2 APRIL 2020 by 18:00 hours

126 total number of COVID19 confirmed cases out 1,500 tests performed at Kosovo IPH Microbiological Lab
47 hospitalized
76 self-isolation

Female 55
Male 71

10 cases fully recovered
5 cases in severe condition
1 case of casualty associated with COVID

Global statistics from WHO at 18:00 hours

896,450 confirmed cases
45,526 deaths
205 countries, areas or territories with identified cases

Highlights of data & information reported by Kosovo institution and WHO

As of 2 April of 2020, 18:00 hours, there are 126 total cases of laboratory-confirmed COVID-19. One 82-year-old man has died. Ten patients have fully recovered.

The priority now is to prevent a sharp increase of new COVID-19 infections, therefore it is most urgent to ensure that the population follow introduced measures and recommendations and above all stay-at-home, self-isolate, keep social/physical distance and frequent washing of hands.


New government measures, including a new curfew schedule, are: Curfew from 17:00 to 06:00 hours. Licensed pharmacies will operate after 17:00 hours with a rotational on-duty shifts. The list of the pharmacies operating during curfew hours will be update daily on the link - https://bit.ly/3avP32k These measures are complementary to the previous measures adopted by the government to prevent and contain the spread of the COVID-19.

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. 37 persons have been arrested by the police for non-complying to curfew measures within the last 48 hours.

The initial government decision to close schools until 28 March was extended and further distance learning courses will be provided for the elementary and secondary school, classes 1-9 on RTK1 starting at 11:15 hours in Albanian, classes 1-5 on RTK2 starting at 12:30 hours in Turkish, classes 1-5 on RTK2 starting at 15:30 hours in Bosnian.

1) Statistics, as available by the Kosovo Institute for Public Health
After broadcast on TV the material becomes available on the subsequent YouTube channel of RTK. A more complete curricula will be offered from 6 April by MEST over the same channel.

From 19 March, there have been 493 Kosovo Passport holders that have returned mainly from Germany, Switzerland, Croatia and Scandinavia quarantined in the student dorms. 53 have been released to self-isolate at home. Two were transferred to Hospital, while only one has tested positive for COVID-19.

Currently at the dorms, there are 438 persons, that will begin testing today for COVID-19 and subsequently be released home, hospitalized or self-isolated at home until recovery, depending on the specificities of each case. The student dorms facilities have additional space for 100 more persons, while many more are expected to return from abroad, including many from high risk countries.
Most international air travel to Kosovo is suspended as of 16 March 2020. According to the government decision of mandatory quarantine for each incoming traveler. 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. 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. By government decision, all public transportation has been discontinued. Hence, from 31 March public transportation in Prishtine/a is discontinued. Taxi Services are available only during 06:00 hours to 17:00 hours.

Currently all emergency and other core government functions are fully functional. Approximately 300 volunteers are helping the health workers coordinated and instructed by the Ministry of Health, Municipalities continue provide civil documentation, albeit with reduced capacities. The Ministry of Health has created a special website https://www.kosova.health/en/ with current official Kosovo statistics, and measures to be 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 aspirational: 038 200 80 800 (0.02 cents per minute).

Formon, a private company in Kosovo specialized in production of the 3D printers, has developed a prototype Ventilator/Respirator, out of 3d printed parts, and they testing it. If tests prove to be efficient, they will go into full production for potential needs for Kosovo patients. See more in the LINK = https://bit.ly/2X0Bnsd

There are 13 reported COVID-19 cases in northern Kosovo, of which one patient was transferred to Belgrade and two to Niš, one of which, died last night.

In the northern part, restrictions and measures are being followed as per instructions from Belgrade. The Government of Serbia is considering assignment of temporary employment of doctors and nurses in majority Serb areas. A facility for examination of suspected patients and for future mass-testing is being set up in North Mitrovica as reported on 27 March. The city has access to 174 volunteers. On 29 March, curfew hours were extended on weekends to 15:00 to 05:00 hours while weekday curfew remains 17:00 to 05:00 hours.

