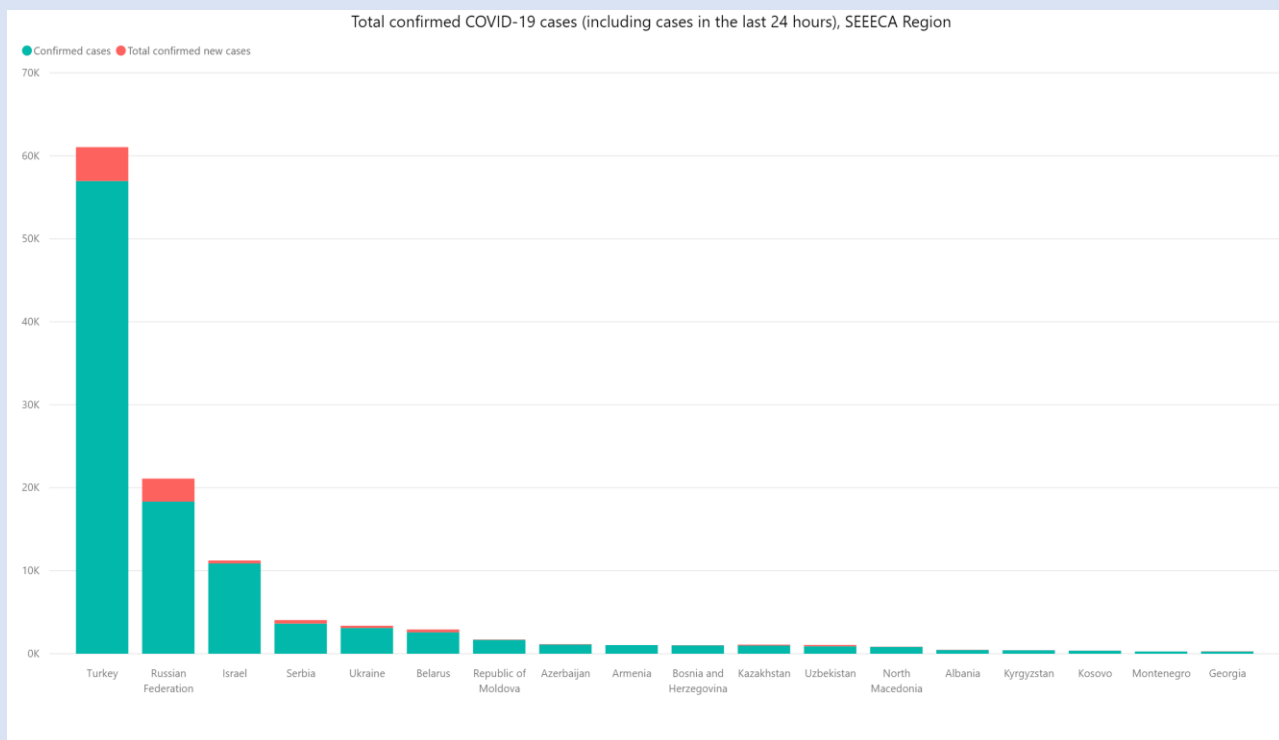


## Latest Trends

- Since the release of the regional SEECA sitrep #3 on 06 April 2020, the total number of COVID-19 cases in the SEECA region rose by 128 per cent and now tops 110,000 cases. Compared to Europe as a whole and the rest of the world (44 and 52 per cent respectively), the rate of increase within the SEECA region remains significantly faster.
- The number of deaths in the SEECA region increased by 129 per cent to 1,985; this is also much higher than the figures for Europe and globally (63 and 73 per cent respectively).
- In the region, the highest number of COVID-19 infections is in Turkey (61,049), followed by the Russian Federation (21,102), Israel (11,235), Serbia (4,054) and Ukraine (3,372). The number of cases reported by the Russian Federation has almost tripled since 6 April.
- The highest death toll is in Turkey (1,296; 126 per cent increase) followed by Russian Federation (170; 278 per cent increase), Israel (110; 139 per cent increase), Ukraine (98; 158 per cent increase) and Serbia (85; 67 per cent increase).
- Austria has a total of 14,043 confirmed COVID-19 patients and 368 reported deaths, as of yesterday.





## Country Updates

**Armenia's** state of emergency will continue till May 14 but some restrictions have been lifted.

A stricter quarantine regime has been introduced in **Azerbaijan** – the Baku metro is closed, but buses are running. Most enterprises, offices, restaurants and shops, except for groceries and pharmacies, are shut.

The World Health Organization has urged **Belarus** to do more to contain the spread of the outbreak or face a rapid increase in infections.

**Georgia** is locking down four of its main cities after 30 more people were registered as infected with the coronavirus in one day.

In the **Russian Federation** President Putin says the next few weeks will prove decisive in Russia's battle to slow the contagion and that the military could become involved in further response measures.

