Several prominent regional politicians have died or become ill with COVID-19. Uzbekistan’s Deputy Finance Minister Yorqin Tursunov died on July 29 aged 55, and Salko Bukvarevic, 53, the cabinet member in Bosnia’s Muslim-Croat entity, died on the same day at a hospital in Sarajevo. Kosovo’s Prime Minister Avdullah Hoti has recovered after more than two weeks of treatment, while former Ukrainian PM Yulia Timoshenko is in a serious condition with a fever of 39 degrees. Sholban Kara-Ool, head of Russia’s Tyva region, says he has been infected with coronavirus for a second time — three months after he was first hospitalized.

A Kazakh research centre has completed preclinical trials on animals of a domestic vaccine against COVID-19, local media reported on August 19.

In Uzbekistan the government announced on August 7 that entrance exams to all universities this year will be held at open sports stadiums in an effort to enforce social-distancing regulations.

WHO is planning a further visit to Turkmenistan, which has reported no cases of coronavirus to date.

Second and third-level education in Armenia will resume on September 15.

Russia plans to implement extensive vaccinations against coronavirus in October, the country’s health minister said on August 1. Teachers and medical workers will be given priority.
CONFIRMED COVID-19 CASES AND DEATHS IN THE SEECA REGION AS OF 2 AUGUST 2020

This map is for illustration purposes only. The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the International Organization for Migration.

*References to Kosovo are made in the context of Security Council Resolution 1244/1999.
In **Belarus**, IOM continues to deliver online trainings on aspects of reintegration of victims of human trafficking in the COVID-19 context.

In the **Western Balkans**, IOM and UNHCR launched a project to help ensure asylum and migration management systems remain operational and reduce the incidence of COVID-19 among refugees, migrants and the host population. Recently, the project supported the opening of a new reception centre in Montenegro, to be used as quarantine facility for migrants and asylum seekers. Works are underway to support the opening of another centre in Kosovo* and on adjusting facilities in North Macedonia to improve sanitary services and enhance social distancing.

In **Albania**, medical clinics and isolation wards are being established in two reception centres and at a border crossing point. To allow personnel in direct contact with migrants and asylum seekers to continue providing services in a safe manner, personal protective equipment has been donated to border and migration management officials in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Serbia.

In **Bosnia and Herzegovina**, IOM conducted a survey to assess the impact of COVID-19 on the diaspora and on outward migration. It found that many seasonal and irregular workers have lost their jobs and had to return to Bosnia and Herzegovina with no income. Also, fewer expatriates will visit their home country because of the pandemic, leading to a reduction in income for locals.

IOM continues to support governments in Central Asia, providing bus transport and humanitarian assistance to Tajik and Uzbek migrants stranded at a border crossing between Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan. Migrants undergo a mandatory quarantine in designated facilities in their home countries after return.

In **Turkmenistan**, the Country Prevention and Response Plan and Socio-Economic Response Plan were approved by the Government in July. IOM participated in the development thereof.

In **Turkey**, IOM provided counseling and referral services to 884 beneficiaries through municipal migrant centres in Istanbul and Ankara. 2,000 units of hand sanitiser and 50 digital thermometers were delivered to Mersin Metropolitan Municipality.

### Funding per sub-region

- **Central Asia**: 28% confirmed/in the pipeline; 72% funding gap
- **South Caucasus**: 35% confirmed/in the pipeline and reprogrammed; 65% funding gap
- **Western Balkans**: 85% confirmed/in the pipeline and reprogrammed; 15% funding gap

### Points of Entry

- **Sea, river crossings**: 79 (41% open, 34% closed, 23% partially closed)
- **Airports**: 124 (10 open, 14 closed, 52 partially closed, 21 status unknown)
- **Land borders**: 424 (17 countries in the SEECA region have issued travel restrictions)

**17** points of entry have at least one public health measure in place.

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**Special thanks to:**

- Canada, European Union, Germany, Japan, Norway, Republic of Korea, The Netherlands
- Switzerland, United Kingdom, United States, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- COVID-19 UN Multi-Partner Trust Fund, Stichting AFEW International