On 31 March, the Crisis HQ of North Mitrovica (GoS) distributed 4,900 protective masks, 510 liters of alcohol, 3,000 bottles of “asepsol” and 200 pumps for disinfection of building entrances. Distributions continue throughout the north with 1,200 vulnerable families supplied with packages in South Mitrovica. On 31 March, disinfection in public venues and public and residential buildings was carried out by all five municipalities in the Mitrovica region.
**Observations important to health & socio-economic impact of COVID-19 outbreak**

The UN family is receiving messages from NGOs and vulnerable populations about increasing need for food and non-food items, including from a group of NGOs from Roma Mahalla in Fushë Kosovë/Kosovo polje, requesting food aid 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. This calls for urgent short-term socio-economic response in terms of eg expanded safety nets, social protection measures and/or cash transfers.

In addition to the increasing socio-economic impacts observed by the COVID-19 outbreak, attention needs to be given to the gender dimensions of this health crisis, such as special maternal health and SRHR issues but also increasing domestic violence (DV). According to Mr. Arsim Shala, Chief of DV unit in the Kosovo Police, there is a significant increase of reported cases of Domestic Violence over the past two weeks. This calls for strengthened response, monitoring and awareness raising as well as increased support to shelters.

**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:

- Health and safety briefing for respiratory diseases - ePROTECT [https://bit.ly/2WWV5Fm](https://bit.ly/2WWV5Fm);

**Supplies**

On 30 March, UNOPS today signed a 5 million EUR contract with the EU Office in Pristina, for procurement of emergency supplies in close coordination with UN DC Office, WHO and Ministry of Health to strengthen the COVID-19 response.

**Risk Communication**

900 posters, printed by UNDCO and produced by WHO, in English/Albanian/Serbian, Romani, Turkish and Arabic have been disseminated and placed on locations visible to specific communities by UN agencies and Ministry of Health, and red cross. An additional batch of 900 posters, requested by Ministry of Health, were produced by UNDCO and will be handed over to MoH for dissemination.

**Response to Increasing GBV/DV and Support to Shelters**

UNFPA, UNDP, UNWOMEN and UNICEF in coordination and cooperation were able to secure some of the necessary items to ensure the appropriate function of the shelters for protection of women and children throughout Kosovo.
UNDP and UNFPA pooled funds to cover the cost of food items for all nine (9) shelters, which is expected to last for about two months which will be distributed through private company Meridian, which covered transportation and drinks in kind. Prior to that, UNICEF provided the same shelters with hygienic packs through facilitation of UNWOMEN.

Delivery of the hygienic packs started 1 April, actively monitored by UNDP and UNFPA. Yesterday hygienic items were delivered to four shelters in Prishtinë/Priština (total 160 kits), shelter in Gjakove/Dakovica (80 kits), in Gjilan-Gnjilane (60 kits), in Mitrovicë/a (61 kits), in Peja/Peć (50 kits), in Novo berdo (19 kits), in Prizren (50 kits), and today in the shelter in Ferizaj/Uroševac (50 kits). In total of 530 hygienic kits were distributed.

UNWOMEN is in the process of providing clothes, bed linen and electronic devices to GBV shelters so that children there can attend distance learning classes organized by MEST. As a result of joint UN Agencies effort gender-based violence 530 women/DV survivors in shelters in Kosovo have been provided with supplies for their essential needs such as food and hygienic kits. UN Women continues to monitor the situation in shelters and is in contact with Kosovo Police – DV Unit, according to who there is a significant increase of reported cases of Domestic Violence.

**Other gender dimensions of the COVID-19 outbreak**

UNWOMEN social media posts on the importance of gender-sensitive COVID-19 response reached around 45,000 individuals.

UNFPA in close cooperation with MOH is gathering data for the needs on Sexual and Reproductive Health including Family Planning, as well as for the PPE for midwives and doctors for ensuring the safety and security of pregnant women and delivery in all maternities throughout Kosovo.

