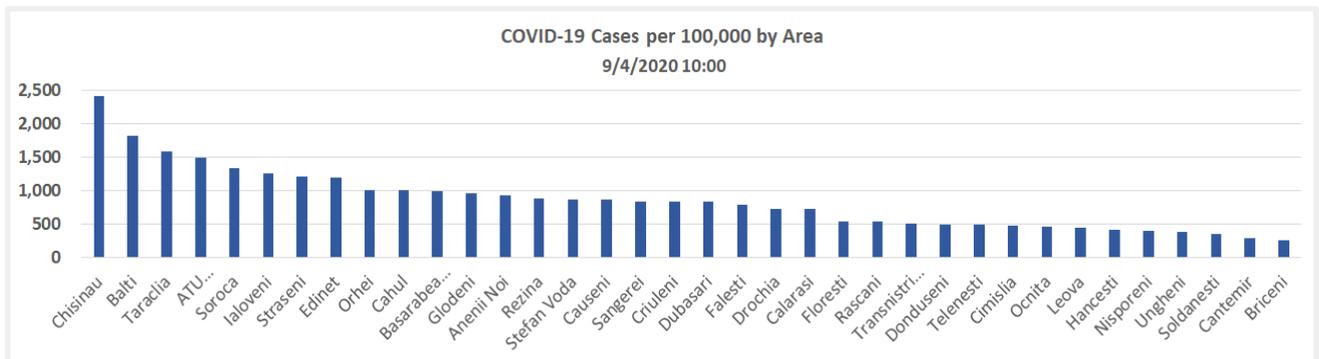
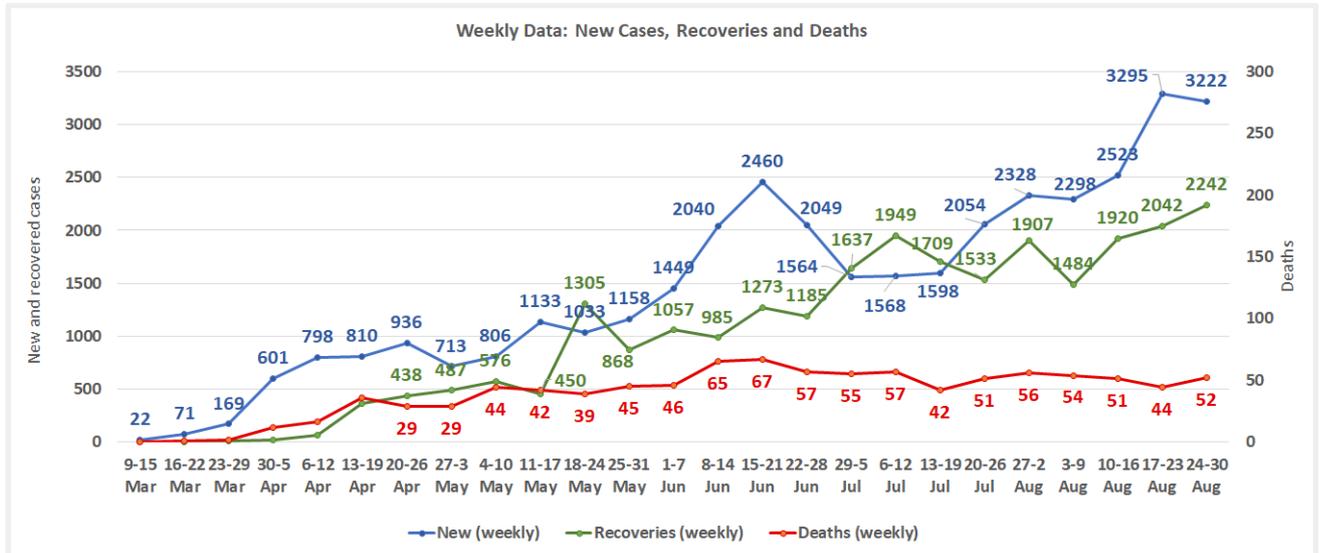
Cumulative confirmed COVID-19 cases per million people

