SITUATION REPORT #21
COVID-19

927
Total number of cases identified with COVID-19 in Kosovo

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cases</th>
<th>Recovered</th>
<th>Casualties</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>902 cases¹</td>
<td>663</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>116 cases²</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>219 active</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>11</td>
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</tbody>
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Note: Tables, graphs and statistics as provided by the Kosovo Institute of Public Health

Globally according to WHO, as per 15 May 2020, 08:00 hours³

4,258,666 Confirmed COVID-19 Cases
294,190 Deaths related to COVID-19

¹ Data provided by the Kosovo Institute of Health
² Data provided by Serbian health system in Kosovo
³ Source WHO [https://covid19.who.int/]

15 MAY 2020
UNITED NATIONS
KOSOVO TEAM
Achievement of the week
UNDP and the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg delivered on 8 May 5,000 COVID-19 extraction test kits to the National Institute of Public Health (NIPHK) and the Ministry of Health. Luxembourg has contributed EUR 460,000 for purchase of up to 20,000 of the COVID-19 detection and extraction kits, as part of an agreement with UNDP for providing immediate support to Kosovo in response to the pandemic. Minister of Health, who was present at the ceremony, emphasized the importance of partnership and expressed his gratitude for the assistance provided during the public health emergency.

Kosovo statistics and measures taken to prevent further transmission of the disease are available at [LINK]. 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).

Kosovo government is expected to announce new measures over weekend, and we will send an addendum to this sitrep with updated information.

There are no more municipalities under quarantine.

Locations considered hotspots by Ministry of Health as published on 5 May 2020 are specific sites in: Kamenicë/Kamenica municipality; Viti municipality; and municipality of Shtime/Štimlje. Under police supervision are few localities in Vushtrri/Vučitrn.
All planned steps of return to “a new normal” are conditioned by the improvement of the epidemiological situation determined by the Ministry of Health and adherence to the recommendations issued by the government by the population. Activities will open gradually and may be postponed or withdrawn should compliance be lacking or should the epidemiological situation not allow.

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


Kosovo Institute for Public Health published a preliminary guidance for public and private institutions, based on existing knowledge about COVID-19 based on guidelines from WHO and CDC.

This guide is intended to be used by public and private institutions to develop protocols and activities specific to the nature of their work in order to prevent and combat the spread of COVID-19 in the workplace. This guide will continue to be supplemented or amended, depending on the emerging epidemiological situation and new scientific data.

Currently the guidance is only available in Albanian Language through the [LINK](#).

The caretaker government’s performance report of first 100 days published on 13 May 2020, emphasizes that Ministry of Finances and Transfers has signed grant agreements on the total amount of 25,685,000 euro (related to COVID-19 and other matters) and loan agreement in the amount of 52 million euro, with IMF on fighting COVID-19. Same source reports that Emergency Fiscal package in total value 189,650,000 euro. 60% of this package is allocated to private sector and 40% to public sector and social welfare.

**Situation in the municipalities with Serbian majority community**

Serbian community in Kosovo has 116 identified cases by Serbian health system, out of which 96 have recovered fully and 9 have died. There are only 11 known active COVID-19 cases. There are no reported cases south of Ibar river among Serb community in Kosovo.

**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.
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.

**UN rapid socio-economic impact assessment and UN Socio-Economic Response Plan**

The UN family is producing a socio-economic assessment supported by UNDP that will serve to inform its Interagency Socio-Economic Response Plan, which is developed under the strategic leadership of the UN Development Coordinator and the technical lead of UNDP. This Plan represents an integrated support package that the United Nations development system can offer as it tailors its immediate and medium-term socio-economic response to Kosovo to support systems and institutions and protect the needs and rights of people most affected by the COVID-19. Both the rapid socio-economic assessment and the Response Plan will be made available early next week for stakeholders reviews and opinions.

Additionally, the COVID-19 Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan (SPRP) developed by the UNKT in coordination with Ministry of Health and other authorities outlines the initial immediate needs and gaps of the public health measures, including the financial gap. The SPRP is available to review by partners and donors at [https://covid-19-response.org/](https://covid-19-response.org/).

