

Latest Trends

- Since the start of April, the number of confirmed COVID-19 cases in the SEECA region has increased nine-fold.
- Compared to last week, the SEECA region has seen an increase in the number of confirmed COVID-19 cases by 35 per cent (190,493 cases increased to 257,631 cases).
- The number of deaths within the SEECA region has also increased by 35 per cent (3,406 deaths to 4,614 deaths) over the past week.
- While the number of deaths continues to increase, the rate of deaths has slowed over the past within the SEECA region (35 per cent now vs 72 per cent a week ago); within Europe (17 per cent now vs 32 per cent a week ago) and globally (22 per cent now vs 39 per cent a week ago).

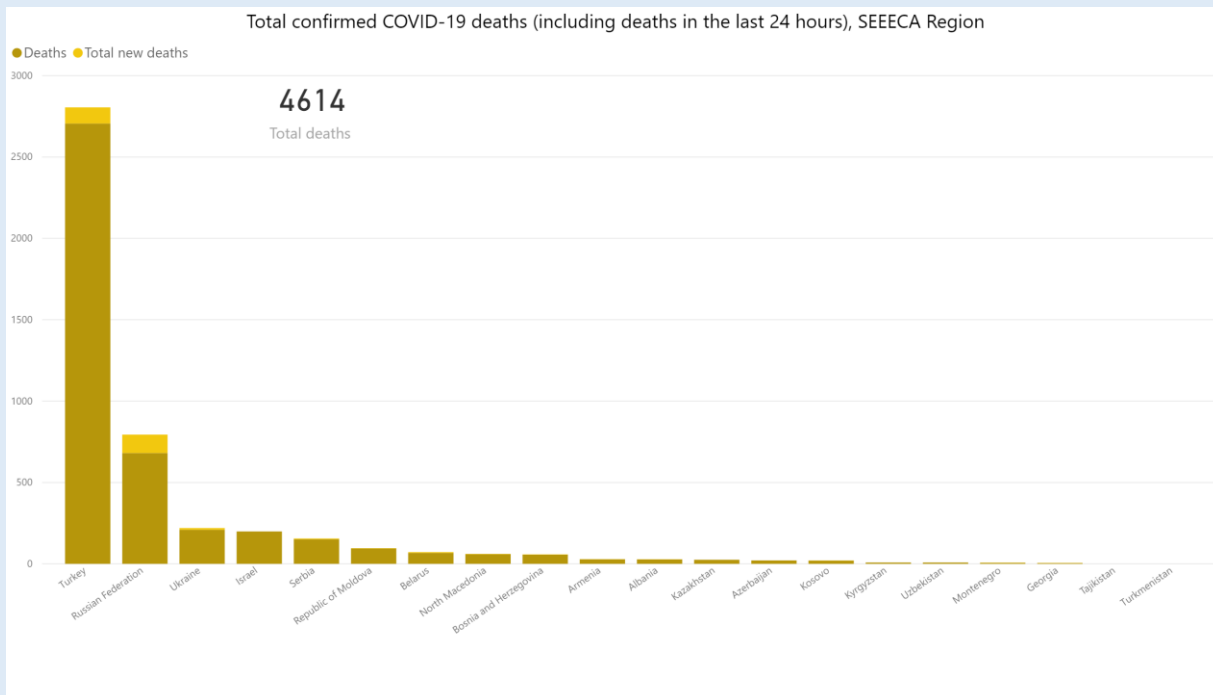
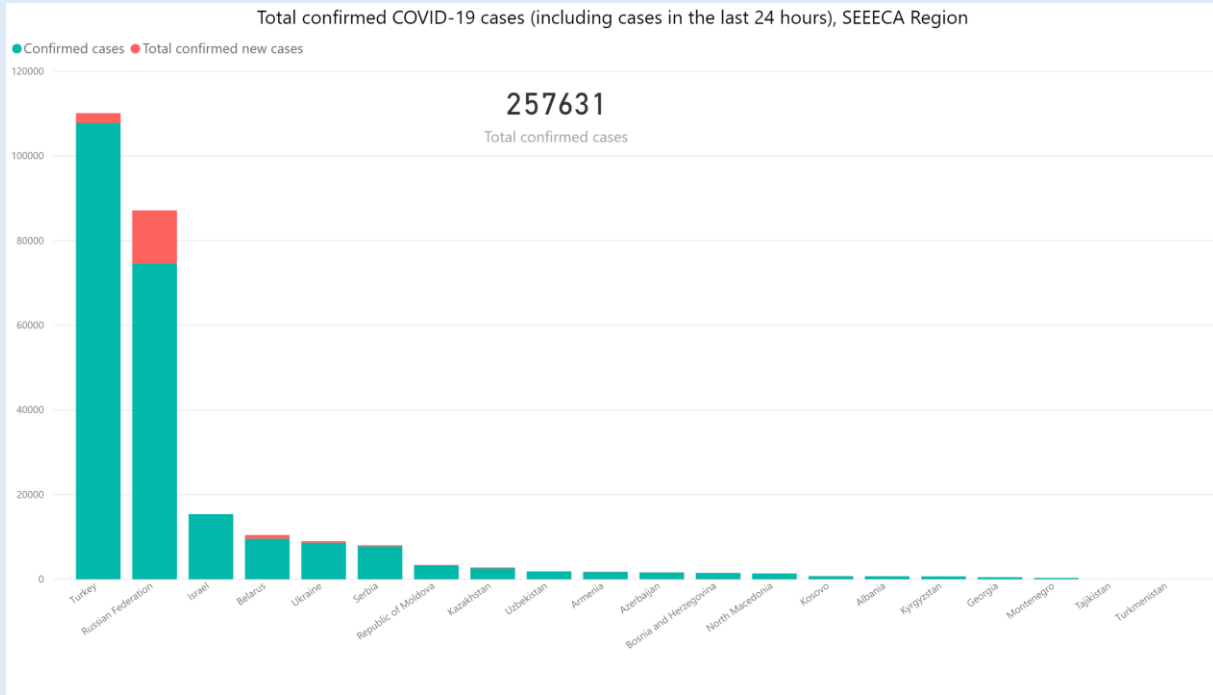
Country Specific Trends

