Currently, the Kosovo Health System is able to adequately respond to the situation at hand.

Shortage in food supply: Some shortage of wheat flour only yet some municipalities experience food shortage for vulnerable groups (e.g., Roma communities).

Short-medium term implications on vulnerable group’s resilience and ability to cope is already evident, particularly from minorities, Roma communities.

### KEY GOVERNMENT MEASURES AND RESPONSE

20 total number of confirmed COVID-19 cases in the country.
12 cases hospitalized
8 cases are self-isolated recovering at home
0 is the number of casualties associated with an infection of COVID-19 in Kosovo

**Highlights of data & information reported by Kosovo institution, WHO & UN Agencies**

As of 19 March of 2020, 13:45 hours, there are 20 total cases of laboratory-confirmed COVID-19. Out of all the cases, 12 of them are hospitalized at the Kosovo University Clinical Center; and 8 are self-isolated. There were 308 patients examined and samples taken.

**Measures by the government and public institutions**

The government declared COVID-19 a Public Health Emergency on 15 March 2020. The consequent measures adopted by the government influence public life, e.g., closure of banks, education institutions at all levels, suspension of public gatherings including cultural, sport, and other events; closure of bars, restaurants, pubs, clubs, shopping malls except for pharmacies, bakeries and grocery shops. Public system pensions and social assistance subsidies are being paid earlier than usually scheduled and central bank suspends.

**Services and other Measures**

Currently all emergency and other core government functions are fully functional. Municipalities continue provide civil documentation, albeit with reduced capacities.

The Ministry of Health has created a special website https://www.kosova.health/en/ with relevant information, including preventive measures on COVID-19 and current official statistics. It has also introduced an emergency free-of-charge phone line: 038 200 80 800.

**Travel and Transport**

All international travel by air is suspended to Kosovo as of 16 March 2020. Airplanes carrying only cabin crew will be allowed to land in Pristina Airport for outgoing passengers. Military flights are allowed. Travel by land is restricted to all travelers except Kosovo passport holders, staff of the diplomatic, consular missions, international organizations offices and their families, as well as foreigners with residence in Kosovo. All Kosovo people and foreign nationals entering Kosovo are to be placed under mandatory self-quarantine / self-isolation for 14 days. Intercity transport within Kosovo is suspended as well as organized international transport of passengers. Local transport within Pristina is ongoing as scheduled, except for the Pristina — Airport line.

**Observations important to health & socio-economic impact of COVID19 outbreak**

Currently, the Kosovo Health System is able to adequately respond to the situation at hand.

Shortage in food supply: Some shortage of wheat flour only yet some municipalities experience food shortage for vulnerable groups (e.g., Roma communities).

Short-medium term implications on vulnerable group’s resilience and ability to cope is already evident particularly from minorities, Roma communities

1) References to Kosovo shall be understood to be in the context of Security Council Resolution 1244 (1999)
UN remains operational. All UN agencies have activated their Business Continuity Plans (BCP) with non-critical staff working and operational from home. Main focus is now on helping authorities respond effectively to the COVId-19 outbreak.

**Preparedness and response of the UN system in Kosovo**

In support of Government measures, the UNKT is preparing a COVID-19 Preparedness and Response Plan (CPRP) to serve as a consolidated mechanism to match needs received from government/local authorities with appropriate response and identify gaps, also to be shared with development partners. It will be uploaded on the WHO Partnership Platform [https://covid-19-response.org/](https://covid-19-response.org/) to help match needs with resources.

**WHO**

WHO is continuously providing technical support and guidance to the Ministry of Health (MoH) and Institute of Public Health of Kosovo (IPH) in all aspects of COVID-19 prevention and control activities and is member of National Coordination Committee in response to COVID 19. All available infographics and communication materials have been distributed to national authorities, in all languages including Romani. WHO provided kits for testing and large number of PPE kits. Also, WHO assisted to prepare national contingency plan and assess Hospital Readiness.

**UNICEF**

UNICEF has donated PPE kits to Ministry of Health. UNICEF has requested additional amount of PPE supplies and is expecting its delivery to Kosovo shortly. UNICEF is also member of National Coordination Committee in response to COVID 19, providing support to ensure continuity of immunization and outreach programmes for mother and child. UNICEF continues to support MoH and IPH in developing and disseminating communication materials, for most vulnerable groups.

**UNFPA**

UNFPA has issued a document (Eng/Alb/Srb) on COVID-19 preventive measures/supportive therapies recommended for pregnant women and lactating mothers at risk: [http://unkt.org/2020/03/16/unkt-statement-covid-19-regard-pregnant-women-lactating-mothers/](http://unkt.org/2020/03/16/unkt-statement-covid-19-regard-pregnant-women-lactating-mothers/) . UNFPA is also in close contact with counterpart at MoH and ready to provide any support needed in sexual and reproductive health, including maternal health, also in defining support to most vulnerable communities, through implementing partner, Kosovo Red Cross.

**UNDP**

UNDP is liaising with the institutions, e.g. Dept for Emergency Management PIMO and MoH to determine the emergency response priority needs. UNDP has requested core funds to support coordination, planning, impact assessments, and usage of tech tools for COVID19 emergency response. UNDP is sharing with government best-practices from other countries (such as China) on how to use digital tools to fight the coronavirus; and how to avoid ‘infodemic’, i.e. spread of false information.

**IOM**

IOM is liaising with the DCAM (Department for Citizenship, Asylum and Migration) and closely monitoring the migration situation in Kosovo. Closing of crossing points had an impact of hundreds of migrants stranded in Kosovo and in need of shelter and support. IOM is planning for emergency funds to respond to the challenges, which will also apply to WB region.

**UNHCR**

UNHCR helps to ensure that authorities extend effectively their response to the asylum centers. Asylum centers have already reached their limit and categorized as high-risk level and health teams need to be available to respond at any time. UNHCR advocated for inclusion of asylum centers into the national response plan and delivered with a support of Mother Theresa Society sanitary and hygienic items to the asylum centers. UNHCR worked with the Kosovo Red Cross (KRC) to deliver a tent to the asylum center to be used for COVID-19 checks and isolation for new arrivals, enabling checks for new asylum seekers. UNHCR continue provide information and maintain communication with IDPs and returnees throughout Kosovo through a network of Partners and community volunteers.

![GIS representation of confirmed COVID19 cases in Kosovo & areas under quarantine as developed by UNMIK JARU unit](image-url)
Main restriction from authorities in the region

Restrictions in Albania:

Since 13 March, Albania has implemented a lockdown in major cities, including Tirana. Foreign nationals to go to the airport must receive written permission from the police to use the roads. All borders closed as of 15 March, except for transport of goods. Major intercity roads are closed.

Restrictions in Montenegro:

All international public air, railroad and road transport is suspended; ban on cruisers/yachts docking. Borders closed for foreigners, except for freight. Travel ban to high-risk countries with mandatory self-isolation for all suspected. Schools are closed.

Restrictions in Republic of North Macedonia:

Closure of airports and land borders for foreign citizens: except for freight. Only members of diplomatic community and those persons with authorization from Ministry of Interior can enter. Travel ban to high-risk and mid-risk countries, with mandatory 14-day self-isolation for people returning from all countries. Advise- stay at home and avoid crowding in public spaces.

Restrictions in Serbia:

State of Emergency declared. Prohibition against convening and holding rallies and all other gatherings of citizens outdoors; prohibition of all indoor gatherings except those of interest for operation and functioning of state bodies and services. Borders closed to all foreign nationals, except freight and for Chinese nationals assisting with outbreak response. Curfew for