UNFPA has launched the project "Expanding Choices: Gender-Responsive Family Policies for the Private Sector" through a social media campaign, which aims to shift social norms and expand choices for women. As the private sector has been badly hit by COVID-19 risking many jobs particularly those of women as single parent with children, this project aims to raise awareness for gender-responsive family policies and make women an equal part of the labor market.

**Asylum Seekers, Refugees and Migrants**

Asylum-seekers continue to receive legal advice and psychological assistance online. Currently, there are 204 asylum-seekers accommodated in Asylum Centres. 21 new arrivals are under two weeks quarantine applied by the authorities at a detention centre for foreigners in Vranidoll/Vranidol.

**Internally Displaced Persons and Voluntary Returnees**

UNHCR continues with advocacy for vulnerable returnee families that are in need of assistance for paying rent for accommodation. The families are still without housing solution. UNHCR’s partner organizations informed that local authorities have started to support identified vulnerable Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian individuals in need for medicines. UNHCR’s partner organization Advancing Together (AT) has launched counselling phone line in order to support and assist returnees, internally displaced persons (IDPs) and members of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities in need, during the pandemic. Support includes: legal assistance and advice, provision of access to public services, information on access to material assistance and in the field of safeguard from sexual and gender-based violence. The phone line 0800 200 20 will be free of charge every working day from 8.30 a.m., to 16:30 p.m.

**Innovation:** On 14 May, a Concert from home was organized as part of Thursday’s Variety. Vjollca Robelli & Dren Abazi performed from their homes with:

- Call against Domestic Violence & share the burden of unpaid household work.
- Call for countering misinformation and hate speech together.
- Call for participation in UN75 survey [https://un75.online/](https://un75.online/).

The event, which was organized by the UNKT, Youth for Kosovo project & supported by Development Coordinators Office, included video messages from UN Development Coordinator and UN Women Head of Office. This Thursday’s Variety Concert was televised live on RTK.

UN Kosovo Team is joining the campaign led by NGOs - Center for Social Group Development (CSGD) and Centre for Equality and Liberty CEL – on IDAHOT day in Kosovo. While CSGD and CEL are organising a set of events during the whole day, they call on international community, local organisation, and communities to support the LGBTI community in Kosovo, which is also much more vulnerable during the COVID-19 restrictions. #IDAHOBIT2020Kosova
**Human Rights dimension of COVID-19**

It is of the utmost importance that human rights are upheld during the COVID-19 crisis in Kosovo. All limitations on human rights should be as non-intrusive as possible and fully comply with the requirements of legality and necessity under international human rights law. Even though relaxed, the current measures continue to restrict the freedoms of movement and peaceful assembly and have the potential to also affect the enjoyment of a wide range of human rights, including the rights to an adequate standard of living and social protection.

Non-majority communities, in particular Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian communities, still urgently need health, food, and economic assistance to enjoy their economic and social rights as they face the COVID-19 pandemic. All measures to contain and recover from COVID-19, including fiscal recovery and social protection measures, should be designed to reach and provide targeted assistance to communities and persons in vulnerable situations tailored to their specific needs, with particular attention to ensuring their equal access to relevant information.

Particular vigilance is also needed to address the reported increase of gender-based violence and the recent string of incidents against non-majority communities, such as thefts, assaults, and offensive graffiti, that have occurred in the context of COVID-19. Despite the ongoing restriction of peaceful assembly, several protests occurred over the past week against recent political developments and the failure to include waste collection workers in the Government of Kosovo’s emergency fiscal package. About 80 persons deprived of their liberty were granted conditional release in line with the UN Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture and OHCHR’s recommendations to use such measures.

**Crisis communication and campaigns and related support to local institutions**

Training on "Risk of pandemic disinformation" organized by the Association of Journalists of Kosovo in cooperation with UN Women concludes. Through these training capacities of journalists in reporting truthful and reliable facts will be strengthened. This activity was organized through the joint UN Kosovo Team Youth for Kosovo project, supported by UN Peacebuilding.

