WHO figures for cases detected in Kosovo

| Identified | 5,326 (80.66% increase from 1 to 15 July) |
| Active     | 2,740 (112.90% increase from 1 to 15 July) |
| Recovered  | 2,478 (53.25% increase from 1 to 15 July) |
| Casualties | 108 (145.45% increase from 1 to 15 July) |

Total tests performed 28,576
- 303 patients hospitalized: 29 under intensive care, 274 on oxygen-therapy.
- 2,545 patients are in homecare.

Global Cases according to WHO (Data updated Globally, as of 11:48am CEST, 17 July 2020)

| Total COVID-19 cases: | 13,575,158 |
| Total COVID-19 deaths | 584,940 |

1 Basic principles of statistics dictate that cases should be registered only once in the place of detection rather than the place of residence or nationality to avoid double-counting. Due to Kosovo’s status under Security Council resolution 1244 and the fact that health care facilities in Kosovo are not fully integrated, there have been occurrences of some cases being counted by the Institutes of Public Health in Pristina as well as in Belgrade. The Institute of Public Health in Pristina has provided data of cases detected in Kosovo as well as cases of some Kosovo habitual residents detected in Serbia. This number is not reflected in data above. The Institute of Public Health “Batut” in Belgrade provides data segregated by origin/residence for cases detected in Serbia, making it possible to identify the number of COVID-cases detected in Serbia related to habitual residents from Kosovo. This number is reflected in the column above. In an effort to provide numbers segregated by place of detection, and to avoid double-counting, WHO has been reporting numbers for cases detected in Kosovo (including non-residents detected in Kosovo and excluding residents of Kosovo diagnosed outside of Kosovo). This number is reflected in Column above and is the source of all of the graphs presented. UNKT has chosen to present all three numbers in the interest of full transparency and to enable breakdown by municipality of origin, reflective of the difficulties associated with monitoring case numbers during a global pandemic.
Global Guidelines and Recommendation

**WHO guidelines and information to facilitate effective management of COVID-19 pandemic**

WHO has developed specific guidance to prevent and combat COVID-19 in different situations. The guidelines have been shared with relevant institutions in Kosovo and translated into Albanian and Serbian languages:

- Returning to Workplace - emphasising employers’ responsibility to provide for gradual and safe return and working from home when possible. LINK.
- Use of Personal Protection Equipment - PPE [LINK](https://www.who.int).
  - WHO produced infographics for promotion and easier understanding in English, Albanian & Serbian.
- Mass gatherings are not recommended by WHO, as indoor gatherings are the highest single amplifiers of transmission. See [LINK](https://www.who.int).
- Contact Tracing of COVID-19 cases and potential cases, is a community based person centered approach with a 14 self-isolation focus [LINK](https://www.who.int).
- WHO’s Guidance on Global Surveillance for COVID-19, provides other definitions of cases, such as suspected, probable and confirmed [LINK](https://www.who.int).
- WHO’s Laboratory Testing Strategy Recommendations [LINK](https://www.who.int) & Laboratory Testing in Suspected Cases [LINK](https://www.who.int).

**UNICEF has adapted animated videos for local use with the support of UNMIK.** These Public Service Announcement -PSA animated videos describe correct usage of facemasks. They are now available in English, Albanian and Serbian.

- Reproduction rate of COVID-19 in Kosovo has a factor of 1.3 according to WHO. It means that 100 people will transmit the virus to 130 other people. To contain the pandemic, the undertaken measures need to bring down the Reproduction Rate under the factor 1. Current Case Fatality Rate-CFR in Kosovo is 1.96%, which is relatively low compare to the global variable from 0.8-9.6%.

**UNICEF guidelines regarding safe return to school**

**UNICEF Guidance for Re-Opening of Preschools and Kindergartens** post COVID-19 [LINK](https://www.unicef.org), as well as **Prevention and Control in Schools** was shared and discussed with Kosovo institutions in the case the return to school takes place in September 2020. [LINK](https://www.unicef.org) Recommendations include mandatory absence of students and staff with symptoms, hygienic measures, access to water, sanitation, and decontamination procedures, as well as promotion of physical distancing and use of PPEs.

