

COVID-19

GNWP Mitigation and Adaptation Strategy and Appeal

April 2020

Country Update

Moldova

As of April 16, 2020, 2,049 COVID-19 cases have been recorded in Moldova, including 51 deaths.[1] A state of emergency has been announced until May 15th. Public meetings have been cancelled until that time. Schools and universities are closed; some classes are provided online, but they are not accessible to many due to lack of access to the necessary equipment (laptops), software or internet. On 24 March, 2020, the government has asked the military to help enforce the measures.[2]

Impact on women and on peace and security:

According to GNWP member, Foreign Policy Association (APE), a major concern is that there are no masks and antiseptic in drugstores, and there are insufficient first hand medical kits necessary in hospitals for COVID-19 symptoms treatment. This puts women at a disproportionate risk, as they are at the forefront of addressing COVID-19.

There is also an increase of fake news related to the COVID-19, leading to disinformation. The NGO and media sector have criticized the government for "failing to provide the public with full information so as to conceal the real situation in Moldova", and for going ahead with the political schedule, including allowing partial parliamentary elections in one of the regions on March 15, 2020.[3]

The COVID-19 has also contributed to the shrinking civil society space and dwindling resources for women's rights organizations. According to GNWP partners, both the government and international donors' funding has been re-directed to COVID-19 response, and away from women's rights organizations, who do not have basic resources, including hygiene resources (for those who are forced to work in the field - e.g. distributing food packages or working in domestic violence shelters). Moreover, the government has used the emergency as an "excuse to tighten its control", therefore shrinking the space for civil society work.

[1] Worldometer, "COVID-19 CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC", 16 April 2020, Available at: <https://www.worldometers.info/coronavirus/#countries>, accessed 16 April 2020.

[2] Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, "COVID-19: Armenian, Moldovan, Romanian Police Enforce National Lockdowns", 25 March 2020. Available at: <https://www.rferl.org/a/covid-19-coronavirus-roundup-march-25-confirmed-cases-crisis/30508199.html>. Accessed on 1 April 2020.

[3] Madalin Necsutu, "Moldovan Government Stumbles Over COVID-19 Response", Institute for War and Peace Reporting, 27 March 2020. Available at: <https://iwpr.net/global-voices/moldovan-government-stumbles-over-covid-19>. Accessed on 1 April 2020.