UNKT COVID-19 UPDATE #26

WHO figures for cases detected in Kosovo

- Identified: 6,424 (176.90% increase from 24 June to 24 July)
- Active: 2,801 (144.20% increase from 24 June to 24 July)
- Recovered: 3,302 (188.64% increase from 24 June to 24 July)
- Casualties: 140 (145.45% increase from 24 June to 24 July)

Total tests performed 28,576

- 297 patients hospitalized: 27 under intensive care, 270 on oxygen-therapy.
- 2644 patients are in homecare

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 Cases according to WHO

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total COVID-19 cases:</th>
<th>15,012,731</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total COVID-19 deaths</td>
<td>619,150</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Statistics for tables and graphs provided by the WHO, (graphs updated death case graphs 22 July 2020, 18:00 hours)
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]
  - 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]
- **Contact Tracing of COVID-19** cases and potential cases, is a community based person centered approach with a 14 self-isolation focus [LINK]
- **WHO’s Guidance on Global Surveillance for COVID-19**, provides other definitions of cases, such as suspected, probable and confirmed [LINK]
- **WHO’s Laboratory Testing Strategy Recommendations** [LINK] & Laboratory Testing in Suspected Cases [LINK]

WHO 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], 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] 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

**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 English, Albanian and Serbian.

**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.**
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 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, Zvećan/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

As a direct result Prishtine/Pristina Municipality has established a special lab/facility in near the University of Pristina dormitories for SARS-nCOV-2. This lab will serve for testing contacts of COVID-19 positive cases and individuals who have recovered from COVID-19. Total current capacity is 100. Half will be to service individuals and the other half will serve as a serological survey.
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:

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. The GBV sub-group will further coordinate prevention and protection activities related to gender-based violence, which increased during the COVID-19 pandemic. Among other functions the group will advocate for sustainable and integrated quality services for survivors of GBV as well as for a monitoring system during and after the COVID-19 pandemic.

UN Women hosted a coordination meeting with donors and Kosovo institutions to coordinate support on CRSV for the Commission, CSOs and women’s organizations.

Health workers infected by COVID-19: Six hundred and twenty (620) cases out of 6,424 are healthcare workers, out of which 286 doctors 307 nurses & 27 others, making for approximately 10.36 % of total cases by July 5, 2020.

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 cope financially over the next months. Full document is available in English, Albanian & Serbian.
Asylum Seekers, refugees and migrants, Internally Displaced Persons and Voluntary Returnees

In addition to remote counselling sessions, through IOM’s “Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace in Western Balkans” (IcSP) EU funded project, a hotline for providing information to refugees and migrants on COVID-19 risks and services available has been established. Furthermore, IOM has delivered a Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for the prevention and management of COVID-19 at points of entry to the Border Police Department. On the same note, IOM is working closely with the Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA) officials to identify a suitable facility for building a temporary accommodation and reception center for migrants.

UNHCR and its legal aid partner Civil Rights Programme Kosovo (CRPK) continue to visit asylum-seekers at asylum centers. CRPK is providing to asylum-seekers face to face counselling and conducting individual interviews. There are around 100 asylum-seekers accommodated in asylum center in Kosovo, equipped with proper PPE’s, receiving psychological assistance provided by UNHCR’s partner organization Kosova Rehabilitation Centre for Victims of Torture.

UNHCR and partner organizations Forum for Development and Multi-ethnic Collaboration (FDMC) & Advancing Together (AT) continue to monitor situation of internally displaced persons (IDPs) & voluntary returnees. AT has launched counselling phone line to support and assist returnees, IDPs, and has initiated a free psychosocial assistance service for marginalized communities. This service is solely dedicated to counselling in pandemic conditions, to cope with stress from isolation, reduction of human and social resources as well as a support for the survivors of domestic violence. The phone line 0800 200 20 is free of charge every working day from 8.30 a.m., to 16:30 p.m. AT advocates to municipal authorities for provision of PPE’s for returnee families as in Gjakovë/Djakovica, where the Municipal Directorate provided 70 protection masks for 27 returnee families in Koloni/Kolonia settlement. It also participates at the Community Advisory Group meetings, where the enrolment of children of non-majority communities in primary education is discussed. Recently, AT and NGOs: Roma in Action, Caritas Kosovo and Bethany Christian Services facilitated registration in AT and NGOs: Roma in Action, Caritas Kosovo and Bethany Christian Services. Education of 49 children from Brekoc/Brekovac, Lagja Sefë in Gjakovë/Djakovica.

Human Rights and COVID-19

The government of Kosovo maintained several measures to contain COVID-19, such as the new curfew, that continue to restrict the freedoms of movement and peaceful assembly, therefore having the tendency to impact the realization of economic, social and cultural rights of persons.

In additional, persons have been fined or arrested for failing to comply with the new measures, presenting concerns for their right to liberty and security, given that failure to approve the COVID-19 draft law questions the constitutionality of the new measures.

The Draft Law on Temporary Measures to Mitigate the Effect of COVID-19 Pandemic, which seeks to amend eight existing laws to address the economic impacts of COVID-19, remained open for public consultation until 19 July. However, concerns were raised that the proposal to allow persons to withdraw up to 10 per cent of their pensions savings would negatively affect older persons upon their retirement.

COVID-19 cases and deaths continue to rise, raising serious concerns for the rights to life and health. Kosovo’s health system could reportedly collapse if cases continue to increase, as there are now almost 500 infected health care workers and clinics are facing a lack of ventilators. Needs-based COVID-19 testing is also highly required, because it is being conducted in a selective manner, amounting to discrimination by preventing the family members of confirmed patients and vulnerable groups from obtaining a test.

