

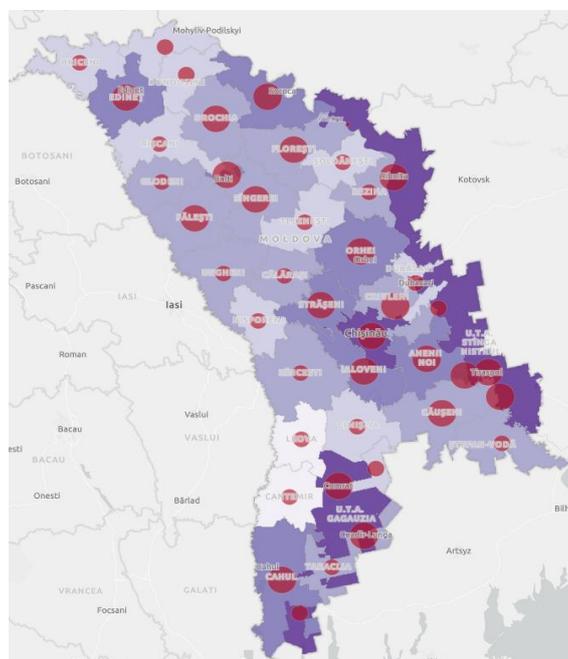
COVID-19 Response and Recovery Monthly Bulletin October 2020



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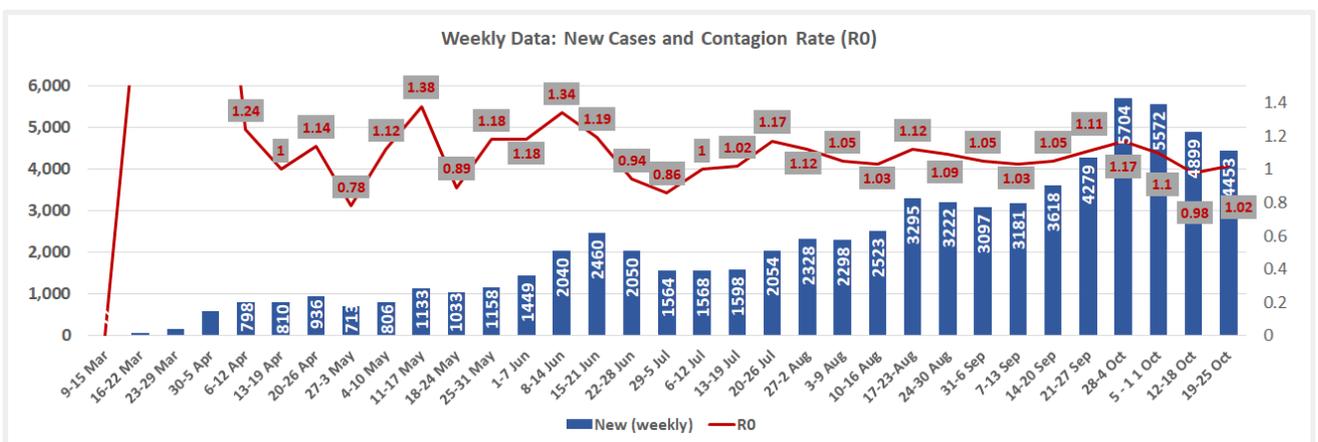
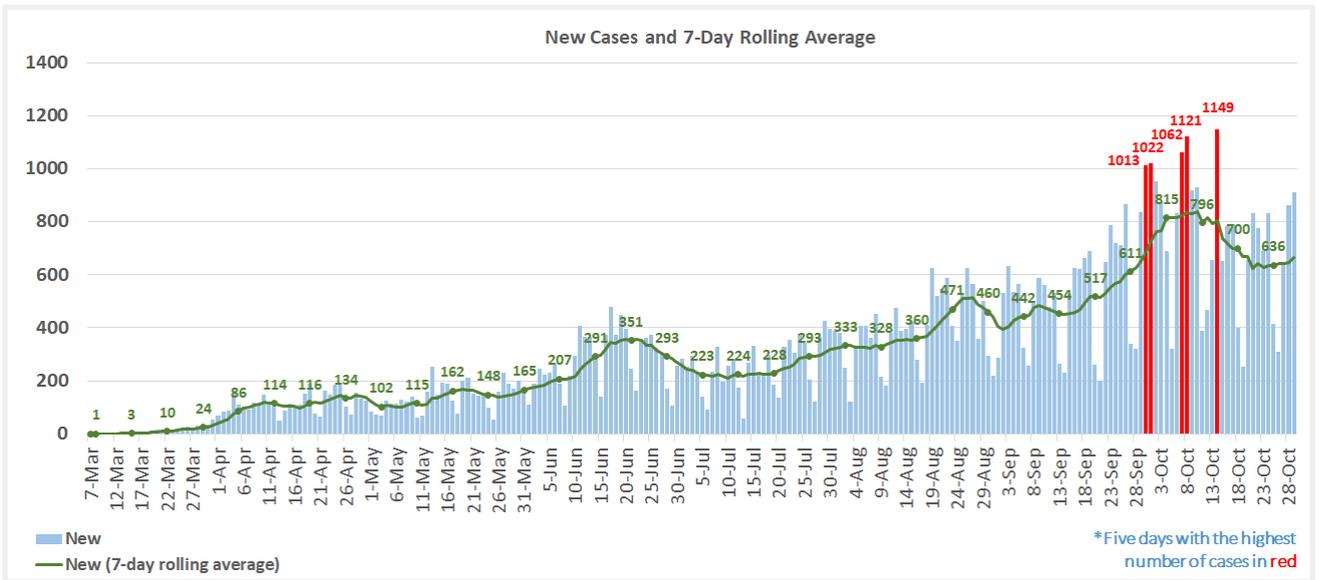
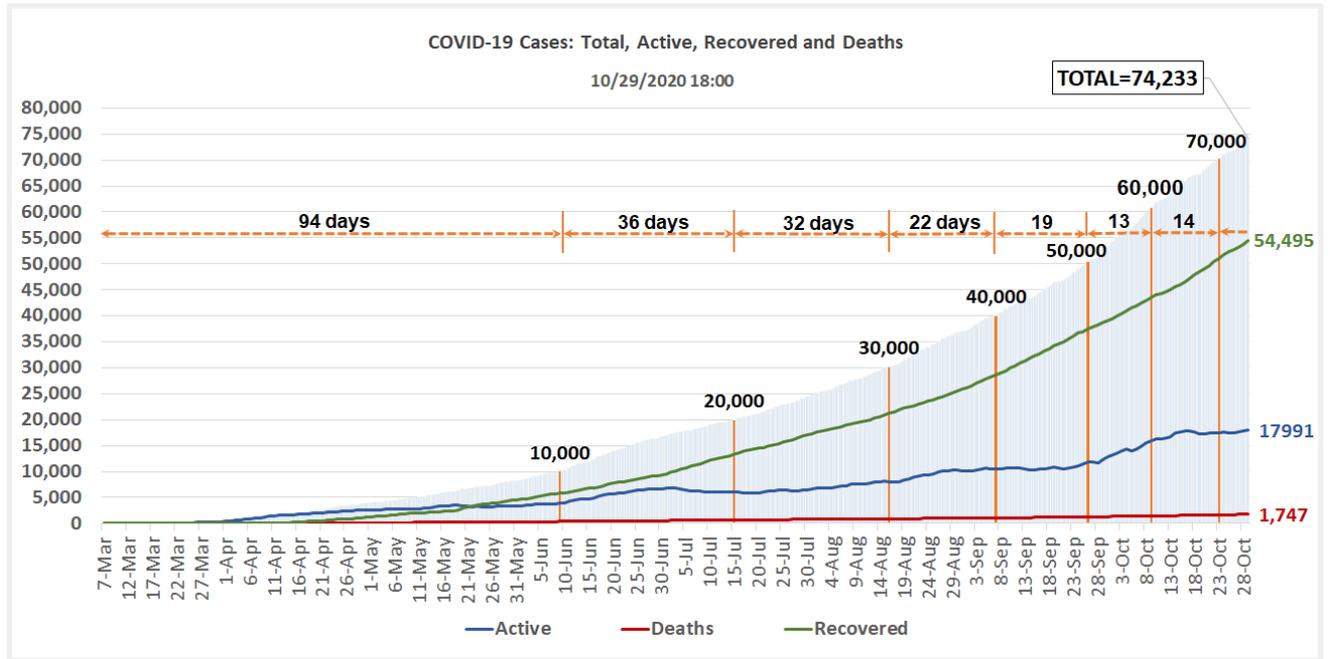
1 COVID-19 Epi and Health situation update

