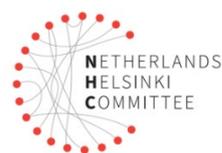




AFEW International's
COVID-19 situation report in the six countries of
the Eastern Partnership

Prepared for the COVID-19 Solidarity Programme



This report has been written by Irina Orlova, for *AFEW International*



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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 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 – 30 September 2020, the first quarter of the implementation period of the project. Such a report will be produced for every quarter of the project duration.

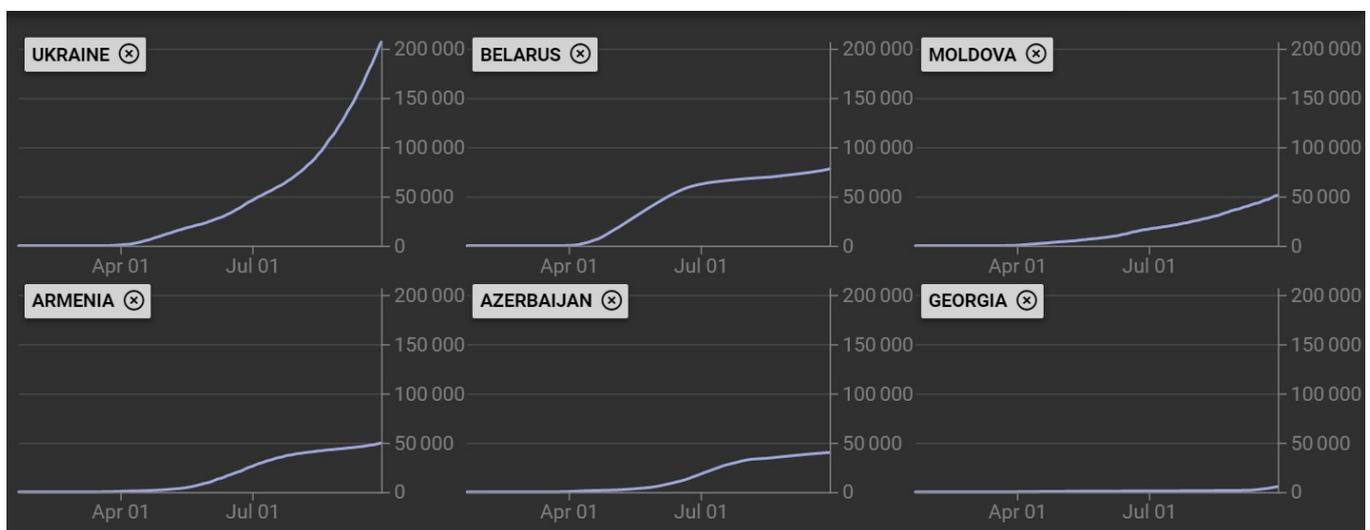
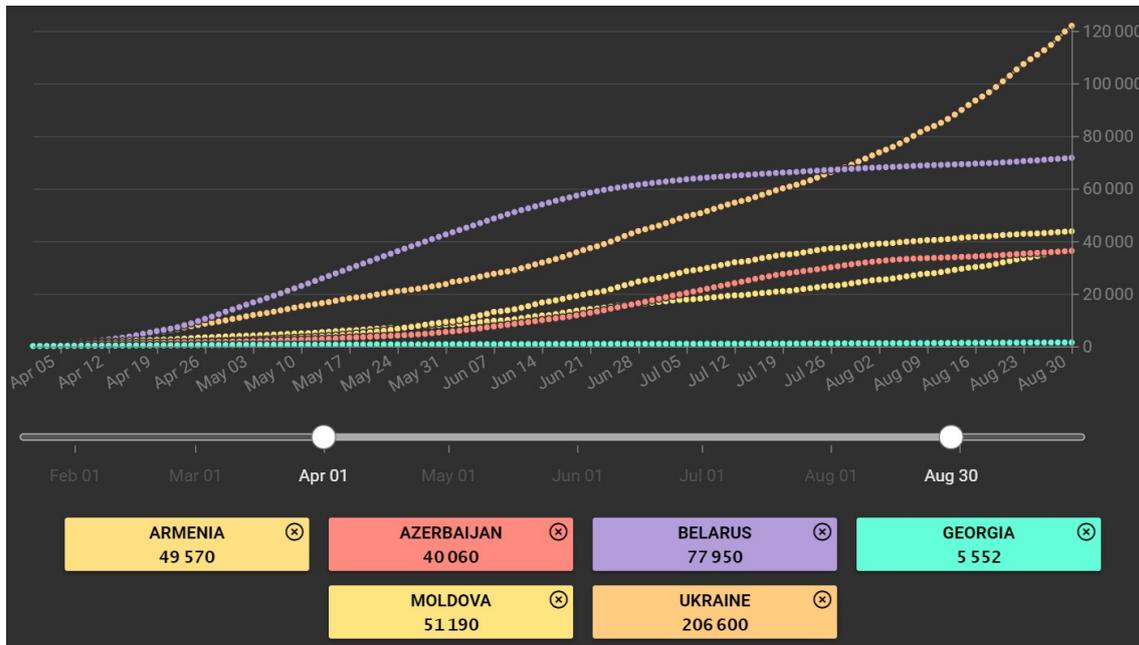
For this report the following sources are used:

- WHO Health System Response Monitor (HSRM);
- Official 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

Regional highlight: Armenia, Moldova and Belarus have been the most affected relative to their population size, with more than 14,700 confirmed cases per million population in Armenia.¹

Graph 1,2. Total confirmed COVID-19 cases since the start of the active phase of the pandemic (April 1, 2020) in the countries of the Eastern Partnership (EaP) as of 29.09.2020²



¹ The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). Eastern Europe and Central Asia Region COVID-19 Situation Report No. 7 (Reporting Period: 1 - 31 August 2020). UNFPA, 2020. [cited 2020 September 23]. Available from:

https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/EECARO_COVID-19_UNFPA_Sitrep7_August_2020_1.pdf.

