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**Reporting Period: 1-30 September 2020**

# Eastern Europe and Central Asia Region

## COVID-19 Situation Report No. 8

United Nations Population Fund



### Regional Highlights

- All countries in Eastern Europe and Central Asia, except Turkmenistan, have officially reported COVID-19 cases. Armenia and Moldova are the most affected relative to their population size. Turkey is the most affected country in absolute numbers (making up 29.6 percent of reported cases in the region). Ukraine remains the country with the highest number of active cases today.
- UNFPA and the European Board and College of Obstetrics and Gynaecology (EBCOG) continue to strengthen the transfer of knowledge and solutions from leading European institutions to countries in the region.
- UNFPA supported a community-led study on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and quarantine on access of women living with HIV and women from key populations to SRHR, HIV and GBV prevention services. Findings will be released soon.
- UNFPA has finalized the Regional Guide on remote-based GBV essential services, including the specific needs of women and girls with disabilities and survivors of GBV and their referral in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- UNFPA continues to be a pioneer in the use of National Transfer Accounts (NTA) to assess the socio-economic impact of COVID-19 at country level, with great leadership by Moldova.
- UNFPA has continued to reach out to the most vulnerable with supplies, information and inclusion programmes; examples include special information materials for people with intellectual disabilities in Belarus and young volunteers teaching older people digital skills in Moldova.
- Videos providing psychosocial peer support for young people in Ukraine under the #StaySafe campaigns were viewed almost 300,000 times.





### Situation in Numbers

 **1,154,129** Confirmed COVID-19 Cases

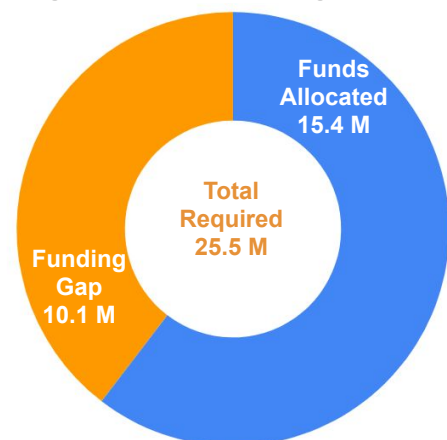
 **23,692** COVID-19 Deaths

Source: WHO, 5 October 2020

### Key Population Groups

-  **3 M** Pregnant Women
-  **63 M** Women of Reproductive Age
-  **53 M** Young People (age 10-24)
-  **26 M** Older Persons (age 65+)

### Funding Status for Region (US\$)



### Coordination and partnerships

The UNFPA response in the region aligns with the [2030 Agenda](#), [WHO global strategic preparedness and response plan](#), [UN-coordinated global humanitarian response plan](#), [UN framework for socio-economic response to COVID-19](#) and [UNFPA COVID-19 global response plan](#).