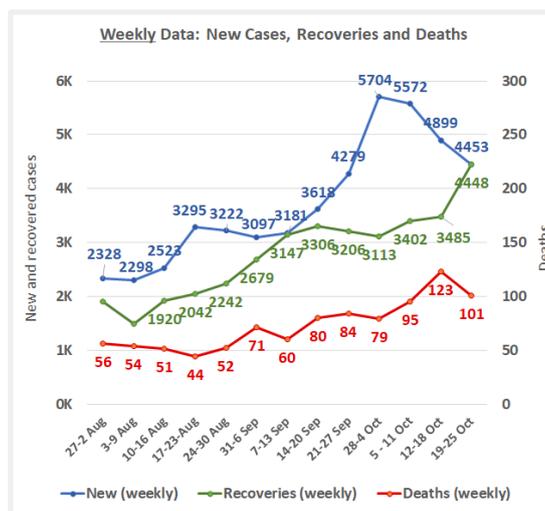
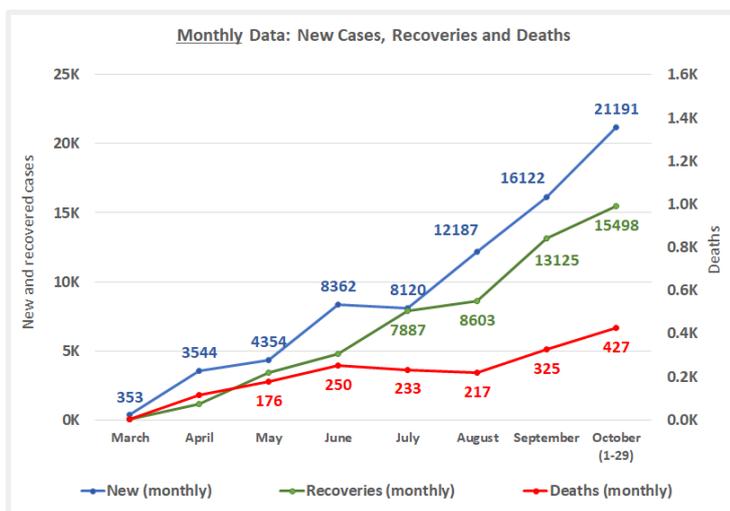
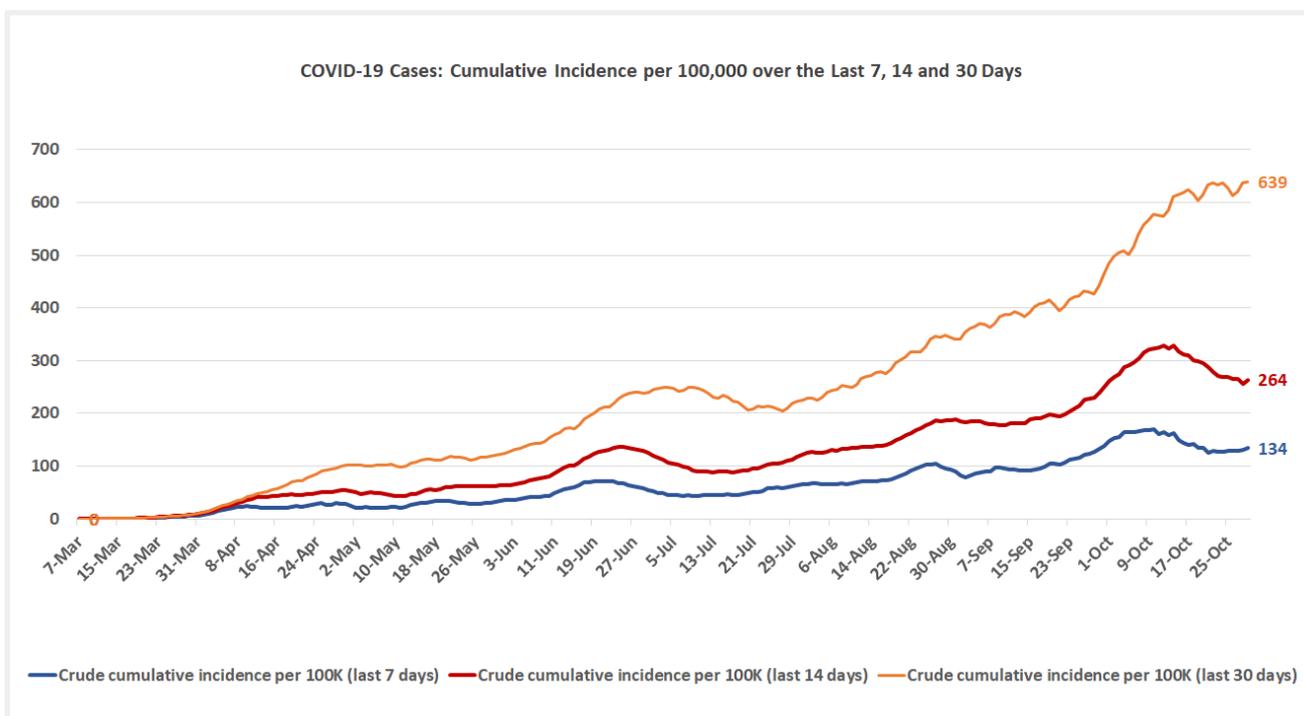
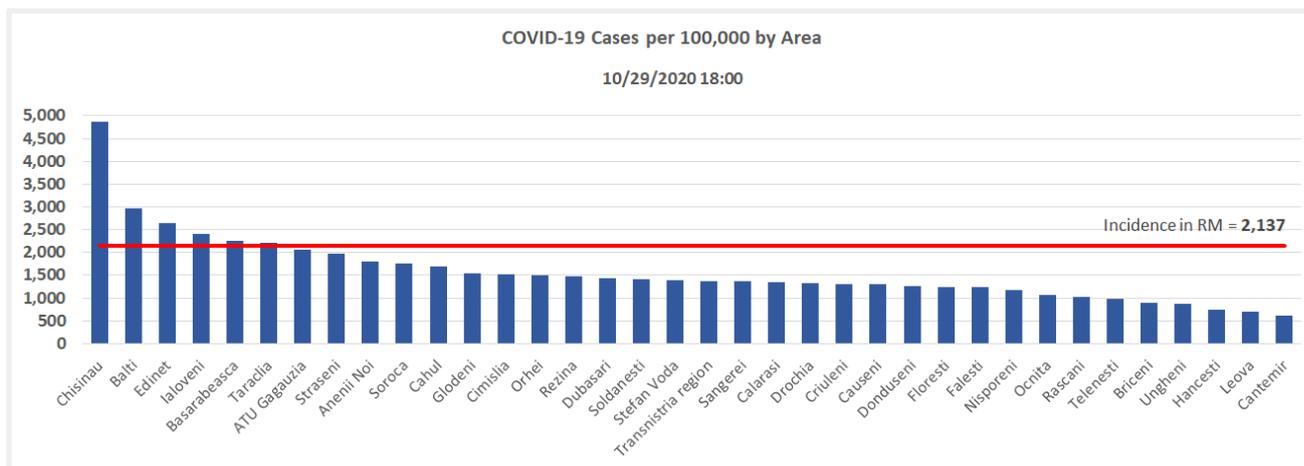
- After deteriorating further during the first half of the month, with a record-high number of cases - 1,149 - being reported on October 14, the pandemic situation showed some modest signs of improvement over the past few weeks.
- A total of 21,191 new cases were reported between October 1-29. This represents an over 30% increase compared to the total number of cases reported during the previous month and nearly 30% of all cases reported since the pandemic reached the country in March. The daily average number of new cases was 731 during the same period, which is 194 cases more compared to the previous month.
- The average number of new cases over the past seven and 14 days is 666 and 654, respectively, reflecting an improvement in the situation in the past few weeks. The total number of reported cases currently stands at 74,233.
- The total number of active cases continued to increase in October. At the beginning of the month, about 13,000 cases were active. This number increased to nearly 18,000 cases until the time of this writing. The share of active cases in the total number of cases, which now stands at 24.2%, remained relatively stable during the same period.
- The overall crude cumulative incidence of cases per 100,000 stands at 2,137, placing Moldova near the top of countries with some of the highest incidence of cases in Europe and in the region. The crude cumulative incidence of cases for the last 30 days is 639, which is about 200 cases more compared to the previous 30 days. The crude cumulative incidence of cases over the last seven days is 134 and over the last 14 days is 264, with both of these figures remaining relatively stable over the past week.
- The number of deaths increased by 427 between October 1-29, which is 102 fatalities more compared to the previous month. The average number of daily deaths over the same period is 14.72. The average number of serious cases also increased from 569 in September to about 780 in October, with a more pronounced growth in serious cases being observed during the middle of the month. The