² Sciences Po Medialab Coronavirus Country Comparator. <https://boogheta.github.io/coronavirus-countries/> accessed 29-09-2020.

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Situation report Armenia

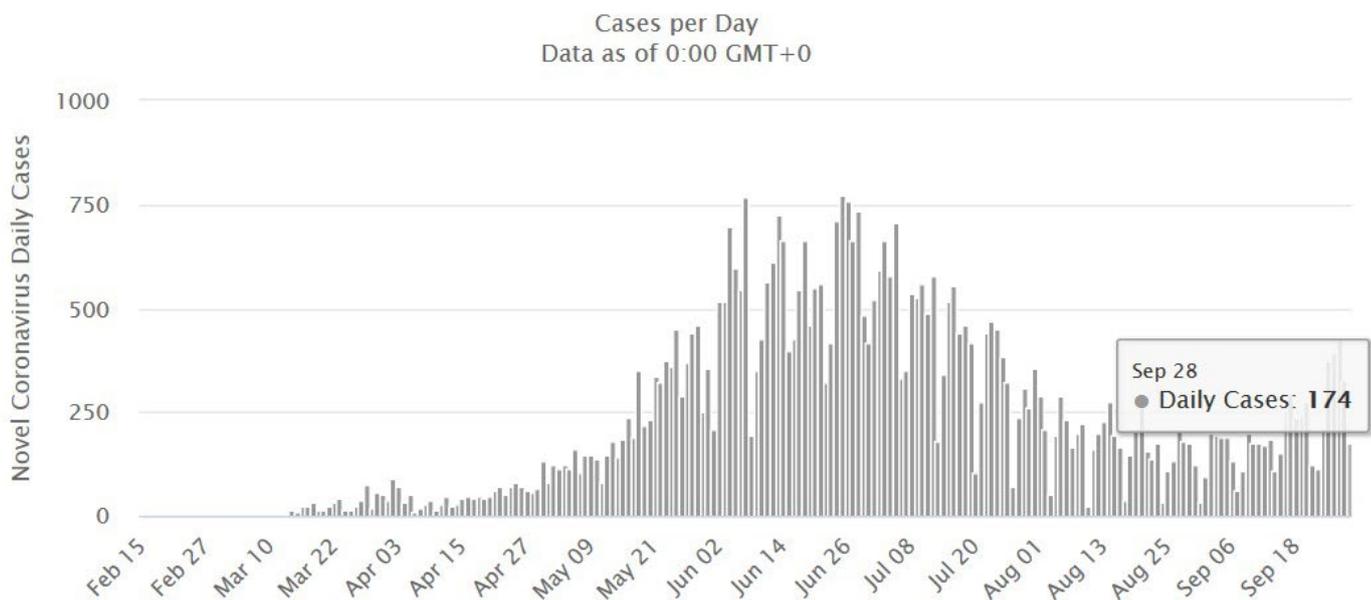
as of 29.09.2020

Cases of COVID-19



Confirmed	Recovered	Deaths
49.570	42.676	938

Graph 3. Daily confirmed coronavirus cases in Armenia³



— Up until the beginning of July 2020, the number of infections was increasing daily in the country; July 6, 2020, [is considered](#) the peak of the spread of coronavirus. After this date, the number of new infections per day began to decline.

— Over the month of August 2020, the number of recoveries has topped the number of new infections. In September, the country has been reporting 150 or fewer cases per day; in June it was regularly reporting 600 or more.⁴

— The daily death rate, however, remained significantly higher than Armenia’s neighbours in the Caucasus, at 1.69 per million people on July 30, 2020, according to the European Centre for Disease Control. Azerbaijan registered a rate of 0.79, and Georgia 0.25.⁵

Measures to contain the epidemic

³ Worldometers. <https://www.worldometers.info/coronavirus/country/armenia/> accessed 29-09-2020.

⁴ CoronaTracker. <https://www.coronatracker.com/country/armenia/> accessed 23-09-2020.

⁵ European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC). COVID-19 Armenia data (Variable time span: Dec 31 2019 – Sept 29 2020). ECDC, 2020. [cited 2020 September 29]. Available from: <https://ourworldindata.org/coronavirus/country/armenia>.

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- In March 2020, a state of emergency was introduced in Armenia.
- On September 11, 2020, Armenia's government lifted a state of emergency but kept in place some restrictions aimed at stemming the spread of the coronavirus. The state of emergency was replaced by a nationwide quarantine regime set to remain in force until January 11, 2021. The main restrictions imposed by the quarantine are⁶:
 - maximum of 60 people allowed at public events;
 - 14-day self-isolation or a negative PCR test is required when entering Armenia (20 checkpoints are being built for rapid testing at the airport);
 - Wearing face masks in all public spaces - both indoors and outdoors - and enforcing social distancing and hygiene rules for businesses.
- From August 12, 2020, Armenia allowed foreigners to come into the country, as well as hold street meetings and rallies, in compliance with anti-epidemic standards.
- Schools reopened since September 15, 2020.

