14 August 2020

WHO figures for cases detected in Kosovo (as of 12 August 2020)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Identified:</th>
<th>10,945</th>
<th>42,144 - Total tests performed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Active:</td>
<td>4,035</td>
<td>610 - patients hospitalized, from which:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recovered:</td>
<td>6,547</td>
<td>14 are intubated, 39 are in intensive care and 393 on oxygen-therapy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Casualties:</td>
<td>363</td>
<td>3,788 patients in homecare.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Global Cases according to WHO (data updated globally, as of 3:41pm CEST, 13 August 2020)

Total COVID-19 cases: 20,439,814
Total COVID-19 related deaths: 744,385

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 the 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. 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), which may slightly differ from figures provided by institutions or in the media. The WHO number is the source of all graphs presented in this document.
WHO guidelines and information to facilitate effective management of COVID-19 pandemic

COVID-19 Testing
Public Health system in Kosovo currently does up to 450 tests per 24 hours. WHO recommendation is between 2000 and 5000 PCR tests per day. Therefore, in order to achieve this level WHO is delivering lab equipment to increase capacities of Public Health Institutions in Pristina with 2, Gračanica/Gračanica with 3 additional PCR lab test equipment sets on 17 August.

On 10 August Ministry of Health has published the list of 47 private entities licensed to do COVID-19 testing in Kosovo. 45 of them are doing serological testing and two of them are doing PCR. LINK1, LINK2 & LINK3 of full list.

WHO has developed specific guidance to prevent and combat COVID-19. 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 comprehension in English, Albanian & Serbian
- Mass gatherings are not recommended by WHO, as indoor gatherings are the highest single amplifier of transmission. See LINK
- Contact Tracing of COVID-19 cases and potential cases is a community-based, person-centered approach with a 14 day self-isolation focus LINK
- WHO’s Guidance on Global Surveillance for COVID-19 provides definitions of cases, such as suspected, probable and confirmed (updated) LINK
- WHO’s Laboratory Testing Strategy Recommendations & Laboratory Testing in Suspected Cases LINK
- Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) testing and two of them are doing serological testing
- COVID-19 in Kosovo has a reproduction rate of 1.7, as oppose to 1.3 in the weeks before, according to WHO. This means that 100 people will transmit the virus to 170 other people. To contain the pandemic, the undertaken measures need to bring down the reproduction rate to under the factor 1. Current Case Fatality Rate-CFR in Kosovo is 3.32%

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 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

UNICEF has published the following guidelines:

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

For a detailed timeline of measures by Kosovo authorities up to the end of July 2020, please see [LINK]. After the spike in new infections during June and July the government has been introducing a series of measures. The most recent one is as following:

**From 30 July**, the curfew has been set from 22:30 to 05:00 the following day. Decisions on opening of kindergartens will be a matter for individual municipalities, *same with the elementary schools*. Masks are mandatory. Physical distance to be kept is 2 meters mandatory. All public entities that service a lot of people, must provide masks and hand disinfectant at their entrances. Currently under these measures most people entering from the region must provide a COVID-19 free RT-PCR test not older than 3 days. Exemption are diplomatic staff accredited in Kosovo and those traveling through airport. A full set of measures is available at this [LINK]. An unofficial English translation is available at [LINK].

Kosovo healthcare system

**On 10 August** Ministry of Health has published the list of private entities licensed to do COVID-19 testing in Kosovo. 45 of them are doing serological testing and 2 of them are doing PCR. [LINK1], [LINK2] & [LINK3] of full list. These licenses were issued base on the 14 July Administrative Instructions from the Minister of Health

Public Health Care system in Kosovo: The University Clinical Center of Kosovo (UCCK) in Prishtinë/Priština has a capacity of total 2,000 beds, with additional 2,000 beds in 7 regional hospitals: Prizren, Peja/Peć, Gjakovë/Dakovica, Mitrovicë/Mitrovica (south), Gjilan/ Gnjilane, Ferizaj/Uroševac, Vushtrri/Vučitrn. The Infectious Diseases ward at UCCK has 120 beds, currently fully utilised. It also has 6 Intensive Care Units, also fully utilized.