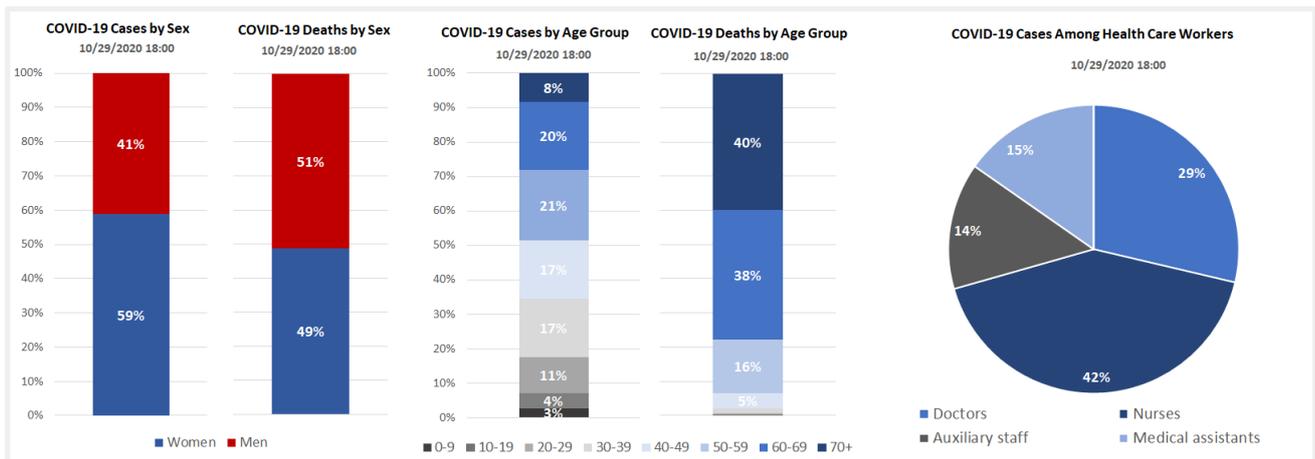


number of serious cases now stands at 814. The case fatality rate, on the other hand, decreased slightly from 2.47% at the beginning of the month to 2.35% at the end.

- The total number of deaths now stands at 1,747. The average number of daily deaths over the last seven days is 15.14. The average age of patients who have died from the disease is 66.7. This is somewhat higher than the 66.5 figure reported at the beginning of October. Overall, over 90% of all deaths have been reported in patients 50 years of age and older.
- The number of patients who have recovered from the disease continued to increase during the month of October, which saw 15,498 recoveries reported. Although the figure is considerable, it stands significantly below the number of new cases reported during the month, which led to the substantial increase in active cases as reflected above. Weekly figures show some improvement in the situation, with the gap between new cases and recoveries being closed last week. The total number of recoveries now stands at 54,495. This represents 73.4% of all cases.
- After reaching 1.17 at the beginning of the month, the contagion rate (R0) decreased over the next few weeks, dropping below 1.0 for the first time since mid-July during the week of October 12-18. A light increase was observed in the contagion rate last week. The number now stands at 1.02 based on the latest available data. The contagion rate is uneven across the country, with certain districts registering considerably higher rates than others. Briceni, Ocnita, Donduseni and Rezina had some of the highest contagion rates in the country last week, which ranged between 1.2 and 1.4. The contagion rate in Chisinau stood at 0.9.
- The share of health care workers in the total number of cases decreased gradually from 11.1% at the beginning of October to the current level of approximately 10.6%. Nearly 8,000 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 43% of all confirmed cases, is the most affected area if the number of cases is considered. Transnistria region, ATU Gagauzia, Balti, Ialoveni and Edinet follow in the list of most affected areas, accounting for 3-9% of all cases each. Although the share of cases in these areas in the total number of cases has varied slightly since the beginning of September, the relative extent to which these areas have been affected by the pandemic has not changed. All other areas currently have 2% or less of the total number of cases each.
- If the size of the population is considered, with nearly 4,900 cases per 100,000, Chisinau is the most affected area in the country. The capital city is followed by Balti, which is approaching the 3,000-cases mark per 100,000, and Edinet, Ialoveni, Basarabasca, Taraclia and ATU Gagauzia, which have surpassed the 2,000-case mark per 100,000 people. Although most of these areas remained at the top of the list of the most affected districts, some shifts in their order in the list have been observed since the beginning of October because of the greater acceleration of the pandemic in certain regions of the country. For example, Edinet moved from the 7th to the 3rd most affected area since the beginning of the month if the size of the population is considered.
- More women have been infected with the virus than men, 59% vs. 41%. However, the percentage of men who have died from the disease is somewhat higher than that of women, 51% vs. 49%. These proportions remained stable throughout the entire month of October. The case fatality rate among men has also consistently stayed above the case fatality rate among women. Currently, the case fatality rate among men is 2.9%, and the case fatality rate among women is 1.9%;
- Real time figures and graphs can be accessed [here](#) in Romanian and in Russian [here](#). This site has more than 2.13 million views to date.







1.1 Restrictions*

*These are subject to changes and amendment and should be viewed as an overview and not as a definitive source for decision making.

- No additional restrictions were introduced since the last Decision - No. 34 from October 13 of the National Extraordinary Commission in Public Health;
- As of October 23, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration [updated the rules and restrictions regarding the entry into the Republic of Moldova](#) during the pandemic. It makes reference to [the 67 countries](#) the incoming passengers from which need to observe the 14-day quarantine, also exceptions for family members, etc.

2 General situation update

2.1 Political update

- The first round of the Presidential Election is scheduled for Sunday, November 1. It is clear from all of the recent polls that there will most certainly be a second round, as no candidate is popular enough to carry enough votes (51%) to win the first round outright. In many of the recent polls, the current President of Moldova, Igor Dodon, and former Prime Minister, Maia Sandu, now one of the opposition leaders, are ranked as the most popular candidates. According to most polls (except a recent USAID funded-IRI poll) Dodon is slightly more popular than Sandu and seen as the probable winner of the overall election.
- President Dodon has announced that following the election, there will be a government reshuffle. Kiku would most likely remain as prime minister, but some of the ministers would certainly change. Dodon said that the shake up in the government would affect both of the parties of the coalition, but he alluded to the fact that maybe the Democratic Party would no longer hold one of the leadership positions in the government, given the reduction in deputies they are contributing to the coalition.

