



SNAPSHOT

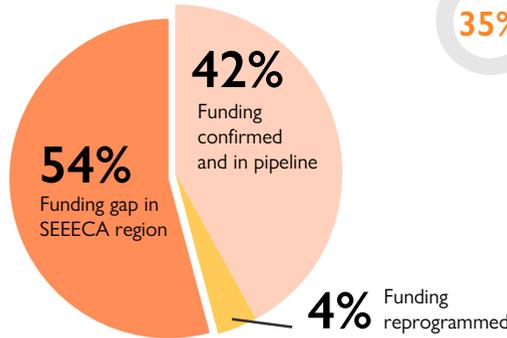
20
Countries covered in the SEECA region

731,686
Cases

15,077
Deaths

US\$ 59,244,000
Funding needs

US\$ 24,868,209
Funding confirmed and in pipeline



66% of points of entry assessed have at least one public health measure

35% of airports assessed in the region remain closed

102,500
Estimated stranded migrants within and outside the SEECA region in need of assistance

HIGHLIGHTS

IOM Turkey Calls for Greater Assistance as COVID-19 Restrictions Ease



As lock-down restrictions ease in the world's largest refugee-hosting country, hundreds of thousands of refugees and migrants continue face elevated levels of risk. Many are trying to return to work but can't afford basic personal protective

equipment (PPE) or pay for medical services should they fall ill.

Given this reality, further support to ensure greater protection of migrants in Turkey is urgently needed says IOM.

"The COVID-19 epidemic hit migrant and refugee communities in the larger cities such as Istanbul, Izmir and Gaziantep particularly hard," explained IOM Turkey's Emergency Coordinator Mazen Aboulhosn. "Hundreds of thousands of migrants lost their jobs. Many are still not able to afford food, medicine and healthcare."

Albanians on the Frontline in Italy

Over 1.4 million Albanians live and work overseas, leaving only 2.8 million in the Balkan country. Many are in the regions of Italy which have been hardest hit by the Coronavirus pandemic, including Edita Fino, who is the focal point for an IOM diaspora programme.

Her task in quieter times is to build and strengthen relations with the diaspora community and relevant associations in Italy, engage with Diaspora members, provide information, and promote Albania in Italy.

But since the early days of the pandemic she has been following the remarkable contributions being made by Albanians in their host country. [Watch the video](#) to find out more.



IOM Joins Call for Better Access to Remittances in Moldova



IOM has added its voice to a call by Switzerland, United Kingdom, World Bank, UNDP and UNICEF to the Moldovan authorities to take a set of measures that would make remittances more accessible to the population.

According to an IOM study, a quarter of Moldovan house holds receives remittances and for half of these, remittances constitute more than 50 per cent of disposable income. The same source indicates that 23.4 per cent of households would be placed below the poverty line if they did not receive remittances; with 17 per cent of all migrants saying they already stopped remitting under COVID-19 circumstances, risking placing many people under the poverty line.

Eastern Ukraine micro/small-businesses require support



Micro and small enterprises in Ukraine government-controlled areas of Donetsk and Luhansk regions have had to dismiss one in three employees due to the COVID-19 pandemic and quarantine, says a new survey by IOM.

Forty-nine per cent (49 per cent) of firms owned by internally displaced persons (IDPs) had to cease operations. The average drop in sales during the quarantine was estimated at 25 per cent.

"Because of their pre-existing vulnerabilities, IDPs appear more at risk of being unable to recover from the economic shock of COVID-19 control measures. Female-owned businesses are under greater strain as well," explained Anh Nguyen, Chief of Mission at IOM Ukraine.

LATEST NEWS

 **Armenia's** government has extended the current state of emergency by another month.

 President Ilham Aliyev of **Azerbaijan** signed a law making it mandatory for citizens to wear face masks while in public places as of June 3.

