SITUATION REPORT #23
COVID-19

5,596,550 Confirmed COVID-19 Cases 353,373 Deaths related to COVID-19

1052
Total number of cases identified with COVID-19 in Kosovo

1009 cases¹

793 recovered

20 casualties

196 active

117 cases²

106 recovered

10 casualties

1 active

1009 cases

793 recovered

20 casualties

196 active

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

Globally according to WHO, as per 29 May 2020, 08:00 hours³

5,596,550 Confirmed COVID-19 Cases 353,373 Deaths related to COVID-19

¹ Data provided by the Kosovo Institute of Health
² Data provided by Serbian health system in Kosovo
Key Highlights, Measures and Response

Measures by Kosovo institutions

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).

Ministry of Health reviewed of the second wave of reduction of restrictions and based on the results decided to move ahead with the Wave 3 of reduction of restrictions from 28 May 2020. Based on the MoH decision that includes all 36 Kosovo municipalities, new restriction of movement will include a curfew from 21:00 hours until 05:00 hours.

Note: Tables, graphs and statistics as provided by the Kosovo Institute of Public Health
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 Activities will open gradually and may be postponed or withdrawn should compliance be lacking or should the epidemiological situation not allow.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.


Ministry of Health published a preliminary guidance for public and private institutions, based on existing knowledge about COVID-19 based on guidelines from WHO and CDC. It remains a practical reference document for all public and private entities.

It is intended to be used by public and private institutions to develop protocols and activities specific to the nature of their work 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.

The guidance is available in Albanian, Serbian and English.

Situation in the municipalities with Serbian majority community

There was only one new case of COVID-19 case among Serbian Community in Kosovo during last week. Therefore, the number of identified is 117, as identified by Serbian health system, out of which 106 have recovered fully and 10 have died. There are only 1 known active COVID-19 cases. There are no reported cases south of Iber/Ibar river among Serb community in Kosovo.

Failure to comply with restrictions:

From 22 to 28 May, a total of 55 cases involving 105 persons have been reported by police, as failure to comply with government-imposed restrictions all over Kosovo. In total since the beginning of pandemics, 1373 cases involving 2656 persons for non-compliance with the restrictive measures.
Innovation: On 27 May 2020, UN Women started the online painting course “Paint the world after the pandemic” with women and girls from all around Kosovo. The course will equip the participants with new painting techniques, and upon completion of the course, the paintings along will be published in an online summary / exhibition on the online platforms of UN Women, as well as various articles. This activity is organized through the joint UN Kosovo Team Youth For Kosovo project, supported by UN Peacebuilding.

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.

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Women’s hours dedicated to cooking and cleaning increased by 18 percentage points more compared to men. The impact of the crisis on businesses was significant for their revenues, operations, and investment plans. 56% of business were closed mainly due to the pandemic restrictions that came as an institutional response, and only 51% of them claim to be paying full salaries for their employees. Although the concerns of businesses are numerous, two thirds of the interviewed businesses claim that the shortage of clients is their main concern. The SEIA was funded by UNDP’s Rapid Response Facility. The results will be used for planning of targeted response, and will be made available to all as Open Data in the first week of June.

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/.

To understand better the current problems youth are facing in the time of the COVID-19 pandemic in Kosovo and provide support in a timely and most suitable manner, UNFPA Kosovo is undertaking an online survey with adolescents and young people. UNFPA EECARO developed the questionnaire of the survey and UNFPA in Kosovo is adjusting questionnaire to local context. The survey results will help UNFPA and all the UNKT to better understand the situation of young people and plan accordingly the activities to support them during the pandemic, or other health emergencies.

Asylum Seekers, refugees and migrants

Currently, there are 179 asylum-seekers in Asylum Centres. UNHCR in coordination with the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Public Administration provided to the Asylum Centres school material, TV sets and Personal Computers. This will make possible that children at Asylum Centres be able to participate on online education. A teacher and an interpreter will be engaged to enable distance learning. The online learning for children at Asylum Centres is funded by European Union through Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace funding in Western Balkan (IcSP) project. UNHCR and its partner organization Kosovo Rehabilitation Centre for Torture Victims will support through implementation. UNHCR, Kosovo authorities and partners, are committed to provide support to asylum-seekers and refugee children for their education rights during and after COVID-19 pandemic.

Human Rights dimension of COVID-19

It is of the utmost importance that human rights are upheld during the COVID-19 crisis in Kosovo, including by ensuring that human rights limitations are as non-intrusive as possible and comply with the requirements of legality and necessity under international human rights law. Measures to contain and recover from COVID-19 should be tailored to the specific needs of communities and persons in vulnerable situations to ensure their equal treatment.