#### Country examples:

- **Albania:** Support to the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs to coordinate the CEDAW 5th Periodic Report. This report also reflects the legal framework that has been developed/improved as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and its effects on GBV and domestic violence.
- **Belarus:** UNFPA supported revision and restructuring of the volunteer coordination and management network of the Belarusian Red Cross to address the needs of older people and other vulnerable groups related to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **Georgia:** UNFPA supports the Government to study the impact of COVID-19 on human rights protection and the government's response thereto. For this purpose, a joint assessment is being conducted with the support of three UN agencies – UNFPA, UNDP and UN Women – to explore the effects of the pandemic on a wide range of gender equality issues and provide recommendations for further actions.
- **Kazakhstan:** UNFPA received a small contribution from the UK Embassy in response to a call for proposals related to COVID-19 to develop a training package on GBV for health providers to be delivered online. The training is based on the first-ever GBV clinical protocol for health service providers, approved by the Ministry of health (MOH) with support from UNFPA in April 2020.
- **Kosovo\*:** UNFPA jointly with UNICEF, UN Women and WHO with support of UNDCO is in the process of signing an agreement with the UK Embassy through the Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MPTF) on a joint project, which proposes a series of health and education interventions, with a view to strengthen resilience by aiding recovery from the first wave of COVID-19, which hit Kosovo in March and spiked in July and August, in order to reduce vulnerabilities to future waves.
- **Kyrgyzstan:** UNFPA coordinates the maternal and child health group focusing on COVID-19 issues in partnership with development partners and supported the MOH in developing and approving clinical recommendations for antenatal and postnatal care.
- **Moldova:** Under coordination of the UN Resident Coordinator Office (RCO), UNFPA initiated a partnership with the mobile phone company Moldcell to support and train older persons with IT technologies and build their resilience to respond better to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **Tajikistan:** UNFPA continues implementing joint UNFPA and UNICEF projects to strengthen national capacity to prepare and respond to COVID-19. The project already completed handover and maintenance of IT equipment, adaptation of temporary counselling protocols and cascade trainings to run alternative online SRH/GBV prevention services. UNFPA is also supporting the implementation of safety measures against COVID-19 during the 2020 Census planned for 1-15 October 2020.
- **Tukey:** UNFPA is an active member of the UN Turkey COVID-19 Emergency Response and Preparedness (ERP) Working Group and the Socio-Economic Impact of COVID-19 Task Force.
- **Turkmenistan:** UNFPA signed a small contribution agreement with the UK Embassy to strengthen the capacity of the NGO Keyik Okara in order to empower women and girls by providing them with information about COVID-19, GBV and reproductive health, which they can access via hotline telephone service.
- **Ukraine:** UNFPA has signed a USD 1.7 million agreement with Sweden (SIDA) to implement the project “Equality Springboard: Project on Social Norms Change and Gender Stereotypes Elimination for Better Resilience and Prosperity of Women and Men in Ukraine” in 2020-2023. Within the scope of the project, seed funding is used for setting up crisis rooms for GBV survivors requiring urgent protection in municipalities with high density populations, with a focus on the populations most at risk because of the pandemic.
- **Uzbekistan:** Through the UNFPA-supported hotline and rehabilitation centers, 3,041 GBV survivors received psychological, legal and in-kind assistance; 89 women with disabilities were connected to a mobile network and internet and started receiving information on health services and social assistance available to them. These results were achieved thanks to funding from the UN COVID-19 Response and Recovery Trust Fund.

\* All references to Kosovo should be understood to be in the context of the United Nations Security Council resolution 1244 (1999).

### Continuity of SRH Services and interventions, including protection of health workforce

UNFPA continues supporting all countries in Eastern Europe and Central Asia (EECA) by:

- assessing the impact of COVID-19 on SRH services, including through the active participation of its Country Offices to the global I-SHARE survey managed by ANSER, and
- sharing the knowledge and integrating the solutions in the national guidelines and policies.

On 23 September 2020, UNFPA co-organized a webconference with the European Board and College of Obstetrics and Gynaecology (EBCOG) to strengthen the transfer of knowledge and solutions from leading European institutions to countries in EECA.

Assessment of public supply chains in Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan has been initiated by UNFPA in partnership with John Snow, Inc. to help strengthen national capacities that guarantee availability of contraceptives and other essential RH supplies, from the central warehouse down to the end-users, as well as to respond effectively to health crises and disease outbreaks such as COVID-19.