To ensure surge capacity, the University Clinical Center of Kosovo, in addition to the Infectious Diseases ward, has adjusting to purpose of using for the treatment of the patient with COVID-19 the Dermatology and Pulmonology Ward, as well as Sport Medicine. Regional hospitals are taking some caseload. However, severe cases are being referred to the 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. Given the operational risks in treating COVID-19 patients, the Ministry of Health is exploring venues with NATO and other international partners to increase the capacities for up to 1000 beds for COVID-19 patients. So far, the MoH has secured additional 60 beds from the Kosovo Security Force hospital that will adapted to treat COVID-19 infected patients.

The current rate of infections has almost filled the capacity of the public health care system and has put the whole system under a great deal of stress.

**Health workers infected by COVID-19**: 840 cases out of 10,945 are healthcare workers, out of which 378 doctors, 435 nurses & 27 others, making up approximately 7.7% of total COVID-19 infections as of 12 August 2020.

Despite numerous reports on issue with oxygen, according to officials there are not shortages of oxygen, and that all patients that need oxygen therapy are receiving it.
Support provided by UN family and International Community

WHO Regional Office for Europe sent a mission to support institution of Kosovo in response to the COVID-19 emergency. (10 - 17 July 2020). A team of experts from the WHO EURO conducted the mission to assess the situation and identify needs for support. The team consisted of Dr. Ardis Tahirukaj, Dr. Paula Vasconcelos, Technical Officers from the WHO Regional Office for Europe, Health Emergencies Programme and Ms. Anja Borjevic, a WHO Consultant.

- Professor Mark Katz, Medical Epidemiologist and Consultant for WHO-Europe in Kosovo, during 5 -28 August 2020. The purpose of his consultancy is to evaluate more in-depth response of the authorities based on 9 pillars of SPRP. Mr Katz is a US citizen base in Israel
- Dr Katarina Febe Niward (20 – 29 August 2020) - Swedish infectiology specialist who has been caring for COVID-19 patients in Linkoping. Dr Niward will support clinicians dealing with Covid-19 case management.
- Mr. Armand Bejtullahu, Technical Officer WHO HQ Specialist on outbreak investigation platform GoData (August 2020), creating, setup the database for Covid-19 outbreak to GoData platform, importing all data. -currently in Kosovo helping IFH. Mr. Armand is currently in Kosovo to provide his support.
- Professor Golubinka Boshevska conducted to 2 days 5 and 7 August training on molecular testing for all microbiologist since Ministry of Health is planning to scale up laboratory capacities.
- WHO delivered 27 pcs of oxygen Concentrators on 18 July 2020 and will deliver additional 211 oxygen Concentrators on 17 of August 2020.
- On 6th of August 2020, with the support of the Government of Luxembourg, UNICEF Kosovo Office delivered another donation to the Ministry of Health of Kosovo, including 40 Oxygen concentrators dedicated to the Primary Health Care Facilities in Kosovo.

World Bank’s Kosovo Health Project (KHP): A new component has been added to this project to support urgent needs of the Government to respond to COVID-19 pandemic. The component has already supported procurement of PPEs and infusion pumps in the value of ~1.1million USD. Another package of ~0.7million USD for PPEs is in the process. In addition, this component will support mobilization of healthcare providers and support staff, as well as rehabilitation of the main quarantine are. The recruitment of 75 doctors, 150 nurses, 20 laboratory technicians, 55 technical support staff, and 75 sanitary inspectors for a period of 3 months for all levels of care.

- World Bank’s Kosovo COVID-19 Emergency Response Project (US$ 50 million): The Project’s objective is to prevent, detect, and respond to the threat posed by COVID-19 and strengthen national systems for public health preparedness in Kosovo. The Project supports two key components: (i) Emergency COVID-19 Response in the health sector (US$ 17.6 million), and (ii) Supporting households to comply with public health containment measures in the social protection sector (US$ 31.4 million).