**Ministry of Health published the following guidelines:**

A Manual for COVID-19 Prevention and Control was issued on June 16, 2020 based on the recommendations of WHO, containing guidelines on protection and preventive measures at workplaces, shopping malls, gastronomy, as well as polling station guidelines. For more details please see Links in Eng / Alb / Ser. Type your text

**Protocol for Health Safety in Aviation** based on European Union Aviation Safety Agency -EUASA recommendations and European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control –ECDC was issued on May 20, 2020. It includes technical details on preventive measures for staff, management, and passengers. Available in Albanian and Serbian. Note: Pristina Airport was opened on June 20, 2020. Travellers must be at the airport 3 hours prior to the flight.

**Measures by Kosovo Institutions**

For detailed timeline of measures by Kosovo authorities up to the end of June 2020, please see [LINK](https://www.moh.gov.ks/en/).
Following an incremental loosening of restrictions and the societal behavioral changes that followed up during the month of June and after the recent spike in new infections from June 1-30 at a rate of approx. 265.69%, or from June 15 to July 15 at a rate of approximately 238.80%, the government introduced a new set of measures effective from July 6; July 8 and July 13.

On July 1, a list of 28 new measures was introduced. These measures [LINK] have been articulated and entered into force on July 6, 2020. These measures include among others, some restructuring in the health system, stricter implementation of the mandatory PPE in public indoor spaces, and movement restrictions in the form of a curfew from 21:00 hour to 05:00 hours next morning, for cities with the highest number of cases, including Prishtinë/Priština, Vushtrri/Vučitrn, Prizren and Ferizaj/Uroševac. Unofficial English translation of full measures can be found at [LINK]. From July 8, four municipalities in the north, north Mitrovica, Leposavić/q, Zubin potok/ Zubinpotok, Zvečan/Zveçan, are under quarantine, and they are allowed outside only for essential goods and services, as well as health emergencies. These municipalities are also under nightly lock down from 21:00 hours to 05:00 hours next morning.

From July 13, usage of masks is made mandatory in all public indoor and outdoor spaces. Individuals older than 65, are allowed to go out in the timelines from 05:00 to 10:00 hours in the morning and from 18:00 to 21:00 in the afternoon. The curfew from 21:00 hours to 05:00 hours next morning is extended to the municipalities of Mitrovica south, Gjilan/Gnjilane, Fushë Kosovë/Kosovo polje and Shtërpcë/Štrpce. Full set of measures can be found in the [LINK]

Kosovo healthcare system

Testing of COVID-19 cases in Kosovo until July 14 were done only at the Molecular, Microbiological Referent Lab of the Kosovo Institute for Public Health (IPH). On July 14, minister of health signed two Administrative Instructions on serological testing. These sublegal acts enable other healthcare entities, labs, as well as regional public and private hospitals to conduct serological testing of SARS-nCov-2. [LINK] to the two relevant Admin Instructions

Currently, IPH is testing symptomatic cases, in line with WHO guidance. IPH continues to test first and close contacts of COVID-19 positive cases and continues the tracking of cases.
IPH is preparing for an Epi-serological survey (a blood immunological testing that can tell if an individual has had COVID-19), however with no exact timeline of implementation. It is expected that the survey will give an indication of level of “herd immunity”. Like any other survey, it would have to be based on random selected sample of population.

**Capacity of Health Care system of Kosovo**

Public Health Care system in Kosovo University Clinical Center of Kosovo-UCCK in Prishtinë/Priština has a capacity of total 2000 beds, with additional 2000 beds in 7 regional Hospitals: Prizren, Peja/Peć, Gjakovë/Dakovica, Mitrovicë/Mitrovica (south), Gjilan/ Gnjilane, Ferizaj/Uroševac, Vushtrri/Vučitrn. Infectious Disease ward at UCCK has 120 beds, currently fully utilized. It also has 6 intensive Care Units, also fully utilized.

To ensure a surge capacity, the University Clinical Center of Kosovo, in addition to Infectious Disease ward, is adjusting to purpose Dermatology and Pulmonology Ward, as well as Sport Medicine. With Infections disease clinic saturated, patients are being placed in Sport Medicine ward with 38 beds with 30 respirators and additional equipment. Additional adjustment was made on July 10 to further increase capacity for additional 55 beds. Currently in Pristina, full capacity of Infectious disease clinic and practical capacity of Sports medicine is being used. Regional Hospitals started taking some caseload, by referring severe cases to University Clinical Center. In line with the requests from the Emergency Center and the ICU, additional personnel have been assigned to the two departments of the UCCK to ensure full operability.