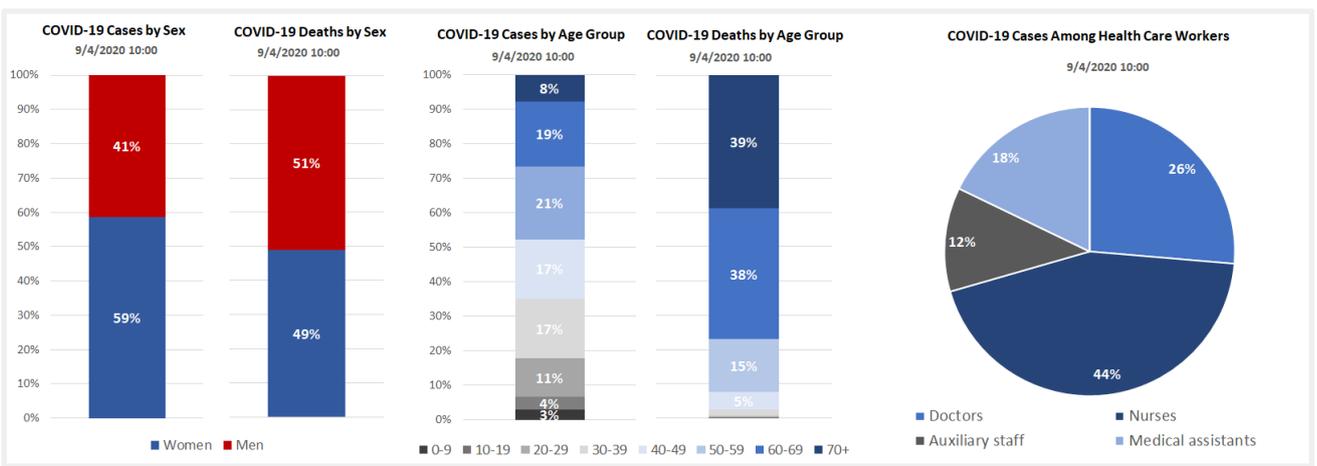
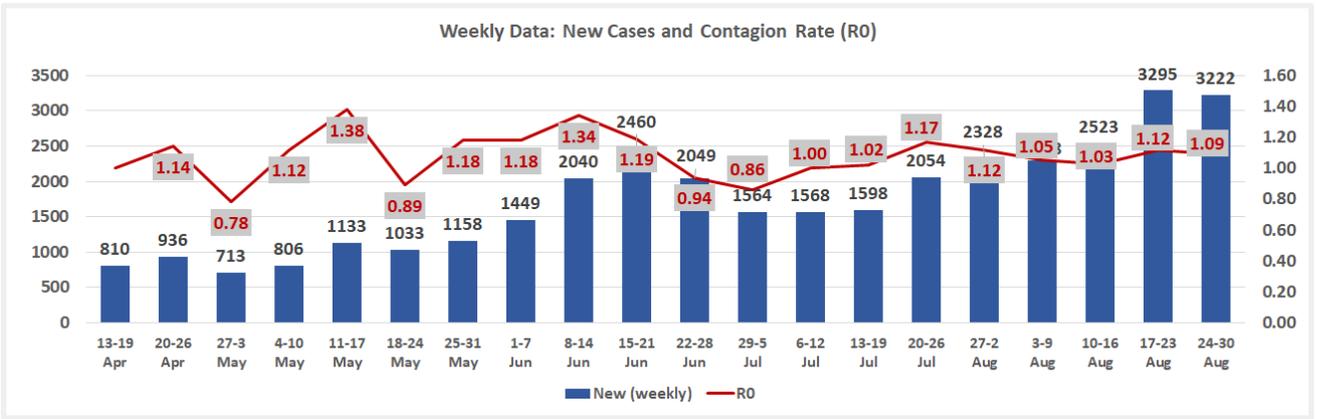
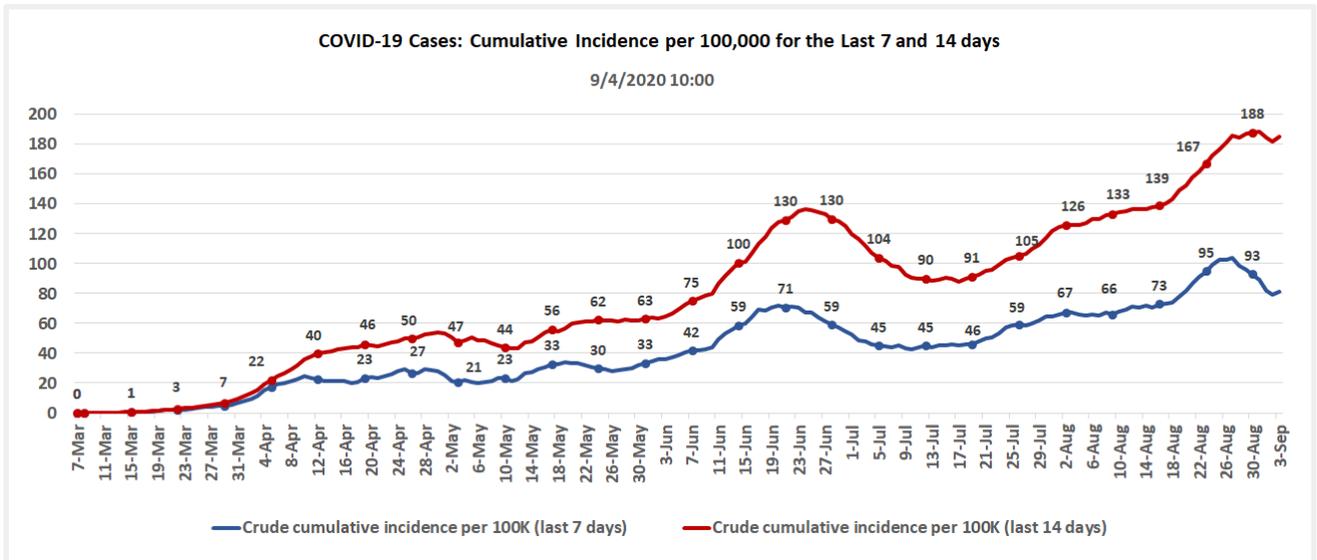
The number of confirmed cases is lower than the number of actual cases; the main reason for that is limited testing.



