SITUATION REPORT #11
COVID-19

9 APRIL 2020

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198 cases (1)
2570 cases tested

94 Female
104 Male

47 hospitalized
37 fully recovered
3 are critical
6 casualties

36 cases (2)

10 Female
23 Male
13 Unknown

Kosovo IPH COVID-19 data as per 9 April 2020, 06:00 hours

Global statistics from WHO 9 April at 09:00 hours

1,356,780 confirmed cases
79,385 deaths

1)Statistics, as available by the Kosovo Institute for Public Health
2)Recorded by Serbian health system
As of 9 April of 2020, 09:00 hours, according to IPH there are 198 total cases of laboratory-confirmed COVID-19. Number of verified casualties to COVID-19 in Kosovo is 6 cases. Five nurses from University Clinical Center have tested positive for COVID-19 on 8 April in addition to one official from the Ministry of Health. Co-workers from the Ministry of Health who have been in contact with the patient have all tested negative.

Currently 3 patients are in severe condition. 37 patients have fully recovered including Patient Zero. Currently under quarantine are the following municipalities: Klinë/a; Malishevë/Mališevo; Viti/Vitina, Mitrovica North and Zvečan/Zveçan and following villages: Dumnicë e Poshtme/Donja Dubnica, Podujevë/Podujevo Municipality, Dumnicë e Epërme/Gornja Dubnica, Podujevë/Podujevo Municipality, Llaushë/Lauša, Podujevë/Podujevo Municipality, Topanicë/Topanica, Kamenicë/Kamenica Municipality; Korishë/Koriša, Prizren/Prizren Municipality and Vrapçiq/Vrapčić Gjilan/Gnjilane Municipality.
Travel and Transport

Most international air travel to Kosovo is suspended as of 16 March 2020. Military flights and airplanes carrying cabin crew allowed to land in Pristina Airport for outgoing passengers. There is an exception for incoming medical flights and MEDEVAC.

Schedule for limited outgoing flights can be found at [http://www.airportpristina.com/](http://www.airportpristina.com/). Travel by land is restricted to all travelers except Kosovo passport holders, staff of diplomatic/consular missions, international organizations, foreigners with residence in Kosovo, and freight. Every person, irrespective of nationality entering Kosovo is placed under mandatory 14-day quarantine/isolation. Intercity transport is suspended as well as organized international transport of passengers. All public transportation has been discontinued. Taxi services are available during 06:00 hours to 17:00 hours.

Measures by the government and public institutions

The government took early measures to prevent the spread of the COVID-19. Since then, new measures have gradually been introduced to mitigate and contain COVID-19. The government declared COVID-19 a Public Health Emergency on 15 March. Curfew schedule continues to be from 17:00 to 06:00 hours. The list of the pharmacies operating during curfew hours will be updated daily on the link [https://bit.ly/3avP32k](https://bit.ly/3avP32k)

While, the curfew is well respected, there are a lot of movement of vehicles and persons during the day. Police are present on the streets to ensure continued compliance but need to be reinforced. On 6 April, Municipality of Prishtinë/Priština decided to further limit the movement of people in squares and pedestrian areas with the help of Kosovo Police.

Municipalities of Mitrovica (south), Obiliq/c, Podujeve/o and Prishtine/Pristina have contracted private companies for the disinfection of public buildings.

During past 24 hours, 30 cases involving 63 persons have been reported by police of failure to comply with government-imposed restrictions in different locations all over Kosovo. Respecting the curfew and other measures to restrict movement is the most effective means to prevent a sharp increase of new COVID-19 infections, above all: stay-at-home, self-isolate, keep social/physical distance and frequent washing of hands.

The government of Kosovo in a virtual meeting on 8 April, has approved an initiative for negotiating a loan package with World Bank, EBRD, IMF, Islamic Bank for Development, European Bank for Investment and bilateral official financial institutions of different countries or the EU. The authorization is limited for a loan of up to 250 million Euro, with interest rate below 3% and maturity up to 15 years.