Health services

- On June 4, 2020, it was reported that Armenia had run out of ICU beds. There was a documented shortage of ventilators, ICU equipment, PPE, lab reagents and supplies.⁷
- At a June 6 press conference, Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan said that patients were not being treated properly and even dying because the country's hospitals had been overwhelmed.
- On June 7, The Minister of Health informed that there will be an additional 100 beds made available in the upcoming month. The beds will be at two of the country's largest medical centres; 50 will be at Surb Grigor Lusavorich and 50 at Erebuni Medical Center.⁸

Economy

- The coronavirus pandemic has had an impact on the Armenian economy, including a 5.7 per cent decline in the population's general activity rate in January-July 2020 (as compared to the same period in 2019). Additionally, Armenia saw a dramatic decline of 11.3 per cent in foreign trade in January-July 2020, as compared to the same period of 2019. Armenia's exports in January-July declined by 6.4 per cent and import declined by 13.7 per cent.
- A poll conducted in July, 2020 by the Caucasus Research Resource Center for the World Bank found that 54 per cent of Armenians say their financial situation has worsened due to the pandemic. Over one-third (35 per cent) of respondents lost work or income and 33 per cent expect the situation to worsen. Among respondents who do not support more lockdown restrictions, 66 per cent attributed their decision to economic concerns.⁹

⁶ WHO Health System Response Monitor (HSRM). Armenia Country Page. HSRM, 2020. [cited 2020 September 29]. Available from: <https://www.covid19healthsystem.org/countries/armenia/countrypage.aspx>.

⁷ Ibid.

⁸ WHO Health System Response Monitor (HSRM). Armenia Country Page. HSRM, 2020. [cited 2020 September 29]. Available from: <https://www.covid19healthsystem.org/countries/armenia/countrypage.aspx>.

⁹ CRRC Armenia. Armenia: Citizens' Perceptions on COVID-19. July, 2020. [cited 2020 September 29]. Available from: http://www.crrc.am/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/WB-COVID-Final-Report_v.5.pdf.

Situation report Azerbaijan

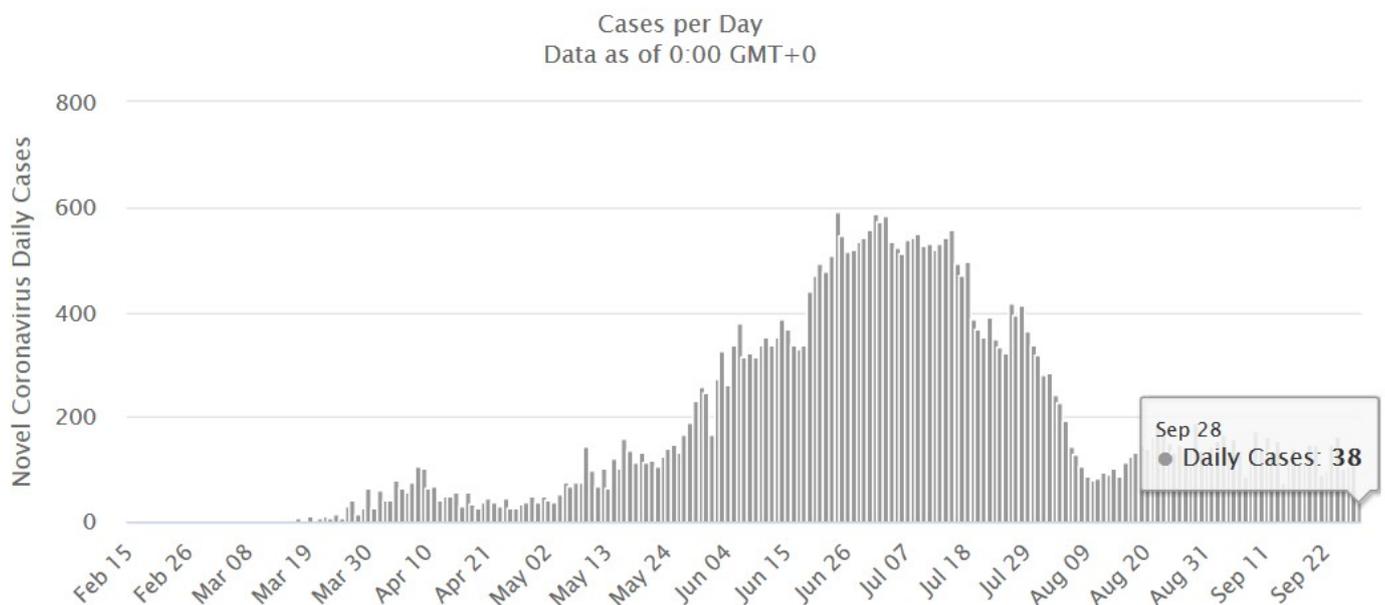
as of 29.09.2020

Cases of COVID-19



Confirmed	Recovered	Deaths
40.060	36.949	578

Graph 4. Daily confirmed coronavirus cases in Azerbaijan¹⁰



Measures to contain the epidemic

- Azerbaijan introduced measures to stem the coronavirus on March 24, 2020 and has extended them several times.
- As of September 28, 2020, Azerbaijan [has extended](#) lockdown restrictions until November 2 and decided to keep its borders closed after a rise in the number of new coronavirus cases.
- As under a previous regime used in April and May, residents must now send a text message to the authorities any time they want to leave home and can do so only under a limited set of circumstances, including visiting a doctor or shopping for food. But unlike the earlier quarantine in April, people over the age of 65 may also request permission to go outside. Baku residents are not allowed to leave the city.
- Azerbaijan [reopened](#) museums and exhibition halls from September 1, 2020.

¹⁰ Worldometers. <https://www.worldometers.info/coronavirus/country/azerbaijan> accessed 29-09-2020.

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— As of September 28, 2020 shopping malls remain closed and public transport is limited, while the ban on travelling between the regions remains in place.

— Schools reopened on September 15, 2020, but only for classes 1-4 and only two to three days per week. Azerbaijani fifth- through ninth-graders will return to school on October 1, 2020, but have been doing online classes since September 1, 2020. High schoolers will start on October 15, 2020.