The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic also continues to exacerbate pre-existing issues regarding the right to information and language rights for non-majority communities in Kosovo. Kosovo Institute of Public Health has only been providing daily COVID-19 updates in Albanian, preventing the timely dissemination of updated COVID-19 information to persons who do not speak Albanian.

The ongoing impacts of the prior COVID-19 containment measures and the current measures in force continue to disproportionately affect the rights of vulnerable groups and persons in vulnerable including the members of non-majority communities in Kosovo, especially K-Roma, K-Ashkali, and K-Egyptian. 51 per cent of students in these communities in one municipality were reportedly unable to attend distance learning due to a lack of IT equipment and internet access. A CSO called on Kosovo Institutions to fully implement the Law on Child Protection, which entered into force on July 17, to address the pandemic’s disproportionate impacts on children in Kosovo.

Tailored assistance efforts that prioritize communities and persons in vulnerable situations are needed to address this disproportionate impact and ensure they are not left behind. Vigilance should also be maintained to address instances of gender-based and sexual violence and incidents against non-majority communities that continue to occur in the context of the pandemic.
On July 9, UNICEF issued a U-Report for young people on protection measures receiving the responses of more than 1,900 participants. The findings were widely shared with media and used as reference to develop 5 behaviour change videos on protection measures against COVID 19. [LINK]

A publication that highlights the support of UNICEF to institutions, communities, parents and children to fight COVID 19 in the first 100 days of the pandemic has been published [LINK]

Children and Youth: In September, 345,540 children may return school. UNICEF has focused recent work on advising the Ministry of Education, Science, Technology and Innovation-MESTI on the safe reopening of schools as well as what additional support is needed to support children who fell far behind in schooling results because of lacking intern access and support environment. UNICEF’s Guidance for Re-Opening of Preschools and Kindergartens post COVID-19 is available [LINK], the Prevention and Control in Schools, in case the government plans the return to school in September 2020 on following [LINK].

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 & Advocacy

On 18 July, As part of enhancing risk communication efforts on COVID-19, UN Development Coordinator was interviewed on Klan Kosova primetime news [LINK]. Apart from talking about the support of that UN family is providing to Kosovo

During July 2020, UNFPA is advocating to initiate e-health services at primary health care level in cooperation with the Ministry of Health. This would reduce the number of physical visits to health care centers, lowering the risk of spreading the virus. Moreover, UNFPA is also advocating the use of telemedicine to exchange COVID-19 experiences and enable staff

Donations by UN family

On 20 July, UNDP donated 500 multi-use protective masks, 50 0.5 l alcohol-based disinfectants and 50 packs of gloves to Kosovo Environmental Protection Agency (KEPA) staff, to be distributed to six Directorates and Institutes within the organizational structure of KEPA.

A total of 41,000 test kits were handed over to the Institute of Public Health of Kosovo and the Ministry of Health on July 23 from which the Government of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, through LuxDev, donated 27,333 test kits and the Government of Austria, through the Austrian Development Cooperation, donated 13,667 test kits in partnership with UNDP. Test kits were purchased with EUR 500,000, from the agreement with the Government of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg through the Lux Development S.A. and the agreement with the Austrian Government through Austrian Development Cooperation in total value of EUR 250,000.

The WHO Europe, Mission from Copenhagen, concluded 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. See brief article [LINK]
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

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 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, 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>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mobile ventilators</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>40 pcs</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other clinical equipment &amp; apparatus</td>
<td>1,192 pcs</td>
<td>898 pcs</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1 pcs</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tests and related items</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>6,000 pcs</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Different PPE and disposable equipment &amp; disinfected for staff &amp; patients</td>
<td>291,850 packs</td>
<td>4,000 packs</td>
<td>159,520 packs</td>
<td>1,760 packs</td>
<td>26,613 packs</td>
<td>70 pcs</td>
<td>10,800 packs</td>
<td>7,783 packs</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hygienic packs and other non-food items</td>
<td>40 packs</td>
<td>22,000 packs</td>
<td>252 packs</td>
<td>40 packs</td>
<td>3,073 pcs</td>
<td>46 packs</td>
<td>1080 packs</td>
<td>1450 packs</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food packs</td>
<td>252 packs</td>
<td>40 packs</td>
<td>46 packs</td>
<td>274 packs</td>
<td>2159 packs</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IT equipment</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>36 packs</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Immunization items</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>511,000 pcs</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 1. Medical assistances delivered by United Nations Agencies in Kosovo

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Agency</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Country</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>
<td>Jordan</td>
<td>July 02, 2020</td>
<td>Protection Masks – 500,000 pcs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>mid-August, 2020</td>
<td>PPE – 26,200 pcs</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Uniforms – 10,000 pcs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WHO</td>
<td>July, 2020</td>
<td>Equipment/Apparatus – 44 pcs</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>PPE Clothing – 5,000 pcs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>August 21, 2020</td>
<td>Equipment/Apparatus – 17 pcs</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Disinfectants – 30,000 pcs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Testing Kits – 11,040</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Extraction Testing Kits – 41,000 pcs</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Respirators – 6 pcs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNICEF</td>
<td>September 10, 2020</td>
<td>PPE – 52,130 PCS</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Equipment/Apparatus – 5,030 pcs</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 2. Countries that delivered assistance independently

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