2.2 Economic and social update

- The NBS released inflation numbers for September 2020 showing a record low level of 2.32% (for the last 12 months) being below the NBM target of 3.5-5.5%. However, inflation for food products was 5.91%, for non-foods decreased by 0.39% and for services provided to the population constituted 0.68%. Overall, the consumer's prices decreased in September '20 by 0.26% versus August '20. If compared to December'20 the reduction in consumers prices was 0.21% being caused primarily by the

decline in prices for non-food products. The decline in inflation rate in September versus August '20 was mostly due to a reduction in prices for fruits and vegetables, while at the same time the prices for dairy, meat, cheese, and honey went up. In terms of non-food items, the substantial decline was in prices for clothing and apparel, furniture, household appliances and detergents/chemicals. At the same time, there was an increase in the prices for medications, hygiene products, home décor and finishing and cigarettes. Prices for tourism services went down by 10.3% and for energy by 1.7%.

- In August '20 industrial activity decreased by 7.7% (or by 3.3% in seasonally adjusted terms) compared to the same month 2019. This decline was caused by a slowdown in the manufacturing sector (-9.8%). On the contrary, the extractive industry increased with 41.2% while energy, gas and water supply grew with 1.6%. Overall slowdown trend in industrial activity continued between January and August 2020 leading to a total decline of 6.5% in gross terms (6.9% in seasonally adjusted series) compared to the same period 2019 due to a decline of manufacturing (6.9% in gross terms, or -6.8% in seasonally adjusted series) and energy, gas, water supply sector (with 5.9% in gross terms, or 4.4% in seasonally adjusted series). Extractives, on the contrary, showed growth which was stimulated by a series of fiscal measures (+2.7% in gross terms, or +1.3% in seasonally adjusted terms). Noteworthy, that in August 2020 food processing registered decline with 17.2%, production of food-related products with 49.7%, processing and canning of fruits and vegetables (37.7%), production, processing and canning of meat (13.3%), while production of vegetable and animal oils and fats grew by 51.3 times and production of animal food increased with 43.1%. At the same time, in August 2020 the following manufacturing industry sectors showed a decrease in the production: equipment (-52.5%), pharmaceuticals (-46.3%), electrical devices (-46%), cars, tows, (-45.8%), computers and electronic and optical products (-40.5%), rubber and plastic products (-19.8%), and beverages (-19.4%). However, there was growth in the sectors related to car and equipment repair and maintenance (+31.7%), apparel (+30.6%), chemicals (+18.4%).
- Producer prices in September 2020 did not change substantially versus August 2020. However, when comparing it to September 2019, the producer's prices grew by 2% in the same month of 2020 versus the same month 2019 the producer's prices in the extractive industry grew by 2.5%, in the manufacturing industry – by 3%, while in the energy sector there was a decline of 10.8%.
- The COVID-19 outbreak and climate conditions severely affected agriculture. Moldova's global agricultural production between January and September 2020 declined by 25.3%, which was caused by a reduction in plant production by 35.5% and animal production by 2.8%. In particular, in QII'20 agricultural production decreased with 31.3% versus the same period of last year, notably due to the reduction in plant production (-36%) and breeding (-9.3%).
- According to the NBM, in September 2020, there was a substantial increase (+48.1%) in the amounts transferred by physical persons from abroad reaching approx. US\$ 148.5 mln. By origin sources, the majority of transfers are coming from the EU-17 (47.3%) followed by the CIS (14.8%) and the rest of the world (37.9%). In September 2020, transfers from the EU almost doubled versus the same period in 2019. Accordingly, the majority of funds were transferred in Euro (63%) followed by US\$ (35%) and RUB (2%).
- On October 28, ODIMM [launched a new program aimed at providing support to the SMEs](#) with growth potential. This program will support SMEs through business advisory services provided through "business vouchers" and grants in the amount of up to 2 mln MDL.

2.3 Education update

- According to an information note from the MECR, as of October 20, there were 265 positive cases of COVID-19 infections among students/pupils, and 6,334 were placed in self-isolation. The note also shows there are 368 infections among teaching staff, with 382 people being placed in self-isolation. Also, 65 schools non-teaching staff are reported being positively tested, with another 65 being placed

in self-isolation. From a total of 1,240 general education public and private institutions, 13 are organizing the education process online only due to quarantine measures.

- MECR informed that 1,138 state preschools out of 1398 restarted their learning and care activities as of September 22. Also, 126 preschools are working online due to quarantine measures, and 9 preschools are closed; 25 preschool groups are placed in quarantine. There are 80 cases positively confirmed among didactical staff, and 114 professionals are placed in isolation. There are 46 positive cases among non-didactical staff, and 129 are placed in self-isolation. There are 8 cases of COVID-19 confirmed infections among young children, and 696 children are in self-isolation.

2.4 Gender and Human Rights

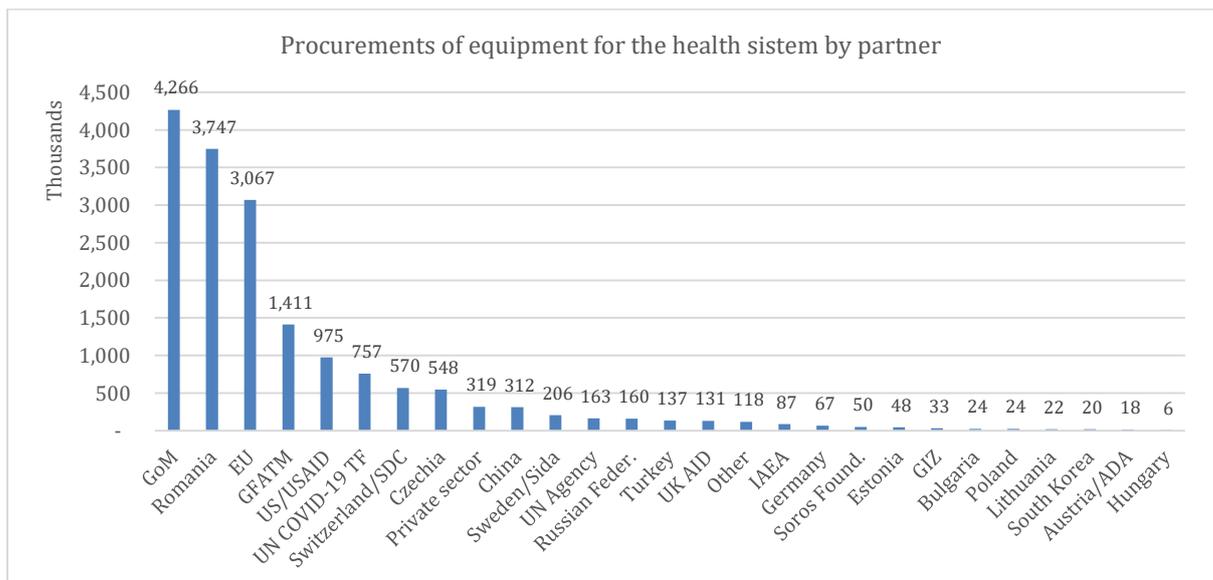
- At the 75th UN General Assembly, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration of the Republic of Moldova, Oleg Țulea, stressed the need to integrate the gender dimension in the crisis management measures caused by COVID-19.

2.5 Transnistria region

- The number of confirmed cases continued to increase in the Transnistria region over the past month. De facto structures currently report a total of 6,452 cases in the region. At the same time, the reported number of recoveries in the region stands at 4,684 and the number of deaths stands at 157. Based on the data reported by the Moldovan authorities, an acceleration in the pandemic was observed in the region during the month of October relative to other districts in the country. The share of cases recorded in the Transnistria region in the total number of cases increased from 7% at the beginning of the month to 9% at the end. In addition, the region climbed from the 25th to the 19th position in terms of the number of cases per 100,000 during the same period.

