

AFEW International's
COVID-19 situation report in the six countries
of the Eastern Partnership

Prepared for the COVID-19 Solidarity Programme

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Introduction

In the framework of the EU COVID-19 Solidarity Programme for Eastern Partnership, AFEW International, People in Need (PIN) and Netherlands Helsinki Committee (NHC) joined forces to propose a set of interventions in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine to mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and contribute towards longer-term socio-economic resilience of vulnerable groups.

One of the activities in this project is the collection of information on the epidemiology of COVID-19, the measures taken by local governments to contain the epidemic and information on access to health services. This report doesn't give conclusions or recommendations for the next steps; the report functions as an information resource as support for the development of (new) interventions.

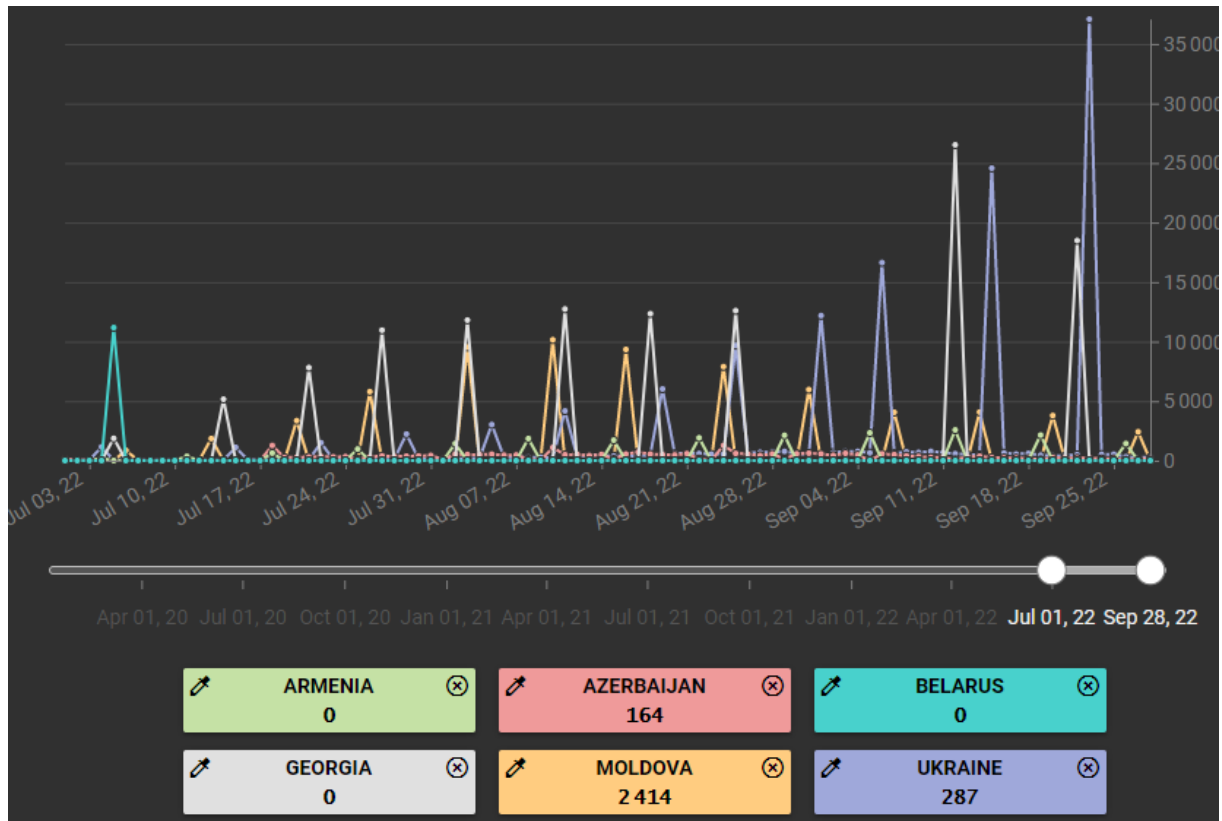
This report gives an overview of the period 1 July – 28 September 2022, the eighth quarter of the implementation period of the project. Such a report will be produced for every quarter of the project duration.

