SITUATION REPORT #19
COVID-19

3,090,445 Confirmed COVID-19 Cases 211,028 Deaths related to COVID-19

799
Total number of cases identified with COVID-19 in Kosovo

780 cases¹
254 recovered
17 casualties
509 active

102 cases²
58 recovered
8 casualties
36 active

Note: Tables, graphs and statistics as provided by the Kosovo Institute of Public Health

Globally according to WHO, as per 1 May 2020, 08:00 hours³
3,090,445 Confirmed COVID-19 Cases 211,028 Deaths related to COVID-19

¹ Data provided by the Kosovo Institute of Health
² Data provided by Serbian health system in Kosovo
Achievement of the week: A provisional quarantine facility for survivors of Domestic Violence was made possible through a multi-sectoral dialogue, initiated by UNFPA and UN Women, involving actors such as the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Agency for Gender Equality/Prime Minister’s Office.

Kosovo statistics and measures taken to prevent further transmission of the disease are available at https://www.kosova.health/en/. Visitors can do an interactive self-evaluation to verify for COVID-19 symptoms and there is a possibility to register for volunteering at the same website. Emergency phone: 038 200 80 800 (0.02 cents per minute).

Municipalities under quarantine: Vitë/Vitina; Klinë/Klina; Malisheвë/Mališevo; Mitrovica/Mitrovicë North; Zvečan/Zveçan; Ferizaj/Uroševac; Prishtinë/Priština; Suharekë/Suva Reka; Prizren; Pejë/Peć.

Villages under quarantine: Topunicë /Topanica and Hodonoc/Odanovce from Kamenicë/Kamenica municipality; Pjetershicë/Petraštica and Vojnoci/Vojnovce from Shtime/Štimlje municipality; Smrekonicë/Smrekovnica and Samadrehë/Samodreža from Vushtrri/Vučitrn municipality and Zabeli i Ultë/Donji Zabelj, Glogoc/Glogovac.

Key Highlights, Measures and Response
New government measures

The new measures, published on 30 April, are introduced to take effect as of 4 May, in four phases, based on the understanding that full adherence to the recommendations will be observed by the population, institutions and private sector, such as respecting social distance, disinfecting practices and the use of masks and other protective equipment when needed. They are also subject to continuous monitoring and can be withdrawn if not respected. Finally, they are also subject to the epidemiolocal developments.

Failure to comply with restrictions: From 24 to 29 April there were 148 cases involving 217 persons have been reported by police, as failure to comply with government-imposed restrictions all over Kosovo.

All planned steps of return to normality are conditioned by the improvement of the epidemiological situation determined by the Ministry of Health. Activities will open gradually

All the above-mentioned activities must adopt standard operation procedures in accordance to the rules set forth in the epidemiological protocol as published by the Ministry of Health.

Transition must be guided by public health principles, economic and societal considerations

Criteria to manage a controlled transition

1. Evidence COVID-19 transmission is controlled
2. Sufficient public health and health system capacities
3. Outbreak risks in high-vulnerability settings are
4. Workplace preventive measures are established
5. Risk of imported cases are managed
6. Communities are fully engaged in the transition

Source: WHO. (Draft) Transitioning to and maintaining a steady state of low-level or no transmission (13 April 2020)
Situation in the municipalities with Serbian majority community

As per 30 April, a total of 102 cases have been verified by the Serbian health system in Kosovo, all from north municipalities. 56 have fully recovered and 8 have died.

UN in Kosovo

Since the onset of the COVID-19 outbreak, the UN Family in Kosovo have provided (i) emergency support to the health system in terms of supplies, advise and other technical support, (ii) humanitarian assistance to vulnerable families and groups, (iii) technical and normative guidance to institutions and civil society, and (iv) coordination support, totaling a value of approx. US$ 8 M of core and non-core contributions.

Support and assistance of the UN system in Kosovo

WHO is the lead agency for health related coordination with Ministry of Health. Overall UN response to COVID-19 is led by the UN RC/DC. WHO remains in daily contact with Ministry of Health and Institute of Public Health in support of an effective the health system response. WHO and UNDP together with other select UNKT agencies are members of the inter-institutional crisis management group. UNDP provides material, communications and planning support to the functioning of the group.

Socio-economic impact assessment and Response Plan

The UN family is producing a series of socio-economic assessments that will serve to inform a more effective response. UNKT is also developing a Socio-Economic Response Plan under the strategic leadership of the UN Development Coordinator and the technical lead by the UNDP. This Plan represents an integrated support package that the United Nations development system can offer as it tailors its response Kosovo to support systems and institutions and protect the needs and rights of people living under the duress of the pandemic, with particular focus on those who are at risk of being left behind.

Additionally, the COVID-19 Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan (SPRP) developed by the UNKT in coordination with Ministry of Health and other authorities, which outlines the initial immediate needs and gaps of the public health measures as well as initial socio-economic needs, including the financial costs is available on global platform https://covid-19-response.org/ for donors and partners to view. The SPRP is a living document and will be updated as the situation develops.

Asylum Seekers, refugees and migrants

All crossing points remain closed. Although no new arrivals entered in Kosovo in the last period, two migrants were transported by the Police to the quarantine in Vranidoll/Vranidol asylum center.