Source: European CDC – Situation Update Worldwide – Last updated 3 September, 10:04 (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

- 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

- Our Party head and Balti mayor Renato Usatii has announced a presidential run. On August 25, an Association of Sociologists and Demographers poll showed Mr. Usatii in third place (7.2 percent of the vote), after Maia Sandu and Igor Dodon. Thus far, presidential runs have been announced by Maia Sandu, Octavian Ticu, Andrei Nastase, Dorin Chirtoaca, Tudor Deliu (PLDM), Adrian Candu (Pro Moldova), Alexandr Kalinin (the Party of the Regions), and Former Interior Affairs and Defense Minister Ion Costas (independent). The pre-election period for the presidential elections started on August 25. The nomination process begins 60 days before election day and ends 30 days before election day. To register with the Central Election Commission, all presidential candidates submit signature lists containing signatures of at least 15,000 and no more than 25,000 voters from at least half of the second-level administrative-territorial units. The election campaign for the President of the country election begins no earlier than 30 days before election day;
- The Central Election Committee has changed an earlier announcement that only the public TV station could organize presidential debates and will now allow private stations to also do so;
- The Central Electoral Commission (CEC) reported that the total number of voters in the State Voter Registry (RSA) on September 2, 2020 was 3,290,312, including 2,810,689 in second level territorial-administrative units. The difference is attributed to 230,384 Moldovans living abroad and 249,239 Moldovans living in the Transnistria region.

Security

- NTR.

Transnistria Region

- As of September 3, 2020, the Operational Headquarters in Tiraspol reported a total number of 2,332 cases of COVID infections. Out of the total number 1,600 or 69% have recovered and 65 persons or 2.8 % have

died. Due to the increasing number of patients infected with COVID19 the de facto authorities decided to test and monitor at home citizens with moderate symptoms. Travel to Turkey is forbidden due to the high number of imported cases of infection with COVID. Furthermore, the de facto authorities news portal novostipmr.com reports that the Operational Center in Tiraspol that is managing the Covid-19 outbreak, reported 318 virus cases during the period August 24-30, after 81 two weeks ago and 191 one week ago. Some local factories have become hotspots of the virus. Some factories have been shut down for a 14-day quarantine as a result. Schools will be subject to the same policy if outbreaks occur there;