For this report the following sources are used:

- WHO Health System Response Monitor (HSRM);
- Government sources on the coronavirus situation in the countries;
- Reports on the COVID-19 situation prepared by the UNICEF, UN, OECD, International Partnership for Human Rights (IPHR);
- Global news agencies;
- Local independent media.

Regional overview

Confirmed daily COVID-19 cases in 2022, between June 30 and September 28 in the 6 countries of the Eastern Partnership



Source: [Sciences Po Media lab Coronavirus Country Comparator](#)





Situation report Armenia

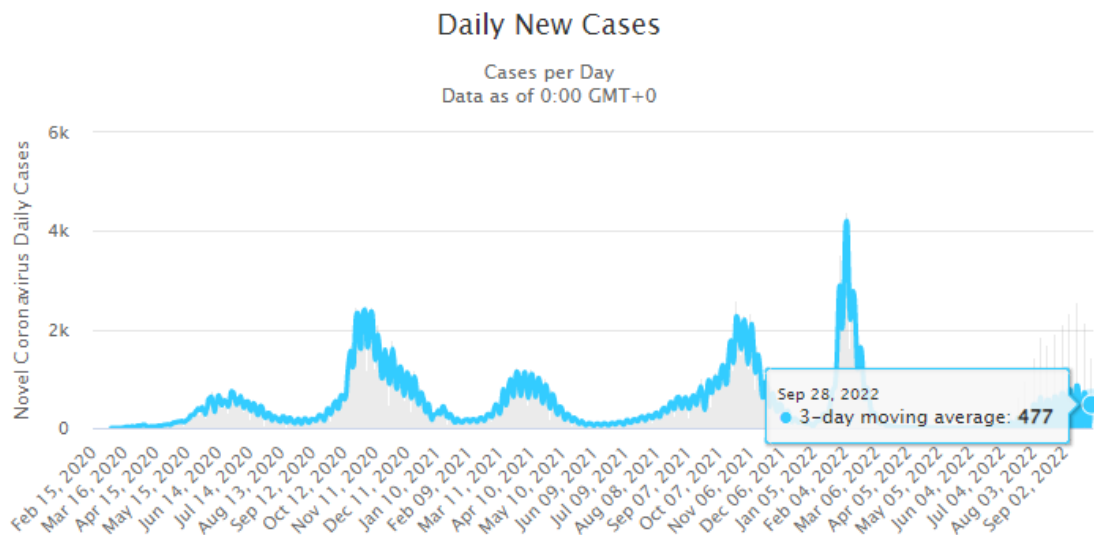


Image: Worldometer

Cases of COVID-19

- The daily COVID-19 infections are increasing in Armenia, totalling at 1,431 new [cases](#) in 1 week of September 19-25.
- There have been 442,875 infections, 8,683 coronavirus-related deaths, and 430,192 recoveries reported in the [country](#) since the pandemic began.

Measures to contain the epidemic

- The [quarantine](#) regime, which replaced the state of emergency in Armenia in September 2020, had expired on June 20, 2022, thereby annulling all remaining quarantine measures.
- The government of Armenia is reporting on [Activities neutralising social consequences of COVID-19](#), including such beneficiaries as families with children, the unemployed, pregnant women, entrepreneurs and workers in the business sectors hit most by the pandemic, socially deprived families, and students. Beneficiaries can [submit](#) proposals to receive financial aid.
- In an attempt to contain the COVID-19 pandemic, in 2020, Armenia closed schools fully for 9 weeks and partially for 4 weeks, opting for distance learning and affecting 600,000 students. In their recent submission to the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women on September 21, the Human Rights Watch addressed the [negative impact](#) on women and girls' quality of life and education as a result of such policies. This is due to lack of access to distance learning devices among low-income households and difficulty of reaching children with special educational needs and disabilities.

Vaccine

- Armenia has administered at least 2,150,112 doses of COVID [vaccines](#) so far. Assuming every person needs 2 doses, that's enough to have vaccinated about 33% of the country's population.