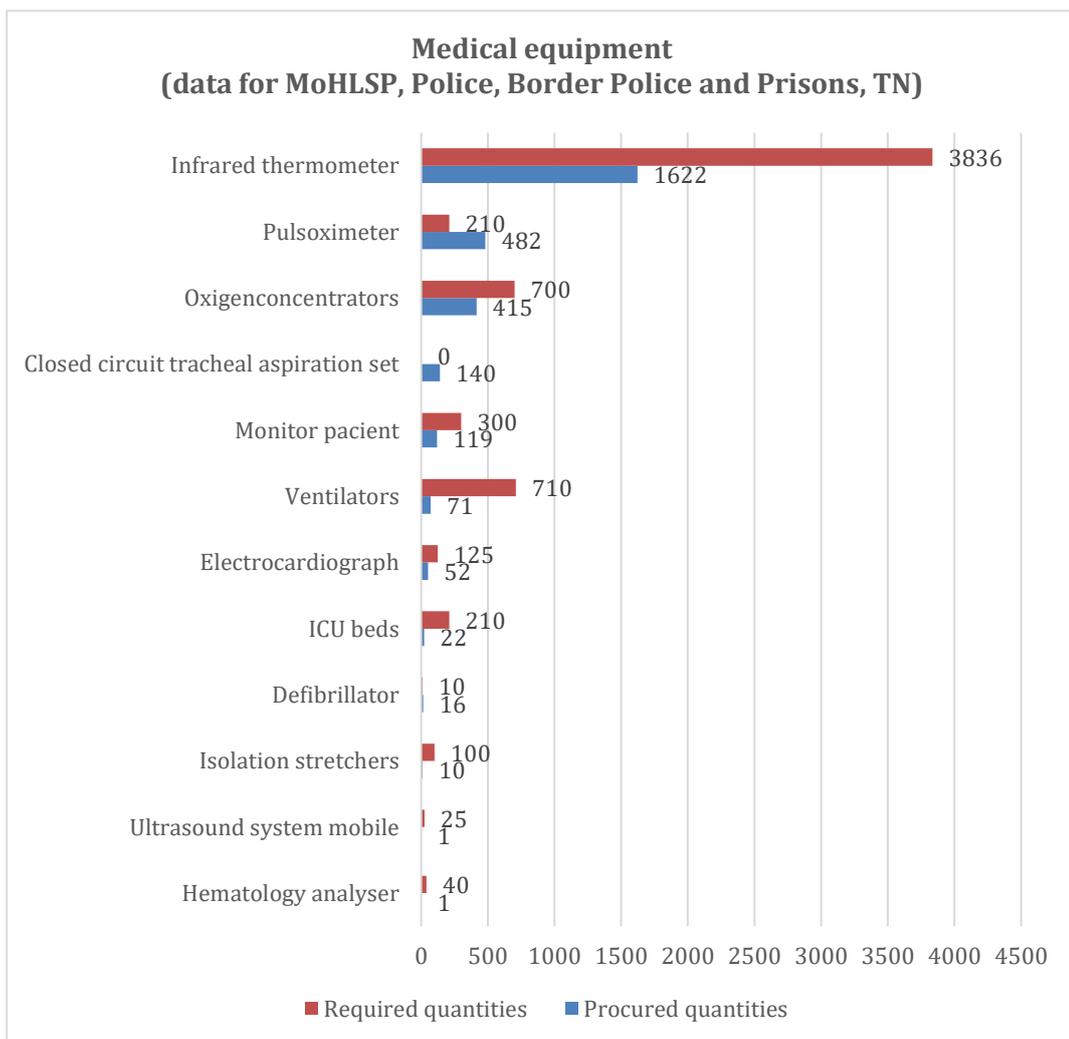
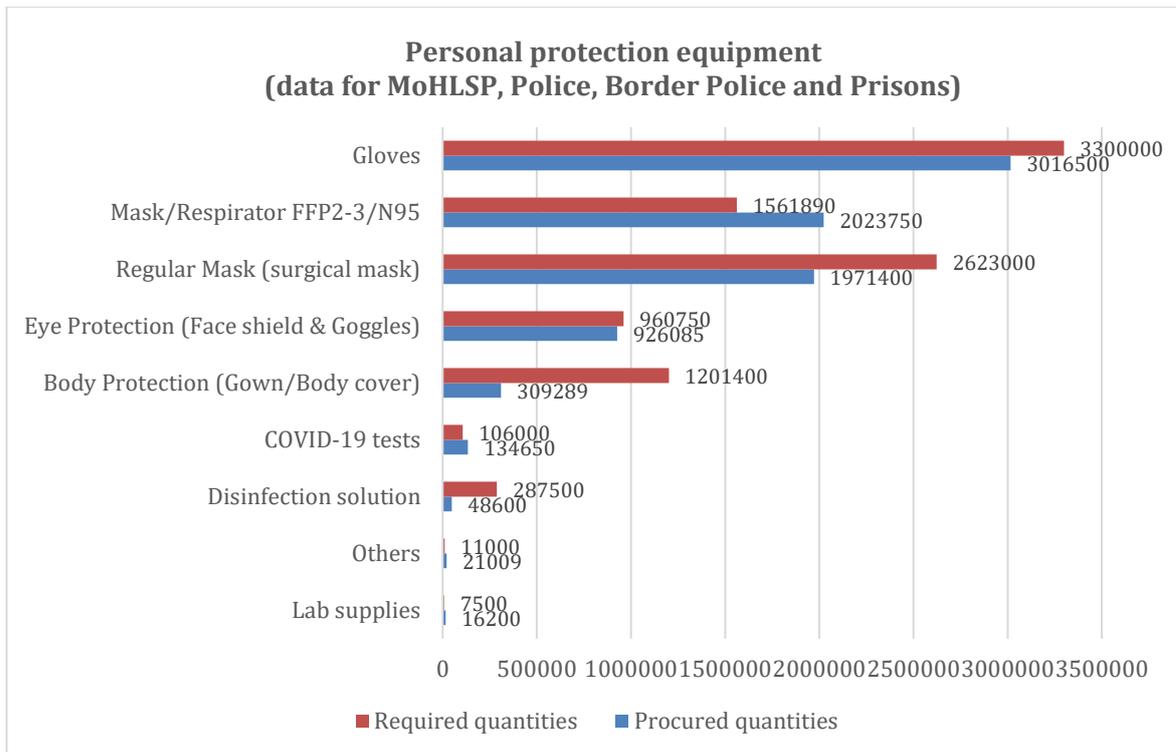
2.6 Aid Coordination - data on procurements for COVID-19

Mapping of contributions to the Health System for COVID-19 response in Moldova



* Note - data only for contracted/procured PEEs, medical equipment and technical assistance COVID related. 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, and Sonaris Com.