- Within the SEECA region, the countries with the highest number of COVID-19 infections remain: Turkey (110,130), Russian Federation (87,147), Israel (15,398), Belarus (10,463), Ukraine (9,009).
- Within the SEECA region, the countries with the highest number of COVID-19 deaths are as follows: Turkey (2,810) Russian Federation (794), Ukraine (220), Israel (199), Serbia (156).
- The **Russian Federation** has shown the largest increase in cases and deaths over the past week (65 per cent increase from 52,763 to 87,147, with an additional 12,559 new cases reported overnight on 26 April). **Turkey** is seeing a decrease in the percentage of new cases (21 per cent, down from 49 per cent).
- In **Austria**, the number of confirmed COVID-19 patients increased by 3 per cent from 14,783 to 15,189 over the past week, which is a higher rate of increase compared to the previous week (0.36 per cent). In addition, the rate of deaths over the past week continued to slow from 29% to 15%.



Cases in the SEECA region

The below graphs highlight the total number of confirmed cases and deaths as of 27 April 2020 in each of the 20 countries covered within the SEECA region, including cases and deaths within the past 24 hours (Source: WHO).





IOM Strategic Response

27 concept notes/project proposals to address COVID-19 were developed in the SEECA region, for a total of:

US\$ 24.5 million.

IOM's Global Response Appeal

was launched 15 April 2020 and can be downloaded [here](#).



IOM workers on-site at the new 1,000 bed facility for homeless migrants in Bihac, Bosnia and Herzegovina. Photo: IOM/ E. Čausević.

Country Updates

As the coronavirus continues to spread in **Armenia**, the country's health minister warns that the authorities may soon be unable to treat infected people showing mild symptoms of the disease.

Azerbaijan joined the steering group of the Global Forum on Migration and Development. This was a positive development welcomed by IOM which will assist in the pandemic response.

Moldova's government has approved \$470 million worth of loans from Russia and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to reduce a growing budget deficit caused by the coronavirus outbreak.

Kazakhstan will start easing some restrictions imposed on March 16, although will still extend a nationwide state of emergency.

Tajikistan has announced that it will close schools for two weeks, ban public gatherings, and temporarily halt grain exports as a precaution against the COVID-19 pandemic.

A new 10,000-bed infectious-diseases hospital is being built near **Uzbekistan's** capital, Tashkent, to help tackle the pandemic in Central Asia's most populous country.

Country-specific responses

In Bosnia and Herzegovina:

- IOM opened an emergency tent camp in Bihac with 1,000 beds to accommodate migrants who had been squatting in the city. The camp is equipped with isolation and quarantine areas. Additionally, outdoor sinks and dispensers with liquid disinfectant are being distributed throughout the centre.
- Educational and recreational workshops for 200 people took place in temporary reception centres. The workshops were especially welcomed since the migrants must remain within the centres due to COVID-19 prevention.

In Georgia:

- Sixty per cent of migrants surveyed by IOM and NGO partners were not aware that COVID-19 testing and treatment would be free/available for them in Georgia in case of experiencing symptoms. The most acute needs identified result from loss of income. Among the most vulnerable are migrants engaged in sex work who report acute needs and face significant barriers to seeking medical care or accessing government services.



- Reintegration support was provided to returnees from Greece, the Netherlands, and Switzerland in the area of farming, trade, access to medical services, and accommodation.

In Kazakhstan:

- Humanitarian assistance was provided by IOM to 450 migrants in vulnerable situations from other Central Asian countries, the Russian Federation, and Moldova.

In North Macedonia:

- IOM medical teams conduct screenings in temporary transit centres and reception centres for asylum seekers.

In Turkey:

- IOM offers psychosocial support activities in municipal centres as well as through psychosocial mobile teams. In total, IOM has supported 5,097 beneficiaries between 14 and 21 April.
- IOM provides protective clothing and equipment in various locations. For example, in Turkey IOM provided 7,500 surgical masks, 15,000 gloves and 150 litres of disinfectants to the Turkish Coast Guard. Additionally, IOM Turkey provided 28,050 medical masks to the Turkish government to be distributed within removal centres.

In Ukraine:

- IOM provided support to the Government on assistance and protection of Ukrainians stranded abroad due to COVID-19. In partnership with the Government, IOM Ukraine also conducted a needs and vulnerabilities assessment. IOM assisted families of Ukrainian migrant workers stranded in Malaysia and Brazil to cover their most urgent needs.

Regional Office Focal Points

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