- The de facto authorities celebrated 30 years of de facto independence on September 2. Tiraspol hosted a military parade with Soviet tanks and other weapons;
- The Bureau for Reintegration Policies has announced that the Tiraspol and Ribnita offices granting international neutral license plates to Transnistrian vehicles have temporarily shut down. The Bureau stated that in order to ensure the continuing functioning of the offices, the government approved on August 26 a proposal to extend the tenure of and has sent parliament a law with the necessary changes;
- During a 2 September meeting the President Dodon and the Head of the OSCE Mission exchanged views on the potential for progress in the settlement process. Both agreed on the need to continue implementing confidence-building measures to achieve a comprehensive settlement. Additionally, the President expressed Moldova's interest in cooperating with the OSCE/ODIHR monitors during the upcoming presidential elections;
- The election campaign for the members of the de facto Supreme Council has started today. Also, in the same election, representatives of the de facto local councils, Heads of councils, Heads of administrations of villages and settlements will be selected. The elections will take place on November 29. As a reminder, the number of the members of the de-facto supreme council will be reduced from 43 to 33.

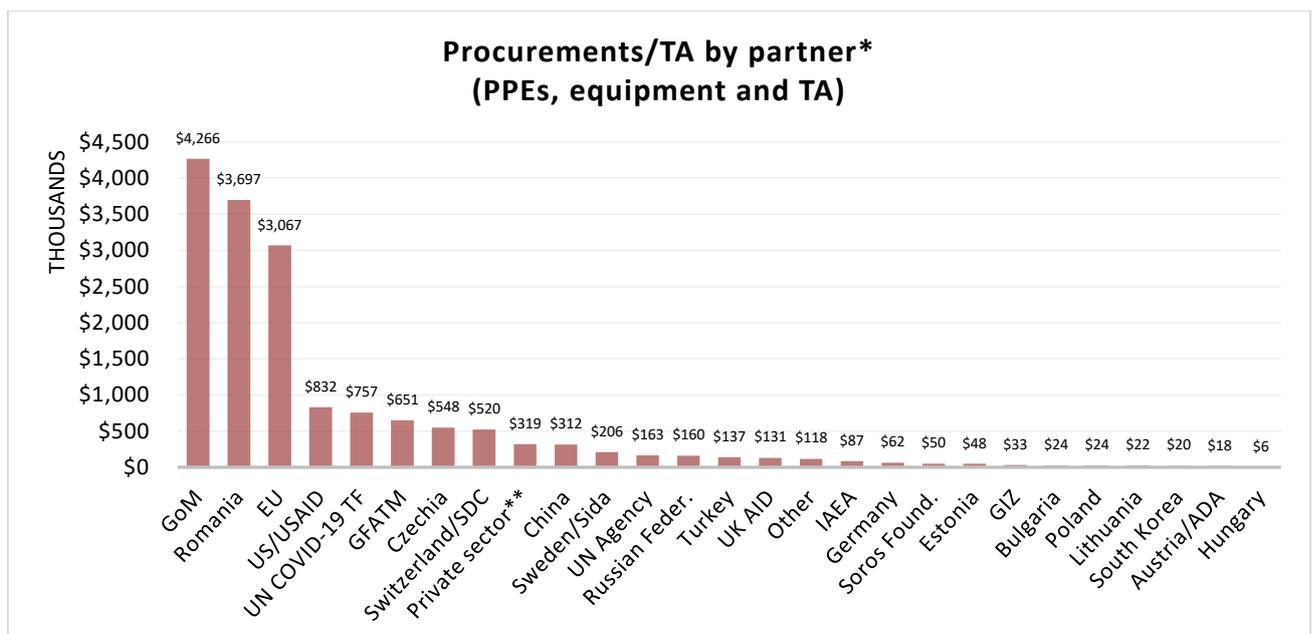
Economic Update

- The NBS data suggest that in the first half of 2020 average salaries increased by 7.5% compared to the same period 2019. The highest salaries were in the ICT sector followed by the financial and insurance sector and energy production and supply. At the same time, the lowest wages were recorded in the hotel and catering sector, agriculture and forestry and art and recreation. Salaries and wages grew in most sectors; however, the highest growth rates were registered in health and social assistance (+16.1%), ICT (+15.1%) and other services sectors (primarily services related to repair and maintenance of electronic devices). At the same time in the context of Covid-19, the average number of employees in the first half 2020 decreased by 8.2%. The major reductions were observed in the following sectors: hotels and catering (-60.5%), transport and storage (-15.7%), administrative and support services (-14.7%), extractive industry (-14.6%). Conversely, the share of staff in the ICT sector grew by 2.4% in the first two quarters of 2020 versus 2019;
- The NBS reported a decline in investment into fixed assets by 14.9% (in comparable prices) in the first half of 2020 versus the same period of 2019. Regarding the structure of investments, the growth of 5.7% was registered in construction of housing, while investment in transport vehicles decreased by 37%, in machinery and equipment - by 17.4% and in non-residential buildings - by 16.3% and engineering constructions - by 4.7%. Nevertheless, the most investment goes into equipment and machinery (32.5%);

- As of August 26, 2020, the NBM official reserves increased by US\$105.51 mln. compared to July 31, 2020 amounting to US \$ 3,391.02 mln;
- The GoM approved budget adjustments for 2020 to address the changing budget parameters under the pressure of the persisting COVID-19 crisis and unfavorable weather conditions in agriculture. The state budget revenues are reduced by 649.5 mln MDL (37.2 bln MDL), while spending is cut by 1.856 bln lei (53.2 bln MDL). The national public budget deficit is reduced by 0.3 p.p. to 8% of GDP. However, the proposed budget provides for indexation of pensions (minimum age pension is set at 1,143.57 MDL), provision of lump-sum allowance of 900 MDL for those with pensions below 3,000 MDL, supplementary reimbursement of teachers for extra-working hours (100 mln MDL), enhancement of disinfecting hygiene in schools (31 mln MDL), reimbursement of VAT for agricultural workers who register losses (100 mln MDL). The public debt is expected to increase to 36.6% of GDP by the end of 2020, while external debt will decline to 60.5% and internal debt will reach 39.3%.