3 UN Social and Economic Response and Recovery Support

3.1 Pillar 1: HEALTH FIRST: protecting health services and systems during the crisis

- WHO has conducted a training for representatives of the Border Police, the Civil Aviation Authority, the Customs Service, National Public Health Agency and Ministry of Health, Labour and Social Protection to use the WHO guidance for the safe resumption of operations at points of entry (POEs) in the context of COVID-19. Two table-top exercises have simulated the arrival of COVID-19 suspected cases in both airport and at a ground crossing and have allowed to test and review the measures in place and coordination mechanisms among the different sectors involved. The exercise also resulted in the identification of priority actions to further strengthen response capabilities for COVID-19 – as well as other communicable diseases at POEs in the Republic of Moldova.
- WHO technical mission was conducted to support the laboratory component at the national and regional levels. During the technical mission, the self-assessments performed by all the laboratories involved in the test were analyzed, identifying the strong elements, but also the areas that need to be updated and improved. The mission had been focused on the organizational aspects of public health lab testing system and on the practical features of the samples testing. The current COVID-19 testing strategies and management issues but also scaling-up testing strategies have been discussed with the representatives of the Ministry of Health labour and Social Protection.
- Integration of influenza and SARS-CoV-2 surveillance during the upcoming seasonal increase in influenza have been discussed and the algorithms for surveillance and testing have been updated and will be used by the health care workers in nine sentinel sites, designated by the MoHLSP.
- WHO position on the use of antigen (Ag) rapid test for SARS-CoV-2 identification was presented and will be used in the updating scaling-up laboratory testing strategy. 1,000 testing kits for rapid diagnosis of COVID-19 will allow to increase accessibility to testing, especially in case of outbreak investigation as well as diversification of methods used for COVID-19 testing.
- The WHO technical international support mission on strengthening the COVID-19 contact tracing and Go.Data Implementation have been conducted in the Republic of Moldova. The Go.Data platform was configured at the national level and in one piloting region. Face to face and on-line trainings on Go.Data platform functionalities have been organized for epidemiologists from the national and regional levels. The platform used for the outbreak investigation and data collection, compilation and analysis will be used for COVID-19 outbreaks and later will be institutionalized as tool for any type of outbreaks.
- WHO, with the support of the EU, 210 pulse oximeters portable handheld fro a total value of 43,890 USD were delivered. The items will be distributed to all district, municipal and national hospitals. 20 of them will be distributed to the hospitals from the Transnistria region.
- WHO and the Novo Nordisk Company (Denmark) will donate insulin (5,000 ampoules of Actrapid, 2,000 ampoules of Protafan and Glucagon - 100 doses) to all primary and hospital care institutions in the country. The donation covers the needs of these institutions for a year, which contributes to ensuring free access of inpatients and outpatients to insulin. The Glucagon offered by WHO is an essential drug used in the treatment of hypoglycemia, available for the first time in the Republic of Moldova, 90% of the total amount was distributed to the Institute of Mother and Child, 3% to Municipal Clinical Hospital "Holy Trinity" and 7% to Clinical Republican HospitalUNDP, with the support of Soros Foundation, has delivered to the GoM: - 7 patient monitor; 7 Pulse oximeter; - 7 Oxygen concentrator (10L).
- With UNFPA and UNAIDS, provided training to over 600 healthcare providers to provide qualitative HIV Prevention Services to key populations, including young people. The extended capacity building online programme has the objective of rolling-out at the national level the *Standard on the organization and functioning of the HIV prevention services provided to key populations, including young key populations*, facilitating its use in their daily activity, including in the COVID-19 context.

- UNICEF, with USAID funds, distributed WASH (liquid soap, sanitizers, disinfectant) for health facilities' staff and hygiene supplies for infants and young children, especially those from vulnerable families hospitalized in the Municipal Pediatric Hospital for Contagious Diseases.
- UNICEF, jointly with U-Report, launched a poll to explore adolescent boys' and girls' opinions on [vaccination](#). The results of the poll will be presented to the stakeholders and used for health-related programmatic interventions and advocacy.
- UNICEF and WHO participated in the meeting of the National Council for the Protection of Child Rights, dedicated to the issues of immunization refusals in the context of COVID-19 pandemic and schools' reopening. Representatives of MoLSP, Ministry of Education, Culture and Research, Ombud's Office, National Agency of Public Health, Cahul Center of Public Health, Police Inspectorate discussed about a range of activities targeting LPAs, health and education authorities to encourage and support parents of school-aged children to catch up with the vaccination schedule of their children and ensure their protection from vaccine-preventable diseases in the context of COVID-19 pandemic.
- UNODC has launched a series of trainings for law enforcement authorities in Transnistria, within the ONE UN Project on Human Right in the Transnistrian Region, financed by Sweden. 8 training sessions will be organized from October 20 to December 20, 2020, in Tiraspol, Slobozia, Ribnita, Camenca, Benderi, Grigoriopol, Dubasari. UNODC training modules were formatted as 5 days online webinars, and modules implemented by 6 trainer for over 120 police officers. Objectives of the training: 1. improving the knowledge of police officers in control and prevention of COVID-19, HIV/AIDS, TB and viral hepatitis and the referral of vulnerable people to medico-social service; 2. extend the local cooperation and partnership between the de facto police and CSOs locally.

In addition to theoretical aspects, police officers will gain practical knowledge in the field of infection control and prevention when arresting people, post-exposure prophylaxis to HIV in case there was an accident, as well as the skills on conducting safe searches or seizing and storing the evidence. Plans regarding the referral of vulnerable groups to social-medical services are to be developed in each region after the end of the training. CSOs Trinita, Alianz Zdoroviya, Miloserdie and UORN are co-organizers.

- Support to doctors residing on the left bank of the Nistru and working in health care institutions on the right bank has been extended until December 1. The support is provided within the EU-funded Confidence Building Measures programme implemented by UNDP. Altogether, 38 people benefitted from the support for temporary accommodation, of which 10 have been recently allowed to commute and phased out. In addition, 4 medics are waiting to be included in the list, i.e. the number of supported doctors till end-November will be 32.
- UNICEF Moldova continued the ongoing communication with Chisinau Mayorality and identified priorities in the area of child and adolescent health to be strengthened with UNICEF support taken into consideration COVID 19 pandemic contexts.

3.2 Pillar 2: PROTECTING PEOPLE: Social protection and basic services

- UNICEF, with USAID funds, distributed 68,000 liters of liquid soap, 454,000 pieces of soap bars and over 136,000 litres of liquid hand sanitizer to the 1252 schools and 1397 pre-schools in the country. In total, over 2,600 educational institutions, which include almost 23 thousand classes and groups (and some 149,000 pre-schoolers and 329,000 pupils) benefit from these products, which will meet the needs for a period of three months, after school reopening in September.
- UNICEF, with USAID funds, procured on behalf of Ministry of Education, Culture and Research a batch of non-contact thermometers for pre-school reopening. As of end September, UNICEF delivered 2,650 thermometers which will be subsequently distributed to prioritized education institutions, covering all the pre-primary/pre-school institutions in the country.
- UNICEF and CCF Moldova, with USAID funds, partnered to train teachers and school managers to ensure prevention of infectious diseases in schools. Since mid-September, the training reached 1573

educational professionals, including 197 participants representing residential institutions, 1,154 school administrators and 222 school-based COVID-19 coordinators.