COVID-19 measures were relaxed further on 28 May to allow for general movement from 05:00 to 21:00 and the reopening of houses of worship, alleviating some limitations to the freedoms of movement and religion. The measures in place, however, 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, such as the right to an adequate standard of living.

Non-majority communities, especially 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. In particular, assistance is still needed to ensure the right to adequate housing for 51 Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian returnee families in seven municipalities as they continue to face possible evictions due to COVID-19.

Special vigilance should be maintained to address new instances of gender-based and sexual violence and ongoing incidents against non-majority communities occurring in the context of COVID-19, which have particularly impacted the enjoyment of their right to property. Activists from a political party organized a protest in advance of the expected ruling of the Constitutional Court on 29 May as to whether a new government can be formed without elections. Raising concerns for the freedom of expression and the media as well as language rights, journalists from Serbian language media outlets in Kosovo were reportedly not invited to a GoK press conference announcing revised COVID-19 measures, while verbal attacks were made against other journalists.
Situation of internally displaced persons (IDPs) at collective shelters is monitored regularly. UNHCR and its partners continue informing persons of concern regarding measures introduced by Ministry of Health. UNHCR’s partner organization Advancing Together (AT) is maintaining a counselling phone line in order to support and assist returnees, IDPs and members of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities in need, during the pandemic. The phone line 0800 200 20 will be free of charge every working day from 8.30 a.m., to 16:30 p.m.

Advocacy activities

On 28 May, a Concert from home was organized as part of Thursday’s Variety. With Mjellma and Shkumbin Istrefi a father daughter duo aka ID-jotet performing from their homes with:

- Call for countering misinfodemics and hate speech together
- Call for participation in UN75 survey https://un75.online/

The event, which was organized by UNKT, UNICEF, Youth for Kosovo project & supported by Development Coordinators Office, included video messages from Ms. Kozeta Qena- UNICEF Education Specialist and Ms. Sibel Halimi civic society activist. The concert has supased a 10k reach within the 6 during and after the live stream on UNKT Facebook Page.

UNFPA engaged in advocacy efforts to make condoms available at the quarantine site at the student’s dormitory resulted in the provision of male condoms at the toilets for free. In addition, family medicine teams in charge of the health of the quarantined citizens are prepared to provide family planning and other SRH services for those who require such health services. VID-19 pandemic measures.

Assistance delivered to Kosovo institutions related to COVID-19

UNFPA supported the translation of the COVID-19 Guidance Document for Postnatal Care Services and shared it with MoH and relevant institutions. This guidance will help maternity managers and health providers to arrange Postnatal Care Services during the COVID pandemic. This is the third guideline that will cover the continuum of care for pregnant women during the antenatal period, delivery, and postnatal care. The original document available in the LINK. Translated documents will be available from 1 June.

Advocacy of the week:

UNICEF produced an advocacy video with German Ambassador on changing perspectives for children living with disabilities as a follow up to UNICEF’s installation with 120 wheelchairs and 120 schoolbags, calling for greater protection of children with disabilities. H.E. Ambassador Heldt was kind enough to sit on the wheelchair a move around city trying to get to school and other places that children need to attend an visit, this was clearly showcasing all the difficulties that any user of the wheelchair, not just children, face in the city of Pristina. In the first hours of the video posting on 28 May there were more than 700 views of the video in the social media, while all major portals and media reported on the activity.

On 27 May 2020, UN Women in cooperation with the Embassy of Sweden launched the global “He For She at Home” campaign. The campaign aims to empower men and boys to balance the burden of unpaid care work on women. Because of the global COVID-19 pandemic, gender inequalities, particularly of women in the home, are becoming increasingly apparent when it comes to housework, cleaning and caring for children, the sick or the elderly. The campaign will feature men who will show how they are being #HeForSheAtHome and balancing the burden of unpaid care work. For 24 hours the campaign reached more than 15,000 individuals only on UN Women social media.
UN appeals and global initiatives to respond to COVID-19 Pandemic

On 21 May 2020 the United Nations is launching ‘Verified’, an initiative to combat the growing scourge of COVID-19 misinformation by increasing the volume and reach of trusted, accurate information. “We cannot cede our virtual spaces to those who traffic in lies, fear and hate,” said UN Secretary-General, António Guterres, who announced the initiative. As a main hub for the initiative is the Share-Verified website.

On May 2020 the UN Innovation Network (UNIN)- an informal, collaborative community of UN innovators interested in sharing their expertise and experience with others to promote and advance innovation within the UN System, published their quarterly publication, this time as a special edition on COVID-19 Innovative measures across the globe. To access the full publication please see

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

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

For previous UN Appeals, SGs appeals, events and messages please see LINK

For official sources of information on COVID-19 as well as official online sources of UN entities please see LINK

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