**United Nations Kosovo Team response to COVID-19 health and socio-economic impacts**

Gender dimension of COVID-19 Response: On July 15 UN Women Head of Office and UNDCO invited by EUSR in Kosovo presented the situation on Domestic Violence during the pandemic, as well as on the UNKT response.

While the Security and Gender Group continues to meet regularly to ensure a gender-sensitive COVID-19 response, the group has also established the sub-group on Gender-Based Violence which will be chaired by the Agency for Gender Equality, and co-chaired by Kosovo Women’s Network

On July 8, the Ministry of Justice signed a Memorandum of Cooperation with Kosovo Women’s Network, on behalf of Domestic Violence Shelters and Survivors of Conflict Related Sexual Violence, and the Association of Retailers in Kosovo, committing to work together towards reintegration and economic empowerment of the survivors. UN Women remains a supporter of this important partnership and is committed to continue working towards improving the lives of survivors.

UN Kosovo Team continues to work with an integrated approach to strengthen the health system response while mitigating the socio-economic impacts of COVID-19. To have a clearer picture on the impacts of COVID-19, a Rapid Socio-Economic Assessment on the impact of COVID-19 was implemented by UNDP, UN Women and UNFPA. The research shows that the socio-economic impacts are visible among businesses and households with women proportionally more affected than men. Overall, households are worried on how to be able to cope financially over the next months. Full document is available in [English](https://www.ungm.org/Resources/COVID-19/IUNKT/20200717/20200717_UNKT-COVID-19-Update_ENG.pdf), [Albanian](https://www.ungm.org/Resources/COVID-19/IUNKT/20200717/20200717_UNKT-COVID-19-Update_ALB.pdf) & [Serbian](https://www.ungm.org/Resources/COVID-19/IUNKT/20200717/20200717_UNKT-COVID-19-Update_SRB.pdf)
Asylum Seekers, refugees and migrants, Internally Displaced Persons and Voluntary Returnees

UNHCR and its partner organization Civil Rights Programme Kosovo continue to visit asylum-seekers at asylum centres. Currently, there are around 90 asylum-seekers. Asylum-seekers are receiving psychological assistance provided by UNHCR’s partner organization Kosova Rehabilitation Centre for Victims of Torture. A slight increase of movements of irregular arrivals has been reported. All new arrivals accommodated at asylum centre are immediately equipped with masks, gloves and small bottles for disinfection. There is a procedure in place, in case of new arrivals, the National Institute of Public Health is informed and a team that conducts the tests on COVID-19 is sent at the asylum centre.

UNHCR and Forum for Development and Multi-ethnic Collaboration and Advancing Together continue to monitor the situation of internally displaced persons (IDPs) and voluntary returnees. Advancing Together (AT) has launched a counselling telephone line in order to support and assist returnees, IDPs and members of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities in need, during the pandemic. The telephone line 0800 200 20 is free of charge every working day from 8.30 a.m., to 16:30 p.m.

The WHO Europe, Mission from Copenhagen, will be concluding their one week visit to Kosovo. The mission have met officials from IPH, Ministry of Health, Office of the Prime Minister, University Clinical Center, and UN agencies and partners, and will be delivering specific recommendations for the health institutions on their health capacities as well as to the government for the measures for preservation of the public health.

Human Rights and COVID-19: With a view to counter the increase of COVID-19 cases, the government of Kosovo has approved a series of new measures to deal with the escalating COVID-19 situation. Such measures restrict the freedoms of movement and peaceful assembly and have the potential to continue affecting a wide range of human rights, including the realisation of economic, social and cultural rights. The current measures in place are likely to disproportionately affect the rights of groups and persons in vulnerable situations as well as members of non-majority communities in Kosovo (especially K-Roma, K-Ashkali, and K-Egyptian communities) who continue to be negatively affected by the effects of the previous ones.