Health services

— In June 2020, the Azerbaijani authorities have voiced concerns over the country's ability to deal with the rising number of COVID-19 cases, raising the prospects of a shortage of doctors. The World Health Organization (WHO) reported that Azerbaijan was among 11 countries in Europe whose health care system was at risk of collapse due to strain over the COVID-19 epidemic.

— One hundred fifteen Cuban medics arrived in Baku on July 13 to help the country fight COVID. They are scheduled to stay for three months.

— On September 24, TABIB (Azerbaijani Administration of the Regional Medical Divisions) has issued a call for volunteers encouraging medical students and other citizens with the necessary skills to join Azerbaijani doctors in the fight against coronavirus. Azerbaijan's Ministry of Health is also seeking to recruit additional doctors for the ambulance and emergency medical stations. Currently, There are 210 ICU specialists and 4169 emergency care doctors involved in COVID management in hospitals.¹¹

— As of July 24, 2020, at least 30 doctors have died from COVID-19 in Azerbaijan.

Economy

— An August report published by Khazar University¹² estimated that 1.3 million people may be rendered unemployed by the pandemic, though "the government's aid package covered about half of that in April-May." (The World Bank in 2019 calculated Azerbaijan's labour force at 5.1 million). Unemployment has increased by 36.6 per cent since April 1, 2020 at the beginning of the pandemic.

¹¹ WHO Health System Response Monitor (HSRM). Azerbaijan Country Page. HSRM, 2020. [cited 2020 September 29]. Available from: <https://www.covid19healthsystem.org/countries/azerbaijan/countrypage.aspx>.

¹² Khazar University. Impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on Azerbaijan economy. August, 2020. [cited 2020 September 29]. Available from: <http://eurasiahub.khazar.org/uploads/Eurasia%20Hub%20Covid19%20Azerieconomyimpact%20Eng%20version.pdf>.

Situation report Belarus

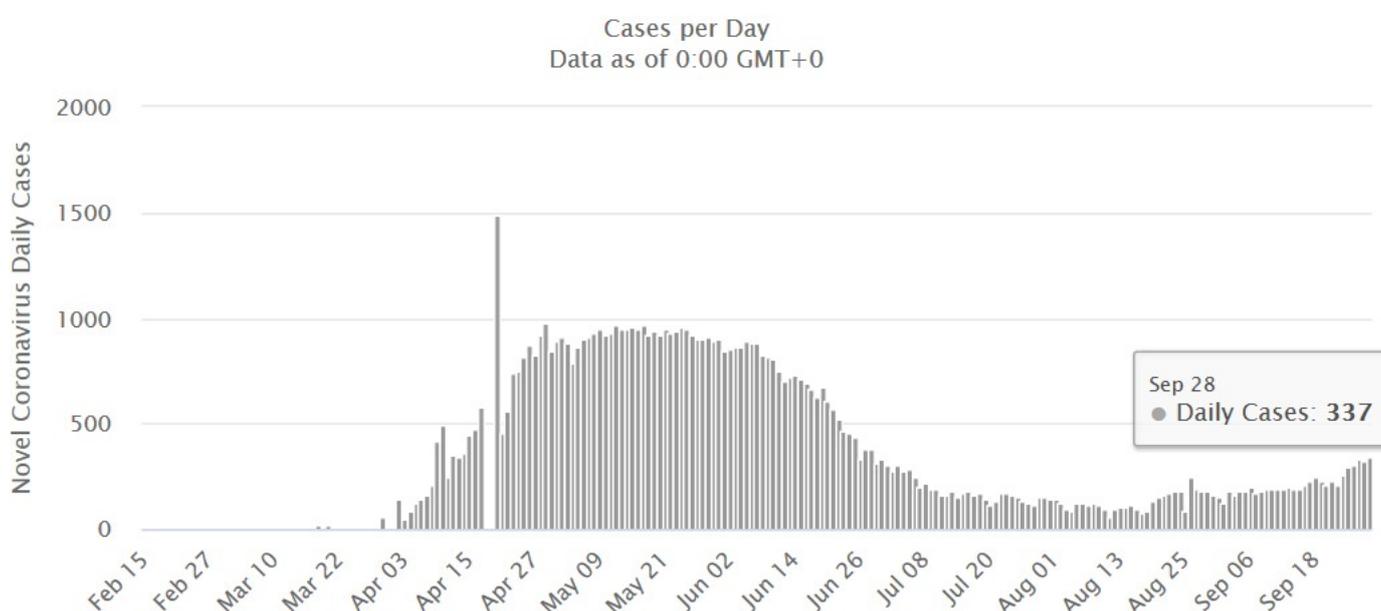
as of 29.09.2020

Cases of COVID-19



Confirmed	Recovered	Deaths
77.950	73.564	796

Graph 5. Daily confirmed coronavirus cases in Belarus¹³



— In Belarus, [according to the Ministry of Health](#), the number of new cases of COVID-19 after the summer recession is showing an increase again.

— The mortality rate in Belarus is 0.92%, the recovery is 97.70%. Belarus [ranks](#) 40th in the COVID-19 ranking worldwide.

— Despite a general decrease in the incidence of COVID-19, mortality in Belarus remains unchanged. This is evidenced by data published by the [Ministry of Health of the Republic](#).

— The Healthcare Ministry of Belarus expects that the second wave in the country may begin in November-December, 2020. However; the second wave of COVID-19 [is expected](#) to be less intensive in Belarus, head of the department for hygiene, epidemiology and disease prevention at the Healthcare Ministry Inna Karaban [told](#) the media.