Situation report Azerbaijan

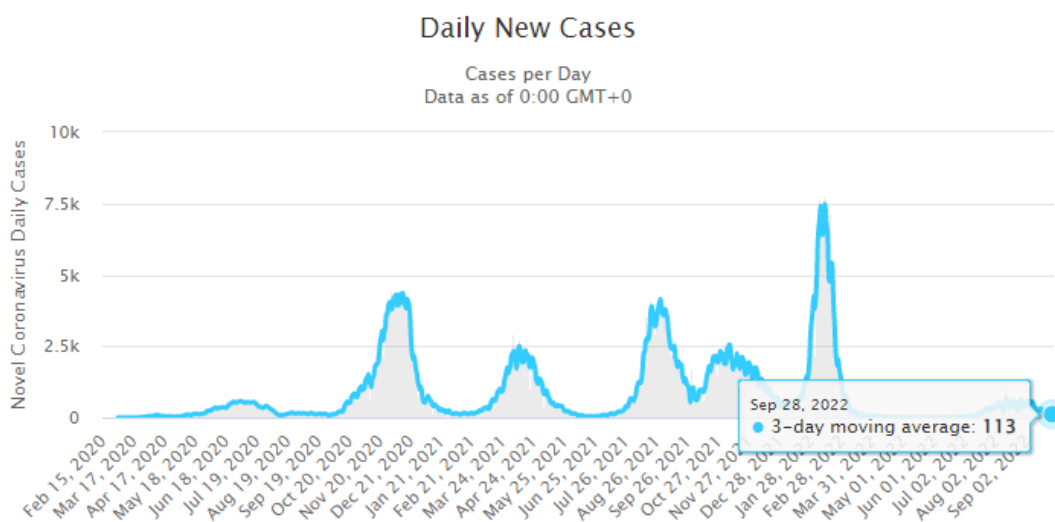


Image: Worldometer

Cases of COVID-19

— There have been 821,162 infections, 9,910 coronavirus-related deaths, and 810,181 recoveries reported in the country since the pandemic began.

Measures to contain the epidemic

— On September 20, the Chairman of the Health Committee of the Azerbaijani Parliament Akhliman Amiraslanov announced the parliament will hold [hearings](#) in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic to discuss precautionary measures and the situation in the country. Two days later, Azerbaijan's Minister of Health Teymur Musayev stated that the COVID-19 [pandemic is "nearing its end"](#) due to low mortality rates in Azerbaijan. However, he urged citizens to vaccinate.

— The [quarantine regime](#) is in place in Azerbaijan until 6:00, 1 November 2022. This entails the requirement of a full COVID-19 vaccination or recovery document for entry to the country and to public services such as malls, hotels, theaters, and restaurants. Since 15 April 2022, [PCR](#) tests are not required nor accepted upon entry. Facemasks are [recommended](#), but not required. In addition, borders with neighboring countries are closed, and travelling is only possible by plane.

— Among the initiatives by Azerbaijan to respond to the coronavirus crisis, robust [strategies](#) were adopted to minimize its impact on society, including social protection of women and children, displaced persons, older population, people with disabilities and migrants.

Vaccine

— Azerbaijan has administered at least 13,857,111 doses of COVID [vaccines](#) so far. Assuming every person needs 2 doses, that's enough to have vaccinated about 49% of the country's population.