#### Country examples:

- **Albania:** Under the leadership of the MoHSP and the coordination of Health Care Operators, online trainings sessions on 'Provision of quality SRHR services in the context of COVID-19' have been organized for 112 health care providers from the districts of Lezhe, Kukes, Korce, Shkoder, Elbasan, Tropoje and Durres.
- **Azerbaijan:** COVID-19-related training sessions, conducted by UNFPA in partnership with OBGYN Institute, maternity hospitals, women consultation centres and perinatal centres, were extended to 14 regions. A web application on remote consultations for women, developed jointly by UNFPA, MOH and OBGYN Institute, is in the stage of technical endorsement.
- **Bosnia and Herzegovina:** With the collaboration of the health centres in Bosnia and Herzegovina, UNFPA ensured provision of the necessary SRH services for migrant and refugee women and girls as well as unaccompanied and separated children in Temporarily Reception Centers.
- **Kosovo\*:** UNFPA, through the NGO Balkan Sunflowers Kosovo (BSFK), distributed 1,350 hygiene kits in Fushë Kosovë, Gracanice, Obiliq and Shtime, as part of the SRH support for Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities during the COVID-19 pandemic. Additionally, through BSFK, UNFPA delivered a three-day training on SRHR to some 20 young people from the municipalities of Fushë Kosovë, Obiliq, Shtime and Gracanica, which also included a module on the COVID-19 pandemic based on WHO materials.
- **Kyrgyzstan:** UNFPA supported the development of the fourth edition of a Clinical Protocol on COVID-19 with special attention to maternal health.
- **Moldova:** With UNFPA support, over 700 professionals (family doctors, medical assistants, gynaecologists from Youth Friendly Health Centers and Reproductive Health Cabinets) were capacitated in ensuring the continuity of family planning services in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **North Macedonia:** UNFPA in partnership with the Safe Motherhood Committee and the MOH initiated the process for identifying the needs of maternities in the country, in terms of PPE and disinfectants. This is followed by a joint plan for addressing the most urgent needs, in order to ensure continuity, safe operation and protection of health workers providing SRH services to women and girls.
- **Tajikistan:** Three five-day [trainings](#), including about pandemic-related safety measures, were conducted within the joint UNFPA and JHPIEGO "Helping Mothers Survive" International Programme, conducted for obstetricians and gynaecologists. UNFPA also completed three three-days workshops on provision of alternative (online) SRH and psychosocial support services during COVID-19, within the UN MPTF-funded project, based on recently adapted temporary counselling protocols on SRH/GBV prevention. UNFPA also [handed over](#) medical equipment in order to increase access to SRH services for people living with disabilities. A guidance note on provision of SRH services to persons with disabilities is under development. UNFPA supports the AIDS Center in conducting a Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices (KAP) survey among persons aged 15-49 in the country, which also identifies impacts of the pandemic.

### Country examples:

- **Turkey:** UNFPA continued to support the MOH in COVID-19 prevention and response as well as continuation of essential SRH services, via provision of mobile health teams, hygiene kits, PPE, information, education and communication (IEC) materials, and reaching out to the most vulnerable groups, including seasonal migrant workers, pregnant/lactating women, people at risk of/living with HIV, elderly and people with disabilities.
- **Ukraine:** SRH mobile teams conducted 8,774 medical counseling and examination sessions to people living along the contact line in Eastern Ukraine, which helped COVID-19 risk groups to seek quality medical help.
- **Uzbekistan:** UNFPA supported Uzbek translation of the second edition of the “National Interim Clinical Guidelines on Pregnancy and Childbirth Management in COVID-19”, approved by the MOH, and will further support its distribution nationwide.

### Addressing GBV

UNFPA is addressing GBV in the region by:

- Ensuring the continuity and availability of GBV services, safe spaces for survivors and prevention of GBV including domestic violence, through capacity development workshops for service providers and awareness raising interventions on social media;
- Addressing the dignity needs of refugee and migrant women and girls and provision of information on available GBV services in Serbia;
- Utilizing data from Rapid Gender Assessments and other surveys for evidence-based policy, advocacy and targeted awareness raising campaigns to prevent and mitigate GBV and domestic violence;
- UNFPA Regional Office (EECARO) supported a community-led study on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and quarantine on access of women living with HIV and women from key populations to SRHR, HIV and GBV prevention services. This project is completed and analysis of findings is under development. The study is being conducted in Armenia, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Tajikistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan.
- Finalizing the Regional Guide on Remote-based GBV essential services, including the specific needs of women and girls with disabilities and survivors of GBV and their referral in the context of COVID-19 crisis response.