Measures to contain the epidemic

¹³ Worldometers. <https://www.worldometers.info/coronavirus/country/belarus> accessed 29-09-2020.

— Belarus did not impose any coronavirus lockdowns, with mass gathering not being banned. The maximal daily tally of newly confirmed coronavirus cases [was reported](#) in April, 2020 when more than 900 patients tested positive in one day.

Health services

— According to the latest [update](#) published on September 11, 2020, a total of 1,629,812, or 17% of the population have been tested for the novel coronavirus.

Economy

— As Belarus did not impose any measures to contain the COVID-19 pandemic, there is no data available on the economic consequences of the crisis for the country.

Situation report Georgia

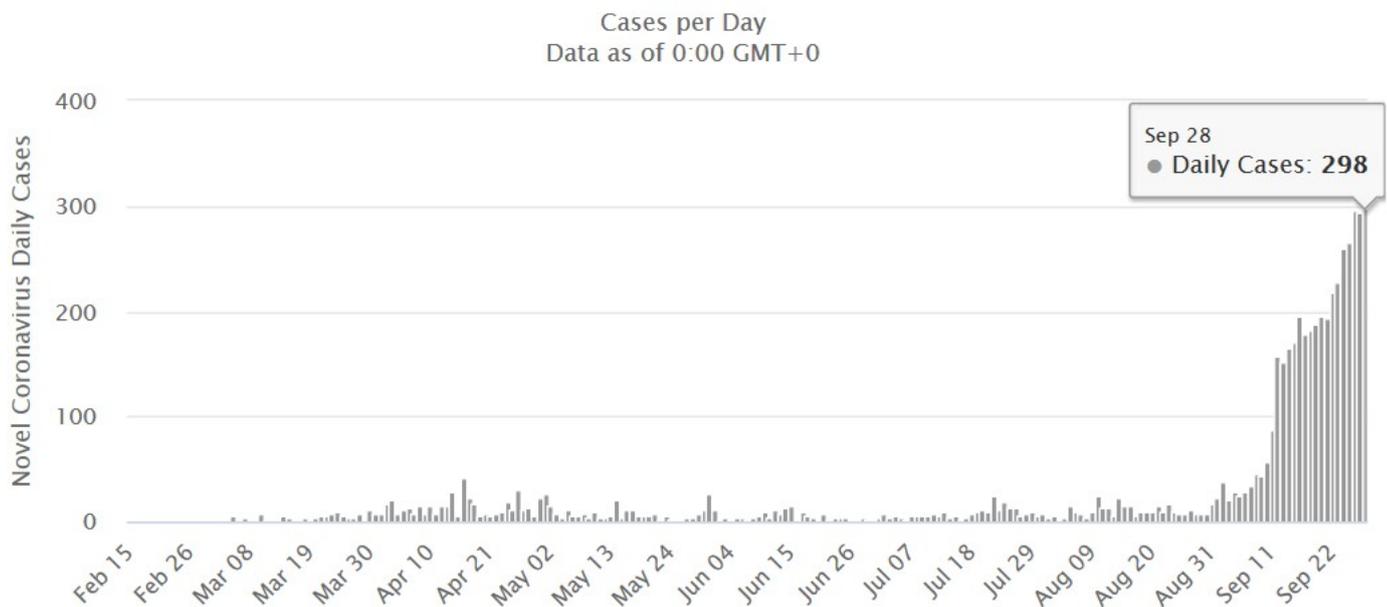
as of 29.09.2020

Cases of COVID-19



Confirmed	Recovered	Deaths
5.552	1.643	24

Graph 6. Daily confirmed coronavirus cases in Georgia¹⁴



— Until recently, the spread of the novel coronavirus in Georgia had formed a largely flat curve, with only a few bumps to reflect [small outbreaks](#) that were swiftly contained. The steep rise began in late August, 2020, as the count of new cases began increasing exponentially, jumping from low double-digits to about 150 cases a day by mid-September.

— The coronavirus spread rate [has been](#) at the level of 1.07 in the first weeks of September, 2020. Some 0.1% of citizens have been diagnosed with the infection and 20 patients died. During the pandemic, 550,489 COVID-19 tests were carried out. Some 14.81% of citizens have undergone tests.

— Medical Director of Tbilisi Infectious Disease Hospital Marina Ezugbaia [said](#) that the new cases of coronavirus are related to domestic tourism, and a second wave is expected in the winter when seasonal infections coincide with COVID-19.

¹⁴ Worldometers. <https://www.worldometers.info/coronavirus/country/georgia> accessed 29-09-2020.

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— Since September 8, 2020, Georgia’s Black Sea coastal region of Adjara has been at the epicentre of the latest surge in coronavirus cases. The region [has seen a steady rise](#) in the daily number of new confirmed cases compared to previous months.

Measures to contain the epidemic

— Since September 9, 2020, social gatherings of more than 10 people, also cultural and sporting events with the participation of more than 200 individuals, [are banned](#) in Georgia amid a steep rise in coronavirus cases. This includes large birthdays, weddings, funeral feasts and other public and ritual events. The above-mentioned events will be banned not only in indoor spaces but in outdoor spaces as well.

— The opening of schools which was supposed to restart on September 15 [has been postponed](#) until October 1.

— Head of Georgia’s National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) Amiran Gamkrelidze [said](#) that so-called strict lockdowns will not be introduced throughout the country, though if new clusters appear, there may be local responses when needed.

— As of August 10, Mestia municipality in western Georgia, one of the most visited tourist attractions in the country, [has been placed](#) on lockdown.

— The Georgian government [has decreased](#) quarantine, self-isolation time from 14 to 12 days.

— The EU has [allowed](#) Georgian citizens to resume visits to the EU countries since July 1. Georgia retains green state status, new cases surge, but no serious restrictions will be imposed.