Situation report Belarus

Daily New Cases

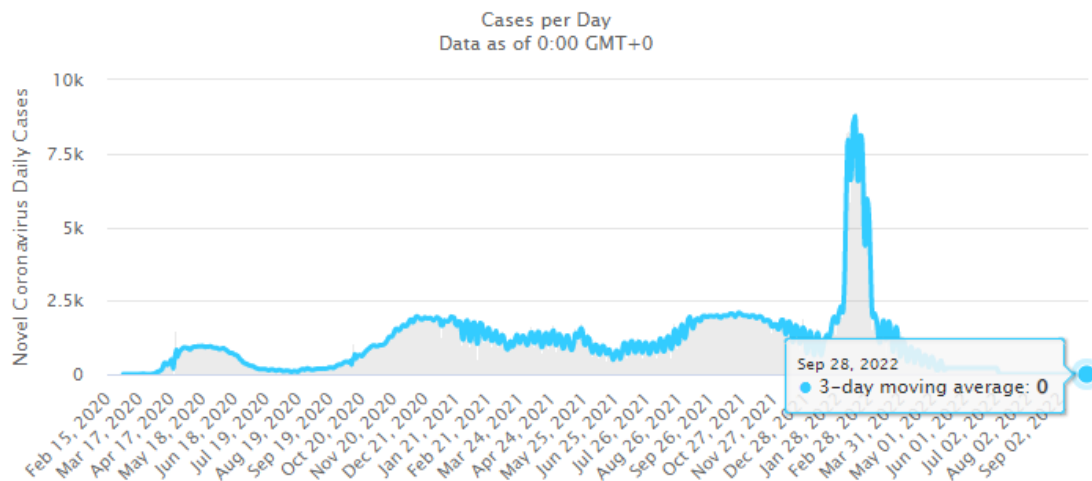


Image: Worldometer

Cases of COVID-19

— The Head of the Ministry of Health of Belarus Dmitry Pinevich has acknowledges a rise in cases of COVID-19, influenza and viral respiratory infections, but assures that the [figures](#) are significantly lower than one year ago.

— There have been 994,037 infections, 7,118 coronavirus-related deaths, and 985,592 recoveries reported in the [country](#) since the pandemic began.

Measures to contain the epidemic

— On April 3rd, Belarus has [lifted](#) its covid-related borders restrictions, which were in place since October 2020. Now Belarus citizens can now freely cross the border, while foreign travelers can enter Belarus with a PCR test or vaccination proof. Citizens of Russia and Ukraine are exempted from this requirement due to the geopolitical situation.

— Schools and workplaces have no lockdown measures or recommendations. People are no longer encouraged to stay at home or isolate.

Vaccine

— Belarus has administered at least 14,916,985 doses of COVID [vaccines](#) so far. Assuming every person needs 2 doses, that's enough to have vaccinated about 69% of the country's population.

— Belarus reports that over 6.4 million citizens are [fully](#) vaccinated against COVID-19.

— On August 25th, Belarus and Russia agreed to recognize each other's vaccination [certificates](#). In addition, Belarus and Russia will not apply COVID-19 related restrictions to holders of Belarusian and Russian vaccination certificates and to children and teenagers under 18, who do not have certificates.



Situation report Georgia

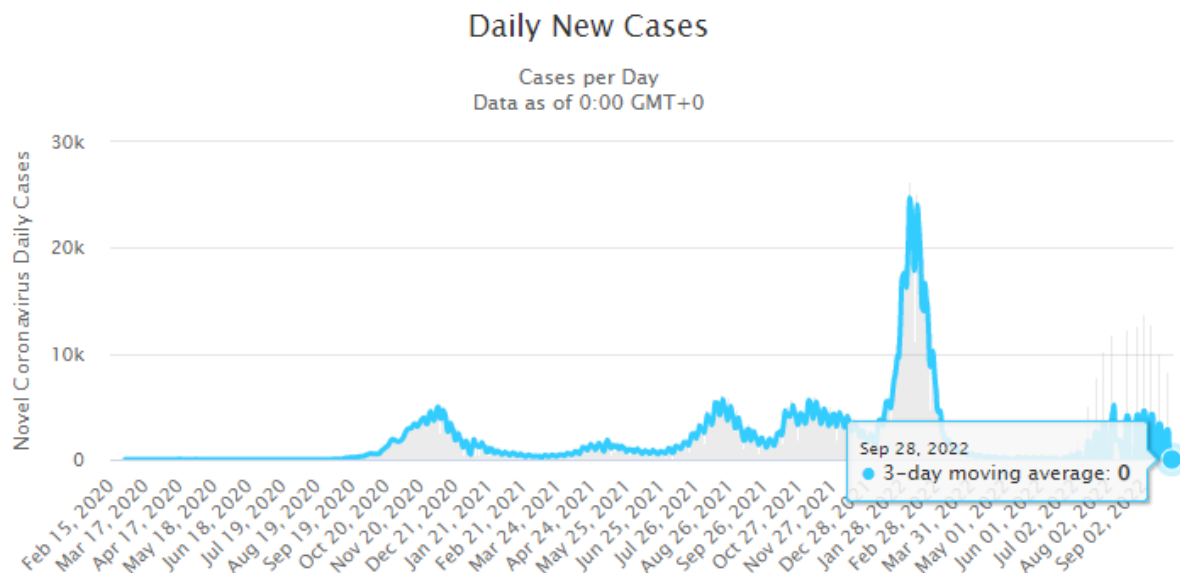


Image: Worldometer

Cases of COVID-19

— There have been 1,780,691 infections, 16,900 coronavirus-related deaths, and 1,637,293 recoveries reported in the country since the pandemic began.