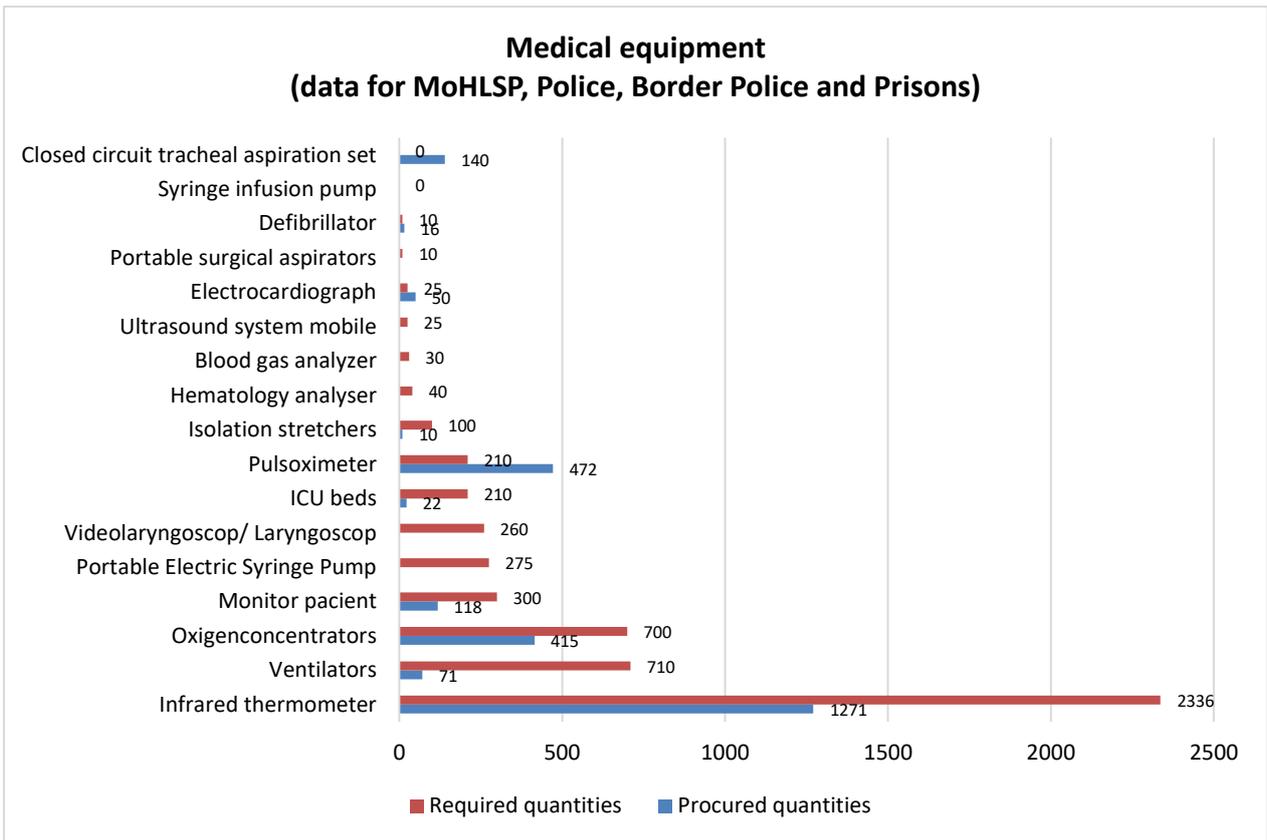
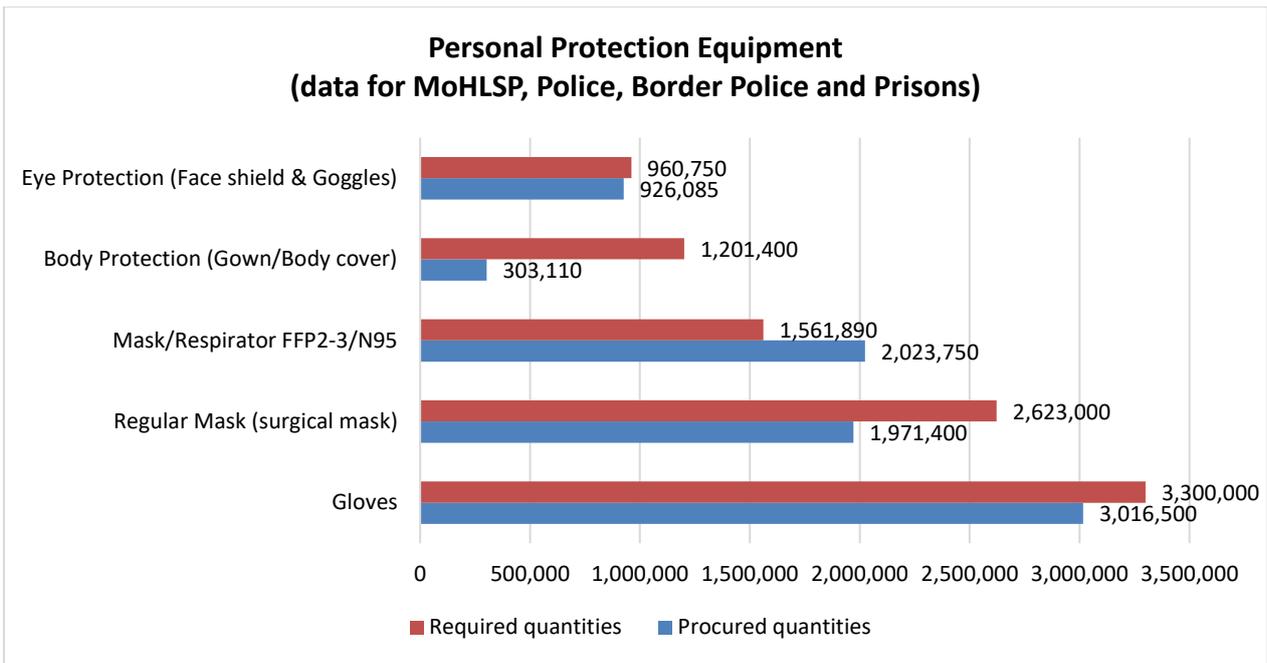
Aid Coordination