Assembly of Kosovo, did not manage to approve the COVID-19 law, thus raising questions about the legality and constitutionality of the measures adopted by the government. Panicked by the situation, some members of the Parliament suggested that the Kosovo National Institute for Public Health should publish the names of people who underwent a COVID-19 test and those who tested positive as a matter of transparency. This, if accepted, would seriously undermine the right to privacy enshrined in international and regional human rights instruments which are directly applicable in Kosovo through the article 22 of the Constitution, and would trigger dangerous stigmatization.

The draft Law on economic recovery – COVID-19, which aims to amend existing laws for the economy to recover from the pandemic, was published on a platform of the government, allowing residents of Kosovo or any party interested, to review it and provide comments. The draft was released in Albanian and Serbian languages, as well as in English, thus complying with the Law on the use of languages in Kosovo.

Needs assessments shall be conducted and humanitarian assistance provided to the people in most vulnerable situations. Vigilance should be maintained to address instances of gender-based and sexual violence and incidents against non-majority communities that continue to occur.

The rights of persons deprived of liberty remain at stake in this time of pandemic. The Kosovo Correctional Service notified the families of prisoners and detainees that visits are temporarily banned from 11 July to ensure their safety. During this period, persons deprived of liberty will be provided with more frequent family calls and virtual communication via Skype, which is already installed in several correctional and detention centres.

In addition, UNICEF is partnering MESTI on “back to school” initiative, where an outreach risk communication campaign will be organized at school level equipping schools with information packages and demonstration of protection measures.
Risk Communication

On 13 July, UN Development Coordinator’s Office handed over 900pcs B2 size posters to the Ministry of Health, on proper way to use medical and cloth masks. Posters to be disseminated in all public health services centers in Kosovo in English, Albanian and Serbian as needed. UNKT continues coordination of risk communication with Ministry of Health.

UNICEF Kosovo Office is organizing a Kosovo level campaign on promoting personal protection measures by developing 5 behavior change videos and other communication products on respecting protection measures to COVID-19.

A set of PSA animation by WHO were adapted for Kosovo use with the help of UNMiK. These WHO video animations specify how to use facemasks and now are available English, Albanian and Serbian.

Donations by UN family

On July 17, WHO Pristina donates 27 Oxygen Concentrators to the Infectious Diseases Clinic, University Clinical Center of Kosovo”. This will further expand the capabilities of the Clinic to treat patients suffering from COVID-19.

In the second week of July, UNMIK has completed its second phase of a Kosovo-wide donation campaign in response to COVID-19, for detailed donation list please see the table at the end of this update. Also, as part of an economic empowerment project, raw materials were donated to Business Centre Zvečan for production of 24,000 masks sewn by 54 women and six men from different communities in Leposavić/Leposaviq, North Mitrovica, South Mitrovica, Zubin Potok and Zvečan/Zveçan. The masks were donated to the mayors in these five municipalities to be distributed among vulnerable populations.

On July 9, UNICEF handed over to the Ministry of Health 480,000 syringes and 31,000 doses HepB vaccines for regular immunization programme from core resources of UNICEF. Kosovo health institutions can sustain 95% of immunization coverage for all children.

UNICEF donated to the IPH 10 sets of the packages for testing the quality of the drinking water.

UNDP has provided the Assembly of Kosovo with IT support to enable the meetings of the Presidency, Committees as well as the Plenary Session to be conducted online.
Secretary-General’s policy initiatives:
June 19 World of Work and COVID-19; 
June 9 The Impact of COVID-19 on Food Security and Nutrition; 
June 3 COVID-19 and People on the Move; 
May 21 Verified campaign on trusted factual COVID-19 information; 
May 20 Impact of COVID-19 in Africa; 
May 13 COVID-19 and the Need for Action on Mental Health; 
May 8 Appeal against Hate and Xenophobia; 
May 6 A Disability-Inclusive Response to COVID-19; 
May 1 Impact of COVID-19 on Older Persons; 
April 23 COVID-19 and Human Rights: We are all in this together; 
April 17 Debt and COVID-19: A Global Response in Solidarity; 
April 16 Impact of COVID-19 on Children; 
April 9 Impact of COVID-19 on Women; 
April 5 Appeal against gender-based violence and COVID-19; 
March 31 Shared Responsibility, Global Solidarity: Responding to socio-economic impacts; and 
March 23 Appeal for Global Ceasefire

UNKT integrated response and offer to mitigate the socio-economic impacts of COVID-19 is summarised in the recently launched Socio-Economic Response Plan. The Plan is based on the Rapid Socio-Economic Impact Assessment results, and anchored around 5 pillars, focusing on health first, followed by, protecting people, economic recovery, macroeconomic response and social cohesion and community resilience. The plan follows global guidance and offers an integrated approach by putting people first and addressing health, social and economic recovery simultaneously. It proposes sustainable solutions to “building back better” and has been prepared in coordination with local and international stakeholders.