**Tajikistan** is one of 25 countries to whom the IMF will provide immediate debt service relief.



*IOM-supported COVID-19 hotline in Kazakhstan*

## IOM Response

Since the beginning of the COVID-19 outbreak, 16 concept notes/project proposals on COVID-19 response were developed in the SEECA region, totalling 17.5 million USD. Cross-thematic, adaptive and innovative approaches are being emphasized during project development.

In coordination with donors, several Missions have adapted their current project workplans to incorporate COVID-19 focused interventions, such as in the Western Balkans, in Kyrgyzstan and in the Russian Federation. In Armenia and Kazakhstan, rapid assessments are being conducted on COVID-19 risks and impact on migrants.

## Country-specific responses

With IOM support, youth in **Bosnia and Herzegovina** are delivering food, hygienic products and medicines to the elderly and others in isolation, producing home-made masks, and supporting the fire department disinfect public places. The IOM mission invited members of the diaspora organizations and individuals to share experiences, ideas, and projects that might be useful for combating COVID-19 through the official diaspora web portal.

In the **Western Balkans**, IOM's Regional AVRR campaign now includes messages on COVID-19 in English, Pashto, Urdu, Bengali, Farsi, Arabic. Messages are shared through the Facebook page and a mobile app.

IOM **Turkey** supported the procurement of more than 230,000 hygiene and basic needs items including masks, gloves, hand sanitizers, and disinfectants in seven provinces. Meanwhile IOM-supported migrant service centres are providing counselling and referral services on COVID-19 by telephone, and prioritizing support to those over-60. IOM Turkey's Migrants Presence Monitoring (MPM) has developed online platforms for reporting and mapping based on public data since the beginning of the outbreak of COVID-19. MPM has developed a Rapid Assessment Survey form jointly with the Directorate of Migration Management to assess the immediate needs of vulnerable migrants.

IOM **Ukraine** handed over Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), as well as disinfection equipment and liquids, to the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine.

In **Kazakhstan** IOM supports a national hotline which provides information on how COVID-19 is affecting migration, specifically employment, travel and health.

## Challenges and Needs

Discrimination and stigma against returning migrants via social media and on the streets is increasing within certain communities. IOM needs to advocate for the most marginalized, with a stronger focus on anti-stigma campaigns.

Donor interest on COVID-19 response remains limited. More visibility of activities and plans is required, particularly on IOM's global platforms.



RO Vienna Mission survey results (3-7 April 2020)

Xenophobia

Xenophobia against particular populations

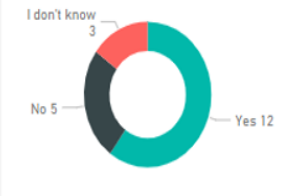


<b>KAZAKHSTAN</b>	Some commentators on social media are against returning citizens from abroad in fear of COVID-19 spread
<b>KYRGYZSTAN</b>	Attacks on shops owned by Chinese immigrants in Bishkek's biggest bazaar; stigma and discrimination against returning migrants; stigma and discrimination against Muslims, as the first COVID-19 cases were diagnosed among citizens who returned from Hajj
<b>REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA</b>	Instances of hate speech and stigma against migrants, seen as contributing to spreading the COVID.
<b>UKRAINE</b>	Blame and negative comments on social media (returning migrants are commonly blamed for COVID-19 in Ukraine)

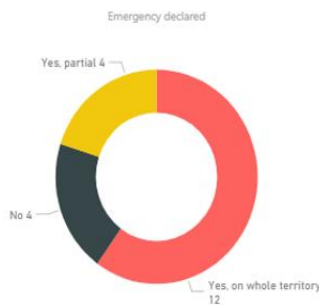
Preparedness plan

Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bosnia And Herzegovina, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Montenegro, Republic of Moldova, North Macedonia, Russian Federation, Turkey, Ukraine and Kosovo\* declared that Government has a preparedness plan to address COVID-19.

Preparedness by the Government plan to address COVID-19



Emergency declared



Emergency declared	Country
No	AZERBAIJAN
No	BELARUS
No	TAJKISTAN
No	TURKMENISTAN
Yes, on whole territory	ALBANIA
Yes, on whole territory	ARMENIA
Yes, on whole territory	BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA
Yes, on whole territory	GEORGIA
Yes, on whole territory	ISRAEL
Yes, on whole territory	KAZAKHSTAN
Yes, on whole territory	KOSOVO*
Yes, on whole territory	MONTENEGRO
Yes, on whole territory	REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA
Yes, on whole territory	REPUBLIC OF NORTH MACEDONIA
Yes, on whole territory	SERBIA
Yes, on whole territory	UKRAINE
Yes, partial	KYRGYZSTAN
Yes, partial	RUSSIAN FEDERATION
Yes, partial	TURKEY
Yes, partial	UZBEKISTAN

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