Health services

— From September 9, 2020, asymptomatic coronavirus patients from 18 to 65 years of age with no chronic diseases are treated in quarantine under the supervision of doctors instead of hospitals; there are currently three hotels (one each in Tbilisi, Batumi and Kutaisi) where patients will be placed under quarantine for treatment. About 15 % of patients were transferred from the hospital to a hotel in Batumi straightaway. Prior to this, 65% of the 600 hospital beds allocated to the treatment of COVID-19 were occupied.¹⁵

Economy

— The IMF expects GDP to decline 5 per cent this year, it said in a September 15 2020 [statement](#). GDP declined 12.6 per cent in the second quarter, compared to the same period the previous year, and 5.8 per cent in the first seven months of 2020, the National Statistic Office [said](#) earlier. Government officials [said](#) the 5.5 per cent decrease in July indicates the economy has begun to recover.

¹⁵ WHO Health System Response Monitor (HSRM). Georgia Country Page. HSRM, 2020. [cited 2020 September 29]. Available from: <https://www.covid19healthsystem.org/countries/georgia/countrypage.aspx>.

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Situation report Republic of Moldova

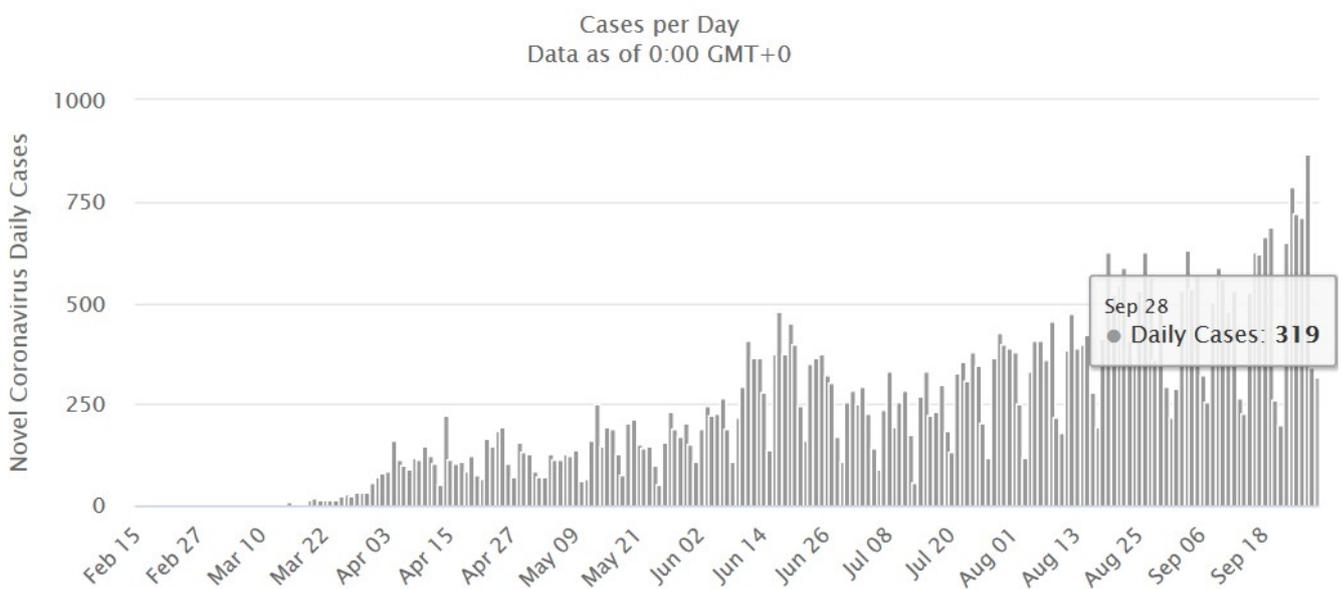
as of 29.09.2020

Cases of COVID-19



Confirmed	Recovered	Deaths
51.190	35.542	1.230

Graph 7. Daily confirmed coronavirus cases in the Republic of Moldova¹⁶



— As of September 23, 2020, the Republic of Moldova [has reached the 5th position](#) in the list of the European countries with the highest incidence of coronavirus cases, after Armenia, Luxembourg, Sweden and Spain. The country reached an incidence of 776.97 per 100 000 people, also recording the highest [rate of cases per 100 000](#).

— The deterioration in the pandemic situation in the country is also reflected in the weekly figures. After hovering between 3,000-3,300 cases for a few weeks, the weekly number of cases increased to 3,618 last week, which represents a 13.7% increase in the number of new cases compared to the previous week. The contagion rate (R0) increased slightly as well to 1.05 last week and remained close to this level.¹⁷

¹⁶ Worldometers. <https://www.worldometers.info/coronavirus/country/moldova> accessed 29-09-2020.

¹⁷ United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). Moldova: Coronavirus Disease - COVID 19 - Situation Report No. 34 (25 September 2020). OCHA, 2020. [cited 2020 September 29]. Available from: <https://reliefweb.int/report/moldova/moldova-coronavirus-disease-covid-19-situation-report-no-34-25-september-2020>.

— Active cases in the Republic of Moldova (27.77%) have a doubling interval of 54 days, according to the ADEPT association report.¹⁸

— Out of the total number of active cases – 9179 cases – 554 are serious, that means 6.03%.

— The number of deaths continued to grow, with a total of 82 deaths being reported over the last seven days.¹⁹

— In terms of geographical distribution, Chisinau, with 43% of all confirmed cases, remains the most affected area if the number of cases is considered.²⁰

Measures to contain the epidemic

— Despite a surge in Covid-19 cases, the local government has imposed a gradual relaxation strategy where some to many restrictions have been lifted.

