28 August 2020

WHO figures for cases detected in Kosovo (as of 26 August 2020)

Identified: 11,963
Active: 3,434
Recovered: 9,016
Casualties: 143

448,794 - Total tests performed
491 - patients hospitalized, from which:
14 are intubated, 39 are in intensive care and 324 on oxygen-therapy
3,431 patients 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 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.

Global Cases according to WHO (data updated globally, as of 12:00 am CEST, 28 August 2020)

Total COVID-19 cases: 24,021,218
Total COVID-19 related deaths: 821,462
Global Guidelines and Recommendation

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

**COVID-19 Testing**

Public Health system in Kosovo currently is conducting up to 534 tests per 24 hours due to the limited lab capacity. WHO recommendation is between 2000 and 4000 PCR tests per day. In order to achieve this level WHO is supporting the IPH by delivering lab equipment to increase capacities of Public Health Institutions in Pristina with 2, Graçanica/Gračanica with 3 additional PCR lab test equipment sets by the end of August. In addition to the list of laboratories licensed on 10 August for conducting PCR and Seriological testing, the Ministry of Health is looking forward to license additional private entities to conduct COVID-19 testing in Kosovo. Currently, 45 of them are doing serological testing and two of them are doing PCR. [LINK1], [LINK2], [LINK3] full list. Under the redirected funding from the Kosovo Health project of World Bank, in order to increase the testing numbers and meet the WHO recommendations, the Ministry of Health is purchasing 100.000 PCR test kits in the following 3 months, and additional 100.000 PCR and 30.000 rapid test kits in the beginning of 2021.

**Laboratory Testing in Suspected Cases**

Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) advice for the public: When and how to use masks: [LINK]

Public health criteria to adjust public health and social measures in the context of COVID-19: [LINK]

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:

- **Considerations for school-related public health measures** in the context of COVID-19: [LINK]

  Advice on the use of masks for children in the community in the context of COVID-19: [LINK]

- **Returning to Workplace** emphasizing 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** [LINK]

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] UNICEF has provided technical advise to the MEST working group that has developed the guidance in collaboration with NIPH.

The Ministry of Health published the following guidelines:

**A Manual for COVID-19 Prevention and Control** was issued on 16 June 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.

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 re-opened on 20 June 2020. **Travellers must be at the airport 3 hours prior to the flight.**
Measures by Kosovo Institutions

On August 27, 2020, the Ministry of Education and Science in Kosovo decided that the school year 2020/2021 is going to start on September 14, 2020 according to the Master Plan of the MES approved by the Government of Kosovo and relevant guidelines. The classes will be conducted according to the presented scenarios and the level of risk, while the Task Forces of municipalities and schools, based on respective infrastructure capacity, staff, compliance with measures and the Guide prepared in cooperation with National Institute of Public Health will decide which scenario is most appropriate to implement.

After the increasing trend of positive cases during July and the first part of August, the government has been introducing a series of measures. Currently, a potential stabilization of the curve is observed with cases below 200 per day, albeit still in the 100-170 cases per day range. For a detailed timeline of updated measures by Kosovo authorities, please see LINK. The most recent ones are as following:

From 30 July, the curfew has been set from 22:30 to 05:00 the following day. Decisions on opening of kindergartens continue to be under the discretion of individual municipalities. Mandatory physical distance to be kept is 2 meters. All public entities that offer services to a large group of people, must provide masks and hand disinfectant at their entrances. Currently under these measures the citizens of North Macedonia, Montenegro and Bosnia and Herzegovina are required to present a negative PCR test not older than 72 hours upon entering Kosovo. The same continues to apply to Kosovo passport holders travelling to these countries. Exemption are diplomatic staff accredited in Kosovo and those traveling through airport. Last couple of days a decrease of 15% has been observed in the trend of new cases, believed to be the result of the application and enforcement of measures. A full set of measures is available at this LINK. An unofficial English translation is available at LINK.

The Assembly of Kosovo has adopted the Law on the prevention and the fight against COVID-19 Pandemics (14 August 2020), and after being signed by the President as well as published in the Official Gazette, it is officially effective from 25 August 2020. This law empowers the Kosovo Police and the Inspectorate to issue mandatory fines to physical and legal entities for non-compliance. It contributes to a stricter enforcement of the government measures and potentially affect the stabilization of the infections curve. The full text of the Law can be found: LINK.

Kosovo healthcare system

Public Health Care system in Kosovo: The University Clinical Center of Kosovo (UCCK) in Pristina/Priština has a capacity of total 2,100 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. Having seen the peak number of hospitalized patients with 120 beds fully utilized (August 21), last couple of days number of hospitalized patients decreased, while the number of cured ones increased. As of August 26, number of beds occupied at the Infection Disease Clinic is 70.