### Country examples:

- **Albania:** Initiated in-depth analysis of the survey on Healthy Behaviour of School Children (HBSC) and other national survey data on sexual violence among young people, in partnership with the Faculty of Public Health. Support continues to improve teacher training materials on sexual violence and abuse in school settings, following the request by the Ministry of Education and the Agency for Accreditation and Quality Assurance for Pre-University Education.
- **Azerbaijan:** The Rapid Gender Assessment conducted by UNFPA reveals that the COVID-19 pandemic has further sharpened existing gender inequalities and gaps, in most cases having a disproportionate impact on women in many spheres of their lives. To address this challenge, information sessions for male youth groups and faith-based organizations kicked off within the EU-funded regional programme on challenging gender stereotypes and GBV, implemented jointly by UNFPA and UN Women. The first round of sessions took place online, hitting over 5,000 views in total.
- **Belarus:** UNFPA, in collaboration with the Belarus Red Cross, launched an online five-day training in Psychological First Aid (PFA) and Remote PFA for social service providers, allowing for increased counseling access for survivors of domestic violence during the COVID-19 outbreak.
- **Bosnia and Herzegovina:** In order to respond to the doubled number of GBV cases since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, UNFPA channeled more than 100,000 USD received from the UK Embassy, the company Violetta and UNFPA core funds, to eight safe houses in the country. In addition, public press conferences and an awareness-raising TV documentary with partners and safe houses were organised.
- **Kazakhstan:** A [book](#) on how to be an engaged husband and father was developed in partnership with the National Commission on Women, Family and Demographic Policy under the President of Kazakhstan. The material provides lots of information on how to consciously approach fatherhood, how to support one's wife during pregnancy, raise awareness of and support their partners' reproductive health and prevent GBV, including during the COVID-19 pandemic.



### Country examples (continued):

- **Kyrgyzstan:** UNFPA drafted the Instructions and Methodological Guide for social service providers on the protection of children and women subjected to domestic violence/GBV within the COVID-19 pandemic. Development of the guide to record and report on GBV cases according to standards of data management and case management is ongoing.
- **North Macedonia:** With financial support from the UK Embassy in North Macedonia, a series of consultative meetings/workshops with relevant line ministries and service providers took place in September 2020, as part of the multisectoral response to GBV, in order to strengthen the quality and safety of both GBV survivors and service providers. This was followed with an update of the protocols for operation of GBV shelters and service points in times of COVID-19.
- **Serbia:** 135 women and girls from migrant populations received information on available GBV services during COVID-19, including information on individual counselling. Within the first round of distributions, 142 women received dignity kits in six accommodation centers. Additionally, refugees and migrants received information on the importance to continue the implementation of COVID-19 preventive measures.
- **Tajikistan:** UNFPA in partnership with the Ministry of Health and Social Protection (MoHSP) adapted temporary online counseling protocols on rendering psychosocial support and GBV referral services during COVID-19 within the UN MPTF-funded project. Three three-day workshops for 64 SRH service providers were conducted using mobile services and web-based applications on application of temporary protocols during COVID-19.
- **Turkey:** GBV case management services adjusted to COVID-19 continued to be provided to women, men and key groups through women and girls' safe spaces, key refugee group units and social service centres.
- **Ukraine:** Two new facilities for GBV survivors were opened in Eastern Ukraine which is crucial for women in case of domestic violence when they have to stay at home with a perpetrator because of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **Uzbekistan:** Thanks to UK funds, UNFPA launched the pilot exercise of the Standard Operational Procedures (SOPs) on multi-sectoral response to GBV in Bukhara region. 128 service providers from various services including healthcare, law enforcement agencies, social services, Rehabilitation and Adaptation Centres and Crisis Centres, were involved in online trainings to get familiarized with the SOPs, discuss necessary conditions for introducing them and to build practical skills in responding to GBV. This is especially important to have an impact and address the surge of GBV during the COVID-19 pandemic.