**Assistance delivered to public health systems in Kosovo**

In addition to the first batch of materials purchased with the 5-million-euro assistance from EU to Kosovo that was delivered on 30 April, UNOPS is expected to deliver the second batch of medical supplies by 20 May 2020. The support forms part of an agreement between EU and UNOPS. The first batch consisted of PPEs in the total amount of 250,000.00 euro. Second batch will contain medical equipment like syringe infusion pumps, infusion pumps, patient monitors, pulse oximeters, EKG Machines and PPE in total value of 1,622,771.00 EUR. Remaining items to be delivered: 30 ICU Ventilators, 10 Life Saving Ambulances, 400 Hospital Beds, 5 Defibrillators w/pacemaker, Additional 60,000 FFP2 masks and 60,000 COVID 19 Test Kits.

**Outreach of the week:** UN Women handed over 40 body cameras to the Kosovo Police, to increase safety and security of both first responders and survivors through latest technologies. Domestic Violence is increasing during the COVID19 pandemic and the current circumstances of isolation make reporting even harder, including limitations on women’s and girls’ access to phones and helplines. In these hard times it is crucial that survivors feel safe and empowered to report cases.

**Humanitarian assistance to at risk population**

UNMIK has begun daily donations of food packages, hygiene products, protective equipment, and technological tools to all municipalities throughout Kosovo. Two trucks and teams of UNMIK staff are delivering the donations over the next two weeks, including 2159 food packages, 1450 hygiene packages, 2072 protective equipment packages and 265 tablets. The donation drive was launched on May 12 and the first step will see food and hygiene parcels donated, with protective equipment and tablets - to enable children to continue learning - coming soon. The food packages include flour, oil, milk, rice, pasta, salt, sugar, canned meat, canned fish; and the hygiene packages include soap, shampoo, dishwashing liquid, laundry detergent, toothpaste, feminine hygiene products and toilet paper. Deliveries are being received by municipalities and then delivered to those most in need.
UN appeals and global initiatives to respond to COVID-19 Pandemic

On 7 May 2020 United Nations announced the increased appeal to fight the coronavirus pandemic in fragile and vulnerable countries from $2 billion to $6.7 billion. UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator (OCHA) Mark Lowcock reiterated that the peak of the pandemic is not expected to hit the world’s poorest countries for three to six months. In the meantime, there is already evidence of incomes plunging and jobs disappearing, food supplies falling and prices soaring, and children missing vaccinations and meals.

On 4 May, world leaders pledged 7.4 billion euro to support research and development for medicines to fight COVID-19. WHO Chief, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus has welcomed as “a powerful and inspiring demonstration of global solidarity”. More information can be found at Link

On 1 May, UNSG launched a policy brief that provides analysis and recommendations to address challenges of elderly in COVID-19 pandemic. The policy brief has four main messages: 1. No person, young or old, is expendable. Older people have the same rights; 2. We need to improve social support and reach older; 3. All measures against COVID-19 must consider elderly; 4. Contribution of elderly voices and leadership count. Full paper can be found at Link

Advocacy of the week: During the week from 8 to 14 May UNICEF’s Adolescent and Youth programme transformed its skills-based initiatives into virtual activities. The online version of Podium: Advocacy for Change Workshop has started with 10 teams working in parallel with their mentors to design advocacy campaigns with the focus on addressing the issues of COVID-19 impact on mental health of young people. The transformation of the delivery of UNICEF’s programmes online continues after the successful completion of the PONDER workshop a month one. During this inception phase of the outreach and mobilization of the Podium, 35 teams expressed their interest to participate in the workshop. The implementation phase of advocacy campaigns will start next week, with 5 teams to be selected to implement their projects in their communities. In parallel, the online version of Ponder workshop is continuing in the local innovation hub in Gjilan/Gnjilane until 15 May tackling the issue of fake news in times of Covid-19.”

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