- Similarly, UNICEF (with USAID funding) will launch this week a nationwide training for teaching and non-teaching personnel in pre-primary (pre-school) institutions regarding COVID-19 regulations. To this end, UNICEF partnered with national NGO, CNETIF, in developing training materials and rolling out the nationwide training. To date, the training content, featuring hygiene practices, the application of protocols for COVID-19 and infectious diseases prevention and control (IPC), has been finalized and will be used in large-scale capacity building for administrators and teaching staff from all schools and preschools. The training aims to cover (by the end of the year) 12,945 managerial and didactical staff, 18,650 non-didactical staff and 1,486 managers for preschools and LPAs representatives nationally and over 19,000 staff in 1200 primary, secondary education settings, including 17 residential institutions.
- In October 2020, UNICEF chaired three regular meetings of the UN Coordinated Education Task Force (ETF) for COVID-19 to update on the actions of authorities and partners to ensure the organization of the education process in the new school year 2020-2021 in safe conditions. The meetings served to discuss the follow-up actions related to the thematic paper **"Education and COVID-19 in Moldova: Grasping the opportunity the learning crisis presents to build a more resilient education system"**. Specifically, the ETF members agreed to use the findings of the paper as a basis for holding consultations with target audiences, including teachers, parents, youth and others on the actions for continuing education in the context of COVID-19 pandemic. The thematic paper was prepared by the UN Coordinated Education Task Force for COVID-19 in Moldova (chaired by UNICEF, and with membership by WB, UNFPA, UNDP, OHCHR, UN Women, UNHCR, UNODC, UNESCO, FAO, and UN RCO), and 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"**.
- On October 21, UNDP organized a sensemaking workshop on COVID-19 micronarratives engaging several NGOs working the old people, PWDs and youth, as well as State Chancellery aiming at designing safe-to-fail solutions to overcome problems faced by those most marginals and affected by COVID-19.
- Within the framework of the "Enhancing democracy in Moldova through inclusive and transparent elections" Project in partnership with USAID, UNDP convened a discussion of the set Elections Platform around the COVID19 safety measures and preparedness for elections
- UNODC has initiated the renovation and technical equipment of four E-justice rooms in pre-trial prisons (53,000 USD) and it is expected to be ready by the end of December. These rooms are intended as "multi-purpose rooms", ensuring remote access for prisoners to persecutors office, courts, lawyers and relatives. The resources are provided by UNODC's HQ, two sections: HIV/AIDS section and Justice section. Selected prisosns are the ones in Chisinau, Balti, Cahul and Rezina. Prison authorities are facing large number requests to escort prisoners to persecution office, to courts or other public institutions in order to continue the criminal investigation process and ensure access to justice. Most requests for judiciary processes continuation are coming from 4 prisons, with temporary detention status, from prison 11 Balti, prisons 13 Chisinau, prison 9 Cahul and prisons 13 Rezina, which are also the most overcrowded detention facilities in the country. Thus, from May 15 2020, to September 15 over 1,500 detained and imprisoned people were escorted to the public bodies for the criminal investigation process, while some prisoners were escorted several times. Constant transportation and movement of detained and imprisoned people presents a high risk of COVID-19 infection for both detainees and prison staff. Jointly with the Prisons. Each room will have 3 cabins equipped with videoconference equipment and 3 more cabins equipped with interphones. Within the cabins, COVID-19 infection control measures will be respected but also the confidentiality aspects of the justice process (ventilation, germicide lamps, alcohol dispensers and phonic isolation are included).
- UNFPA has launched a comprehensive capacity building programme for volunteers of the network of Youth Friendly Health Clinics. The programme aims to build capacities of young people to cope with CODIV-19 pandemic and adopt healthy behaviours, including in sexual and reproductive health. The programme is implemented as a partnership between the Association "Health for Youth" and UNFPA.

UNFPA supports the Ministry of Education, Culture and Research of the Republic of Moldova in the development of healthy and safe behaviors among adolescents and young people through formal and non-formal health education programs.

- UNFPA, in partnership with the Ministry of Education, Culture and Research has launched a **psychological support programme** (2nd edition) for teachers and parents to better cope with the pandemic. The program "I choose to be ok with others and with me" will include a series of online thematic sessions with education experts, psychologists and other professionals, being intended for teachers, managers and parents. The program is launched at the initiative of the Ministry of Education, Culture and Research (MECC) and the UN Population Fund (UNFPA), with the aim of helping teachers and parents maintain psycho-emotional balance and well-being in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic crisis.
- During October 2020, in partnership with the Ministry of Internal Affairs, Centrul Integrat de Pregătire pentru Aplicarea Legii (CIPAL) the Training for Trainers for police officers and other representatives of law enforcement authorities, has been organized by Women Law Center and UN Women and funded by Sweden, to support strengthening the capacities in the effective application of legislation in domestic violence, including during crisis situations, such as COVID-19. After the course of 3 modules, 400 police and law enforcement representatives will be trained.

3.3 Pillar 3: ECONOMIC RESPONSE & RECOVERY: Protecting jobs, small and medium-sized enterprises, and the informal sector and workers

- On October 8, FAO together with USAID in Moldova organized a specialized donor coordination meeting on drought impact in agriculture and food systems. The minister of agriculture, regional development and environment presented their estimations on the losses in agriculture. It was attested that both the drought and COVID-19 outbreak were affecting severely the likelihood of the people living in rural areas. Possible mitigation solutions, as well as further support in the sector were discussed during the meeting. It was agreed to share regularly the information on the new projects and programmes that are supporting adaptation and mitigation to climate change in agriculture. FAO will continue to support the ministry in collecting and analyzing the information related to donors support in agriculture as well as recommend medium and long term solutions in climate change.
- ILO in partnership with the MoHLSP had launched a new project aimed at protecting workers and ensuring decent and safe working conditions in times of COVID-19 crisis and recovery period. The project will assist the tripartite constituents in ensuring decent and safe working conditions through effective labour inspections, including immediate workplace actions against the risk of COVID-19. The government and social partners will be supported to implement practical and gender-responsive COVID-19 prevention and mitigation actions at workplaces and will strengthen the capacities of the employers' and workers' organizations to respond to their members' needs with the implementation of Occupational Safety and Health related measures in the context of COVID-19. Additionally, the project will help strengthen the institutional capacity of the State Labour Inspectorate to conduct integrated workplace inspections which fully comply with ILO Conventions.
- Three Socio-Economic Impact Task Force meetings were organized and led by UNDP:
 - October 28 – UNFPA and Keystone Moldova presented the impact of COVID-19 on the lifecycle deficit from an intergenerational perspective and on persons with disabilities.
 - October 21 – the NBS and WB presented the findings of the assessment of the impact of COVID-19 on incomes and expenditures of households in Moldova.
 - October 7 – UNDP presented the SEIA draft final report with the participation of key partners from the Government (Ministry of Finance, State Chancellery, Ministry of Economy, National Bureau of Statistic) and development partners. Further consultations on the draft will be

conducted with partners and national counterparts. A communication plan is being prepared for the dissemination of the SEIA results;

- September 30 - UNDP Moldova, in partnership with European Space Agency, presented an analysis on impact of COVID-19 on air pollution. State Secretary MoARDE, Mr. Popov, participated in the discussion, and MoARDE made a presentation on air pollutants reduction targets through the updated NDC. Also, a follow-up discussion was organized by UNDP with MoARDE, particular focus was placed on the level of air pollution in main industrial and urban areas. The participants discussed the possibilities to integrate EO data into the M&E framework on air pollution and pollutants.

3.4 Pillar 4: MACROECONOMIC RESPONSE AND MULTILATERAL COLLABORATION

- UNDRR is implementing a project in Chisinau dedicated to the local level resilience to disasters, with a focus on biological hazards. In this context, UNDRR is helping the Chisinau municipality representatives in developing a baseline for a short-term COVID-19 response project.
- UNDP organized an Online Dialogue: Supporting MSMEs in the COVID-19 Pandemic on October 19, in partnership with the Ministry of Economy and Infrastructure and attended by more than 90 participants from related national and international partners to discuss areas of opportunity in supporting companies to overcome COVID-19 consequences.

3.5 Pillar 5: SOCIAL COHESION AND COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

- UNICEF supported project UPSHIFT Moldova started the implementation of the youth-led social innovation projects in the regions. The implementation will last until December 2020. More than 6,000 people from various age-groups are expected to directly benefit from these projects. Due to COVID-19 UPSHIFT programme was adjusted to digital format.
- UNICEF, jointly with CNPAC, started reviewing the parenting program for caregivers of adolescents, to envisage training modules regarding vaccination, violence and bullying of adolescents.

3.6 Gender and Human Rights

- Women mayors continue to receive support, including legal consultations, in the context of COVID-19 pandemic. The support is provided by Congress of Local Authorities from Moldova (CALM) in partnership with UN Women. Besides this, on October 6, 15, and 20, three online study visits out of 5 took place, with the participation of women mayors at their first mandate. The aim of study visits is to create a platform for the exchange of experience between women mayors with more mandates and successful initiatives implemented in communities and newly elected women mayors. During study visits, women mayors with more experience tackle subjects on responding to COVID-19 outbreak as well.
- The National Association of Women in Army will have better opportunities to connect with their members and do joint activities in pandemic time, due to technical equipment (cameras and headphones) and one-year Zoom subscription provided by UN Women.
- On October 22 the UN, led by OHCHR, launched the Human Rights Awareness Raising Campaign "Recover Better Together: Human Rights for All", which will conclude on Human Rights Day on December 10. For the launch the Resident Coordinator released a video message as well as a press release, which was followed by a video of a teacher from a rural area talking about her experience of education, vulnerable groups and COVID-19.