**Support to Vulnerable Families and Children**

From 22 March, UNICEF Kosovo Office started with distribution of family hygiene kits as a response to the needs of the most vulnerable families during COVID-19. Up to now 12,000 family hygiene kits have been distributed in partnership with Red Cross of Kosovo, Municipal Authorities and to the Centers for Protection of Woman and Children throughout Kosovo. Latest distribution by UNICEF Kosovo Office as follows:

- On 30 March distributed 2000 family hygiene kits through Red Cross of Kosovo to families in need in Deçan/Dečane, Junik, Pejë/Peć, Istog/k, Dragash/š and Prishtinë/Priština.
- On 31 March distributed 2119 family hygiene kits in Kaçanj, Hani i Elezit/Elez han, Kamenica/a, Novo berdo, Viti/Vitinje, Malishevo/o, Rahovec/Orahovac, Drenas/Glogovac and Skenderaj/Srbica.
- UNICEF Zvecan Office with the support of CARITAS Kosovo and UNHCR distributed 320 family hygiene kits covering Leposavic/q, Lesak/Leshak and Soicanica/Soçanicë. All Internally Displaced People (IDP’s) living in the North were covered. Additional, 140 were distributed for people living in collective centers in four northern Mitrovica Region Municipalities.
- On 02 April distributed 400 family hygiene kits in Podujeva and 50 in Ferizaj to the Shelter for Protection of Women and Children.

Social media campaign on engaging parents, children and young people is continuing. Early Childhood Development #WhileAtHome campaign reached more than 100,000.00 people whereas the social media campaign #WhileAtHome #StayConnected on engaging young people online through UNICEF Innovations Lab, only in five days reached more than 84,000.00 people.
Situation of Migrants, Refugees, IDPs, Returnees and Asylum Seekers

No new asylum-seekers arrived. In total 191 asylum-seekers are currently present in Kosovo. Border Police reported no new arrivals at the border crossing points. The border Police is preventing the entries through the green line.

UNHCR is continuing its close communication with Municipal Crisis Teams, advocating for inclusion of internally displaced persons (IDPs) and returnees in their assistance plans. Most of the municipalities are becoming operational with the assistance distribution. UNHCR has conducted an assessment targeting person of concern. UNHCR is providing assistance to the identified vulnerable internally displaced persons and returnees.

Innovation

Innovation Centre Kosovo (ICK) is organizing an online hackathon Hack the Crisis Kosova on 2-4 April engaging researchers, institutions, private sectors, startups and tech enthusiasts to find innovative solutions for COVID-19 pandemic. UNDP Kosovo is one of the donors and will award the prize for the “MOST PROMISING IDEA”. Our own Lola Gojani Mazrek, protocol expert, will be one of the mentors at this hackathon. Learn more at: https://hackthecrisiskosova.com/

Financial Contributions and Pledges to Kosovo and Globally in Responding to the Fighting COVID-19 Pandemic

EU’s has announced a support package for Kosovo (Euro 5 million for immediate needs; 50 million to ease socio-economic impact, and up to 13 million in budget support). The allocation for the immediate needs is implemented through UNOPS, as announced in the signatory ceremony of 30 March.

The US government through USAID has committed a first tranche of aid in the amount of $1.1 million aimed primarily at immediate needs to increase national capacities to respond to the COVID-19 outbreak.

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 COVID19 Pandemic, while stating that “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 has made a $255 million appeal, with other possible contributions under negotiation and also joined the IASC appeal.

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 http://unkt.org/2020/03/31/shared-responsibility-global-solidarity-responding-socio-economic-impacts-covid-19/
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

Or join WHO’s Health Alert on WhatsApp:
For Arabic send "ابحرم" to +41 22 501 70 23 on WhatsApp wa.me/41225017023?text=ابحرم
For French send "salut" to +41 22 501 72 98 on WhatsApp wa.me/41225017298?text=salut
For Spanish send "hola" to +41 22 501 76 90 on WhatsApp wa.me/41225017690?text=hola
For English send "hi" to +41 79 893 18 92 on WhatsApp wa.me/41798931892?text=hi

From 1 April 2020 Viber chatbot on COVID-19 is also available in English, Arabic and Russian https://viber.com/coronavirusinfo Information provided is sourced or verified by WHO.
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/unkovoteam/

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
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UNWOMEN
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/unwomenkosovo/
Twitter: https://twitter.com/unwomenkosovo

UNFPA
Website: https://koso.unfpa.org/
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/unfpakosovo/
Twitter: https://twitter.com/UnfpaKosovo

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/InstitutiKosovesperAdministratëPublike

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

World Health Organization: https://tinyurl.com/yx6vexyp
WHO guidance for countries: https://tinyurl.com/sz5zrl9
Coronavirus (COVID-19) Situation: https://tinyurl.com/tpr4rzc