### Assessment on the health and socioeconomic impacts of COVID-19

UNFPA continues to be a pioneer in the use of National Transfer Accounts (NTA) to assess the socio-economic impact of COVID-19 at the country level, with great leadership by Moldova. On 22 September, UNFPA brought together a group of twenty experts in Moldova to discuss the update of the NTAs, including its policy implications and the use of the updated accounts for the assessment of the socio-economic impact of COVID-19. The meeting promoted a broader and more inclusive discussion on implications and policies of NTAs, by engaging experts on economy, sociology and social development, who are not necessarily experts on NTAs. UNFPA now intends to develop a guideline on how NTAs can be used to support policy decisions regarding COVID-19 response and dealing with its fallout.

#### Country examples:

- **Albania:** Identified as a need by youth organizations part of Youth Voice Network, a qualitative study to explore knowledge, attitudes and practices of young people on COVID-19 is under implementation. Questionnaires have been tested and collection of data is under way. Y-Peer network is providing coordination in this qualitative survey and aims to reach approximately 1,000 young people in the age group 16-20.
- **Georgia:** In response to the Government's request as part of the large-scale research on the impact of COVID-19 on social and economic rights, UNFPA launched a) an assessment to determine the impact of COVID-19 social restriction measures on access to essential SRH services; b) studies to assess the socio-economic impact of COVID-19 on two groups of populations – youth and older persons. Steps will be taken to analyse pandemic response measures undertaken thus far, assess their effectiveness, and provide recommendations for subsequent response.
- **Kosovo\*:** UNFPA supported the Kosovo Agency of Statistics, KAS, in conducting the first pilot census for the 2020 Round of Population and Housing Census, by providing PPE, including 5,000 facemasks and 100 bottles of 500 ml disinfectant. PPE is key to ensure that both enumerators and the general public participating in the pilot census are equipped to reduce the transmission of COVID-19 throughout this process.
- **Moldova:** UNFPA conducted two assessments on the impact of COVID-19 on the mental wellbeing of young people and the impact of COVID-19 on youth participation and civic engagement. The results of the assessment will support the UN Socio-Economic Response Plan on COVID-19.
- **Turkey:** UNFPA is part of the health, protection and refugee sections of the COVID-19 socio-economic impact assessment (SEIA) and COVID-19 Response Plans. An assessment is ongoing with Sabancı University (the Business Against Domestic Violence Platform) to identify the impact of COVID-19 on domestic violence and worklife of women.
- **Serbia:** The COVID-19 Socio-Economic Assessment for Serbia was completed by UNCT and presented to the partners on 28 September. UNFPA contributed to the pillars 1, 2 and 5, related to health, social protection and community cohesion, with data on COVID-19's effects on older people, gender (assessed together with UN Women) and youth and SRH (assessed jointly with UNICEF).
- **Uzbekistan:** UNFPA in collaboration with the Gender Commission of the Republic of Uzbekistan has established a working group to start preparations for conducting a national survey on GBV prevalence to strengthen the response and monitoring during the COVID-19 pandemic. The working group comprises the representatives of the Commission, Ministry of Internal Affairs, MOH, Ministry of Mahalla and Family, State Committee on Statistics, Republican Rehabilitation Center and NGOs.

### Risk communication and community engagement (including with young people)

In partnership with the regional youth-led movement, Teenergizer, UNFPA continued addressing the impact of COVID-19 on youth health and wellbeing throughout the region by supporting the #StaySafe campaign aimed at empowering youth in the region to feel safe and protected during the pandemic and beyond and to become agents of change within their own families. As part of the project, two videos ([video 1](#) and [video 2](#)) on psychosocial peer-support were produced by Teenergizer and widely shared throughout social media channels (YouTube, Facebook, Instagram, TikTok). The videos were viewed by almost 300,000 young people and shared by opinion youth leaders and regional celebrities, including UNAIDS Goodwill Ambassador and singer Vera Brezhneva, who has 11.6 million followers on her Instagram page.