The campaign seeks to raise public awareness on the human rights of each individual, as well as on the interdependence and indivisibility of the universal human rights. This will be done by reflecting on the

human rights situation including in the context of COVID-19 through the voices of people belonging to marginalized groups and others particularly affected by the pandemic, through posters, comics and video testimonials.

3.7 Assessments and Data

- The long impact of COVID-19 pandemic from gender equality perspective will be assessed. In this respect, UN Women, in partnership with Center Partnership for Development, will undertake a second Gender Assessment, based on the findings of the previous one, and will assess more in-depth the impact of pandemic on care work, job market and financial impact of lockdown on population from a gender equality perspective. The questionnaire is under development, with the survey to be initiated by end-October.
- UNFPA produced and launched two analyses on the **Impact of COVID-19 on young people**: (1) [The Impact of COVID on youth participation](#) and (2) [The impact of COVID on youth mental well-being](#). The analyses were produced in cooperation with the UN Resident Coordinator Office and in partnership with the Ministry with Education, Culture and Research, with financial support from Swiss Development Corporation.

3.8 Communications and Advocacy

- WHO and MoHLSP have conveyed the meeting of the National Communication Group on COVID-19 risk communication and community engagement to address current communication issues, to reinvigorate the national efforts in COVID-19 communication, and plan targeted communication interventions and community engagement activities. An action plan for the next 3 months is under development.
- WHO launched a social media challenge #WearAMaskCorrectly, following WHO global campaign on #WearAMask. Dozens of public figures, influencers, journalists, ambassadors have joined the campaign.
- There is an ongoing awareness campaign on the stigma associated with COVID-19, implemented by WHO, EU and OHCHR. More information here - <https://www.facebook.com/OMSMoldova>
- WHO and SDC support initiated communication activities on post-COVID-19 rehabilitation, a thematic awareness campaign is under development.
- WHO and partners are providing continuous support to the MoHLSP on risk communication and community engagement. A regular e-newsletter with SDC and EU support is disseminated.
- WHO supported the development and production of a poster on COVID-19 prevention measures for churches and parishioners.
- Every year, on October 15, the International Day of Rural Women is marked. On this occasion, UN Women Moldova talked to 3 women mayors of rural localities of Moldova, who managed to break the gender stereotypes pertaining to women's leadership, mobilize the community for prevention and protection from COVID-19 and bring changes in the lives of their fellow citizens. Link on the story: <https://bit.ly/34hDU4r>
- In the context of the 2020 Presidential Elections in Moldova, UNDP continues the information campaign enhancing awareness about anti-COVID-19 measures. The winner team of Filmmakers Camp, the creative lab in the electoral field (2019) prepared a new motivational video spot dedicated to people of all ages. Also, UNDP supported the production of four key video messages addressed by the representatives of Central Electoral Commission, Centre for Continuous Electoral Training, UNDP Moldova and the Bureau of the Relations with Diaspora. Regarding Moldovan diaspora, UNDP contributed to the information of voters from abroad to find their polling stations and to avoid the

crowd by using diaspora.cec.md. For the same target group, an animated video was produced with the "Elephant" in the main role.

- On October 1, UNDP, WHO, UK along with the Governor of Gagauzia participated in a handover ceremony of COVID-19 personal protective equipment at the Comrat district hospital "Isaac Gurfinkel", one of the six beneficiary institutions from the right bank.
- On October 2, UNDP and Estonia organized a handover ceremony of equipment to be used in setting up mobile centers for quarantine, pre-triage and epidemiological triage near hospital units or other public institutions. The donation was provided to the General Inspectorate for Emergency Situations.
- UNDP and USAID support the Central Electoral Commission in the informational and awareness campaign on COVID-19 safety measures for the 2020 Presidential Elections. [The third edition of the electoral comics "Arci fights against COVID-19"](#) contains three stories easy to read, easy to understand about voting safety, how to wear correctly a protective mask and how to vote with the help of a mobile ballot box. In October, 12,700 copies of electoral comics reached 100 schools in over 50 communities throughout Moldova. The publication is accessible in Romanian, Russian, Ukrainian, Gagauz and Romani. To support the Moldovan diaspora, UNDP informed voters from abroad on ways of finding their polling stations, thus avoiding the crowd, by using diaspora.cec.md.
- To help children and adolescents cope with covid-19 related challenges, UNICEF Moldova supported the [nation-wide educational game](#) for students in grades 7-12 dedicated to UN75 and covering the topics SDG 3: Good health and well-being and SDG 4: Quality education. In total, more than 1,400 participants from 23 districts including the municipality of Chisinau participated in the game.
- UNICEF promoted the importance of proper handwashing for child's health and safety at school. The children's song was translated into [RUS](#) and [ENG](#). UNICEF also produced a [video](#) from Mingir village, Hancesti district on the occasion of Global Handwashing Day, highlighting the joint UNICEF and USAID support.
- UNICEF Moldova raised public awareness [How to keep children safe online during the COVID-19 outbreak](#) and also shared the advice on [How to support adolescents to cope with challenges during the pandemic](#).
- UNICEF Moldova financed by USAID supported regular online talk shows aLIVE. A discussion on [How to support children in school during the pandemic](#) with experts from MECR and CCF was streamed on October 6 2020, and a discussion on [Bullying](#) with Diana Cheianu, author of National study on bullying among adolescents in Moldova developed with UNICEF support in 2019. Each episode reaches 13,000 people and has more than 1,000 simultaneous viewers.
- UNFPA continued the communication on the intergenerational solidarity program between older and young persons as a solution to build resilience to the social and demographic challenges, including related to COVID19 pandemic. A [press release](#) was issued about the donation of mobile phones to older people and the partnership with HelpAgeInternational.
- UNFPA photo about Nelly Ungureany, young volunteer, who provided emotional support to older women from Singerey district, Maria Rosca, as part of the intergenerational support program, was selected for the online UN75 Photo exhibition "[Shaping Our Future Together](#)" (photo 18) from more than 600 entries worldwide.
- UNFPA teamed up with [Gyneco.md Instagram](#) platform to reach out to women of reproductive age with essential family planning, contraception, and cervical cancer prevention information, during the pandemic. The platform posted daily [articles](#) and organized 2 webinars on: [hormonal methods of contraception](#), and [non-hormonal](#) contraception, with more than 12,000 views.
- UNFPA organized a [LIVE](#) event for the PPE donation to the Network of Youth Clinics, disseminated a [press release](#) about the event, covered in the [media](#), and elaborated a [video](#) promoting the access of adolescents and youth to safe and confidential SRH services during the COVID-19 pandemic.

- UNFPA, in partnership with Youth Clinic Network launched an online peer-to-peer learning program for youth volunteers on communication techniques and sexual and reproductive health and rights and issued a [press release](#).
- UNFPA supported the National Bureau of Statistics to produce [a video](#) with NBS partners on the occasion of World Statistics Day, celebrated on October, 20th, and emphasized the role of official data and statistics for the country's development, especially in overcoming the COVID -19 pandemic.
- UNFPA in partnership with the Ministry of Education, Culture and Research, [launched a new](#) online psychological support program for teachers, school managers and parents, and promoted the program by issuing a press release and a [video](#).
- UNFPA issued two press releases to support the launch of two analytical notes about COVID-19 and [Impact on Emotional Well being](#) and Impact on [Youth Participation](#). Both events were largely covered in mass-media: [Radio Free Europe](#), [IPN](#), [Agora.md](#), [Ea.md](#), and others.