Distance learning program continues every weekday from 09:00 hours and ending at 6:00 hours, covering full curricula for classes 1-9. After broadcast on TV (in Albanian, Turkish and Bosnian, the material becomes available on the subsequent YouTube channel of RTK. More information and instructions are available at [https://masht.rks-gov.net/e-mesimi](https://masht.rks-gov.net/e-mesimi)
Public and Private Services

Currently all emergency and other core government functions continue to operate. Municipalities continue to provide civil documentation, albeit with reduced capacities. As of April 7, individuals who are not equipped with masks and gloves will not be able to receive services in the Municipality of Prishtinë/Priština. Additionally, all grocery stores in the Municipality of Prishtinë/Priština are obliged to disinfect on a regular basis and continuously disinfect all shopping carts and baskets. It must be proved by relevant reports of the disinfection companies. Grocery stores are also obliged to appoint a responsible person for organizing and maintaining the proper physical distance of customers.

The Ministry of Health has created a special website https://www.kosova.health/en/ with current official Kosovo statistics, and measures taken to prevent further transmission of the disease. Also, visitors at the website can do an interactive self-evaluation to verify for COVID-19 symptoms. There is also a possibility to register for volunteering at the same website. An emergency phone line is: 038 200 80 800 (0.02 cents per minute).

Situation in municipalities in the north and those with Serb majority

There are 36 reported COVID-19 cases in northern Kosovo, and in municipalities with Serbian majority. On 3 April, North Mitrovica and Zvečan/Zveçan were placed under quarantine, with some exceptions for movement, such as suppliers and other emergency. The decision was coordinated between both mayors, the Kosovo Police, and relevant ministries of the government of Kosovo.

On 5 April, the acting GoK Minister of Internal Affairs and Mayor Bahtiri visited multi-ethnic and K-Albanian villages in North Mitrovica and Zvečan/Zveçan to distribute food and hygiene packages provided by the Kosovo Red Cross and South Mitrovica Municipality.

Current curfew hours are weekends from 15:00 to 05:00 hours and weekdays from 17:00 to 05:00 hours.

Observations important to health, socio-economic and human rights dimensions of COVID-19 outbreak

As can be seen from signals from banks, the business community as well as calls from civil society and reports from vulnerable groups, the social and economic impact of COVID-19 will be significant. Some early measures have been taken authorities and Central Bank of Kosovo. This needs to be expanded and an integrated comprehensive socio-economic response developed.

It is of utmost important that Human rights are upheld in the context of the ongoing health and sanitary crisis in Kosovo, as elsewhere. Vigilance needs to be observed for instances of discrimination and stigma, as well as limitations to fundamental freedoms such as freedom of movement, expression, assembly and association, and the right to privacy.

Overall, while measures to contain the health crisis in Kosovo do not seem to disproportionately affect the enjoyment of human rights, they should remain as non-intrusive as possible and in line with requirements of legality and necessity, and in accordance with international human rights law.
Observations and concerns in Roma communities:

The curfew has had some positive impact on restricting movements and group gatherings as until now, the awareness and knowledge about COVID-19 and prevention measures was very limited. This points to the urgency to ensure that appropriate information reaches this particular population and that channels of communication is established with respective municipal emergency headquarters. Living conditions including eg density, limited access to water, increases vulnerability to COVID-19 exponentially.

Roma communities have reported significant needs for assistance, food and non-food items. As in cases of many vulnerable and exposed communities, thousands of families have close to zero socio-economic cushion to cope in situation of crisis. Many of them complement social assistance with scrap collection/recycling, something which now is being seriously affected by the current situation, hence basic health and food assistance is becoming increasingly urgent.

In addition to UN assistance, Red Cross and NGOs such as Mother Theresa (below), CoE has provided some assistance to vulnerable Roma communities (https://pjp-eu.coe.int/en/web/roma-local-governance/-/covid-19-romacted-assists-the-most-vulnerable-in-the-community).

Innovation

On 3 and 4 April, the National Theatre in Prishtine/Pristina started to broadcast live drama plays from the theatre through Facebook. First two plays were highly successful and well attended virtually, hence from 8 April at 20:00 plays from different theatres in Kosovo will be broadcasted. Full schedule and information of upcoming events can be found at the https://bit.ly/390rTTG hashtag #rinshpishikoteater (from Albanian stay at home and watch theater).

According to the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports additional cultural events will be transmitted live over social media soon, including but not limited to the ballet, folklore ensemble Shota performances, while soon even an online exhibition of the Art Gallery will be organized.