— Moldova has (fully) reopened economy, however:

- adherence to strict social distances rules and wearing facemasks in enclosed public spaces are mandatory;
- public transport in the capital Chisinau has been restricted to a few hours in the morning and in the evening;
- public servants will start working under a partial working schedule, with half of them staying home for two weeks, alternatively;
- organisations of mass events are restricted;
- people are not allowed to go out in the public in groups of more than three and elderly people should avoid any unnecessary outdoor activity.

— "Recreational places that ignore the COVID-19 rules will be suspended either individually or on the whole sector." The statement was made by Prime Minister Ion Chicu, in the context of the — serious epidemiological situation in September.

— As of September 10, twelve schools were closed for quarantine. Over the past days, the number of school children and staff contracted the novel coronavirus has doubled. 269 teachers remain on self-isolation, 160 of them have a confirmed diagnosis of coronavirus.

— Kindergartens remain closed until October 12. As of August 18, private kindergartens resumed work.

— Moldovan universities implemented a mixed type of learning from September 1 and will return to in-person learning from October 19.

Health services

¹⁸ Soros Foundation Moldova. Gestionarea crizei COVID-19 în Republica Moldova. September, 2020. [cited 2020 September 29]. Available from: https://alegeri.md/index.php?title=Gestionarea_crizei_COVID-19_%C3%AEn_Republica_Moldova&fbclid=IwAR0kSoq0YoRjUaNQKjHMheWd2B96Ef1aKiGwSOL2hZRqau4gl0j9-c6Uos4.

¹⁹ United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). Moldova: Coronavirus Disease - COVID 19 - Situation Report No. 34 (25 September 2020). OCHA, 2020. [cited 2020 September 29]. Available from: <https://reliefweb.int/report/moldova/moldova-coronavirus-disease-covid-19-situation-report-no-34-25-september-2020>.

²⁰ Ibid.

— As of September 25, the share of health care workers in the total number of cases decreased slightly to 11.3%. Over 5,500 doctors, nurses, medical assistants and other staff from the health care sector have been infected with the virus since the beginning of the outbreak.²¹

Economy

— As of July 13, at least 1 per cent of businesses have closed permanently in Moldova. The estimated rate of closures due to the stricter coronavirus measures introduced in September would increase to 15 per cent of firms.²²

— Employment has dropped by a relatively smaller rate. Estimates from the survey show that roughly 13 per cent of companies have cut their workforce, though 20 per cent of the overall workforce in the sample have been affected by the crisis in some way, for instance, affected by illness, childcare interruptions, or mobility restrictions.²³

²¹ United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). Moldova: Coronavirus Disease - COVID 19 - Situation Report No. 34 (25 September 2020). OCHA, 2020. [cited 2020 September 29]. Available from: <https://reliefweb.int/report/moldova/moldova-coronavirus-disease-covid-19-situation-report-no-34-25-september-2020>.

²² A. Akhalkatsi, F. Jolevski, N. Rovo. The growing impact of COVID-19 on Moldova's private sector. July, 2020. [cited 2020 September 29]. Available from: <https://blogs.worldbank.org/europeandcentralasia/growing-impact-covid-19-moldovas-private-sector>.

²³ Ibid.

Situation report Ukraine

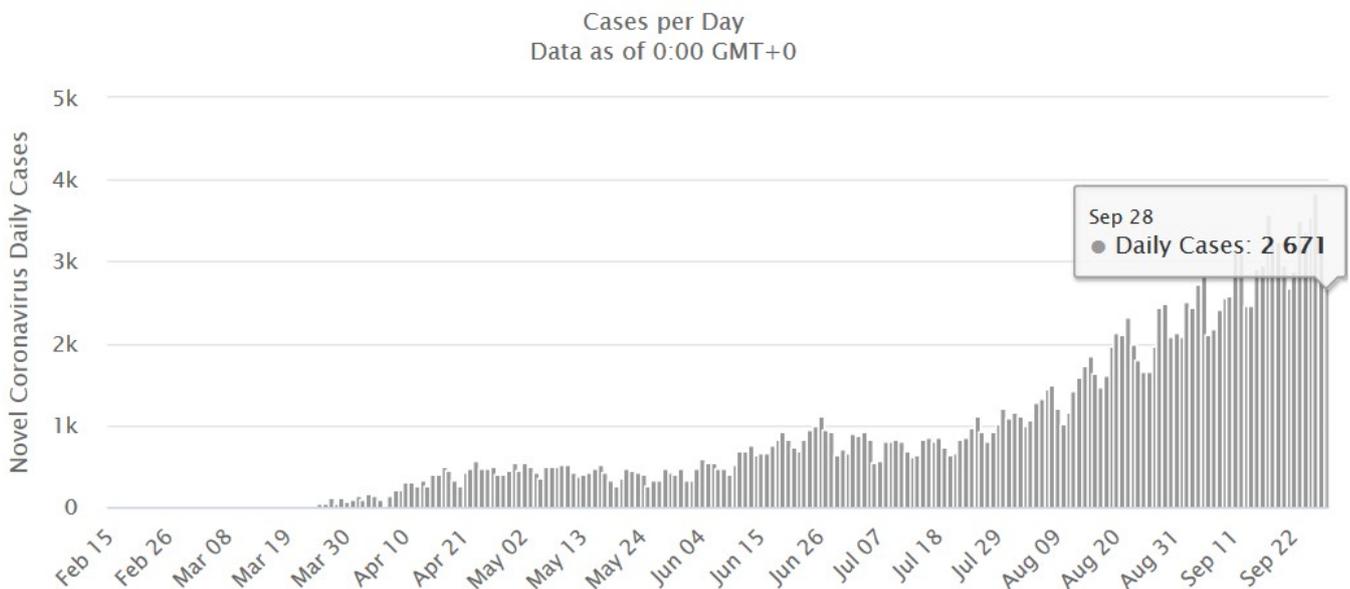
as of 29.09.2020

Cases of COVID-19



Confirmed	Recovered	Deaths
206.600	81.670	3.705

Graph 8. Daily confirmed coronavirus cases in Ukraine²⁴



— In September, 2020, [Ukraine](#) is seeing more daily new cases than ever before, following a rise that began in late July. The seven-day moving average of newly confirmed cases stands at 2402 – the highest since March. The case fatality rate is 2.1%.²⁵