Presently there are 17 persons in the quarantine in the center for foreigners in Vranidoll/Vranidol. 83 asylum-seekers are accommodated in the asylum center in Magurë/Magura, 90 in Vranidoll/Vranidol and 16 in Tauk Bahçe. The authorities in the asylum centers highlighted the need for clothing for the asylum-seekers. The internet connection provided by UNHCR in two asylum centers is functional enabling provision of services to the asylum-seekers.
Internally Displaced Persons and Voluntary Returnees

25 to 30 April, IOM through the EU-RRK V project, assisted 63 additional vulnerable families with food and non-food items in the municipalities of Novoberde/Novo Brdo, Obiliq/Obilic and Gracanica/Gracanica. This counts to total of 181 families assisted so far. Along with packages beneficiaries have also received WHO information, posters on COVID-19 protection measures. This additional support was approved by the EU Office in the context of emergency assistance to help families in need in response to the COVID-19 outbreak.

UNHCR and partners continue to assist vulnerable returnees and IDPs to register in employment offices and apply for Emergency Fiscal Package. Advocacy interventions conducted by UNHCR and its partners are resulting with the inclusion of UNHCR persons of concern in humanitarian aid responses by municipalities and different NGOs. The 52 most vulnerable returnee families remaining with no housing solution and need assistance for paying rent as many of them are under threat of eviction by the owners of the accommodations.

Assistance to vulnerable families

On 29 April, UNFPA and UN Women delivered hygiene packages, clothes, bed linen, towels and other items to provisional quarantine facilities for cases of gender-based violence and domestic violence prior to admission in the shelters.

From 26 of April, UNICEF in partnership with USAID has reached out to 20,000 families in need and 240 health centers with hygiene kits all around Kosovo. UNICEF distributed 250 kits in Mitrovica; 150 in Skenderaj/Srbica; 256 in Vushtrri/Vučitrn; 60 to Turkish NGO “Birdik” for Turkish community; 180 in Priluzje/Priluzhë, Grace, Gobulja/Gobul, Banjska/ë; 234 in Prizren; 120 Dragash; 250 Suhareka/Suva reka and 50 in Mamushë/Mamuša.

No internally displaced persons (IDPs) nor voluntary returnees have been reported to be suffering from COVID-19.

Crisis communication and campaigns

TVocUp platform, an IOM supported initiative, has produced a video “Stay at home” in Serbian language in relation to COVID19 response. This video has been regularly shown in RTK2 tv for more than a month and will continue to do so. This is part of a commitment to provide information relevant to COVID19 for non-majority communities. LINK https://bit.ly/3d5wWkB

UNICEF Office tailored #WhileAtHome online media campaign specifically for children living with disabilities where many public influencers are engaged to advocate for realization of children’s rights even during COVID-19, reaching up to 10k views per day with multitude of post and engagement. During the week reached around 650,000 people through social media with the release of two press releases and with continues activities undertaken as part of #WhileAtHome social media campaign.

Advocacy of the week: Thursdays Variety was initiated by UN Development Coordinator’s Office & Ministry of Youth, Culture and Sports, supported by Youth for Kosovo UNDP, UNWOMEN, UNICEF and UN Volunteers. The objective of this recurring event is to promote UN75 campaign by calling to respond to the UN75 survey in English, Albanian and Serbian. It also carries messages on COVID-19 approved by WHO. The event on 16 April with count-author Shpat Deda, also focused on messaging against #misinfodemics and against hate speech, while the event on 30 April focused on promoting crowdfunding campaign ‘Close To Heart’, & Women’s Empowerment. Links to online events: Gipsy Groove Concert on 30 April; Shpat Deda concert on 16 April 2020 part.1 & part.2

Outreach of the week: on 30 April, UNICEF Head of Office and Mission Director of USAID visited health center in Gračanica/Graçanica to witnessed first-hand distribution of PPE kits for doctors and nurses. Besides PPE kits, posters with basic information on “how to be protected from COVID19” were distributed.
UN appeals and global initiatives to respond to COVID-19 Pandemic

On 29 April 2020 UN Human Rights Office published a guidance note LINK: https://bit.ly/2YifOnE for all stakeholders on COVID-19 and the human rights of persons with disabilities. UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet said: ‘People with disabilities not only face greater risks from COVID-19, they also are disproportionately affected by response measures, including lockdowns. To address this double risk, we need to be engaging persons with disabilities in the COVID-19 response, and adapting plans to address their needs.

By 29 April 2020, the initiative launched by EU, GRULAC and the Group of Friends of Children and the SDG, as a response to the UNSG’s ‘Call on countries to prioritize children’s education, food, health and safety amid COVID-19 pandemic’ LINK: https://bit.ly/2yXmpsX, has reached 169 signatures from countries, territories, and supranational entities.

On April 27, a new UN Framework was launched by the UN Deputy Secretary-General and the UNDP Administrator laying out a roadmap to lift economies and save jobs after COVID-19. Though “there will be no return to the ‘old normal’”, the UN Framework for the immediate socio-economic response to COVID-19 ‘Shared responsibility, global solidarity and urgent action for people in need’ calls for protecting jobs, businesses and livelihoods to set in motion a safe recovery of societies and economies as soon as possible for a more sustainable, gender-equal, and carbon-neutral path — even better than the “old normal”.

For previous UN Appeals, SGs appeals, events and messages please see LINK https://bit.ly/2yVtOZY

For official sources of information on COVID-19 as well as official online sources of UN entities please see LINK https://bit.ly/2YoHZ4u

Contact: Shpend Qamili, Advocacy and Outreach, Office of UN Development Coordinator

Shpend.Qamili@un.org