UNFPA at country-level focused on the effects of COVID-19 on GBV, strategies on school-reopening processes, organizing info-sessions for adolescents and youth, implementing thematic assessments and online campaigns on comprehensive sexuality education and youth, reproductive health and rights.

#### Country examples:

- **Albania:** UNFPA and the Albanian Centre for Population and Development (ACPD) developed a [video](#) on the impact of COVID-19 on GBV. SafePeer initiative was piloted in four schools in the districts of Korce, Pogradec, Cerrik and Ure Vajgurore; sixty young peer educators were trained. Four roll-out trainings were organized by Y-PEER.
- **Azerbaijan:** The next round of UNFPA-organised info-sessions for adolescents and youth on gender and reproductive health under COVID-19 took place at Binagadi and Mingachevir Youth Houses.
- **Belarus:** UNFPA with NGO “BelAPDiMI” and the UK in Belarus produced three booklets on different aspects of COVID-19 written in plain language with and for people with intellectual disabilities.
- **Kyrgyzstan:** Based on a rapid youth assessment, 60% of young people and adolescents experience high levels of anxiety. UNFPA launched an initiative to provide psychological support for young people through providing training for psychologists and creating a pool of psychologists who will provide consultation in the Kyrgyz language.
- **Moldova:** In support of the Ministry of Education, UNFPA conducted a complex training programme on COVID-19 for school nurses, teachers and students from vocational education and training institutions and developed a [guide for students](#) distributed widely by the Ministry.
- **North Macedonia:** UNFPA, together Y-PEER, launched a [CSE and Youth campaign](#) during COVID-19, and a series of workshops on SRH, domestic violence, mental health, healthy lifestyle, and music and dance in coping with stress during pandemic. These programs targeted young people with disabilities, LGBT and Roma girls.
- **Turkey:** UNFPA is conducting risk communication through over sixty service delivery points in youth centres, women and girls’ safe spaces, mobile health services and social services centers on COVID-19 prevention and available response services.
- **Serbia:** On [World Contraception Day](#), UNFPA partnered with the MOH, Institute of Public Health Batut and the International Federation of Medical Students’ Associations (IFMSA) Serbia to organise virtual education for students and public actions to raise awareness about importance of effective contraception and preserving reproductive health, including in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. In the first round of distributions, 142 women received dignity kits in six accommodation centers. Additionally, refugees and migrants received information on the importance of continuing with implementation of COVID-19 preventive measures.
- **Uzbekistan:** UNFPA launched online trainings to increase awareness of teenagers on health issues during COVID-19, healthy lifestyle, reproductive health and rights, prevention of HIV/AIDS and STIs, for 200 teachers in secondary schools, colleges and academic lyceums in Karakalpakstan under the UNDP-UNFPA Joint Programme.

### Leaving no one behind (with a focus on older people and people living with disabilities or with HIV/AIDS)

Throughout September, a regional [hotline](#) continued to provide information and services to people living with HIV/AIDS and key populations affected by COVID-19. Since its inception in April, the hotline, operated by the Eurasian Women's Network on AIDS (EWNA), helped a total of 88 people living with HIV/AIDS (54 men and 34 women) throughout fourteen countries to receive counselling support and life-saving antiretroviral medications. A webinar was organized to share experience of the hotline with other NGOs in the region as a good model to be replicated in different countries and regions.

At country-level, UNFPA continued to support civil society organisations (CSOs) and healthcare systems to address the needs of key populations and people living with HIV during COVID-19, by strengthening capacities of healthcare providers and activists from CSOs to ensure uninterrupted provision of information and services to key populations, specifically women living with HIV and those at risk of HIV.