To ensure surge capacity, the University Clinical Center of Kosovo, in addition to the Infectious Diseases ward, has adjusted for the 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 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 be 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.

3

28 August 2020
Despite numerous reports on issues with oxygen, according to officials there are not shortages of oxygen, and that all patients that need oxygen therapy are receiving it.

Health workers infected by COVID-19: 1,247 cases out of 12,938 are healthcare workers, out of which 487 doctors, 678 nurses & 82 others, making up approximately 9.8% of total COVID-19 infections as of 26 August 2020.

Support provided by UN family and International Community

WHO is continuously supporting the Kosovo institutions through technical assistance and advice to improve the prevention and response mechanisms in fighting COVID-19 outbreak. Experts from US, Sweden and Spain have been supporting IPH on scale up the health capacities in better response to COVID-19.

WHO is engaging in supporting the deployment of an expert emergency medical team (EMT) to Kosovo in order to support the health system with the most up to date procedures for emergency cases and clinics aiming at decreasing the mortality rate for COVID-19 patients in use of manual ventilation. The EMT will be deploying to Kosovo during the month of September.

In support to the usage of GoData platform for outbreak investigation Ana Hoxha, an EPIET (European Programme for Intervention Epidemiology Training) fellow, will come to support and assist IPH staff in establishing the procedure. Ms Ana Hoxha will support IPH for 6 weeks.

Professor Mark Katz, Medical Epidemiologist and Consultant for WHO-Europe in Kosovo (5 August - 26 September) - The purpose of his consultancy is to evaluate in-depth the response from the authorities based on 9 pillars of SPRP and subsequently provide a set of recommendations for the improvement of surveillance, risk communications and infection prevention. Mr Katz is a US citizen with extensive experience from the CDC (Center for Disease Control) in Atlanta and based in Israel.

Dr Katarina Febe Niward (20 – 29 August 2020) - Swedish infectiousology specialist will focus her support to case management system by the clinicians dealing with COVID-19 patients.

Mr. Armand Bejtullahu, Technical Officer WHO HQ Specialist on outbreak investigation platform GoData - will be supporting IPH in setting up the GoData database and importing the information for COVID-19 patients.

Professor Golubinka Boshevkska conducted a 2 days (5-7 August) training on molecular testing for all microbiologist following the decision of the Ministry of Health to scale up laboratory and testing capacities. In addition to the above, WHO delivered 27 pcs of oxygen Concentrators on 18 July 2020, followed by 211 additional oxygen Concentrators on 27 August 2020. Also, with the contribution by the United States Embassy Pristina and USAID, eight temperature (thermo) scanners were donated to the Ministry of Health, to be placed at Kosovo’s entry points, including Pristina airport and four land crossing points for increased surveillance against COVID-19.

Risk Communication & Advocacy

UNICEF Kosovo, on the 24th of August, engaged UNICEF UK Goodwill Ambassador, the famous pop singer Rita Ora, to record a video calling all citizens of Kosovo to respect protection measures. The video is available in all media channels and will be broadcasted in three national and private TV channels. The broadcasting is supported by USAID in Kosovo. LINK.

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. Additionally, WHO HEAT info sheet (Health advice for hot weather during the COVID-19 outbreak) were adapted in Albanian and Serbian languages, followed by Moving around during the COVID-19 outbreak flyer and poster available in Albanian and Serbian.

UNDCO has released two videos for the #wearmaskweek 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.

28 August 2020
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.

UNFPA Kosovo together with the implementing partner KOPF - Kosova Population Foundation have delivered virtual trainings on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights to youth from the municipality of Dragash. In addition to SRHR, trainings also included a module on COVID-19 pandemics based on WHO provided materials and guidelines. 22 youngsters attended these online training sessions from the safety of their homes thus enhancing their knowledge on SRHR and protecting themselves and their families from possible infections with COVID-19.

Gender dimension of COVID-19 Response

On 27 August 2020, UN Women Head of Office met with Minister of Justice, Selim Selimi and Deputy Minister/National Coordinator against Domestic Violence, Florian Dushi, along with EULEX and the Agency for Gender Equality to discuss about the institutional response to cases of domestic violence, as well as a coordinated approach on raising awareness to prevent domestic violence during and after the COVID-19 pandemic.

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

Information 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 made possible by UNHCR in Pristina/ Pristina and 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 currently in Kosovo.