Measures to contain the epidemic

— Amiran Gamkrelidze, the Head of the National Centre for Disease Control, assures that the “pandemic situation in Georgia is under [control](#)” as figures of coronavirus-related deaths have been unchanged for weeks.

— Practically, all the restrictions and regulations have been waived, except for the uniform wearing of masks. [Facemasks](#) are mandatory only at healthcare facilities and in public transport. Since May 2, 2022, it is no longer compulsory to wear the facemask at schools or outside.

— A complete [report](#) on government measures implemented in Georgia against COVID elaborates on the four stages from preventing to slowing, managing, and adapting to the coronavirus.

— The National Center for Disease Control and Public Health (NCDC) [published](#) its 9th report on the progress of COVID-19 in Georgia

— Georgia’s government has published many [resources](#) with recommendations and guidelines on personal hygiene, self-isolation, pregnancy and breastfeeding, risk groups, media, catering and traveling. From May 2, the government also publishes weekly [reporting](#) of Coronavirus updates every Tuesday.

Vaccine

— Georgia has administered at least 2,921,949 doses of COVID [vaccines](#) so far. Assuming every person needs 2 doses, that’s enough to have vaccinated about 34% of the country’s population.



Situation report Republic of Moldova

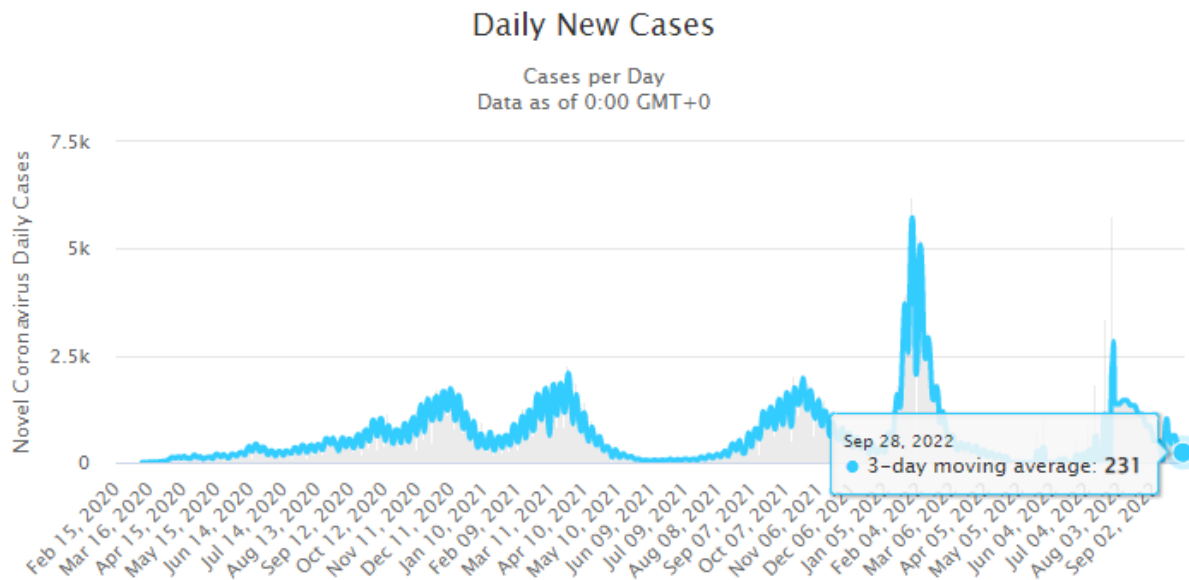


Image: Worldometer

Cases of COVID-19

— There have been 589,388 infections, 11,844 coronavirus-related deaths, and 504,142 recoveries reported in the country since the pandemic began.

Measures to contain the epidemic

— Due to rising cases of COVID-19, “code [orange](#)” state of emergency has been announced in the capital city of Chisinau on 12 July 2022, and later [extended](#) for 60 days until October 8. However, the Minister noted that new COVID-19 measures will not be as severe as those during 2020-2021 due to changing attitudes and rising vaccination rates.