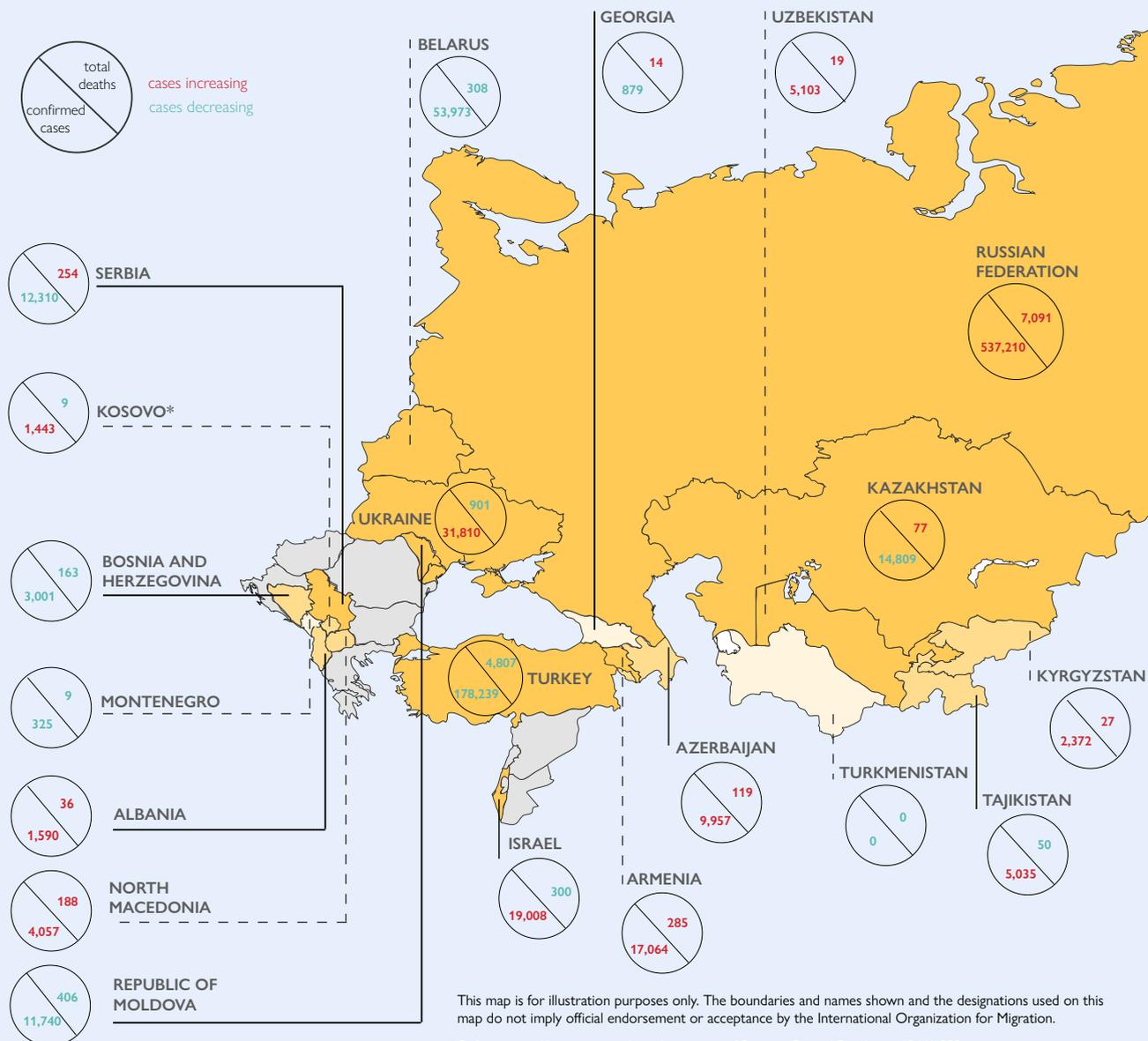
 **North Macedonia's** political parties have agreed on parliamentary elections to be held on July 15.

 The **Russian Federation** is "working rather smoothly and emerging from this situation with the coronavirus confidently and, with minimal losses," President Putin said on state television.