UNHCR partners disseminate updated information related to COVID-19 with a focus on the measures introduced by the relevant authorities. 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. Advancing Together has a free psychosocial assistance service for marginalized communities available through a phone line 0800 200 20.
Human Rights and COVID-19

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

The high number of new COVID-19 cases and deaths continues to raise serious concerns for the rights to life and health. According to the Kosovo Chamber of Physicians, about 1,200 medical workers have contracted COVID-19, nearly 10 per cent of the total confirmed cases. Despite promise to increase testing capacity and the licensing of private laboratories, only 400 to 500 PCR tests are being performed each day in Kosovo. The Ministry of Finance signed a 2 million EUR grant agreement with the World Bank to help strengthen Kosovo's capacity to detect COVID-19.

The Law on Prevention and Combating the COVID-19 Pandemic in Kosovo, which entered into force on 25 August, authorizes competent Kosovo authorities to, among other things, impose fines ranging from 35 EUR to 2,000 EUR for non-compliance with different COVID-19 containment measures. It does not authorize arresting and criminally prosecuting persons for failing to comply with health provisions during an epidemic, leaving open the question of whether such arrests infringe on the right to liberty and security of the person due to an insufficient legal basis as argued by some actors. On this same issue, the Supreme Court of Kosovo ruled, in relation to Government of Kosovo’s 23 March COVID-19 decision, that the criminal offense of failing to comply with health provisions during an epidemic can only be committed if competent authorities have issued a decision to specific individuals or groups of persons stating what they can or cannot do.

According to a municipal official in Dragash/Dragaš, infographics on how students should protect themselves from COVID-19 were published on the municipal webpage only in Albanian, raising concerns for the right to information and language rights of non-Albanian speaking students. Regarding the freedom of the media, the Voice of America raised concerns that the meeting between Prime Minister Hoti and municipal mayors lacked transparency as journalists were required to leave during discussions on COVID-19-related financial support to municipalities.

About 400 enterprises have officially closed due to COVID-19 and measures to contain it, while the Assembly of Kosovo ended its spring session without adopting the Draft Law on Economic Recovery – COVID-19 to mitigate the pandemic’s socio-economic impact. The GoK approved a master plan and budget for the 2020 – 2021 academic year that foresees providing technological equipment to students who need it to engage in online learning, although it still has yet to decide whether the new year will be conducted in-person, online, or using both methods.

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. As part of an initiative supported by IOM, a civil society organization is conducting a field assessment to identify and refer K-Roma, K-Ashkali, and K-Egyptians to receive socio-economic support amid COVID-19.

Children and Youth: On the 25th of August, UNICEF Innovations Lab organized the 4th cohort of skills-based workshop with young people. These cohort of #youthsolutionsforcovid_19 supported by the Government of Japan aims to engage young people as agents of social change to support communities especially during the pandemic.

COVID-19 Support: On the 24th of August 2020, 20 tons of personal protection equipment have been donated to Ministry of Health. UNICEF Office in Kosovo in cooperation with the Government of Luxemburg, the Government of Japan and MPTF is making continuous efforts to support the medical staff who are on the frontline of the pandemic throughout their work.
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 accordingly to the contributions received)
<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>
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<tr>
<td>Mobile ventilators</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>40 pcs</td>
<td></td>
<td>238 pcs</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other clinical equipment &amp; apparatus</td>
<td>1,192 pcs</td>
<td>978 pcs</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>471 pcs</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></td>
<td>23,440 pcs</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Different PPE and disposable equipment &amp; disinfected for staff &amp; patients – Pcs</td>
<td>587,550 packs</td>
<td>4,000 packs</td>
<td>1,695,100 pcs</td>
<td>1,760 packs</td>
<td>42,613 packs</td>
<td>1,125 pcs</td>
<td>10,800 packs</td>
<td>8,383 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 packs</td>
<td>46 packs</td>
<td>1,080 packs</td>
<td>1,450 packs</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food packs</td>
<td>252 packs</td>
<td>40 packs</td>
<td></td>
<td>2046 packs</td>
<td>274 packs</td>
<td>2159 packs</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>IT equipment</td>
<td>36 packs</td>
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<td></td>
<td>387 pcs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Immunization Items</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>511,000 pcs</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 1. Medical assistances delivered by United Nations Agencies in Kosovo
## Future Assistance by UN Agencies

<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, 2020</td>
<td>Lab Equipment/Apparatus – 17 pcs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>August, 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

## 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>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></td>
<td>Plastic protectors – 2,950 pcs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>August 12, 2020</td>
<td>Ambulance vehicle – 1 pcs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malaysia</td>
<td>Planned</td>
<td>Masks – 1,000,000 pcs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Gloves – 30,000 pcs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USA</td>
<td>August 25, 2020</td>
<td>Ventilators – 50 pcs</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 3. Countries that delivered assistance independently

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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