- World Bank’s Pandemic Emergency Facility Trust Fund (PEF) (US$ 2.1 million) is a stand-alone Recipient Executed Trust Fund aiming to support the Government in its efforts to strengthen detection capacities related to COVID-19. There is one key component under this Project: support the enhancement of disease detection capacities for COVID-19. This component will support procurement of public health laboratory equipment and supplies such as kits, serological tests, RT-PCR equipment, PCR set up, automated immunoanalyzer, immunoassays, laboratory refrigerators, freezers etc.

Risk Communication & Advocacy

- WHO has adapted animated videos for local use with the support of UNMIK. These Public Service Announcement animated videos describe the correct usage of non-medical fabric facemasks. They are now available in, Albanian and Serbian. Videos have been picked up by portals and local media for broadcasting
- UNDCO has released two videos for the #wearamaskweek initiative started by WHO globally) with challenges to friends and colleagues to take photos with masks Video 1 with Albanian Subtitles, Video 1 with Serbian Subtitles; Video 2 with English Subtitles, Video 2 with Serbian Subtitles;
- UNFPA marked International Youth Day 2020 through a mini campaign (including billboards, digital news portals and social media) highlighting the importance of engaging youth in decision making as well as the youth contribution in combating COVID-19. The campaign included young activists from different communities in Kosovo who are working with their peers in building a more inclusive, sustainable future for all.*

Under Kosovo Health project of World Bank Ministry of Health is purchasing 100.000 PCR test kits during 2020, and 100.000 PCR and additional 30.000 rapid test kits in 2021
United Nations Kosovo Team response to COVID-19 health and socio-economic impacts

To have a clearer picture of the impacts of COVID-19, a Rapid Socio-Economic Assessment on the impact of COVID-19 was implemented by UNDP, UN Women and UNFPA. Full document is available in English, Albanian & Serbian.

Gender dimension of COVID-19 Response

UN Women continues to monitor the situation of gender-based violence through continuous contact with Kosovo Police, Shelters and CSOs and is working towards raising awareness on the importance of reporting violence during the COVID-19 pandemic.

UN Women jointly with the Agency for Gender Equality are working with the Ministry of Justice, and the Kosovo Police to tackle the disproportionate number of DV/GBV cases admitted in shelters and reported cases.

Asylum Seekers, refugees and migrants, Internally Displaced Persons and Voluntary Returnees

The joint IOM, UNHCR, UN Women “The UN COVID-19 Response and Recovery Multi-Partner Trust Fund” project focused on socio-economic response to COVID-19 has established a referral system of vulnerable individuals and people of interest, first people have already been identified. Through this programme, the vulnerable members of the society such as non-majority communities, returnees, IDP’s and gender-based violence survivors will have access to basic medical and psycho-social services as well various trainings offered, thus helping them cope by alleviating some of the COVID-19 pandemic consequences.

Information and advice for asylum-seekers about COVID-19, services and support offered in Kosovo, is available free of charge through Helpline number 0800 60 200. This activity is possible by UNHCR in Pristina; funded by EU Service for Foreign Policy Instruments within the project “Addressing COVID-19 Challenges within the Migrant and Refugee Response in the Western Balkans”.

Around 80 asylum-seekers are present in Kosovo. They are receiving psychological and psychosocial assistance, counselling and support in lodging asylum claims and social assistance application.

UNHCR and partner organizations Forum for Development and Multi-ethnic Collaboration (FDMC) and Advancing Together (AT) continue to monitor situation of internally displaced persons (IDPs) and voluntary returnees. AT community advocates continued with visits to persons of concern to inform them on the measures against COVID-19. Advancing Together has initiated a free psychosocial assistance service for marginalized communities. This service, available through a phone line is dedicated to counselling in pandemic conditions as well as for survivors of gender-based and 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.
Human Rights and COVID-19

COVID-19 containment measures restricting the freedoms of movement, peaceful assembly, and religion remained in force. These measures also continue to have the potential to affect a wide range of human rights in Kosovo, including the realization of economic, social and cultural rights.

COVID-19 cases and deaths continue to increase, raising serious concerns for the rights to life and health. Insufficient COVID-19 testing remains a problem of concern as some people with COVID-19 symptoms are still unable to get tested. Several private laboratories have been licensed to perform COVID-19 tests however the costs for conducting these tests may be unaffordable to those most vulnerable. The cost of the test (up to 50 EUR) is too high for persons living in poverty.