#### Country examples:

- **Albania:** Risk reduction activities were implemented for young key populations (people who inject drugs, sex workers, men who have sex with men and prisoners) in selected regions of the country, mostly provided by mobile teams. Twelve health mediators reached out with information on SRHR and COVID-19 to people living with disabilities and Romas and Egyptians.
- **Azerbaijan:** With softening of the ongoing COVID-19 quarantine regime, some open-air activities were arranged for seniors involved in the UNFPA-led Active Ageing project.
- **Belarus:** Together with the Red Cross and UNICEF, UNFPA supplied Jewish pilgrims stuck at the Belarus-Ukraine border due to COVID restrictions with first-need items - warm blankets, disinfectants, thermo mugs for hot beverages. Distribution focused on women, including pregnant women, older people and people with disabilities.
- **Georgia:** In support of distance education on healthy lifestyle and SRH amid the COVID-19 restrictions, UNFPA launched a new project with the Public Broadcaster involving 10-12 lessons dedicated to various aspects of healthy lifestyle, SRH and gender equality, according to the general education biology standard for grades 7-8.
- **Kazakhstan:** On International Sign Language Day, the country office re-circulated a [story](#) on face shields procured by UNFPA with the national association of women with disabilities, "Shyrak", highlighting challenges faced by people with hearing impairments during COVID-19. [Videos](#) for people with disabilities during COVID-19 have been re-circulated to draw attention to the role of sign language in ensuring the rights of vulnerable people.
- **North Macedonia:** UNFPA, in partnership with Humanost, has launched [a phone line for psychosocial](#) support for older people (65+) during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **Turkey:** Protection services continued to be provided to male and female survivors of violence, people at risk of living with HIV and people living with disabilities. Health services were provided to seasonal migrant workers and rural refugees via mobile health teams.
- **Uzbekistan:** UNFPA supported the NGO 'Opa-Singillar' (for disabled women and mothers of disabled children) in Tashkent region with sim cards and internet connection, which enabled access to a Telegram messenger group created for members of the NGO. This was used to 1) circulate the first newsletter and motivating learning; and 2) to provide twelve social and legal consultations for ten days.
- **Moldova:** UNFPA, jointly with Help Age International, launched an innovative project aimed at developing the digital skills of older women and men in order to build their resilience to better respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, access online services and information, and maintain social communication with their families. Around 100 vulnerable older people with reduced mobility from ten localities of Moldova will be given mobile phones and will be taught how to use them by a group of young volunteers.



Across the region, UNFPA has reached out to the public, through traditional and social media, to raise awareness of COVID-19 related information, relaying guidance and showcasing achievements related to providing support.

### Story highlights:

- [First-ever inclusive art school in Azerbaijan fosters a sense of belonging for people with disabilities](#) in times of COVID-19
- [Miss Wheelchair World from Belarus joins new High-Level Commission to ensure Nairobi Summit promises are kept despite COVID-19](#)
- [For the Health and Safety of the Older People in the Times of Pandemic](#) in Georgia

### Country examples:

- **Azerbaijan:** Appearance on AzTV state television morning programme to speak about achievements under Active Ageing project during COVID-19.
- **Bosnia and Herzegovina:** [Online](#) conference with 100 youth leaders organized to mark the International Day of Peace, and four more [Youth Barometer](#) online talk shows were broadcast. [Article](#) published within series of personal accounts highlighting extraordinary work during COVID-19 response and UN75.
- **Moldova:** [#YouthAgainstCovid](#) campaign on [social media](#) reached close to 10K young people via [Facebook](#). [TV](#) interview on UNFPA-supported [guidelines](#) on COVID prevention for VET institutions organized on “[YTPO HA CTC](#)” morning show. [Press release](#) on intergenerational project released and covered in multiple media outlets ([IPN](#), [Jurnal.md](#), [Realitatea.md](#), [Cuvintul.md](#)). COVID-related [photo](#) from UNFPA Moldova used to illustrate official UN [webpage](#) on International Day of Older Persons.
- **North Macedonia:** [Series of posts](#) on UNFPA's and British Embassy's social media channels with reach of 15k on workshops with ministries and service providers on multisectorial response to GBV during COVID-19.
- **Kazakhstan:** Launch of new book on how to be an engaged father and partner was covered widely in the media ([KazInform](#), [Sputnik-Kazakhstan](#), [KazPravda](#), [Caravan](#)), with messages related to COVID-19 also stressed through live interviews on [Instagram](#) and posts on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).
- **Kyrgyzstan:** Stressed impact of COVID-19 at World Contraception Day [press conference](#).
- **Turkmenistan:** Articles on UNFPA-run Yashlyk.info youth portal focused on [elderly care](#), [HPV for adolescents](#) and [flu shots](#) in the context of the pandemic. PSAs for TV and radio being developed on virus prevention and safe behaviour with focus on pregnant and breastfeeding women, youth and older persons.
- **Turkey:** [Social media story](#) on humanitarian support in Northern Syria despite COVID-19 conditions.
- **Ukraine:** UNFPA's projections on the rising number of child marriages due to COVID were mentioned in [22 media](#) and one [media](#) outlet carried UNFPA comments on GBV risks during COVID.