 **Tajikistan's** parliament has voted to criminalize anyone found negligently infecting others with the COVID-19.

 **Ukraine's** Health Ministry said on June 12 that the total number of COVID-19 cases in the country is 29,753, including 870 deaths. Olena Zelenska, the wife of President Volodymyr Zelenskiy, has tested positive.

CONFIRMED COVID-19 CASES AND DEATHS IN THE SEECA REGION AS OF 15 JUNE 2020



IOM COUNTRY RESPONSES



Armenia

- » With funds received from the UN COVID-19 Response and Recovery Fund, IOM launched the delivery of assistance for “Investing in Entrepreneurship”. The project aims to mitigate the immediate economic impacts on the local remittance-dependent population by prioritizing livelihoods and job creation. Through financial and technical support small enterprises are able to rapidly set up or resume operations and create sustainable jobs.



Belarus

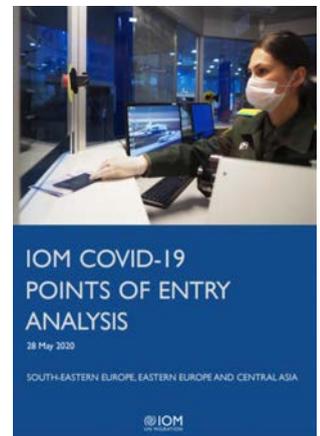
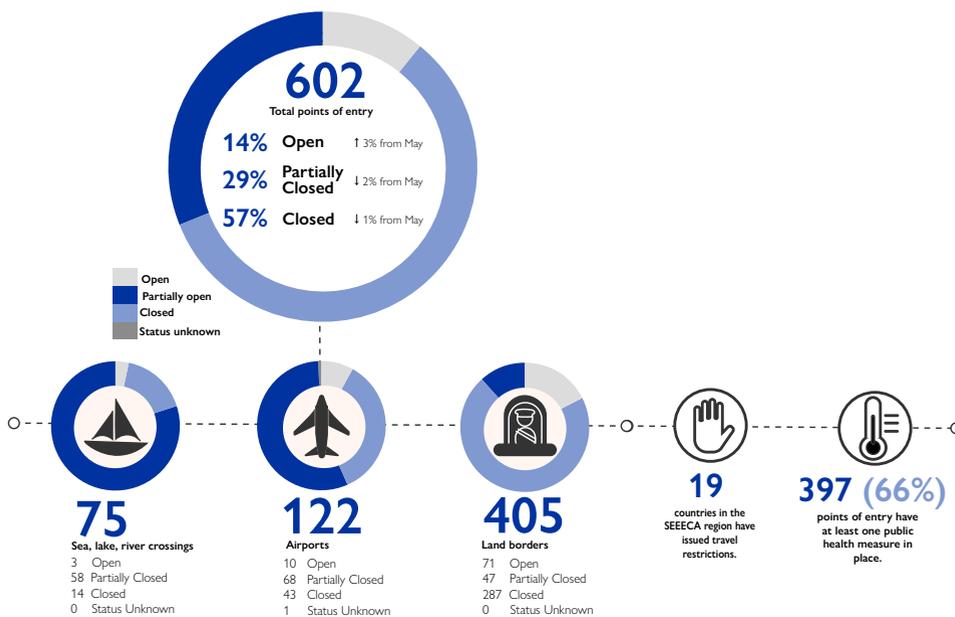
- » IOM, together with the WHO Country Office started online training on protecting migrants in vulnerable situations and victims of human trafficking in the COVID-19 context. The training brought together coordinators, psychologists, and social workers from eleven NGOs, and the Red Cross.



Turkey

- » IOM continues to provide counseling and referral services through municipal migrant centres. IOM also provides food packages and hygiene kits to migrants.

POINTS OF ENTRY



[View the IOM COVID-19 Points of Entry Analysis here.](#)

Funding per sub-region

Central Asia	19% confirmed/in the pipeline and reprogrammed; 81% funding gap
South Caucasus	9% confirmed/in the pipeline and reprogrammed; 91% funding gap
Western Balkans	83% confirmed/in the pipeline and reprogrammed; 17% funding gap

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