Several persons have been arrested for failing to comply with health provisions during a pandemic, with implications for their right to liberty and security of the person. According to some civic society actors and attorneys at law, such actions were unconstitutional until the Assembly of Kosovo (AoK) adopted the Draft Law on Prevention and Combatting the COVID-19 Pandemic in Kosovo, on first reading on 7 August, to provide the required legal basis.

Members of the Kosovo Police (KP) have reportedly not been paid overtime wages in the past month, raising concerns for their labor rights. The KP Union issued a request to Prime Minister Avdullah Hoti, among others, to improve their working conditions, such as improved health and accident insurance and a salary increase, including for additional wages during night-time shifts.

The COVID-19 crisis continues to impact the realization of economic and social rights in Kosovo, which disproportionately impacts persons in vulnerable situations. The GoK provided 170 EUR payments to cover the salary of employees and 130 EUR to 27,572 families in vulnerable situations. On 10 August, the GoK approved a draft law on the ratification of a loan agreement with the European Union that would provide 100 million EUR in financial assistance to help mitigate some of socio-economic consequences of the pandemic in Kosovo.

The COVID-19 crisis continues 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-Egyptians. Members of these communities still require urgent assistance with face masks and food. The Ministry of Communities and Returns is reportedly working to resolve the housing issue for 80 displaced families in collective center in Štrpce/Shërçpë and has provided rental support to 51 K-Roma, K-Ashkali, and K-Egyptian returnee families in seven municipalities who, as previously reported, face possible evictions threatening their enjoyment of their right to adequate housing. The GoK’s manual on the prevention of COVID-19 was prepared and distributed in Braille in both Albanian and Serbian for visually impaired persons.

Tailored assistance remains essential to address the disproportional impact of the pandemic on communities and persons in vulnerable situations remains essential and to ensure they are not left behind. Vigilance should also be maintained to address instances of gender-based and sexual violence and incidents targeting non-majority communities that continue to occur in the context of the COVID-19 crisis.

Children and Youth: In September, 345,540 children may return to 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 internet access and a supportive 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.
United Nations Global Policy Initiatives and Operational Response Strategies

**Secretary-General’s policy initiatives:**
- August 03 Education during COVID-19 and beyond
- 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;
- 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;
- 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 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>
<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>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Mobile ventilators</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>40 pcs</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Other clinical equipment &amp; apparatus</td>
<td>1,192 pcs</td>
<td>978 pcs</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>252 pcs</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tests and related items</td>
<td>6,000 pcs</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>85,085 pcs</td>
<td>23,440 pcs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Different PPE and disposable equipment &amp;</td>
<td>587,550 packs</td>
<td>4,000 packs</td>
<td>159,520 packs</td>
<td>1,760 packs</td>
<td>42,613 pcs</td>
<td>70 pcs</td>
<td>10,800 packs</td>
<td>8,383 packs</td>
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<tr>
<td>disinfect medical staff &amp; patients – Pcs</td>
<td></td>
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</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>46 packs</td>
<td>1080 packs</td>
<td>1450 packs</td>
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<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>
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<tr>
<td>IT equipment</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>36 packs</td>
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<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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</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>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>UNOPS</td>
<td>August, 2020</td>
<td>Equipment/Apparatus – 30 pcs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>PPE – 26,200 pcs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WHO</td>
<td>August 21, 2020</td>
<td>Lab Equipment/Apparatus – 17 pcs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>August 21, 2020</td>
<td>Testing Kits – 11,040 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 2. Future assistance expected to be delivered by UN Agencies in Kosovo

<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>Protection Masks – 500,000 pcs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Uniforms – 10,000 pcs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>PPE Clothing – 5,000 pcs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Disinfectants – 30,000 pcs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Qatar</td>
<td>July 25, 2020</td>
<td>Test Kits – 6,500 pcs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Respirators – 6 pcs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turkey</td>
<td>August 11, 2020</td>
<td>Masks – 100,000 pcs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>August 12, 2020</td>
<td>Plastic protectors – 2,950 pcs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Ambulance vehicle – 1 pcs</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 3. Countries that delivered assistance independently