United Nations

International Day of Older Persons  
1 October



High school student Nelly Ungureanu pays a socially distanced visit to Maria Roșca. An initiative in Moldova is fostering intergenerational solidarity as part of the COVID-19 response.  
| PHOTO: © UNFPA Moldova/Dan Gutu

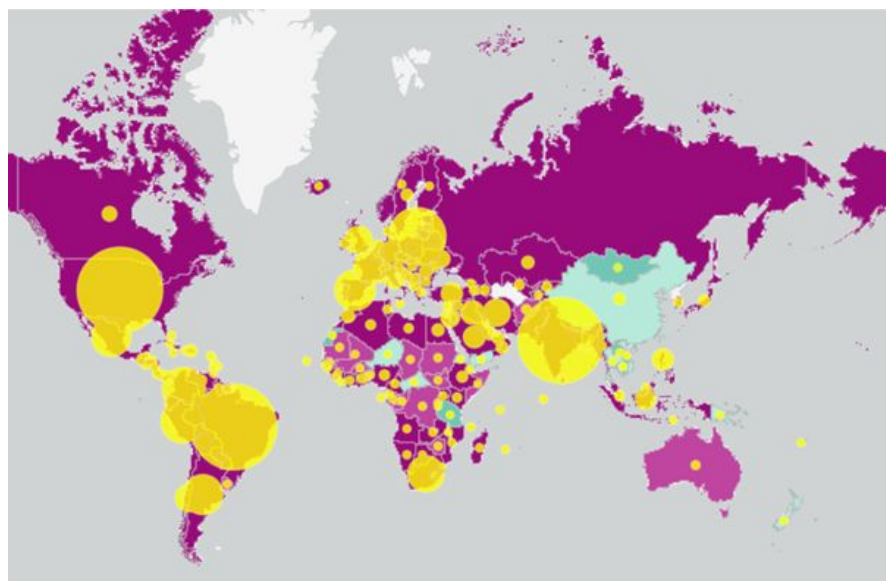


“The world marks the 30th anniversary of the International Day of Older Persons as we reckon with the disproportionate and severe impact that the COVID-19 pandemic has wrought on older persons around the world – not only on their health, but on their rights and well-being.”  
– UN Secretary-General António Guterres

Official UN page on International Day of Older Persons features photo from UNFPA Moldova

**Confirmed COVID-19 Cases and Deaths (UNFPA programme countries) WHO, 5 October 2020**

Country	Confirmed Cases	Deaths
Albania	14,117	392
Armenia	52,496	977
Azerbaijan	40,561	595
Belarus	79,852	851
Bosnia and Herzegovina	28,234	870
Georgia	8,118	50
Kazakhstan	141,484	2075
Kosovo*	15,715	620
Kyrgyzstan	47,428	1066
Republic of Moldova	55,888	1353
North Macedonia	18,602	753
Serbia	33,842	753
Tajikistan	9,895	77
Turkey	323,014	8384
Turkmenistan	0	0
Ukraine	226,462	4397
Uzbekistan	58,421	479
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,154,129</b>	<b>23,692</b>



See UNFPA's [COVID-19 Population Vulnerability Dashboard](#) for real-time updates