United Nations Family in Kosovo

UN remains operational both working from home as well as in the field directly helping vulnerable groups. Coordination mechanisms are established with partners and support intensified not only to authorities to respond effectively to the COVID-19 outbreak but also distributing assistance directly to vulnerable groups and families.

Response of the UN system in Kosovo

WHO is the lead agency for health related coordination with Ministry of Health. Overall coordination is led by the UN RC/DC. WHO remains in daily contact with Ministry of Health and Institute of Public Health in supporting an effective response. WHO and a few other UNKT agencies are members of the inter-institutional crisis management group.

WHO hosts trainings on 6 different topics to support a more effective COVID-19 response https://openwho.org/courses/

Socio-economic impact assessment and recovery framework

The Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan (SPRP) finalized by the UNKT outlines the public health measures that the international community stands ready to provide to support Kosovo to effective and efficient response to 2019 nCoV and its available on https://covid-19-response.org/ for donors and partners to view. The SPRP is a living document and will be updated as the situation and the needs develop. UNKT in coordination with Word Bank and other partners is launching a series of assessments to measure the socio-economic impacts of COVID-19.
UNDP will lead a rapid socio-economic assessment while UN Women and UNFPA will undertake an assessment of gender dimensions of COVID-19. Both with first results available end April. Consequent assessments may be sectoral or focusing on cross cutting priorities such as labor market, productive sectors or specifically vulnerable groups. The assessments will inform the development of an integrated UN interagency recovery framework to respond to the impacts of COVID-19. The UN recovery framework will be available next week and is hoped to serve both government as well as international community in Kosovo.

**Marking World Health Day amidst pandemics**

Globally, this year’s World Health Day, was marked on 7 April, with focus on the vital role played by nurses and midwives in providing health care around the world, particularly against the backdrop of the COVID-19 pandemic. UN Women, UNFPA, and WHO, launched a communications campaign focusing on the global theme “Support Nurses and Midwives” already reaching more than 5000 people in Kosovo in three languages English, Albanian and Serbian over social media. The WHO Europe press release “calling on governments to invest in nurses for a healthy Europe” was also locally translated in Albanian and Serbian and picked up by several media outlets.

**Response to Increasing GBV/DV and Support to Shelters and other Gender Dimensions of the COVID-19 Outbreak**

UN Women chaired on 8 April the multi-stakeholder Security and Gender Group (SGG) with 45 online participants focusing on coordinating prevention of domestic violence, economic insecurity in responding to the needs of women and girls in Kosovo during COVID-19. Data from Kosovo Police shows that domestic violence has increased during the pandemic, when compared to the same period last year. Only during March this year 169 cases were reported, compared to 124 cases in March 2019. During the January – March 2020 period, there are 481 cases of domestic violence reported, compared to 383 cases reported last year. To address the issue, UN Women is launching an awareness raising campaign aiming at increasing the reporting of domestic violence cases, by sensitizing victims of GBV to report cases and seek assistance.

**Asylum Seekers, refugees and migrants**

Currently, there are 187 asylum-seekers in Asylum Centers in Kosovo. UNHCR is supporting the asylum centers with internet connection. The installation of equipment has been finalized in the Asylum Centre in Magure/a. The number of new arrivals in the Detention Center that has been designated as a quarantine is 31 persons. According to the authorities they need hygienic items and clothing.

**Internally Displaced Persons and Voluntary Returnees**

UNHCR distributed food and hygienic items to 18 families with 72 family members of K-Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian returnee families in Ferizaj/Urosevac. UNHCR continues with advocacy interventions and coordination with the humanitarian community for support of those in need. A joint Task Team meeting on internally displaced persons and returnees took place on Wednesday with participation of UNHCR, IOM, OHCHR, DRC and UNMIK in order to coordinate joint humanitarian response.
EU’s announced a support package for Kosovo: Euro 5 million for immediate needs in cooperation with UNOPS; 50 million to ease socio-economic impact, and up to 13 million in budget support.

The US government through USAID has committed a first tranche of $1.1 million to, through WHO and UNICEF cover immediate needs to increase national capacities in responding to the COVID-19 outbreak.