— Currently, Ukraine [ranks](#) 2nd in Europe in mortality rate from coronavirus per day. At the same time, the country ranks 6th in the world in terms of the number of patients who die per day.

— In August 2020, the number of COVID-19 hospitalizations in Ukraine has almost [tripled](#) since May 2020. A record number of coronavirus deaths is registered daily.

Measures to contain the epidemic

²⁴ Worldometers. <https://www.worldometers.info/coronavirus/country/ukraine> accessed 29-09-2020.

²⁵ Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). THE COVID-19 CRISIS IN UKRAINE. OECD, 2020. [cited 2020 September 29]. Available from: <https://www.oecd.org/eurasia/competitiveness-programme/eastern-partners/COVID-19-CRISIS-IN-UKRAINE.pdf>.

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- Ukraine [is divided](#) into four epidemiological zones (green, yellow, orange, and red) depending on the COVID-19 situation in each region. The Ministry of Health will assign each zone a colour based on four COVID-19-related criteria. Each zone triggers a distinct set of quarantine restrictions. An interactive map can be accessed [here](#).
- The government of Ukraine [has extended](#) the adaptive quarantine until October 31, 2020. The quarantine was expanded to ban discos, nightclubs, and concerts in green-zoned regions; restaurants, bars, and cafes are not allowed to work after 12 am.
- Wearing masks [is mandatory](#) in public transportation and indoor public places. Individuals and establishments can be fined for not complying. Everyone should carry an ID.
- Health Minister of Ukraine Maksym Stepanov [said](#) the ministry has no plans to introduce a new lockdown in Ukraine yet.
- On 1 September, schools across Ukraine reopened for in-person classes, except for schools in “red zone” areas where rates of infection are highest.²⁶
- The Ukrainian government [has officially banned](#) travellers passing through Ukraine in transit as part of its entry ban on foreign nationals until September 28.

Health services

- Ukraine faces shortages of medical supplies for acute care, such as masks, protective suits and ventilators. By 7 September, 12069 healthcare workers in Ukraine had contracted COVID-19. At the start of the crisis, Ukraine had more than 3500 devices for artificial ventilation. This amounted to roughly 83 ventilators per million inhabitants, compared with 302 per million in Germany.²⁷

Economy

- The Action Programme of the Cabinet of Ministers projects that the economy may shrink by 4-8% this year owing to the pandemic. According to the latest Economic Activity Report released by the Ministry for Development of Economy, Trade and Agriculture on 10 July, GDP fell 5.9% year-on-year in January-May 2020.²⁸

A [comprehensive assessment](#) of the economic situation²⁹ confirms the devastating impact of COVID-19 in Ukraine with:

- Unemployment is increasing.
- More than 9 million people may fall back into poverty during the pandemic (an increase from 6.3 to 9 million).
- Women and girls are disproportionately affected by the crisis because of their high exposure to the virus. Women account for 82 per cent of the total health and social workers (compared to 70 per cent average worldwide).
- The crisis and the lockdown have also led to a spike in domestic violence. The reported cases have increased by 30 per cent. Many more have gone unreported.

²⁶ Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). THE COVID-19 CRISIS IN UKRAINE. OECD, 2020. [cited 2020 September 29]. Available from: <https://www.oecd.org/eurasia/competitiveness-programme/eastern-partners/COVID-19-CRISIS-IN-UKRAINE.pdf>.

²⁷ Ibid.

²⁸ Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). THE COVID-19 CRISIS IN UKRAINE. OECD, 2020. [cited 2020 September 29]. Available from: <https://www.oecd.org/eurasia/competitiveness-programme/eastern-partners/COVID-19-CRISIS-IN-UKRAINE.pdf>.

²⁹ United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). Comprehensive assessment confirms devastating impact of COVID-19 in Ukraine. OCHA, 2020. [cited 2020 September 29]. Available from: <https://reliefweb.int/report/ukraine/comprehensive-assessment-confirms-devastating-impact-covid-19-ukraine-enuk>.

Interesting reads

- UNICEF Flash Report: COVID-19 Impact on Children in Ukraine, 3 August 2020 [read](#).
- OECD report on COVID-19 crisis in Ukraine, 7 September 2020 [read](#).
- Coda Story: Covid-19 brings economic disaster to war-torn Eastern Ukraine [read](#).
- UNIAN: UN recommends Ukraine grant amnesty to certain convicts amid COVID-19 pandemic [read](#).
- Eurasianet: After reopening, the Armenian economy continues to struggle [read](#).
- Moldova.org: Moldovan and Transnistrian prisons during the coronavirus pandemic [read](#).
- Moldova.org: Moldova's response to COVID-19 – why are the taken measures not so efficient? [read](#).
- The Calvert Journal: Portraits of Moldova's healthcare workers on the front lines of Covid-19 [read](#).
- Open Democracy: 'The surgeons were nearly in tears': Belarusian medics witness the brutal response to protests [read](#).
- UNICEF: In Georgia, COVID-19 threatens to widen the education gap [read](#).