Emergency Health Response and Assistance-The UN Kosovo Team agencies, funds and programmes have been working from the onset of the COVID crisis to strengthen the Health system response through procurement of PPEs as well as other needed medical equipment and supplies. In parallel, agencies have distributed emergency food and non-food items to vulnerable families.

Currently in Kosovo UN facilitated assistance is financed by a combination of re-purposing of relevant programmes, core funding and special earmarked multilateral and bilateral contributions. Donors to date include: Austria, Canada, EU, Germany, Japan, Luxemburg, MPTF, Denmark, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Norway, Switzerland, USA [Note: The table will be updated, as the goods are delivered].
### Table 1. Medical assistances delivered by United Nations Agencies in Kosovo

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Items/Delivered by</th>
<th>UNOPS</th>
<th>UNFPA</th>
<th>UNICEF</th>
<th>IOM</th>
<th>UN Women</th>
<th>UNDP</th>
<th>UNHCR</th>
<th>WHO</th>
<th>UNMIK</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fully equipped Ambulance Cars</td>
<td>10 pcs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mobile ventilators</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>40 pcs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other clinical equipment &amp; apparatus</td>
<td>1,192 pcs</td>
<td>898 pcs</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1 pcs</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Tests and related items</td>
<td>6,000 pcs</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>44,085 pcs</td>
<td>12,400 pcs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Different PPE and disposable equipment &amp; disinfected for staff &amp; patients – Pcs</td>
<td>291,850 packs</td>
<td>4,000 packs</td>
<td>156,520 packs</td>
<td>1,760 packs</td>
<td>23,613 packs</td>
<td>10,800 packs</td>
<td>7,783 packs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hygienic packs and other non-food Items</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>40 packs</td>
<td>20,000 packs</td>
<td>252 packs</td>
<td>40 packs</td>
<td>3,073 pcs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Food packs</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>252 packs</td>
<td>40 packs</td>
<td>46 packs</td>
<td>274 packs</td>
<td>2,159 pcs</td>
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<tr>
<td>IT equipment</td>
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<td></td>
<td>36 packs</td>
<td>387 pcs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Immunization Items</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>511,000 pcs</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Table 2. Future assistance expected to be delivered by UN Agencies in Kosovo

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Agency</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Item</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>UNOPS</td>
<td>July 20-24, 2020</td>
<td>Equipment/Apparatus – 250 pcs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>mid-August, 2020</td>
<td>PPE – 26,200 pcs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WHO</td>
<td>July, 2020</td>
<td>Equipment/Apparatus – 44 pcs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>August 21, 2020</td>
<td>Equipment/Apparatus – 17 pcs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Testing Kits – 11,040</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNDP</td>
<td>July, 2020</td>
<td>Detection Testing Kits – 41,184 pcs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Extraction Testing Kits – 41,000 pcs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>PPE – 575 pcs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNICEF</td>
<td>September 10, 2020</td>
<td>PPE – 52,130 PCS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Equipment/Apparatus – 5,030 pcs</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Table 3. Countries that delivered assistance independently

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Item</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jordan</td>
<td>July 02, 2020</td>
<td>Masks – 500,000 pcs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Uniforms – 10,000 pcs</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>PPE Clothing – 5,000 pcs</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Disinfectants – 30,000 pcs</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For clarification or additional information please contact: Shpend Qamili, Associate Development Coordination Officer, Programme Communications and Advocacy and Outreach, Office of UN Development Coordinator: +383 38 249 066 Ext. 418; M: +383 44 122 411; shpend.qamili@un.org; www.unkt.org; twitter.com/UNKosovoteam; facebook.com/UNKosovoTeam; UN Common Premises · 58 Zagreb Street · Pristina · Kosovo