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



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

- 58 health facilities, Border Police and Penitentiary Department received personal protective equipment procured by UNICEF from UN COVID-19 Trust Fund sources. These PPEs will support ensuring that these frontline workers have the necessary protection to keep them safe from exposure to the virus;
- Nine maternity and children hospitals received Oxygen Concentrators procured from UNICEF core funds, to be used for COVID-19 patients requiring oxygen therapy and monitoring. These oxygen concentrators provide a continued source of oxygen flow to patients, thereby supporting those who have difficulties breathing;
- This week UNICEF with support from USAID, continued further distribution of liquid soap, solid soap, sanitizers to all schools and kindergartens in the country. Last week all schools in Moldova were already provided with batches of the necessary supplies of hygiene materials for the initial upcoming weeks;
- 30K PCR (COVID-19) tests were delivered to the National Reference laboratories of the National Agency for Public Health by the WHO on August 28, 2020;
- WHO provided support for procurement and delivery of 356 oxygen concentrators to all districts, municipal and national hospitals. 30 of them will be distributed to the hospitals from the Transnistria region;
- Several medical devices, i.e. pulsoximeters, equipment for mechanical ventilation are procured with WHO support in the framework of EU DG NEAR project and will be delivered soon to Moldova.

Assessments and Data

- During the socio-economic taskforce held on Wednesday, UNDP Moldova, in partnership with the European Space Agency, presented an analysis of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and the recent droughts on the Moldovan agriculture. The analysis included two specific services that are related to the vegetation and crops status and well as correlation of the COVID-19 spread and status of crops and unveils interesting insights on the losses of the sector due to the COVID-19 and droughts, as well as showcases how EO data combined with other existing layers is useful for developing new programmatic interventions to increase resilience and support the development of the sector. The full report can be [found here](#);
- IOM assessed the *Water Supply, Sanitation, Hygiene and Isolation infrastructure, facilities and equipment* present at Moldovan Border Crossing Points (BCP) in the context of COVID-19 outbreak, developed in the framework of the project “Strengthening the Republic of Moldova’s National Response to the COVID-19 Crisis”, funded by the UN COVID-19 Trust Fund. The assessment seeks to evaluate the infrastructural and equipment related needs of 12 BCPs, with the highest flow of border crossings (air, railway, river and road border crossings). According to the Government Decision no 531, only 6 BCPs should maintain core capacities for emergency preparedness, response and surveillance during public health emergencies. The assessment, in this context, points out that maintaining core capacities at a limited number of BCPs creates challenges for a secure movement of persons and goods across borders and proper protection of both travelers and border crossing staff. The authors also provided recommendations on procurement of

the necessary WASH (Water Supply, Sanitation, and Hygiene Promotion) and waste management infrastructure, equipment and supplies, as well as for equipping the triage and isolation facilities available at BCPs or finding alternative solutions, in case of absence of such facilities.

Socio-Economic Support

- The new Country Strategy for the UNDP GEF Small Grant Programme has been endorsed. Benefitting CSOs will support the recovery with a green lens approach.

Health

- As the COVID-19 pandemic escalates, the IOM provides its support and scales up the testing capacity for COVID-19 infection. In this context, 150 out of 300 planned suspected cases (migrants, asylum seekers and border police front line staff), have been referred to COVID-19 testing to the IOM contracted clinic. The proposal has *been developed in the framework of the project “Strengthening the Republic of Moldova’s National Response to the COVID-19 Crisis”, funded by the UN COVID-19 Trust Fund*;
- UNICEF published an article on importance of [supporting regular immunization in the context of COVID-19](#) targeting parents and caregivers to increase demand for immunization, as part of joint Immunization campaign launched in August by Ministry of Health, Labour and Social Protection, National Agency for Public Health, WHO Moldova and UNICEF Moldova;
- WHO is providing support to the Public Health Emergency Operational Center in the development of the SOPs and algorithms development;
- WHO supported MoHLSP in installing additional beds for severe and critical COVID-19 cases management: +5 pediatric beds, in total - 25 pediatric beds in ‘Mother in Child Institute’ and +120 beds for adults, in total - 172 intensive care beds in the Clinical Republican Hospital;
- The national clinical case management protocol developed with WHO technical support was approved by the MoHLSP, the criteria for releasing COVID-19 patients from isolation were revised; some medicines have been excluded from the protocol-based on the WHO recommendations;
- WHO supported to conduct an on-line training on the national clinical case management protocol implementation for the primary health care workers (102 connection points), organized on September 3;
- With WHO support, the list of eligible groups for COVID-19 testing was expanded, five groups of people with comorbidities (cancer, HIV, TB, etc.) before admission to the hospitals will be tested.