Norway confirmed a contribution of 450,000 Euros and Switzerland (SDC) confirmed a contribution 430,000 Euros. With support from UNDP, these funds will be used to purchase mobile ventilators which are expected to reach Kosovo by early May.

Overall, Germany is one of top 5 donors to WHO in its response to COVID-19 globally. On 31 March 2020, a joint global statement by UNHCR, IOM, OHCHR and WHO, was released, calling for protection of Refugees and Migrants, reminding of LNOB during the COVID-19 Pandemic: “We cannot allow fear or intolerance to undermine rights or compromise the effectiveness of responses to the global pandemic. We are all in this together. We can only defeat this virus when each one of us is protected.”

Globally, UNHCR launched a $255 million appeal on 26 March as part of the wider UN appeal. On 3 April, Sony responded positively to the appeal, the first private sector to respond. The UN Secretary General has launched a report “Shared responsibility, global solidarity”: “Responding to the socio-economic impacts of COVID-19” on 31 March 2020, with recommendations geared to empower governments & propel partners to act urgently


The UN SG’s call for global cease-fire on 23 March 2020 backed by among other dignities by Pope Francis, UN Messengers of Peace https://bit.ly/2UU0343 and heeded by various warring parties as ceasefire was declared in Philippines, Yemen, Cameroon, Colombia, as well as fragile truce in parts of Middle East. The appeal has been signed by more than 1,5 million people online https://avaaz.org/campaign/en/global_ceasefire_loc/

![GIS representation of confirmed COVID19 cases in Kosovo](Developed by UNMIK JARU)
For more information, visit or contact UN Kosovo Team (15 Agencies and the Coordination Office)

Web: www.unkt.org
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/UNKosovoTeam
Twitter: https://twitter.com/UNKosovoTeam
Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/unkosovoteam/

UN Development Coordinator Ulrika Richardson
Twitter: https://twitter.com/UNKT_DC

UNDP
Website: https://www.ks.undp.org/content/kosovo/en/home.html
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/UNDP.Kosovo
Twitter: https://twitter.com/UNDP_Kosovo

UNICEF
Website: https://www.unicef.org/kosovoprogramme/
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Twitter: https://twitter.com/unwomenkosovo

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UNHCR
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Twitter: https://www.twitter.com/Refugees
Instagram : https://instagram.com/refugees?igshid=6sgykcvdqww

WHO
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/WHOEurope
Twitter: https://twitter.com/who_europe

Kosovo authorities

Ministry of Health:
Website: http://msh.rks-gov.net/
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/Ministria-e-Shëndetësisë-597689407055317

Institute of Public Health:
Website: www.niph-rks.org/
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/InstitutiiKosovesperAdministratePublike
WHO, UNICEF and UNDP partnered with WhatsApp with the aim is to get real time health information to billions around the world on COVID-19: The WhatsApp Corona-virus Information Hub provides simple, actionable guidance for health workers, educators, community leaders, nonprofits, local governments and local businesses and offers general tips and resources to reduce the spread of rumors and connect with accurate health information: [https://www.whatsapp.com/coronavirus](https://www.whatsapp.com/coronavirus)

Or join WHO’s Health Alert on WhatsApp:

- For Arabic send "ابحـرـم" to +41 22 501 70 23 on WhatsApp [wa.me/41225017023](wa.me/41225017023?text=ابحـرـم)
- For French send "salut" to +41 22 501 72 98 on WhatsApp [wa.me/41225017298](wa.me/41225017298?text=salut)
- For Spanish send "hola" to +41 22 501 76 90 on WhatsApp [wa.me/41225017690](wa.me/41225017690?text=hola)
- For English send "hi" to +41 79 893 18 92 on WhatsApp [wa.me/41798931892](wa.me/41798931892?text=hi)

To stay up to date with the latest information, please visit:

- World Health Organization: [https://tinyurl.com/yx6vexyp](https://tinyurl.com/yx6vexyp)
- Latest news on the United Nations’ response: [https://tinyurl.com/sf5ggwe](https://tinyurl.com/sf5ggwe)
- WHO guidance for countries: [https://tinyurl.com/sz5zrl9](https://tinyurl.com/sz5zrl9)
- Coronavirus (COVID-19) Situation: [https://tinyurl.com/tpr4rzc](https://tinyurl.com/tpr4rzc)

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