— In July, the National Emergency Commission for Public Health again recommended that Moldovan citizens wear protective [masks](#) in public and private medical institutions, public transport, shopping malls, food and non-food stores. It also recommended a physical distance of at least one meter between people, rules of hygiene and a self-isolation regime for infected people.

Vaccine

— Moldova has administered at least 2,165,600 doses of COVID [vaccines](#) so far. Assuming every person needs 2 doses, that’s enough to have vaccinated about 40% of the country’s population.

— [NATO](#) gave Moldova 10,000 express COVID tests and medical equipment worth over 40 million lei.

— Moldova is mobilising [young](#) people to get vaccinated thanks to The EU-Eastern Partnership (PEP).



Situation report Ukraine

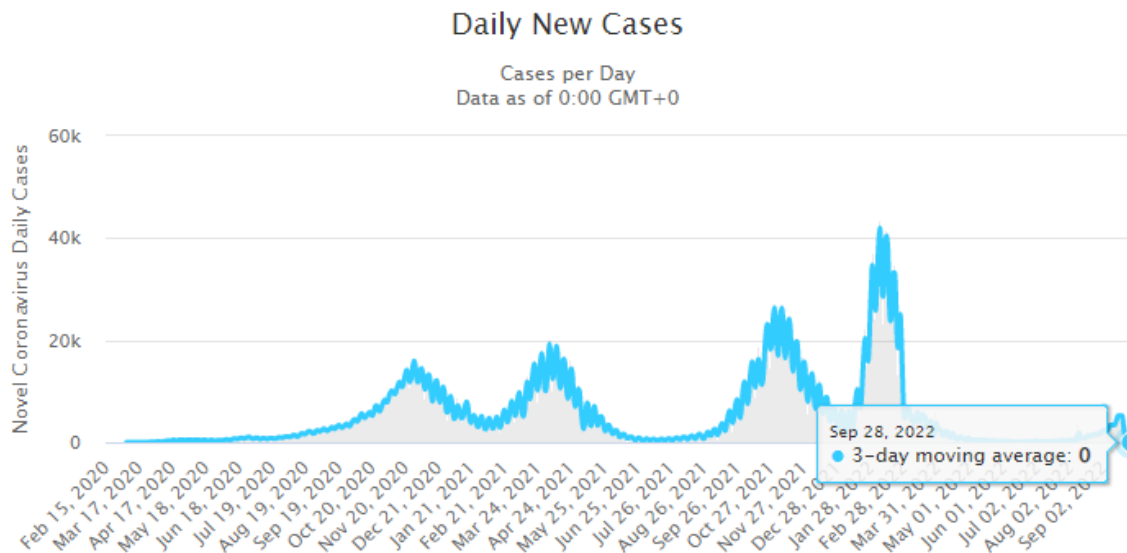


Image: Worldometer

COVID-19 cases

- After Ukraine resumed reporting COVID-19 [infections](#) data, the WHO warns of a surge in the coming months and hospitals reaching their capacity threshold.
- There have been 5,133,080 infections, 109,045 coronavirus-related deaths, and 4,904,953 recoveries reported in the [country](#) since the pandemic began.

Measures to contain the epidemic

- As previously spoken by the Head of Ukraine's Ministry of Health Viktor Lyashko about a possible return of quarantine [measures](#), mandatory facemasks are being reinforced in [Ternopil](#). From September 22nd, [facemasks](#) will be required in Ternopil's public transport, shopping malls, stores, catering establishments, cultural and artistic institutions, religious institutions. This is due to a rapid spike in cases in the city. Given the rise of COVID cases in Ukraine, the government is bringing back mandatory facemasks and other measures to contain the epidemic.
- On August 19th, the country-wide [quarantine](#) has been extended until 31 December 2022.
- Since March 26, Ukraine has [abandoned](#) its quarantine zone system. During the state of war, employees are not obligated to vaccinate.

Vaccine

- Ukraine has administered at least 31,668,577 doses of COVID [vaccines](#) so far. Assuming every person needs 2 doses, that's enough to have vaccinated about 34% of the country's population.
- On 18 September, 400 000 vaccines were [delivered](#) to Ukraine under the framework of the COVID-19 Vaccines Global Access (COVAX) Facility. The vaccines will be distributed throughout 23 regions in the country by the Ministry of Health of Ukraine.