Education and youth

- [A guide for parents](#) of children in primary and general secondary school in preparation for the reopening of the school in the new school year 2020-2021 was prepared by CCF Moldova with UNICEF support from USAID funds. The guides were disseminated by MECR before the start of the school year on September 1, 2020;
- [Guides for students](#) of primary and general secondary education in preparation for the new school year 2020-2021 were developed in collaboration with MECR and MHLSP with UNICEF, WHO and UNFPA

support. The guides were distributed to students by MECR before the start of the school year on September 1;

- UNICEF with USAID support provided WASH supplies and education kits for Roma children in Nicoreni village, Drochia district;
- On September 2, UNICEF participated in the first meeting of the National Group for Coordination of Safety in Education led by MECR and membership by MHLSP, Teachers' Trade Union, Republican Centre for Psycho-pedagogical Assistance, representatives of District Departments of Education, parents and National Pupils' Council, WHO and UNICEF. This Group will review on a regular basis the security and safety measures taken by education institutions in the new school year 2020-2021;
- UNICEF jointly with WHO with support of USAID produced and delivered stickers and information boards to all schools in Moldova promoting healthy WASH behaviour in schools;
- On September 3, UNICEF chaired the weekly regular meeting of the UN Coordinated Education Task Force for COVID-19 where the participants were updated on the actions of authorities and partners to ensure the start of the new school year 2020-2021 in safe conditions. UNICEF also informed about the Paper *"Education and COVID-19 in Moldova: Grasping the opportunity the learning crisis presents to build a more resilient education system"* with UN RCO, MECR and GPE. The Paper highlights the Moldovan context, while also building upon the recommendations mentioned in the referred to UN Policy Brief document on ["Education during COVID-19 and beyond"](#). The meeting also discussed amongst others further needed assessments to be carried out in the area of education to be better able to plan interventions for remediation;
- UNICEF together with U-Report Moldova collected youth opinions on the school reopening in Moldova. Some results show:
 - 32% reported having received enough information and thought it was well organized;
 - 35% reported having received enough information, but think it might be challenging;
 - 24% reported having received information only partially; and
 - 11% of users reported having not received enough information on the organization of the school year.

Further results can be found on <https://moldova.ureport.in/>

Gender

- Up to 40 women local councilors at first mandate 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 trainings out of 10 were organized by UN Women Moldova in partnership with Center Contact, with the 3rd one to take place on 5-6 September. In the situation of the COVID-19 pandemic, on top of the above mentioned, participants of the training are improving their IT skills and capacities through participating in on-line format of meetings and events, which contributes also to close the digital divides among councilors from different localities.

Human Rights

- OHCHR on September 1, the start of the school year, initiated a media campaign in the Transnistria region on the impact of COVID-19 on vulnerable groups. The campaign, which will last 10 days, started with a comic on the right to education, which has already had a very good reach;
- OHCHR developed and published a [Guide on Social and Economic Impact Assessment of COVID-19 in the Republic of Moldova: A Human Rights Based Approach](#) (HRBA). The guide is a practical tool for mainstreaming human rights-based approaches in the processes of the social and economic impact assessments;

Communications

- UNICEF Moldova published a [Blog entry](#) on useful tips for children how to be ready for new school year featuring a popular Moldovan young blogger Patricia (#CiaoPatricia);
- UNICEF Published a [video animation](#) encouraging not to postpone regular vaccination in the times of COVID-19 pandemic, as part of a joint Immunization campaign launched in August by the Ministry of Health, Labor and Social Protection, National Agency for Public Health, WHO Moldova and UNICEF Moldova;
- The school posters “#TakeCare. Study in safety!”, which include main COVID-19 prevention measures for pupils, developed jointly by WHO and UNICEF, were distributed across the country. The information material was developed in both Romanian and Russian languages;
- WHO translated into Romanian language the patient’s brochure “Support for Rehabilitation Self-Management after COVID-19 related illness” and started online communication on rehabilitation topics;
- WHO is providing regular support, with EU, SDC and USAID support, to MoHLSP and NAPH in emergency risk communication and community engagement activities and campaigns, as well as the weekly COVID-19 e-newsletter of the MoHLSP is developed with WHO support.